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Impact

FEBRUARY 20—26, 1987

VOL. 11, NO. 13

GULF SOUTH GAY NEWS



Impact

We Get Letters

To the Editor:

The charges of racism hurled at Charlene Schneider by Joey Romana (12/26) and Luke Shotemuc (1/23) are at best naïve and at worst petty backbiting.

Ms. Schneider's questioning of an all-black jury in a city 55% black is indeed appropriate. Perhaps the good and highly educated people of Austin have advanced to color blindness, but the people of New Orleans are still quite bigoted—black and white—and not able to judge a case on the facts without resorting to a little racism in the jury room. Lawyers know this.

Therefore, in a case of rape of a white woman by blacks, defense attorneys seek black jurors. Through the jury selection process, lawyers vitiate the right to trial by a jury of one's peers. The public is systematically victimized by a constitutional right gone awry. Ms. Schneider is right: "The laws have got to be revamped."

Society would be better served by eliminating the jury selection process, pulling twelve names out of a hat, not allowing expenses, and letting the chips fall where they may.

I applaud the condemnations of racism offered by Messrs. Romana and Shotemuc, but suggest that they

think more about working with gay community leaders and not against them. We need unity, not division. Their inapplicable and shortsighted criticisms of a very fine lady and tireless and selfless leader are to be mournfully regretted. The enemies are Boissiere, Early, Giarrusso, Singleton and Wilson—not Schneider!

The gay community owes Ms. Charlene Schneider a debt that can never be repaid. Kudos to Ms. Schneider. Your enthusiasm is more than contagious—it's electrifying. Keep up the good work!

Respectfully yours,
Rich Magill

To the Editor:

My friends and I are anything but prudish. We love seeing nice human bodies, clothed and otherwise—as most people do. However, for a paper that purports to be the "Gulf South Gay News" your several recent front covers have been indicative of anything but that title.

To begin with, the Gulf South has lots of black people in it, or maybe you haven't noticed. Similarly, about half the population is female. Being progressive, I would not expect you to feature Southern Belles in debutante drag. However, there is no reason for the total exclusion of anything but partially clad white men.

Moreover—there is more than skin to the gay news in New Orleans and the Gulf South. You may think that the covers are attractive and eye-catching. After the first one or two, they have been just simply boring. Do you get my drift?

Sincerely,
Mark M. Gonzalez

BOYCOTT THREAT IS INCENTIVE FOR DELTA TO FEAST ON CROW

On the afternoon of Wednesday 4 February a national boycott (see story in our issue of December 12 1986) against Delta Airlines by Mobilization Against AIDS was called off when the group announced that the Atlanta-based airline had acceded to the group's four demands. The four demands Delta agreed to were the following: 1.) Publicly apologize for allowing its representatives to argue that gay men killed in airline crashes have lives of less 'value' than other people, because gay men might have AIDS. Further, Delta should formally declare that neither the company nor any of its representatives will ever make such statements again. 2.) Establish as its policy that people with HIV infection are welcome as passengers on Delta and shall not be subject to pseudo-medical diagnosis by non-

physicians. Further, that Delta's standard policy shall be that any person with HIV infection who is, in the judgement of that person's physician, able to travel unaccompanied be allowed to do so. 3.) Honor its 1986 commitment to educate Delta Airline employees about AIDS by contracting with AIDS education experts to create an appropriate program. 4.) Make an appropriate gesture of support to the national struggle to end AIDS, as a means of offsetting the wasted effort and funds that have been expended to cover Delta's past actions.

Ken McPherson, a spokesman for Mobilization Against AIDS, said, "In the fight against AIDS there are not many victories. Through education we have been able to provide Delta with accurate information about AIDS. In response they did what any corporation ought to do. This is clearly a victory for people with AIDS and other high risk groups across the country. We were able to convince Delta that this was not a gay issue but a public health issue....Delta was deluged with letters and phone calls from across the country by people who let them know that their position was simply intolerable and that they would not fly Delta under any circumstance."

In response to MAA's demands, Delta wrote: "...As a public transportation carrier with an outstanding reputation for integrity and fairness and as an equal opportunity employer, we have worked very hard to avoid any taint of prejudice for or against any person or group. We are completely dedicated to offering unsurpassed and impartial service to all our customers and our training programs are geared to translate this policy into daily practice on the part of all Delta personnel. Our dedication to this policy is as applicable to passengers with AIDS as to any other Delta passenger....We sincerely apologize for any statement or argument by those attorneys which may have implied, or been perceived by anyone to mean, that the value of a human life is affected by an individual's lifestyle. This is indeed contrary to Delta's belief, position and past actions."

"While Delta's insurance company retains, supervises, and controls the trial attorneys and Delta is not involved in the case handling, we have discussed this matter extensively and with our insurers. They understand and agree with our concerns and have reviewed the matter carefully with trial counsel. Delta must accept some responsibility for the actions of those who act on its behalf, however indirectly and without Delta's knowledge....As we have stated in the past, it is not the policy of Delta to discriminate in any way against people who may have AIDS and they do travel with us routinely. Passengers incapacitated due to the HTLV-III [sic] infection are given the same consideration as other customers with a serious illness and all are treated with the utmost care and concern."

"...We believe that public and corporate education is an essential weapon in the fight against AIDS. In 1985 and again recently, we distributed information contained in the Human Factors Bulletin regarding AIDS produced by the Flight Safety Foundation, Inc., and we have had reputable consultants assisting us in these matters. As we indicated to you last fall, we are in the process of distributing similar information on a



COVER BY TOM
MODELS: MICHAEL
BRETT BERNARD
MASKS BY JOSEPH M.
COURTESY OF
ELIZABETH ALEXANDER
520 ST. PHILIP ST.

wider scale to all our passengers who are very concerned, how the materials be based on data and should reflect the cent technology and under possible. A good example the need for caution in this severe criticism leveled against information booklet about AIDS produced by the New York State Department of Health.... We desire to put the unfortunate and misunderstanding of the months behind us and we hope this letter will allow both Delta and Mobilization Against AIDS to begin so..."

MAA is now satisfied that Delta is dedicated in the fight against AIDS and believes the airline is indeed a possible leadership role in corporate America to help in the fight against AIDS.

TUPELO 'MORALISTS' GO AFTER GAY BAR

A group in Tupelo, Miss. (which is of note to history since the location of Elvis Presley's residence) called Morality In Morality has town leaders to use underage drinking laws and sodomy laws to close the town's only gay bar, Tulip Estates Clubhouse Disco and Bar. T.K. Moffet, the leader of the concerned citizens, has denounced the bar as a "threat to the morality of Tupelo. A local 'christian' show host has also interested himself in the issue. This gentleman, Bob Coston, stated, "Our desire is to see these [gay] people helped. Our secondary desire is to see the bar closed."

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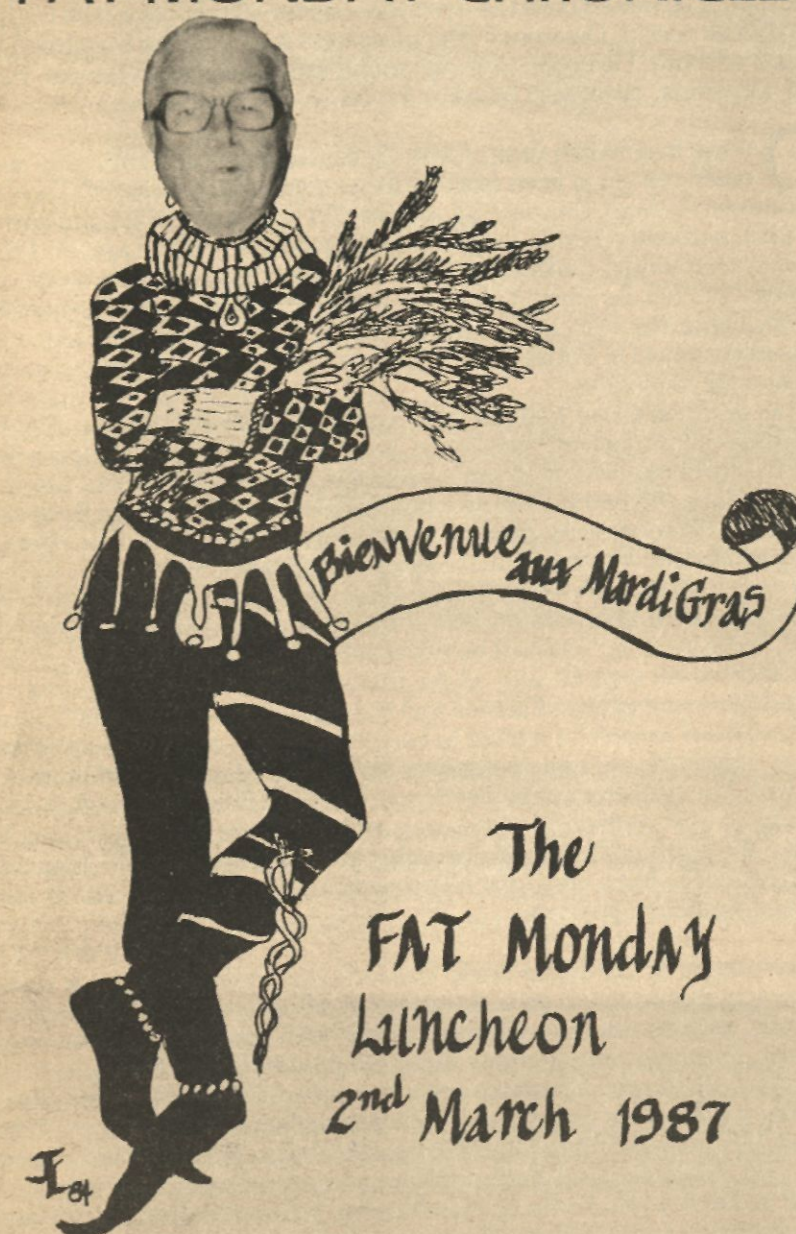
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MEMORIES OF THE QUEEN'S LUNCHEON: A FAT MONDAY CHRONICLE



The
FAT Monday
Luncheon
2nd March 1987

Jim Wynne is Mr. Fat Monday and Fat Monday is the oldest gay Mardi Gras activity in New Orleans; Wynne is the careful guardian and personally picked heir of the 'Fat Monday' celebration, a fest that combines dining and socializing on the day before Fat Tuesday. This luncheon has become a thirty-three-year old tradition that has become the event to experience. Invitations are limited and each year this special celebration for gay people from all over the world becomes a more coveted event.

Wynne, a distinguished-looking but informal and charming man with a great sense of humor, is in a perpetual state of excitement about Mardi Gras. His only competing passion is musical composition; a recently completed musical, *Sally*, has been getting inspired readings from excited performers and receiving favorable comments from potential investors. He is seen in his tuxedo more often than not and is well known as a person who can be depended upon to attend every ball and Mardi Gras he can squeeze into his schedule. No one seems more qualified than this gentleman, who was handpicked by the event's founder, Bob Demmons, to perpetuate this annual luncheon event that now hosts 125 gay men and women from around the world. As sole custodian of this Carnival tradition, he calls himself "a committee of one." It is this committee which makes all of the arrangements for this time-honored and historical soiree, held for the last few seasons at famous Arnaud's restaurant. It is this committee which makes all decisions regarding the event in keeping with Demmon's tradition of so many years ago.

"I would not have it any other way," he says referring to his benevolent dictatorship/enlightened despotism. "I will not have a bunch of screaming queens telling me she should have been queen and he should have been this—I say, Sorry, Sweetheart!"

This social event of the year was founded by Bob Demmons, a Montana native; once a highly paid insurance executive, he was sent to New Orleans by his employers, fell in love with city and its Mardi Gras traditions and remained. He had a good many friends who wanted to visit during Carnival. The Fat Monday luncheon developed out of the need to accommodate these many friends. And so from these humble beginnings, began the ritzy, bacchanalian luncheon that is now part of local gay and lesbian lore. The first group of people, a half dozen, met at Brennan's. Bob Demmons had secretly bought a tiara and hired a carriage, and the first Queen was crowned and carried or carried and crowned, and was—much to his surprise—presented via carriage to the astonished tourists of the Vieux Carre in the early and late fifties. Can't you just see their faces? Buzzy Fanning was working at Brennan's then and was one of the first to witness the antics of this group. You should hear his tales! Remember, in those days one had to be very careful about being, well, you know. Demmons

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

HAPPY MARDI GRAS
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controlled the luncheon for twenty-four years and during this time calling it "The Queens Luncheon." As he had a powerful and well-known personality in a very straight industry, his oftentimes outrageous personality and double life eventually took its toll. Alcoholism slowly destroyed his personality. In these early years, though, he was a dynamic and confident man and should be remembered as a pioneer—a man able to cope with a difficult period. Demmons' later years were tragic. He lost his job as a cook offshore. He began to hang around with a lot of night people and con-artists, eventually meeting the cause of his early death.

On the twenty-fifth year of The Queens Luncheon, Demmons could not get in from offshore to participate in his beloved event. Demmons called Jim Wynne who had assisted in the past, and asked him to take over because of the offshore job. As he had it, Bob would never be a part of his Queens Luncheon again. Wynne inherited the orb and sceptre of the activity. Demmons was murdered in the summer after this Luncheon, strangled by a hustler living with him who was allegedly involved in Cuban gun-running. All the responsibility for the tradition fell to Wynne.

The Brennan's clan had just had their well-publicized schism: E. Qualms about a bunch of "gentlemen" having their "crazy little party" but her brothers, who had taken over the French Quarter restaurant, were homophobic. Jim had to search for another location; by this time, there were attendees. Arrangements were made with Jonathan's, and Wynne changed the name to The Fat Monday Luncheon as it is known today.

"The first two or three years we struggled. I was working on a mailing list, desperately to contact all of the early participants. Eventually it all came again," says Wynne. "This will be my eighth year as Mr. Fat Monday." His eyes seemed to expand with all his memories, becoming shiny and moist. He poured him another cup of hot tea and Yukon Jack. Jonathan's didn't want Jim continued to look for a place to keep the tradition alive. Helmut of the defunct Galley House had a restaurant on Decatur Street and Fat Monday was held there. The restaurant closed and they moved to Shisa's a few blocks away. Two years. The ambience was wrong and the place was too public. They wanted the participants limited in number to sixty-nine. It grew to over 100 group moved to Menefee's, which was perfect but which closed shortly after due to a decline in business.

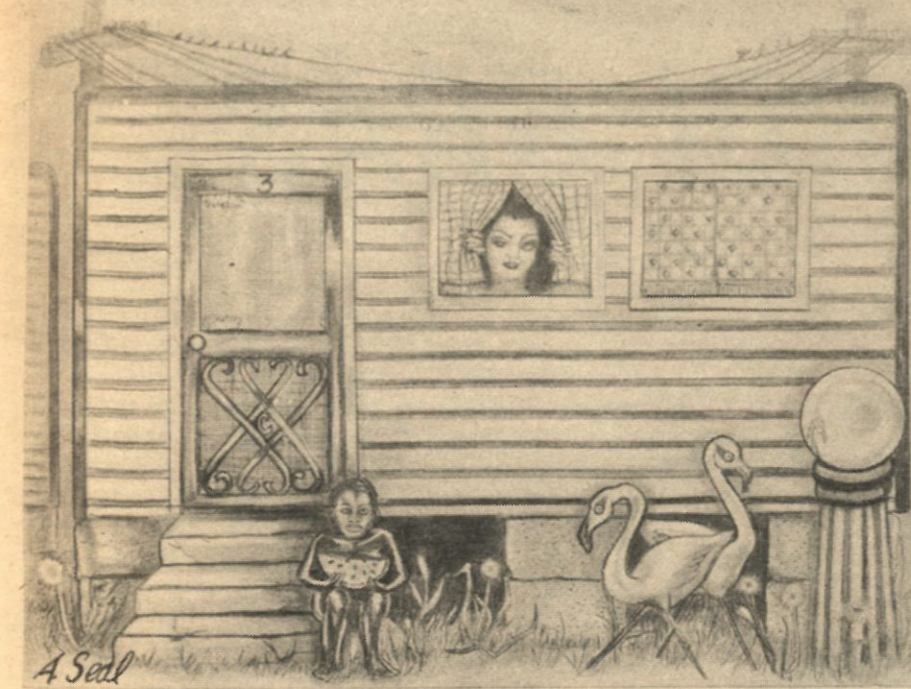
Jim thought of Germaine Wells' Arnaud's. He felt that Germaine was a known character and as such might not be uncomfortable having a party. He gay men, each as much of a character as she, take over her restaurant once a year. A young woman named Lisa Simms was Director of Sales and Marketing. Jim called, she invited him to the restaurant for drinks and a business discussion. "We need someplace private," Jim told her, sipping his drink. "I'm talking maybe 100 people." Now Miss Simms didn't know that these hundreds of people were wild, fun-loving and hard-drinking, sometimes screaming, queens. Jim knew that they came in from all over the world just to celebrate and forget their cares. "Well, the Count's Room is very large," she said sweetly. "We can divide it into two sections, one for dining and one for cocktails." "We do need private," Jim said testily. "We drink an awful lot, we howl, scream, carry on a bit, we're drunk," he continued. "We have all kinds of awards...we even crown a queen. He blurted out, eyebrows jumping up and down like nervous acrobats. "Forehead. "Oh, isn't that exciting!" she said with delight. "One of the debates of the season?"

With eyebrows again dancing, Jim took a deep breath and looking into the baby blues, said, "No Lisa, not exactly! This is a gay organization." He waited for her reaction. Would the deal be off? he thought. Is this the end? Five seconds passed, a long, long five seconds. "So!" she chirped cheerfully. The deal was made; Fat Monday was saved and Arnaud's became the hostess with the mostess. Germaine would have loved it: she would have arrived every year in a carriage wearing that gold antebellum gown and camping it to the max of every queen there.

The original tiara is still reverently kept. It's lost a few rhinestones and the gift is tarnished. Jim purchased a new crown for last year's coronation. Queens are keep the award for the year so a sturdier model was needed. One woman has been crowned and one suspected of being a real woman. Among the approximately 20 awards given are The Butch Award (usually presented to the appraiser of the attendees), The Size Queen Award, Le Plus Grand Suc Chez (how you say 'Best Cocksucker' in French?), and the Princess Lickey Lickey Award. You might also get the Rage of Rampart Street, the Countess of Chartres, or Slut of the Year honor. It all depends on Jim Wynne. He is in complete control so you better be good, you better not pout...after all, you might become Queen one year. You could wear the tiara to work when you go back to the auto repair shop in Chattanooga. Irreverent and irascible, Jim Wynne keeps a wonderful tradition alive. May his reign be long and fruitful (pun intended)! Here's to the ladies who lunch!

Get your reservations in early, dawlin'! This is the only place to be on Fat Monday! Wynne can be reached at 504-866-6214. —Patrick Shannon

TRIXIE'S TRAILER HEAVEN



ART BY ALLEN SEAL

Episode Two: The Spirit Is Willing

In the fourth trailer on the left in Trixie's Trailer Heaven, Bettina was rummaging through her bathroom cabinets in search of mascara as Margo and Cookie sipped herbal tea in the living room. "There's a fine line between the life of the soul and fashion," Margo explained as Cookie pretended to enjoy the roots he'd been served as munchies. "The spiritual needn't necessarily cancel out the aesthetic. It's entirely possible to be a child of the universe and glamorous at the same time."

"Like Tammy Bakker?"

"Who's she, some rock singer?"

"If you don't know who she is, I'll not be the one to darken your lives," Cookie responded.

"Speaking of darkened lives, is Brett still miscegenating with Clovis?"

"Yeah, and he's still going through a lot of shit with his family over it. His mama still speaks to him but his father's disowned him once and for all. I guess Clovis was the last straw, and now Brett has to scramble around like the rest of us poor girls. He's uptown right now, trying to con some rent money out of Virginia."

"No, he's not," announced Bettina, entering from the bathroom, mascara in hand. "I heard him pull in next door a few minutes ago."

"I'd better scoot then, you guys come downtown tonight. I'm sure Cleopatra will dedicate her first number to you. Thanks for the makeup!"

Returning home, Cookie could see Brett and Cleo silhouetted in the glow of the TV through the trailer window. "Did you get the money?" he asked eagerly as he entered their cozy little hideaway.

"Alas!" cried Brett. "All is lost!" With that he swooned and fainted dead away on the sofa; Cleopatra cast a skeptical look in his direction and then addressed Cookie.

"Don't worry about her. You know how these debts from our better Southern families tend to be demonstrative."

"I guess this means we'll have to dodge Miss Trixie until my check comes in."

"Not to worry, we'll work something out," chimed in Brett, making a miraculous recovery from the depths of despair. "Meanwhile, you little reprobate, let's have the dish on last night!"

"I'd like to know that myself," retorted Cookie. "It's coming back to me in bits and pieces."

"Don't be coy, bitch," Cleo pressed. "We already know the when and where. Now we're interested in the 'who'."

"I have no idea who he was, but I remember he was cute, in a redneck sort of way."

"Did he slick his hair back?" asked Brett.

"How did you know?" Cookie seemed genuinely astonished.

"Now don't be upset, Cookie," soothed Cleo. "The three of us will have a nice little talk while I paint for work and we'll figure this whole thing out." Cleo plugged in her makeup mirror at the kitchen table and turned to Brett. "Amnesia my ass. A couple of cocktails and it'll all come back to her!"

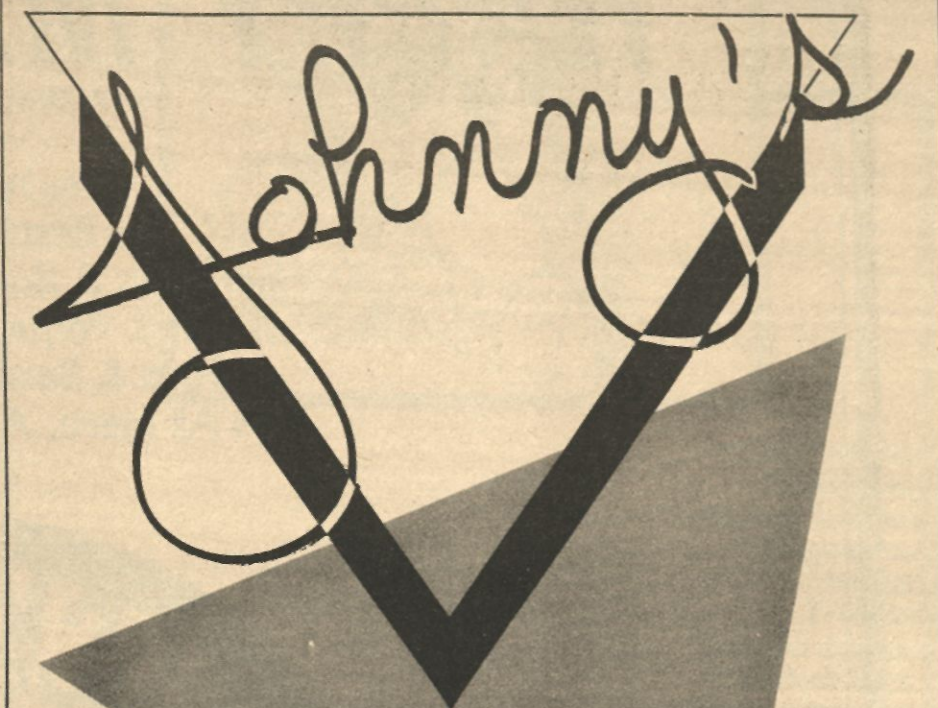
Meanwhile in Arabi, Glo-Ethyl Perkins was excitedly preparing for Billy Boner's revival meeting. She couldn't wait to see if he were as impressive in person as on TV, and she also felt obligated to thank the man personally responsible for Sonny's miraculous healing. Glo-Ethyl chatted to herself in the mirror as she applied her makeup and fluffed up her rats' nest hairdo. "Next time I go to the Classic Sweep n' Swirl Salon, I'll have to remember to tell Dotty not to tease me up so high. When it's like this, it brushes the top of the Pinto and that static electricity makes Sonny nervous." Glo-Ethyl glanced at the tiny ball of black fur at her feet and continued, "And we can't have Mama's little Sonny Boy getting nervous in the car, now can we? Not when him's got a weak bladder." The ball of fur answered with a squeaky "arf!"

"Now where could my eyeshadow have run off to?" With another squeak, the ball of fur fled the bathroom. "Oh well, I'll just have to stop by the Schwegmman"

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

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of dizzying certainty that it doesn't get any realer than this.

"Girleen, you look flawless!" Brett and Cookie cried in unison, interrupting her reverie. She turned graciously to accept their worship. "Let's just hope this all-natural organic mascara you borrowed from Bettina and Margo will hold un-
der the lights!"

"That reminds me," Cookie put in. "I promised them you'd dedicate your first number to them tonight."

"Very well, at least you didn't do anything *truly* foolish, like suggest that I would do a request."

"Oh no, Miss Thing. I know much better than that."

"Every queen in New Orleans knows better than that!" added Brett. "Just look what happened to poor Bubbles."

"Bubbles..." Cleo repeated the name in flat disgust. "A truly lamentable creature. Born to grovel. But then, that is why God gave me feet."

At that moment, the screech of tires and flying gravel announced the arrival of a visitor to the third trailer on the left. Cookie, Brett and Cleo looked at each other in consternation when suddenly there was a frantic pounding at the door.

Cookie started forward, but an imperious arm with passion purple nails stopped him in his tracks. "Step back, dearest—I'll handle this! Who *dares* disturb the Crescent City Enchantress at this hour? This had better be good," she growled over her shoulder as she stalked regally to the door. — **Wesley Lott**

To Be Continued

To Be Continued

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si la Nouvelle Orleans
m'était conte
par Melba Carondelet



"And after he passed away, ah found out that he had \$20,000 in da Whitney Bank. Dey was gonna put'em inna plastic bag and dump him in some hole so ah went to da Whitney and told'em he was gonna have a grand funeral or else!" oinked Terri Thomas, Queen of the Pig People and florist-lady. La Thomas tells Melba that the decedent was a sweet old Queen of 72 who used to camp and carry on for days at Wolfendale's and other gaypop bars. Everyone called him 'Lovely' because he would yell "Bingo!" and set up the entire bar for drinks, going around to everyone saying, "Lovely, lovely, lovely." According to Ms. Thomas, his name was Jose Escobar and he was born in Brazil; he worked as a butler for Tennessee Williams and for 72 years, carried on and brought fun and joy to everyone. [Editor's note: Melba, I hate to contradict so august—and december—a woman as Terri Thomas, but here are the facts: when I was a girl Friday for the late Alan Rinehart, son of Mary Roberts, about ten years ago up in the Garden District, Jose was the housekeeper; he was from Costa Rica, not Brazil; he certainly didn't look then like he was in his early sixties—considering the way he cumbia'd around with the vacuum cleaner; as for the Tennessee Williams story, I doubt this—the Rineharts had lived on Dumaine near the Williams house for years and Jose had worked for them then and he may have told people he worked for Williams or he may have told them that he worked down the block from Williams' house and the story got embellished that way as stories often do]. Ms. Thomas claims to have spent \$6,000 on a mahogany casket lined with white velvet and \$3,000 for a final resting place at All Saints Mausoleum at Lakelawn; five limousines packed with queens escorted Jose to his final resting place, after an elaborate wake at Sharp-Sontheimer-Laudumiey. Pallbearers Lady Eddie, Donny J. and Marvin assisted in the arrangements. "Da

money in his savings was gonna to da government so ah spent it on dis funeral to show Jose we loved'em and we're gonna miss'em," said Ms. Thomas. Better a Wagnerian sendoff for a Wagnerian queen than for the conetip of a Reagan missile or for cakes to go to Rafsanjani or for tranquilizers for the staff, current and former, of the National Security Council. Pity these bucks couldn't have been spent on or by Jose when he was alive! If there's any left, why can't it be given to Lazarus House?

Melba hears just everyone who is anyone attended Ms. Pussywith's grand opening (especially her latest man-cum-housekeeper Dallas Toppin, a good-looking New Orleans native whose name means 'Spearthrower' in Gallic—after all, that's how you usually run an old boar(ess) to earth)—but about P.P.'s grand opening (Melba is not speaking medically, I mean her new bar, Deja Vu, not that other grand opening wherein I hear you can drive in and park and also have to wear an asbestos suit). Melba's young daughter/ace journalism student Eddie Held showed up when I was confined to the fainting couch with a touch of gout, after sampling a basket of kiwis and mangoes sent with the sweetest, anonymous card (at the moment highest on the suspect list is socialist incendiary Tamara van Trampsnatch aka Jewel Tassain, who currently moonlights at a cigar factory in Algiers and works as a reader-advisor on weekends at the Topaz Lounge on Amelia Street in Gretna). Melba also suspects that certain large rumped sowines just didn't want Melba there...but then of course J.J. Landry might have sent Melba those kiwis as another of his darling pranks, too.

And speaking of famous or infamous, restaurateur Bob Bernissant will soon be reigning over a court in the land of ancho chiles and tomatillos and carne asada —La Bernissant is moving to Mexico very soon! Of course we don't know if that means Creole food in Cancun or just a nice 'quiet' retirement (after all, Rusty Warren retired to Puerta Vallarta...once), but Uncle Bob just wants to get away from Noo Awlins. How Melba envies you! But back to the corner of Dauphine and Conti at Deja Vu: Melba was told that the whole community *avec les precieuses ridicules*, assorted and sordid sycophants and groupies-with-the-gropies attended the grand opening, along with many members of the Fat Ladies of Fatima Bounce-Your-Boobies Marching Club. Handing out strings of faux-pearls and other plastic baubles was business partner, the rosy-cheeked living-Van-Dyck-subject Peter Thomas; tending bar was boxy member of the holy trinity of the Petunia's Restaurant empire, Hoyle Byrd, who can mix a drink as quickly as he can drink a drink. Hostess of this grand affair was none other than the unflappable Ginger Snapp in a purple ensemble with matching toes and temperament. Melba heard she never looked lovelier, stomping around like an enormous hickey on heels. Bob Pierce, dubbed Dame Flora Florist by the Industry itself for his abounding generosity to good causes (also aka Miss Eastside-Westside, Portside-Starboardside, side of fries, etc.) did the phallic arrangements of antheria and La Shiveley (you all know who she is) wore the pinkest anth with the biggest attachment; seen squashed atop a barstool looking like a two hundred pound soft sculpture of a boneless pork roast, she had her fat three-inch fingers curled protectively around his drink, a house specialty called a Bourbon Presbyterian, said highball served in a foot-high tumbler embossed with male nudes. And that woman with the evil-eyed-camera, Rip Naquin was there and so was the Lady Marsha, but as Larry Hart, Melba's good sister from her Shubert Alley days once put it, who knows where or when? A free-flowing champagne fountain was placed next to the Rockola and the green glow from the neon made everyone look like extras from *Dawn of the Dead*; even the dollar bills passed across the bar as tips looked fresh-minted at Chernobyl. Everyone was looking for Al Rita Roth who must have been in disguise because no one could find him. Miss Boom Boom, Queen of the Offshore Coquettes, was there—all of you remember as a Maid of Eros in hot pink and black coral. Gregory's Alan was seen down among the antheriums on one of those adorable Murphy-bed settees with Tommy and Wayne in butch denim and loco locomotive caps, too cute in their 'manhood concept' attire. We also simply must mention Bill Rogers of Tampa sans husband and Jeff Taylor of the Old Beach Bar; Jim Tillman, aka Miss Tampa Tampon, stepped in for a cock-T, and La Cucaracha, Bruce Crochet, along with Paul Sonnier of the Fountain of Beauty, was there, looking to everyone's delight, like a young man on the rise (remember the way Gene Kelly told everyone "I'm a rising young man" in *Dubarry Was A Lady?*). And who was that creature with red lips and sharp pointed teeth standing next to the champagne fountain all night?

Across the room, Bill McKenzie and spandex-mouth C.J. Ufers, were seen giggling at "the new girls in the neighborhood" and erstwhile Society Page socialites Kenneth Raphael and Mina The Throw-Away-Gandhi Woman, seen bending over to pick up broken pearls for their Mardi Gras costumes or whatever, while the Empress of Dumaine Street clustered together with the Empress of Governor Nicholls Street over a stack of very erect pink and white pistils —pistol-packin' mamas?

Mitchell Lee, often called the 'Beautiful Young Chicken' kept striking pretty poses but isn't that what luscious *poulardes* are supposed to do? At the pool table, a bunch of hard-edged women with their punky not-so-straight-edged boyfriends joined in the fun—between strokes. Keith Ollman of Chalmette was there with his ID in case he wanted to leave for the New Bourbon Pub. So everyone had a good time and Deja Vu will never be the same, praise Gawd! Poetess Janolyn Collins, the Dorothy Parker of the Vieux Carre, wrote a poem about this occasion, the last quatrain of which reads:

Her jesters jested all around
While Sister Melba wrote it down.
I reveled in a 'punk-less' bar
With Sister Shiveley as the star.

Ms. Janolyn also tells a funny story about the two little old ladies reading the menu outside K-Paul's: "Shirleen, what's blackeyed redfish?" one asked the other, peering at the menu through two-inch bifocals.

Sister Matt, acronym so they say for Mean And Terribly Tight, has some autwoik on display in the erotic show at the Gasperi Gallery and also a new Mardi Gras poster (see above) at the Marigny Bookstore. Matt is also being published in *Drummer* and *Honcho* so things seem to be hanging well for the old girl. Melba loves doily awt, donchew?

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

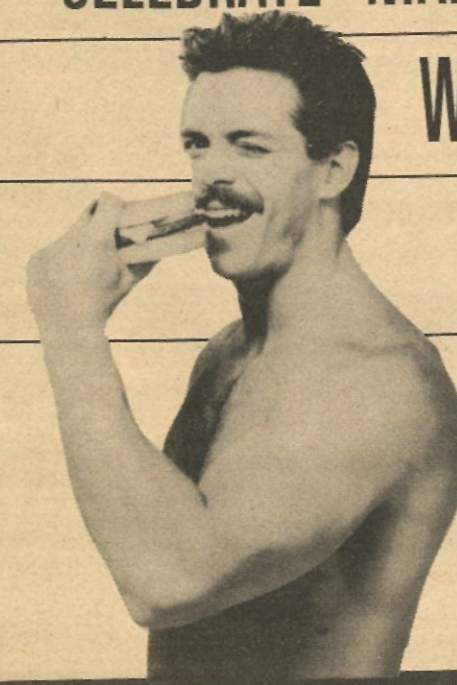
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Melba also advises those of you who can travel light, and will be in any case to do so after the penitential duties of the immediate post-Mardi Gras season: you might want to hop over to Houston and take a gander, and something like a goose, at what is being billed as 'The Underground Event of the Year,' the Gras Finale '87. This goes on for two entire days, my dears, on Saturday 7 and Sunday March 8; on the Saturday, the venue is the Parkway Athletic Club, with dancing and carrying-on from 10 p.m. to 8 a.m. the next morning with music supplied by Michael Fierman of the swanky Saint and the Palladium, both of them in New York of course; the bar is open till 2 a.m. the morning things move about a bit, first to Heaven (not Trixie's trailer, either) where the music is coordinated under the aegis of our town's own Mr. Bryson of Jewel's. It is all concurrent with the opening of the Montrose Music Co., where the music is by Jon Simms, and at noon Pacific Street will be packed off and filled with various enticements of all sorts, mainly of the street fair variety. The climax, or climacteric, event begins unfurling at 4 p.m. with nouvelle-ballets and-circuses at the opening of the Pacific Street Amphitheatre, where the entertainment will be courtesy of Robin Stanley, Uptown, one-man-stock-company. Allan Lozito who used to just convulse Melba in the old days at Town & Theatre Pub, and at 8 p.m., Grace Jones about whom there is little new to say and little disagreement as to her looks, talent, etc. Tickets for this debauch are \$40 in advance, only from JR's Bar & Grill at 808 Pacific Street in Houston. Well worth it if unlike Melba, you can tear yourself away from altar rails between Ash Wednesday and Easter.

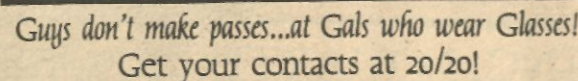
And finally, those no-nas have worked (partially): when Melba stumbled during the Mint last Saturday, the air was clear of cigarette smoke and soft music was being played! Warren of the Nicebox and Toni of the Nicebuns were busy munchkins waiting for Dorothy to arrive. Lotta Leonard Doty was there in a faded denim dress—as in military dress, *ragazzi*—waiting for friends from another town. Someone asked for a Tab and Melba thought someone had called for a Tab! It was too much for me and I tapered off to a light one.

*From an article by Cyndi Norman
in Gay Community News of Boston,
issue of 1 February 1987.*

In the small—25,000 inhabitants—town of El Viejo, in the northwestern Chinandega region of Nicaragua, gay

men are being questioned by local cops in what is ostensibly an effort to contain the spread of AIDS. The men have been asked questions about the names of their friends, about family relationships, the frequency of sexual contacts, etc. They have also been required to bring two photos of themselves to the police. According to Ms. Norman's story, the population of the village doesn't even really know how AIDS is transmitted; and it isn't known whether this form of questioning is going on elsewhere in Nicaragua. Nicaragua has no national statute against Nicaragua although some men are mandatorily exempted from military service because of their sexual orientation. *Preventive measures, rather than the media, of gay men has of*

Evan Mecham, that lovable Mormon buffoon who is the present governor of Arizona, recently made a splash by canceling Martin Luther King's birthday as a state holiday. He has now (Mecham is a conservative Republican, natch) taken on another attention-getting topic, fags. He has recently proclaimed that "Homosexuality is not a legitimate lifestyle and society must protect itself against moral decay by pornography... Homosexuals should not be tolerated in society, and they have no place in state government." Mecham specifically excluded gays from a policy statement against discrimination; his remarks have raised fears in the Grand Canyon State that Mecham will try to purge the state government of gay people and also vigorously enforce the state's sodomy statute.



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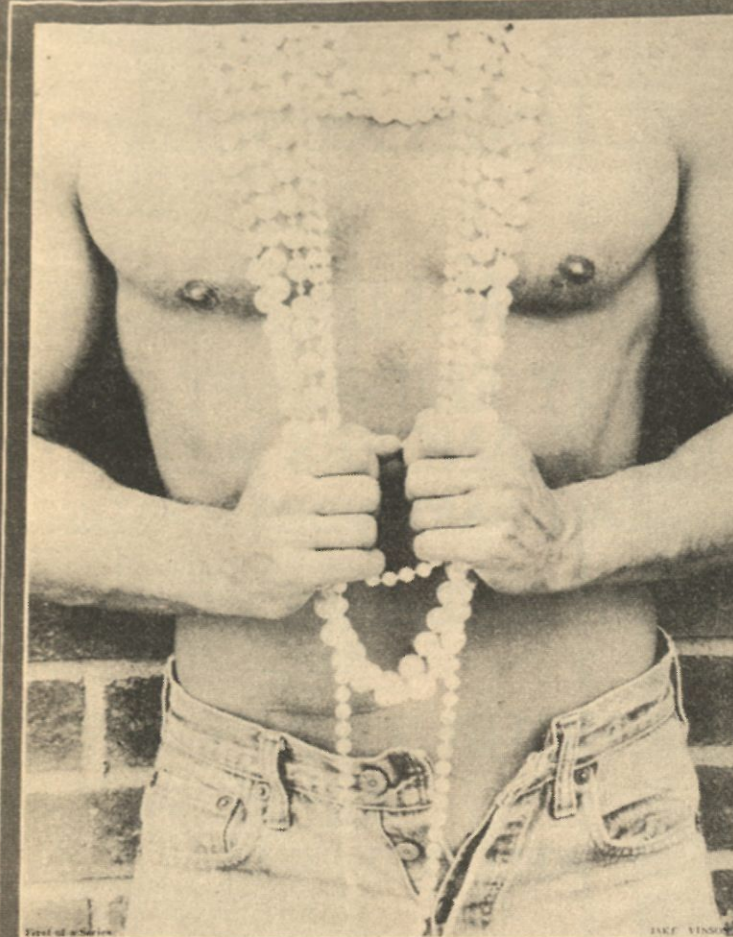
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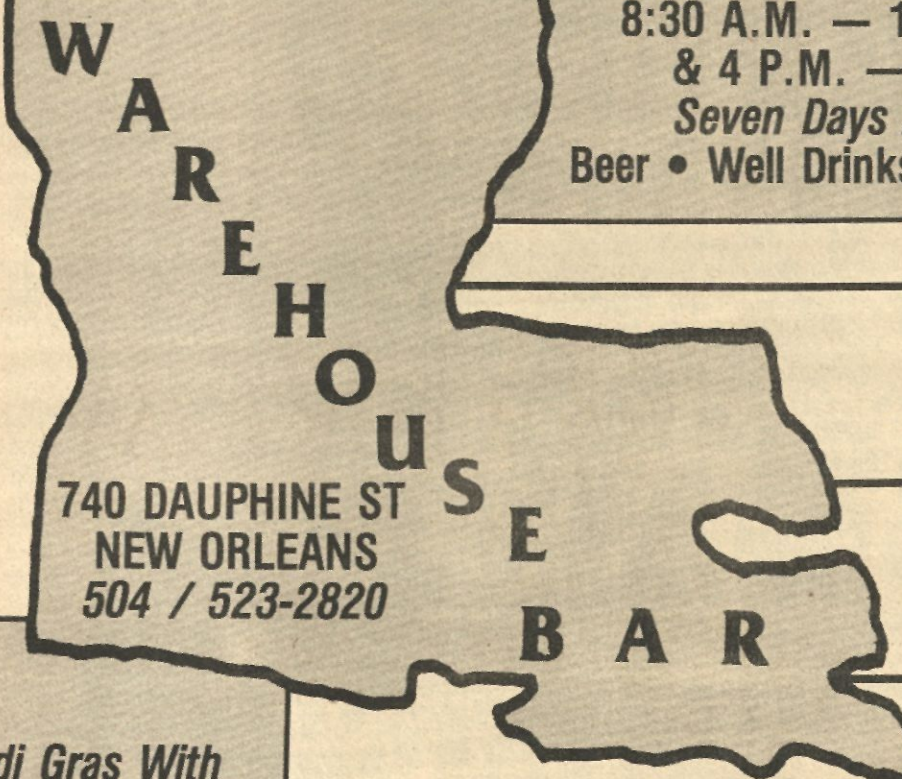
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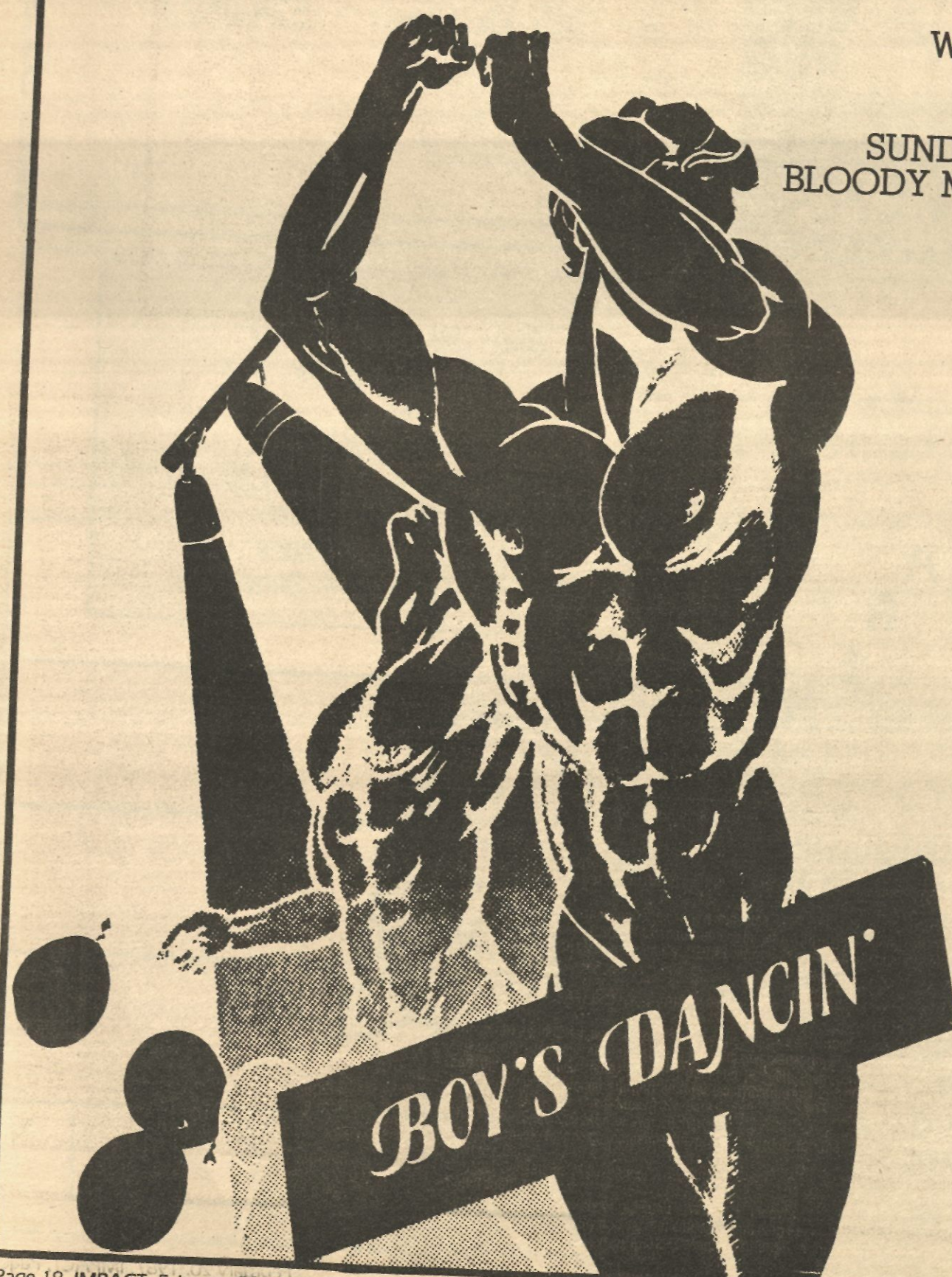
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Wednesday, March 11, 1987. Doors open 6:45 p.m.; program begins 7:00 p.m. sharp. First Unitarian Church, 1500 Jefferson Avenue. Primary speaker: Michael Kaiser, M.D.

PWA SUPPORT GROUP

Meets regularly for PWAs and PWARCs. Call 899-7185 (after 6 p.m.) for more information.

SPEAKERS BUREAU

NO/AIDS Task Force speakers are available to speak to civic, community, healthcare, workplace, and other groups. Call 891-3732.

DOCTORS ON CALL

every Wednesday at the NO/AIDS Hotline 522-AIDS, 6:00-7:00 p.m. to answer your questions.

PWARC SUPPORT GROUP

Call 891-3732 or 522-AIDS for more information.

LIVING WELL SUPPORT GROUP

meets every Monday at 6:00 p.m. Contact Tony Eccles at 899-6658 for information.

JOIN THE NO/AIDS TASK FORCE

Dues are \$10 per year, and includes subscription to the NO/AIDS Task Force Newsletter (monthly). Your tax-deductible contribution will help support important programs. And volunteer members are needed in many areas where formal Workshop Training is not required.

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WANNA BE A STUD?

Check out the next issue of the NO/AIDS Task Force Newsletter for details.

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| Calendar Of Events | | | |



ABOVE, ERSTWHILE LOCAL ZETTE, NOW A NEW YORK MUSICAL PERFORMER (HIS NEW RECORD IS "LE FREAK"), WHO WILL, ALONG WITH ANOTHER NEW YORK CABARET FAVORITE, BILLIE, BE PERFORMING AT THE NEW "NONO" (ACRONYM FOR NIGHT ONES OF NEW ORLEANS) CLUB, 301 ERATO STREET AT A 10 P.M. TILL DAWN LOFT PARTY ON FEBRUARY 26 & 27; PHOTO, D'APRES GEORGE HURRELL, BY STEVEN FORSTER

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20

9 p.m. Paula and the Pontiacs, Bananas.
10 p.m. Irma Thomas in concert, Blue Odyssey II Club; \$10 & \$12; call the club for information, 455-5582.
11 p.m. Bobbie Ramone and the Bobbettes (show repeated at 1 a.m.), Lindy's.
Hot Stuff New Orleans Style, a cabaret entertainment with Becky Allen, Fred Palmisano and Wanda Rouzan; Marie Laveau's, 329 Decatur, 525-9655. Additional performance at midnight.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21

12 p.m. Krewe of Pandora, followed immediately by the Palmares Parade; starts at City Park and Orleans. Parades generally take several hours to reach downtown, i.e., Canal and Rampart and the rest of their route, so when planning to catch them, one should count on 90 minutes after announced starting time (at least) before going to the barricades.
3 p.m. Sally Townes & The Cat's Meow, Seaport Cafe.
9 p.m. The Plister Sisters & Men of War, Bananas.
Carnival Mask Madness, contest with prizes awarded for the three best masks, The Friendly Bar.
10 p.m. Sensual Sensations Male Dancers, I-Beam II.
Soft Touch, Libations.
11 p.m. Lindy's Golden Girls (show repeated at 1 a.m.), Lindy's.
Hot Stuff New Orleans Style, a cabaret entertainment with Becky Allen, Fred Palmisano and Wanda Rouzan; Marie Laveau's, 329 Decatur, 525-9655. Additional performance at midnight.
11:30 p.m. Ladies of the Eighties, Paw Paw's.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22

12 p.m. Parades, Krewe of Carrollton, followed immediately by Okeanos; starts at City Park and Orleans.
12:30 p.m. Bridge at the Country Club.
3 p.m. L'I Queenie and Amasa Miller, Cafe Sblsa.
5 p.m. Sally Townes with the Cat's Meow; Seaport Cafe.
T-Dance, Bourbon Pub/Parade.
Country & Western Night, The Other Side.
8 p.m. Beastie Boys, Saenger; ticket information at 888-8181.
8:30 p.m. Images 86 at the Blue Odyssey II.
9 p.m. Ball, Krewe of Petronius, St. Bernard Civic Auditorium; by invitation only.
10 p.m. Marcie & the Marcelles (show repeated at midnight), Lindy's.
10:30 p.m. Ladies of the Eighties, Paw Paw's.
Midnight Black & White Blues with Ricky Graham, The Mint.
Midnight Buffet for the Krewe of Petronius, The Roundup.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23

6:30 p.m. Parade, Krewe of Freret, starting uptown.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

All Night Tuesday Madness at the Parade.
6:30 p.m. Parade, Krewe of Pegasus; starts at City Park and Orleans Ave.
9:30 p.m. Ricky Graham and Harry Mayronne at the Mint.
10 p.m. Talent Night, Blue Odyssey.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

6:30 p.m. Parade, Knights of Babylon; starts at Tchoupitoulas and Napoleon.
10 p.m. Midnight Fantasy Dancers, Blue Odyssey.
10:30 p.m. Ladies' Amateur Night, Paw Paw's.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26

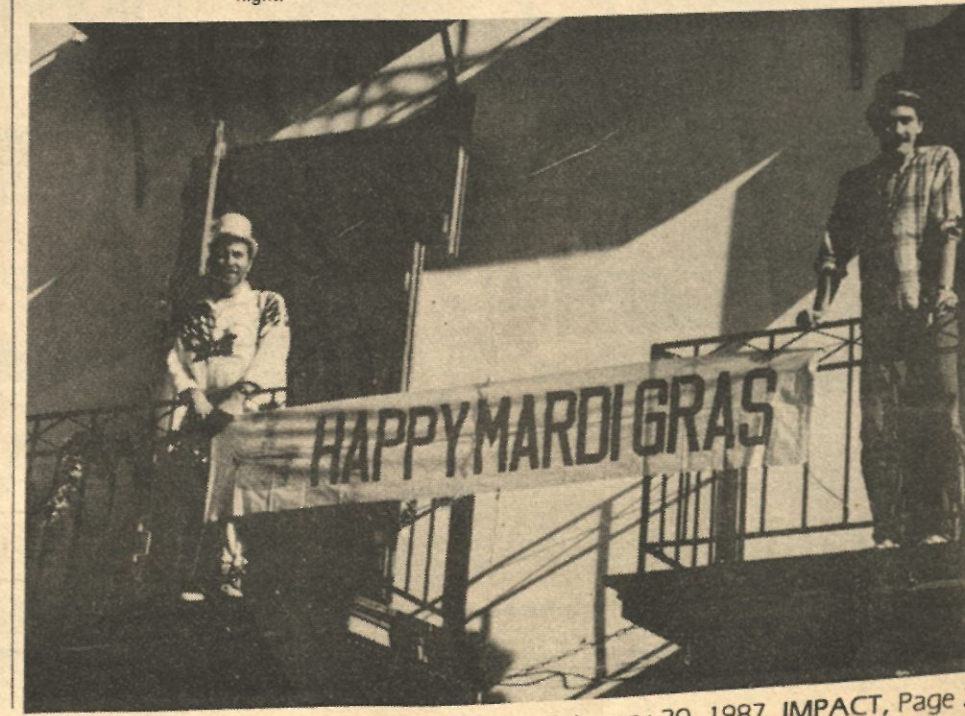
6:30 p.m. Parade, Knights of Momus; starts at Tchoupitoulas and Napoleon.
9 p.m. Boys Dancin' at the Corner Pocket.
L.J. Hamilton at The Mint.
10 p.m. All-female revue, "Sassy," Blue Odyssey.
10:30 p.m. Men's Amateur Night, Paw Paw's.



MICHEL BLANC SHOWS HIS LOVER, GAY BURGLAR GERARD DEPARDIEU, THE LATEST IN SMART FOOTWEAR IN BERTRAND BLIER'S TENUE DE SOIRE: OPENING FEBRUARY 27 AT THE PRYTANIA.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27

6:30 p.m. starting tonight Parade, Krewe of Hermes; starts at Tchoupitoulas and Napoleon.
Bertrand Blier's Menage, a French comedy about a gay burglar (Gerard Depardieu) and the married couple he introduces to both a life of crime and the pleasures of multi-ambi-pan-sexuality; with Michel Blanc, Miou Miou; at the Prytania through March 7; showtimes 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, with Saturday and Sunday matinees at 1:30 and 3:30.
10 p.m. Images 87, Blue Odyssey.
New Meat Night at the Corner Pocket.
10:30 p.m. deSade & Men Beer Bust at Lucille's.
11 p.m. Sneak Peek at the Weekend, Paw Paw's.
Bobbie Ramone and the Bobbettes (show repeated at 1 a.m.), Lindy's.
Hot Stuff New Orleans Style, a cabaret entertainment with Becky Allen, Fred Palmisano and Wanda Rouzan; Marie Laveau's, 329 Decatur, 525-9655. Additional performance at midnight.



Hank's p.o.v.

by Henry L. Phillips

SUFFER THE LITTLE CHILDREN...

Reserve, Louisiana, is a small community forty miles west of New Orleans, notable in equal portions for chart-topping unemployment and chart-bottling illiteracy. A regular hotbed of J.C. fundo activism and reaction, many locals not only believe that they have been given 'the Truth' carved in stone, and that it is infallible and unequivocal, but often attempt to frame, i.e. distort, reality to fit their own narrow POV's. Thus, Rod Aguilard, pastor of the immensely successful Reserve Church writes in a letter to the 22 January issue of the *River Parishes Sun*: "According to Newsweek Magazine, an estimated 50,000 children are kidnapped [sic] and mutilated each year by sexual pervers, never to be seen again." (The *Sun* ran the good pastor's letter on page 2 under the headline, The War Against Our Children).

Rod's facts, not necessarily Newsweek's, are somewhat skewed. In actual fact, the number of kidnappings by strangers in any given year in America has yet to reach three digits. Consider this quotation from an article by Peter Schneider (citing a Pulitzer Prize-winning series in the *Denver Post*) in his "Lost Innocents: The Myth of Missing Children," featured in the February 1987 issue of *Harper's Magazine*: "Nobody knows how many children are reported missing in the United States each year—estimates range from 380,000 to more than a million; a large number, at any rate. But experts agree that about 95% of these children fall into the category of runaways. Most runaways return to their families within three days, so on any given day, there are likely to be 30,000 to 40,000 open cases. On July 1, 1986, for example, the FBI was actively investigating 51,258 cases. Only about 5% of the children who have been missing for any significant amount of time can be regarded as kidnapped; and of these, four out of five were 'kidnapped' by one

of their parents—the kidnapping usually being the last straw in a rancorous custody dispute. One percent at the most of all those missing were abducted by strangers. December 1985, the FBI had fifty-three such ases in its computers; on July 1, 1986, the number was thirty."

It seems that Rod has overrated his case by a factor considerably more than one, a margin of error in excess of 50,000%. But if Pastor Aguilard isn't good with numbers, he certainly has put his terrible swift pen to the horror—that-would-not-die, the one that continues to haunt the River Parishes like fog the marshes. The kidnap-rape-torture-murder-necroape of eight-year-old Nicholle Lopatta by local-boy-now-sentenced-to-die John Francis Wille resurfaced once again with the trial of his girl friend, Judith Walters, who successfully taped out a mere two consecutive life sentences. This case was grue and then some. Of course, it pushes up the raw kidnap-by-strangers stats up by one numeral.

Kidnap-by-parent-not-in-possession-of disputes number in the thousands almost always (for legal reasons) involve ex-es living in different states (because rehearing of the case can easily be obtained out of state if you didn't happen to the previous, local custody decision, and often under much more favorable, prejudicial, circumstances—in addition to the obvious fact that it makes kidnapping, and re-re, more difficult.

A waitress of my acquaintance was recently involved in an ugly interstate custody battle. Fortunately, the state involved was Mississippi, so that her financial and proximal difficulties were not insurmountable. And she had help from her family. I don't know the tonnage of the shit that hit the fan during the hearing, but between the charges and countercharges of drug use and promiscuity, it could have been vast. The outcome was a joint custody arrangement which seems to me to have been the best possible solution. The young girl had not been sexually physically abused, and with a psychological resiliency that amazes the mind, seemed almost immune to the continuous, vicious parental infighting. (As a matter of fact, I suspect that very few divorced parents kidnap their kids expressly to suck, fuck, fondle, torture, beat or maim them.) When the kidnap-by-parent problem occurs on an international scale, involving foreign-born nationals who return to their native lands, the problem becomes insurmountable, as was dramatized on recent *60 Minutes*—"Adios, kids. I'll probably never see you again."

Bisexuals can really get fucked over by the courts when their spouse slings homosexuality at them in custody suits. Surprisingly, two recent cases have turned out well for bisexuals (or gay heterosexualists, or whatever). In one case a court reversed a previous decision which had given the mother custody, awarding a openly gay father sole custody after the mother had proven herself to be utterly unfit albeit. In another, an openly gay father was given substantial visitation rights he sought (and had originally been denied) when he was able to demonstrate, to the court's satisfaction, that he was, incredibly enough, actually a responsible person. But attorneys cost big bucks. Child custody is one area where unequivocal and unrepentant faggots can claim absolution: "Hey, Mr. and Mrs. Straight! This is your problem! You created it and you sure as fuck can't blame it on me!"

The situation with runaways is somewhat different. On a scale unimagined by Blanche, runaways depend on "the kindness of strangers." No matter how manipulative, streetwise or callous they are, and many of them are, they are vulnerable and subject not only to acts of kindness, but the axe of abuse. The majority of them, 78% according to a 1985 study cited in Schneider's article in *Harper's*, were "mistreated at home...many were sexually abused." It is a sad commentary on American family life when the mean streets of urban ghettos can offer more hope than the home. The serious problems that runaway kids face are not usually where their next greasy burger is coming from, or their next joint or trick for that matter, but arise from their transience and the vulnerability of their legal status. Medical treatment is not readily available. Their legal status is especially precarious, usually involving just three options: shipping them back to homes beyond repair, fosterization, or locking them up in institutions beyond despair. They may be kids, but they have never experienced childhood. Their chronological age is useful however. For a time it makes them both sexual commodities (although the market for them is much smaller than the terrified psyches of the readers of *Parents* magazine would imagine) and paradoxically affords them some protection. Abused children are victims, however, only until their behavior creates victims. Then, in extreme cases, such as rather-more-than-egregious murders, thirteen and fourteen-year-old kids are tried as adults. Society, claiming that medical treatment would cost too much, refuses to see a doctor for the treatment of its gangrenous appendage; finally, it even refuses antibiotics. Then it considers cutting off the hand that offends it, but settles for cosmetic cover-up. Pastor Aguilard demonstrates a shallowness which does not even indicate compassion for the kids he claims to be so concerned about. His letter concludes:

"To add to the sickness, as a whole, our courtrooms are not prosecuting the sexual pervers. There is a radical new opinion sweeping the Criminal Justice Department across America...they call it alternative sentencing. In this, a liberal judge simply sentences the dad who molested his daughter to week-end time in a jail for six months. You and I can change things in St. John Parish. Let's encourage our judges and district attorney to give justice to our children by prosecuting all child abusers to the full penalty of our law."

Rod, if you're seriously concerned about the welfare of abused and neglected kids, I suggest you meet a few. How about cruising Dauphine or Rampart at 4 a.m. tomorrow? Hey, I won't be there, I'm too scared, to practical and unable and unwilling to make the overwhelming commitment in time and effort (not to mention the emotional frustration, the overwhelming psychic exhaustion) to begin to attempt to make a dent in the problem. (My motives would be suspect anyway, at least according to the likes of you—but this is merely a rationalization on my part. I just haven't the strength, the will.) But one thing I will not do is to point my finger at the courts, or to the virtually unfunded social agencies, who, far from just pissing in the wind are facing a hurricane of shit. They cannot even breathe in the maelstrom. If the life of the man whom you believe to be the Son of God is any inspiration to you, in addition to being your mundane vocation, you have your work cut out for

you. Christianity without compassion, commitment and demonstrated acts of mercy degenerates into a matter of billboards along Airline Highway, multicolored bumper-stickers and the pursuit of personal salvation (which, after all, is a selfish matter, concerned as it is with personal gain). If my viewpoint seems distorted to you, it is less so than your perception of my lifestyle. Rod, don't be a "good Christian," be areal Christian.

Poetic Justice?

Regular readers of this column might have noticed, but apparently didn't, the previous announcement of the publication of a broadside this writer have made available. *Outcry* is a seven-page photocopied poem accessible and comprehensible to any reasonably intelligent person. It is available at Sidney's, 917 Decatur and 1332 S. Carrollton, Van Gogh's Ear, 909 Bourbon, and Faubourg Marigny Books, 600 Frenchmen. It costs less than a buck, and should be of general interest to the gay community.

Able, Available and Ready To Roll

This columnist, Henry L. Phillips, 43, unmarried, is seeking work. My experience falls into two main categories: Food & Beverage: have worked as a waiter and captain in elite dining rooms in New Orleans; have been a high volume bartender and manager of an admittedly nondescript, straight lounge; Sales: have successfully sold business machines and life and health insurance (Class C license—renewable); and am able and willing to write ad copy or take on work-for-hire writing assignments. If you have a job to offer, or know of one which you can assist me to obtain, even surreptitiously, call 943-7645. My financial requirements are modest; prefer New Orleans vicinity. Need help.

MAJORITY OF STRAIGHT AIDS CASES UNREPORTED

Three out of every four AIDS are going unreported, and the bulk of these unreported cases are among heterosexuals, says Dr. Mark Kaplan, AIDS researcher, Cornell professor and chief of infectious diseases at North Shore Univeristy Hospital in Manhasset, N.Y. More than half of the hospital's 600 beds are being used to treat people with AIDS. But, says Kaplan, most of these cases do not fit the somewhat rigid profile for the

disease as defined by the CDC. Almost half of Kaplan's cases are women; seventeen of the 350 AIDS cases are children. "We're seeing so many cases of AIDS—early and advanced—that we can almost trace the progress of the disease in society through the cross-section of patients we see here. Yet most of these cases remain unreportable," he says. Kaplan also criticized the CDC for not recognizing AIDS until a person is in the late stages of the disease. "We are seeing more and more cases of early AIDS and primarily in non-gay persons."

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Life Upon The Wicked Stage by Ed Real



There have been several attempts in recent years to elevate the American popular song—as it existed before the triumph of Rock—to a position of higher cultural regard, almost to art song status. One such attempt was composer Alec Wilder's informative series for NPR (and his lengthy, serious study of the major figures in popular songwriting before 1950); another was a highly admirable recorded survey of pre-rock popular music issued by the Smithsonian a couple of years ago. If the art of the American popular song is an endangered species, and I believe it is, it is a form that is kept alive not so much by new writers as by a dozen or so performers whose vocal artistry and distinguished careers continue to win new audiences for intelligent music.

About once a year, the Blue Room of the Fairmont Hotel features one of these divas of popular song, and the great Carmen McRae will be performing two shows nightly at the club through March 1. Throughout her lengthy career, Miss McRae has been chiefly identified as a jazz singer. She started in the forties as a band vocalist with Count Basie and Mercer Ellington. But she is by no means limited to that field; she is at much at home with a Jerome Kern ballad as with a blues like "Good Morning Heartache" or a jazz standard like "Skylark."

Like all great singers, McRae has a unique quality, and it is this quality that explains her versatility and range of material. This quality is a deep respect for lyrics: her performances always offer an intelligent insight into what a song means. In all the many recordings of hers I've heard, I recall few instances of scat singing. Yes, she does have that improvisational ability that defines a jazz singer, along with considerable, disciplined technical facility. But McRae never seems to dazzle with technical virtuosity like Sarah Vaughan, or impress with impossibly difficult phrasing like Fitzgerald (I've never felt Ella had any idea what the words of a song meant). Yet Carmen never becomes so histrionically involved in the lyrics that her performances become as much acting as singing, like Peggy Lee who seems to find a new character for each song.

With Carmen McRae, the poetry seems to come first—and she may be the best friend a lyricist could have. She is a remarkable, unique artist, and I hope that everyone interested in the art of the popular song will take advantage of this all-too-rare opportunity to see and hear her.

As the Carnival season approaches, area theatres are trying to get in a few more performances before Mardi Gras madness completely robs audiences away. Tulane University is offering a Buzz Podewell production of *Taming of the Shrew*. Regular theatregoers know to expect the unexpected from Podewell's Shakespeare, for the director has previously given us a *Twelfth Night* about up-town New Orleanians and a *Romeo and Juliet* about the problem of contemporary teenage suicides. He will have to get pretty far out to top the last *Shrew* in the city—a CAC production with a male Kate and a roller-skating bear.

UNO is presenting a program of Horton Foote one-acts. Foote is living proof that if one keeps plugging away diligently, he will eventually reach a certain level of respectability. Fancy Foote works in recent years have included *Tender Mercies* and *The Trip to Bountiful* on film, and there are two plays currently playing in New York. His recent stature may be the last gasp of the Texas-chic movement. And this weekend, the Bayou Dinner Theatre is opening Neil Simon's *The Prisoner of Second Avenue*, one of the seemingly countless Kleenex plays (utterly disposable) Simon cranked out before he and the critics began taking him seriously with the *Brighton Beach Trilogy*.

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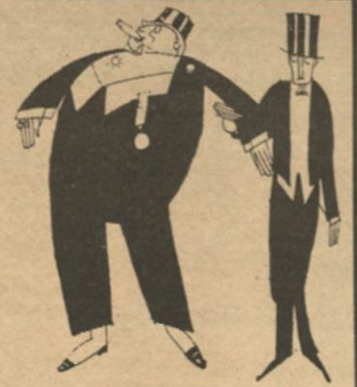
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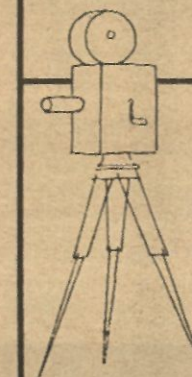
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QUEEN ARMEINIUS XIX GRANTS MELBA A ROYAL

Melba was so excited at the news; of course, it was a secret as of the Eleusinian Mysteries that govern Carnival practice, but one of my own young daughters—a little girl I had watched 10 years, grow up into a buxom, full-figured—very full-figured, actual in short my little girl actually become a monster of femininity, was to Queen Armeinius XIX. The last time Melba had a real queen in her Austrian bitch that married dear Louis Bourbon, but then you all know Let's go back to 'tite Earline and the famous yearly state dinner during of which she was honored by all the queens from earlier years of Here's what Melba learned.

Earl Punch, oh, it's so hard for me not to call her Earline after years—well, she was officially welcomed and accepted as Queen Armeinius on 12 February 1987. The royal dinner, the *soiree de reine*, was held in the Throne Room of Wendel's Restaurant on Esplanade and Burgundy. The last minute was provided graciously by Punkin, a popular and well-known King of another year; he can serve, and has, many a queen, and very Of course, this is not strictly traditional for a King to serve a Queen with supper, but everyone wanted him as close as possible; even Melba ing for a little service later on, but I digress. But back to Queen Earl, aka She was presented with the Royal Scroll of Proclamation during dinner glorious Queen from the preceding 19 years presented her with a key hand and a word of advice about how to be of regal bearing for the year her coronation. This was her official notice and the beginning of her royal public life as Queen Armeinius XIX began at that moment.

I was privy to a bit of the ceremony and was delighted to see so many knew. I never realized that they had all finally been incoronated through cession to the happy and much-coveted throne of Armeinius. Even Melba was once married to a King of Armeinius, I had never realized many of the old girls I saw falling off barstools and kneeling at *prie-dieu* poses of a royal rosary or two during Mardi Gras, had actually oftentimes ficial Queens of the organization. Armeinius is the third oldest krewe and loved for its tradition of satire-beneath-the-skirts, and these old friends funloving and happy girls.



QUEEN ARMEINIUS XIX WELCOMED TO THE QUEENS GUILD BY QUEEN ARMEINIUS XIX

The secret ceremony of presenting the Queen with her proclamation is close to anyone but the previous rulers, i.e., Queens, of Armeinius. Rich with tradition, filled with awe, and rampant with heavenly gossip. No one (not even Melba) was allowed to stay for this occult occasion but after much persuasion the promise of a dainty pen dipped in hummingbird nectar, she was given this information and allowed to snap a few carefully guarded photographs. For nineteen years, this group of aristocratic ladies has met and welcomed the new Queen to the Queens Guild which was founded in 1977. Armeinius was founded in 1969 and has, during its existence, come to be known as the Momus of Carnival clubs. After the ceremonies, the Queens got a little hootched and as all know, loose lips can sink ships and nothing is more fun than an evening ship sinking and gossip reminiscence; some of the former Queens have gone their heavenly reward and some are now domiciled out of town, but those alive and in good health attended this year's *petit souper* so there were twelve them shrieking in the room as I had a few little nips of scotch in the public area. I later asked Queen Earline what her qualifications for being selected by the Captain as this year's Queen Armeinius? She twisted her enormous bulk on my sofa and with a demure smile, peeked coyly over her bone china demitasse of coffee and said, "Hawd woik, hawd woik. By the amount of work ya do for the club and ya havta hold office at one perm in the club and how many years ya been inna club." I was quite impressed with this sudden, newly found chic. The gal was already a professional interviewee and she's only been Queened since last Thursday, I thought proudly.

"What actually goes on, dear, at the dinner party after you get your proclamation?" I asked sweetly, ears instinctively flattening back, ready to pounce on a juicy morsel of gossip. Queen Earline smiled and clamped down with a bone-breaking clunk. She was not going to spill any beans even to Melba. So I changed the subject. "Are you excited at being this year's Queen?"

"Kinda," she giggled, shaking like a huge green aspic beneath her pullover. Regaining her composure and royal attitude, she told me that this year's ball might become as famous or infamous as some of the past balls, such as the Great Disasters Ball and The Cunt Ball, both of which are legend now and won so many AGGI awards.

"What's your advice for aspiring Queens?"

"Well, join a club and woik hawd." Giggled. "An' then you become Queen." Another giggle.

Now that you have become a real Queen of a real krewe, will we still see the old Earl Punch or will your royal status change you?

"Naw," she said, laughing, "Not exactly. I'll still have my black husbands, my full-figure and matchin' sense of humor." Once a Queen, always a Queen, but this time she gets to wear a real rhinestone crown.

Melba was enchanted with her royal visitor and is looking forward to an even more Queenly Earline. Good luck, girl—don't let your wig get caught on anything or your wig slip off. Hail and Long Live Queen Armeinius XIX—Earline Punch, a Nint' Ward girl who made good.—M.C.


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 MISS JONES WAITING—IN VAIN, AS IT TURNED OUT—FOR THE KREWE OF TRASH; PHOTO BY TOM GORE

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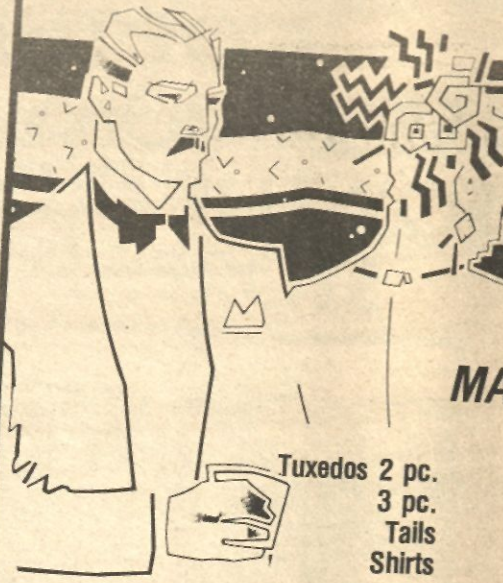
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That's odd, I sent Veda down to the restaurant not half an hour ago to pick me up a copy of Impact, a slice of pie, some iced tea and a few chicken wings...and she hasn't come back yet! Sometimes I think I might have spoiled Veda...She always gets to see Impact first, even before I do. You know I met my first husband, Mr. Pierce, through Impact's Personals and when we started dating, he took me to all those exotic nightspots we'd seen advertised and I started shopping at all the smart shops that advertise with them and I started following all the local and national news, and then...well, Mr. Pierce met Mrs. Biederhof and our marriage broke up and so I took out a Classified. You can't imagine! Everyone who answered looked like either Eve Arden or Zachary Scott! What luck! I was dating every night! That's not something every woman my age can say...oh there's Veda now. Well, don't miss an issue of Impact. I don't!

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BRITISH AIDS NEWS

From the DAIR Update, newsletter of the Documentation of AIDS Issues and Research Foundation, Inc., January issue.

Scientists at the Centre for Applied Microbiology and Research (CAMR) in Britain are developing a potential cure for AIDS. The unnamed drug is claimed to be ten times more powerful than AZT. Mr. Wensley Haydon-Bailey, chairman of Porton International, has been given exclusive rights to market the product by the Department of Health. Mr. Haydon-Bailey states "We believe it is the most potent antiviral in the world." In vitro, the compound stopped the AIDS virus from infecting T-4 lymphocytes by blocking the enzyme reverse transcriptase, which the virus used to take over T-4 cells.

A Home Office Statistical Bulletin of the British National Health Service has shown that heroin offenders are increasing in number by 30% per year. Meanwhile, Dr. Michael Adler, an AIDS specialist at Middlesex Hospital Medical School, warns that 10% of drug addicts now have AIDS antibodies in their blood. He suggests that a national health education program be started now, pointing to the fact that although health officials knew of the risk to gay men when only 4% of London's gay male population had antibodies, no education program was launched until 1986, when 25% were infected.

According to a confidential Whitehall report, stringent health checks for all visitors to Britain from three black African states may be introduced in order to halt the spread of HIV. A secret investigation ordered by Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Secretary, has resulted in alarming reports from Zambia, Tanzania and Uganda. The *Nairobi Standard* said that Mrs. Thatcher's government was now perilously close to being accused of blatant racism. The *Nairobi Daily Nation* reported on October 2 that the Ugandan government has threatened to subject people arriving from Britain to tests for the AIDS virus if Britain introduces tests for travelers from east and central African states. A statement issued October 1 by the Ugandan Ministry of Health condemned the British move, declaring: "It should be pointed out that AIDS is a universal problem and not just restricted to Central Africa, or Uganda for that matter." [Sort of reminds you of what gay men have been trying to tell everyone else for the last four years or so.]

In a related story, a research program carried out by the South African Chamber of Mines [!] has discovered that 4% of the mine-workers recruited from Malawi for employment in South African gold and coal mines have been found to be infected with HIV.

WEST VIRGINIA LESBIAN FORCED TO QUIT JOB

The West Virginia Supreme Court has ruled against reinstatement for a teacher who was pressured to resign her job because of allegations of lesbianism; the high court decision upheld a lower court ruling. In 1983, Linda Conway, a teacher at a kindergarten in Hampshire County, W.Va., resigned after the local community had formed ranks against her. Parents had been complaining for three years about her "masculine appearance," as well as an alleged relationship with another woman teacher. In 1982 the same parents had circulated a petition condemning Conway's "way of life [as] not morally acceptable or in the best interest of the children." Subsequently, four hundred people attended a county school board meeting to oppose Conway's continued employment as a teacher.

At the same time, the state Attorney General issued an opinion that school boards have the right to ascertain a teacher's sexuality from public opinion alone, as well as the right to dismiss any reputed homosexual on the grounds of 'immorality.' Conway appealed to the state Supreme Court, arguing that she resigned under duress, that the lower court jury had not been adequately instructed about the law of duress, and that she was entitled to reinstatement and back pay. The West Virginia Supreme Court upheld the lower court ruling against her, stating that they could not conclude that "the jury verdict was contrary to the evidence."

L.A. ARCHDIOCESE CANS AIDS EDUCATION

The Archdiocese of Los Angeles, the country's largest, has withdrawn its support from a program targeted at Hispanic and Latin parishioners because informational workshops included explicit discussion of condoms as a way of containing the spread of AIDS. Said Archbishop Roger Mahoney: "Contrary to recent reports [what recent reports?]...the Roman Catholic Church does not approve the use of condoms. In the issue of AIDS, such use implies either heterosexual promiscuity or homosexual activity. The Church approves of neither." Church officials continue to maintain that celibacy was a preferable preventative to the use of condoms.



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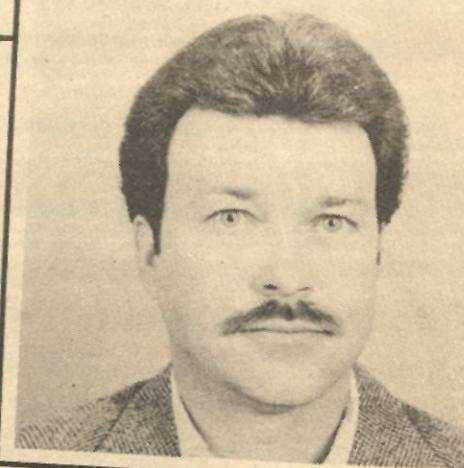
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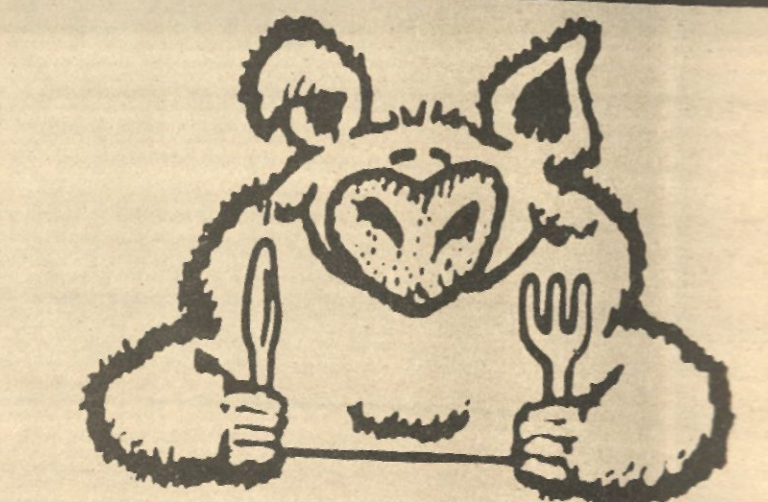
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ORGANIZATIONS

Because of space limitations, we cannot publish detailed descriptions of organizations; name, purpose, address and name of contact person and phone number are sufficient.

LAPAC
(Louisiana Gay Political Action Caucus)
POB 53075, New Orleans, LA 70153. For information call 523-3922 or 525-0932.

Dignity/NO
POB 50723, New Orleans, LA 70150. Coffee House open to all each Friday, 8-10 p.m. at St. Louis Community Center, 1022 Barracks, Sunday Mass 4 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Chapel, 3037 Dauphine, 945-1586 or 488-0355.

Grace Fellowship in Christ Jesus, POB 70555, New Orleans, LA 70172. Meetings at 1913 Dauphine Street. Counseling by appointment. 944-9836.

AIDS SERVICES
N.O. AIDS Task Force 522-4155
Administration 529-3009
Speakers' Bureau 529-3009
Support Groups
For PWA's 899-7185 after 6 p.m.
For families, lovers and friends of PWA's 948-7573
For persons at risk or worried about AIDS 899-6658

Community Relief for People With AIDS
New Orleans Women Against AIDS 891-2642
Metropolitan AIDS Services Inc. 948-2556; 897-6961; 443-2350.

New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus. Open rehearsals Tuesday 7:30 St. Marks 1130 North Rampart St. 522-8081 or 822-2019.

Project Lazarus, (504) 949-3609, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. 949-3609. Contact person: Katie Quigley.

Sherwood Foundation for Crippled Children
Wally Sherwood or Eddie Cunningham, 1035-A St. Peter, New Orleans, LA 70116-3014; 504-568-8351.

Crescent Gay Nudists
Serious inquiries only. Please call 524-9270 or 895-5112 or write CCN, POB 70903, N.O. LA 70172.

The Adult Learning Center
Free school for adults. Reading, math and other basic subjects. Also G.E.D. preparation. Classes 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Monday-Friday for persons 18 or older. Call 522-8290. The Adult Learning Center, 400 North Rampart.

First Unitarian Church of New Orleans
Gay and Lesbian Task Force
Services at First Church, Sundays, 10:30 a.m., 1800 Jefferson Avenue (across from Newman School). Call 895-8364 for further information.

N.O.A.G.L.E.S.
An organization of lesbians and gays in the scientific, engineering and computer and other high tech fields; meets monthly. POB 2265, Slidell LA 70459; information at 897-9419 (Bob) or 1-41-8955 (Ed).

Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, Local chapter which meets on the second Thursday of each month at 1022 Barracks Street at the St. Louis Community Center. For more information, call Molly and Doug Webster, 891-3866, sponsoring parents.

New fellowship of lesbians and gays forming to provide support, encouragement and spiritual growth, with linkage to national gay church. Call Larry at 588-5578 or Karen at 949-6144.

A social network of gays and lesbians in St. Tammany Parish is now forming. For more information, write Network POB 2453, Slidell LA 70459.

Depressed? Need someone to talk to? Tired of living? We care. Call LIFELINE 368-2000. 24 hours a day.

A leather-social club is now accepting applications for new members. If you are interested in leather, and can be an active member, come to our beer bust at Lucille's on Fridays from 10 to 1. Talk to our members, and find out if you measure up to become a member of a new mens organization.

Professional male to share 2 BR, 2 bath townhouse in Carrollton; central air/heat, pool, furnished. Near I-10, five minutes from Quarter, off street parking. \$200 plus half utilities. Call Larry 488-0234 between 7-10 a.m. or 7-10 p.m. or on weekends. (2/6)

Need roommate to share Marrero apartment. Male or female to share with 24-year old GWM. Looking for responsible person 18-30. Non-smoker. Contact at POB 1843, Marrero LA 70073 or 948-1317. I will also consider moving to your Westside residence. (2/6)

GWM looking for roommate or possible relationship to share beautifully furnished three-bedroom, three bath home. Must be responsible and have a good personality. Call 456-6929 after 6 p.m. or all day Sunday or Tuesday. Let's talk. (2/6)

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Thesis for Ph.D., seeking correspondence, views of pedast, survey completion comments and/or experiences. Privacy and confidentiality assured. James Garber, POB 2204, Hoya Station, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C. 20057.

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We buy previously enjoyed gay, lesbian and feminist books. Call Alan, Faubourg Marigny Bookstore, 600 Frenchmen, New Orleans. 504-943-9875

MALE DANCER
Fantastic opportunity for one individual to train and perform in local ethnic dance company. Must be athletic and interested in self-expression through the art of dance. Contact John Rodi at 529-4676. (2/20)

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Need dedicated coauthor for whatever it takes to complete and publish best seller New Orleans story with mass appeal. This is not ego but sincere determination. Share proceeds. Are you the one? Serious Replies to Box 2-20-HB.

Friendly, healthy, honest, goodlooking man, 33, seeks accommodation in French Quarter, February 26-March 9 in exchange for accommodation for open date at my Victorian home in San Francisco. Call or write Ted Smith, 729 Oak Street, San Francisco CA 94117; (415) 552-3038. (2/6)

AUTHENTIC NUN'S HABIT
Am looking to purchase authentic nun's habit, size 18, with matching head veil or have one made by experienced seamstress. Reply to: POB 70946, New Orleans LA 70172.

National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Bethesda MD, seeks males with Kaposi's sarcoma who have not previously had an opportunistic infection to participate in research study with investigational drugs. Have primary care physician contact Margaret Megill (301) 496-7196 or Barbara Baird (301) 496-9365.

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Seeking Capital Investor/Business Partner
Sales and marketing professional, with established local clientele, seeks investors with 50K, capital or collateral, to purchase established retail business in Quarter. All interest negotiable. Annual volume 250K, potential 350-450. Write Impact Box 1-23-HD for prospectus or call 737-3458.

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Friendly, healthy, honest, goodlooking man, 33, seeks accommodation in French Quarter, February 26-March 9 in exchange for accommodation for open date at my Victorian home in San Francisco. Call or write Ted Smith, 729 Oak Street, San Francisco CA 94117; (415) 552-3038. (2/6)

AUTHENTIC NUN'S HABIT
Am looking to purchase authentic nun's habit, size 18, with matching head veil or have one made by experienced seamstress. Reply to: POB 70946, New Orleans LA 70172.

National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Bethesda MD, seeks males with Kaposi's sarcoma who have not previously had an opportunistic infection to participate in research study with investigational drugs. Have primary care physician contact Margaret Megill (301) 496-7196 or Barbara Baird (301) 496-9365.

EXHIBITIONISTS...
Can't come to Mardi Gras this year. Want to receive or buy photos of naked men on the streets during Mardi Gras. Any type of photo is fine. Make me copies of your hot shots, please. David, #2506, 3200 N. Lake Shore Drive, Chicago IL 60657. (2/20)

Seeking Capital Investor/Business Partner
Sales and marketing professional, with established local clientele, seeks investors with 50K, capital or collateral, to purchase established retail business in Quarter. All interest negotiable. Annual volume 250K, potential 350-450. Write Impact Box 1-23-HD for prospectus or call 737-3458.

ROOMMATES
Near Lakefront, reliable roommate needed to share 2 bedroom apartment off West End Blvd. \$175 plus half utilities. Call Brian at 282-4503. (2/6)

Need roommate to share Marrero apartment. Male or female to share with 24-year old GWM. Looking for responsible person 18-30. Non-smoker. Contact at POB 1843, Marrero LA 70073 or 948-1317. I will also consider moving to your Westside residence. (2/6)

GWM looking for roommate or possible relationship to share beautifully furnished three-bedroom, three bath home. Must be responsible and have a good personality. Call 456-6929 after 6 p.m. or all day Sunday or Tuesday. Let's talk. (2/6)

Carrollton Town House
Professional male to share 2 BR, 2 bath townhouse in Carrollton; central air/heat, pool, furnished. Near I-10, five minutes from Quarter, off street parking. \$200 plus half utilities. Call Larry 488-0234 between 7-10 a.m. or 7-10 p.m. or on weekends. (2/6)

Beautiful Vintage Japanese Silk Kimonos
many colors & designs FUTONIA \$35 and up
3917 Magazine Street 899-4356

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For Sale: Lots In Beautiful Downtown Diamond Head
31 x 101 x 168 x 130 \$6,000
61 x 130 x 80 x 134 \$5,800
56 x 363 x 100 x 362 \$3,500
Some owner financing available on all of the above lots. For information call Gary Clay at 523-6200 or Bonnie King of Coastal Gulf Property at 1-601-255-9188.

For Sale: House In Diamond Head
3 bedrooms, 2 baths, dining room, sliding glass doors in dining room and living room opening onto beautiful secluded deck. Completely private wooded area. Modern kitchen with dishwasher, garbage disposal and refrigerator with ice maker. Indoor utility room with washer/dryer hookups. Central air/heat with ceiling fan in master bedroom. Track lights in dining room and living room. Less than 3 years old. Priced below appraisal at \$59,500. Lot size 61 x 101 x 90 x 130. Call Gary Clay at 523-6200 or Bonnie King at 1-601-255-9188.

GREAT WEEKENDER! Very private and cozy furnished cottage, secluded and beautifully landscaped fenced yard 81 x 100. Located in well maintained and heavily wooded neighborhood near downtown Waveland and beaches. Fully furnished, appliances included. \$36,000. Worth a day's visit to see! Camille Tate Realty, specializing in preferred properties on the Mississippi Gulf Coast (601) 452-4416. (2/6)

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