AND LESBIAN NEWS FOR NEW ORLEANS AND THE GULF SOUTH

# PACT



SINCE V1977

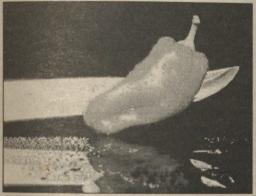
VOLUME 22 ▼ NUMBER 16 ▼ August 1 - 14, 1997

# Inside: Summer Restaurant Guide

It may be true that Louisiana is often found at the bottom of the list when it comes to subjects like education, income ratios and those other things that somebody out there seems to care about. (Some people need to get a life, if they have to fret over such trivial matters like that.)

The people of New Orleans and those who love the Big Easy have their priorities straight. We're talkin' food. Yes, and New Orleans can be found on the TOP of the food lists. Always!

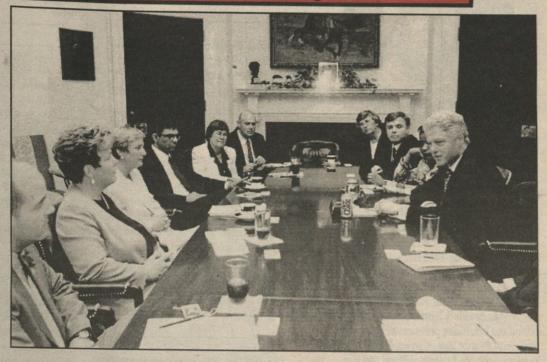
The task of creating a restaurant guide that includes every restaurant in the city is a formidable one, and too far-reaching for even the broad vision of *IMPACT*. However, we've done our darndest to put together a list



of restaurants
in the city.
Many are wellknown
establishments.
In fact, many
are New
Orleans
institutions.
Some are the

products of entrepreneurial newcomers. All of these restaurants are gay-friendly, and some are gay-owned. You'll find local restaurants broken down alphabetically by areas of the city: CBD, French Quarter, Marigny, Mid-City, and Uptown.

Keep this issue handy, perhaps tucked away next to your telephone book. Everyone knows that feeling when a guest comes to town and asks, "Where are we going to dinner?" Even the most seasoned veteran of New Orleans cuisine can draw a blank. This little guide, we hope, will help you overcome those fits of culinary amnesia.



#### **President Meets With Gay Activists**

President Clinton met on July 22 with a dozen gay and lesbian activists, pledging support for two employment concerns: anti-gay bias in the workplace and high-ranking appointments in his administration.

The president spent more than an hour discussing a range of issues from adoptions to homeless gay youth and problems confronting gays and lesbians in rural areas, such as access to AIDS medicine.

In a brief telephone interview with *IMPACT*, Human Rights Campaign Communications Director David Smith said, "The President called it a constituency meeting."

Clinton pledged his support for the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), and he assured the group that he has put forth five nominations of openly gay people for administration jobs that require Senate confirmation.

"Each one of them will take work," said Elizabeth Birch, executive director of HRC. "We have a tough challenge ahead."

Maria Echaveste, White House director of public liaison, said the president wants gay appointees so that his administration can provide an example of how to reduce anti-gay attitudes in the workplace.

workplace.
"The more people work with them, the less prejudiced they are," Echaveste said. "That's why appointments are so pivotal."

There also was discussion of Clinton's upcoming White House conference on hate crimes later this year. The activists said they want the conference to address "widespread" violence against gays and would like to include gay youths who often are prone to violence on the streets because of family rejection and homelessness.

"There is agreement that violence against any group is something that must be combated," Echaveste said.

The group expressed concern about the implementation of the Clinton administration's "don't ask, don't tell, don't pursue" policy on gays in the military. A study by the Service Members Legal Defense Network showed that gays are being discharged from all branches of the armed forces in greater numbers since the policy was instituted in 1993.

"We made it clear there are a number of instances in which the administration has come down on the wrong side of issues that are important to us, not the least of which is the gays-in-the-military issue," said Lorri Jean, executive director of the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center.

The policy bars commanders from asking service members to reveal their sexual orientations, and allows gay troops to serve as long as they refrain from homosexual acts and don't reveal their orientation.

(from an AP story)

# The Chase Is Over: Andrew Cunanan Found Dead

After months of diligent searching, law enforcement officials found the body of Andrew Cunanan, who had apparently died from a self-inflicted gun shot wound to the head.

His body was discovered less than three miles from the home of Gianni Versace, who was gunned down in front of his mansion early one morning in July. Cunanan was the suspected perpetrator in that crime as well as several other murders that he allegedly committed in some kind of rampant killing spree.

Criticism from some members of the g/l/b/t community has been aimed at the FBI, accusations which hold that not only was the bureau slow to act, but FBI agents were downright homophobic during the investigation.

One New Orleans man, who in an IMPACT interview said that he was with Cunanan on Bourbon Street on the night of June 13, said that the FBI was rude to him during his contacts with them. Others spurned the FBI's notion that Cunanan was disguised in drag, saying that such a comment presumes that

gay men have a tendency to wear women's clothes. Still others, however, believe that the FBI was doing its best to find Cunanan.

As reports surrounding the last days of his life continue to filter in, there is hope that they will reveal what really happened to Cunanan to make him act the way that he did. Until then, many people in the gay community are forced to live with the questions.

(more Regional and National News on page 4)

# OUT IN THE COMMUNITY



Bonnie Bedelia in Any Mother's Son, premiering Monday, August 11 on Lifetime.

#### August I

• Singer Diane Lala and pianist Lantz Harvey return to the True Brew Coffeehouse with their new show, *Times Like These.*, a two act cabaret, which can be seen tonight and August 8 and 15 at 10:30 p.m. at the True Brew Theatre. The True Brew is located at the corner of Julia and Fulton Streets in the Warehouse/Arts District. Tickets are \$7 at the door. No reservations are required.

• Mandeville's North Star Theatre will extend the Louisiana premiere of A Closer Walk with Pasty Cline, starring Mary Vigueira with the Instagator Band and Big Easy Award-Winning actor Michael Bennett through Labor Day weekend. Performances: Thursday thru Saturday at the North Star Theatre, 347 Gerard St., promptly at 8 p.m. Seating is limited and reservations are required. For reservations and more information, call 504-626-1500.

• The Tulane Summer Lyric Theatre concludes its 30th Anniversary Season with Meredith Wilson's *The Music Man* through August 3. Tickets are \$25 and \$18 and can be purchased by mail, phone, fax or in person at Dixon Hall. Showtimes are Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m. For more information, call (504) 865-5269.

• Due to demand, the competition continues! The CAC/All Kinds of Theatre's smash-hit production of the Off-Broadway musical parody *PAGEANT* is being held over through August 16 at the CAC (528-3800).

• Daryl's Peril's ... continues through August 24 at True Brew Theatre. Performances are Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. Telephone the box office at 522-2907 for advanced tickets.

• The exhibit, So Much More than Just a Map: Perspective on Louisiana and the New World, continues through August 27 at the New Orleans Public Library. Call Linda Marshall Hill of the New Orleans Public Library at (504) 596-2565 for more information.

• As you all know, Southern Decadence is upon us. Wood Enterprises is kicking off the season in Grand style on Friday, August 1, 1997. At 8 p.m. reigning Grand Marshall Wayne White will hold the Coronation Party

at Café Lafitte. The entire community is awaiting the answer to one of the best kept secrets in New Orleans: who will be the next Grand Marshall. Mistresses of Ceremonies, Ms. Fly and Smurf will oversee this event. Get here early, as the bar will be packed with curious on-lookers.

#### August 2

Tonight, **True Brew Coffeehouse** will host a **Wine Tasting** from 5 - 7 p.m. Food is included in the \$5 admission charge. Availability is limited; please call 524-8441.

#### August 3

Philip Melancon continues his summer cabaret series, "Cabaret Columns" tonight at 6 & 8 p.m. at the Columns Hotel, located at 3811 St. Charles Ave. Tonight's cabaret features the music of Harold Arlen with Philip Melancon, Leah Chase and John Boutte. Tickets are \$10 per show.

Reservations are advised and can be made by calling 899-9308. Cocktails are available from the Columns Hotel Bar.

#### August 7

The 1997 NORD Theatre's Summer Youth Workshop production of *Li'l Abner* opens tonight at 8 p.m. at Gallier Hall, 705 Lafayette St. Tickets are \$8. Phone 565-7860 for reservations.

#### August 8

Come out tonight to one of your favorite locations to celebrate LEGAL Victory Nite and help support your statewide non-profit organization as it works to end discrimination through education and involvement. (See their ad on the back cover of this issue for details).

#### August 9

You and your guests are invited to attend a Summer Soirée in the Garden tonight from 8 - 11 p.m. at Chez Kitty's, 1211 W. Pinhook Road in Lafayette. Free Hors d'oeuvres/cash bar. Monies raised from the event will benefit the AIDS Legislative Network.

• Plan to attend today and/or tomorrow the 1997 Summer Show and Sale of depression era glass, pottery, and china of the 20s, 30s, 40s, 50s. The show and sale will be held at the St. Bernard Cultural Center, 8245 Judge Perez Drive. Admission is \$3. (Good both days.)

#### August 10

Today, the youth who attend Vieux Carre MCC will share with the morning worship celebration what they have gleaned from their experiences during the previous week. "Rainbow Kids Kamp" will take place at the church August 4-8. There will be a \$10 registration fee. The theme of the camp will focus on "The Promises of God." For more information call 945-5390.

• The "Cabaret Columns" presents the music of Jerome Kern. See August 3 for details.

#### August 11

Any Mother's Son, the Lifetime's
Original Movie, premieres tonight at 9 p.m.
The film is based on the true story of Dorothy
Hajdys whose son, a sailor stationed off of
Sasebo, Japan, was brutally killed by two of
his shipmates because he was gay. The movie,
starring Bonnie Bedelia, depicts Hajdys'
efforts to bring the story out in the open and
serve justice to the young men who so
senselessly ended her son's life. In doing so,
she come to grips with her own homophobia
in learning to respect who her son was.

#### August 14

NO/AIDS Task Force teams up with New Orleans' restaurant industry to bring you a tasteful way to fight against AIDS. Plan to dine out tonight at over 50 areas restaurants, which will donate 25 percent of the evening's food and beverage bills to NO/AIDS. For additional information on Dining Out for Life, call Mark J. McKeown, Development Coordinator at 945-4000.

#### HAPPENINGS FOR EVERYONE

The Lesbian and Gay Community Center, "your Community Center," is now showing FREE movies every Friday night at 7 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to attend and bring a friend or two. There will be popcorn and refreshments available for all.

August 1 Fried Green Tomatoes
August 8 2 Mothers for Zackery
August 15 Polyester
August 22 Jeffrey

Appearing on "A Krewe Production": (Channel 57 or 77; Mon., 10 p.m. & Sat. 9 p.m.)

Bob Batson - Gay Historian; Judith & Clark - Shelter Resource; Leilano Heno - Personal Trainer; Mary Pappas - Video Jockey; and Positive Space Art Gallery.

# about the cover

Our tribute to some of our famous favorites and favorite famous restaurants. Our annual restaurant guide starts on page 10 is this issue,

# IMPACT

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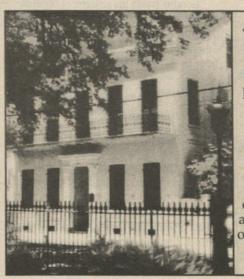
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# Regional News

#### LEGAL Celebrates Victory ...



#### ACTIVISTS WORKED HARD IN '97, LEGAL TO CELEBRATE

Gay men and lesbians were seen as never before in the capital city of Baton Rouge this session. And despite the meddling of the Christian Coalition, the major goals of Louisiana's politically-minded activists were reached.

The first objective was to defeat Senator's Short's plan to amend the constitution (which would have ruled out same-sex marriage forever), and the second was to pass the hate crimes bill.

They succeeded.

"We all have something to celebrate this year," said Brian Hartig, executive director of LEGAL, the Louisiana Electorate of Gays and Lesbians

On August 8, businesses from around the state have agreed to donate a percentage of their profits to LEGAL. People who support LEGAL are being encouraged to patronize these places of business.

#### WEISS LEAVES, NO/AIDS TO GET NEW DIRECTOR

Having served as the executive director of NO/AIDS Task Force since last year's departure of Dr. Michael Kaiser, Doug Weiss will be leaving shortly, having accepted a position at the Lesbian and Gay Community Center in Orange County, California.

Said one member of the Task Force, "We will miss him, but I think he's happy about his new job.'

A nationwide search for a new director is underway, though there is no definite time set for the selection of a replacement. Weiss worked for the Task Force for several years.

#### **GAY EX-OFFICER OUESTIONS DISMISSAL**

Army officials kicked out a gay officer who was days short of qualifying for retirement. Steve Loomis, of Texas, is a decorated veteran who rose to lieutenant colonel before his "other than honorable" discharge.

An Army board of inquiry concluded that he engaged in "conduct unbecoming an officer" - homosexual acts and using "force, coercion or intimidation."

Loomis, 50, said that Army officials are being vindictive because he is gay. His attorney, David Sheldon, contends that evidence was improperly obtained after an arsonist torched his house.

Loomis' troubles began nearly a year

ago after he returned from an errand and found his house ablaze. Michael Burdette, a young enlisted soldier with whom Loomis had been involved sporadically, pleaded guilty to arson in November and was discharged from the Army.

Loomis said that he and the man were involved in a "very brief physical relationship" and that Burdette had posed for some nude photographs.

At the hearing, Army investigators viewed a videotape confiscated by civilian authorities at Loomis' home and turned over to the Army. It depicted three other companions of Loomis. Sheldon said it also showed Loomis "participating in homosexual acts.

Loomis wants his retirement benefits restored and wants to be reinstated. Sheldon estimates Loomis' lost retirement benefits at more than \$1 million over 20 years. (from an AP story)

#### LIVING ROOM IS **UNDERWAY**

"The Living Room" has opened its doors to adults who are infected with HIV. This day center is open Tuesday through Saturday, from 12 noon until 6 p.m. There are events and activities that are on-going. If you are interested in coming or in volunteering, contact Shirley Van Damme at 9459-1635. Items still needed are a small air conditioner, a fax machine, a rocking chair and tea sets.

# LA OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH SEEKS FUNDING PROPOSALS

The Louisiana Office of Public Health's HIV/AIDS Program is soliciting proposals from qualifying community-based organizations to provide primary HIV/AIDS and STD Prevention to persons with high-risk behaviors in communities and/or regions of Louisiana. Primary prevention activities include street and community outreach, counseling and testing, peer programs, and other community interventions.

Proposals may be submitted by programs that are presently funded by OPH HIV/AIDS Program for HIV Prevention services or from new programs/organizations not presently receiving funds from OPH HAP. The contract period will be for twenty-four (24) months, with the start-up date of January 1, 1998 and ending December 31, 1999.

A full summary of the work specifications is contained in the Proposal Guidelines package. The package is available after Tuesday, August 19, 1997. The package is available by writing to the Louisiana Office of Public Health HIV/AIDS PROGRAM (325 Loyola Avenue, Room 315, New Orleans, LA 70122).

Interested persons may also call 568-7524 to request the Proposal Guidelines

A technical assistance workshop will be held on Friday, September 5 from 10:30 a.m. - noon, at the Holiday Inn Convention Centre in Alexandria (701 Fourth Street).

Proposals must be submitted by the close of business (5 p.m.) on Wednesday, October 1, 1997 to the address listed above.

Proposals must be submitted in the format specified in the Proposal Guidelines document in order to receive consideration.

#### DISNEY GAY DAY ORGANIZERS CALL FOR **QUARTER MILLION TURNOUT IN 1998**

The co-chairs of Gay Day at Disney are calling for a quarter of a million lesbians, gay men, gay and lesbian parents, their children, and friends, to come to the 1998 Gay and Lesbian Day at Walt Disney World to support the Walt Disney company for not capitulating to the pressure of the Southern Baptist Boycott.

The annual event will be held in Orlando, Florida, June 4-8, 1998.

Special outreach will be done to gay and lesbian parents and their children, in addition to gay and lesbian children and their parents, so that there will be a display of 'family values'," says Doug Swallow, founder and co-chair of Gay Day at Disney.

Since its beginning in 1991, Gay Day at Disney has grown from 1,500 gay men and lesbians to more than 80,000 in 1997.

"Many corporations are openly supporting the gay and lesbian struggle for full equality and civil rights by granting domestic partnership, job protection, group support," says Robin Tyler, Disney Gay Day co-chair. "The increase from 80,000 to a quarter of a million will show that this community will put financial strength and support behind those corporations that support us."

continued on page 6

#### **OUARTER NOTES**

When you're faced with the task of choosing a restaurant, what factors do you use in making your decision?



Susan Smith — office manager

First, how much money do I have, and second, if money is no object, service and quality are the deciding factors

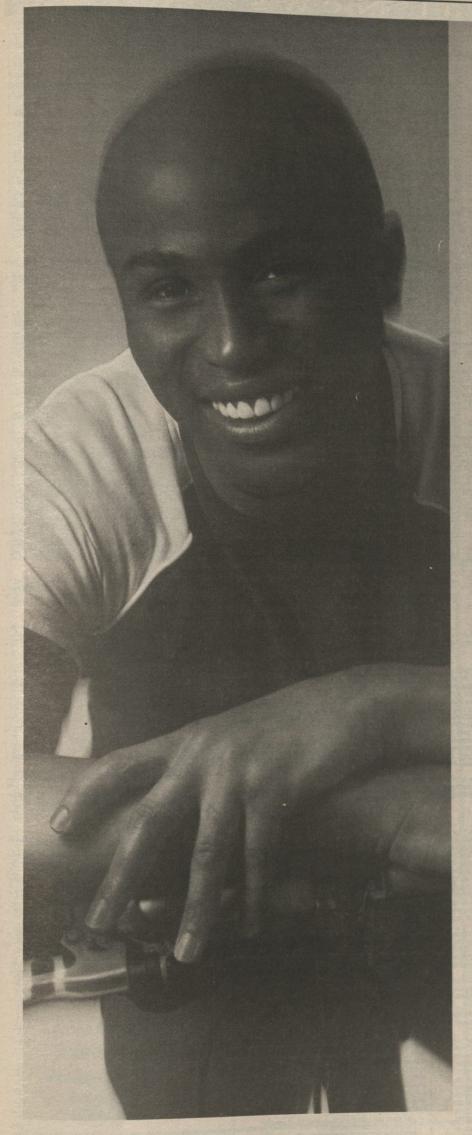


Jim Doyle — bartender, Café Lafitte

Service is the one thing I look for most. There also needs to be a pleasant, comfortable atmosphere.



Cindy — surgical technician Money. Reputation. Location



# PUT SOME FREEDOM INTO YOUR HIV MEDICATION SCHEDULE

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#### News Regional

#### **CALL TO ACTION**

#### MORIAL TAKING HEAT FOR EXEC. ORDER

After Mayor Morial signed Executive Order 97-1122 (Benefits for Domestic Partners), a small Christian rally was held in front of city hall. At the time, this rally was thought to be the extent of the opposition. However, apparently, a lot more has been happening. Rev. Galatas has been collecting signatures on Canal St. in opposition to the Mayor's action. Also, Council Woman Peggy Wilson is expected to call for a public hearing. Some suspect that Woody Jenkins is stirring up the conservative religious extremists to distract attention from his floundering challenge of last year's election. Ask your friends in Wilson's district to call for write her in support of the mayor.

For those of you who live out of town, your letters to the Times-Picayune will be very helpful. The Mayor needs our support and he needs it now.

Please do the following: 1. Write the mayor a letter thanking him for his action. His address is

The Hon. Marc Morial Office of the Mayor 1300 Perdido St., Rm. 2E10 NOLA, La 70112

2. Write your Council Person telling him or her of your support of the Mayor's action.

The Honorable Office of the City Council 1300 Perdido St. NOLA, La 70112

3. Write a letter to the Times-Picayune, Gambit, The Louisiana Weekly, The New Orleans Tribune, IMPACT and New Orleans Citibusiness, expressing your support of the Mayor's action:

The Times-Picayune, 3800 Howard Ave., NOLA, 70140 Gambit, 3923 Bienville St., NOLA, 70119

New Orleans Citibusiness, 11 Veterans Blvd. St., 1810, NOLA, 70005 IMPACT, PO Box 52079, NOLA, 70152 Louisiana Weekly, 100l Howard Ave. Ste. 2600, NOLA, 70113

New Orleans Tribune, 2335 Esplanade Ave., NOLA, 70119

Jim Wiltberger, the mayor's liaison to the gay/lesbian community, is very concerned about this opposition. The Mayor has expressed a need for vocal support.

#### SHELTER RESOURCES — **WISH LIST**

Shelter Resources (Belle Reve, Belle Esprit) has compiled the following "WISH LIST": Twin size sheet sets, comforters, light blankets, Pillows, Towels, Face Cloths, Throw rugs for apartment floors (all sizes), Glasses, Dishes, Flatware, Toasters, Blenders, Electric Mixers (for both houses), An Electric Stove, Televisions To arrange for pick-up and/or delivery, call Judith at 945-9455.

#### LOCAL PUBLISHER WINS NATIONAL BOOK AWARDS

It isn't often that a new publishing company is thrust into the national spotlight so early. But that's exactly what happened to Pontalba Press, a small independent book publisher based in New Orleans. In ceremonies before the national Book Expo America Convention in Chicago, Pontalba Press was honored with not one, but two prestigious national book awards for its Winter Books release, The Drag Queen's Cookbook & Guide to Sensible Living by Honey van Campe.

The book won first place in the Humor category from both the prestigious Benjamin Franklin Awards and the Small Press Book Awards. The Franklin Awards are issued by the Publishers Marketing Association. The Small Press Book Awards are sponsored annually by the international Small Press Publishing Institute.

According to Winter Neil, Managing Editor of Pontalba and editor of the book, the awards are significant for two reasons: "One," she points out, "the awards went to a first-time author (van Campe); and, two, the awards are a tremendous achievement for Pontalba Press because they represent the first time we've submitted entries in these competitions. We're especially thrilled that the judges of such prestigious organizations recognized that a new, independent publisher can produce high quality work."

#### Dining for Life...



Kickoff for NO/AIDS Dining for life fund-raiser: Jonathan Bray, General Manager and Bobby Revere, owner, Bourbon Pub/Parade; Ann Robers, DFL Chair; Mark McKeown, NO/AIDS, and; Ron Canedo, DFL Committee.

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Brief Summary of Prescribing Information, 10/96. For complete prescribing information, please consult official package circular

Table 1 Incidenc	e of Disease Progres	rsion
	First AIDS - Defining Event or Death*	
	ZERIT	zidovudine
6 months	4.4%	5.7%
12 months	10.4%	- 14.1%
18 months	18.5%	23.3%
24 months	26.6%	31.8%

Laboratory Tests

Mikt to moderate increases in AST (SGOT) and ALT (SGPT) occurred commonly in clinical trials; these did not interfere with continued therapy.

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility
Long-term carcinogenicity studies of stavudine in animals have not been completed. Stavudine was not mutagenic in the Arnes, E. coli reverse mutation, or the CHO/HGPRT mammalian cell forward gene mutation assays, with and without metabolic activation. Stavudine produced positive results in the in vitro human lymphocyte clastogenesis and mouse fibroblast assays, and in the in vitro word concentrations of 25 to 250 pg/mL, without metabolic activation) and increased the frequency of chromosome aberrations in human lymphocytes (concentrations of 25 to 250 pg/mL, without metabolic activation) and increased the frequency of transformed foci in mouse fibroblast cells (concentrations of 25 to 2500 pg/mL, without metabolic activation).

\*The parallel track program (STUDY A1455-900) treated 12.551 HIV-infected patients with CD4 counts <a href="#age-a016">age-a016</a> with and without metabolic activation.

VERSE REACTIONS

mayor climical toxicity of ZERIT (stavudine) is peripheral neuropathy

"WARNINGS" section).

Adults: Peripheral neuropathy is dose related (see Table 2),
dest elevation of hepatic transaminases was also observed com-

Table 2 Periphera	l Neuropati	hy Leading to D	ose Modifica	tion
		%		
	ZERIT (40 mg BID) (n=412)	200 mg TID) (n=402)	ZERIT	ZERIT (20 mg BID) (n=5879)
Grade 1-2 Grade 3-4 Total	1 2 13	3 1 4	20 4	17 2
Selected adve	erse events	that occurred in	adult patients	eceiving 7FR

ve trial (Study Al455-019) are

Advance Court	%		
Adverse Events	Study Al455-019		
	ZERII	zidovudine	
	(40 mg BID)	(200 ma TIP)	
	(n=412)	(200 mg TID)	
Headache	54	(n=402)	
Chills/Fever	50	49	
Diarrhea	50	51	
Rash	40	43	
Vausea and Vomiting	40	35	
Abdominal Pain		44	
Myalgia	34	27	
nsomnia	32	35	
Anorexia	29		
	19	31	
Allergic Reaction	9	22	
* This event was re	San	8	

aboratory abnormalities reported in the Phase 3 controlled com-parative trial (Study AI455-019) are shown in Table 4

	% Study Al455-019		
Lab Tests (units)	ZERIT (40 mg BID) (n=412)	zidovudine (200 mg TID (n=402)	
AST (SGOT) (S5.0 x ULN°)	11	10	
ALT (SGPT) (S5.0 x ULN)	13	11	
Bilirubin (>5.0 x ULN)	2	2	
Anemia (<8.0 g/dL)		3	
Neutropenia (neutrophils <750/mm	5	9	
Thrombocytopenia (platelets <50,000/mm²	) 3	3	
Amylase (>1.4 x ULN)	14	13	

Median duration of stavudine therapy = 79 weeks; mediation duration of zidovudine therapy = 53 weeks.

ULN = upper limit of normal.

Pediatric Patients: Adverse reactions and serious laboratory ab normalities in pediatric patients were similar in type and frequen cy to those seen in adult patients.

Table 5					
Product Strength	Capsule Shell Color	Markings or (in Blace		Capsules per Bottle	NDC No.
	Light yellow & dark red	BMS 1964	15	60	0003-1964-01
20 mg	Light brown	BMS 1965	20	60	0003-1965-0
30 mg	Light orange & dark orange	BMS 1966	30	60	0003-1966-0
40 mg	Dark orange	BMS 1967	40	60	0003-1967-0

ZERIT for Oral Solution is a dye-free, fruit flavored powder that provides 1 mg of stavudine per mL of solution upon constitution with water. Directions for solution preparation are included on the product label. ZERIT for Oral Solution is available in child-resistant containers that provide 200 mL of solution after constitution with water (NDC No. 0003-1968-01).

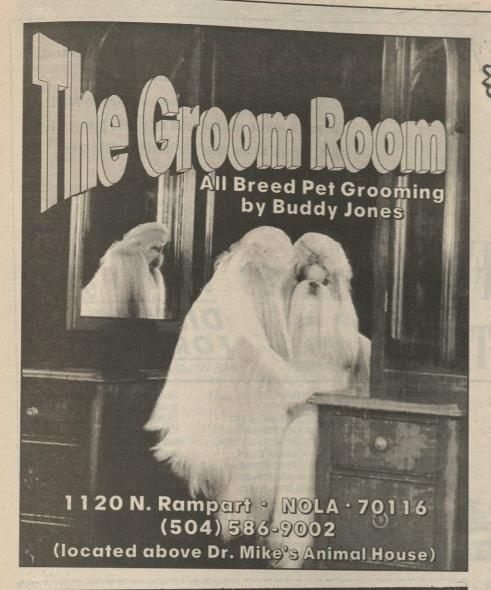
US Patent No.: 4,978,655

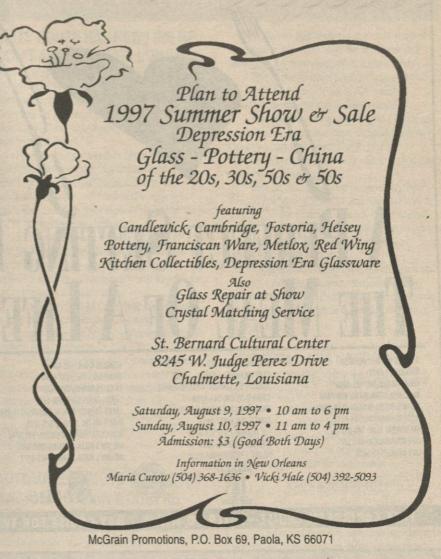
Storage: ZERIT Capsules should be stored in tightly closed containers at controlled room temperature, 59° to 86°F (15° to 30°C).

ZERIT for Oral Solution should be protected from excessive moisture and stored in tightly closed containers at controlled room temperature, 59° to 86°F (15° to 30°C). After constitution, store tightly closed containers of ZERIT for Oral Solution in a refrigerator, 36° to 46°F (2° to 8°C). Discard any unused portion after 30 days.



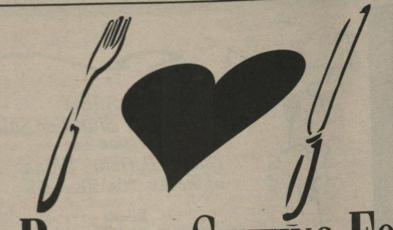
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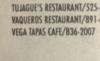
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complete restaurant

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### National News

#### HRC'S BIRCH: 'OUR PRAYERS GO OUT TO THE FAMILIES'

Elizabeth Birch, Executive director of HRC, issued the following statement in response to the apparent suicide of murder suspect Andrew Phillip Cunanan:

"First and foremost, our prayers go out to the families and friends of each and every person whose life has been taken in these horrible crimes.

"While more information must be learned about what has happened and [about] the suspect, Andrew Phillip Cunanan, we are very thankful that this terrible episode in the national nightmare of violence in America is over.

"Our gratitude is extended to law enforcement agencies at the local, state and national level that worked with gay communities throughout this country to end this murder spree.

"With specific regard to the FBI, we understand the mistrust between some members of our community and the FBI. However, we firmly believe these crimes were a top priority for the FBI and appreciate their efforts. We stand ready to continue our work with gay anti-violence organizations and other groups in helping the FBI to even more effectively interact with our community in the future.

"For even as this horrific episode of violence that touched the gay community is apparently over, we must remember that the problem of violence in America does not end with the suicide of Andrew Cunanan. And let us not forget that while overall violent crime is on the decline in our country, the FBI and gay anti-violence groups around the nation have documented that reported hate crimes based on sexual orientation continue to be on the rise.

"So the terror of Cunanan is gone, but the problem of violence in America remains.

"One important lesson from this tragedy is just how much work remains to be done in educating the media about the lives of gay and lesbian Americans. While most reports were fair and balanced, other sank lower — sometimes to the point of sensationalism and stereotyping.

"So while all of our work must continue, I believe we stand with the entire nation in being thankful that this particular ordeal is over."

# THREE COUPLES SEEK TO OVERTURN GAY MARRIAGE BAN

COLCHESTER, Vt. (AP) For 25 years, Lois Farnham and Holly Puterbaugh have built a life together, committed in every way except one: legally.

Recently, they and two other couples sought to fix that. They sued the state and their hometown of Milton, asking a judge to declare legal marriages between couples of the same gender.

Two years ago, they attended a conference devoted to the notion of a civil marriage between couples of the same gender.

But the Milton town clerk, relying on a 22-year-old opinion from the attorney general's office, refused to issue them a marriage license when they applied on April 25. Baker and Harrigan applied in Shelburne on June 13 and others applied six days after that. All were denied, and lawyers decided they had a case.

Denying gays and lesbians marriage licenses violates not only state marriage

statutes but also Chapter 1, Articles 1 and 7, of the Vermont Constitution, the couples claim in their lawsuit. The first article states people are born equally free and independent; the seventh says the government exists for the common benefit, and not for any particular set of people.

The lawsuit asks only for the legalization of civil marriages and does not ask churches opposed to same-sex unions to recognize them or perform ceremonies. It would, however, offer them a wide range of civil benefits, such as family leave; bereavement leave; retirement and benefits; health insurance, and; inheritance.

#### CHICAGO EPISCOPALIANS ELECT GRISWOLD AS NEW BISHOP

PHILADELPHIA (AP) The newest leader of America's Episcopalians urged the church's 2.5 million members to heal their divisions over homosexuality.

"The truth is larger than any one perspective," Bishop Frank T. Griswold III of Chicago said minutes after his election as presiding bishop of the Church.

In January, he will take the helm of a 2.5 million-member church that has been shaken by declining membership in the last three decades. It is deeply split over whether to formally allow the ordination and marriage of gays — practices individual churches have long unofficially sanctioned.

Griswold said his strategy will be to follow the example Jesus Christ set when he selected his closest disciples. Seeking political diversity, he chose Matthew, who collaborated with the Roman government, and Simon, who vehemently opposed it.

Griswold will replace Bishop Edmond Browning, who concludes his 12-year term at the end of the year.

# SCHOOL DISTRICT SUED FOR NOT PROTECTING BOY FROM INSULTS

PACIFICA, Calif. (AP) A 12-year-old Pacifica boy says his classmates have been calling him "faggot" since kindergarten.

But last year, the taunting got worse, and he developed migraines, lost 30 pounds and considered suicide. After getting little help from school officials, he and his mother have decided to sue the district for not protecting him from sexual harassment.

The seventh-grader, who said he is not gay but knows he is more feminine than other boys, had asked the district this past spring to put a stop to the unending epithets.

Since then, the district has amended its sexual harassment policy to say no student should be subject to any kind of sexual harassment, "including harassment because of sexual orientation."

But months of working with administrators at Ortega Middle School apparently have not stopped the slurs, so the mother decided to sue.

The school offered an in-class training session on sexual harassment, but the boy said his classmates thought it was a joke. The students were given 20 minutes to read a booklet that contained one passing reference to boys who harass other boys.

The boy has since left Ortega for an alternative school in Pacifica, where he has gained back the weight he lost, and his migraines and asthma have vanished.

#### WHITE HOUSE HAS NEW LINE RE: 'DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL' RULING

WASHINGTON (AP) Trying to smooth over a wrinkle in its relations with the gay community, the White House clarified its statement on a federal judge's ruling on the "don't ask, don't tell, don't pursue" policy for gays in the military.

Presidential spokesman Mike McCurry said that, after hearing "legitimate concerns" raised by gay activists, his reaction to the ruling should have included that a review is under way at the Pentagon analyzing how the law is being implemented.

Earlier this month in New York, U.S. District Judge Eugene Nickerson ruled that the policy violates free-speech rights of gay service members and subjects them to separate, discriminatory regulations.

Gay activists told the White House that more gay service members have been discharged since the policy was adopted by the Clinton administration in 1993.

Last year, 850 gays were discharged from all branches of the armed forces except the Coast Guard, according to Pentagon data compiled by the Service Members Legal Defense Network, an independent legal advocacy group. In 1994, there were 597 discharges.

### AUTOMAKERS MOVE TO ACCEPT GAY AND LESBIAN WORKERS

DETROIT (AP) Ellen DeGeneres lost the Chrysler Corporation's approval when she announced she was a lesbian, but the company's gay and lesbian workers are hoping for a better reception.

The company drew protests from gay support groups when it pulled advertising from the episode of ABC-TV's "Ellen" in which DeGeneres came out of the closet. But since then, Chrysler has formally acknowledged "People of Diversity," an employee group formed "to provide support for lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgendered people through business and social activities."

It's part of a trend among the Big Three by employees who are pushing for some recognition of gay and lesbian workers' rights.

Ford Motor recognizes a similar employee group, and even though General Motors does not formally recognize gay employee organizations, GM PLUS (a gay group) is pushing for acceptance.

While they hail the moves, critics say the Big Three are responding too slow to shifts to protect gay and lesbian employees — particularly blue-collar workers — from harassment.

Chrysler has quietly resumed advertising on "Ellen," but the spotlight on gay and lesbian issues won't go away. The company said it's changing with moves designed to foster a workplace of tolerance.

### THE LEADING "MAN DU JOUR" OF FILM TALKS ABOUT BEING GAY

NEW YORK (AP) Rupert Everett gives his entrée a puzzled look, then uses a fork to poke the vegetables obscuring his salmon.

"Excuse me, I'm really sorry," he says to the waitress in his British accent. "Do you happen to have this without the stuff on top of it?" Flustered, the waitress can only stare at the 38-year-old actor with the matinée-idol looks and a 6-foot-plus, gym-sculpted body.

The Scottish-born actor is doing one of the things he enjoys least of all, which is talking about being gay in Hollywood.

With his brooding, gigolo good looks and refined air, Everett has been dubbed the new Grant — part Cary, part Hugh. But is Hollywood ready for its next chick-smooching romantic lead to be gay?

Hot on the successful heels of My Best Friend's Wedding, Everett and Roberts will be reunited in the planned comedy Martha and Arthur, playing movie stars stuck in a marriage of convenience after Everett's character privately reveals he's gay.

Meanwhile, TriStar Pictures snapped up

Meanwhile, TriStar Pictures snapped up Everett's pitch to become moviedom's first openly homosexual British intelligence agent, in the action picture titled, *P.S. I Love You*, a kind of gay 007.

### EPISCOPALIANS NARROWLY REJECT SAME-SEX MARRIAGES

PHILADELPHIA (AP) A proposal to recognize same-sex marriages in the Episcopal Church was rejected but by such a narrow margin that backers remained encouraged. A vote is still pending on ordination of homosexuals by the denomination.

The rejection vote came a day after the head of the church reminded clergy and laymen of his request a dozen years ago that they make everyone welcome.

A group of bishops representing about 10 percent of Episcopalians hinted more than a year ago that approval of same-sex marriages and ordination of sexually active homosexuals would lead them to consider breaking away from the church.

Lay delegations rejected the resolution to bless same-sex unions with a 56-56 tie vote. Clergy delegations voted 56 yes to 5/ no. Passage would have required majority approval by both groups.

The issue of homosexuality has come up before most mainline churches, but the United Church of Christ is the only major Protestant denomination to formally permit the ordination of homosexuals.

### SCHOOL BOARD VOTES TO USE CONTROVERSIAL TEXTBOOK

LAPEER, Mich. (AP) The Lapeer Board of Education has voted to use a health textbook which some parents criticized as sexually explicit, promoting homosexuality and undermining family and religious values.

Amid chants of "Recall, recall," the board voted 5-2 this week to adopt Holt Publishing's "Health" in ninth grade classes this fall.

Opponents presented a petition to the board, urging it to reject the textbook and threatening recall against any board member who approved it

Superintendent Barry Schoenholz said the district has 30,000 residents, and all opinions should be considered and respected, not just those of a vocal group that "cloaked themselves in religious garb" to promote their brand of morals and values.

The books, which will cost about \$15,000, replace a series that dates to 1982 — before such threats as AIDS, teen suicide and eating disorders became as prevalent as they are now A



# Impact's Restaurant Guide

# CBD

Emeril's, 800 Tchoupitoulas, 528-9393.

Emeril Lagasse's premier restaurant serves some elegant entrées and wonderful desserts. Try the barbecue shrimp, New Orleans style. Great service, reservations recommended.

The Grill Room, at the Windsor Court Hotel, 300 Gravier, 522-1992. This establishment preserves a form of civilization unlike any other in the city. Make reservations for eight. Arrive at seven for cocktails, and plan on leaving at about eleven ... or later. It all adds up to a memory of a lifetime.

Hummingbird Grill, 804 St. Charles, 523-9165.
This 24-hour institution in the heart of what used to be Skid Row is a must for nocturnal creatures. Breakfast 24 hours, good, filling plate lunches daily, plus a big Sunday dinner with turkey, soup and assortment of vegetables.

assortment of vegetables.

L'Economie, 325 Girod, 524-7405.

Sumptuous selections of seafood, steak, chicken, plus homemade desserts.

Vegetarian dishes are available, just ask.

Lunch Tuesday through Friday, dinner
Tuesday through Saturday. Fun Staff.

Mike's On The Avenue, 628 St. Charles, 523-1709. Chef Mike Fennelly offers an elegant array of eclectic dishes. Save room for decadent desserts.

Mother's, 401 Poydras, 523-9656. A New Orleans legend — almost always crowded. Incredible sandwiches. Atmosphere is cheerful chaos. Unfortunately, the prices are now geared towards tourists.

Red Bike Čafe, 746 Tchoupitoulas, 529-2453. This restaurant gives the traditional soup, salad, and sandwich menu a zesty and exciting twist. For all you late risers, brunch is served Saturday and Sunday, 11a.m.-3p.m. and includes old favorites such as omelettes, and french toast as well as items from the lunch menu. Great baked goods.

# French

Acme Oyster House, 724 Iberville, 522-5980. Fresh oysters from Acme's own beds. Obviously, best cold and raw with plenty of beer. Good sandwiches. Daytime only. Antoine's, 713 St Louis Street, 581-4422. Elegant, stolidly formal restaurant. Even if you don't like oysters, try their famous Oysters Rockefeller. Ask the waiter to

suggest an appetizer. Very expensive.

Bacco, 310 Chartres, 522-2426. Sleek
white walls and an elegant atmos-phere.
Good pasta and a great choice of
appetizers, soups and salads.

Bayona, 430 Dauphine, 525-4455. A renowned chef (Susan Spicer) combined

with a warm atmosphere adds up to a fine restaurant. Excellent wine list. Be sure to make reservations. Often packed with theatre goers

Bella Luna, 914 N. Peters, 529-1583.

Overlooking the Mississippi, this is a fine restaurant with an elegant atmosphere.

Make your reservations in advance or you'll be having a very late supper.

you'll be having a very late supper. **Buffa's**, 1001 Esplanade, 945-9373. A good, spacious neighborhood pub atmosphere for sandwiches, soups, and plate lunches. A nice quiet place to hang out if you want a drink or a snack.

Café Sbisa, 1011 Decatur, 522-5565.
Interesting menu featuring seafood, steaks, and other Cajun and creole favorites, a great Sunday brunch. Nice atmosphere with interesting artwork.

Clover Grill, 900 Bourbon, 523-0904.
Burgers, fries, highly entertaining help, and the most interesting window view on Bourbon Street. They say they have the best burgers in the world and they do—we think it has something to do with the hubcaps. Open 24 hours.

hubcaps. Open 24 hours.

Coop's Place, 1109 Decatur, 525-9053.

Ambitious menu of local specialties including pasta and cajun dishes, seafood, and omelettes. Sometimes rowdy and dark at night — a perfect transition between slight inebriation and sobriety. Very reasonable. Open 24 hours.

Country Flame, 620 Iberville, 522-1138. The most Mexican and/or Cuban food for your money. Kitsch beer ads featuring Spanish girls in bikinis adorn the walls as well as the usual beer-joint decor, making it easy to feel at ease wearing a T-shirt and cut-offs. Simple but alluring menu. You'll walk out with a happy stomach.

Le Croissant d'Or, 617 Ursulines, 524-4663.

Scrumptious pastries. We recommend—
for those not counting their calories—
the brioche, the sausage croissant (with a dab of Creole mustard inside), and the Chinese hats. Plus soups and salads and light fare. Crowded during those peak morning hours but perfect for a late, relaxing breakfast. Closes early.

Fashion Cafe, 619 Decatur, 522-3181. The restaurant started by three Supermodels. Creative Creole and pasta dishes available, and the walls are adorned with memorabilia from the fashion industry.

Fiorella's, 45 French Market Place, 528-9566.

Fiorella's, 45 French Market Place, 528-9566
The last of its kind in the Quarter: the cozy sandwich/breakfast/plate lunch restaurant— the kind of place that you visit when you want to feel like you're really in old New Orleans. Big, filling breakfasts, also good veal cutlets (served with real mashed potatoes — note extensive lumps), Large po-boys. Very cheap, friendly service. Closes early.

Galatoire's, 209 Bourbon Street, 525-2021.

A grand old dowager-class restaurant. The Secret is to order meat as an entrée and the seafood as an appetize. The lamb chops or the filet or strip (both with Bearnaise sauce) are wonderful. Also: Shrimp Clemenceau, Oysters en Brochette, and the Godchaux Salad (not on the menu, but it

exists). Jacket required; be prepared to wait in line — no reservations.

G&E Courtyard Grill, 1113 Decatur, 528-9376.
Louisiana/Italian cuisine with very fresh ingredients used in inventive ways.
Suggestions: the wild mushrooms with Madeira cream sauce, the lamb, the mussels, the duck breast, and the salads.
The patio is comfortable even in cold or wet weather. Pricey, but worth it.

wet weather. Pricey, but worth it. **Gumbo Shop**, 630 St. Peter, 525-1486. An interesting old place, the name says it all.

The gumbos are good, as are the beans and rice and the big shrimp salads. The drinks are delicious, and it's always crowded.

are delicious, and it's always crowded.

House of Blues, 225 Decatur, 529-2624. In addition to the excellent music, House of Blues offers a varied menu, including some great bar appetizers. Dine in the dining room or out on the patio.

Hula Mae's, 840 N. Rampart, 522-1336.

Do your laundry with a friend and have a bite to eat and play video games at the "tropic wash and beach cafe."

Irene's Cuisine, 539 St. Philip, 529-8811. Intimate but casual, tasty chicken and veal dishes. As you near the restaurant, the aroma is intoxicating. Nice wine selection, lots of repeat business, reasonable prices.

K-Paul's Louisiana Kitchen, 416 Chartres, 596-2522. For some, this is a quintessential experience — prepare to wait in line, and sit at a table of people you've never laid eyes on, but the food is sublime, especially the blackened things (which you can't duplicate at home). Not cheap.

La Madeleine, 547 St. Ann, 568-9950.

Delicious roasted chicken, salads, and pastries in the finest French tradition — served cafeteria-style. Our favorite soup is the tomato-basil. The breads are exceptional.

Louisiana Pizza Kitchen, 95 French
Market Place, 522-9500, other locations
as well. Pizzas with interesting
combinations — anything from basil and
tomatoes to barbecued chicken — and the
now-obligatory Caesar. Sandwiches, too.
Great value and ambience.

Lucky Cheng's, 720 St. Louis, 529-2045.

Acculturation is the name of the menu at this French Quarter favorite. We've heard nothing but raves about their unique Asian Creole cuisine. Definitely the place to go for — and be served by — something deliciously different.

Mama Rosa's, 616 North Rampart, 523-5546.
Pizzas, salads, pasta, very nice help.
Good value, lots of food. Their pizza won a People magazine award, and it's no wonder — it comes drenched in cheese!

Maspero's, 601 Decatur, 523-6250. The huge sandwiches (oyster, roast beef, pastrami, shrimp, burgers, etc.) are served on round





buns, and may take you three or four hands rather than two to eat. Exceptionally cheap; always long lines of tourists.

Maximo's, 1117 Decatur, 586-8883.

Maximo's, 1117 Decatur, 586-8883.

Delicious grilled fish, vast portions of pasta in every conceivable way, saltimbocca and various veal dishes, all sorts of Italian food and wines. A little on the pricey side.

Mr. B's, 201 Royal, 523-2078. Delightful, not terribly expensive (especially for lunch) semi-grand restaurant: The specialties include the grilled meats and fish, baked Brie, Gumbo Ya Ya, rabbit, and all sorts of novel variations on local classics. Good martinis.

Mona Lisa, 1212 Royal, 522-6746. Often crowded at night, this simple yet charming establishment offers good pasta and pizzas (which have exactly the right amount of delicious tomato sauce); moderately priced. You'll have to get your own wine at the Verti-Marte.

NOLA, 534 St. Louis, 522-6652. Cuttingedge chef Emeril Lagasse's 'cheaper' and more casual Quarter place serves sublime food, is not cheap, and if you don't have a reservation (or sometimes even if you do), be prepared to wait in the jampacked and noisy bar atmosphere.

Old Dog, New Trick, 307 Exchange, 522-4569. Vegetarian chic. Great veggie burgers, sauces and salads. Moderate; a tiny place that fills up easily.

Palace Cafe, 605 Canal, 523-1661.

Streetclothes are fine, but so is formal dress at this food delight in the old Werlein's Music Store. Everything from oyster po-boys (called here by their old Creole name of La Mediatrice, the 'Peacemaker') to delicious roasted meats and grilled fish and seafood Napoleons. Interesting mural panorama of local notables. Good desserts. Less pricey than you might imagine.

La Peniche, 1940 Dauphine, 943-1460, closed Wednesdays. Convenient, moderately priced, open 24 hours, and generally fun. A large array of breakfasts, sandwiches, desserts, lunches. Stick to the less ambitious parts of the menu.

Peristyle, 1041 Dumaine, 593-9535.
Hidden on the edge of the French
Quarter, but perfect for a formal date or
for something just a bit fancy. Fairly
pricey, valet parking, make reservations.

Petunia's, 817 St. Louis, 522-6440. A fun and informative (if not informed) staff,



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Breakfast
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Plate Lunches
Take Out



and there are big, reasonably priced portions of local classics as well as gigantic crepes and immense breakfasts. Get anything they've got *en brochette*. **Poppy's Grill**, 717 St. Peter, 524-3287.

Poppy's Grill, 717 St. Peter, 324-3267.

Burgers, breakfasts, salads and chicken fried steaks. A fun, gay oasis in the thick of one of the busiest/noisiest parts of the Quarter. Also serves beer and vodka.

Port of Call, 838 Esplanade, 523-0120.

Delicious burgers and baked potatoes, pizzas that have their devotees, steaks and all sorts of drinks. Always crowded, cheap, expect a wait; this is where that smoky-meaty smell around Dauphine and Esplanade originates, and don't worry, the roof won't fall in, it's been fixed.

The Praline Connection, 542 Frenchmen, 943-3934. We recommend a late lunch or dinner, otherwise you may wait or be somewhat rushed by the friendly (sometimes leisurely) serving staff; popular soul restaurant, and some of the food is worth the wait: the meat loaf, white beans, and homemade candies sold on the premises are all exquisite. Good value.

Quarter Master Deli, 1100 Bourbon, 529-1416. For great food anytime, this corner store/deli can't be beat. A gigantic chicken fried steak and double mashed potatoes with heavy white gravy. What a deal!

Quarter Scene, 900 Dumaine, 522-6533, Closed Tuesdays. Convenient, moderately priced, with a menu of soups, salads, sandwiches, plates and breakfasts. Cozy atmosphere.

Rotisserie Cafe, 47 French Market, 524-8930. Primarily chicken spit-roasted with everything from garlic and Marsala to apricot chutney sauce. Delicious roast chicken po-boys, too; the pasta is good but we can't get away from that poultry. Open air cafe spills out onto the French Market.

Royal Street Grocery, 801 Royal, 523-4716. This grocery has a fantastic deli. Reasonable prices, good muffalettas, chicken andouille gumbo and french fries. Great prices. Snoballs and smoothies, too.

Sebastian's, 538 St. Philip, 524-2041.
Intimate and romantic with courtyard or indoor dining; usually not overcrowded, moderate prices. Variety of dishes, a great place for quiet dates. No bar, but drinks can be obtained from the MRB across the street.
Shalimar, 535 Wilkinson Row, 523-0099.

A twist on traditional Indian cuisine, lunch and dinner, reasonably priced. Out of the way, but worth it.

Siam Cafe, 435 Esplanade, 949-1750. Try the green curry of shrimp served in a hollowed-out half eggplant and the chicken dish whimsically entitled "Evil Jungle Prince." Don't be deterred by the claims of fiery hotness on the menu;

we've tasted nothing three-alarm yet. Good Thai beer.

Vera Cruz, 1141 Decatur, 561-8081, also on Maple Street. On Thursday nights (2-for-1 Margaritas), it seems like every gay person in town is packed into this place; it generally bustles, and the food — often innovative and intriguing — frequently sizzles. Yummy fajitas, large, crowded bar. This can be as much a place to nurse a few drinks as a place to eat. Moderately priced.

Verti Marte, 1201 Royal, 525-4767. Take out only. For great stuffed potatoes, lemon chicken and lasagna, here's the place to go. Food fit for a Queen. Also recommended are the poboys and desserts. Reliable delivery.

Vino Vino, 1119 Decatur, 529-4553.

Somewhat new to the scene, a perfect place for a light repast du fromage with, of course, an extraordinary selection des vins.

# Marigny

Adolfo's, 611 Frenchmen, 948-3800 Good food with reasonable prices. Chef Adolfo's specialties include a variety of cannelloni, seafood, chicken, veal and some creative uses for eggplant. Prepare to wait due to the small size of the restaurant (you can wait at the bar down-stairs).

Bywater Bar-B-Que, 3162 Dauphine, 944-445. Nestled in the Bywater, it's worth the ride for overflowing plates of BBQ, Burgers and bread pudding.

Café Marigny, 1913 Royal, 945-4472. The perfect place to hang out, with a wide selection of sandwiches, pasta, salads and desserts. Coffees galore, deliciously sweet granitas, too. A comfortable, relaxed atmosphere that's hard to beat. Delivery available.

Country Club Café, 634 Louisa, 945-0742. Ideal poolside snacks and picniclike items, including burgers, chicken breasts, and some sublime potatoe salad. Fresh fruit for dessers. Delivery & takeout.

Feelings Café, 2600 Chartres, 945-2222.

Reservations, in the more formal and pricey class, with ambience to kill for, plus that peanut butter pie to die for.

Great courtyard bar, too. A nice place to start the weekend with cocktails on the patio Friday evening ... the sweet sounds of the piano nearby.

Mandich, 3200 St. Claude, 947-9553. A local crowd, open at weird times and in an area that can be somewhat intimidating. Leave your prejudices about oil and butter behind. Almost everything here — the signature dish of Trout Mandich, the Boston Potatoes, the Mississippi Mud Cake, the sublime Oysters Bordelaise — is not for those squeamish about trivialities like waistlines or cholesterol counts. Service is very friendly in the neighborhood tradition, portions are enormous, prices okay.

PJ's Coffee, 634 Frenchmen, 949-2292, also all around town. Excellent coffees of all kinds, pastries and bagels. Locations throughout the city.

Santa Fe, 801 Frenchmen, 944-6854. Dinner only, Tuesday through Saturday. Primarily Southwestern with a creole twist. Try the nachos del mar. Excellent

Snug Harbor, 626 Frenchmen, 949-0696 Live local entertainment almost every night. Burgers, dinners and great appetizers. Go there for food or just for the music and cocktails. Lively atmosphere.

Café Degas, 3127 Esplanade, 945-5635. Nice bistro atmosphere in an open air setting, perfect in fall or spring. Excellent mussels, breakfast on weekends, lunch

and dinner daily. Reasonably priced. Gabrielle, 3201 Esplanade, 948-6223. If you like small, elegant restaurants with fine French cuisine, give this one a try. You won't be rushed, and the service is excellent. Reservations a must.

Garce's, 4200 D'Hemecourt, 488-4734. Back in the depths of Mid-City is this charming Latin place with very good Mexican and Cuban dishes, but be aware that when you order a 'tortilla' at Garce's you get not a Mexican tortilla but a Spanish one: meaning a huge slice of potatoes and onions baked with eggs. Try the Cuban and midnight sandwiches.

Jack Dempsey's, 738 Poland, 943-9914 This glutton's paradise in the fabled Nint' Ward features servings of gargantuan dimensions — the sheer magnitude will reinforce those notions of New Orleans as an eatin'-drinkin' town. Reasonable.

Jack Sprat's, 3240 S. Carrollton, 486-2200. Vegetarian fare in an intimate restaurant. Good prices.

Lola's, 3312 Esplanade Ave., 488-6946. This small restaurant in Mid City is casual and crowded with only a few tables to accommodate a large weekend crowd. Spicy seafood and rice dishes.

Tavern on the Park, 900 City Park Ave., 486-3333. This is not inexpensive fare, but nonetheless two can dine for less than \$50 easily. Never overcrowded, attentive service, and nice atmosphere in an old New Orleans fashion. Good selection on the menu and balcony overlooking City Park. Whole Foods, 3135 Esplanade, 943-1626.

Great grocery with a neighborhood feel for those who are health conscious. Delicious organically grown produce (that means no nasty chemicals!). Tremendous bakery, deli, and seafood counters all staffed with hip, helpful individuals. Some sidewalk seating.





All Natural Foods, 5517 Magazine, 891-2651. Health-food grocery with deli in back. sidewalk cafe setting for eating in a busy block of Magazine. Eclectic vegetarian dishes-wonderful barley salad, potato salad and hummus.

Bluebird Café, 3625 Prytania, 895-7166. Breakfasts and plates, daytime only. Long lines on weekends, but they move quickly. Lots of locals here. Excellent omelettes and huevos rancheros. Good sandwiches and a large assortment of herbal teas

Café Roma, 1901 Sophie Wright Pl., 827-2300. Casual Uptown dining, open late. Diverse selection of incredible pizzas and overstuffed sandwiches made with a divine homemade bread. Free delivery Uptown. Really good prices for really good food.

Chez Nous Charcuterie, 5701 Magazine, 899-7307. Very cute little place with pleasant service; easy take-out and interesting selection of dishes and

desserts. Catering available.

Franky and Johnny's, 321 Arabella, 8999146. A small but thorough menu with seafood, steak and (our favorite) pork dishes. A handful of tables, never crowded.

Figaro's Pizzerie, 7900 Maple, 866-0100. Some of the best and most creative Italian dishes uptown. Light pizzas, pastas, sandwiches, and incredible salads all adorn

the menus. Delivery. Moderate. Le Crepe Nanou, 1410 Robert, 899-2670. Le Crepe Nanou is one of Uptown's hidden treasures, very popular with locals. Wonderful French food and a cozy, elegant atmosphere. Some of the best mussels in town in a wonderful garlic/wine broth with traditional pommes de terre frites. Very reasonable prices.

Taqueria Corona, 5932 Magazine St., 885-5088, also in the Art's District. Traditional Mexican, including shredded beef tacos and the California burrito; small, crowded.

Tipton County, 5538 Magazine, 899-9626. Comfortable, inexpensive little place that serves delicious Tennessee style barbecue - the chicken and pork are especially good — and you can even get light meals: salads with barbecue in them!
Upperline, 1413 Upperline, 891-9822.

Dinner only Wednesday - Sunday. This is a grand restaurant with homey, comforting touches — filled with art and flowers, and no dress code (though not too casual). Reservations might be a help. The chef and owner are wizards at concocting intriguing dishes, from down home to deliriously outré.

Vaqueros, 4938 Prytania, 891-6441. Sophisticated Southwestern cuisine. The pork quesadillas and con queso are both excellent. Ask the bartenders for one of their special of margaritas. Moderately priced, knowledgeable and attentive young staff, lovely courtyard.  $\Delta$ 

... I'm still not to be had for the price of a cocktail, like a salted peanut.



Perform the above line and receive a free glass of wine at

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# IMPACT CELEBRATES 20 YEARS: 1989

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 1989

BY ROBERTS BATSON

The 1980s ended in New Orleans as they had begun — with a great burst of optimistic energy. At least this was true in the world of gay activism. The decade began with a wide cross section of the lesbian and gay community coming together to create a political organization to work on behalf of all Louisianans. It would be called the Louisiana Gay Political Action Caucus (LAGPAC), and its founding represented an unprecedented coalition in this community.

By the end of the decade, however, that energy had been worn down. Partly this decline was due to political disappointments, most prominently the betrayal by New Orleans City Councilmen who reneged on their promises to vote for a gay rights ordinance. And partly it was due to the deepening AIDS crisis.

April 28, 1989

whining self pity, countless others railed

and shouted and fought back.

Young Harry Connick, Jr. with James Booker at the 1982 Jazz Fest

A BENEFIT TO SET UP A BENEVOLENT FUND
TO ASISST PWA'S IN NORTHWEST FLORIDA
UNDER THE AUSPICES OF
ESCAMBIA AIDS SERVICES & EDUCATION

Things seemed to get worse and worse, with no hope in sight. The dimensions of loss to AIDS in New Orleans can be traced in the *IMPACT* obituaries. In one single issue, the obit section announced the deaths of Al McNairn, Tommy Keenan, and George Lombard. Other deaths that year included Randy Hastings, John T. Thoman, Paul Cook, Jeremy Clulow, Jason Wigley, Dean Bel, Robert O'Neill, Lorrin Wright, and Bobby Lazear. And that's just a sample. Grief was everywhere. For many survivors, facing down fear and loss each new day were acts of courage.

People reacted to the crisis in different ways. Although some gave in to the horror, many found new strength and determination. While some surrendered to LAGPAC, which had long fought the political battles, principally to obtain increased levels of AIDS funding, was now joined by other effective organizations. One of these was NO/AIDS Task Force, which was steadily growing and stabilizing under the guidance of Jeff Campell. Another was Lazarus House, now administered by Brother Al Behm.

And another was a new local chapter of ACT UP, under the direction of Eric Spivey.

Before too long, all three of them, too, would be dead. But not before each had contributed great examples of strength, dedication, and passion.

The ACT UP chapter came about mainly as a result of the National Republican Convention, held the previous year in the Superdome. ACT UP activists from other cities came to New Orleans then to protest, and locals were encouraged to organize here. Appropriately enough, as it was time for acting up, for fighting back, for rage.

Some raged privately, some raged for the cameras. Some raged for their own tragedies; some raged for the whole hurting collective. Some fought political battles. Some battled government red tape and medical intransigence. Some raised money. Some sat at bedsides and held the hands of the dying.

October 20, 1989

SKINHEAD 'TYPES' WRECK THREE BARS, BLUDGEON PATRONS In addition to those already named, some of the other fierce, loving warriors of this time were Doctors Ted Wesniewski and Michael Kaiser, John Ognibene, Kim Mathieson, and, of course, dear Buzzy Fanning.

Buzzy celebrated his 69th birthday in 1989, and IMPACT interviewed him at his party, which,

characteristically, was a fund raising event for his project to provide personal effects for AIDS patients at Charity Hospital. Buzzy had been quietly visiting the Charity AIDS wards since 1985, helping in any way he could to ease the pain of the patients there.

When IMPACT asked him, "What can you tell us after 69 years?" he replied, "Don't be ashamed of what you are. Live your life accordingly. Respect others as you would have others respect you. If you give respect, you'll get respect in return."

Before too long, Buzzy, too, was

gone.

The losses from AIDS could be seen in other ways as well. The 1989 gay carnival schedule in IMPACT listed only five surviving active clubs: Celestial Knights, Amon-Ra, Petronius, Armeinius, and Lords of Leather. Earlier in the decade, there had been 12 gay carnival balls.

All this loss, however, didn't mean the end of gay socializing. As a matter of fact, this year was the 40th anniversary of the oldest continuing gay activity in New Orleans, the Fat Monday Luncheon. Started in 1949 by Bob Demmons and originally called The Queen's Luncheon, it was now presented by Jim Wynne.

Other events in the social and artistic worlds included the announcement that Olivia Cruises and Resorts would offer their first cruise for women. Also, Vito Russo, author of *The Celluloid Closet*, visited the Faubourg Marigny Bookstore, and *IMPACT*'s perennial Theatre critic Ed Real announced that "New Orleans is currently experiencing a renaissance of sorts in the performing arts."

The unsinkable Mr. Real, by the way, is IMPACT's answer to Molly Brown. While owners and editors and writers (and about a

million ad reps) have come and gone, Ed Real has remained the one constant over a great part of *IMPACT*'s history.

GREEANS GAY PRIDE '89

eration of pride... a decade of growth

He continues to dispense his views with unwavering determination, largely to the dismay of Rosary O'Neill. He has rightly skewered her self-serving disasters at Southern Rep, and, in addition, has often been the lone discriminating voice properly taking the Tennessee Williams Festival to task for its poor choices of theatrical offerings. Real continues to entertain while he informs. Witness his sly remark in our previous issue: "Alton Geno's choreography sometimes seemed a bit run of deMille ..." Agnes would not have been amused, but we were.

May 26, 1989

#### BLACK GAY NITERY RATES JASS FUNERAL

Also in *IMPACT* in 1989 Patrick Shannon's remarkable interview with the legendary Miss Fury appeared, an indelible two-part epic. Shannon also reported with good humor the jazz funeral, for the Kitty Kat, a gay bar in the Treme formerly known, sequentially, as Tucky's Dome, Butsy's, and the Riviera. Sugar Ducey was the Grand Marshall for this affair.

November 3, 1989

# MAYOR APPOINTS JUDY MONTZ TO HEAD M.A.C....AGAIN

On the activist scene, former Mayor Morial finally made his first appearance at Gay Pride '89, and current Mayor Sidney Barthelemy activated a Mayor's Advisory Committee that hosted a community forum and announced an effort to document

LIFE ON THE WICKED STAGE

By Ed Real

# IMPACT CELEBRATES 20 YEARS: 1989

discrimination.

Barthelemy was approaching his reelection campaign, and opinion on his first term was divided in the lesbian and gay community.

On the other hand, the political excitement at the end of the year was caused by Larry Bagneris' emergence as a consensus candidate for the City Council District C seat being vacated by the

November 3, 1989

# ALL-STAR FUNDRAISER' FOR BAGNERIS ANNOUNCED

Larry Bagneris, Jr.'s first campaign fundraiser for the City Council District C face will be held November 8 at 8 p.m. on the downtown Sheraton Hotel. This is

unpopular Mike Early.

The year ended with LAGPAC's over overwhelming endorsement of Bagneris. Wrote Shannon in *IMPACT*, "This should be an interesting and historic race. It could open doors for us within the power structure that have been closed heretofore. Our fate is in our own hands,"

The 80s were over. What would the Gay 90s bring?  $\Delta$ 

December 12, 1989

#### GRICULTURE DEPT. EPORT: GAY SHEEP

"These animals are homosexual. liey are responding physically to how ey are," says Anne Perkins, a doctoral udent at the US Department of Agribiture's Sheep Experimental Station in tubois, Idaho. Some 8% of the sheep re gay, according to those at the station; Ms. Perkins, completing a dissipation on "Reproductive Behavior In tams," says: "It's a very interesting model and we can learn a great deal thomosexy "ty" in it. They a

#### The Honor Role

Impact has previously recognized these community leaders:

Regina Matthews
Charlene Schneider
Alan Robinson
Roberts Batson
Betty Caldwell/Norma Kearby

Stewart Butler
Jon Newlin
Jack Sullivan
Louise McFarland
James Kellogg
Loretta Mims
Susan Laporte

### Honored Citizen: Laura H. Peebles

BY ROBERTS BATSON

aura Peebles spent her earliest years near an air force base in California where supersonic aircraft were being developed. As a result, she says she doesn't even notice noise outside her French Quarter apartment. "I can sleep through anything," she chuckles.

Later she moved to Colorado where she began the coming out process, a journey made easier because she had gay friends, she said, "before I knew I was one." When Laura came out, her mother responded, "I wondered when you were going to get around to telling me," a classic example of the familiar Mother Always Knows Syndrome. Her father, a fundamentalist Christian, has had a harder time dealing with the issue.

On several other occasions she has been publicly identified at gay civic events, but none of these have these events hampered her career.

Barely out of her teens, she became active with the Ft. Collins Gay Alliance as well as the Lesbian and Gay Community Center of Colorado in Denver, an organization she has continued to support for almost 20 years.

She says she found New Orleans attractive, initially, because of its "lack of snow." But since arriving in 1979, New Orleans has become the place where she completed her education, created a career, and where she has contributed significantly to the building of the local g/l/b/t community — all with distinction. During this time she also managed to establish an enduring personal relationship.

While working full time as a tax accountant, she attended St. Mary's Dominican and, later, U.N.O. For five years she continued this arduous schedule. When she graduated in 1987, it was *summa cum laude*, first in her class, with a perfect 4.0 average. Within weeks of graduation, she flew through her C.P.A. exams, passing every section the first time out and earning the highest score in the state.

About this time, she joined a firm that would become Deloitte and Touche, one of the Big Six accounting firms in America. In the past decade on the job, she has built an exemplary record and survived a major corporate merger. Her expertise earned her promotion to the position of Senior Tax Manager of the New Orleans operation, and recently she was nominated to be a director of the partnership.

If these weren't accomplishments enough, she also has somehow managed to

find time to be one of the most dedicated activists working in the community. She has done this quietly, without any demand for attention.

Her local activism began shortly after arriving in New Orleans, responding to the original Call to the Community to create a gay political organization (LAGPAC) in 1980. She was one in the dedicated group that met for countless hours to define the scope and direction of the caucus and to hammer out its working by-laws.

For a decade and a half since, she has contributed her talents to a wide range of community and AIDS service organizations, ranging from P-FLAG to AIDSLaw — and all this while juggling tax seasons and night and weekend classes, not to mention maintaining a 16-year relationship with her partner, Ellen.

Some of her favorite memories over the years have come from serving on candidate interview committees for LAGPAC. One such anecdote features City Council Candidate Wayne Babovich's wife holding the receiver to her chest while he was yelling in the background, "Tell them I'm not here!"

Another recollection is interviewing State Senate President Mike O'Keefe in her apartment before he went to jail the first time. "When he found out I was an accountant," she recalls, "he explained, journal entry by journal entry, why he was innocent."

# Laura Peebles' quiet example is an outline for what a role model can be.

While working registration at
Celebration '83, she was filmed by a local
TV station, an incident which, fortunately,
didn't upset her boss. On several other
occasions she has been publicly identified at
gay civic events, but none of these have
these events hampered her career. She has
managed to be successful in the
conservative New Orleans business
community, becoming an excellent example
of what the gay movement is all about.
Recently, Deloitte and Touche added sexual
orientation to their employment nondiscrimination policy, no doubt due to the
contributions of such people as Peebles.

Look at the profile of her life. She has built an exceptionally successful professional career. She has unselfishly contributed her time and talents to the civic needs of her community. She is out to her family; out at work. Laura Peebles' quiet example is an outline for what a role model can be.  $\Delta$ 

QUOTE: "We need to coordinate and integrate with the straight community, not just to advance ourselves, but to contribute to the greater community."



LAURA H. PEEBLES

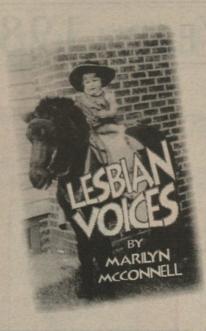
BORN: Lancaster, CA 8/23/56

RESIDENCY: California, 1956-71; Colorado (mostly) 1971-79; New Orleans since 1979

EDUCATION: Public schools in California; Huntington College of Business, Huntington, WV, Associate of Arts; St. Mary's Dominican College; University of New Orleans, Bachelor of Science, Summa Cum Laude, 1987

PROFESSIONAL: Doody and Doody, Certified Public Accountants, Tax Accountant, 1979-87; Deloitte and Touche, LLP, Certified Public Accountants, Senior Tax Manager, 1988-present; Professional Designations: Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Personal Financial Specialist (PFS)

COMMUNITY ACTIVISM:
Member, Lesbian and Gay
Community Center of Colorado,
1978-present; Founding Member,
By-laws Co-author, and Recording
Secretary, LAGPAC, 1980-present;
Founding Member (1981) and
Presenter (1989, '91, '92, '93),
Louisiana State Lesbian and Gay
Conference (Celebration); Member,
Crescent City Coalition, 1981-85;
Equal Rights Amendment March,
1983; Treasurer, Larry Bagneris
Campaign, 1989-90; Team Captain
and Walker, NO/AIDS Walk, 1990present; President, Gay and Lesbian
Business Association, 1991;
Consulting CPA, AIDSLaw, 1992present; Treasurer, New Orleans
Chapter, P-FLAG, 1992-present;
Treasurer, Forum for Equality and
Forum for Equality Foundation,
1995-present.



### MEMPHIS: DYKES, DUCKS, DEAD ELVIS & DAIRY QUEENS

afternoon, we hopped in the car and drove to Memphis. Since it's an expressway all the way and the speed limit 70, we arrived about midnight. The purpose of the trip was to see the Titanic Exhibit at the "Pyramid," Memphis' multi-purpose entertainment center. Our visit turned out to be much more than we expected: with trips to the feminist bookstore, a lesbian-owned plant/herb nursery, two lesbian bars, the "Peabody Ducks" and the tour of Graceland on this twentieth anniversary of the death of the King.

After a refreshing three mile run on the new linear park on Mud Island (between the Wolf and the Mississippi Rivers), we headed for the Titanic Exhibit. I had always thought of the Titanic as just another transatlantic cruise ship. There is more to it than that. Built in the early 1900s in a shipyard in Ireland, it was the largest ship ever built at that time. Almost 900 feet long, it was eight stories high. The owners built it to be the biggest, most elegant and fastest ship on the sea. Because they needed a larger promenade deck, life boats in that area were omitted. There were enough life boats for about half of the passengers. Another smoke stack was added for aesthetics, totaling four for the long ship. The immigrants in third class had no access to life boats except through the first class decks, and they were denied passage through those sections. The owners had been warned that the warm Arctic winter that year meant possible ice burg drifting south into the shipping lanes. These were men with certainly the biggest and, hopefully, the fastest ship, so they proceeded full speed ahead. Actually they were almost to New York, only one day away and five days out of England, when they struck the iceberg. The experienced captain was nearing the end of his career. This was to be his last crossing.

The exhibit had many stories by survivors. One was that of an elderly









The "Peabody" ducks walk down the human corridor to the elevator (left); Elvis and his Harley (2nd from left); This VW Beetle is the DJ booth at the lesbian bar "Madison Flame" in Memphis; Sharon Ray, owner of the Madison Flame (right).

woman who was photographed on the Titanic deck as a 7-year-old with her beloved black English bulldog. Today, she still has a black English bull dog, the only breed she has ever owned. She left the dog behind as her father put her in a lifeboat. She never saw either of them again. Many artifacts from the ship were recovered when the ship was found on the ocean floor. Some dishes are still intact, wine remains in bottles, wallets and pocketbooks with money and documents were found. Some of the ornate decorations, statuary and lighting fixtures were salvaged.

Later that day, we went to the popular feminist bookstore Meristem, founded by social worker Audrey May and Dr. Vickie Scarborough in September of 1990. Brenda and Wanda Henson believed that if they could open a feminist bookstore in Gulfport, Mississippi, then they certainly could do it in Memphis. They chose the name "Meristem," the name of the plant cells which carry memory and enable regeneration. The name also symbolizes our faith in the ability of women to endure and pass on our collective knowledge, generation after generation, always remembering who we are. In this conservative Biblebelt town, Meristem has served the women, lesbian and gay, pagan and spiritual communities, for almost seven years. As with most feminist bookstores, it serves as a resource and community service center. In the past, Meristem has hosted many lesbian performers, including concerts by Alix Dobkin, Musica Femina and others. The bookstore hosts readings by women writers and poets, among them Katherine Forrest. Besides the latest in books, Meristem has a great collection of feminist T-shirts and gifts. They also rent videos of interest to women. Situated in the middle of the feminist posters and pictures on the wall is the 1993 "Women of Achievement" plaque, received in honor of Women's history month. Located at 930 Cooper Street, in the tight-knit Cooper-Young neighborhood, the bookstore is an integral part of this diverse neighborhood which has celebrated itself with a popular festival for the last seven years.

Not far away is "Lavender Earth," founded by four women, who were "Earth Friendly" and wanted to reflect that in the name of their business. One of the founders, Patty Crawford, like her Dutch ancestors, enjoys selling plants right out of the garden.

The gardens are onsight — shade plants in the shaded garden and full sun plants in the sun. The charming shop adjacent to the gardens contains women-made pottery, candles, herb baths, wide brim, floppy sun hats, watercolored, flower greeting cards, and many other unique items. They also provide florist services with cut flowers and plants for weddings and other celebrations.

After a dinner of famous Tennessee Barbecue at the Pig and Whistle, we set out for the lesbian bar WKRB. Alas, the bar was no longer there, but three new lesbian bars had sprung up in the last few months. One of them, called Changes, is a Bistro and Pub on Poplar. Owned by Diane Star, the bar serves food, has a pool table, a great juke box selection and a killer, automated dart board.

After another morning run along the Mississippi River on Mud Island, we set out for the Imax Titanica. This presentation is held at the Pink Palace museum. While it's no aquarium 3D spectacular, Imax Titanica was interesting and informative. Aided by excellent photography and technical effects, we accompanied the scuba divers to the ocean floor to survey the ruins of the Titanic. In a small two-person submarine, the captain was able to maneuver through the wrecked hull and view artifacts strewn over the ocean floor.

Off to Graceland! This is the twentieth anniversary of Elvis' death, and Graceland is bracing for the largest crowd ever on August 16, the actual day of his death. Some of the less sympathetic locals call the huge gatherings in August "dead Elvis week." I've always admired Elvis. He persevered in the face of all odds, rising from extreme poverty with a belief in himself. He spent his last four dollars to make a demo record and achieved a fame few have known. We stood in line at the entrance among visitors from all over the world. With an amusement park atmosphere, souvenir stores abound. Most have similar items, but the auto museum gift shop alone had Harley Davidson shirts in keeping with the large selection of his two-wheeled and three-wheeled Harleys. There were many nice cars, but my personal favorite was the '55 pink Cadillac convertible. His private jet, "Lisa Marie" was available for boarding and viewing. In every shop, there are videos of Elvis: singing, talking on TV shows or press conferences, driving cars or racing cars and

motorcycles. Musicians play live music of familiar Elvis tunes in a stage-tent.

Through the iron gates decorated with musical notes, our bus took us to Graceland. Built in 1929 and named after the previous owner's Aunt Grace, the mansion was purchased by Elvis in 1957. The narration on the beginning of the audio tour was by Priscilla Presley.

She told us about the late dinners with the "Memphis Mafia," 12 friends made up of Elvis' Humes High classmates, fellow musicians, and ex-Army buddies. I remember Elvis always had a large entourage. They were thought, at the time, to be hangers-on, but maybe they were friends.

The rooms open to the public looked like they had seen little use. The red paisley pleated ceiling in the poolroom did contain a rip from an errant pool cue. The jungle room with its massive furniture, green shag rug on the ceiling as well as the floor, had actually served as a recording studio for one of his earlier albums. The other buildings on the property are not living spaces. One houses a museum, the other a hand ball court, where Elvis played two games the day of his death. It now houses his awards for gold and platinum record sales. The only item that had any sign of use was Lisa Marie's swing set, which was a metal, two swing, see-saw, slide, deluxe model. The apparatus had a few nicks and bends, a broken see-saw handle, and a little rust. All of the videos throughout the mansion buildings were of Elvis as a young man.

I always feel a little sad about Elvis. To die at 42 is sad, but to live the way he did during his last years — his loneliness and his medication addictions — was also sad. With all of the hundreds of pictures displayed and all of the stories told of him, not one included a picture or a story of a dog or a cat. I worry that he never experienced unconditional love.

Another change of pace, and we were off to the Peabody Hotel to see the ducks. From 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. every day, six mallard ducks swim around the beautiful marble fountain in the middle of the Peabody Lobby. At 10 a.m. each morning, the ducks emerge from the elevator, walk down a red carpet to red carpeted stairs leading into the pool and hop in just as they have done since the 1930s. These ducks are the descendants of the original ducks placed into the fountain as a prank by tipsy duck hunters in the 1930s.











Patty Crawford, one of the owners of "Lavender Earth" in her lavender garden (left); Laura Bonds and Audrey May, owners of Meristem Feminist Bookstore in Memphis (center); an impromptu reading at Meristem by Linda Dublin (right) (Photos by Marilyn McConnell)

This evening we rush to the Peabody to get a front row spot. At exactly 5 p.m., the "Duckmaster" rolls out the red carpet, puts out the steps, and herds the ducks into their waiting elevator. They are too cute, pausing to give the human corridor of gawking tourists time to snap their picture as they casually stroll to the elevator. Their penthouse pen located on the roof is a spacious fenced area containing a small pool and an elegant duck house. If your lot in life was to be a captive mallard, a "Peabody" duck would definitely be your best option.

The last stop that day was the sevenmonth-old lesbian bar Madison Flame. Sharon Ray, who formerly owned WKRB and has been in the lesbian and gay bar business for almost 30 years in Memphis, is the proud owner of this spacious lesbian bar on Madison. With adequate seating at booths and tables, a pool table, dart boards and a novelty DJ booth (the front end of a yellow Volkswagen Bug), the large crowd discoed into the night — the end of a perfect weekend in our sister city on the Mississippi. Because getting there is some of the fun, I recommend a stop at every Dairy Queen along the way for a "Blizzard," a soft ice cream mixed with "turtles," butterfingers, milky ways, and/or oreo cookies. God, I miss Dairy Queens. By the way, the best bar-b-q we had on the trip was not in Tennessee, but at a Texaco Station off of I-55 in Mississippi.

> CONTINUED FROM LAST ISSUE 1997 "CELEBRATION" LOCAL KEYNOTE SPEECH

oon after the Southern Women's Music Festival that year, "Celebration" was held in a Major New Orleans Hotel! Empowerment came by the hour in this safe space with the knowledge acquired from the workshops and speakers. The following Easter, at The First Annual Gulf Coast Women's Festival in Mississippi, I met Suzanne Pharr from the Women's Project in Arkansas and author of "Homophobia, Weapon of Sexism." She presented her workshops on homophobia. I began to understand the shame, fear, and hatred we lesbians and gay men assign to ourselves, when we live in

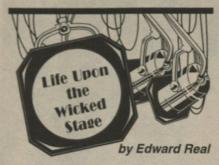
our homophobic societies. I was dismayed to discover the degree of my own internalized homophobia and how I used it to help others oppress not only myself but other lesbians and gay men. Pharr urged us to conger up an image of someone buried in the snow and she encouraged us to "push away the snow" slowly or swiftly, however you can, assuring us that there is no substitute for freedom, no matter how hard it is won. I remembered that brief feeling of freedom and agreed, not really realizing at the time how hard it would be won for lesbians and gay men. But now I had a vision.

The first element of oppression is a defined norm. In our society that norm is white, male, heterosexual, Christian, ablebodied, youthful, one who has access to wealth and resources. Not necessarily a majority, it is a group with power and control over others. The group can only exist with accompanied institutional power and the power the oppressed group gives them. White males dominate financial institutions, leadership in churches, the military, literature, the historians and the media. Writings control who and what is remembered. Economic power ensures control of institutions. Power resides in only those we bestow it on. If we lesbians and gay men pretend to be heterosexual, we are yielding to those in power by striving to be acceptable to them. It simply enhances their power and doesn't bring about change. It was Audre Lorde who asked, can the master's house be dismantled using the masters tools? Perhaps by exhibiting only behavior he accepts and approves. You cannot expect people in power to share power out of decency or good. Power is never given away. Power must be taken.

#### to be continued next issue.

#### TEAM NEW ORLEANS

If you are interested in going to the Gay Games in Amsterdam in August 1998, come to the Team New Orleans meeting every second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. The meetings are held at the Lesbian and Gay Community Center on Rampart. Fundraisers are being planned for the coming months. Call Jamie Pettigrew (947-6643) for information. Δ



t is probably unnecessary to point out that New Orleans has an infinite capacity for silliness. Something about the oppressive summer heat and humidity seems to encourage that silly streak to take theatrical form, so we are now blessed with two hilarious camp comedies which happily have no redeeming social value. Joining Pageant in this category is Daryl's Perils: Demon Dominatrix of the Moon Meets the Amazon Queen of the Lost Lagoon. The work is homage to the cinematic serials of long-ago Saturday matinees, but like the movie Airplane, it often stays outside the limitations of its purported genre for satire of other film clichés. Co-creator David



Becky Allen and David Cuthbert after the opening of Daryl's Perils: Demon Dominatrix of the Moon meets the Amazon Queen of the Lost Lagoon (Kyle Scafide photo)





Becky Allen hangs out with some of the "guys" from Pageant at Oz. From left, Miss Industrial Northeast, Miss Texas and Miss Deep South. (Phil Marino photo) At Right, Lantz Harvey and Diane Lala, New Orleans Cabaret Artists, see Out in The Community for details. (José L. Garcia, Il photo)

Cuthbert has dabbled in such movieinspired stage musicals on several occasions — notably with *Lamour of the Islands* and *Silver Scream*, and he is joined on this outing by another fixture of local musicalcomedy, Ricky Graham, who brings to the project all the gleefully skewered insights which have made his cabaret act so popular. The book and lyrics are united with a score by Harry Mayronne, Jr.

The episodic nature of the serial concept allows for a range of comic targets: the first episode, in which heroic protagonist Dash Daryl meets the lunar dominatrix, seems largely inspired by Flash Gordon — though in this case "Flash" might include a behavioral problem for the leading man, who has a tendency to fetishism and a questionable interest in his spacy cadet Biff; the second installment, after an intermission for popcorn, finds our hero in a jungle setting reminiscent of Jungle Jim, the serial Johnny Weissmuller did after he got too fat to play Tarzan.

Ron Williams returns to the stage after too long an absence to play the bumbling and semi-dim Daryl, a hero with vacuous charm, Bryan Batt's hair, and absolutely no understanding of the women who complicate his life. Among these are Professor Pauline Pritchard, scientist and socialite (Shelly Poncy in a glorious comedy turn), the Moon Goddess Allura (Becky Allen with a Dietwich lisp and a black vinyl bustier similar to Linda Eder's in Jeckyll and Hyde, and Maezuma the

Amazon Queen (Allen again — think of Mae West in Carmen Miranda's clothes — doing the plot of *Cobra Woman*.

Movie clichés aren't the only subject of Cuthbert's and Graham's satire; local targets get their just desserts, too — there's a tap-dancing member of the lunar militia with a Copelandesque headdress named Straya. Indeed, one wishes for more local topical allusions.

The remaining players in this film fantasy fun are all quite equal to the material (yes, that's a compliment). Billy Slaughter is the Sabu-inspired Fabu of the jungle and the spacy cadet who wants to learn the ropes. Sean Patterson is the evil Doctor Proctor (who keeps ropes just for spacy cadets), the machiavellian plotter Zircon, and a jungle man with a hidden past. Amanda Zirchenbach and Kerry Mendelson are the WACS of the moon who wax loony as jungle maids Tonsilayo and Adinoydza. Stephan Rizzo is an ominous robot.

Ron Williams' set design and 3-D effects, with creature creations from Gonczy's House of Monsters, are as funny as the script, enhanced as they are by Daniel Zimmer's lighting. The costumes (for Ms. Allen by Roy Haylock and everyone else by Debby Simeon) are a hoot, and there's an ingenious switch from silver screen to Technicolor for the second chapter. ("I had no idea I was wearing magenta,")

Daryl's Peril's is as much fun as a barrel of snakes — if the snakes in your

barrel are wearing fezzes and doing Borschtbelt shtick like Daryl's anaconda.

The aforementioned Mr. Haylock, in addition to his credits as a designer and performer (he plays the outgoing Miss Glamouresse in Pageant), can now add to his accomplishments the best ad-lib of the season. At a recent performance of the CAC's beauty contest musical, some obnoxious queens were carrying on like they were at the Bourbon Street Awards on Carnival Day. Haylock fixed his massacred gaze on them and announced that holding a twenty dollar ticket didn't mean they had won an audition. The thing of beauty which is Pageant will be a joy at least through August. Also on stage in August will be the Krewe of Petronius production of Mart Cowley's play about pre-Pride gay life circa 1968, The Boys in the Band. George Patterson is directing the play in the Southern Rep space at Canal Place. Performances run from August 22-31. A

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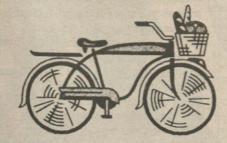
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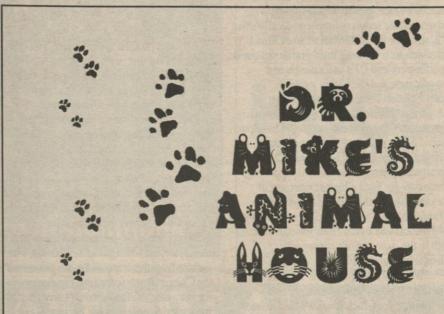


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My, what a long, strange, and oh-soqueer trip it's been. The 1997 Billboard Dance Music Summit in Chicago was quite a queer gathering, as usual, but this year said queerness was a lot more out in the open. With a panel specifically devoted to issues of race, gender and sexuality in the dance music industry (euphemistically titled "Daring To Be Different in Dance Music"). the inclusion of many high-profile out queer performers and DJ's in its panels and showcases, and the highly visible participation of the Gay and Lesbian American Music Awards organization, the abundantly gay presence seems to have put some of the straight folks in the industry on the defensive. I have heard many presumably straight attendees question the necessity for such a blatant marriage of sexual politics and business (can you say "homophobia?"), and have even heard big old queens and dykes from various walks of life in the dance music community sheepishly agree (shame on you!).

Well, all I have to say is ... hello? We are talking about dance music, here, a genre/industry which owes it's mid to late 70s heyday and it's subsequent survival of the disco-sucks-record-burning crash of the early 80s almost completely to gay DJ's, clubs, and their gay clientele. And now, on the eve of dance music's big return a decade later (Did you know, gentle reader, that dance music now has two categories in the Grammy Awards, one for Best Dance Recording and one for Remixer of the Year?), people are trying to make an issue of this small attempt to make one of the industry's biggest gatherings just a tad more queer-friendly? Get a grip! That's just ignorant. What we really need to be doing is banding together, instead of dividing more, if we are truly interested in dance music continuing to make the commercial comeback it has begun to make. It behooves us all — straight AND queer — to embrace and acknowledge, even in such minor ways as this, the many historical and continuing contributions from our colorful gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered members. And that's all there is to it.

With that said, let's move on with all the fierce music, DJ's and performers, I heard and saw over the weekend. I got into town Wednesday, just in time to kick off the festivities with the ever-popular Clubland Unplugged showcase at Chicago's classy live-jazz joint, Green Dolphin Street. Unfortunately for me, I arrived at the tail end of the night's roster, walking in on Martha Wash wailing with a full gospel choir (what a voice!), but I understand I

missed fabulous performances by disco legend France Joli, underground house diva Dajae, falsetto crooner Byron Stingily, and Pamela Williams, lead vocalist for Funky Green Dogs — as well as unsigned newcomers Carmen Jones and Yolanda.

Later that night there was an electronica party entitled Trip Hop N' Beats at Chicago's most underground of nightclubs, the Red Dog, but I chose instead to check out the bill over at the House of Blues. Joi Cardwell and her awesomely tight band, including backing vocalists Katrina (from the Brooklyn Funk Essentials) and Sandy B. (who performed her #1 dance single "You Make The World Go Round"), rocked the house that night, playing a good selection of Cardwell's older material and dance hits, as well as her new single "Run To You" (Eightball Records). Cardwell is about to drop a new album of R&B, acid jazz, and vocal house, and from what I heard that night, it's going to be LARGE!! Afterwards, DJ Roger S. threw down some wicked underground beats, but by 4 a.m., it was time to go home.

The Summit proper began bright and early on Thursday morning with a thankfully brief keynote address by B-96's (Chicago's dance radio station, WBBM) Music Director Erk Bradley, who tastelessly read from a preprepared speech about the ongoing viability of dance music at pop radio. Yawn. After loads of lunchtime schmoozing and promograbbing, one of the best panels of the Summit took place, the Chicago House Reunion, which gathered together many of the 80s pioneers of the Chicago house scene for a trip down memory lane. Billboard's own Larry Flick moderated a panel of house luminaries and legends, including Jesse Saunders (recognized as the first artist to release a house record), Wayne Williams, Steve "Silk" Hurley, Mike Dunn, Maurice Joshua, and Jamie Principle. It was great to hear these guys' stories firsthand, but it was also interesting to note that female vocalists Screamin' Rachel and Shay Jones who were just as much a part of that early Chicago house scene as their DJ/producer peers — were also in the room, but were not asked to sit on the panel. Hmm ... what's up

Thursday night I passed on the official Billboard showcase at Fusion (I was most upset about missing Vickie Sue "Turn The Beat Around" Robinson, who's finally been rescued from retro hell with her new Junior Vasquez produced single "House of Joy"), instead opting for a quick tour of the Shelter, a huge club with four rooms where Gramophone Records' DJ Oscar was spinning the main floor, and versatile Chicago DJ Tom E was laying down the smooth grooves in one of the side rooms. Giant Step recording artists Big Muff were set to perform, but I just had to get back at the House of Blues again for the 200 Proof/Deep Soul/Rama Records party where DJ Matt Warren was warming the crowd up for performers like Barbara Douglas, Shawn Christopher (who I must commend for never skipping a beat when her backing DAT track pooped out on her!), Michael Proctor, Byron Stingily (who had no voice left at this point), and the snappy Ultra Nate. Legendary house DJ's Mike Dunn and Maurice Joshua finished the nite off, and once again, by 4 a.m., I was ready for some sleep.

Friday I slept in, so I missed a lot of the daytime panels, though I did manage to find the "Daring To Be Different" workshop that was hosted by Chicago DJ Psychobitch. It really ended up being more of a therapy session than anything else, with attendees relating various personal stories of discrimination and harassment, but it was nice that the topic was even included at all. Discussions of homophobia and sexism were prevalent, and racism was barely touched on -perhaps something to be noted for next year. The Producers Speak Out panel, which closed the conference, was also very interesting; for someone like me who lives in an isolated area of the country (not New York, Chicago, or L.A.), it's always great to see what people look like and hear how they got to where they are. Panelists included rising remix star Prince Quick Mix, veteran Tony Moran, Ernie Lake and Bobby Guy (formerly known as Soul Solution), DJ Soulslinger, Stonebridge, the very verbose Roger Sanchez, and female producers Tyler Stone and Teri Bristol.

Friday nite's showcase at the Convent nightclub was the bomb. Hosted by flamboyant male diva Karel (how many clothing changes did you make honey?), acts ranged from the smooth delivery of divas Shay Jones, Kim English (who sang her hit "Supernatural" and her new single "Learn To Love"), and Sandy B. ("You Make The World

Go Round," AGAIN!); to peppy numbers by vibrant vocalists Thea Austin (remember "Rhythm Is A Dancer?") and Deborah Cooper (lead singer for C&C Music Factory, who blew us all away with her accompanying gospel choir); to the outrageous performances of drag queen/performance artist Kevin Aviance (his remake of "Din Da Da," in a lovely slinky silver outfit) and Crystal Waters (whose s/m-themed stageshow, complete with beautiful boy dancers, was quite an eyecatcher). After the showcase, Jesse Saunders and his Chicago Reunion crew were DJ'ing all night long, but I just had to get over to the Red Dog to catch the tail end of the Cajual Records party. I just missed Dajae, for the second time, but I got to hear a bit of deep underground house DJ Mark Grant, and got to dance my ass off until the bar closed at 4 a.m.

Well, that's the Summit in a nutshell. Hats off to Summit organizer Larry Flick and his amazing Billboard crew for yet another well-spent trip to Chicago. Can't wait 'til next year. Δ

dj mags is currently gearing up for her week-long guest dj residency at the Michigan Women's Music Festival, and a special guest spot at Pensacola's The Riviera on Saturday, August 23. She is a Contributing Editor for Girlfriends Magazine, and a Features Writer/Singles Reviewer for Dance Music Authority Magazine. Correspondence should be directed to: djmags2@aol.com, and product for review consideration should be sent in care of IMPACT, PO Box 52079, New Orleans, LA 70152.

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couple of years ago, an old friend was visiting New Orleans for the first time. As we do with all first-time visitors, we began the tour of the city in the French Quarter, which is, undoubtedly, the heart of town and an appropriate starting place.

Our visitor was regaled with tales about the history of the city and how the gay and lesbian community had contributed to the restoration of the Ouarter. The tour continued with the Marigny and Bywater, where, we explained, many gay men

and lesbians choose to invest in real estate now that they've been "priced out" of the Quarter.

There is a point to this story, by

Next we drove uptown, and as soon as we reached St. Charles Avenue in the lower Garden District, he gasped and said, "I want to live in this part of town! I like the Quarter,

but these trees ... and the space ... this is more to

Many people agree with him, obviously, since tens of thousands of them live uptown. The French (Creoles) in the early 1800s never really understood the way that "those Americans" did not build their houses on the street (not to mention those crazy centerhalls). The French just threw back their aristocratic heads and laughed haughtily at les maisons des Americains. "What a waste to have a front yard," they said. "Why waste it in the front of

the house when you sit in the back?"

One criticism of uptown that endures even today is that it lacks some of the intimacy of the French Quarter courtyards. But that's not always true, and our subject property is a perfect example of how a home can be in the midst of uptown and yet include the quiet luxuries expected of the Vieux Carré alone.

This stunning two bedroom, two bath home boasts a spectacular renovation that was featured in Better Homes and Gardens magazine. Aptly

named Maison L'Aperitif, the place feels more like a retreat than a home. The preferred entrance is on the side, with a double-gated entry way. The home's features have a breath-taking effect: dramatic airy openness, exposed beams, cathedral ceilings, gorgeous wood floors, skylights, white-on-white gourmet kitchen. A dreamy atmosphere prevails throughout.

The house retains the charm of an historic home, but the modernization is unmistakable, including a state of the art alarm system and all of the expected amenities.

Private parking is available in front of the house, while an open air gazebo is centered in the lush, tropical, old brick, French Quarter rear courtyard. A private showing is available to qualified buyers, and the property is made available by Ray Ruiz, an agent with Latter & Blum, Inc. (948-3011) A

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# LETTERS

On behalf of LaGala, Inc., we would like to thank you for your generous sponsorship of Celebration '97. The wonderful advertising and editorial coverage that you provided helped greatly in increasing awareness about Celebration. We thank you for helping Celebration to grow and for all that you do to support our community. We look forward to the opportunity to work with you in the

> Sincerely, Stephanie Baus, Co-Chair Daphne LeSage, Co-Chair

Dear Editor,

As my time in New Orleans is quickly coming to an end, I am compelled to write this letter to the community that has so graciously opened its arms and its heart to me. I relocated to New Orleans two years ago to study Public Health. It was during this time that I developed a deep awareness of HIV and AIDS, which led to an internship at NO/AIDS Task Force, and gainful employment (finally!) with Shelter Resources, Inc. at Belle Reve and Belle Esprit as Outreach Coordinator. The time I've spent there has been phenomenal. My position has given me the opportunity to work with both people infected with HIV, and people affected by HIV; including family, friends, lovers, caregivers, social workers, and health care workers. It never ceases to amaze me that this group of people has a seemingly endless supply of positive energy, empathy, and love that they are willing to share. Although I

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initially thought that I would be the person doing the outreach, I experienced, countless times, my clients and colleagues reaching out to me to tell me their story, to invite me to walk with them for awhile down their life's path. What a beautiful lesson in the kindness of the human spirit. Thank

I am sure that most of you are aware of the wealth of resources available in New Orleans for people with HIV and AIDS; from excellent medical care, to support services, to practical assistance with daily living. That these services exist is a wonderful thing, but I think we can go one more step. I challenge the AIDS Service Organizations to integrate into a seamless network of support for people with HIV and AIDS, where entry into the "system" at any point will result in access to all services. In order to meet the changing needs of people with HIV and AIDS, it is imperative that we work together to implement new programs, such as skills training for people with HIV and AIDS that want to re-enter the workforce. Think how much can be accomplished if we can walk this uncharted territory together. Additionally, it is important to remember that this work would not be possible if it were not for volunteers and support from the community. Despite all of the news reports of "miracle drugs," there are people living with and dving from AIDS today, and they need our help. So I challenge you to get involved, volunteer, attend fund-raisers, visit people, help deliver food, be a buddy, be PRESENT

Amy Sue Martin

I have read with a bit of shutter, the recent Letter sent to Ms. Birch of the Human Rights Campaign. The letter is supposedly signed by certain individuals, who represent themselves as members of the Transgender life style. I say with a bit of shutter, because the letter apparently has taken to misrepresent, and question certain actions, or no action by the HRC, with regard to what has become known as Transgender in recent years.

But, before I address the letter specifically, I would like to bring to the attention of all a complete misrepresentation that has been perpetuated in recent years. The term TRANSGENDER, as originally used, was intended for a specific group of females. Having been in the field of Gender Identification for many years, and now retired, I have watched as many others, in an attempt to

become recognized, have begun to adopt the term TRANSGENDER. So for a brief moment, let us attempt to clarify this, and, hopefully, set the specific mind set on the right track, once again.

There are various forms of the so called Transgender group. The largest by far is the Transvestite, who, according to national statistics, makes up close to 84% of the Transgender. These transvestites are males, who are heterosexual (straight), and who desire to dress as females on certain occasions. In most of these cases, the straight male cross dresses in private and does not appear in public. This is known as a fetish, as the male is not of the Homosexual (or Gay) groupage. They have no desire for male companions, or lovers, (except in their fantasies). Those of the Transvestite group, who do not venture out into public, will frequent the so-called Lesbian bars or clubs, where they can still maintain their straight life style, although dressed as females. Members of this group, in many cases, are married to females, or are in a relationship with a female. You will never find them in the company of another male, unless it is one that is also straight, when they are dressed as feminine. Unless, of course, in certain cases, where there just happens to be other males present. This is the group that is most difficult to deal with and to counsel. They usually do no accept themselves and the Fetish that continues to follow them through life. This group are not Homosexual or even Bisexual, but in their every day life, they live in a Heterosexual or straight world, and are secretive about their alternative life of dressing female.

The second groupage in the Transgender family is the Transsexual. Of the remaining 16%, over half or about 9.5% are either pre or post operative. This is a special and very delicate group of men, who are going through life in a body that they do not feel comfortable with and desire to change their sex. I must point out also there are females who will also go through the same desire to change their sex to male. The Transsexuals, the ones the term Transgender was originally meant for, are extremely special people. They desire to be accepted for their new life, and seek the recognition of all around them. And yet they have the hardest and most difficult time, because of the various laws, and their changing identities. And again in many cases, the Transsexual will seek out male companions and lovers, and usually when the surgery is complete, begin to compete as a female in the heterosexual world with certain minimal exceptions.

And then we have the third and final group, making up less than 7% (or approximately 6.5%) of the Transgender groupage. These are males, who cross dress, and are homosexual, and do not wish to change their sex. This by far is the smallest group in the Transgender world, and the most difficult to deal with. They have very special desires, and needs, for acceptance in the gay world, and seek to have either short of long term relationships with a male companion. This is the group that has the most difficulty in either straight or gay world. The straight world do not wish to associate with them because they are gay, and also dress feminine. And the gay world tends to avoid them because they are different and too feminine. Many of this group have a form of dual personalities, the so-called masculine side that has

to deal with every day life, and the female side which desires friends and companions. This (although the smallest group of the Transgender group) is the one group that is closest to the gay and lesbian world in identity.

I am aware that there was group founded in Louisiana that at one time was a useful point for gatherings and counseling for the overall Transgender group. But regrettabley, due to the group's make up, their national charter was revoked.

Now let us address the letter, previously referenced, with regard to the Human Right Campaign, and Ms. Birch. When I was still in practice, and would occasionally appear in court to testify, or defend a rights issue, I would call on the HRC. And over the years they have been most helpful and informative. The HRC was and is a major group attempting to gain rights and privileges, supposedly guaranteed by the constitution to all. And as I have watched the Transvestites over the recent years and their attempt to be included in the Homosexual community. I wonder to what purpose, straight men would seek this form of recognition, even if they do practice fetishism.

The HRC, nationally, has accomplished a great deal in and for the homosexual world. And their original and current function is to help and serve those people who are Gay, Bisexual, or Lesbian. Their intent was never, and has never been one to support members of the straight groupage, but to bring those guaranteed rights to all who have been overlooked or forgotten.

Being that the make up of the so-called Transgender groupage is over 84% heterosexual, or straight, they enjoy more rights and privileges, then many in the gay or lesbian groups. The HRC does not overlook the Transvestite, who is straight, but focuses on the needs and desires of gay and lesbian groups. I have never seen over the years any form of specific or implied prejudice toward the Transgender. And in some locations, there are and have been GAY cross dressers, sitting on local HRC boards. And a few years ago, there was a gay cross dresser, who was closely linked with the National Board. Although I have been given to understand that certain factions in the Louisiana area have and are disruptive, to the local HRC board, over all this group continues to function and lobby under extreme hardships

As to the HRC supposedly avoiding recognizing the Transgender group, it would be apparent to all, that a group made up primarily of heterosexual, or straight males, would not need the services of the HRC. Those of the much smaller group, as the Gay Cross dresser, are already being represented but the HRC, by the very nature that they are gay.

It never ceases to amaze me to watch the Transgenders, who try to be the most secretive and create the most problems. When straight males indulge in a fantasy of being female, it tends to distort their vision. The HRC is and remains a worthwhile and dedicated group of individuals, representing a special group of individuals overall. The rights given under the constitution include the pursuits of happiness, and happiness is what one desires and believes in.

Dr. K. Marion Weisberg

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TWO BY FEUCE

BY KYLE SCAFIDE

Late in the Season, by Felice Picano The Gay Presses of New York Paperback, \$7.95

Tow that summer is wearing on, we figured this was about as good a time as any to throw in a book that's about the end of summer. Picano is now considered a well-known writer, but this book was written way back in 1981.

The book is about a nearly-fairy tale couple, Jonathan and Daniel, who have a summer home on Long Island. (Yes, we realize that everyone assumes that gay people



are supposed to have summer homes only in P-Town, Fire Island, or maybe even in Key West, but this couple has a home on Long Island.)

Known as "the lovers" by their straight next-door neighbors on the Island, the boys have been together for a

number of years. At the height of their success, they have a comfortable relationship. Jonathan has decided to stay a little longer, because he is writing the score for his first big musical. Daniel is off working on a documentary. (Can you get much gay-er than these guys?)

Actually, they don't have much in the

Actually, they don't have much in the way of contact with the other dwellers on the Island, not even with the wealthy hets next door, but one stormy night, the beautiful mistress Stevie from across the way knocks on the door, looking for a port in the midst of the storm. Jonathan is home alone, since Daniel has been called away to England to work on a series for the BBC. Since it has been awhile since Jonathan has seen Stevie, he barely recognizes her.

But arrive she does, in all of the splendor of her youth. Being the chivalrous gentleman that he is, Jonathan insists that she stay for the night, since all of the electricity is off on the Island due to the storm, and Stevie is next door all alone. The next morning,

Stevie peeks into Jonathan's room to offer him a cup of Java, and lo and behold, there HE is, resplendent in glory and in his natural state ... which from the description sounds mighty glorious, indeed. Well, it doesn't happen THAT quickly, but before you know it, the two of them are having a good ol' fashioned heterosexual affair.

The words "late in the season" embody a double entendre, since most Island vacationers have left for the season, and of course, it's a little late in Jonathan's "season" for him to be jumping ship ... never mind the ferry back home.

The brief romance is a torrid, confusing one, with some interesting revelations by the author involving interpersonal dynamics in relationships. We won't spoil the ending for you, but the point of the novel is not the ending; it is the story itself.

When first we got a hold of this book, we cast it aside, thinking it some outdated expose of the world of bi-sexuality from an age long past. However, as of late, we have encountered more and more people discussing what they describe as a "liquid sex" younger generation — a generation of young people who don't create the same divisions when it comes to 'who should have sex with whom.' That's not to say that the younger generation has given up on sexual orientation altogether, and it's not to say that there is a resurgence of the free sex, free love movement, but there does seem to be afoot a movement toward sexuality with less boundaries.

As seasoned homos ourselves, we don't necessarily see the merit in grazing in pastures long-forsaken, but nonetheless, the experience of jumping the fence is not new. Neither is this book, but Picano does a fair enough job with it.

Like People in History, by Felice Picano Penguin Paperback, \$12.95

Picano's latest work. It is certainly an improvement over *Late in the Season*, though from the "circle" we have been made to understand that this novel didn't exactly receive accolades. Nonetheless, we found the book enticing in its twists and turns. The author is very inventive as he reveals the intertwined lives of two men who are cousins. There's the stolid Roger Sansarc and the carefree Alistair Dodge. Don't pretend for even a moment that this is a gay version of *Narcissus and Goldmund*. Alistair is deceitful and cunning, whereas Roger is the man with a heart.

The story traces their lives from their first contact as children, when Alistair comes to

stay with Roger's family while his parents are going through a divorce. At first star-struck by his cousin's sophisticated mannerisms and savoir faire, he learns soon enough that his cousin is a wolf in sheep's clothing. And the clothing comes on and off — no pun really intended — throughout the novel.

It's a novel that includes what a gay novel of the nineties must: AIDS. Far is it from an AIDS novel, however. What the book manages to do is insightfully explore the lives of two men and their journey through the sixties and into the nineties. And AIDS is a part of that journey for all of us.

A key character in the novel is the man of Roger's dreams: one Matt Loguidice (pronounced "Load your dice," as the author lets us know a couple of times). Matt is the epitome of beauty, maybe even too beautiful for someone as mundane as Roger, but they grow together in love and



build a fine relationship — a relationship that is wrecked by none other than the dastardly cousin Alistair.

The biggest criticism we have of the novel is that the author fails to really develop the character

of Matt, especially during the last days of his life. Perhaps the author felt that Matt was naught but a pawn in the game between Roger and Alistair, but what seems to have happened is that the author fatigued in his writing toward the end of the novel. The reader can't help but be fascinated with Matt, but instead we're let down when he seems to re-appear as a non-entity.

seems to re-appear as a non-entity.

The novel is far too complicated to go into the plot, since it is a sizable paperback

exceeding 500 pages. Despite the supposed ill reviews, and despite the fact that gay novels are now a dime a dozen, we see no reason why this particular book should not inhabit a little space on the shelves of your erstwhile gay library.  $\Delta$ 

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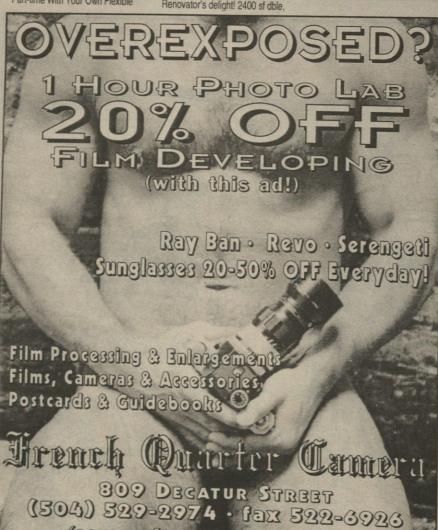


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Original Kocktail Bunch Bowling League -861-0233

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

HIV+ or HIV- friendly, 947-6306 Prime Timers of New Orleans - PO Box 71611, NOLA 70172-1611, Contact: John Alexander 525-3299; meets 1st SunTeam New Orleans — 940 Royal Street, Box 288,

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

The Lambda Group, Inc. P.O. Box 1911, Baton Rouge, LA 70821; Anita 749-3786, or 504-383-0777.

P-FLAG (Parents, Family & Friends of Lesbians & Gays) — 2nd Thurs at St. Charles Ave. Presbyterian, 392-0001 or 895-3936 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

Gerald

French Quarter Reservations — 1-800-523-9091, 523-1246 Travel New Orleans - 400 Magazine, Ste

201, Discounted air and hotel rooms, 1-800-535-8747 TravelScope — Dexter, 488-3742 Uniglobe Crescent Travel - 522-0003,

VETERINARY SERVICES
Dr. Mike — 1120 N. Rampart, 523-4455 Louisiana S.P.C.A. - 1319 Japonica, 944-

VIATICAL SERVICES Positive Living Resources, 1-800-398-5177

WOMEN'S HEALTH Woman Care Midwife Center (and well soman GYN) 6010 Bullard Ave. Suite 210, NOLA

WEB SITES & SERVICES eclipse — www.impactnews.com/e www.Gay.Net - lesbian/gay resources IMPACT — www.impactnews.com for lesbian and gay New Orleans www.showmesomething.com (944-6722)

To list your group, organization or gay-owned/gaytriendly business in the Impact Directory call 944-6722 or e-mail us at gaymail @impactnews.com. Unless otherwise indicated, area code is (504). Businesses who are not regular IMPACT advertisers may have their enterprise listed here for

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# CELEBRATE VICT

# LEGAL Victory Nite Celebration

Come Out Friday, August 8 to celebrate the new Hate Crimes Law and the defeat of that nasty Anti-Gay Marriage Bill!

By supporting one of the sponsored businesses on August 8, you will be helping to contribute to the legislative efforts of Louisiana Electorate of Gays and Lesbians, Inc. (LEGAL)

LEGAL is the community's 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit state-wide human rights organization. All contributions are tax-deductible. For more information, contact us:

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