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9pm 'til whenever

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New Orleans, Louisiana

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Music
Ricky Taconi/New Orleans

Producers
Jeff White & Carlos Rodriguez

Tickets: \$25 advance, \$30 door

Special thanks
Patrick Guarisco

TICKETMASTER
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Costumes encouraged but not required.

A portion of
the proceeds
to benefit:



NO/AIDS
Task Force



Project
Lazarus

To receive advance order information for tickets and T-shirts, send your name, address and phone # to:
C & J Productions, 1860 Burgundy Street, New Orleans, LA 70116 or call 504-943-5065

AND LESBIAN NEWS FOR NEW ORLEANS AND THE GULF SOUTH

IMPACT

VOLUME 18 ▼ NUMBER 16 ▼ AUGUST 27 - SEPTEMBER 9, 1993

Inside this Issue:
Valda Says Good-bye,
Ocean Springs Goes
Ballistic Over Queers,
Theatrical-and we mean
theatrical-Awards,
The Duelling Bankheads,
Marines On Film,
Becky & Ricky's New Show,
"The Wedding Banquet,"
George Cukor & Joan
Crawford, Horoscopes,
Lines from old Mae West
Pictures, Lesbians with
Chain Saws, A Compleat
(near as we can figure)
Calendar of Southern
Decadence Events,
Our Big, Big Smurfette
Contest (win a life-size,
inflatable love-doll of the
Smurf with working body
parts, anatomically correct,
more or less, comes with two
outfits-Bride & Biker),
Why Queers Shouldn't
Blame Clinton, Lots of
Photos, and Just About
Anything Else That Makes
Your Heart Beat Faster...

Cover Photograph by William
Liermann. Models: Joey Broussard
and Jamie Daigle. Models over the
age of 18, proof on file.



CAMPIN' OUT

for
Southern Decadence

'93

OUT IN THE COMMUNITY

Those dear-old-Golden-Rule-daze are about to begin again, and no doubt the malls and stores will be crammed with frenzied parents and children searching for everything from khaki pants to book bags to Jurassic Park pencil sets and Crayolas and gym shorts and sports equipment and all the other horrible paraphernalia of youthful education. To celebrate Back To School, the Lesbian Avengers are planning a Shopping Spree For Visibility at the Esplanade Mall in Kenner on Saturday, August 28. Queers and dykes interested in this suburban-mercantile commando action are requested to meet at high noon at the main entrance to the Mall—if you've been there, you know where it is; if not, well, ask someone else. The plan is, first off, to have a gay lunch in the Food Court, and then tour the place, including Macy's, Victoria's Secret, and every kitchen gadget store in search of That Perfect Turkey Baster. Balloons will be passed out to the kiddies. One last bit of advice: "Wear your queerest glad rags." Or better yet, your Lesbian Avengers T-Shirt. Advice at 365-3069.

Elsewhere in this issue, we have mentioned an exhibition planned for the windows of the NO/AIDS Task Force's office on Decatur Street to memorialize those lost to AIDS over the last ten years (we ourselves put together something similar for the Loyola AIDS Commemoration show last December using some of our file pictures, along with an obscure-but-appropriate early poem by Gerard Manley Hopkins, "Death and the Spring", as text); the fact that the Task Force has reached its decennial is emphatically not a cause for jubilation or celebration of any sort. The attainment is marked in other ways, though, and among the more significant events on its calendar are:

A Tribute Rally on Friday, September 10, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Plaza of the Federal Courts building at Camp and Poydras, which will contain, we imagine, the usual speeches and inspirational talk from both Task Force officers and local politicians.

The NO/AIDS Walk, at Audubon Park on Sunday, September 26, the fourth annual such peregrination to raise money for both the Task Force and statewide AIDS/HIV service programs and agencies.

Art Against AIDS, opening Tuesday, November 30 at Canal Place, the annual event in which hundreds of artists in all media create ornaments and wreaths and gift items, both provocative and proper, which are sold at auction on Saturday, December 4 at 8 p.m.

And during the winter of next year, the Notes for Life Tribute Concert at the yet-to-open House of Blues nightclub, about which you may be assured we will keep you

informed. In its tenth year, the Task Force promises to broaden its already extensive education/prevention services (over 20,000 people last year participated in or utilized Task Force programs), increase the number of its volunteers and strengthen its financial support, and—necessary but disheartening—plan its second decade of AIDS programs and services to the metropolitan New Orleans area.

Franz Kafka, in his story "Investigations of a Dog," writes that "All knowledge, the totality of all questions and answers, is contained in the dog." Check. Since the first Parade of the Krewe of Barkus during the Carnival season, canine connoisseurs have been on pins and needles and rawhide chew-stix wondering "What next?" The Krewe held its Summer Social as a benefit for the Louisiana SPCA and for aspiring

krewe members and veterans. We tell you all of this because we didn't find out in enough advance time about this event, and thus it may be that Ottoline and Little Nemo will never get to meet their cohorts—and we did think that the 1993 parade was a

little short, no pun intended, on Dachshunds. However, we're not pledged to secrecy as regards the theme for 1994: Jurassic Bark—come to think of it, we did notice similarities in the jaw actions of those Velociraptors and our little angels. This will celebrate the recent, unheralded discovery that Man's Best Friends are clones of canines of prehistoric lineage, as observed by recent reconstruction of the dreaded Corgisaur from the blood found in fleas preserved in amber since the Late Cretaceous. Whether or not this means that the French Quarter will be filled with dogs done up like William Wegman's Man Ray as a Stegosaurus with all those plates and fins, well, that's up to the owners. For further information on the Krewe's doings, you might either wag your tail in the direction of Robert Ripley at 949-2572 or maybe just howl at the moon and hope he gets the message.

The International P-FLAG Convention, taking place here at the Sheraton on September 3 through 5, is expected to draw some seven hundred fifty people; the announced keynote speakers at various points are Massachusetts Congressman Gerry Studds on Sunday, September 5 at 11:15; Mitzi Henderson, the national P-FLAG President, at the opening session on Saturday, September 4 at (ouch!) 8:45 a.m.; and Larry Bagnieris, speaking on Saturday, September 4 at 11:30 a.m. The convention also will feature a performance by the



Hosts and guests at the Krewe of Barkus Summer Social: from left, Robert Ripley, Erin Vocke, Scott Freeman, Ken French with, on his lap, Jo Jo 1993 Queen of Barkus, Tom Wood with King-Mother Train on his lap, and Poppy. See story this page. William Liemann

irrepressible cabaret artiste and leather dyke Lynn Lavner on Friday night, September 3 at 8 p.m. in the hotel's Pontchartrain Ballroom. Individual tickets to these events, as well as late registration, is still available by calling 523-3922, 581-2749, or 581-3920.

The New Orleans AIDS Task Force's Early Intervention Services announces that free/anonymous T-cell counts, health

education, Hepatitis B screenings, TB skintests, and other services for HIV+ individuals are available at the Task Force's Decatur Street address and at a Metairie location as well. To set up an initial appointment, call the AIDS hotline (10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday to Friday and 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday). For more information call either of the EIS health educators, Steve Clements or strapping young Kevin Bernier at 945-4000.

Impact is proud to present MAYORAL MONDAYS at Bayou Ridge Cafe

Beginning September 13, 1993,
On the Second Monday of Each Month
We will feature a different Mayoral Candidate
who will answer your questions
and listen to your comments

September's Speaker Is ASSESSOR KEN CARTER

6 PM Cocktails (Cash Bar Available)
7 PM Dinner Buffet (\$12 includes Tax & Tip)
7:30 PM Featured Speaker

Those not desiring the buffet are welcome.
Seating may be limited, so to ensure yourself a place,
and to let us have an idea of turn-out,
you are encouraged to call in advance at 944-6722

October's Guest will be Donald Mintz

TAKE IT OFF

DANCING IN THE DARK

A SOUTHERN DECADENCE UNDERWEAR PARTY

**SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 4th**
9pm until dawn

Music by
MAX RODRIGUEZ
New York City

DRESS: Brief
Clothes Check Available

Our Dancing In The Dark -
Flashlight Parties!
You are thrown into
complete darkness... then
you probe the darkness
with your hand-held lights,
exposing erotically crazy
scenes everywhere. Dance
cheek to cheek with the
best. Remember, we'll
supply the flashlights,
you supply the flesh!

WARNING!
BACK TO BACK T-DANCES
Sunday & Monday
FREE DRAFT
2pm until midnight

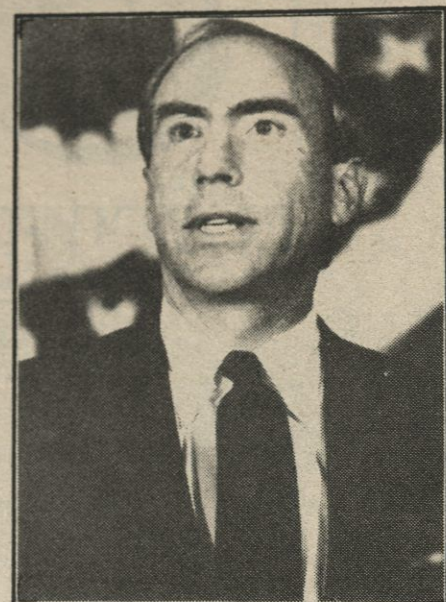
Parade
801 BOURBON
529-2107

STILL OUT

from page 2



Keynote speakers at the International P-FLAG Convention: national President Mitzel Henderson and Massachusetts Congressman Gerry Studds.



"There's a need in the gay community for an alternative way to meet people—bars are scary," says Wendy Borne who has recently opened an introduction service for gay men and lesbians in search of long-term relationships. Borne, Inc., offers clients a confidential interview at no cost, with the option of continuing with different types of referral programs at different price levels. It is definitely, Ms. Borne says, affordable. As a Grand Opening gesture, Borne, Inc. is offering a 20% discount on services. The service is located at 3216 North Turnbull, Suite C, in Metairie and is open Mondays through Fridays from noon until 8 p.m. and on Saturdays from noon to 6 p.m. For more information, call 455-6002.

We're not really great admirers of politicized art and the favored form it takes: didactic installations that are arm-twisting in their political correctness, from which one emerges feeling as if you'd been pummeled by wet towels. Nevertheless, we're still mentioning the fact that Ralph Brancaccio, an artist based in Vernon, Connecticut, is planning an installation called *Silent March* and he is asking people to donate shoes—they can be the shoes that belonged to a loved one or family member who has died, they can be your shoes if you're the survivor of someone lost to AIDS or they can be your shoes if you're HIV+. Mr. Brancaccio envisions thousands of shoes arranged as if they are marching silently—a minimum of ten thousand—to be set up first in front of New York's City Hall and then from sea to shining sea in such venues as the Cape Cod National Seashore, the desert of New Mexico, and around the Washington Monument.

Any kind of shoes are fine—baby shoes, sneakers or flip-flops or huaraches, dress patent-leathers or opera pumps; Mr.

Brancaccio would also like to include names, dates of birth (or death, if necessary), some minimal geographic information. Those who want to know more or who have shoes to send with relevant memorial information, should contact: Silent March, 15 Donnell Road, Vernon CT 06066.

Videotaping by KC, a lesbian-owned video production company out in San Francisco is soliciting home VHS footage for two works-in-progress. The first, *Universal Pride*, will be an anthology of Gay Pride celebrations and festivities large and small, in which—our handout tells us—"political, costumed, energetic, upbeat, and musical footage" is particularly welcomed. Length of video submitted shouldn't be in excess of ten minutes. The other project, *America's Gayest Homo Videos*—well, you can imagine. It is what the title implies, and it makes us regretful that we didn't set up surveillance cameras around the *Impact* offices years ago to catch that plethora of sidesplitting and mirth-provoking hilarity, those endless exchanges of witty *bon mots* and ripostes, those pratfalls and headers, the one-liners and bitchy zingers that are a virtual way of life around here—or were until we went legitimate. (Our former publisher could have been the new age Leon Errol or Joe E. Lewis.) So let joy reign supreme! These snippets of real-life-ribisibility need to be three minutes or less, meaning—*helas!*—that drawn-out routines and stand-up monologues will have to be edited, and a release in writing is required for 'performance footage'—but isn't that all that life is for some people? Performance footage? Contact the superbly-named K.C. Frogge at Videotaping by K.C., 223 Granada Avenue, San Francisco CA 94112 or call her (9 a.m.-6 p.m. PST) at 415-585-1698.

Community Resources

Because of space limitations, we can publish only the essential addresses and telephone numbers.

Political & Activist Organizations

- LAGPAC (Louisiana Gay Political Action Caucus)
PO Box 53075, New Orleans LA 70153
- P-FLAG (Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays)
meetings on second Thursday at St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church; 581-2749 or 895-3936
- Alliance of Pride
POB 72055, New Orleans LA 70172; 897-3939 or 949-7333
- the Forum For Equality
PO Box 850096, New Orleans LA 70185-0096
- Lesbian Avengers of New Orleans
meetings on Wednesdays at Community Center; PO 791375, New Orleans LA 70179-1375, Voice Mail: 365-3069

Community Center

- The Lesbian & Gay Community Center of New Orleans
816 North Rampart Street, 522-1103

Archives

- The Amistad Research Center,
Tulane University, 6823 St. Charles Avenue, 866-5535; a repository for material on civil rights, race relations, ethnic minorities, the gay rights movement, and queer issues

Religious Organizations

- Vieux Carre Metropolitan Community Church
Shelley Hamilton, Pastor 1128 St. Roch Avenue, 945-5390; services Sundays 10 a.m. & 7 p.m.
- Dignity New Orleans
2048 Camp Street, 522-6059
- Dignity Baton Rouge
PO Box 4181, Baton Rouge 70821; (504) 343-5172
- Jewish Gay & Lesbian Alliance
Amos Lassen, 525-8286
- Grace Fellowship in Christ Jesus
3151 Dauphine Street; 944-9836 or 949-2325
- 1st Unitarian Church of New Orleans Gay & Lesbian Task Force
1800 Jefferson Avenue, services Sunday at 10:30 a.m. 865-7005 (men) or 822-3278 (women)
- FUTURA (Freethinkers' Utopia To Understand Religious Atheism)
Discover and develop autosociology! 529-1631

Health/AIDS Organizations

- NO/AIDS Task Force, 945-4000 (administrative); 944-2437 (hotline); 1-800-992-4379 (statewide hotline); 944-2492 (TTD for hearing impaired)
- ACT UP/New Orleans
meetings Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at 1407 Decatur; 944-4546 or 522-5105
- Buzzy's Boys & Girls/The William J. Fanning Foundation,
943-8929
- PWA Coalition, 945-4000
- United Services for AIDS, 522-5239
- New Orleans Women Against AIDS, 866-1145
- RAIN (Regional AIDS Interfaith Network), 523-3755
- AIDSLaw, 944-5035
- Darrell Hamby Memorial Food Bank, 944-3663
- The Lambda Center, 2106 Decatur, 947-0548 (AA & AI-Anon)
- Charity Hospital/C-100 Clinic, 568-5304
- Veterans Administration Medical Center, 589-5920
- Project Lazarus, 949-3609
- Belle Reve, 945-9455
- HIV Support Group/St. Bernard, 271-2649; 277-3251
- North Lake AIDS Network (NoLAN), POB 2397, Slidell 70459; (504) 641-6750

Social or Special Interest

- Men of Color, POBox 56456, NO 70156-6456; 482-5341
- Womyn of Color, 488-5708; 891-0673
- New Orleans Women's Music Collective, 522-1318
- New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus, 245-8884
- Frontrunners Running Club, 865-8652
- UNO Gay/Lesbian Alliance, UNO Office of Student Affairs, NOLA, 70148, 286-6349
- National Leather Association/New Orleans, PO Box 50133, NO 70150
- Knights d'Orleans, POBox 50812, NO 70150
- Lords of Leather, PO Box 72105, NO 70172
- Gay Bowling League, Mid-City Lanes, 482-3133
- Volleyball New Orleans, 833-3747; 945-4364; 482-3133
- Tri Delta Chi, cross-dressers, TS, TG support group, 943-6612

Add Your Organization to this List! Call Today 944-6722

LOCAL NEWS



"Yeah? Well, mine's *this* long!" disdained-and-now-vindictive Grand Palais Casino promoter Christopher Hemmeyer tells rival, Buddy Hackett-ish attorney Wendell Gauthier of the Harrah's Jazz Co. group, during a tense moment before the state's casino commission made its decision to award Gauthier and his group the concession on one-site casino gambling in the city. The soigneur Mrs. Hemmeyer, the only other person present who could perhaps back up Hemmeyer's claim, since El Sid wasn't present, watches deadpan. William Liermann

JUST HOW G.L. FRIENDLY IS THE GULF COAST?

It began innocently enough on June 28 when Todd Emerson, who lives in Ocean Springs, Mississippi, (and who grew up in Gulfport and spent a couple of years serving at Keesler Air Force Base) and some friends met at Emerson's home to form the group GL Friendly, with the expressed goal of opening a community center for the three Gulf Coast counties of Mississippi (Hancock, Harrison and Jackson Counties) and just make queers a little more visible on the Gulf Coast. The meetings would be at Mr. Emerson's home on alternating Mondays. When a tiny, innocuously phrased item on the meeting, announcing the group's formation, appeared in the local paper on July 9, "Gay Group Planning Organizational Meeting," all hell broke loose. "We figured ten or fifteen people might see it," said Emerson in a long, chatty story by Dave Snyder that appeared in the August 21 *Times-Picayune* on the front page. Within a week, there was such high dudgeon that the matter was to be dragged kicking and screaming before the Ocean Springs Board of Aldermen; petitions were being circulated; and of course, the pastor of the First Baptist Church of Ocean

Springs got into the act with the sort of public *pronunciamenti* one expects from Baptist preachers in small towns. All of this was over Mr. Emerson's protests that the public attention came from a misunderstanding of the news item. Of nearly one hundred phone calls in response to the printing of his phone number, Emerson said only two were negative—"They said, 'we don't want you coming to Ocean Springs.' I told them we had been here all the time." (By the time Snyder's story appeared, over one thousand calls had been logged.)

The July 20 Board of Aldermen meeting was, as might be expected a circus; according to Regina Hines in the *Mississippi Press*, "a large crowd stormed city hall...protesting...on moral, safety, and health issues." Six petitions were presented protesting the group's very existence, beefed-up police protection for Emerson's neighborhood (presumably to protect the innocent citizenry who might accidentally inhale some molecules of oxygen that had been exhaled by—gasp!—a prevent), and Dr. David Aultman, that Baptist, beseeched the Board to "Assist us as we try to create a wholesome, moral climate in Ocean Springs." Several aldermen, as well as the Mayor, said that while they were in accord

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TUESDAY

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Starting at 10pm

WEDNESDAY

2-for-1 Cocktails

9pm - Midnight

THURSDAY

Calendar Boy Contest

\$1 Domestic Beer • 9pm - Midnight

Student ID — 1/2 Price Cocktails All Night

FRIDAY & SATURDAY DANCE DANCE DANCE

Manager's Specials All Night Long

SUNDAY

Boys Night Out

\$5 All-U-Can Drink

Well Brands & Draft

5pm - 9pm • Upstairs

HAPPY HOURS

MONDAY — SATURDAY

75¢ Well or Draft • \$1.50 Domestic Beer

4pm - 9pm

OZ the land of dance
PRESENTS
Southern Decadence 1993
Dungeons and Drag Queens
A WEEKEND of DIABOLICAL DECADENCE
FEATURING FLESH AND FANTASY
\$100 PRIZES FOR BEST LEATHER AND BEST DRAG
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1993
CONTEST REGISTRATION BEGINS 7:30pm
T-DANCE 5pm - 10pm
800 BOURBON STREET • NEW ORLEANS • 593-9491

with Aultman, they couldn't refuse civil rights to anyone.

It gets better: residents talked about multiple sex partners, the apocalyptic decadence that would ensue—"once we open our [sic] doors, we'll have gay bars, gay bathhouses and we [sic] won't be able to regulate businesses," and another Baptist minister said that GL Friendly ought to find itself a nice, secluded place out in the country—"You don't have to have a special place. I don't know why that would be necessary"—a nice cozy little rural retreat where a) they wouldn't have to sully the corneas of decent Christian people and b) it would probably be much easier to shoot them or burn them out. One of Mr. Emerson's neighbors said that he, and the other residents of White Avenue, were concerned about the number of cars being a hazard to children playing in the street: "Last Monday night there were 20 to 25 cars parked in the street and Mr. Emerson's yard. Due to the publicity this case has received in the past week [thanks to him and his ilk], there should be much more attendance at the next meeting." (Indeed, some 61 people had turned up by the third meeting.)

Emerson told the Board that he would not stop the meetings, and mentioned that he also had children—two of them, and that "There's nothing I can find in the laws of Ocean Springs that says I can't meet in my home."

Since the meeting proved inconclusive to those who wanted official sanction to shut the GL Friendly meetings down, nastier—and no doubt in the minds of the perpetrators, subtler—cars driving past during meetings and honking, accompanied by yells and the waving of the Stars-n-Bars, the videotaping of those going into the meeting by one neighbor, an Air Force colonel. More threatening calls, and the meeting announcement found tacked to the bulletin board of an Ocean Springs department store with, scrawled above it, "They are closer than you think, citizens please read the following." The gay community responded with a boycott until one city official or minister or business person stepped forward to publicly support them; one businesswoman, Gayle Clark, said GL Friendly had, using a charming metaphor, poked a stick in an anthill: "Ocean Springs is one of the most tolerant, live-and-let-live communities on the whole Gulf Coast." A statement that says little indeed for the rest of the Coast's inhabitants.

Another Board meeting, on August 17, was as astonishing as its predecessor. When Todd Emerson requested a permit for a parade and rally, one of the Aldermen, John Mackay said it was not in the public interest to have gayles rights as part of the agenda and that it would be a public nuisance within the community. The group managed to get its parade permit by a 4-2 vote.

Snyder's story emphasizes how 'liberal' Ocean Springs was thought to be—a lazy little Montparnasse on the Gulf, filled with artists. (Blind item: Ocean Springs'

most famous artistic resident had at least one child who, some years ago, cut quite a swath through the local lesbian community; guess who.) Some hundred and fifty artists live and work there, and they seem as remote as artists often are from the hurly-burly about them. A gallery owner named Sharon McQuilkin, originally from New Orleans, is quoted by Mr. Snyder as being "amazed at how cosmopolitan the community is"—maybe within the four walls of a studio or a gallery it's cosmopolitan. A woman named Kathy Barnes who works in an "art shop," told Snyder that if there's a big parade, "A lot of us, we'd be right there with them." In only four meetings, GL Friendly's attendance has leaped from ten to sixty. Emerson says 1,700 queers live in Ocean Springs.

Now that we've unfolded this tale of woe, here's the wind-up: Mr. Emerson and the other members of GL Friendly need support. The parade and rally are scheduled for Saturday, September 18 at 4 p.m. in front of the City Hall and marching to Marshall Park, where the rally would be held. GL Friendly would very much like to have a minimum of 1200 participants—the group has expanded exponentially from its initial ten to 124 as of now. We know that many local lesbians and gays either have homes on the Mississippi Gulf Coast or spend a bit of time there. This would be a terrific way to show solidarity in what sounds a particularly benighted area. Mr. Emerson wants individuals and groups to participate in the march and to speak at the rally; he asks that those interested contact him at 601-875-3335.

FUNDAMENTALIST WATCH: DEVIL CHASES 20 NAKED TEXAN PENTECOSTALS TO CALCASIEU PARISH

This is just too rich—it almost restores one's faith in the *Times-Picayune*, where it appeared on August 20. There's no reason to embellish such an outlandish story so we'll steal it *in toto*:

"Police were bemused when a driver wearing only a towel got out of a car, then jumped back in and sped off. They were dumbfounded when the 1990 Pontiac Grand Am hit a tree and disgorged twenty naked people wearing nothing at all. 'The Lord told them to get rid of all their belongings and go to Louisiana. So they got rid of all their clothes and pocketbooks and wallets and identification and took the license plate off their car and came to our gorgeous state,' Vinton Police Chief Dennis Drouillard said. 'They didn't even have any money. Not even a dime.'

"All 20 were from Floydada, Texas, in the Panhandle, diagonally across the state from the southwestern Louisiana town of Vinton. Driver Sammy Rodriguez and his brother, Danny, both said they were Pentecostal preachers, Drouillard said.

"Floydada Police Chief James Hale said he had been looking for the Rodriguez family since Tuesday night, when relatives

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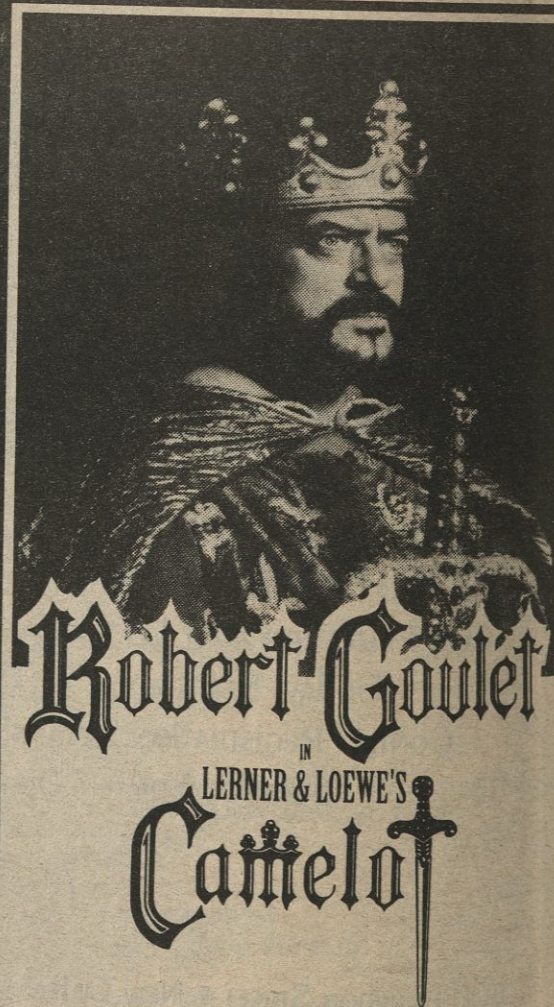
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SEPT. 14-19
SAENGER THEATRE

Tickets at the Saenger Theatre Box Office and all **TICKETMASTER** locations. For groups of 20 or more call: 569-1520. * Tickets subject to applicable service charge.

Charge by Phone:
522-5555

Presented by Civic Light Opera



Direct From Broadway!
A MUSIC FAIR PRODUCTIONS, INC. ROYAL EVENT

reported them missing. 'They made statements like the devil was after them and Floydada was going to be destroyed if they stayed here,' Hale said. The family left in five or six cars, abandoning one in Lubbock, and a second in San Angelo. Police found a third in Galveston, along with the family's clothes, pocketbooks, wallets, and other belongings.

"The chase in Vinton began after a campground owner called police. A Calcasieu Parish deputy stopped their car, and a man wearing only a towel got out. 'When the officer went to ask what was going on, he jumped back in and took off,' Drouillard said. They sped down Vinton's main street until the car hit a tree at the end of town. Fifteen adults piled out of the car. Five children were in the trunk.

"And they were completely nude. All twenty of them. Five of them were in the trunk," Drouillard said. The youngest was a year old, the oldest 63, he said. 'I think they were all related.'

Not only were they all related but the next day all twenty of them mysteriously disappeared from the hospital they'd been sent to.

LEADERSHIP '94 TO HOLD GAY/LESBIAN COMMUNITY FORUM

Assessor Ken Carter and his Leadership '94 campaign will hold a community forum on the second floor of Charlene's Bar, 940 Elysian Fields Ave., on Saturday, August 28 at 7 PM. All members of the Gay and Lesbian community are invited to attend.

The forum, which is part of the Leadership '94 summer series, invites members of the community to speak out on the pressing issues of today. Healthcare, human rights, crime, and jobs are a few of the topics that are anticipated for discussion during an open mike session.

To date, more than 500 individuals have attended the Leadership '94 series of forums, called to help fashion a more responsive approach to city government. Some ideas presented during previous meetings were putting city government's focus on education for the future of our children; improving city management by setting spending priorities and developing departmental budget control; improving neighborhoods by quickly making vacant housing available for purchase by

community based organizations or sale to low-income families; and improving the economy of New Orleans by focusing equally on development of the port, tourism, and the medical and entertainment industries.

Information gathered from the forum will be assembled into a report and issued to the community.

For more information contact David Legier or Cheron Brylski at 525-3690. Please note that this location is different from the previously announced address.

F.Y.I.

LAST CALL AT MAUD'S
playing at 6:30 & 8:30 PM
through August 30 at
Theatre Marigny
\$6 admission

THE INTERNATIONAL P-FLAG CONVENTION AT
the Sheraton Hotel
Thursday, September 2
through Monday, September 6
To Volunteer call Noel or Glen
482-1066

NO/AIDS Walk
at Audubon Park
Sunday, September 26 at 10 AM
Information at 948-WALK\9255

FOOD FOR FRIENDS
needs drivers to deliver
lunch-hour meals
Quarter, Marigny, Mid-City,
Uptown,
New Orleans East, East & West
Jefferson routes
944-6028

SPECIAL BENEFIT MATINEE

Performance of
Native Tongues
directed by Carl Walker & starring
Becky Allen, Stella Curtis, Norbert Davidson Jr., Patrick Horrigan,
Heidi Jensen, Ralph Joseph,
Suzanne McKameny, Gavin Mahlie,
Millie Stouse & Carol Sutton
to Benefit the Darrell Hamby
Memorial Food Bank
Sunday, August 29 at 2 PM
Tulane Center Stage
Tickets \$15 from
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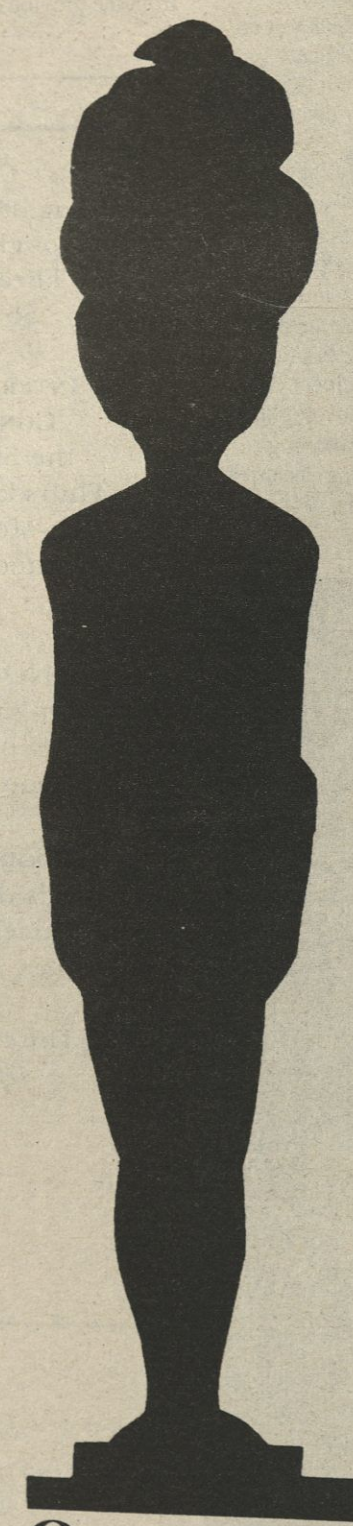
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POINTS IN TIME: PEOPLE, PERSPECTIVES, POLITICS

BY JEAN LEMOYNE

TRUTH, JUSTICE, AND THE AMERICAN WAY

A few weeks have now passed since President Clinton announced his eagerly-awaited new policy regarding homosexuals in the military. It is, first of all, abundantly clear that this policy is not an acceptable solution. Very like the local domestic partnership ordinance that was passed by the New Orleans City Council the same week as Clinton's announcement, it doesn't solve the problem although both can be viewed as small steps in the right direction.

Our culture values patriotism and service to country and is based on the keystone concepts of truthfulness and equal justice for all, but this military policy demands dishonesty and it perpetuates inequity and exclusion. It is, therefore, imperative that the struggle to change this inherently unAmerican policy continue in the courts and through all directly political channels as well.

Reaction to the Clinton announcement has been intense and varied. Some are angry, personally attacking the President and threatening revenge. Michael Petrelis of Queer Nation/D.C. said, "In 1996, when Clinton again courts the homosexual community's vote and money, we plan to deny him both." Locally, a gay attorney was quoted in the *Times-Picayune* impugning the President's character, accusing him of being unprincipled and cowardly—a reference to the fact that Clinton didn't serve in Vietnam.

Response from others, including both openly-gay members of the US Congress, have been more clear-headed. Congressman Barney Frank said, "Don't blame Clinton. He's been courageous. Place blame where it's due." And Congressman Gerry Studds released a statement saluting "the first President in the history of the United States who cared enough to try" to change the military policy.

But now it's time to move beyond attacks or apologies, and instead put attention toward understanding these turbulent last six months and learning from the experience.

The most important question that needs addressing is "What went wrong?" The answer is "unrealistic expectations and an absence of a workable strategy."

During the Presidential campaign, Clinton was asked to issue, if elected, an executive order banning discrimination against homosexuals in the military. He

agreed to do so. At the now-famous Hollywood fundraiser in the Spring of 1992, he told an ecstatic lesbian and gay crowd, "My fellow Americans, we have too much to do to endure quaint little rules. We can't afford to waste the hearts and minds of gays and lesbians."

But for anyone to expect that Clinton would be able to confront and, with a stroke of the pen, drastically change the behavior of one of the most deeply homophobic institutions in the United States shows a tragically ignorant perception of the existing political environment. The constituency wanting the change (lesbians, gays, and a few—very few—others) is small. The constituency opposed to this change, however, is exceedingly strong.

In this particular political poker game, the opposition holds a lot of trump cards. The US military is now in a highly volatile state of flux. The "end of the cold war" has dictated expectations of substantial cut-backs in military expenditures. Clinton, in his Presidential campaign, advocated much larger cut-backs than had George Bush.

This greatly alarmed people in the military-industrial complex who stood to lose power and prestige from this scaling-down. (Remember them? They're the gang that even war hero Dwight Eisenhower warned the American people about). These are people like General Colin Powell, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Senator Sam Nunn, Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee. Both had enjoyed unique positions of power during the Bush Administration, and in the political power game, had much to gain personally by mounting an offense against the new President, wounding him, and making him retreat to a rear-guard defensive posture at the very outset of his term. When the issue of "gays in the military" exploded, it was a loaded gun that fit snugly and comfortably right into their hands.

Whether or not they are, themselves, personally homophobic is not the relevant factor. As is so often the case, opposition to equality and justice for homosexuals is a handy and effective weapon that many will use when it suits their personal gain.

From our current vantage point in time, it is now easy—and fashionable—to blame Clinton for breaking a campaign promise he made to lesbians and gay men. And it is an accurate statement to do so. He promised—clearly, unequivocally—and now has failed to deliver what he promised.

But responsibility for this failure must also be shared by the leaders and spokespersons in the lesbian and gay community who asked for this executive order without adequate plans for resources to see it through.

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happen without the bloody fight that transpired? Tim McFeeley, Executive Director of the Human Rights Campaign Fund concedes as much. When in New Orleans recently, he said, "We all greatly underestimated the power of the military and the conservatives of both parties." This is a critical miscalculation from people who should have known better.

Or did they know what the likely outcome would be and were simply unprepared for the battle when it came?

Either way, they must be held accountable. Both the HRCF and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force are solid organizations with structures that have been in place since the Seventies. Their paid staffs are not amateurs, and are financed by millions of dollars of contributions from the lesbian and gay community. Last month, over \$40,000 of New Orleans money was raised for the Campaign Fund at a single dinner. In terms

six months, give us six months.' Now the easiest thing for him to do politically would have been to sign that executive order, let it go to the Senate, have this issue out of the way, have Sam Nunn defeat it and we get eighteen votes, throw up his hands, look at us and say, 'I did my part.' That was the easiest thing in the world for that man to do. And, trust me, half his staff was begging him to do it. But he gave us the six months..."

Another outcome, a view shared by the individuals and organizations who spearheaded the effort on behalf of the lesbian and gay community, is that Clinton should have issued the order without any concessions to Nunn and the generals, with the expectation that it would face certain defeat in the Congress. Says McFeeley, "We repeatedly advised the President to do just that."

Clinton himself feared this outcome, telling Larry King on CNN, "I think if I had done what I wanted, the Senate and the

Anyone expecting Clinton to be able to confront and, with a stroke of the pen, drastically change the behavior of one of the most deeply homophobic institutions in America shows a tragically ignorant perception of the existing political environment. Responsibility for Clinton's failure rests not only with the President—an easy and fashionable attitude—but with the gay and lesbian leaders and spokespersons who asked for this executive order without adequate plans or resources to see the fight through. Did they honestly think it would happen without the bloody fight that transpired?

of dollars contributed to the candidates, the fund prides itself in being among the largest political action committees in the country, right up there with such big players as the American Medical Association and the National Rifle Association.

It is reasonable for the lesbian and gay constituencies who support these national organizations to expect more from them than naiveté or ineptitude.

The failure to lift the discriminatory ban against lesbians and gay men in the military has produced a variety of comment. One is a criticism of Clinton for not issuing the order immediately upon assuming the Presidency. But Clinton adviser David Mixner told *Impact* in June that the delay happened because gay community leaders asked the President for it.

Said Mixner, "On the first week of his Presidency he took a battering on our behalf, a real battering, and none of our liberal friends in Congress spoke up to support him... And we're begging for more time because we had only eighteen votes in the Senate at that time. We said 'We need

House would have reversed it... It's the best I believe I could get."

To demand that Clinton maintain a philosophical purity and, as a result, suffer a substantial political defeat on behalf of lesbians and gay men is a stance that could be argued, but those who have taken this position have yet to justify the outcome of such an action to their constituencies. Hurting Clinton would diminish his political options for future leadership on other critical lesbian and gay issues. It's a very risky strategy and requires an explicit explanation.

But, more productive than after-the-fact guessing, is, instead, to focus on the question, "What now?"

Here are three suggestions. First, of course, is to proceed on all fronts to change the current military policy. To do so, quite simply, is to demand truth, and to seek justice—noble endeavors that are, indeed, the American way. This would carry out what the President himself has repeatedly said he wants, and he can signal

his support in a number of ways, but this second phase must be undertaken with a sounder planning than before, and with an awareness of the realities of the existing political environment.

Second, individuals and organizational leaders alike must send a uniformly clear message throughout the lesbian and gay community: destroying Clinton will hurt lesbians and gays. Says Mixner of the President, "He had a vision and we were part of it and now we're going to hold him accountable to it. Sometimes this means tough politics but it doesn't mean rampage politics. It doesn't mean you destroy the man in the process of working with him... And I'm going to make damned sure not to participate in destroying the best friend we've ever had in the White House..."

McFeeley agrees: "It's essential to see that this President succeed," he told *Impact*.

Studds sums it all up eloquently: "We must also do all we can to see that our understandable feelings of anger and betrayal are not misdirected. I continue to believe the President has shown leadership and courage in raising this issue to the forefront of the national agenda. He has stood for reason and decency in a political environment that was supercharged with hysteria and the most cynical opportunism. He must not be condemned for the bigotry and intransigence of others."

Which brings us to the other side of this coin: the lesbian and gay community must recognize their real enemies and act accordingly. Surely, Sam Nunn should occupy center stage in this political Hall of Shame. He will be up for re-election in 1996. There is ample time to encourage an acceptable alternative who would do justice to all the good people of the State of Georgia.

Third, the lesbian and gay community must demand higher standards of performance from the individuals and organizations that it underwrites. All must show that they have learned from this experience and are better prepared for the future than they have been.

It is a reasonable expectation. And a critical one. The alternative is continued failure.

(Next issue: Next to come on the national agenda—a federal lesbian and gay civil rights bill).

When my friends are one-eyed, I try to see them in profile.

We need to be loved, for people are fair only toward those they love.
—Joseph Joubert

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LESBIAN VOICES



It was years in the making but Brenda and Wanda Henson, above, two lesbian pioneers on the Gulf Coast, finally acquired the land for the annual Gulf Coast Women's Festival. Originally the proprietors of Southern Wild Sisters, a bookstore and community center (pretty much by default) the Mss. Henson have been devoting the past few years to the Festival. See Marilyn McConnell's column, at right, for all the details. On the next page, Billie Dean demonstrates her versatility—tractor driving and chain-sawing—on the newly purchased hundred acres of lesbian land. All photos this page and the next by Marilyn McConnell

LESBIAN LAND AT LAST!

BY MARILYN MCCONNELL

For the last five years, the Gulf Coast Women's Festival has had four different locations. This festival held on Easter Weekend is a wonderful gathering of women, with workshops, music, and fun in a beautiful, safe space. Now thanks to the diligent effort of two courageous, persistent women, a permanent space will be available.

I first heard of Brenda and Wanda Henson some years ago. They were trying to get a loan to start a feminist bookstore in Gulfport, Mississippi. I thought what a great idea, and wished them well. A few years later—in 1988—they were planning the first Gulf Coast Women's Festival. The bookstore, in the meantime, was selling feminist and children's books, lesbian novels, magazines, newspapers, and self-help literature. It also acted as an impetus and support for many social programs benefiting PWA's, women, the poor, and the elderly in and around Gulfport. The bookstore no longer exists, but the spirit and enthusiasm lives on in SisterSpirit,

Incorporated, established in 1989.

Last Saturday, I visited Brenda and Wanda on the newly-acquired land for the Festival. A two-hour and thirty-minute drive from New Orleans, it's a beautiful piece of property, over one hundred acres. A creek with clean, sandy banks winds through the land. Wild flowers abound: native sunflowers, lavender passion flowers and passion fruit, wild clitoria, and many beautiful mallows. There are also wild and cultivated grapes and hog potatoes all over the land. Sycamore, poplar, gum, magnolia, and pine trees provide habitat for numerous birds, including the Piliated Woodpecker. There is much work to be done between now and the next Gulf Coast Women's Festival, but the possibilities are endless.

For those of us who attended the very first Gulf Coast Women's Festival and know of the continuing struggle to rent land for this Festival, acquiring this property is a dream realized. For Brenda and Wanda, it has meant more than four years of very hard work and more than a few disappointments. Together we can help create an educational and cultural retreat center for the women's community. It will be a place for rest and relaxation, networking, empowerment programs, conferences, and music festivals.

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things are needed. SisterSpirit, Inc., is a charitable organization (501, c, 3) and all donations are thus tax deductible. Money is needed urgently. Volunteers are being organized to work on the land. The following is a list of items needed for immediate utilization of the land and the buildings on the land:

- Building materials
- Gas hot water heaters
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Lou Ann White

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- Send financial donations to Sister Spirit, 1806 Curcor Drive, Gulfport MS 39507. For equipment donations and further information, please call 601-896-3196.

Good Bye to Lou Ann White. A soft-spoken but powerful woman has moved from New Orleans. Lou Ann was a spokesperson for black lesbians on the teaching panels presented by the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Gay and Lesbian Issues. She was a member of Womyn of Color. As an expert in the field of the treatment of battered women, she was one of the few to address the abuse that occurs in some lesbian and gay male relationships. In her job as supervisor at the Office of Human Services, she was a tireless advocate for abused children.

Lou Ann has moved to California to attend graduate school to learn yet another skill—that of mediating and negotiating potentially violent conflicts. I will miss Lou Ann and her ongoing contributions to New Orleans' lesbian and gay community. I always thought she was a woman who could make a difference in a lot of folks' lives. She already has.

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NATIONAL NEWS

DAMMIT, JANET! JUSTICE DEPARTMENT SHENANIGANS: NIXES P-FLAG PLEA TO INVESTIGATE OREGON HATE FLYERS & FILES BRIEFS AGAINST GAYS IN MILITARY

The Department of Justice filed two briefs on July 29 arguing that both bans on lesbians and gays in the military (the old one and the Clinton/Aspin new-&-improved version) were justified because the presence of queers "seriously impairs the accomplishment of the military mission." The briefs were filed in the high-profile cases of Annapolis cadet Joseph Steffan and career Navy man Keith Meinhold; the briefs state that although conduct is not at issue, only the mere declaration of sexual orientation, "the distinction does not matter...[T]he military's interest in discharging service members before their propensity to commit impermissible acts ripened [!!!!] into regulatory or criminal misconduct." Their metaphor is drawn from fruit, as Canon Chasuble would say. What is feared is that such language which refuses to set up a rationale for such government policy could be more widely applied against gays and lesbians in broader legal

areas. And apparently, despite all of the promises, the witch hunts continue: At the beginning of August, five agents from the Naval Criminal Investigative Service in San Diego raided the home of a civilian in search of videotapes that would be evidence of homosexual conduct by a sailor. Asked whether the raid wasn't a violation of the "don't pursue" aspect of the new ban, the Base Command in San Diego said that the new policy would not take effect until October 1, a cynical bit of self-justification if we've ever heard any—and we certainly have.

Throughout the last year, someone in Oregon has been distributing a flyer that calls for execution and castration of gays and urging informers to submit names and addresses of "suspected or self-admitted homosexuals" to a Homosexual Names Collection Division. The broadsides claim to be from the "Ecumenical Christian Council" and "supporters" of the Oregon Citizens Alliance. Some of the contents: "Execution, Castration, Imprisonment—God's Solutions! Plain and simple, the Bible commands you to raise up the 'Sword of Righteousness' and slash the throat of the perverted heathen. Should you know the name of suspected or self-admitted homosexuals, please send their names,

addresses and phone numbers to the OCA Homosexual Names Collection Division in your area." Apparently, there is no Ecumenical Christian Council and OCA founder Lou Mabon, no friend to queers, says he thinks the flyers were created to discredit his group. When Mitzi Henderson, president of P-FLAG wrote Attorney General Janet Reno about the flyer last April and asking her to investigate its origins and monitor the activities of anti-gay groups and prosecute them, the Justice Department—via a May 13 letter from one Linda Davis, chief of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division's Criminal Section—said that while it was "concerned," it could not "authorize the investigation you requested because neither the dissemination of the flyer nor the violence it advocates constitutes a violation of any Federal criminal civil rights statute." Chai Feldblum of Georgetown said the letter was "not wrong legally" and that the Justice Department's response "points out a very clear gap in the law." Sandra Gillis, executive director of the national Federation of P-FLAGS said her group was "really disappointed [because] the Justice Department was not willing to step in and protect our children."

LESBIAN COUPLE BUYS CLINTON 'LOG CABIN'

Lesbians Lila Wallace and Renee Parker bought a house in Hope, Arkansas, which is now known for a reason other than being the Watermelon Capital of the World; the one-story wood-frame house has now tripled in value because the house they bought (before the election, we might add) was the humble boyhood home of Bill Clinton and now bears a sign on the front lawn, "Boyhood Home of Bill Clinton."

QUEER NATION/D.C. OUTS BOREN

At a Queer Nation/D.C. press conference on July 12 (apparently largely deemed unpressworthy), the irrepressible Michael Petrelis charged that Democratic Senator David Boren (who looks a bit like a hedgehog), in the news with excessive regularity because of his intractability over President Clinton's Budget Bill and earlier the author of the much-banded-about Boren Amendment which was one of the stickier points in Iran-Contra (since it was, like Senator Boren, repeatedly violated) "is the unnamed closeted homosexual...who has engaged in same-sex harassment of his gay staffers written about in Michelangelo Signorile's...*Queer In America*." Petrelis

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announced that the outing occurred because Queer Nation wants "anti-gay closet cases in Congress to come out and loudly declare their full support for ending the Pentagon's ban" on lesbians and gays in the military.

Earlier this summer Petrelis was also busy with Barney Frank; Petrelis tattled to the *Boston Globe* that Frank had fired an unpaid staff intern, Billy Hileman, a co-chair of this year's March On Washington after a picture of Hileman hugging a man friend at a protest at Sam Nunn's offices appeared in a gay paper. Petrelis called Frank "a homosexual Uncle Tom" and said the Congressman "doesn't understand the need for certain methods that are being used in the struggle for equal rights." Frank, said he canned Hileman before seeing the picture, but because "civil disobedience aimed at disrupting Congress was an official part of the March agenda," and that "Kiss-ins don't change votes in Congress."

FORMER MINISTER LOBBIED MISSOURI CONGRESSMAN TO LIFT BAN

Conservative Democrat Rep. Ike Skelton of Missouri received a bit of lobbying to try his mind on the military's ban on queers from an unexpected source: the former minister of the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Lexington, Missouri, Skelton's home-town church. While it didn't work, it must have been interesting: Earl Johnson, who was pastor of the church for nine months in 1979, visited Skelton in his Washington office before President Clinton's new-and-improved ban was issued, in the (vain) hope of changing Skelton's mind. Skelton chairs the House Armed Services subcommittee on personnel.

Visiting the Congressman, Johnson came out to him—"I suddenly realized that I had this tenuous link with a very powerful Congressman and that by telling my story, I might influence him," Skelton: "I listened. I was polite." Mr. Johnson—according to the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*—both an Eagle Scout and a Yale Divinity School graduate, both a model for Ralph Lauren and a field-worker with Margaret Mead in Africa (an interesting resume, all in all), left the ministry in 1982 when he accepted his sexual orientation. The Disciples of Christ and the United Church of Christ, the denominations Johnson served as a minister, are currently arguing over whether to let queers be ministers. Johnson's revelation might forever quash his hopes of returning to his former vocation.

COURT OF APPEALS RULES IN FAVOR OF GAYS, IN A WAY

In a March ruling by the Seventh Circuit of the US Court of Appeals, "one of those obscure cases that often escapes notice," according to Lisa Keen in the *Washington Blade*, a case involving an Illinois man who blackmailed a married homosexual man, the Court ruled that a

married homosexual person could be considered a "particularly susceptible victim" under Federal law. Apparently the perpetrator, Sienky Lallemand (?), had blackmail as his specific purpose: picking up a married man at a cruising spot near Calumet City, Illinois (a sin town that once boasted having, and may still, the oldest continuously operating gay bar in the country), he invited the man home where he had concealed a video camcorder and taped himself and the man having sexual relations. After checking the man's identity through his license plate number, Lallemand followed him around and discovered where he worked and sent a copy of the video to the man's office, demanding \$16,000. When there was no response, Lallemand—persistent cuss—sent a video to the man's home, again demanding money. The wife opened the package and the intended victim called the G-men who arrested Lallemand.

In sentencing the blackmailer, the district court judge said that Federal laws allow for more stringent sentences where the target is a "particularly susceptible victim." Lallemand appealed his sentence of eighteen months in prison (the blackmail was to raise funds to pay for his wife's pregnancy, a somewhat extreme way of obtaining money), but on March 29, the three-judge panel of the Seventh Circuit decided that "a married homosexual is by virtue of that status particularly susceptible to blackmail, because the [blackmailer] knew that his victim was married and that he engaged in homosexual sex...[S]ome secrets are a good deal more painful than others....A married homosexual or bisexual is likely to be deeply 'closeted'; to have not only a wife, but children, who are ignorant of his sexual proclivity. Exposure threatens his marriage, his relationship with his children, and his status in the heterosexual milieu that he by preference inhabits by virtue of his closeted state. In American society, much of which is intolerant of homosexuals outside of the particular occupations and enclaves in which they are common and 'out,' the revelation that a married man has a secret life of homosexual behavior can have a shattering effect, illustrated by the suicide attempt [the victim—a government employee with two kids—attempted suicide]." The fact that Lallemand deliberately targeted a married homosexual, said the judges, indicated "a malevolent focusing in on a particularly susceptible subgroup of blackmail victims." The law ought to express "outrage at criminals who unsportingly [!] prey on the weak, defenseless....[T]o hound a person furtively engaged in sexual activities that he, his wife, his children, his parents, and his friends may consider deeply shameful, disgraceful, abnormal, or vicious is to exploit a position of unusual leverage in relation to one's victim that deserves recognition in sentencing. To use the argument that government ought not to use the criminal laws to protect the privacy of people who engage in conduct that rightly or wrongly is an object of social



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reprobation, it is a sufficient answer that the law against blackmail proceeds upon virtually the opposite premise."

The decision was written by Judge Richard Posner, who is, by the way, a staggeringly erudite guy—he has written often and penetratingly about the law and literature for various law reviews and his work is the basis of an interesting survey of *Law and Literature*; Posner, a Reagan appointee, was joined by Judges Richard Cudahy and Kenneth Ripple, whose concurring opinion differed somewhat from Posner's in taking issue with the panel's decision to categorize the victim as "particularly susceptible" since his activity was itself criminal, and also that the decision treated married homosexual men as stereotypes: "It is really a sweeping generalization to suggest that all men who are married and who are accused of this conduct would experience a trauma of a magnitude very much more severe than other victims."

Evan Wolfson, of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, said the decision was "refreshing" because the court was "dealing with reality" and "trying to be protective" of the blackmail victim, that in all it was "a fairly sophisticated decision for a court to make and write about."

AIDS STAMP MAY APPEAR IN DECEMBER

A Madison, Wisconsin, nurse, Jeanne Anne Hlavacek, has lobbied for nearly six years for a postage stamp about AIDS and it now appears that Postmaster General Marvin Runyon is going to do something about it, having given an order to develop such a stamp to be issued December 1, International AIDS Awareness Day. A design will probably appear at the end of this month; Ms. Hlavacek, who works for the University of Wisconsin Hospital, said she'd heard nothing about her request from the USPS but had suggested a design with the international stop sign (a red circle with a slash through it) around the word AIDS with the words "Prevention," "Research," "Education," and "Compassion" appearing on the stamp.

The USPS feared that an AIDS Awareness stamp would be as big a flop as the 1981 stamp which bore the words, "Alcoholism: You Can Beat It!" The alcoholism stamp had poor sales, apparently because customers thought using it would imply that mail recipients were drunks.

FRENCH CABINET MEMBERS TO BE PROSECUTED IN INFECTED BLOOD SCANDAL

The French National Assembly and Senate approved a constitutional amendment on July 19 that would make it easier to prosecute members of the erstwhile government of ex-Prime Minister Laurent Fabius in the immense scandal involving the knowing use of HIV-infected blood for transfusions by the National

Blood Transfusion Center. The health officials were reluctant to deep-six some \$40 million of blood and wanted to wait until France had its own patented screening techniques for HIV, rather than using costly equipment imported from the U.S. The 1985 transfusions infected some 1,500 hemophiliacs, of whom more than 300 have died so far. Four of the National Blood Transfusion Center officers were brought to trial and three found guilty in October 1992. The center's director, Michael Garretta, received a four-year prison sentence and some \$1.8 million in fines; a second trial on other charges for the four is going on now.

But Garretta, along with members of French ACT UP, think senior government officials, i.e., policy makers, ought to be responsible for the transfusions, but French law prohibits impeachment of former cabinet members. The National Assembly vote will make it easier to prosecute Fabius, as well as former Social Affairs Minister Georgina Dufoux and former Deputy Health Minister Edmond Herve, for their roles in the scandal.

GAY BRAZILIAN GETS 'SOCIAL' ASYLUM IN US

On July 26, an encouraging judicial ruling allowed Marcelo Tenorio to receive asylum in the United States after being persecuted for being openly queer in his homeland of Brazil; Judge Philip Leadbetter ruled that Tenorio was eligible based on his [Tenorio's] fear of persecution on account of membership in a particular social group. In 1989 Tenorio was stabbed and badly beaten outside a gay disco in Rio, and apparently further pursued by what the AP called "anti-gay commando groups"; he fled to Mexico and entered this country illegally in 1990. Arrested by the INS last year, he was threatened with deportation. After the judge's decision, he said "I am thrilled, not only for myself, but also for other gay people who are seeking asylum in this country." Some two dozen similar asylum cases are now pending in US courts; the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund has three test cases currently moving through the courts: A Nicaraguan man with AIDS in Texas, a Russian lesbian in San Francisco, and an Iranian man in New York.

Tenorio's attorney, Tania Alvarez, said that with Leadbetter's ruling, "persecuted members of our community worldwide who meet the criteria for asylum should receive the same protection as other persecuted groups." The US is obligated to adhere to a UN requirement of countries to grant asylum to individuals who have "a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion." The US now joins Canada, Australia, the Netherlands, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, and New Zealand as countries that interpret "social group" to include sexual minorities.

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IN QUEER STREET

Marriage in the Nineties: Well, it should come as no shock to any of us to find out that the much-vaunted symbol that the far Right is always screaming about, i.e., **Christian marriage**, has come a cropper. In fact it has become, like patriotism, the last refuge of scoundrels. Even the ditz *Newsweek*, about as predictable as a \$3 compass, in noting the foibles of the Hollywood set, coyly mentions the marriage of Rock Hudson to the long-suffering Phyllis, who it develops was a secretary at the studio. Phyllis didn't have it so bad; for her patience, she got enough money to retire and to go to **parties** for years. (We imagine that, thanks to **Kenneth Anger**, such ancient history as the "twilight tandems" of Valentino and both of his wives or Janet Gaynor and the costume designer Adrian need not be mentioned; the better-known pairing of **Robert Taylor** and **Barbara Stanwyck** has a veil drawn across it until some enterprising biographer digs up some facts.)

Such arrangements are called marriages of convenience, or here in the would-be Francophone swamps, **mariages blancs**. These are recognizable by the following attributes: First, they come up like a storm on Lake Pontchartrain: Nobody expects them, hardly a murmur of dating, and then suddenly there is a wedding, which the straight press—ever the lackey of the ruling and celebrity classes—notes was small and poorly attended, to avoid being made a media spectacle. Actually, such weddings are small and poorly attended because the **money-grubbers** see no point in wasting good champagne on anyone other than themselves. (We recall some years ago reading of the marriage of male ingenue **Parker Stevenson** to the pre-*Cheers* **Kirstie Alley** at the home of Parker's great good friend, **Neil Sedaka**. It was an intimate affair, marked, according to that distinguished journal *USA Today*, by the shedding of **floods of tears** by—yes, by Messrs. Stevenson and Sedaka.)

Secondly, the marriage only lasts a few years, sometimes only a few weeks if the necessary goals are accomplished in that time. These goals are often no more complicated than the need to get a bit of cheap publicity in that bastion of **middle-class slime**, *People*. Please notice that *People* magazine is the one that never gets sued—that's because they never dare print anything other than a publicist tells them. If the publicist is really on the ball, he can get other crummy magazines to run articles on the happy couple picking out houses together, or that old standby, the article on the couple with a houseful of animals, all living happily together and so often reputed to be all sleeping in the same bed. We would bet our last sou on the fact that ninety percent of **those animals are rented** from professional trainers that supply the animals for children's films.

Thirdly, the breakup of the marriage

comes about swiftly, as in the case of Tom Cruise and Mimi Rogers. One week into it, Tom is telling magazines how happy he and Mimi are, and then three weeks later they are getting a divorce. Here's the telling point: the divorce is uncontested with no retributive bad-mouthing, there are no unseemly battles over property—not even the beautiful Collie that they both loved so much, the Collie that looks **strangely like Lassie** on the last series to bear the name.

When Tom and Mimi split so fast, the reason was clear: it was the old Norman Maine/Vicki Lester syndrome familiar from *A Star Is Born*, the same syndrome that sabotaged the marriage of **neo-liberal** spokeswoman Barbra Streisand and **Jenny-Craig-pitchman** Elliott Gould. Cruise had had a number of big successes in a row, *The Color of Money* (bad but a moneymaker and a prestige item, with Martin Scorsese directing and Paul Newman as Cruise's leading man), *Top Gun* (top gross \$-wise), and the pathetic car-racing film, one of the worst things we've ever seen but it made big dollars. Mimi had made only one important film in that time, *Someone to Watch Over Me*. Naturally, Tom dumped her for the Aussie broad who was getting a lot of media attention. Mimi did have the last word, however: she told a gossip columnist that Tom was **not so hot in the sack**. Quite honestly, we wonder if she really knew.

In the news today we see that Ted Danson and Whoopi Goldberg are wild about each other. What ever happened to **Whoopi's old girlfriend** who used to drop her off in the Rolls-Royce, go park the car, come in separately and sit discreetly at a nearby table. Ted, we hardly knew ya!

We hesitate to mention the beauty-and-the-bestial affair of Julia Roberts marrying Lyle Lovett, but it certainly has all the earmarks of a marriage blanc, Part I. The late, great James Dean was subjected to the same kind of studio manipulation back in the Fifties. His so-called great romance with Pier Angeli, an **obscure starlet** whom very few remember, is believed to be the creation of some feverishly imaginative publicity department hack. Dean is reported to have confided to friends during this time that he and Pier did not have enough in common to maintain a **conversation in the limousine** on the way to those much-publicized "dates."

And now the coup de grace: John Kennedy, Jr. (yes, little John-John) is betrothed to Daryl Hannah. Well, with those **big shoulders, large facial features, and that boy's name**—is there something we don't know? Will John, Jr. promise to love, honor, obey, and refrain from cruising **Dupont Circle**—because we understand that his mother told him if he didn't stop she was going to take away the Mercedes SL and make him drive the Toyota wagon that heretofore has only carried groceries and domestics. And

after the inevitable divorce, will Daryl be reduced to a **Miami dinner theatre** with a marquee that reads "Daryl Hannah *is* Willie Loman"?

ALate Flash: Connoisseurs of pulchritude will, like **Benvenuto Cellini**, go on their way rejoicing when they hear as we did at presstime that the upcoming New Orleans Film and Video Festival includes two items of note to our Brothers and Sisters. Sisters first: the Festival will show Gus Van Sant's *Even Cowgirls Get The Blues* which reputedly includes a surpassingly **steamy Sapphic scene** between Uma Thurman and Rain Phoenix. Ms. Phoenix might even turn up down here for opening festivities. Brothers: in the much-lauded Robert Altman film, *Short Cuts*, derived from short stories by the late Raymond Carver, we understand that erstwhile Lite-Rock stud Huey (I Want A New Drug) Lewis has an **extended frontal nude scene**. This is of some interest to us for two reasons. First, we've always thought Huey was a peach. Second, on *Inside Edition* or *Hard Copy* or one of those tabloids-of-the-cathode-box, a **professional groupie** named Connie "leaked" the news that of the literally hundreds of rock stars she'd bedded, Huey had been—how shall we put it delicately?—most profoundly gifted by **capricious Nature**. We may even get fitted for some new bi-focals before the screening.

News From The Front (of the Back of the Bus): From the Balls of Montezuma to the Shorts of Tripoli: The Department of the Navy announced on



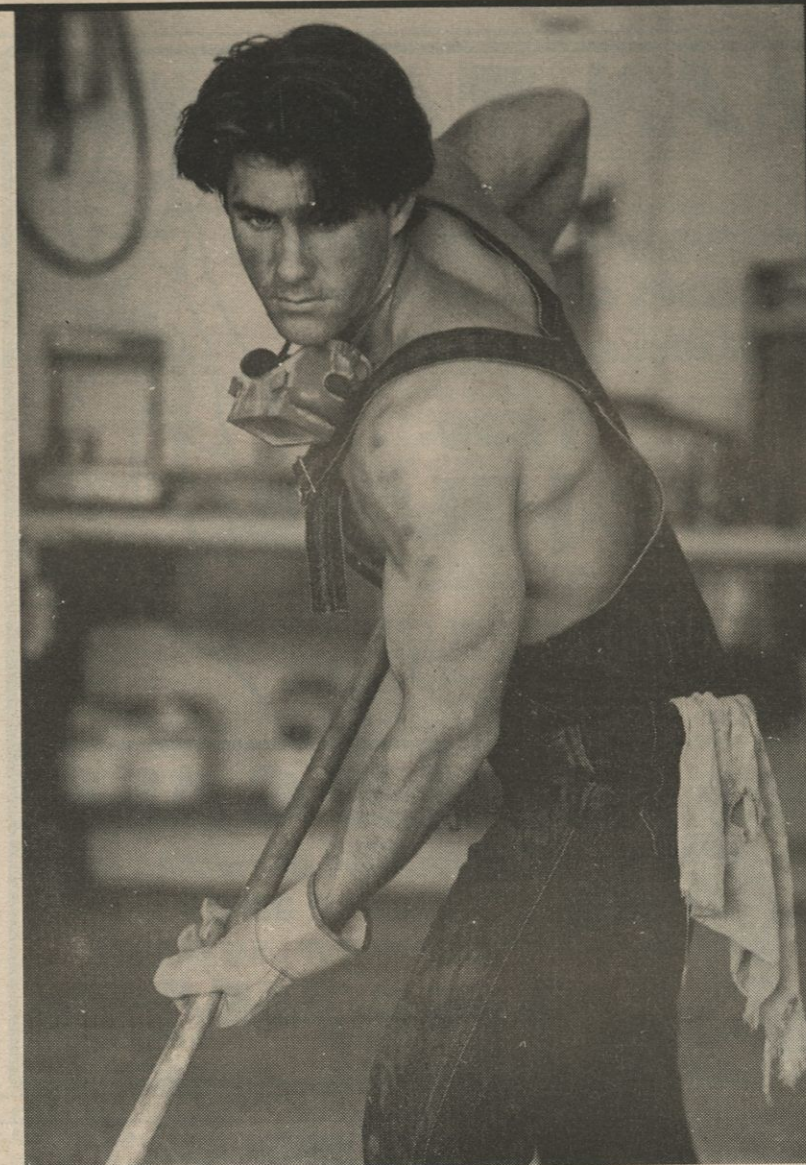
Since this is purportedly a family newspaper we can't show you any naked Marines of the sort that were caught in the recent Camp Pendleton round-up of amateur skin-starlets; instead here is a scene from a late Raoul Walsh masterwork, *Marines, Let's Go!* (Fox, 1961), which starred Tom Tryon and David Hedison. Mr. Walsh, a handsome devil in his youth who fought with Pancho Villa before starting off in Hollywood's silent era (the Fairbanks Thief of Baghdad, Gloria Swanson in *Sadie Thompson*, *What Price Glory?* and innumerable others) and going on to direct just about everyone—Cagney, Bogart, Errol Flynn, Mae West, Alice Faye, John Wayne, Crosby, Mitchum, Walsh, a conservative like most of the golden age movie-makers, was also known as a crusty, lovable, old cuss who wore an eye-patch and was described by auteur critics as "the screen's most virile director," a superlative that enraged Pauline Kael who sputtered that no one would think of calling Shakespeare a virile writer—Kipling, maybe.

Wednesday last that Marine authorities at **Camp Pendleton** had rounded up more than two dozen Marines and charged them with, presumably, "conduct unbecoming...," that catch-all which enables them to throw out anyone who irritates them. This time, the charges are heinous indeed: **appearing nude** in gay magazines and porno films. And being devotees of the latter, we most assuredly do not believe these men were lying around in the sun. Actually, from our knowledge of the corps, we're surprised that they didn't get a couple of thousand (they probably could if they went through the copious files of **Athlete Model Guild** or **Bruce of Los Angeles**, those bastions of beefcake, which even published little thumbnail biographies of their models, noted who was in what branch of the service and which street corner they encountered him on, along with a peculiar squiggly code of what they did/would do sexually). Camp Pendleton, in Southern California, is a happy hunting ground for many of our brothers who can find their way into the compound, which runs for a good stretch along the coastline. If we remember correctly, one has to swim out beyond the **high-water mark** and then swim back to shore inside Pendleton. It may seem like an arduous undertaking, but we understand that once inside it is like heaven on earth. All those dunes and scrub brush, **grunting and thrashing**. Degradation!

We were first attracted to the Marine Corps when as a teen queen, we found out how easy it was to pick up Marines on Canal Street towards the end of the war (Crimean, if we remember correctly). Father was so

continued on B-3

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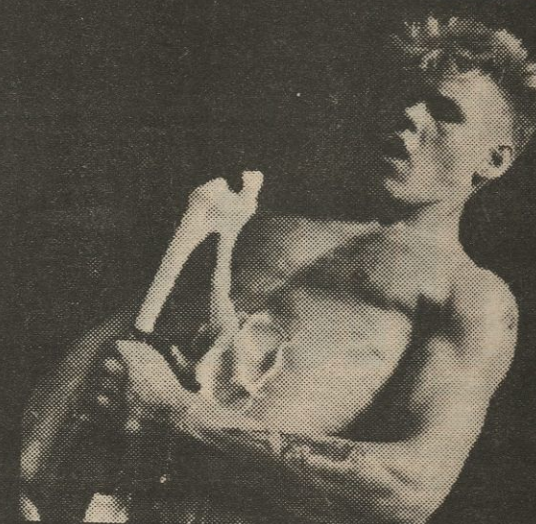
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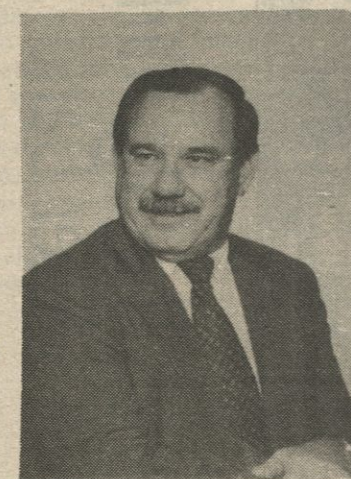
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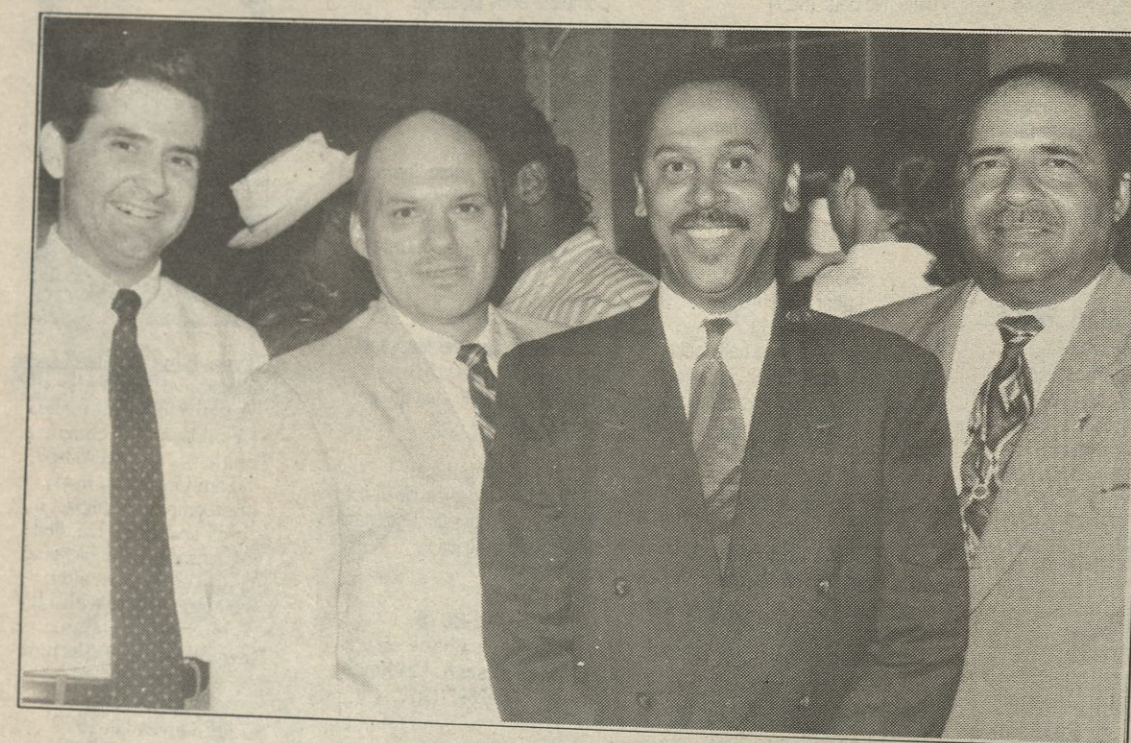
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Top row, left to right: Andre and Larry at Gargoyles, their new leather shoppe right next door to Jewels; "Hon, give ya a picture of Lincoln for that beach ball!" exclaims Francesca to spectators, obviously enchanted to be so close to a Big Star or at least a big-time beach bimbo, at the Mint's benefit show for the Water Volleyball League; directly above, now look--would you react this way if Scarlett O'Hara Butler announced that you had won a subscription to New Orleans Magazine, and didn't even dress up to do it? Joey LeBlanc demonstrates yet again that once you've done the Big Apple with Marcy Marcelle, you're just never the same person again.

Center: "Yes, officer, the one with the bald head! I'm sure it was him! He wrestled me to the ground and took off with my purse!" just kidding: a world-series lineup--or what passes for one in our Fair City--of political movers and shakers, from left to right: Randall Evans of the Forum For Equality, Jim Wiltberger of LAGPAC, Dennis Bagneris, and new Police Superintendent Ortice at an undisclosed location; and, cutting up something fierce on the occasion of one of Charlene's annual Golden Jubilees--50th birthdays, that is--are Barbara "I Know" George (the one in the dress), accompanied by Bobby Lonero and his Schneider Syncopators. To the left, almost everyone seems happy in this group snap from A Different Corner save for glamorous Jerce Albert, who seems to have something in her right eye; she is surrounded by a variety of wranglers and rustlers, I-to-r, Paul Vincent, handsome author, bon vivant and specialist in Alabama Indian lore Wes Lott, and Lou, the only person in the picture who seems to be able to keep his hands to himself. Immediate left: Much-feted porcine charmer Henrietta is barely restrained by Jack from sniffing for truffles at the feet of lovely Christine Christoulaki outside the Friendly Bar. As notorious public nuisance Polack reaches out to stroke the snouted siren's haunch and perhaps dream of Pieds de Porc Polonaise, Elday seems to be suffering the effects of too much sun.

All photos by William Liermann

IN QUEER STREET

continued from B-2

distressed; he called us into his study and lectured about the evils of 1) consorting with the enlisted ranks (he was an Army officer), and 2) giving it away. "Charge the bastards!" he shouted in our face. "Otherwise they'll be throwing it away on illiterate whores from Slidell!" Papa regarded Slidell as beneath contempt, and thus a warning to be heeded. Consequently, we decided to join the Corps to get first-hand knowledge of this rabble.

Ah, how well we remember our own days in the Corps. Games, games, games! We remember our first day, as we debarked from the bus the sergeant in charge of the new recruits shouting, "OK, girls, get your gear and get out of the bus. This ain't no chorus line!" We thought we had reached nirvana. It wasn't quite all that easy, lugging heavy packs up and down dunes and across streams, but really all one had to do was learn to live by the rules—which were, of course, unwritten.

The gangbans and group-gropes were tolerated as long as no one screeched too loudly. If one screeched, one was likely to be drummed out, a Corps tradition. When one was drummed out, a Corps drummer maintained a drum roll for the entire time it took for the honoree to pass between two ranks for former comrades in arms, who would

rip off his insignia, pummel, revile and spit upon him. Very inspiring. Not a few would retire with evident signs of sexual arousal; actually, it would be enough to turn John Travolta on.

We suppose that everyone noticed the supreme gaffe recently when the Marine Commandant announced that henceforth the Corps wanted as new recruits only unmarried men, preferably those with no plans to marry. Well, gang, they already have them and they're too stupid to notice it. (Perhaps the dumb, quickly retracted announcement, and reaching its pinnacle with the recent discovery of so many Marines moonlighting as porno starlets has really embarrassed the Corps; there has been little TV and virtually no press coverage, so far, of this interesting scandal. "Gag" order, perhaps?)

In the Navy submarine fleet, they just look the other way, unless people hang socks from your rack; this means that you have been flagrant and you'd better clean up your act. We'd better clean up ours, too.

If it was good enough for J. Edgar Hoover, it ought to be good enough for the Marines. *Semper fidelis*, you all.

A bientot, Marcel

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VIRGO BASTARDS

BY LAWRENCE OF NEW ORLEANS

Exceptions to your standard, common garden variety Virgo are often found, which is fortunate, because an honest-to-God, dyed-in-the-wool person of this sign (especially if it is their ascendant or Moon sign as well) would be insufferable! The 'mongrel' type is a mixed breed, with Mercury, their ruling planet in a contradictory place like Leo or Libra. Or at least they have Venus in that vicinity. If the former sign was in force the year they were born, there would be more executive ability, and they would be less servile. In the latter case, less critical and more diplomatic. Even more loving and attractive. By itself, Virgo has little charm, per se. The stereotype is not so much the pure, nubile 'virgin' as the puritanical old maid school teacher. Most are modest conscientious and hard-working perfectionists, albeit compulsive, hair-splitting nitpickers and cleanliness freaks. Many are hypochondriacs or food faddists. Some are embarrassed by emotional intimacy. All have a keen knack for spotting what is wrong with things. With planetary conditions right now, these will find lots of fault, and be kept plenty busy. Most likely, so will you!

Virgo: By nature, you are industrious, discriminating, and very particular. Utilize your innate powers of observation this week to help you identify and correct a potential romantic problem.

Libra: You are the definitive peacemaker and as such, you may be called upon to serve as one at home. Do your utmost to prevent a domestic disturbance around the 9th. Your lucky day is the 6th.

Scorpio: You may have to pull yourself together from a recent difficulty to face another challenge in early September. You're a survivor, and you have the guts to make it alone but you can rely on a friend, too.

Sagittarius: Your financial picture may be good in general, but money looks unstable now. This is no time to go for broke, or you could end up that way. You'd better not gamble on the wrong friend either.

Capricorn: You can go far in the next two weeks by taking a long trip or extending your education. Watch your reputation at work, however, and be careful to avoid physical injury.

Aquarius: If your worst nightmare should come true any time soon, it will only be of your own making and not the stars'. Your sexual energy will be high, and your business prospects look

bright.

Pisces: It's all right to build castles in the air right now, but don't move in too soon. If you are indulging in too much wishful thinking your hopes could be dashed. Your ship (and a "dreamboat") are coming in!

Aries: The boss is watching and is ready to give you what you deserve. If you are not doing a good job, there may be difficulties at the work place. A supportive partner comes in handy this week.

Taurus: If you have set your sights on an unrealistic goal, you may be disappointed soon. Travel plans could fall through as well. Love and friendship appear more favorable for two weeks.

Gemini: Sexual freedom is a two-way street. Doing it long and hard with someone you love succeeds in making you happy now, along with other forms of self-expression. Unprotected sex is another story.

Cancer: An already shaky relationship is on the verge of collapse and may tumble if something isn't done to stabilize it soon. The time is right for talking things over. Clean house, make home improvements.

Leo: If your health is unsatisfactory now, it could take a turn for the worse by early next month. Not necessarily so if you learn to get more rest and relax your nerves. Money flows easily.

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