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AND LESBIAN NEWS FOR NEW ORLEANS AND THE GULF SOUTH

# IMPACT

SINCE 1977 VOL.22 NO. 9 APRIL 25 - MAY 8

eclipse

...INSIDE

## JAZZ FEST ISSUE

RESOLUTION ON BAN OF SAME-SEX MARRIAGE PASSES

COMING OUT PARTIES FOR "ELLEN"

CONTINUING OUR 20TH ANNIVERSARY SERIES: 1983 OUR HONORED CITIZEN: JON NEWLIN

PLUS OUR REGULAR FEATURES



# Out in the Community

## April 25

Tonight has a full offering of theatre:

• **Theatre Marigny** presents Frederick Knott's *Wait Until Dark*. The production runs through May 17 with Friday and Saturday night performances at **8:30 p.m.** and Sunday at **5 p.m.** For reservations and information, call 944-2653. (See Ed Real's review on p. 20.)

• **NORD Theatre** opens its multi-media winning musical *The Trial of the Big, Bad Wolf*. The original production premiered at Le Petit Theatre du Vieux Carre in 1989, with book and lyrics by Bob Bruce and **David Cuthbert** and Music by Danny Rubio. Ty Tracy directs the production. For ticket information and reservations, call 566-7860.

• **Le Petit Theatre** presents its final musical of the season, Rodgers & Hammerstein's *The Sound of Music*. Included in the cast are well-known actor Liz Argus as Maria Von Trapp, Lance Spellerberg as Capt. Von Trapp, and Barbara Bernard as the Mother Abbess. Brandt Blocker serves as both Musical and stage Director, with Holly Smith as Choreographer, and Flo Presti as Vocal Director. Performances are scheduled April 25-26, May 1-3, and 7-9 and 10 at **8 p.m.** Sunday Matinees are April 27, May 4, at **2 p.m.** For reservations and ticket information call the Box Office at 522-2081.

• *One Mo Time* continues at the University Theatre at Dillard through April 28. Show times are 8 p.m. on April 25,26 and at 3 and 8 p.m. on April 28.

Today also marks the **beginning of the Louisiana Heritage Fair (Jazz Fest)**. For a complete line-up of events and ticket information, see pp. 12-13 of this issue.

## APRIL 25-APRIL 26

Anyone interested in screenwriting, especially as it applies to Hollywood will be pleased to hear the line-up for Loyola University New Orleans's Fourth, Spring **Screenwriting Workshop.**

On hand will be writer Herschel Weinrod whose credits include Space Jam, Twins, Trading Places, Kindergarten Cop, Falling Down., and others together with Loyola graduate William Coveny, vice president for dramatic development at CBS, and agent William W. Levin, head of Silver Screen Placements.

Co-sponsored by the Loyola student film club "Auteurs" and the film magazine Shot In LA , the workshop aims to save area writers a ticket to Los Angeles by bringing Hollywood to the Loyola campus.

For further information contact Dr. Horton at (504) 943-5486.

## May 2

**Artists Against Aids** presents "Rhythm for a Reason" — an entertainment Extravaganza starring Marilyn McCoo in concert, and featuring Alicia Morton, currently starring in Broadway's *Les Miserables*, Carol Sutton, currently featured in "The Big Easy," Terry Gervais from Broadway's *My Fair Lady* with Rex Harrison, New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Great, Wanda Rouzan, Daphne MuShatt, and the Louisiana State University Gospel Choir.

These performers, accompanied by members of the Baton Rouge Symphony Orchestra, have banded together in the fight against AIDS in the Baton Rouge area and will provide an evening of Show Stopping entertainment. All ticket proceeds will benefit Friends for Life-Capitol Area HIV/AIDS Services, Inc.

The performance is scheduled for tonight at the Baton Rouge Riverside Centroplex Theatre for the Performing Arts. Tickets can be purchased from Ticketmaster at (504) 336-5000 or the Centroplex Box Office at 389-4940.

The star studded gala will commence at **6:30 p.m.** with a silent auction and reception, and the show will begin at **8 p.m.** Ticket prices are as follows:

$100.00 a person includes reserved seating in VIP section, signed poster, special gold AIDS awareness pin, invitation to Patron Party at the "Belle of Baton Rouge" following the Gala; $50.00 per person: reserved seating in the orchestra section, special silver AIDS awareness pin, invitation to Patron Party; $35.00 per person: reserved seating, AIDS awareness pin.

## May 3

The New Orleans Area Chapter of **P-FLAG** will hold its 7th Annual **Scholarship Champagne Reception** at **7:30 p.m.** at the Carousel at **City Park**.

The Local PFLAG chapter has awarded over $75,000 in scholarships to 72 lesbian and gay youths and has fostered a positive image of lesbian and gay youth in society.

This year's event promises to be an unforgettable evening. Michael Atwater, a past recipient, will speak about what the scholarship has meant to him. In honor of Dr. Mike Kaiser's support of PFLAG and his tireless leadership in the battle against HIV/AIDS, a special presentation will be made to him, who recently resigned as Executive Director of the NO/AIDS Task Force to take a position in Washington D.C. Tickets will be available at the door for $30 or can be purchased in advance for $25 per person; individuals and businesses can participate in advance at one of two levels. Partner in Education at $100 or Host at $50. Partners in education receives four tickets to the event and Hosts receive two. Both groups will be acknowledged in the program.

**Also on tap today** is one of the most popular fund raisers on the West Bank as **Love Lutheran Church** hosts its annual **Spring Fling — A Yard Sale and More**. Merchants from all over town and over 70 families have contributed merchandise, clothing, toys, plants and other items ... and guests at the Spring Fling really can buy some love: pets will be available for adoption, with first shots, worming and neutering. Sale hours are from **8 a.m. to 2 p.m.** For additional information, call 362-1967.

## May 4.

The 14th International **AIDS Candlelight Memorial** and Mobilization will be observed worldwide today. The event, which began in San Francisco in 1983, honors the memory of those who have died of AIDS, demonstrates support for people living with AIDS, and mobilizes community-based responses to HIV/AIDS. In May of 1996, the annual mobilization was observed in over 300 cities in 43 nations, making it the world's largest annual community-based AIDS event. New Orleans' Annual AIDS Candlelight Memorial & Silent March will be this evening at **7 p.m.** at St. Mary's Church, at 1116 Chartres Street.

## MAY 17

Stop procrastinating! Make plans to be at the Sheraton Grand Ballroom for HRC's **"Dine, Dance, & Dream! ... Black Tie V Takes You to the Rainbow Room,"** which will feature an elegant '40's style Supper Club atmosphere adorned with silver palm trees and elaborate table decorations by Perfect Presentations' Glenn R. Vesh. A highlight of the evening includes an extravagant silent auction "Shopping on Fifth Avenue" led by local artist Chris Maier and gallery owner Arthur Roger.

Nationally acclaimed lesbian comedienne, Georgia Ragsdale will serve as Mistress of Ceremonies for the gala. Republican Steve Gunderson, retired Congressman from Wisconsin and his partner, Rob Morris, have been chosen as the keynote speakers.

Tickets for Black Tie V are available for $125 per person. Gala weekend tickets are available for $150 per person, which include admission to Black Tie V on Sat. May 17, and the Oz Honoree Reception on Friday, May 16. For more information about the 1997 HRC/LA Dinner Weekend, please contact Co-Chairs Ti Martin or Robert Ripley at 504-949-2572.

## Coming-up

*May 8-11:* The NOCCA Theatre Ensemble presents Shakespeare's *Comedy of Errors* at the Southern Repertory Theatre, One Canal Place (Third Level).

## In Lafayette

*April 27, 1:30 p.m.:* League Executive Committee Meeting.
*April 30, 5:30 p.m.:* Friends United Meeting to plan Red Ribbon Day 1997. Call Ted 237-3044 for location and more information.
*May 3:* Red Ribbon Day. Fund-raiser to benefit Acadiana CARES. All day, location to be announced.
*May 4, 6:30 p.m.:* International Aids Candlelight Memorial. Girard Park, at the stage near the lake.
*Every Sunday, 11 a.m.:* MCC Worship Service, Evangeline Village Community Center. Δ

**ON A KREWE PRODUCTION**
MONDAYS 10 P.M.; SATURDAYS 9 P.M.
The current show: Roberts Batson, writer for *IMPACT*, gay heritage; Tim Watson, Leilano Heno, personal trainer; Allen Brown & Willie Marray; Donna Moore, Bayou Women's Tournament, Mary Pappas, D.J.

## about the cover

*Ron Williams has done it again! Jazz Fest has been especially popular with the gay community; Ron was inspired to do this cover.*

IMPACT
2118 Burgundy Street
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Fax: 504-944-6794

e-mail: gaymail@impactnews.com
web sites: http://www.impactnews.com
http://www.showmesomething.com

Address all correspondence to:
IMPACT
PO Box 52079
New Orleans, LA 70152

PUBLISHER / EDITOR IN CHIEF
Kyle J. Scafide

PRODUCTION/ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Phil Marino

Associate Editor
Jim Palmer

LAYOUT & PRODUCTION ASSOCIATE
Paul Heiner

COPY EDITOR
Paul Heiner

DISPLAY ADVERTISING
Tommy Jones, New Orleans
Randy Dietrich, Baton Rouge 504-686-1895

INTERNET CONSULTANT
Mark Sottek

ADMINISTRATION
Gaynel S. Carroll

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Roberts Batson, Margaret Coble, Karel Gazdacka, Paul Heiner, Marilyn McConnell, Russell McCulley, Bode Noonan, Jim Palmer, Edward Real

Ira Gruber
National Gay/Lesbian Travel Desk

CONTRIBUTING ARTISTS
Ron Williams, Allison Bechdel

PHOTOGRAPHY
Chuck Davis

NATIONAL NEWS
The Associated Press

ACCOUNTING
Sharon Robinson

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soprano

Gerald Stroup
tenor

Philip Frohnmayer
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Orff - Carmina Burana

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Thu. May 8 & Sat. May 10

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Mahler
*Symphony No. 1*



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# Regional News

## Gay and Lesbian Student Groups Conference, "Prom" Held in Baton Rouge



On the weekend of April 11-13, the Louisiana Electorate of Gays and Lesbians (LEGAL) sponsored the spring '97 Gay and Lesbian Student Groups Conference, which was hosted by the gay and lesbian student group of LSU — now celebrating their twentieth anniversary. On that Saturday evening, the conferees attended "The Lavender Ball," a formal fundraising affair that was open to the public. *(staff photo)*

### THE WATERMELON WOMAN GETS GAY-BASHED

According to the *Advocate*, Cheryl Dunye's *The Watermelon Woman*, which will be showing at Zeitgeist through April 27, is one of several gay and lesbian-themed works funded by the NEA that has come under attack from conservatives on Capitol Hill.

"I was shocked that taxpayer money has been used to support the production of this film," wrote Rep. Peter Hoekstra in a letter to NEA chairwoman Jane Alexander. Hoekstra, a Michigan Republican, cited *The Watermelon Woman* as evidence of "the serious possibility that taxpayer money is being used to fund the production and distribution of patently offensive and possibly pornographic movies." According tothe *Advocate*, Hoekstra says he plans to delve into the NEA's operations with hearings later this year.

### AIDSLAW PRESENTS ITS ANNUAL PRO BONO PUBLICO AWARDS

AIDSLaw of Louisiana presented its Annual Pro Bono Publico Awards at the Riverview Room in the Jax Brewery on March 27.

The award is presented to those individuals in the community who have given their time to support AIDSLaw's mission of providing the Louisiana AIDS and HIV community with free legal services.

This year's recipients included Baton Rouge Attorney Glen Ducote, Acadiana Legal Services Corporation's Rebecca Kirk, Alexandria Dee Drell and New Orleans Attorney R. James Kellogg.

New Orleans Attorney John Sullivan received the Terri Estrada Memorial Award for outstanding service to the AIDS and HIV community. This award is presented to an individual who has given a lifetime of support to this community as a whole.

Terri Estrada was an Attorney who died of AIDS complications in 1994.

### LA HRC ANNOUNCES ANIT-BIAS AD TO AIR DURING "ELLEN"

On Tuesday, April 22 the Louisiana HRC held a press conference in the Walker Percy amphitheater at the downtown Sheraton, where HRC representatives Joan Ladnier and Christopher Daigle unveiled an ad on workplace discrimination that will be aired in 33 markets across the nation during the now-historic April 30 episode of "Ellen," whose main character by that name is slated to "come out" at that time.

The HRC ad — entitled "Shoes" because most of the film footage is directed at the shoes of those speaking — dramatizes the situation of a woman who has just been fired because she is gay. In shock and dismay, her co-workers discuss the unfairness of such bias and ask "Betty" if they can be of help, at which point a voice-over gives the toll free telephone number of The Human Rights Campaign in Washington, D.C.



The press conference also provided HRC the opportunity to release information from a recent national poll which shows that 80 percent of Americans think that "homosexuals should have equal rights in terms of job opportunities."

The strongest support for gay rights in the workplace came from the West (84%), then from the Northeast (83%) and the Midwest (82%). The South brought the average down by a support percentage of 74, still a comfortable majority. Similar polls taken as far back as 1977 showed only a 56 percent support ratio.

The television ad will be aired during "Ellen" on Wednesday, April 25 by the local ABC affiliate WNOL. Some markets — including Houston, Chicago, and Memphis — refused to air the ad.

### ADOPT A LEGISLATOR PROGRAM WORKS: ANTI-AIDS BILLS DOWN

Five years ago, there were no less than 167 bills introduced to the Louisiana legislature that were directed against AIDS-related issues or persons living with HIV and AIDS. This year, the number of those types of bills is down to a mere seven.

"And two of those seven died in committee this morning," said Bagneris, who was feeling glum about the same-sex marriage vote but chipper about the success of his lobbying on behalf of NO/AIDS Task Force.

"As late as last year, there was a bill about killing someone with AIDS being justifiable homicide," said Bagneris, who is now in his sixth year of the "Adopt a Legislator" program which he created.

The program elicits volunteers who are willing to dedicate a few hours over a few months to target pertinent legislators. The program has been successful, he said, even reaching people from "down in the boondocks."

Bagneris works at NO/AIDS Task Force and has gained recognition due to his tremendous amount of service to the community and his political campaigns. Δ

### CUMULATIVE AIDS CASES IN LOUISIANA

According to *HIV/AIDS LINE*, the HIV/AIDS Services Bimonthly Prevention and Surveillance Report, the Cumulative Louisiana AIDS cases from January 1982 through February 13, 1997 were as follows:

**Number of diagnosed cases:**
**9,188**

**Cumulative number of deaths:**
**5,387**

**Adult cases:**
**9,079**

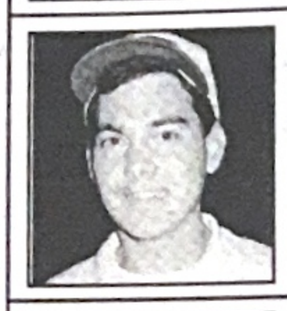
**Pediatric cases:**
**109**

## QUARTER NOTES

**Describe your position on the issue of same-sex marriage?**



**Deyette Danford — sales representative**
I am in favor of same-sex marriages because it helps to validate gay and lesbian families just as other (hetero-sexual) families are validated and supported



**Todd Budd — hotel sales**
Break down the stereotype with heterosexuals that we are not looking for a groom and groom walking down the church aisle, but we are concerned with the rights of marriage.



**Lisa Ducre — key account manager**
I think that gays should not be denied equal rights, especially when it comes to insurance and rights of succession.



**Christopher Daigle — Director, L/G/B Life, Tulane**
Just as it is in the heterosexual community, marriage is a personal choice between comitted individuals. Gay men and lesbians deserve equality and freedom to make thier own choices. Government should not make those choices for us.

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## LOCAL LEADERS SPEAK OUT AGAINST SB37

*by Kyle Scafide*

While most people were worried about how they were going to get their tax forms completed and mailed before midnight, concerned citizens — lesbians, gay men and their friends — were at the capital appearing before a Senate committee speaking out against a proposed resolution that would ban same sex marriage in the state of Louisiana. If passed by a two thirds majority of the legislature, Bill SB37 would appear in a statewide ballot in November of 1998, at which time the people of Louisiana could pass the ban with a simple majority.

Three people were given time to speak in favor of the resolution, and they were given no time restrictions. After they were finished speaking, Committee Chairman Max Jordan, R-Lafayette decided that the "pro" voices had set the time constraints, and that, no matter how numerous, the anti-resolution voices would only be allowed the time used by the first group: a total of 24 minutes.

Officials with Louisiana's Christian Coalition acknowledged that the amendment imposes their values on others. Opponents contend no one is trying to change the Louisiana law that designates marriage as a union between a man and a woman.

LAGPAC's Randall Beach was the first person to speak against the resolution, and he spent the most time at the dais.

"No state is even close to recognizing same-sex marriage," he said, emphasizing the premature and unnecessary nature of the proposed bill. "The law has always defended marriage as being between a man and a woman," he continued. "No one has asked to change that law in this state."

Sen. Greg Tarver, D-Shreveport said people should be allowed to vote on the issue because it is a moral one. He said voters were given the right last year to decide whether gambling should be allowed in their parishes.

But the issues are different, Beach said. People demanded the right to decide about gambling. They are not clamoring for the right to decide about same-sex marriages, he said.

Beach went on to say that, in states where similar legislation had passed, hate crimes against gay men and lesbians have escalated.

In response to Beach's comments about the unnecessary nature of the bill, Sen. Short said that it was indeed, necessary "to preserve it [the nature of traditional marriage] for time immemorial."

The next speaker was Rev. Suzanne Myer of the Unitarian Universalist Church, who spoke out against the need for such legislation saying, "We know what the problems are ... the lack of premarital counseling ... alcohol and drug abuse. It [the problem] has nothing to do with same-sex marriage."

Representing P-FLAG, Sandra Pailet was the next speaker, who voiced her concern that passing such a resolution would declare "open season on gay men and lesbians."

This concern about the escalation of hate crimes was a common theme of the speakers, but Chairman Max Jordan curtly dismissed her comments, saying that they had nothing to do with same-sex marriage and were therefore irrelevant.

Senator Short was also flip with his comments directed toward Pailet, repeating the same objections as the chairman.

Having been told to discontinue her comments, Sandra gave up the seat to Rev. Don Clark of the Metropolitan Community Church in Baton Rouge. Countermanding the arguments of the earlier "Christians," Clark said, "We do believe in same-sex marriage, as do many other denominations."

Christopher Daigle, Co-Chair of LAGPAC, was the final spokesman for the anti-resolution contingent, which incidentally occupied a majority of the seats in the room. Daigle was persistent with his message that passing a bill of this nature was dangerous in its possible repercussions, though his speech was interrupted constantly by objections that what he had to say was not relevant.

After his brief speech, the committee allowed Sen. Paulette Irons to speak. Once again, her message was about the "negative effects of the bill."

Senator Landry, D-Reserve, took the floor to speak out against the bill, saying, "I don't believe in same-sex marriage," then he mentioned that he had himself gotten married in February of this year. He went on to say that he did not want such legislation to become a part of the constitution.

"We're doing a vain and useless thing," he said.

The chairman called him to task, as well, saying that his comments were not in order. Shortly thereafter, in a room thick with tension, the resolution passed in a vote of five to one. Of the seven people on the committee, Ron Landry was the only one to vote against it. Senator Francis Heitmeier was not present. In a surprising move, Senator Wilson Fields voted for the measure, an act which caused the attending members of the gay and lesbian community to react with shock and even anger.

After the vote, a rattled group of activists stood around, murmuring amongst themselves and making public statements for the press.

Sandra Pailet, who was visibly rattled by her maltreatment said, "He [Jordan] saw me as a threat. His own bias and attitude came in the way."

Christopher Daigle said that the committee had made two mistakes: they were jeopardizing the integrity of the constitution and they were underestimating the potential for violence.

## SENATE BALKS AT CONSTITUTIONAL PROTECTION FOR BAN ON GAY MARRIAGES

*by Guy Coates*

Separation of church and state went by the wayside when the Senate debated a bill sponsored by the Christian right to ban something that is already against the law — same-sex marriage.

The law has been in the statutes for nearly 200 years, but Sen. Phil Short, R-Covington, and Sen. B. G. Dyess, D-Alexandria, a Baptist minister, want it in the constitution. They are both rookie legislators and part of the Christian right element in the Legislature.

Their initial effort on Monday, April 21 failed but they get another chance. The vote was 24-8 with 26 needed for passage.

"I don't want fire and brimstone to rain down on us and do unto us what He did to Sodom and Gomorrah," said Dyess, D-Alexandria. "He created Adam and Eve. He didn't create Adam and Steve."

"You walk with God and stand with the people of Louisiana or stand against all of what is right and good," Short added.

The bill is not needed because the statutory law is firm against same-sex marriages and "no one up here in his right mind would change the law as it stands," said Sen. Ron Bean, R-Shreveport. "All this will do is bring on homosexual bashing."

Other opponents said the judgment of homosexuals should be left to God.

"Sometimes God's punishment is not enough to maintain good order and discipline," said Short, a retired Marine, who still gives the time of day in military terms.

Sen. Mike Robichaux, D-Matthews and a physician, said he believes homosexuality is a genetic trait, not a choice. He said he does not believe God would punish someone for being born a homosexual.

"Yes, He is a good and mighty God but also can be a wrathful God, make no mistake," said Sen. Max Jordan, R-Lafayette. "I am a born again Christian. I serve a living God. But He doesn't always love our behavior."

Robichaux said an alarming number of teens commit suicide because they are made to "feel dirty by society."

"The God that carried me all these years, well I have trouble feeling that (wrath on homosexuals) is the way He is. I can't cite you chapter or verse. I am just convinced he is a benevolent God."

The measure can be brought before the Senate again at any time between now and the end of the legislative session in June.

Brian Hartig, executive director of LEGAL, said that opponents of this legislation should waste no time contacting their Senators. *(from the Associated Press)*

*The following letter from "The Louisiana Coalition for Individual Dignity" was sent to the Committee voting on the resolution:*

Gentlemen:

The Louisiana Coalition for Individual Dignity is a statewide organization of groups and individuals opposed to Senate Bill 37, the proposed amendment to the Louisiana Constitution to add language prohibiting marriage between people of the same gender.

This group is opposed to any unnecessary amendments to the Constitution, and this amendment would not change current law. Furthermore, Article 1, Section 3, the "Right to Dignity", should not be disturbed or diluted when there has been no change in statutory or jurisprudential circumstances to warrant amendment.

Louisiana Civil Code Article 86 defines marriage as a legal relationship between a man and a woman. The Civil Code is the foundation of the law in this state, and there has been no legal or legislative challenge to Article 86. Concerned that one or more states may someday legalize marriage between persons of the same gender, the United States Congress has adopted the "Defense of Marriage Act", directed at the protection of other states and the federal government from any requirement of recognition of such marriages.

This proposed amendment would be submitted to the voters of Louisiana at the Congressional elections in 1998, which leaves the public to debate this unnecessary issue for a year and a half. Public referendums on issues directly concerning gay and lesbian Americans have been conducted in several states over the past few years. In every instance, violence and other hate crimes directed at these citizens (and others mistaken for gay and lesbian) have risen dramatically. These murders and other crimes against persons and property have resulted from overwrought emotions fueled by intolerance. There exists no sound reason to foist this divisive issue on the people of Louisiana.

*(Signed by individuals and groups)*



"You walk with God and stand with the people of Louisiana or stand against all of what is right and good."

Sen. Phil Short



"We're doing a vain and useless thing."

Sen. Ron Landry



"There are going to be negative effects from this bill."

Sen. Paulette Irons



Sen. Dennis Bagneris, who is vocal in his opposition to the bill.

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# LETTERS TO IMPACT

Dear Editor:

I am not in the habit of writing to a publication, but after visiting the so called art showing at the Lesbian and Gay Community Center, I feel it necessary to express an opinion, not only my own, but also some others I have spoken with.

This new art showing at the Lesbian and Gay Community Center seems to stoop to a new low for the Center and the people who are running it. This display of fifty to sixty black and white photos once were viewed between the covers, or hidden in brown wrappings. It would seem that after all the progress the Gay and Lesbian community has made, reverting to this form of depicting gays for the exploitation would have past.

As an older member of the gay community, I have seen this form of so called art before, and always it has been used to degrade, and reflect the off color side of the homosexual. And does not add to the progress and personal nature of a gay relationship. This type of photography only plays into the hands of the general public, depicting the homosexual as perverted.

It seems that the Board of Directors still cannot get their collective act together and persist in attempting to degrade or to debase the community, both lesbian and gay. Maybe a consideration at this point would be to replace the board with a professional and more competent group of individuals. The continuing so called fund raisers, and lack of spark for realistic goals, seems to continue to allude (sic) these individuals.

There are many fine and excellent artists in all forms of media in the New Orleans area. Many of them are within the Gay and Lesbian community. It is shameful that the Lesbian and Gay Community Center saw fit to import an outsider and attempt to charge such high and outlandish fees for this form of so called art.

In the past I have supported the Center, primarily financially. In the future, this will not be so, and I have a feeling that others will also follow suit.

*Sincerely.*
*Gary M. Wargen*

Dear Editor,

Enclosed is a piece I have written as a supplement to Bob Batson's very fine history of our community. I do feel, however, that some history has inadvertently been left out — such as the CCC.

I trust that you will publish it to give our present generation knowledge of the past Mr. Batson left out.

It is extremely difficult to give a total history in limited space. Bob has done a much needed service.

I read each piece and am grateful for his passing-on of history in limited space. Bob has done a much needed service.

I read each piece and am grateful for his passing-on of knowledge.

The struggle has not been won.

The struggle has just begun.

*Roger Nelson*

Dear Editor:

In 1995, at his lecture on New Orleans gay and lesbian history, held at the Louisiana Mint, Roberts Batson began his talk by saying "There is someone here who may try and disrupt my talk, so bear with me."

I was the person he was referring to. I DID NOT disrupt his talk then and have kept quiet about my differences with his version of our history until now. For that I owe our gay and lesbian community a most sincere apology. I should've spoken up before.

Before I tell you my version of what happened, as I lived it, and NOT Mr. Batson's "selective and subjective" version, let me tell you who I am.

I, and my Life Partner, Jack Diamond, first came down to New Orleans over July 4th weekend to celebrate our 7th anniversary. We came down for every Mardi Gras (except 1967) until we moved here in 1969.

While in the Army, I edited *The Cottonbaler*, official publication of the 7th Infantry Regiment, founded at the Battle of New Orleans and helped write an official history of the unit, as well as aid in the presentation of a bale of cotton from New Orleans that, which as a symbol of the unit's founding, is still represented in an Army museum.

Before moving to New Orleans from our hometown of Rockford, Illinois, we ran an openly gay rooming house from 1955 to 1967. In 1964, we successfully fended off an attempted raid on one of our parties held at the house.

I have seen gay bars in Chicago literally torn apart by police sledge-hammers, axes and crowbars. It was called Omar's Tent and if memory serves me well, the year was 1959.

For five decades I have seen our places of gathering grow from bars that would tolerate us for certain hours to viable community leaders such as we have now.

It is because of my background that I have kept a gay and lesbian historical file, ranging from 1890's to date. I am currently talking with various places to accept this file for permanent reference. One is our Gay and Lesbian Community Center.

Mr. Batson states that his "revised" chronology of events were "chosen by the author to record significant events in the building of a gay and lesbian community in New Orleans. It is by definition selective and subjective."

If we, as community, are to totally claim our past, we must claim it all — good and bad. It is incumbent on all of us, and especially would-be historians, to make sure ALL of our history is passed on to future generations.

By definition, HISTORY MUST NOT BE SUBJECTIVE OR SELECTIVE.

Commentaries may be.

I realize Mr. Batson's accounts are limited to the restrictions placed upon him by the nature of journalism but to merely mention that creation of such an important piece of our history, such as the CRESCENT CITY COALITION, and then to only record its demise, is an injustice to an important piece of history.

Our present generation knows little of the CCC. It is the duty of a historian to fill in gaps and make a picture total and whole. I am sure it was an unintentional oversight on Mr. Batson's part.

Out of the TWO meetings held at the St. Louis Community Center, following the police actions of April 1981, came the Crescent City Coalition after many meetings with members from our community and much haggling over its name and intent. Despite the attempts of two people who seemed intent on squashing any attempt at such an organization the CCC was born.

Among its founders were such influential members of our community as John Ognibene, Al Abruzze, Donovan Smith, Ian Anderson, Jim Kellog, Jack Sullivan, Stewart Butler, Jack and myself, and Richard Devlin.

And therein, I believe, lies Mr. Batson's rub!

Mr. Devlin, following years of involvement in the CCC, where he served as second president, and first editor of the *Courier*, as well as participating in many other gay and lesbian organizations, fled New Orleans taking with him sums of money from various organizations and businesses he was associated with. Or so I understand, as, like so much of what happened in the past, one cannot get a clear picture of what occurred as everyone tells a different story.

I trust that Mr. Batson's ignoring of the history of the CCC was not a deliberate omission due to prejudice on his part.

I would like to augment his history with the following list of a few actions taken by the CCC on behalf of our total community:

1. Sept. 1981. With the permission and participation of LAGPAC, the coalition prints and distributes 5000 copies of "You and the Law," a booklet on personal civil rights, as it has been rumored that there may be an attempt by the NOPD to harass gay men and lesbians during Labor Day Weekend.

2. Oct. 1981. The CCC fights, with LAGPAC and other groups, the instigation of "field identification cards" by the NOPD.

3. Oct. 1981. The CCC rents a bus to take non-voters to City Hall to register for voting. It is later reported that 78.3% of all people registered then were taken there by the CCC.

4. Feb. 1982. CCC protests Richard Angelico's attempt to harass the Quarter through his investigative series, "Cruising the Quarter." The CCC files a protest of this series with the FCC.

5. 1982. The CCC takes up the case of "Patience and Sarah," two lesbians faced with criminal charges and potential loss of custody of a child.

6. Aug. 1982. One year before the formation of NO/AIDS, the CCC holds a public meeting at Charlene's on GRID — GAY RELATED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY. It is the first group to recognize the potential of the disease and its dangers to our community, thanks mainly to the actions of Ian Anderson, someone who had been trained in the service of HOSPICE. The CCC also begins serialization of "Towards a Mealtime Lifestyle" — first AIDS awareness booklet distributed in New Orleans.

7. Aug. 1982. CCC holds Hepatitis B screening at St. Mark's.

8. The CCC also supported the Krewe of Tragaida in its protest of the Riverboat President when they learned the krewe was a gay krewe.

I trust that these will qualify the CCC to be given more than passing mention in any future delineation of our total history written by Mr. Batson.

In a time when many young Germans claim the Holocaust never happened and a British "historian" claims Russia defeated Germany, not the U.S.A., (sic) it is of vital importance that the gays and lesbians leave for our future generations as accurate an account as possible of who we were and what we did, warts and all.

I also hope that as Mr. Batson leads one of his gay and lesbian history tours of our past, that when he passes the St. Louis Community Center, he pauses and says "Once we had a Crescent City Coalition and this was its home."

The struggle has not been won.

The struggle has just begun.

*Roger Nelson*

Dear Editor:

Recently, the New Orleans Public School Board changed the name of one of the city's elementary schools to Barbara Jordan Elementary. The memorial is well-deserved. When Barbara Jordan died in January, 1996, she was lauded properly as a trailblazer in the struggle for equal rights.

After obtaining her law degree from Boston University, in 1966 she won election to the Texas State Senate, the first Black female to do so. Her 1972 election to the U.S. House of Representatives gave her a nationwide platform to profess, in her unforgettable, deep, resonant voice, her high standards of ethics and public service. These principles were exhibited in her performance on the House Judiciary Committee during the Watergate hearings.

Having obtained the national spotlight, Jordan followed her "internal compass" to the University of Texas's Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs after three terms in Congress. During her tenure there, she touched deeply the lives of many students. Coupled with her personal struggle against multiple sclerosis and leukemia, Jordan was a noble figure, and she serves as a fine example to all New Orleans school children to this day.

It is interesting to note that the School Board, charged with educating our city's youth, chose to keep them in ignorance of another, less well-known facet of Jordan's life. Barbara Jordan was a lesbian.

A March 5, 1996 cover story in *The Advocate* describes in moving detail how Jordan was advised early to conceal her sexual orientation so as to not jeopardize her promising political career. Her lesbianism was not revealed publicly until her longtime companion, Nancy Earl was listed among her survivors in the *Houston Chronicle*. Earl's role in Jordan's life was acknowledged by the Jordan family and in the eulogy delivered by then-governor Ann Richards.

While one can understand Jordan's motive for living her life in the closet during what were clearly hostile times for gay and lesbian Americans, one has to question the motives of the School Board in their omission of mentioning Jordan's lesbianism in publicity and press releases. Young people, struggling with their sexual identity, need role models. Barbara Jordan, a black, female, lesbian teacher, is an excellent one. While such a discussion may not be appropriate for an audience of elementary school students, we cannot continue to deny to a broader audience that many great civic accomplishments have been made, and are being made today, by gay and lesbian citizens. I hope the School Board will do a better, more complete and inclusive job in the future.

*Robert Udick, Ph.D.*

**Send Letters to:**

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**New Orleans, LA 70152**
**or e-mail: gaymail@impactnews.com**







The Contemporary Arts Center and the Louisiana SPCA presented a "Cover Dog" pageant Sunday, April 6. Here are some of the participants. Some of the categories included Evening/Holiday Wear, Swimsuit and Sportswear, and a variety of criteria for judging the Tail Wag, including helicopter-style and windshield wiper. The weather was perfect, and the pooches were well-behaved.

*(photos by Chuck Davis)*





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# National News

## SPRINGFIELD GRANTS BENEFITS TO SAME-SEX PARTNERS

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (AP) Saying he hopes to lay down a model for the rest of the state, Mayor Michael Albano began offering health insurance to gay and lesbian partners of city workers.

He acknowledged that the move is bound to breed some dissent.

Springfield, the third largest city in the state with 160,000 residents, became the second Bay State community with such a measure in effect, according to Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders, a Boston-based group that monitors gay rights. Mary Bonauto, the group's civil rights director, said Cambridge is the other community.

## MERRIMACK SCHOOL BOARD WINS MUZZLE AWARD

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (AP) The Merrimack School Board was among the recipients of the annual Jefferson Muzzle Awards for censorship.

The 1995-96 school board got the honor for imposing a policy that threatened teachers with firing for discussing, or using materials that discussed, a homosexual lifestyle.

A new school board later rescinded the policy last June.

Other winners included former U.S. Sen. James Exon, who sponsored a bill that criminalized indecency on the Internet.

Exon, a Nebraska Democrat, and other unnamed champions of the Communications Decency Act were targeted by the Thomas Jefferson Center for the Protection of Free Expression.

The act makes it criminal to transmit on the Internet material that is "indecent" or "patently offensive," without any real attempt to define those terms, said center director Robert M. O'Neil. He said the act would allow individual prosecutors to follow their own whims in bringing charges.

President Clinton signed the bill into law in February 1996.

The U.S. Supreme Court is expected to rule in July on a lower court's decision blocking enforcement of the act, Congress' first attempt to regulate the freewheeling global computer network.

## ARMY HALTS EFFORTS TO COLLECT FROM GAY EX-SOLDIER

DALLAS (AP) The U.S. Army says it will end its efforts to recoup the $175,000 cost of a West Point education from a Dallas man who said he was forced from the military because he's gay.

William Coleman, general counsel for the Army, declined to state the reason for the action, saying it might violate attorney-client privilege. But the broader implications of the Army's decision remain unclear.

Clayce Rodamer, 32, says elimination of the disputed debt, after seven years of struggle, means he may be able to repair his credit and buy a house.

David Przeracki, a lawyer who represented Rodamer, said his client's victory may signal that the military is ready to drop reimbursement claims against other gays and lesbians discharged before the "don't ask, don't tell" policy was implemented in 1993.

After the case drew widespread publicity last month, Sara E. Lister, the Army's assistant secretary for personnel, recommended to the Pentagon's top lawyer that collection efforts against Rodamer be dropped.

The Army had said Rodamer should pay for his free 1980s service academy training because he didn't serve his required five-year stint. He said he intended to fulfill that obligation and resigned from the Army rather than face a court martial.

## OPPONENTS HOLD VIGIL OUTSIDE GAY CLUB

BOSWELL, Pa. (AP) About 20 gay activists arrived by bus from Pittsburgh to show support for a rural night club popular with homosexuals as opponents held a quiet vigil outside.

The visitors entered the Casa Nova restaurant and bar through a side door chanting, "We're here, we're queer, we're fabulous, get used to it."

Gathered across the street in a cold drizzle were three dozen men, women and children, clutching candles and Bibles and praying. Some carried signs denouncing homosexuality, and many sat in folding chairs nursing containers of coffee.

Supporters made the 40-mile bus ride to this Somerset County township on to dine and dance at an event organizers called "Burn in Hell" night.

The party was named in a tongue-in-cheek reference to comments from street preachers and others who oppose the club.

Despite an anonymous shooting at the bar's door and a petition from neighbors, the owner of the Casa Nova has said she plans to keep it open.

Many observers had expected a clash between the two sides. Police said they had been particularly concerned about the safety of those picketing the night club.

## LEGISLATOR CONDEMNS LOBBYIST'S TACTICS

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) Rep. Gary Cook says a powerful conservative lobbyist should be denied the ability to influence legislation for trying to intimidate him into backing a ban on same-sex marriages.

The Plymouth Democrat told his House colleagues that Eric Miller of the Citizens Concerned for the Constitution threatened to run radio ads and distribute fliers painting him as the culprit for the failure of a same-sex marriage ban.

For years, some legislators have been reluctant to vote against Miller's agenda but have privately groused about the Christian lobbyist's ability to mobilize conservatives to write, call and personally push their ideas.

Miller said he never threatened Cook. He said he only promised to let Cook's constituents know that Cook's actions had severely damaged efforts to win a state ban on same-sex marriages this year.

Miller said Cook's actions enabled liberal elements of the House Democratic caucus — mainly the black caucus — to block a vote on a same-sex marriage ban for the fourth time this session.

A fifth try was successful when the House, on a voice vote, added a ban on gay marriages to Senate Bill 509, but the proposal likely will struggle to survive.

*continued on page 19*

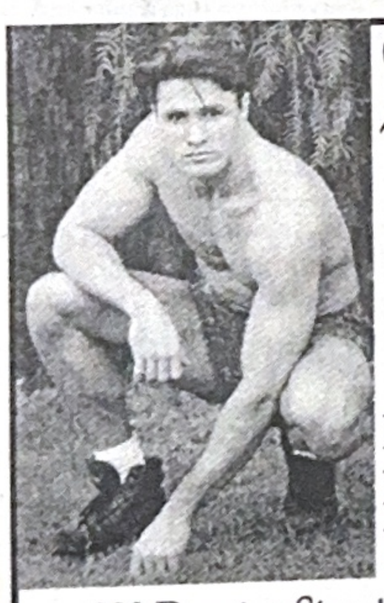


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# Ellen!!

## ONE LAST TIME:

Don't forget to watch "Ellen" on ABC on Wednesday, April 30 as she comes out on national television.

## 'ELLEN' GETTING OUTED AT CITY AUDITORIUM

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) Rebuffed by a private theater, a gay advocacy group said it rented the 5,000-seat city auditorium to show the coming-out episode of "Ellen," which the local ABC station refused to air.

Kevin Snow said he anticipates filling the cavernous hall for the television sitcom, in which lead character Ellen Morgan, played by Ellen DeGeneres, will reveal she is a lesbian.

"It's not just a TV show," said Snow, a gay stand-up comedian and entertainment chairman for Birmingham Pride Alabama. "There's a fundamental issue here, and that's censorship."

ABC 33/40, which broadcasts from east Mississippi to west Georgia, refused to broadcast the show on grounds it is inappropriate for families. No other ABC affiliate has balked, network spokeswoman Susan Sewell said.

Snow said Birmingham Pride Alabama will use a satellite feed to project the show on a big screen at Boutwell Auditorium, the sité of concerts, shows and White Citizen Council meetings during the civil rights era.

Snow's group attempted to rent the privately owned Alabama Theater, but management there decided the show was too controversial and refused.

The city will charge Birmingham Pride between $1,500 and $2,900, depending on how many people attend the April 30 show. There will be no charge for the show, but the group will ask for $5 donations.

## ABC DECLINES AD DURING 'COMING-OUT' EPISODE

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) A T.V. ad promoting a lesbian cruise line has been rejected for use during the "Ellen" coming-out episode, even though the spot would have helped make up for ads pulled by Chrysler and J.C. Penney.

"It is our position that discussion about same-sex lifestyles is more appropriate in programming," ABC broadcast editor Bob Reynolds said in a fax to the public relations firm that represents Oakland-based Olivia Cruises and Resorts.

Olivia's president, Judy Dlugacz, called the April 30 "Ellen" episode "historic," since it will be the first time a show's lead character has revealed that she or he is gay.

But — knowing that a large number of lesbians will watch the show — Dlugacz also sees a prime marketing moment slipping away. Dlugacz still plans to film the 15-second ad on Monday on a Florida cruise ship.

The ad's script describes a woman standing on the ship's moonlit deck looking out over the water. She turns to find a shadowy figure wearing a baseball cap approaching her. The figure takes off the cap, revealing that she is a woman, and the couple embraces.

## CHASTITY BONO SPEAKS OUT

Dear GLAAD Members and Supporters,

On April 30, television history will be made.

Ellen Morgan, the title character on ABC's sitcom "Ellen," will be coming out as a lesbian.

As an organization committed to fair, accurate and inclusive media representation, GLAAD understands the power of ABC's brave decision to have Ellen Morgan come out of the closet.

Coming out is the single most important step we can take as gay men and lesbians, both personally and politically. While this process may seem frightening or overwhelming, the benefits of living openly and honestly are limitless.

Although 28 gay and lesbian characters appear on television today, Ellen Morgan's coming out marks the first time that the lead character of a television show is openly gay or lesbian.

In celebration of this historic event, GLAAD is encouraging gay and lesbian people throughout the country to use April 30th and the days that follow to take Ellen's brave lead and begin or continue their own coming out process.

GLAAD will also be hosting "Come Out With Ellen" parties in major cities nationwide. Events are already planned in Los Angeles, New York, Washington, DC, San Francisco and Kansas City, Missouri. Other parties are being planned in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago and San Diego.

If you are not in any of these cities, you can still join in the celebration by hosting your own "Come Out With Ellen" house party with friends and family members. In fact, we have developed a "Come Out With Ellen" kit that will show you how to put a house party together for 5 to 15 guests. We will send you invitations, tips on throwing a house party, GLAAD membership brochures, Images, Dispatch, a poster of Ellen and other fun items.

We appreciate your support by throwing a "Come Out With Ellen" house party to benefit GLAAD.

So, let your friends know and encourage others to host house parties as well. For a "Come Out With Ellen" kit, call us at 1.800.GAY.MEDIA or e-mail us at glaad@glaad.org with your name, address, phone number and interest to host a party. You will receive your kit by April 14, 1997. But act quickly, as supplies are limited.

Remember, if Ellen Morgan can come out to the world ... you can come out to your family, friends and co-workers.

Help make April 30 more than just another night in front of the T.V.

Come out with Ellen ... you'll be GLAAD you did!

Sincerely, Chastity Bono
Entertainment Media Director

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*GLAAD is the nation's lesbian and gay news bureau and the only nationdl lesbian and gay multimedia watchdog organization. GLAAD promotes fair, accurate and inclusive representation as a means of challenging discrimination based on sexual orientation or identity.*



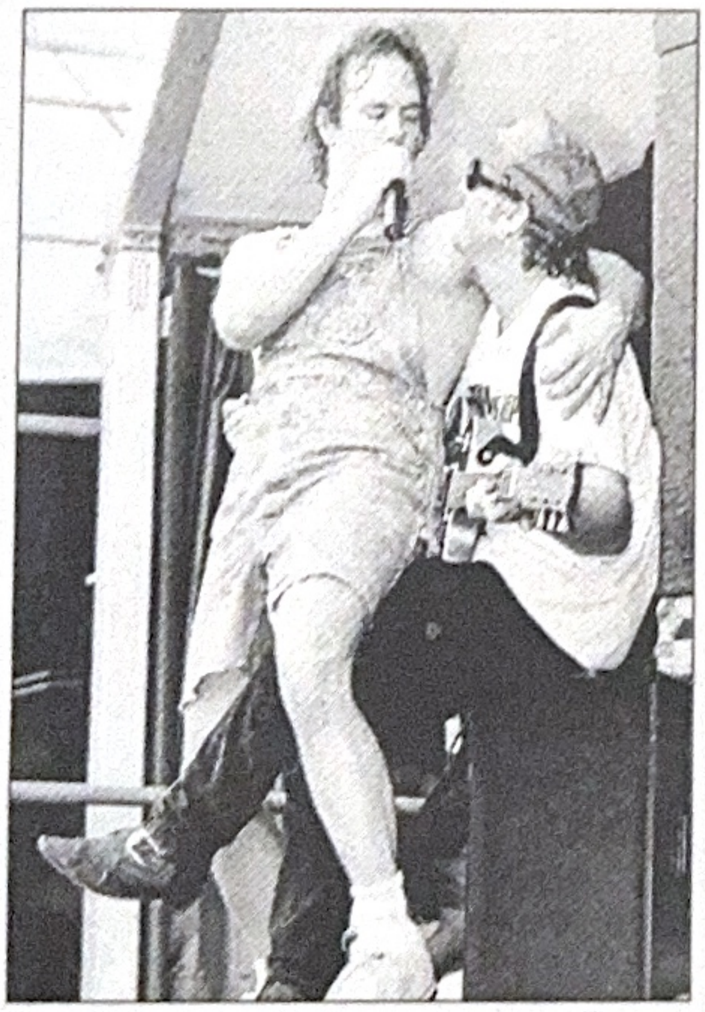

Thank Goddess it's Jazzfest time again! Jazzfest is one of my favorite times of the year; after all, it was the event which brought me to this beautiful city. (I am one of the many who can tell the familiar "I-came-down-for-Jazzfest-and-never-left" story!) With spring fever in the air, the warm Louisiana sun shining, lots of great food, and a killer musical lineup, this year's New Orleans' Jazz & Heritage Festival promises to be one of the best yet. So let's take a look at the hot spots to be spotted at for the next two weekends:

Kicking it all off, on Friday, April 25, folkies will delight in a special appearance by the talented James Taylor. As you feast on Crawfish Monica (my personal favorite), suck down a Miller Beer (why can't they feature homegrown Abita Beer?), and soak in as much sun as you can physically tolerate, check out sets by Dr. John, Pharoah Sanders, Zachary Richard, Rosie Ledet, Little Queenie, Woodenhead, Bamboula 2000, and Caliente, who are also on the roster for the opening day of Jazzfest.

Saturday, April 26 will be a day not to be missed. Santana is back again to electrify the crowd with their special brand of latin-flavored psychedelic rock. R&B superstars, The Tony Rich Project, will be jamming, as well as the diversely inspired Keb Mo and steady rockin' Cowboy Mouth. But the big draw here today, and be sure not to miss them, is the all-woman a capella ensemble known as Zap Mama, who I'm sure will be performing selections from their just released album *Seven* (Luaka Bop). Zap Mama draw musically from various cultures across the African diaspora, incorporating both traditional rhythms and original, more contemporary material — so check them out on your travels around the fairgrounds this afternoon.

Listening (and dancing!) to Earth, Wind and Fire as they revisit all their classic hits is where I'll be at the end of the day on Sunday, April 27. The Soul Queen of New Orleans, Ms. Irma Thomas, is also headlining that afternoon, as is southern roots rocker Sonny Landreth. The Funky Meters, Twangorama, Timothea, Six Nations Women Singers, and Los Babies del Merengue are some of the other highlights closing out this first weekend of events.

As has been a tradition for the past several years (tell me there's no dyke on the scheduling committee!), Local's Thursday (May 1), or as I like to refer to it, Dyke Thursday, remains my highlight of the entire festival. The charming Mary Chapin Carpenter is the late afternoon heavyweight on the roster, at the WWL Ray Ban stage, the place where all lesbians of good musical taste will want to be. No doubt she'll be belting out the tunes from her latest album effort, *A Place In The World* (Columbia Records), as well as her back catalog of country-folk-pop crossover hits. (I'm really hoping she plays "Down at the Twist and Shout.") Also a must-see for that day is gender-bending Cuban diva Albita, who, though she's femmed it up a bit on the cover of her Grammy nominated (Best Tropical/ Latin Performance) disc *Dicen Que* (*Crescent Moon*), has been known to sport men's retro-40's style zoot suits and has posed for many a publicity pic cigar-in-mouth. Hold on to your hats, girls — that's going to be a hot one! Other highlights for Thursday include local Cajun rockers Beau Soleil, Anders Osborne, Delfeayo Marsalis, Dash Rip Rock and Galactic, as well as Blues Traveler and Oumou Sangare of Mali.



**Memories of Jazz Fest! Cowboy Mouth members demonstrate how lonesome cowboys survived the Wild West.** ***(file photo)***

By Friday, May 2, you should be properly sunburnt and in need of a laid-back kind of day. You're in luck — today's main attractions are the soft-spoken jazzman Al Jarreau, light rock star Bruce Hornsby, country singer-songwriter Delbert McClinton, and local favorites Cyril Neville and the Uptown Allstars. Today's a great day to cruise the crafts area; check out the Children's Cultural Village (I did some volunteer work painting murals there, so be sure to come by and investigate), sample as many different food vendors as you can (crawfish bread, soft shell po-boys, barbeque—oh, so many choices!), and just chill out, because it's just the beginning of the weekend, and tomorrow's another big day.



**Memories of Jazz Fest! Etta James performed at the 1994 Jazz and Heritage Festival** ***(file photo)***

When you've finally parked the car after driving around for half an hour looking for a free spot on the street (nothing is really free—don't forget to pay those young men to watch your car while you're gone, it'll be well worth your investment!) this morning, you can start your Saturday (May 3) off right by checking out the eclectic ramblings of rocker Alex Chilton or the scatting talents of great jazz vocalist Germaine Bazzle. But the biggies not to miss out on today include a rare appearance by reggae mother Rita Marley, jazz-pop pioneer Herbie Hancock (remember "Rockit?"), and special Jazzfest performance by the legendary Fats Domino. Alternative rockers Better Than Ezra, local faves Peabody, blues diva extraordinaire Marva Wright, and girl group The Dixie Cups round out the variety of selections today.

So you've made it to Sunday, May 4, and you're still standing. Might as well go for broke today, as it's the last day of the festival. Funk it up with Kermit Ruffins Big Band, or maybe The Rebirth Brass Band, stop by and say hello to Charmaine Neville and Friends, take a break in the Gospel Tent with gospel legend Dorothy Love Coates, and rock out with Widespread Panic. Mem Shannon & the Membership bring you their special brand of southern blues, the New Orleans Klezmer Allstars do their thing, and the talented Lillian Boutte struts her stuff this afternoon too. No Jazzfest is complete without The Neville Brothers closing it out, but I know I'm going to be losing my mind with George Clinton and the P-Funk Allstars till they kick us out that night!

In addition to the daytime festival activities, there's a whole host of Evening Concerts to check out. Santana and The Funky Meters play the first Friday; Al Jarreau, Herbie Hancock, and Astral Project are on a bill together Thursday, May 1st; and the hardest working man in show business, James Brown, with Rita Marley and Taj Mahal, perform together Friday, May 2. After the Earth, Wind, and Fire/Maceo Parker & Roots Revisited show (Saturday, April 26) and George Clinton & the P-Funk Allstars/Isaac Hayes, The Batiste Brothers concert (Saturday, May 3), be sure to come by and visit me spinning at Charlene's. And on Wednesday, April 30, after Le Noche Latina with Albita, Acoustic Swiftness, and Johnny Ventura & his Orchestra, come by and visit me at the big Ellen Coming Out Party at Rubyfruit Jungle.

Finally, I'd like to put in a plug for volunteering at Jazzfest. This was the first year I did some volunteer work for the Jazz & Heritage Festival, as I said before, painting in the kids area, and I highly recommend to everyone reading this column to give the Volunteer office a call. It's not too late to volunteer this year (they still need help breaking down after the festival, and your hours count double towards free tickets for next year), or you could just get your name in the database for next year — so pick up that phone and dial 941-5046.

Cheers, queers, and have a great Jazzfest! Δ

*DJ Mags currently spins at Rubyfruit Jungle on Wednesday nites and Charlene's on Saturdays. She is the Music Editor at* Girlfriends Magazine *and a regular contributor to* Dance Music Authority Magazine. *Correspondence should be directed to: djmags2@aol.com. Product for review consideration should be sent in care of* **IMPACT,** *PO Box 52079, NOLA 70152.*

# JAZZ FEST for Queers

## FRIDAY APRIL 25

Dr. John, James Taylor, Al Hirt, Pharoah Sanders, Habib Koite of Mali, C.J. Chenier & the Red Hot LA Band, Nicholas Payton, Corey Harris, Zachary Richard, Deacon John, Henry Butler, Wayne Toups & Zydecajun, Rosie Ledet, National Dance Co. of Mali, Little Queenie & Friends, Slim & the Supreme Angels, Oliver Morgan, Bruce Daigrepont Cajun Band, Chubby Carrier & the Bayou Swamp Band, Tabby Thomas, St. Augustine Marching Band, Al Johnson, Woodenhead, Willie Lockett & the Blues Krewe, Golden Eagles Mardi Gras Indians, Bamboula 2000, Caliente, Tiny Town, Sunpie Barnes & the LA Sunspots, Fred Kemp, Al Belletto Big Band, Geno Delafose & French Rockin' Boogie, Doreen's Jazz New Orleans, Lady Charlotte, Larry Seiberth w/ Betty Shirley, Pigeon Town Steppers, Chosen Few Brass Band, Jr. Westbank Steppers, New Zion Trio + One, Community Missionary Baptist Church Choir, Banks Family, Brian "Breeze" Cayolle, Rockie Charles, Merritt Doggins & the Bloodhounds, Frank Federico & the Medicare Madcaps, Javier Tobar & Elegant Gypsy, Greg Baber, Last Chance Western Swing Band, Reggae Revealers, Xavier University Jazz Band, Gray Hawk, Papa Don Vappie's New Orleans Jazz Band, The Bluebirds, Zion Travelers, Clickin' Chickens, Ninth Ward Hunters, The Chops Brass Band, Andre Borbe, LA Tech Jazz Ensemble, The Original Camellia Jazz Band, Kat & the Kittens, Jefferson Parish Talented in Theater Students, Just Stepping, Big Nine SAPCs, Behrman Elementary School Performers...

## FRIDAY MAY 2

Ernie K-Doe, Al Jarreau, Bruce Hornsby, Delbert McClinton, Marcia Ball, Cyril Neville & the Uptown Allstars, Doc Cheatham, Rockin' Dopsie, Jr. & the Zydeco Twisters, Orlando Draper & the Associates, Tuba Showcase featuring Howard Johnson & Gravity, Iguanas, Art Farmer, Steve Riley & the Mamou Playboys, Marlon Jordan Quintet, Coco Robicheaux & the Perspirators, D.L. Menard & the Louisiana Aces, (TBA-Mali), Marc & Ann Savoy, Chris Ardoin & Double Clutchin', Robert Parker, Roland Stone, Doc Paulin Brass Band, Dogon Dancers & the Traditional Instrumental Ensemble of Mali, Gentlemen June Gardner & the Fellows, Michael Ray & the Cosmic Krewe, Andy J. Forest & the Blue Orleanians, Ben Hunter the Soul Avenger, File, Al Carson, Last Straws, The Humble Travelers, One-a-Chord, Sherman Robertson, Milton Batiste's Magnificent 7ths, Bobby Cure & Summertime Blues, Thousand $ Car, Carlos Sanchez "Amenecer Flamenco", Neslort, Patrick Henry & the Liberation Band, Mas Mamones, Evening Star String Band, Ironin' Board Sam, Waso Belgian Gypsy Band, T Roy & the Vibes, Jason Marsalis, Armando Rodriguez, Local International Allstars, John Rankin, The Haphazards, Ed Petersen, Jesuit High School Jazz Band, Peace Puppets, Pfister Sisters, Black Eagles Mardi Gras Indians, Fischer Elementary School Troupe, The J.J. Muggler Band, Algiers Steppers, Single Men, Revolution SAPCs, Delgado Community College Jazz Ensemble, Carl LeBlanc...

## SATURDAY APRIL 26

Ellis Marsalis, Santana, Tony Rich Project, Kirk Franklin & the Family, Milton Nascimento, Pete Fountain, Allen Toussaint, Cowboy Mouth, Keb' Mo, Earl King, Terrance Simien, Gato Barbieri, Cubanismo, Nocentelli w/ Zigaboo Modeliste, Jean Knight, Young Tuxedo Brass Band, The Williams Sisters of New York City, Jimmy Johnson, New Orleans Ragtime Orchestra, Treme Brass Band, Wallace Davenport, Kidd Jordan & IAQ, Reggie Hall Band, Keith Frank, National Dance Co. & Habib Koite of Mali, Shepherd Band, Percussion Inc., Michael White Quartet w/ Thais Clark, Sammy Berfect & Dimensions of Faith, Acoustic Swiftness, Irvin Mayfield Quintet, Little Freddie King, Jude Taylor & his Burning Flames, Larry Garner, Sadie Thompson, White Cloud Hunters Mardi Gras Indians, Tony Bazley Quintet, Pinettes Brass Band, Money Wasters, Jolly Bunch, Popular Ladies, Black Men of Labor, Nkrumah Better Boys SAPCs, St. John Divine Gospel Choir, St. Raymond Gospel Choir, The Crownseekers, St. Francis de Sales Choir, Invisible Cowboys, Jumpin' Johnny Sansone, Azikwa Children's Percussion Ensemble, Michael Ward, Coushatta Dancers, Clancy "Blues Boy" Lewis w/ Sheba Kimbrough, Eddie LeJeune & the Morse Playboys, SUBR Jazz Ensemble, The Taggart Boys w/ Joe Clay, Sonny Bourg's Bayou Band, Rampart & Perdido Jazz Band, Irene & the Mikes, SPEBQSA, Don Wiley w/ Amanda Dark, Coolie Stumps Gospel Singers, Dillard University Jazz Ensemble, Lady Prince of Wales, Lightfoot, Golden Trumps SAPCs, Jonno Frishberg's Cajun Experience, The Rollers, Mahogany Brass Band....

## SATURDAY MAY 3

Buckwheat Zydeco, (TBA), Herbie Hancock, Rita Marley, Better Than Ezra, Thompson Community Choir of Chicago, Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown, Marva Wright, The Dixie Cups, James Rivers Movement, King Floyd, George Porter & the Runnin' Pardners, Syl Johnson, Dirty Dozen, Tribute to Sidney Bechet feat. Claude Luter and Michael White, New Leviathan Oriental Foxtrot Orchestra, Alex Chilton, Allen Fontenot & the Country Cajuns, Cookie & the Cupcakes, Charles Neville Band, Germaine Bazle, Bob French's Original Tuxedo Jazz Band, New Birth Brass Band, Paulin Brothers Brass Band, Onward Brass Band, Wendell Brunious, Willie Metcalf & the Academy of Black Arts Youth Jazz Chorus w/ the N.O. Elder Statesmen of Modern Jazz, St. Luke AME Gospel Choir, Zulu Ensemble, Johnson Extension, Little Rascals Brass Band Butch Mudbone, Secondline Jammers, Calliope High Steppers, Royal Fingerbowl, Walter Payton w/ Sharon Martin, John Boutte, Belton Richard, Kumbuka Drum & Dance Collective, NOCCA Jazz Ensemble, Luke Thompson & the Green Valley Cut Ups, Native Nations Inter Tribal, Peabody, Sheryl Cormier & Cajun Sounds, Phila Fila, Los Sagitarios, Raful Neal, Golden Star Hunters Mardi Gras Indians, Leroy Jones, Jacques Gauthe & his Creole Rice Jazz Band, Caledonian Society Scottish Dancers and Pipes, Paky Saavedra's Bandido, The Mighty Chariots, The Heritage School of Music Band, (TBA-Mali), Dogon Dancers & the Traditional Instrumental Ensemble of Mali, Danny Collet, The Power Rangers, Lady Sequences, Lady of Essence SAPCs, McTeggart Irish Dancers, Clarence Johnson & Chris Severin, O.G. Steppers, Allen Fontenot & the Country Cajuns, Mid City Music & Dance Workshop, Kita Productions, Young Steppers....

## SUNDAY APRIL 27

Irma Thomas, Earth, Wind & Fire, funky Meters, Frankie Ford, Rachelle Ferrell, Dorothy Norwood, Harlem Jazz & Blues, Olatunji & his Drums of Passion, Houston Person w/ Etta Jones, Beau Jocque & the Zydeco Hi-Rollers, Johnny Adams, Walter "Wolfman" Washington, Sonny Landreth & the Goners, Continental Drifters, Raymond Myles & the RAMs, Nathan & the Zydeco Cha Chas, Chris Smither, Alvin Batiste & the Jazztronauts, Treme Brass Band, Los Babies del Merengue, George French's New Orleans Storyville Band, Gregg Stafford's Jazz Hounds, Escola de Casa Samba, Six Nations Women Singers, Twangorama, Bobby Marchan & Higher Ground, Bryan Lee & the Jumpstreet Five, Basin Brothers, Balfa Toujours, Willie West, Keith Claiborne, Placide Adams, New Orleans Spiritualettes, Westbank Steppers, Scene Boosters, Valley of the Silent Men SAPCs, Algiers Brass Band, Antioch Gospel Singers, Friendly Five, The Wild Magnolias Mardi Gras Indians, Astral Project, Patrice Fisher & Arpa, (TBA), Creole Zydeco Farmers, Khadir, Gray Montgomery, David & Roselyn, Culu Dancers, Barbara Shorts, Tornado Brass Band, Alida & Moise Viator, Carrollton Hunters Mardi Gras Indians, The Dynamic Smooth Family of Slidell, Habib Koite & the National Dance Co. of Mali, Maggie Lewis & the Thunderbolts, Timothea, Greg Dawson & Crosswinds, Moderno Teatro de Munecos of Costa Rica, Victor Goines, Jetsetters, New Orleans Men & Women Buckjumpers, Prince of Wales SAPCs, Colleen Salley, Loyola University Jazz Band, Jeremy Davenport, Calendar Girls Club, Don Sanders the Sourdough Cowboy, High Steppers Brass Band...

## THURSDAY MAY 1

BeauSoleil, Blues Traveler, Mary Chapin Carpenter, Boozoo Chavis & the Magic Sounds, James Moody, Hiway QC's, (TBA-Mali), Anders Osborne, (TBA), Delfeayo Marsalis, Clarence UFrogmann Henry, Banu Gibson, Tab Benoit, Larry Johnson, Luther Kent & Trick Bag, Dogon Dancers & the Traditional Instrumental Ensemble of Mali, Hazel & the Delta Ramblers, Dash Rip Rock, Jambalaya Cajun Band, Eddie Bo, Louisiana Repertory Jazz Ensemble, Andrew Hall's Society Jazz Band, Steve Masakowski & Friends, Ricardo Lewis Quintet w/ guest Sandra Booker, Soul Rebels Brass Band, The Heralds of Love, The Coolie Family, Albita, Galactic, Cool Riddums & Sista Teedy, Lionel Ferbos & the Palm Court Jazz Band, Hadley Castille & LA Cajun Band, Ancestro, The First Revolution, Libby Rae Watson, Guardians of the Flame, Mamou, Julio & Caesar, Louis Red Morgan, Destinee, Storyville Stompers Brass Band, Tim Laughlin, Hammond State Strawberry Jammers, Executive Steel Band, Betsy McGovern & the Poor Clares, J. Monque'D, Clyde Kerr, Jr., South Lafourche High School Jazz Band, Armagh Rhymers, Irie Dawtas, Chris Clifton's New Orleans Allstars, Paula & the Pontiacs, Peter Bennett, Bon Temp Roulez Brass Band, Philip Manuel, Angela the Yarnspinner, New Orleans All City Jazz Outreach ....

## SUNDAY MAY 4

Preservation Hall Jazz Band, The Neville Brothers, (TBA), (TBA), McCoy Tyner w/ Michael Brecker, Dorothy Love Coates, The Radiators, Jazz Jamaica, ReBirth Brass Band, Eric Gable, Charmaine Neville & Friends, Terence Blanchard, Dr. Arvol Looking Horse, Tribute to Sidney Bechet feat. Bob Wilber and Fabrice Zammarchi, Olympia Brass Band, Snooks Eaglin, Donald Harrison, (TBA-Mali), Kemmit Ruffins Big Band, Tommy Ridgley & the Untouchables, Wanda Rouzan, Irie Vibrations, Ritmo Caribeno, Kent Jordan, The Zion Harmonizers, The Hackberry Ramblers, Gospel Soul Children, Willis Prudhomme & Zydeco Express, Pin Stripe Brass Band, New Birth Brass Band, Mem Shannon & the Membership, Horace Trahan, C.C. Adcock, White Eagles Mardi Gras Indians, ELS, New Orleans Klezmer Allstars, Jo "Cool" Davis, Alvin "Red" Tyler, The Rocks of Harmony, Furious Five, Untouchables, Olympia Aid, Lady Zulu SAPCs, Lillian Boutte, Kristi Guillory & Reveille, Sask Northern Drum, Cookie Gabriel, Tony Green & Gypsy Jazz, Po' Henry & Tookie, Los Caliente del Son, Y'Shua Manzy, Emie Vincent, UNO Jazz Ensemble, Waylon Thibodaux, Liz Barnez, Creole Wild West Mardi Gras Indians, Louis Cottrell & his Original Creole Jazz Band, Thomas "Big Har Fields, Dogon Dancers & Traditional Instrumental Ensemble of Mali, Original Black Magic Lady Steppers, N'Kafu Traditional African Dance Co., SUNO Jazz Ensemble, Young Cheyenne Hunters Mardi Gras Indians, Les Bucherons, Uptowners Hobo Clowns, Devastation, Original Four SAPCs, Curtis Pierre w/ Samba Children, Looney Tunes Brass Band, John Lee & the Heralds of Christ, Golden Arrows Mardi Gras Indians. Δ

APRIL 25 - MAY 4 1997

# IMPACT CELEBRATES 20 YEARS: 1983

**During our anniversary, each issue features one of the twenty years we have covered. The retrospective includes articles reprinted from the pages of IMPACT and an historical overview of the year. In addition, in each issue we honor a citizen whose leadership and generous contributions have helped build the community.**

## *New Orleans:* REMEMBERING 1983

BY ROBERTS BATSON

The 1983 issues of *IMPACT* reflect a developing schizophrenia among gay people in New Orleans. Another one. On the one hand, the "glitter and be gay" lifestyle that had blossomed in the 70s was now in full bloom, but, contrarily, a new and frightening shadow was lengthening over both the dancers and the dance. The refracted rays from the swirling disco mirror balls began to seem less brilliant, the pulsating strobe lights less bright.

*March, 1983*

**BUY GAY/EAT GAY TRAVEL GAY/DRESS GAY/JUST BE GAY**

At the same time, the emergence of a vital and varied gay community infrastructure (businesses, institutions, and organizations) continued apace, sometimes two steps forward, sometimes two steps back: Yes, Gay Fest continued to be embroiled in turmoil, a seemingly endless mess. Would the Pride festival be able to return in '83 after not appearing at all the previous year? Would more money be stolen by yet another unscrupulous treasurer (NOT Richard Devlin, despite what one hears today)? Would anyone still be speaking to anyone else? Would anyone kill anyone else in the name of celebrating gay pride? Would anyone show up if the festival did get produced? Would anyone care? Tune in for further details as this story continues ...

As for glitter, the pages of *IMPACT* reveal an amazingly rich array of performances. Offering their talents in venues all over New Orleans were a veritable "who was who" among legendary ladies, wonderful women, and elegant queens: Bette Midler at the Orpheum! Robin Tyler at Charlene's! Quentin Crisp at the Pitt! Cleo Laine at the Blue Room! Irma Thomas at Kathryn's Upstairs Downstairs! Waylon Flowers and Madame at the Saenger! Tim Williams everywhere. One might wonder if there were any straight men still working in show business ...

*February, 1983*

**Menefee's Opens—A True Landmark For The Gay Community**

The year began with an elegant addition to the local entertainment scene and a major loss to the whole world. In January, Jerry Menefee opened his opulent complex on Rampart Street, an unprecedented, grand combination of restaurant, cabaret, disco, cruise bar, gym, and swim club. Scarcely a month later, we lost the most illustrious gay figure ever to be identified with New Orleans: Tennessee Williams was dead.

Later in the spring, an internecine controversy erupted over the relationship between the New Orleans gay community and the police. While police treatment of gays here, as elsewhere, had been consistently horrendous for as long as anyone could remember, some people within Mayor Dutch Morial's administration, if not actually the Mayor himself, were trying to rein in the worst of police excesses. Some tentative progress in that direction was being made.

A group within the gay community led by activist Alan Robinson decided to encourage better relations with the NOPD by staging a fund-raising event to buy the newly-available bullet-proof vests for police officers, telling *IMPACT,* that it was "an excellent opportunity for the community to let the police know that they are appreciated and that the community wants a strong, effective police department." Others in the community were opposed to this effort, citing that police harassment was still endemic and that gay money should go to meet pressing needs within the community rather than to an institution they clearly regarded as the enemy. They subsequently picketed the event, telling *IMPACT,* "As an alternative lifestyle, masochism is one thing; as a political strategy, it stinks." Robinson's group, nevertheless, raised $2600, quite a substantial sum at that time and enough to purchase 26 vests. Later reports, however, revealed that the vests were highly unpopular with the police who griped that the vests were too hot and refused to wear them.

*January, 1983*

**GAY PRIDE DAY IN NEW ORLEANS ANNOUNCED FOR FEB. 13.**

**For several years now the Gayfest Board of New Orleans has been struggling with producing a festival during the month of June to coincide with the nation's Gay**

Meanwhile, back at Gay Fest: in January the board announced that it was not able to attract community support, so Gay Pride would be switched from June to the Sunday before Mardi Gras, but no particular events were planned. Many objected in print to this concept, or, rather, non-concept, but the board responded that they were acting in "desperation."

Charlene Schneider, long a supporter of the summer Pride celebration, announced that her bar, and others, would present individual events in June. Her "Pride in the Park," also known as the Gay Olympics, would occur as usual. Events listed were "volleyball, purse toss, egg toss, sack races, girdle hurdles, grab drag," along with "mind games," a pool tournament, weightlifting, and a ping pong tournament.

**Celebration '83 Termed Success By Planners And Participants**

*July, 1983*

**Approximately 350 men and women participated in CELEBRATION '83,**

Since it appeared that Gay Fest would not be happening in June, LAGPAC (Louisiana Gay Political Action Caucus) moved its Third Annual State Gay Conference to June. They also decided to spin it off on its own and called it "Celebration '83 - Moving Forward Together." LAGPAC invited all other community organizations to jointly cosponsor and 30 groups accepted, an unexpected and unprecedented coming together of community organizations. Celebration '83 featured nationally-prominent speakers Dr. Bruce Voeller and Barbara Gittings and was successfully presented June 17-19. That year established the format that Celebration has essentially continued to today.

*January, 1983*

**Seminar on Gay Related Diseases**

***On Monday, January 17 at 9:00 P.M. the Filling Station, 642 North Rampart Street will host a seminar on Gay Health and Gay Related Diseases. Featured***

But the big news was the progress in developing AIDS organizations. In the previous year, an activist group of that time called the Crescent City Coalition created a Health Committee and presented a meeting on the deepening health crisis. Originally this committee was reacting to a range of maladies that included hepatitis and venereal diseases that were collectively called STDs (sexually transmitted diseases). By that time the term GRID (gay-related immune deficiency) had been coined; the term AIDS appeared later in 1982.

The CCC also published articles on health matters and presented several other related activities. LAGPAC, in co-operation with the Gay Rights National Lobby (GRNL) in Washington was effectively lobbying the Louisiana congressional delegation for federal AIDS funding.

LAGPAC was also creating a state-wide network to carry out the congressional lobbying objective, and in December of 1982, at their state conference, presented the first expert on AIDS, Dr. Marcus Conant, President of the Karposi's Sarcoma Resource and Educational Foundation in California.

In the spring of 1983, Dr. Louise McFarland, epidemiologist with the State, made available some unexpected information: a female in Shreveport had died in 1979, of what appeared to be AIDS, and that three gay males had been diagnosed with AIDS in Louisiana during 1982. Also in the spring, the new Director of the New Orleans Health Department, Dr. Brobson Lutz, compiled and published a varied amount of what was then known about the developing epidemic.

On May 11 an open community meeting on AIDS was held at Menefee's and a follow-up meeting at St. Mark's Community Center occurred on June 8. Dr. Bruce Voeller, at Celebration '83 on June 18, delivered a keynote address entitled "AIDS: Everyone's Issue - Where Are We Now?"

Out of all this activity, a consensus developed that a new organization needed to

**LAGPAC Begins AIDS Lobbying**

**La. Gay Political Action Caucus has established a statewide AIDS lobbying network this month. As of this date, in-**

*July, 1983*

"AIDS stands for acquired immune deficiency syndrome, *not* 'gay cancer,' 'gay plague', or 'grid.' AIDS is believed to be a new disease in which the body's immune system is severely damaged. At the present time, AIDS is believed to be, at least to some degree, contagious, and to affect some individuals more seriously than others.

In many instances, victims of AIDS are vulnerable to a wide variety of serious infections and some forms of cancer; the most common being PC pneumonia and Kaposi's sarcoma. If you are sexually active with many partners, you should see a physician at least twice a year for AIDS screening and VD (STD) testing.

AIDS is believed to be sexually transmitted. To reduce your risk of AIDS, the most important step you can take is to limit the number of partners with whom you have sex. Have as much sex as you like, but have it more for the quality of partnership than for the quantity of partners."

*June, 1983*

*Lawrence Mass, M.D.*

# IMPACT CELEBRATES 20 YEARS: 1983

be created that was independent of the gay community activist organizations such as LAGPAC and the CCC. An organizing meeting was held on July 13, and at a subsequent meeting on August 10, a set of by-laws was approved for the new organization. It was called the NO/AIDS Task Force.

The original Task Force Cochairs were Rue Morrison and Tom Norman. Also on the founding board was businessman-activist Jamie Temple. In its first public statement, the Task Force defined its purposes: to "1. Assist persons with AIDS in obtaining medical care, food, shelter, legal and financial assistance, transportation and placement in hospitals. 2. Facilitate scientific research into the cause(s), mode(s) of transmission, method(s) of diagnosis and cure(s) of AIDS." The Task Force added that it planned to provide a speakers bureau which would "offer information to the general public."

So, although 1983 was not a good year for the Pride festival, it was a year that gave the Louisiana l/g/b/t community two of its most lasting and important organizations: Celebration (the State Gay Conference) and NO/AIDS Task Force.

Also, ***IMPACT,*** in June, went from a monthly publication schedule to appearing twice monthly. ("WE'RE GOING BI" screamed the announcement.)

January, 1983
**Congress Appropriates $2 Million for AIDS**

**WE'RE GOING BI! MONTHLY, THAT IS.**
June, 1983

*For those beleaguered souls who have lain awake nights (staring at the ceiling through nothing but blackness and the emptiness of their lives) attempting to mentally un-earth the apocryphal tablets upon which we've carved the process that we have used to determine who the honored citizens shall be, we shall quell the angst better than Xanax ever could by the following, simple epiphany. We apologize if your anticipation has led you to expect something less mundane.*

**Honored citizens were chosen among people who have been consistently active for at least 10 years in the local community and who are currently alive and residing in the New Orleans metro area.**

***editor***

## *Honored Citizen:* JON NEWLIN

BY ROBERTS BATSON

Eyes twinkling, the sheer deliciousness of the idea twitching at the corners of his lips, Jon Newlin lowers his deep cello-like voice only slightly as he leans over his kitchen table and confides in a tone that is, all at the same time, partly declamatory, partly conspiratorial, and partly self-mocking, "My great aspiration is to be Queen of The Mystic Club. Of course, I'll have to marry well, REEAAALLLY well." After a moment's consideration, feigning a dramatic melancholy that one imagines would match the worst excesses of the aging Sarah Bernhardt in the final throes of her Third (or Fourth) Farewell Tour, he adds, "I thought I had. Several times. But it appears I misjudged my husbands' pedigrees."

***"I always knew I was gay. From VERRRY early. I always loved girls. As role models."***

At this point, he succumbs to the sheer silliness of his performance, and a brief arpeggio of giggles fills the air. This is vintage Newliniana: insouciant, camp, politically piquant, historically informed, and quintessential New Orleanian. There is a joy in him that comes from playing with ideas and with language. Thoughts are his toys and words are his games. His writing talents have been shared with the gay community for over fifteen years of writing and editing in the local gay press, principally at ***IMPACT,*** and with a number of other publications.

***"When I was coming up, there was a raconteur tradition, a story-telling tradition in which things were passed on from older to younger people. It could be about what cologne to wear, or how to walk, what kind of socks went with which tie, or which books you should be reading."***

It is in this role that he has provided a needed continuity both through the years that Roy Letson owned the paper as well as bridging the change into the current period of Kyle Scafide's ownership. But Newlin generously credits Letson and founding editor Gary Martin. "People should realize the importance of continuity, and ***IMPACT*** at 20 years old is a good example."

Currently his knowledge and his distinctly uncompromising viewpoints are on display as a book reviewer at *The Times-Picayune* and as a chronicler of gay ephemera in *Ambush.*

Known for a unique style that features marathon-length sentence (see the review of *The French Lieutenant's Woman*), Newlin fills to overflowing those sentences with allusions to literature and art, political references, and historic anecdotes. He is extremely well read, and apparently forgets nothing. It would seem he has more memory than an IBM mainframe.

Sometimes the prose is so dense and so intricate that, in comparison, a rococo filigree would seem as stark as Bauhaus minimalism. It is a conceit that delights some, annoys others, and confounds many. This is such a phrase that appeared in one of his recent book reviews: "one of those hubris-filled apocalypses that is a mix of the betrothal banquet in *Freaks,* Wagner's *Ring,* the novels of Malaparte, the fires that gutted the successive American Museums of P.T. Barnum, or any Von Stroheim picture." Whew.

On a serious note, Newlin explains, "I always thought you had to be presumptuous, you had to assume that if people are reading you, they are going to know what you're talking about." And then, as if slightly embarrassed that he might be sounding pompous, he explodes into an enthusiastic imitation of John Dodt, "I love you, Jon, but I don't understand a damn thing you write!"

***"I still read W just to know who the enemy is."***

Underneath the humor, however, there lies a clearly developed personal philosophy that is unfettered by trendiness (to Newlin, "political correctness" means censorship) and is strongly committed to a libertarian view of free speech. It is a belief he has practiced as editor, giving an exceedingly wide berth to both his writers and to the letter-writing public. "I believe society needs provocateurs," he says. "On both sides. I believe in absolute freedom of speech."

There is an intelligence and thoughtfulness in Jon Newlin that has not only consistently informed his writing, but has contributed, as no other person has, to establishing a laudable underpinning of gravitas to emerging gay culture in New Orleans. There is also a generosity which many have enjoyed. I am certainly one of them. Whatever I have or ever will accomplish in recording and communicating gay history is due mostly to his friendship, encouragement and unstinting generosity in sharing his astonishing knowledge.

Newlin completed his recent column on Eloi Bordelon by saying, "I haven't come close to doing Eloi any sort of justice in the above article. Article, shit, he deserves an encyclopedia." I must say the same about Jon Newlin. I haven't come close to doing him justice. Not only does he deserve an encyclopedia, he IS one.

***"You hear how horrid it was to be gay or lesbian in the 30s and 40s and 50s, trapped in this self-fulfilling prophecy of despair and misery and suicide. But the majority were apparently extremely gallant and valiant. They were like the people of London during the blitz."***

But I will say this: I believe that the Great New Orleans novel will finally be written when Jon Newlin decides to write it. Δ

Since I've been told that I can't use the Fannie Hurst tombstone joke ("Born–Yes. Died–Yes."), I guess I have to stick to the straight and narrow, both equally distasteful, so here we go.



(photo by R. and J.S.A.)

### JON A. NEWLIN

BORN: Just before the middle of the century in Touro Hospital, actually 4 January 1949.

RESIDENCES: Wouldn't it be great to say, "Address: Palacio Duque de Liria, Madrid; Aintitcute Hall, Cricket St. Thomas, Wiltshire; and The Slanders, Devil's Hole, Florida," but of course I can't, have lived in New Orleans all of my life.

EDUCATION: I would like to claim to be completely self-educated, but while I suppose I can skip the usual panoply of local schools, public and private, I have to lay proud claim to an art degree from UNO, about the only thing I'd feel comfortable laying nowadays.

PROFESSIONAL: Chequered, at best. Discarding as wholly irrelevant my glorious stints with the Jefferson Parish School Board, the Mystick Krewe, and Race Street Typesetting, etc. – but don't think I couldn't tell you stories – I will be brief and to the point. Dates are, I am afraid, in some cases approximate. Figaro, 1972-77 and 1979-81. Impact, 1981-1982. Wavelength, 1982-1984, Impact, 1985-1987, Headlines, 1987, and Impact, 1988-1996. I have also contributed free-lance work to the Vieux Carre Courier, New Orleans Magazine, Arthur Hardy's Mardi Gras Guide, Roll Call newspaper, the website of the New Orleans Tourist Commission, Gambit (unpublished), Tribe, AmBush and the Times-Picayune. I also worked for some years on the annual program of the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES: Such as they are, see "Professional."



## 9TH ANNUAL GULF COAST WOMYN'S FESTIVAL

In the pine woods of Mississippi, Brenda and Wanda Henson once again presented a great show at Camp Sister Spirit. As you enter the land through the automatic lavender gate, you travel on a sand and gravel road past vans, RVs, and tenters up to the green and white street sign, which reads "Fannie Hammer Way." Just past the crafts area, Ann, the friendly parking attendant, will help you park and direct you to registration, where Brenda and Wanda Henson welcome you to Camp Sister Spirit and the 9th annual Gulf Coast Womyn's festival. This small, friendly festival, held on March 27-30 was attended by fabulous women from all over the country. Among the writers in attendance was the talented Marideth Sisco, journalist from West Plains, Mo. Marideth, who wrote for the *West Plain Daily Quill* is also an accomplished musician and producer. She is currently working on a story about Brenda and Wanda Henson and the activities and programs associated with Camp Sister Spirit. Of course, Louisiana's own popular lesbian novelist known as "Catherine Innis" was there. Her latest book is Naiad's *Time After Time*. Dr. Bonnie Morris, who was emcee one night and performed the next, told a story of her new interest — gender bias in women's sports. Bonnie, a professor at George Washington University, is currently teaching a class on women in sports. Soon she will be seen in Ohio University film student, Jeanette Buck's film *Micki and Roberta*. Watch for it in January at "Sundance" Film Festival and look for Bonnie on the Rollerblades.

Each evening the entertainment in the Circle Pig Parlor (named for the building's use as a state of the art pig farm barn by the previous owners) was filled with talent. Comedienne Dorothy Hirsch was back, as was singer Lynn Thomas. Newcomers Mary Waitrovich, on guitar and vocal, and Dana Beilke, percussion, teamed for an entertaining set.

Saturday night, during her set, political folk singer Sandy Rapp sang a rousing rendition of her new "Ballad of Sisterspirit." Everyone's favorite lesbian, Alix Dobkin, sang many of her songs of women loving women and women empowering themselves. Karen McBride, whom some of you may remember from the "Southern Women's Music and Comedy Festivals," interpreted Alix's songs for the hearing impaired women. The next day, under the tall pines, Alix held a well attended work shop called "How We Can Strengthen and Support Our Communities: Discussion and Brainstorming." Alix, who enjoys her visits to Mississippi, has extensive experience leading workshops and is a wealth of information on many lesbian issues.

Almost 100 women attended the festival. The raffling of an exquisite amazon figure, donated by California "Feminist Forge" sculptor Carolyn Whitehorn, resulted in over $1500 to benefit Camp Sister Spirit.

Camp Sister Spirit is host to the Gulf Coast Womyn's Festival each spring, but there are other programs and activities during the year. The facility is comfortable for overnight workshops and meetings. There is dorm space, wheelchair access housing, RV hookups, flush toilets, hot showers and a large community kitchen. Call Brenda or Wanda Henson at 601-344-1411 for information and prices.






**At the Gulf coast Women's Festival, Mindy Milam and lesbian icon, Alix Dobkin, and *right*, Tanya Giordano and Barbara Trahan, owners of the former "Mystic Moon" book store in uptown New Orleans.**

## LESBIAN FILMAKERS AT ZEITGEIST

Jennifer Reeves, Lesbian experimental filmaker,was available to talk about her films after their showings at Zeitgeist on Saturday, April 12. Five short films and a 38 minute "partially" autobiographical film were shown to the large crowd at Zeitgeist. Jennifer, herself a former patient in a mental institution after a suicide attempt, has made a powerful film. In *Chronic*, Reeves's autobiographical character, Gretchen, is diagnosed with Depression and Borderline Personality. The film follows Gretchen, played by Reeves, during and following her hospitalization. We meet some of her friends in the institution. According to Reeves, "It's hard to make friends if you're not locked up." Jennifer continues to make films in New York, where she currently resides.

Cheryl Dunye's innovative, funny, erotic, love story, *The Watermellon Woman*, played to a large crowd Friday, April 19.

Dunye, who plays a director in the film, was the honored guest at a reception at Rubyfruit Jungle after the showing.

At 9:45 every night except Monday until April 27, there's the gay guy's *Big Chill for the Nineties*. This low-budget British film is about three couples spending the weekend together in a country cottage. Barry Purvis' claymation epic retelling of Achilles is also included in this program.

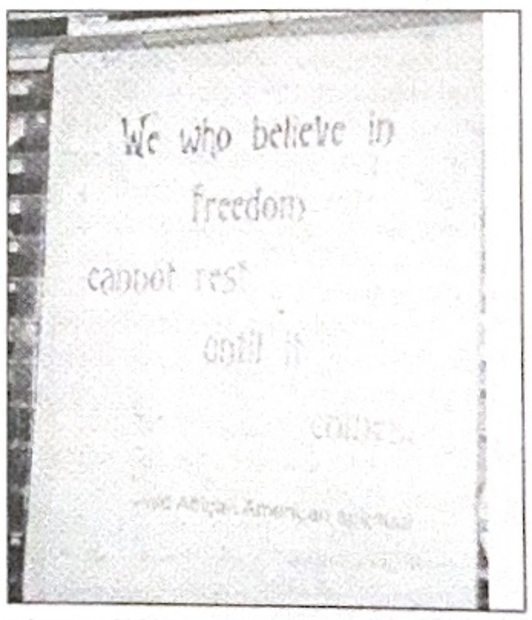
The new Zeitgest program directory will be out soon. If you would like to become a member, call 524-0064 for information.

## NATIONAL PAY INEQUITY AWARENESS DAY

It was noted at the Mayor's Press Conference, commemorating the occasion, that on April 11, three and one half months into 1997, women's earnings finally equalled what white men earned in 1996. Nationally, white women earn 71 cents, black women earn 64 cents and Hispanic women earn just 53 cents for every dollar earned by a white man. The wage gap in Louisiana is greater between men and women than 48 other states. Women earn an average of $15,000 to white men's $25,000.

Over a working woman's career, pay inequity can cost an average worker a quarter of a million dollars. That's money lost toward buying a house, sending kids to college and retirement. Gender pay inequity affects all women regardless of occupation, age and education. It is most severe for women of color. Recent studies by the American Bar Association and the Medical Group Management found unequal pay for women lawyers and doctors. Women are paid less because they are women, not because they are less skilled or less educated than men. In 1995, women and people of color earned less than white men even with the same








***(Left)* New Orleans NOW President, Ivory Madison and state NOW President Terry O'Neill with Mayor Marc Morial at the National Pay Inequity Awarness Day Press Conference. *(center)* This sign greets all visitors to Camp Sister Spirit. *(right)* Filmmaker Jennifer Reeves at Zeitgeist. *(photos by Marilyn McConnell)***

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Kina Fobbs drumming at the Festival

educational backgrounds. Research by the Department of Education," Baccalaureate and Beyond," shows that among recent graduates, women are making 15.7% less than men, and black men less than white men. College educated Black women earned less than white males with a high school diploma, and College educated Hispanic women earn about $200 more than white male high school graduates. This inequality is clearly about sexism and racism. The first step in obtaining equality is to be aware and make others aware of the inequity. Thanks to Mayor Morial, the National Organization for Women and The Louisiana League of Good Government for bringing this matter to the forefront.

## 15TH ANNUAL GLMA SYMPOSIUM

August 21-23, the Crowne Plaza Parc Fifty-Five Hotel in San Francisco will be the site of the 15th annual meeting of the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association. This year's theme "Building Healthy Families" will be reflected in the educational presentations. For further information call GLMA at 415-255-4547 or e-mail:gaylesmed@aol.com www.glma.org

## GAY GAMES AMSTERDAM 98

If you are planning to participate in the athletic events of the game, pre-registration forms are now available. If you have not received yours, call Jamie at 947-6643. If you haven't yet made your plans to attend, Betty and Joanne at Alternative Tours and Travel have a variety of packages (943-5805 or 949-5815.) Robin Tyler Tours offers a women's tour in a first class hotel, days, airfare, and extras for $2499. Call 818-893-4075 for further information. At last count, 14 New Orleans Women will be on Robin's tour.

## JEWELRY AT JAZZFEST

For the first weekend only, April 25-27, Peggy Cochran returns with a great selection of her old and new designs. Look for Peggy in the craft section.Δ

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photo Carlton Mickle

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# THE MOVIE POLICE

BY KAREL GAZDACKA

## YEP, I'M FEY

Blaine is a small town in Missouri, celebrating its sesquicentennial and Corky St. Clair (Christopher Guest), the high school drama coach, requests $100,000 be made available from the town coffers to put on a theatrical presentation commemorating the momentous event. Members of the town council gasp in disbelief — the annual budget for running the town is only $15,000. But Corky is an old trouper, and with the kind of pluck that would make Ethel Merman break out in a rousing chorus of "There's No Business Like Show Business," decides the show must go on. With the support of his motley crew of amateur thespians — a dentist, a couple who runs a travel agency, a waitperson from the Dairy Queen — Corky mounts a *musicale*, a re-creation in song and dance of the major events in the history of Blaine. When he receives word from a theatrical agency in New York that they will be sending a Mr. Guffman to catch the show, our little troupe begins entertaining visions of hitting the Great White Way.

*Waiting for Guffman*, a mock documentary from the people who gave you *This Is Spinal Tap*, gets its laughs having sport with small town yokels. While it's true that jokes about the country mouse are not exactly new and daring, it's still surprising how fresh and, yes, funny, writer-director-star Guest's latest re-working of a hoary theme manages to be. All the inhabitants of Blaine are very broadly drawn stereotypes, none more so than the fey Corky St. Clair, all lisps and limp wrists, who shops for his wife's clothes, a wife no one in the town can ever remember seeing (wink, wink). Only the most militant of politically correct queers, however, could take offense at Guest's hilarious caricature that is very naughty but not really mean-spirited. And, after all, everyone else in the cast is also a caricature — Jews, WASPS, trailer park trash, everyone but blacks who appear to make up less than one percent of the population. *Waiting for Guffman* aspires to nothing more than easy laughs and succeeds admirably. (At the end of the film, Corky is running a movie memorabilia shop that carries *My Dinner With Andre* action figures and lunch pails with art work from *Remains of the Day*. Totally inconsequential and completely enjoyable.)

## SOMETHING TO CROWE ABOUT

Not only does Harry Mitchell know his son Jeff is gay, he encourages him to bring his boyfriends home. He's eager that his son should make a good match. Mrs. Mitchell is deceased and Harry and Jeff live together almost like college roommates. In the rather Panglossian world of *The Sum of Us*, now available on video, you'd scarcely know that homophobia still exists Down Under. Jeff's sexuality does cause problems between his father and the divorcee he has been dating but that's mostly because he has kept it a secret. Jeff has a crush on a young gardener who flees his bed spooked by the "domesticity" of the Mitchell household. Jeff knows the old man means well, but he keeps screwing things up for him. When Harry has a stroke, it looks like Jeff will sacrifice what remains of his youth taking care of his father at home. But Jeff's gardener friend bumps into him at the grocery one day and, well, you can guess the rest.

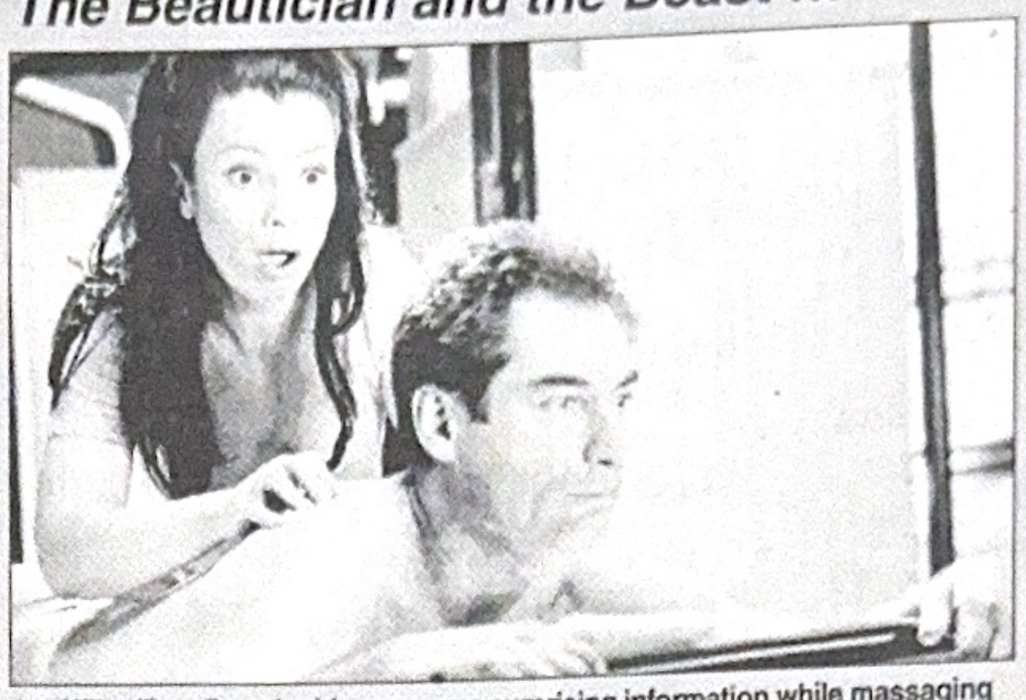
Though *The Sum of Us* isn't especially well directed, it manages to get by on sheer amiability — and on the considerable skill of Russell Crowe in the role of the son. A couple of Crowe's earlier movies have reached these shores, to wit, *Romper Stomper* in which he played a young tough and the under-rated *Proof*, a character study of the relationship between a blind man and a waiter (Crowe) who befriends him. While not conventionally good looking, Crowe excels at making the ordinary unusually appealing.

Also on video now is *A Man of No Importance*, a film practically no one saw during its very brief run at the Canal Place Cinema but whose coming attractions trailer was a hardy perennial for well-nigh six months. *A Man of No Importance* is about a harmless old poof played by Albert Finney who pines for a young bus driver by day and stages Oscar Wilde's *Salome* by night. The time is the early sixties and, indeed, the film plays as if it were made during the days when homosexuality was "the love that dare not speak its name." Finney never gets to do the wild thing with the bus driver (tres beau Rufus Sewell)— or anyone else. From the perspective of the nineties, it seems a double tragedy that the poor old dear is not "getting any," the plague years still almost two decades away. As in several other recent films, the Finney character will settle for a friendship rather than an erotic relationship. Or is the eroticizing of friendship the wild thing of the nineties?

Finally, I would like to recommend David Thompson's indispensable *A Biographical Dictionary of Film*, which had been unavailable for several years and is now happily back on the shelves of local bookstores in a brand spanking new third edition. Skip those 25 lb. volumes by the likes of Roger Ebert and Leonard Maltin that purport to guide you in your video quest and plunk down the $25 for Mr. Thompson's tome. I was won over in the first edition by the author's dismissal of John "he made westerns" Ford's oeuvre as so much hoss manure; in fact, Thompson asserts, "No one has done so much to invalidate the western as a form ... I find his westerns pictorial, tediously rowdy, and based on a cavalier treatment of American history." Here, here.

Here is a sampler of Thompson on some other directorial contenders. On Jim Jarmusch: "It is hard to see where he is going— and very likely that he would retort that the notion of 'going' anywhere is a fallacy." On Martin Scorsese: "Scorsese aspires toward the delirium and heat of fever. He might become a deeper artist if he could see the artificiality of this and tease the ponderous weight of torment he has been determined not to lose." Δ

## The Beautician and the Beast ...



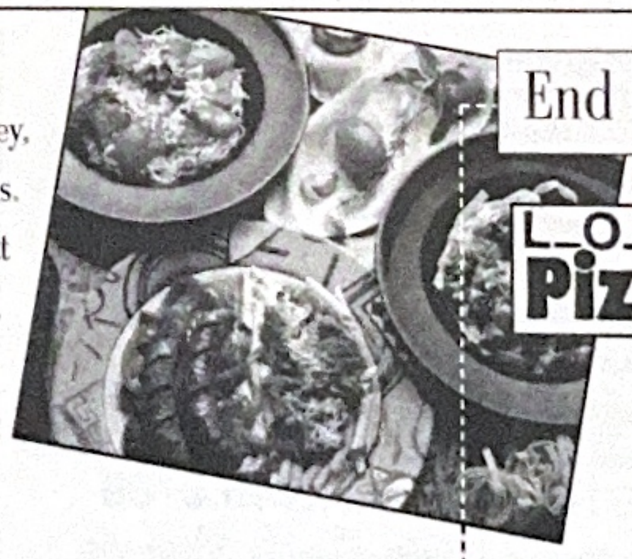
Joy Miller (Fran Drescher) learns some surprising information while massaging Boris (Timothy Dalton) in *The Beautician and the Beast.*
*(photo by Claudette Barius)*

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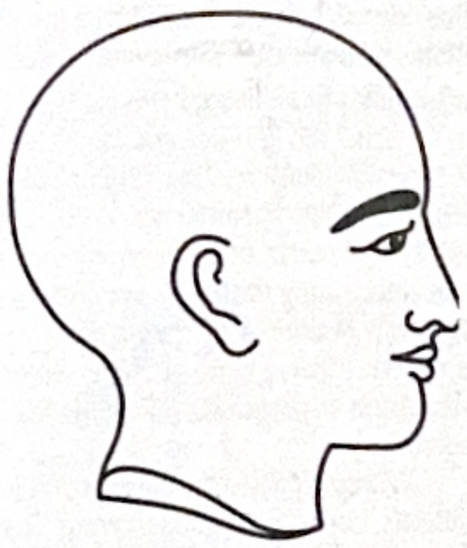
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*continued from page 10*

## PASTOR WARNS OF AIDS WITH PENDING GAY PRIDE MARCH

GREENVILLE, S.C. (AP) A religious conservative leader here is warning people to avoid restaurants because of a fear AIDS could easily be spread with a large number of gays coming for next week's pride march.

The Rev. Stan Craig, pastor of Choice Hills Baptist Church, also wants people to stay away from the march partly because of the same health concerns.

Health specialists said that the concerns of Craig, chairman of Citizens for Traditional Family Values, are absolutely unfounded.

Pastors or youth ministers at more than a dozen churches contacted said they were unaware of Craig's concerns or chose not to follow his advice.

Area health officials and AIDS specialists criticized Craig's comments and said there is no risk of contracting the disease through casual contact such as using the same toilets or drinking out of the same glass.

Organizers of the gay pride march say Craig is inciting fear.

Craig said residents need to be concerned.

As many as 5,000 gays and their supporters were expected in Greenville for a march. It was moved from Columbia after Greenville County Council members approved a resolution condemning homosexuality last spring.

Craig said that Citizens for Traditional Family Values distributed more than 200,000 pamphlets challenging gay rights.

Craig said he got a call that said gays plan to taint grocery store food with HIV-positive blood. Craig would not say how much he believed the call.

## CONFEREES BREAK OFF TALKS ON SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

HONOLULU (AP) House and Senate conferees on the same-sex marriage bills broke off talks, after getting hung up on giving same-sex and other nontraditional couples access to employer-paid family health insurance coverage.

House Speaker Joseph Souki and Senate President Norman Mizuguchi both said they'll consider extending their earlier deadline for a settlement, if it appears further talks would result in an agreement.

The Senate conferees are holding the agreed upon constitutional amendment bill hostage for the rights and benefits package for "reciprocal beneficiaries," which would include gay and lesbian couples, Tom said.

Souki said the House's experts have determined that the added cost just to the state and counties for expanding health benefits for employees taking advantage of a reciprocal beneficiary arrangement would be at least $13 million a year.

Matsunaga said the House's figures on the cost of extending health benefits are a great exaggeration based on unrealistic assumptions on how many state workers would take advantage of a reciprocal beneficiary arrangement.

The Senate's look at the response to such benefits in Los Angeles showed that only 1.5 percent of 34,000 employees took advantage of the program, compared to the 10 percent estimate for Hawaii made by the House, Matsunaga said.

Matsunaga also said the two sides have yet to agree on the effective date of a the rights and benefits package, with the Senate wanting it to take effect this year and the House in 1999, well after voters have considered the constitutional amendment.

That would make moot a 1993 state Supreme Court decision that Hawaii had to allow same-sex marriages unless it could show a compelling reason not to. Circuit Judge Kevin Chang ruled in December the state had failed to show that compelling reason at a September trial. The case is on appeal back to the Supreme Court.

## SUPREME COURT HEARS ARGUMENTS ON GAY SEX

(AP) The Montana Supreme Court heard arguments challenging the state's deviate sexual conduct law, which bans homosexual sex but took no immediate action.

A primary question is: If the Montana Constitution protects heterosexual sex, how can it not also protect homosexual sex?

That and other questions came before the court in oral arguments in the case of Gryczan vs. State of Montana, which was filed in 1993 by six homosexual Montanans.

District Judge Jeffrey Sherlock of Helena ruled the law unconstitutional in February 1996.

Attorney General Joe Mazurek, with agreement from Gov. Marc Racicot, appealed that decision.

Mazurek said such an important case should be resolved by the state's highest court.

The justices — particular Terry Trieweiler and James Nelson — challenged Assistant Attorney General Clay Smith from the outset Friday.

Smith argued the politically charged issue ought not even be settled by the high court, but rather by the Legislature. Further, Smith said the six plaintiffs weren't entitled to bring suit because they have not been threatened or injured by enforcement the law.

Plaintiffs' attorneys Holly Franz and Rosemary Daszkiewicz argued that the law is punitive even when unenforced. The law brands homosexuals as criminals, Franz said, and promotes discrimination and hatred.

The case is grounded primarily in the state constitution's right to privacy.

Smith argued that while people rightly view sex as a private matter, that doesn't mean sex — even heterosexual sex — enjoys constitutional protection or exists as a fundamental right. Instead, heterosexual sex might be protected on the grounds of reproduction or the sanctity of marriage, Smith said.

Nelson noted that the law wasn't regulating particular sexual conduct but focusing on who might engage in those acts. And that, Daszkiewicz said, was discrimination.

The court took the arguments under study.

During a news conference before the court session, several of the plaintiffs said they expect the Supreme Court to uphold Sherlock's decision. Overturning the law would tell Montanans that the state values tolerance over hatred and bigotry, they said.

## PANEL OKS GAY LISTINGS FOR TEEN HANDBOOK

FREDERICK, Md. (AP) Telephone numbers for two gay support groups should be included in a handbook intended for Frederick County high school students, an advisory panel has recommended.

The county's Family Life Advisory Committee voted 13-2 to add the numbers to the resource guide. The committee rejected a proposal from conservative members to also add numbers for three groups that counsel teen-agers to resist homosexual feelings.

The decision ended three months of debate by the advisory committee over a proposed revision of the pocket-size "Yellow Pages for Frederick County Teens." The current, 30-page edition is available in schools only through guidance counselors.

## SURPRISE MOTION ON BILL BRINGS HOUSE TO A HALT

SALEM, Ore. (AP) Business in the Oregon House ground to a halt after a gay Republican tried to pull a stalled gay-rights bill out of a legislative committee.

The move by Rep. Chuck Carpenter surprised fellow Republicans, who quickly filed out of the House chamber to a private meeting room. Most didn't return to the floor.

Carpenter said the Republicans' disappearing act was an example of the Legislature's unwillingness to confront the issue of gay rights.

Carpenter said he decided to force the issue because the Judiciary Committee hasn't given a hearing to his measure to ban discrimination against homosexuals in the workplace.

He tried to use a parliamentary maneuver to bring the bill out of committee and onto the House floor, but both Democrats and Republicans called for a recess before a vote could be taken.

About 90 minutes after Carpenter's move, House Speaker Lynn Lundquist, R-Powell Butte, returned and adjourned the day's session.

Thirty-one of the 60 House votes would be needed to pull the bill out of committee, a little-used parliamentary tactic that rarely has been successful in the past.

Carpenter said he would be willing to withdraw his motion if the bill is moved from Judiciary to the Commerce Committee.

The measure, HB2734, would make it illegal for a company to discriminate against employees on the basis of sexual orientation. Employers with at least six employees would be affected, and certain religious organizations would be exempted.

## SAME-SEX MARRIAGE BAN ADVANCES

HELENA (AP) A ban on same-sex marriages moved within one vote of passing as the House approved Senate changes to the bill.

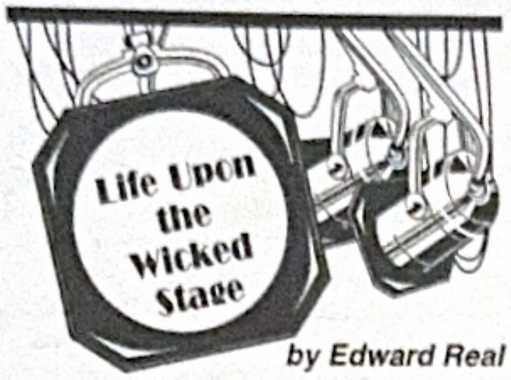
The measure faces a final House vote before being sent to the governor.

Supporters of the bill have said it affirms the state's position on marriage and prevents homosexuals who obtain marital recognition elsewhere from demanding those unions be recognized when they move to Montana.

But critics have argued the measure is an assault on homosexuals and is unnecessary because state law already specifies a legal marriage is one between a man and woman.

The Senate added a provision that says Montana will consider void any same-sex marriage recognized by another state.

Rep. Diane Sands, the Legislature's only avowed homosexual, said the bill should be killed because it is unconstitutional and inhibits the freedom of about 10 percent of Montanans.




by Edward Real

Theatre in New Orleans is becoming like a film festival; many of the plays currently on the boards are familiar to us because we recall the Hollywood treatments of the material from our far away youth. Two of the golden oldies are The CAC's *Picnic* and Theatre Marigny's *Wait Until Dark*.

It is interesting to return to William Inge's *Picnic* after a long time. I don't remember when I last saw the play, but I do recall my initial impressions of the work, which as a film was a pretty hot item when I was in high school. The appeal of the property was not in the performances of William Holden and Kim Novak, both of whom were too old for their characters, and especially not in the over-the-top emoting of Rosalind Russell as the desperate schoolteacher. What really made the movie popular was composer Morris Stoloff, who superimposed a lushly orchestrated love theme over a fox-trot version of "Moonglow" in the manner of Benny Goodman, and thereby achieved a perfect cinematic expression of summer romance (at least as summer romance was conceived in the 1950's).

Interestingly, *Summer Romance* was the original working title William Inge gave to this play. Later he changed it to *Women in Summer*, because, he explained, "it recalled something to me: a memory of women, all sorts or women — beautiful, bitter, harsh, loving, young, old, frustrated happy — sitting on a front porch on a summer evening . . . there was something in that atmosphere I wanted to recreate."



David Tringali stars in the NORD Theatre spoof, *The Trial of the Big, Bad Wolf*, opening April 25 in the Gallier Hall Theatre. Tringali is recreating the role in an original musical written by Bob Bruce and David Cuthbert with music by Danny Rubio. For ticket information, call 565-7860 *(photo by Frank J. Methe)*

The genesis of *Picnic* was not a particularly happy time for Inge. There were major changes in his concept by the powerful director Joshua Logan, which prompted the author to walk out of the theatre, and caused critic George Jean Nathan to say that Logan had created "a good show at the expense of a good play."

Seeing the play now, after several decades of changes in women's social roles (even in Kansas, we assume) and minus the flashy directorial conceits of Logan and the romantic overlay of Stoloff's music, the thing one finds most striking about *Picnic* is its underlying somberness. Never mind that Inge himself said that after writing *Come Back Little Sheba*, "I felt a desire to expand beyond that gloomy household and write a play that took place in the sunshine." More appropriately it might be said that he wrote a play which exposes a lot of conventional American dreams of his era to the harsh light of day.

The plot of *Picnic* is basically an expansion of the situation in the recent popular cola commercial — you know the one where all the women get goggle-eyed over the shirtless construction worker. The major difference between the women of that ad and the women of Inge's play is that in the fifties in the midwest, men were the only possible agents of change in women's lives. Thus when hunky Hal Carter appears in a neighborhood populated mostly by single women, he sets in motion a flurry of sensations that make all of them re-examine their conventional, routine lives. The town beauty who has a comfortable and promising relationship with a son of wealth and influence is awakened to passion; a widow is reminded of the romantic dreams of her youth she was not allowed to pursue; a spinster schoolteacher is at once repelled and attracted by Hal's overt sexuality and is goaded to get a man of her own at any cost to her dignity.

The male characters too are frustrated; all of them are so locked in to their identities that they can't change enough to get or keep what they really want.

Inge's twist on this commonplace material is that he doesn't allow it to become comic (as the ads for this production suggest). Instead of letting us see these follies corrected, Inge lets us know that the characters' trite dreams will lead only to disillusion more pitiable than their present torpor.

The *Picnic* at the CAC is presented under the auspices of Sandi Roads Productions, which translates as Sandi Bravender (who plays the teacher) and Dane Rhodes (who plays Hal). They have surrounded themselves with a company that is generally quite good. Amy Bollin's Madge is a well-conceived performance that emphasizes the pretty girl's self-doubt and uncomprehended longings. As her sister, Brandi Bates deftly defines the uneasy transition from tomboy to young woman. Joan Blum is simultaneously comic and poignant as the widow in name only who knows little about men but a lot about life. Gia DiLeo may at first seem a bit young and too little careworn as the mother, but she grows more effective as she reveals that she probably made the same mistakes her daughter will.



**Theatre Marigny's *Wait Until Dark*. (Left to right) Lenny Feller (Carlino), Jon Conway (Roat) and David Plunkett (Mike) in a confrontational moment.**

It is the performances of the producers that seem somewhat off the mark. In Ms. Bravender's case, there seems to be more comic caricature than portrait in pathos. Mr. Rhodes is a fine actor who seems miscast physically. He spells hunk with a capital C. Ironically, in his last outing Rhodes took on a role identified with the young Paul Newman (Chance in *Sweet Bird of Youth*). Here he ups the ante by playing a character who steals the girl away from a less attractive guy who was originally played by Newman. Mr. Rhodes' performance may be technically good, but what is really needed is that construction worker in the cola commercial.

George Kelly directed, and I think he might have met George Jean Nathan's standard by returning to us something of the play of Inge's intention instead of the show of Josh Logan.

Incidentally, the production coincided with the annual Inge Festival in Independence, Kansas, as I learned from National Public Radio. It seems New Orleans celebration of Tennessee Williams has imitators — the featured production of the Inge Fest was Neil Simon's *Plaza Suite*.

At Theatre Marigny, Kathy Maher has mounted a production of a work best known as a film of the sixties, Frederick Knott's *Wait Until Dark*. Such a frankly commercial piece is something of a rarity for Marigny, but it is not an unwelcome departure from the theatre's usually more outre scheduling; especially since this is a more than usually slick production at the Frenchmen Street playhouse.

*Wait Until Dark* has a plot concerning a blind woman being terrorized by a trio of villains who are after a drug-stuffed doll her husband has brought back from a trip. There are the usual red herrings and mistaken identities in addition to the gimmick of having the sight-impaired heroine blessed with keener senses than her tormentors, so it is an entertaining thriller — not quite in a class with *Deathtrap* or *Sleuth*, but quite enjoyable, especially if you've repressed Alan Arkin's spectacular villainy in the movie.

The principals in the cast are David Plunkett, Lenny Feller, Jon Conway, Susan Harper and Megan Durning, and all do quite nicely, making this a pleasing community theatre endeavor. Δ

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# National News

*continued from page 19*

## GAY-RIGHTS MARCH ORGANIZER FACES SOLICITATION CHARGE

GREENVILLE, S.C. (AP) An organizer of a gay-rights march has been charged with soliciting sex from an undercover officer in a city park.

Derrick Kevin Gunter, regional chairman of the Gay and Lesbian Pride Movement, plans to ask for a jury trial.

Gunter, 29, said he will argue that the officer entrapped him. "I'm not guilty," he said.

GLPM called an emergency meeting in Columbia and announced it had removed Gunter from his role as march organizer, pending the outcome of his trial.

Gunter was charged with soliciting for immoral purposes in Timmons Park, not far from downtown Greenville. The misdemeanor carries a $500 fine or 30 days in jail upon conviction. No trial date has been set.

Gunter said he was sitting alone in his car reading a newspaper and watching an elderly couple play tennis before work.

An undercover officer approached him and after several minutes brought up the topic of sex, Gunter said. He said he repeatedly told the man he wasn't interested.

Police say Gunter proposed a location where the two could have sex, but Gunter said he named an outlandish location in an attempt to make the man leave.

## BILL BANNING SCHOOL SEX DISCRIMINATION STALLS

SACRAMENTO (AP) A bill to prevent public schools and colleges from discriminating against students and employees because of their sexual orientation passed an Assembly committee without a vote to spare.

The measure by Assemblywoman Sheila Kuehl, D-Santa Monica, stalled one vote short of passage on a first roll call, but it was able to pick up an 11th vote later in the hearing to give it the bare majority needed to pass the 21-member Education Committee.

Current law bars public schools and colleges from discriminating on the basis of race or gender in their programs, hiring or financial aid. In some instances, the anti-discrimination ban also covers religion, disabilities, age and national origin.

Schools can't use instructional materials that reflect adversely on people because of their race, creed, national origin, ancestry, gender, disability or occupation.

In addition, school personnel commissions cannot ask job applicants questions about their race, sex, marital status, political opinions or affiliations or religious beliefs.

Kuehl's bill would expand those prohibitions to cover sexual orientation.

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## EFFORT TO WEAKEN DOMESTIC PARTNERS LAW FALLS FLAT

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) An attempt to ease the city's groundbreaking domestic partners law by excluding unmarried straight couples from the benefits it would offer has fallen flat.

San Francisco's three gay supervisors have backed off the potentially divisive amendment, saying they wanted to stay united on an issue of such importance.

Two of them, Susan Leal and Leslie Katz, announced that they were considering the exclusion. But Tom Ammiano refused to go along with the idea, calling it an attempt to "nickel and dime civil rights."

The law, passed last year and scheduled to take effect in June, requires companies and agencies doing business with the city to provide the same benefits to workers with registered domestic partners — gay or straight — as they do to married employees.

Currently, it will apply only to workers who register their partnerships with a government agency. The proposed amendment would have allowed companies to set up their own registries and exclude unmarried straight couples.

Corporate interests wanted the exclusion because they worried that the cost of providing benefits to a large number of additional people would be too high. They thought the exclusion would ease their financial obligations.

After the conflict surfaced publicly, the proposed amendment quickly began to unravel. Supporters didn't want to be tagged with any thought of weakening the domestic partners law.

## STUDENTS GATHER TO DECRY VIOLENCE ON CAMPUS

PLYMOUTH, N.H. (AP) Several years ago, Plymouth State College junior Judy Pich was attacked by a man who punched, kicked and spit on her while calling her names like "queer" and "dyke." When she tried to talk about the incident with her peers, she "felt more like an offender than a victim," Pich said.

Pich told her story to the 2,000 students, faculty, staff and alumni who turned out for an emergency "Forum on Hate" organized by the school's Task Force on Homophobia. The forum was held in reaction to an incident involving another female student, who said she was attacked by two men in March.

The woman, whose identity has not been revealed, told campus police the two men punched her and urinated on her face after calling her a lesbian and telling her she "had no right to be allowed to be walking around the world."

While some students who turned out at the forum said they were shocked that a hate crime occurred on the campus, many said milder incidents of intolerance, such as name-calling and telling derogatory jokes, happen all the time. Many said they were ready to tackle the problem and try to solve it.

*continued on page 22*

# National News

*continued from page 21*

## HIV NEWS

### A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR INFECTED YOUTH

MILWAUKEE (AP) Like most teenagers, Brandon Lapinski's concern for the future doesn't extend much beyond finding a good college to go to and finding a good job. The fact that he has survived 13 years and is contemplating his college years shows how far HIV-AIDS treatment has advanced.

Brandon, an eighth-grader from the Weyauwega-Fremont School District's middle school, is infected with HIV. A hemophiliac, Brandon likely was infected as an infant after receiving a contaminated blood product.

He has been off and on drugs to fight HIV since he was about 5. But the drugs did little for him. In 1993, he was near death after an episode of congestive heart failure.

He began following a "cocktail" regimen of three drugs, including the latest type, called a protease inhibitor. He has been on the mend ever since, and his immune system has improved.

### GORE SEEKS IMPROVED ACCESS TO MEDICAID FOR AIDS PATIENTS

WASHINGTON (AP) Hoping to improve access to AIDS-fighting drugs, the Clinton administration is exploring the possibility of expanding Medicaid coverage for people afflicted with HIV.

Vice President Al Gore has asked the Health Care Financing Administration "to look into the possibility" of making Medicaid available earlier to people with HIV to get them the cutting-edge drugs needed to help them. "If it works out, as I hope and expect it will, it can ease suffering, renew hope and help ensure that good people are not priced out of lifesaving medicine," Gore said. He said the move was necessary because people diagnosed with HIV can develop full-blown AIDS before becoming eligible for Medicaid, "and that makes some of these new drugs prohibitively expensive for people who need them."

Gore made the announcement after receiving the 1997 National Leadership Award for Public Service from AIDS Action, an AIDS advocacy group. He said he has asked the HCFA to report back to him in 30 days after exploring the possibility. "Our view is that getting these drugs to people earlier will not cost more in the long run," he said. "It may even save money, and it will certainly save lives."

Gore, who accepted the award jointly with his wife, Tipper, said there is good reason for optimism in the war on AIDS because of "remarkable progress" in finding effective drugs to combat the deadly disease.

### THURMAN A STRONG CHOICE TO LEAD OFFICE OF NATIONAL AIDS POLICY, HRC SAYS

WASHINGTON — The Human Rights Campaign commended the selection of Sandra L. Thurman as the new White House "Aids Czar."

Thurman becomes the third person to hold the position, replacing Patsy Fleming, who stepped down after Clinton's re-election.

Thurman, a native of Atlanta, is past executive director of AID Atlanta, the Southeast's first and largest AIDS service provider. Under her stewardship, AID Atlanta tripled in size, becoming a multimillion-dollar direct service agency. Most recently, Thurman was a White House appointee to the U.S. Information Agency, responsible for cultural and professional exchange programs.

Before joining AID Atlanta in 1988, Thurman was public affairs director of AmeriPlan Health Services. She holds a bachelor's degree in human resources administration and management from Mercer University in Georgia.

### NEW DRUGS FORCE UNEXPECTED DECISIONS

SPOTSYLVANIA, Va. (AP) Beatrice Kerr was a 19-year-old college sophomore when she got what amounted to a death sentence. Her boyfriend called in tears to say he had just been diagnosed with AIDS. She had the virus, too.

"My dream then, my unattainable dream, was to live to see my 30th birthday," Ms. Kerr said. But now, thanks to potent new AIDS drugs, she might make it. Ms. Kerr turns 29 this month, and she is planning now for a future she has spent a decade accepting she would never have.

Drugs, especially a powerful class of drugs called protease inhibitors, have brought about a sort of remission for many AIDS patients over the past year. Many taking the drugs, including Ms. Kerr, now have no trace of the AIDS virus in their blood.

After preparing to die, the prospect of living indefinitely has both emotional and practical ramifications. Many patients taking the new AIDS drug "cocktails" must make unexpected choices as dramatic health improvements give them a new lease on life.Δ





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# REAL ESTATE




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The house at 1309 Felicity is one such place.

In Volume I of *New Orleans Architecture*, the house is described as:

"Victorian with Italianate feature, such as wide overhanging roof, front gable, scalloped verge board and segmental arched openings. Note the iron cresting on top, forming a belvedere. Built about 1880 by James Freret for himself, Freret's father-in-law John T. Moore gave him the property. Mr. Moore had erected a mansion at the back of this property, facing Race Street, in 1867. John T. Moore, Jr. had Thomas Sully build a home on Camp and Race Streets in 1884, which was referred to in the *Times Picayune* as a 'two-story and attic frame Queen Anne House.' It has since been demolished."

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But it is the interior of the house that elicits nothing less than the sublime, so magnificent it is. Towering ceilings, glittering chandeliers, handsome wood floors throughout. The home is perfect for anyone who dreams of entertaining in the grand old style.

No, this is no fixer-upper. The house was renovated by its present owner, who returned the building to a single-family state, after it had been used as a multi-family residence.

There are six bedrooms and five bathrooms, a living room large enough for ballroom dancing, a formal dining area, a study, a breakfast room, a jacuzzi (indoors) and an additional kitchen area upstairs for use as a bar or simply as a courtesy to the many guests an owner might wish to entertain.

This house is being offered by Latter & Blum, Inc. for $385,000. Call the listing agent, Kyle Scafide for an appointment. Δ










"TALES OF ACADEMIA..."

BY JAMES PALMER




*God's Little Isthmus: More Tales from Madlands by J. Allen Kirsch (Badger Books Inc./Waubesa Press, $14.95)*

Since my editor knows that I'd spent most of my life in academia, he was certain that I'd be interested in reviewing J. Allen Kirsch's *God's Little Isthmus*. At first, I didn't share his enthusiasm. Having retired from those lofty collegiate halls and, generally, eschewing anything that even hints of that former world, I hesitated before taking the book from his hands. He egged me on, saying, "I reviewed the first book, *Madlands*, which is quite similar in tone and spirit to *Tales of the City*." Even though I couldn't fathom any single work that could compare with the charm and addictive quality of Armistead Maupin's multi-volumed opus, I reluctantly took the book.

When I opened the novel to the first page and read, "Fall Semester, 1990," my enthusiasm was further dampened — I remembered a psychiatrist once telling me that the highest incidence of suicide among collegiates is in the Fall of each academic year. Nevertheless, I continued into the book, reading the first line, "Cissy Pankhurst sat down ... to make a list of reasons why she wasn't going to get tenure." Oh, no! Not a tale of the struggle for tenure! Now I was certain that that all too familiar conflict, which appeared to be the thrust of the book, would prevent me from even getting through the first chapter.

However, as I continued to read, I found myself gradually becoming totally involved with a rich variety of characters, who populate Madison Wisconsin. First, there is the Museum Studies faculty of the University of Wisconsin: Cissy, a tortured non-tenured instructor and Evan, her colleague/lover; Ginger, a tenured black professor with a cocaine addiction; Vance Ricover, the overbearing department chair and Sandra, his desperate wife, also up for tenure; Blake, a handsome professor with a mysterious past; and a host of others. Then, there are the townies: Roz, a political activist and Irv, her husband/lawyer; Pepper and Juan, a gay couple. Oddly, only one student named Beth, a lesbian-activist, is included among the residents of "God's Little Isthmus."

Kirsch's action moves quickly and seamlessly from Fall Semester, 1990 to Semester Break through Spring, Semester 1991 and ends in Summer, 1991. In addition to Cissy's quest for tenure, other cleverly inter-related tales include Roz's bid for a city council seat; Pepper and Juan's assorted problems, ranging from Juan's bulimia and Pepper's boredom with both his social and sexual life in Madison; and Beth's boycott of a politically incorrect restaurant, the Ho Chi Minh.

While the subject matter may not have been to my liking, I must admit that Kirsch's story telling, filled with rich detail and colorful characters, held my attention from start to finish. And he has a keen satiric eye for the vulnerabilities, foibles, and strengths of collegiate types. Furthermore, Kirsch saves his characters from becoming borderline buffoons by imbuing them with quick wit, humor, and the capacity to learn. As each tale reaches its conclusion, the characters have realized that political correctness, when taken to its extreme, can produce both comic and tragic results.On the last page of the book, Evan says to Cissy, "If you've survived this year, you can survive anything." Δ




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## WANDERLUST



by Ira Gruber

### BALTIMORE — THE CITY THAT KNOWS HOW TO PROMOTE!

One of the latest trends in tourism is promoting to the African-American traveller. It's not that people of color have been shafted, but a city has to be really together to have enough 'stuff' to create an African American heritage tour. And surprisingly lots of white folks want to go on these tours. The problem is that most cities aren't that safe. New Orleans and Philadelphia really have developed an African-American Tour Trail; Boston has the Black Heritage Trail. New York has tour operators that will take you on day visits of Harlem. But Baltimore is tough to beat.

The Mayor of Baltimore, the brilliant Kurt Schmoke, wrote me urging all people to explore Baltimore. While he ruffled some people several years ago when he talked about considering the legalization of drugs, he's popular with the gay/lesbian community and has been in the Baltimore Pride Parade.

For a first rate black theatre company (there aren't too many of these), check out the Arena Players (728-6500). At Baltimore's City Life Museums and Museum Row, you can see two historical dramas that highlight Baltimore's African-American community. For elaborate African masks from Angola and Guinea, check out the Baltimore Museum of Art. At Coppin State Library, there is the Parren Mitchell Room, which contains awards and mementoes collected by the noted former Maryland Congressman. The Enoch Pratt Library, one of the leading old-styled libraries in the country, has an extensive Afro-American Collection.

Here come the biggies: the Eubie Blake Gallery at the Brockerage and Great Blacks in Wax Museum (1601 East North Avenue). The Wax Museum, the first and only of its kind in the country, is arranged chronologically and in tableaus, outlining the glorious history of African people from around the globe.



Bethel A.M.E. Church. *(photo Roger Miller)*

The Maryland Historical Museum has paintings by the black artist, Joshua Johnson, a colonial portraitist, and original sheet music willed to the institution by Eubie Blake. Morgan State University has the James E. Lewis Museum of Art, which contains West African masks, furniture, artifacts and drums. In the university's library is Bill "Bojangles" Robinson's dancing shoes. At the world famous Walters Art Gallery, where most of the staff seems to be gay/lesbian, there is an extraordinary collection of art and artifacts.

*The Voice of Black America*, since 1892, the Afro-American Newspaper can be seen at 2519 North Charles Street.

A host of churches are open for services and/or touring. Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Church, at Caroline and Oliver Streets, is the oldest black Catholic Church in the U.S. (1864). The Orchard Street Church served as a stop on the Underground Railroad. Definitely try to tour the NAACP Headquarters at 4805 Mount Hope Drive (358-8900) by appointment only.

If you take a local bus to Annapolis, you can visit the Banneker-Douglas Museum of Afro-American Life and History and the Kunta Kinte Plaque.

Baltimore also has the most visited attraction in the country: The Inner Harbour with Harbourplace & Gallery. Located here is the National Aquarium, the Harbor Belle Paddlewheeler, and the Bay Lady and Lady Baltimore Harbor Cruises. Their Crab Feast on Friday nights is a must. The other bookend at the Inner Harbor is the Maryland Science Center, with the world famous Davis Planetarium and the IMAX Theatre.

Baltimore is fresh, fun, and exciting. The splendor of towering glass mixed with traditional neighborhood rowhouses and white marble steps produces a city with something for everyone. Check out Lambda Rising Bookstore for what's up in the Baltimore Gay Community. Also, the Top of the World at Inner Harbor offers views of the city. Baltimore is a waterfront city with a personality formed in colonial days. The Mt. Vernon Monument area, the gay ghetto, is a nice 10 block walk from the Inner Harbor. You can also take a streetcar to my hotel of choice — the Mt. Vernon Hotel (800-245-5256). If you forget to take a water taxi here, you're really committing a bugaboo.

You'll need a week in H.L. Mencken's Baltimore. The best deal downtown is at the Ramada-Inner Harbor (800-272-6232). Mr. Mole B&B at 1601 Bolton Street caters to the gay/lesbian visitor (410-728-1179) as does the Mulberry House (410-576-0111). Very popular is the Biltmore Suites (800-868-5064). For relaxed elegance, try Celies' Waterfront B&B (410-522-2323).

Sleeper attractions: the 48-room Evergreen House and the Holocaust Memorial and Sculpture on Water, Lombard & Gay Street. To get a Baltimore Tour Guide, call 800-282-6632.

You'll need a week to familiarize yourself with my favorite city on the East Coast. To get a copy of the Baltimore Gay Paper, call 410-837-7748. Δ

# CLASSIFIEDS

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**Bookkeeping**
and Tax Service for Small Business. Also possible for tax returns. Hourly or job rates available. HIGHLY recommended by members of the gay and lesbian community; references available. Sharon Robinson 398-0811.

WEB DESIGN/SETUP
Would you like your own web page for your business? We can design your page and have you on line for as little as $50 a month. That's hard to beat in this market! Call 945-6722.

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## For Sale

5 piece TAMA drum set w/ hardware. $500 Call 891-7490 (cd)

## WANTED

**MODELS**
For local gay men's magazine. Exciting opportunity if you have the "look"! Send samples (color or black & white) to eclipse, PO Box 52079, New Orleans, LA 70152. No phone calls, please.

## HELP WANTED

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**Tidy Cleaning**
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## GUEST HOUSES

**CYGNE** (Swan) Guest House Cozy rooms, reasonable prices, in Marigny, minutes from the Quarter ... Jazz Fest availability! (504) 948-4334.

*(Please consult our Directory on the inside back cover for a listing of hotels, guest houses and other forms of accomodation.)*

## HOUSES FOR SALE

**Uptown Mansion**
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## FOR RENT

Bedrooms for Rent
New Orleans, $200/ mo. or $50/wk, 2 wk. minimum plus $50 deposit. Access to kit., laundry & local phone. Walking distance to F.Q. Call 943-6372. (5/9/97)

**1 Block from Fr. Qtr.**
Small room w/ bath, ac, clng fan, kitchen facilities. $260/mo. includes all utilities. Call Doug @ 945-9941. Also small room , share bath, $60/week includes kitchen, ac, clng fan. (4/25)

**833 Piety**
Bywater renovation of Creole cottage 1750 s/f, 2BR/2BA, cen a/h, all appliances. Off st. prkng, front & rear [illegible] front porch & deck. W[illegible] consider long-term lease. $700/mo., $[illegible] dep. Pets acceptabl[illegible] Bobby @ 947-0397. (3/28)

LEASED BY MARIGNY BROKERS

**824 Dauphine**
G[illegible] Marigny Triangle [illegible]tion, large 1BR, kit., appliances, free laundry & water. No pets. $475/mo, $475 dep. Bobby @ 947-0397 (3/28)

**Faubourg St. John**
Nice efficiency apartment 1/2 block from the bayou, 3 blocks to Whole Food. Beautiful, safe nbhd, very gay-friendly. $300/mo. (+ deposit) includes all utilities. 482-1341. (4/25)

**IF YOU HAVE TO LIVE IN METAIRIE,**
You might as well live next to family! 2BR twnhse near Clearview. Nice apt. for $485/mo. Call Dean, 888-1635. 1 BRs also available. (4/25)

**BYWATER**
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**MID CITY**
Beautiful 3 BR, 2BA apt, 2 story half dble, just renovated. Furnished kitchen, c a/h, balcony, shed w/ hookups, offstreet pkng, available May 15. $850/mo., lease and deposit, call 865-1316, leave message. (5/9/97)

## ROOMMATES

Large room includes utilities, cable, local calls, shared iving area, kit, bath. Laundry & bus nearby, $325/ mo. Pager 544-0089, leave # then dial 2501. (5/9/97)

## Messages

"A book must be the axe for the frozen sea inside us." (Kafka). Any gay men or lesbians — even a token straight or bi interested in forming a book club, hopefully in FQ walking distance, call Tom 522-1179.

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# IMPACT DIRECTORY

*Because of space limitations, we can publish only essential addresses, information and/or telephone numbers.*

## Activist Groups

Forum For Equality — PO Box 850096, NOLA 70185-0096

Homosexual Information Center — 115 Monroe, Bolssier City, LA 71111

Lesbian Avengers of New Orleans — PO Box 791375, NOLA 70179-1375, voice mail 365-3069

New Orleans Alliance of Pride — PO Box 52343, NOLA 70152, Penny Young, info 830-5056

## AIDS/Health

Advocacy Center for the Elderly & Disabled — 210 O'Keefe, Ste. 700, NOLA 70122, 522-2337 (*New Orleans*), or 800-960-7705

AIDSLaw — 944-5035

Belle Reve — 945-9455

Buzzy's Boys & Girls/The William J. Fanning Foundation — 943-8929

Charity Hospital/C-100 Clinic — 568-5304

Darrell Hamby Memorial Food Bank — 704 N. Rampart, 524-3488

Food For Friends — 2533 Columbus, 944-6028

Gay Counseling Line — 885-4476

Jefferson Parish Human Services Authority— 3101 W. Napopleon, Metairie, 70001, 83805215 (HIV Mental Health Program, 846-6947 (Transportation and HOPWA Housing)

Lambda Center — 2106 Decatur, 947-0548 (*AA & Al-Anon*)

The Live Foundation — 3562 Vestasian Suite 105, NOLA 70114, 366-8697; free nutrition education & blood monitoring

NO/AIDS Task Force — 1401 Decatur, NOLA 70116, 945-4000 (*administration*), 944-AIDS (*hotline*), 800-992-4379 (*statewide hotline*), 944-2492 (*TTD*)

North Lake AIDS Network (*NoLAN*), PO Box 2397, Slidell 70459, (504) 641-6750

Project Lazarus — 949-3609

PWA Coalition, The Boswell Center — 704 N.Rampart, 524-3488

RAIN (*Regional AIDS Interfaith Network*) — 523-3755

The Living Room at the MCC — 1128 St. Roch Ave., Wed. 7 p.m.

Tulane/LSU Adult AIDS Clinical Trials Unit — 585-4002 or Perdido Street office 584-3605

United Services for AIDS — 522-5239

V A Medical Center — 589-5920

Wednesday's Child (*Adult Children of Alcoholics*) — 2106 Decatur, Lambda Center, Wed. 6 p.m.

## Archives

Amistad Research Center, Tulane University — 6823 St. Charles Ave., 865-5535; material on civil/gay rights, race relations & queer issues.

## Auto Dealerships

Crescent City Motors — 836-7575

Bill Garrett Autoplex — 800-826-6562

Bill Watson Ford — 243-7237

## Bars

*For a list of local lesbian & gay bars, please see* **eclipse**, *Impact's gay nite life and adult entertainment supplement.*

## Chiropractic

Dr. Michael Lechleiter — 3615 Prytania St, 895-2350

## Cleaning Services

Tidy Cleaning Services — 341-6959

## Community Centers

Adolescent Drop-In Center — sponsored by NO/AIDS, 1434 N. Rampart, 948-6696

Camp Sister Spirit — PO Box 12, Ovett MS 39464, (601) 344-2005

GL Friendly Community Center — 308 Caillavet, Biloxi MS 39530 (601) 396-3333

Lesbian & Gay Community Center— 816 N. Rampart, 522-1103, fax 527-5334

Westbank Community Ctr. — 103 Brunswick Ct. Algiers 70131 433-5912

## Contractors

Contracting by Harold — 840-0428 (bpr)

## Dentistry

Dr. Kathryn Philpott-Hill — General Dentistry 6120 Magazine St, 891-7471

## Financial

N. American Mortgage — 831-2908

## Fitness/Spas

Club New Orleans — 515 Toulouse, 581-2402

Midtowne Spa — 700 Baronne, 566-1442

## Groceries & Delis

A&P — 701 Royal, 523-1353

Whole Food Co—3135 Esplanade, 943-1626

## Guest Houses

Claiborne Mansion — 2111 Dauphine, 949-7327

CYGNE Guest House — 934 Port 948-4334

French Quarter Suites — 1119 N. Rampart, 524-7725

Lafitte Guest House—1003 Bourbon, 581-2678

La Residence—1239-41 Marais, 522-4828

Henry Howard House—822-2798

Macarty Park— 3820 Burgundy, 943-4994

Mazant — 906 Mazant, 944-2662

Over C's — 940 Elysian Fields, 943-7166

Reinbowe House — 2311-15 N. Rampart, 943-5805 or 949-5815

Royal Street Inn & Bar — 1431 Royal Street, 948-7499 or 1-800-449-5535

## Haircare/Salon

Antonio's — 839 Rue Spain, 943-0333, ask for Barry

Headquarters — 900 Dauphine, 522-2666

Tantastics Tanning Salon — 301 Burgundy, 525-TANN (8266)

## Laundry

Hula Mae's — Dumaine/Rampart, 522-1336

Washing Well — 841 Bourbon, 523-9955

## Lawn Care

Duane Myers — 947-5709

## Medical

Dr. Waldo Holt — 2001 Canal, 524-2054

Jewish Family Services — 3330 W. Esplanade, Ste. 600, Metairie, 831-8475

Pride Institute at Solutions — Depressions, Drugs, Anxiety, 1-800-DIAL-GAY

Dr. Jim West, Counseling — 943-1436

*see also Chiropractic & Dentistry*

## Moving Services

New Orleans Moving Co. — 486-1810

## Newspapers & Books

Beckham's Bookshop — 228 Decatur, 522-9875

Bookstar — Jackson Brewery, 523-6411

Faubourg Marigny Bookstore — 600 Frenchmen, 943-9875

*IMPACT*, & **eclipse** — 944-6722 (on the web: http://www.impactnews.com)

*Pink Pages*/New Orleans — 947-3969

Second Stone — 899-4104

*The Weekly Guide* — 522-4300

## Pest Control

Pro-Tech — 736-0736

## Pharmacies

Mumphrey's Pharmacy — 1021 W. Judge Perez, 279-6312

## Political

LAGPAC (*Louisiana Gay Political Action Caucus*) — PO Box 53075, NOLA 70153

League for Equality — POBox 53425 Lafayette, LA 70505

LEGAL (*Louisiana Electorate of Gays and Lesbians*) — PO Box 70344, NOLA 70172, voice mail 365-3105

LEGAL: Alexandria-Pineville — PO Box 3036, Pineville, LA 71361

LEGAL: Baton Rouge — PO Box 44370, Baton Rouge, LA 70804

LEGAL: Lafayette — PO Box 90501, Lafayette, LA 70509

LEGAL: Shreveport — PO Box 44543, Shreveport, LA 71134-4543

Log Cabin Republicans, Louisiana Log Cabin — Randy Evans, meeting info & voice mail 593-1083

P-FLAG (*Parents, Family & Friends of Lesbians & Gays*) — meetings 2nd Thurs at St. Charles Ave. Presbyterian Church, 581-2749 or 895-3936

## Real Estate

Commodore Apartments — David, 891-9300

French Quarter Realty — 949-5400; Agent Gary Williams 581-2889

Latter & Blum — 948-3011. Agents: Robyn Halvorsen 947-2086, Lane Lacoy 948-4334, Pat O'Rourke 945-4545, Ray Ruiz 948-2217, Kyle Scafide 482-0009

Marigny Brokers, LLC — Robert Rollins, 947-1999 or 944-0205

Martha Ann Samuel Realtors — Erwin H. Wallen, 861-4700 or 899-6372

Robert Rollins Appraisals — 726 St. Roch, 947-0397

Winter's Title Agency — 488-0091

## Religious Groups & Organizations

1st Unitarian Church of New Orleans Gay & Lesbian Task Force — 5212 S. Claiborne Ave., 865-7005 (*men*) or 822-3278 (*women*)

Abundant Grace Christian Fellowship — 634 E. Boston, Bldg. #3, Covington 70433, Pastor Lee Thompson, 871-9527

Associated Catholic Charities — 1000 Howard Ave. Ste 1200, NOLA 70113

Grace Fellowship in Christ Jesus — 3151 Dauphine Street, 944-9836

Integrity — 1329 Jackson, 866-1577 or 865-7343, 3rd Tues. each month at Trinity Episcopal Church

Jewish Gay & Lesbian Alliance — Contact: Amos Lassen, 525-8286

Joie de Vivre Metropolitan Community Church — 330 East Chimes (504) 383-0450

Lambda Chi Gay & Lesbian jews — 3330 W. Esplanade, Ste. 600, Metairie, LA 70002, 831-8475

Old Catholic Diocese of La. — 433-5912

Queer Taoists — 504 949-8876

St. Ambrose Holy Catholic Church — 1128 St. Roch Ave. (Upstairs Chapel), 558-0713, Sun. 10 a.m. Mass

St. Mark's United Methodist Church — 1130 N. Rampart, Sunday 9:30 a.m. Worship, 529-1681

Tau House — 1029 Governor Nicholls St., 4:15 p.m. Sunday mass, Everyone is Welcome!

Vieux Carré Metropolitan Community Church — 1128 St. Roch Ave., 945-5390

## Restaurants & Cafes

Cafe Lafayette — 717 Orleans, 571-4615

Cafe Marigny — 1913 Royal, 945-4472, sandwiches, soups, coffees, sodas, pastries

Cafe Sbisa — 1011 Decatur, 522-5565, innovative culinary delights; Major Cards (D)

Feelings Cafe — 2600 Chartres, 945-2222, classic Creole; lovely courtyard (L,D)

Figaro's Pizzerie — 7900 Maple St., 866-0100, exotic pizzas, pastas, specials (L,D)

Fiorellas — 45 French Market Place, 528-9566, Italian & Creole, daily specials, closes early; Major Cards (B,L,D)

Krystal — 114 Bourbon, 523-4030, 24 hrs, famous square burgers, breakfast & more

La Madeleine — 547 St. Ann, 568-9950, Caesar salad, croissants, French Onion soup (B,L,D)

Louisiana Pizza Kitchen — 95 French Market Place, 522-9500 gourmet wood-fired pizzas, lunchtime sandwiches; Visa, MC, AX (L,D)

Lucky Cheng's — 720 St. Louis, 529-2045, Asian Creole Cuisine; Major Cards (L,D)

Mona Lisa — 1212 Royal St., 522-6746, pizza, salads, sandwiches, Turkish; Visa, MC, AX (L,D)

Poppy's Grill — 717 St. Peter, 524-3287, burgers, sandwiches; Visa, MC, AX (B,L,D)

Red Bike Cafe — 746 Tchoupitoulas, 529-2453

Rotisserie Cafe — 47 French Market Place, Italian wines, pasta & grilled chicken (L,D)

Sebastian's — 538 St. Philip, 524-2041, dinner restaurant with Sunday brunch.

Upperline — 1413 Upperline, 891-9822, casual atmosphere; Major cards (D)

Vera Cruz — 1141 Decatur, 561-8081

Vaqueros — 4938 Prytania (at Robert), 891-6441, southwestern cuisine, Major cards

## Retailers

Alternatives — 907 Bourbon, 524-5222

Anton Jewelers — 3121 22nd St., Metairie, 833-4367

Diversions — 337 Burgundy, 522-8721

French Quarter Camera — 809 Decatur, 529-2974

Futonia — 3811 Magazine, 899-4356

Gargoyles — 1205 Decatur, 529-4387

Gay Mart — 808 N. Rampart, 523-6005

Kruz — 432 Barracks, 524-7370

Limbo — 1125 Decatur, 523-3435

Panda Bear — 415 Bourbon, 529-3593

Postmark New Orleans — 631 Toulouse, 529-2052

Rings of Desire — 1128 Decatur, 524-6147

Video Alternatives — 4725 Magazine, 891-5347

## Social Organizations

Bayou Women's Tennis Club — PO Box 19797 NOLA, 70179-0797, contact Sharon, 482-4807

Frontrunners Running Club — 528-3023, Barry

Gay Bowling League — Mon. at Mid-City Lanes, 482-3133

"Husbands for Husbands" — at the L & G Community Center; 3rd & 4th Wed. at 7 p.m., 522-1103

Knights d'Orleans — Box 50812, NOLA 70150

Lords of Leather — Box 72105, NOLA 70172

Men of All Colors Together — PO Box 52801, NOLA 70152-2801

Men of Color — PO Box 57694, NOLA 70157-7694, 482-5341

National Leather Association: New Orleans — PO Box 50133, NOLA 70150

New Orleans Bear & Bear Trapper Social Club — Box 13584, NOLA 70185, 897-1594

New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus — 245-8884

New Orleans Women's Music Collective — 2903 Jefferson Ave., NOLA 70115, 838-7918 or 833-2834

Original Kocktail Bunch Bowling League — 861-0233

Positive Attitudes — a social club for HIV+ people. P.O. Box 2543, Lafayette, La 70502, (318) 365-8090

Positively Social — a social club for those HIV+ or HIV- friendly, 947-6306

Prime Timers of New Orleans — PO Box 71611, NOLA 70172-1611, Contact: John Alexander 525-3299; meets 1st Sun each month at Queen's Head Pub 1 p.m.

Team New Orleans — 940 Royal Street, Box 288, NOLA 70116

Twentysomething, alternative group — at the Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 816 N. Rampart, 522-1103

UNO Gay/Lesbian Alliance — UNO Student Affairs Office, NOLA, 70148, 286-6349

Womyn of Color — 488-5708/891-0673

## Support

Coming Out Support Group — first and third Wednesday, 7 pm at Unitarian church, Info at 943-5976 or 524-6036

Gay Counseling Line (24 hrs) — 885-4476

Gulf Gender Alliance Cross-dressers, TS, TG Support Group — 833-3046

Relationship Therapy Center — support for gay and straight spouses & kids, 488-9924, 4th Tue. each month

## Travel

800 Ideas — 1-800-FLY-GAYS

Alternative Tours & Travel — 1001 Marigny, 943-5805 or 949-5815

Dart Travel — 522-6669

French Quarter Reservations — 1-800-523-9091, 523-1246

Great American Travel — Vito Zuppardo, 833-0600

Travel New Orleans — 400 Magazine, Ste 201, Discounted air and hotel rooms, 1-800-535-8747

TravelScope — Dexter, 488-3742

Uniglobe Travel — 522-0003

## Veterinary Services

Begue Veterinary Hospital — 1421 N. Rampart, 944-6855

Dr. Mike — 1120 N. Rampart, 523-4455

Louisiana S.P.C.A.— 1319 Japonica, 944-7445

## Viatical Services

Positive Living Resources, 1-800-398-5177

## Web Sites & Services

**Show Me Something Web Services — 944-6722 or 945-9955**

**eclipse** —www.impactnews.com/eclipse

*IMPACT* —www.impactnews.com

*for lesbian and gay New Orleans* — www.showmesomething.com

Web-Net — $20/month access! 469-7777

If you would like your group, organization or gay-owned/gay-friendly business listed in the *Impact* Directory call 944-6722 or e-mail us at **mail@impactnews.com**. Unless otherwise indicated, all telephone numbers have a (504) area code. Businesses who are not regular *IMPACT* advertisers may have their enterprise listed here for $40 per year.

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1997 Ford Mustang — 3.8L OHV Engine, auto, defroster, AM/FM cass, A.C, Dual air bags, & more. F17014 — $226 MO / $13,997

1997 Ford Taurus GL — V6, Auto, AC, Powergroup, AM/Fm, Cassit, Cast Wheels, Dual Airbags & More. F17290 — $245 MO / $14995

'97 Ranger XLT — Air, Chrome Package, Cass, O/D Trans, 2.3L Engine,Rear Step Bumper, Airbags & More! F16866 — $97 PER MO. LEASE OR $9797

'97 F-150 XL — V-6, O/D Trans, Air, Chrome Package, Step Bumper, AM/FM, Dual Airbags, Anti-Lock Brakes. F17477 — $135 PER MO. LEASE OR $13,597

1997 Aerostar XLT — 3.0 V6 Auto Trans, AC, Am/Fm, Cassit, Dual Air Bags, ABS, Dual Capt Chairs, 7 Pass. F17273 — $249 MO / $14997

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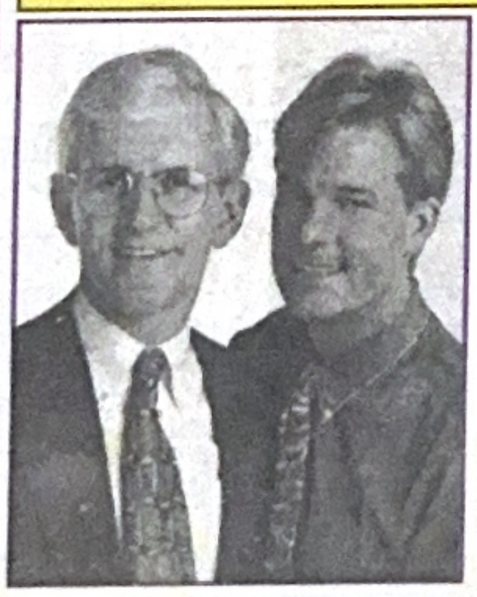
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SATURDAY SERVICE AT BOTH STORES 8AM-5PM


# HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN

*The nation's largest gay & lesbian political organization invites you to Louisiana's Black Tie V:*

## *Dine, Dance & Dream at "THE RAINBOW ROOM"*



**KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:**

*Steve Gunderson & Rob Morris*

*The Republican Former Congressman from Wisconsin and his partner will share their experiences as an openly gay couple on Capital Hill, told with humor and inspiration as showcased in their coauthored autobiography House and Home.*



**MISTRESS OF CEREMONIES:**

*Nationally acclaimed lesbian comedienne*

*Georgia Ragsdale*

**Oz Honoree Reception: Fri, May 16 • Black Tie V: Sat. May 17th**

*Weekend tickets $150 • Black Tie V only $125 For tickets call 897-2965*

*Black Tie V admission includes dinner, dancing, and entertainment*

WOOD ENTERPRISES — First Commerce Corporation — OZ — IMPACT

Tickets Now on Sale!