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GAY AND LESBIAN NEWS FOR NEW ORLEANS AND THE GULF SOUTH

IMPACT

SINCE 1977

VOL. 22 NO. 5 FEB. 28 - MAR. 13

eclipse

...INSIDE



CLOSETED CLERGY

GAY MEN OF THE CLOTH

ALSO:

- 1979's Honored Citizen:
ALAN G. ROBINSON
- Atlanta Gay Bar Bombed
- Louisiana, Mississippi:
Same Sex Legislation
- "Pigs" Fly, but "Rent" doesn't
- Film Independents

PLUS: Lesbian Voices, Music for a Queer Planet,
Out in the Community, More Local and
National News, Quarter Scenes,
Quarter Notes, Real Estate, Travel
AND Those Mardi Gras Memories!!

OUT IN THE COMMUNITY



The heart-pounding, totally percussional, musical *Stomp* is playing at the Saenger 'til March 2. (photo: Lois Greenfield)

FEBRUARY 28

For years now, residents along the riverfront have waited, often impatiently, for the arrival of the **New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA)**. After a considerable search for a new location, a site was selected at the corner of St. Ferdinand and Chartres Streets. Residents of the Marigny and Bywater have waited breathlessly for the center to open, knowing full well that the advent of such an institution would undoubtedly shore up the stability of the neighborhood, making it an even more promising place to live.

Though the opening of the center is well into the future, Mayor Morial will be on hand today for a ground-breaking ceremony at 2 p.m.

MARCH 1

NO/AIDS Task Force is sponsoring a free **AIDS Awareness Seminar** from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at the **LSU Medical Education Building**, located at 1901 Perdido Street. The seminar is free, and should attendees wish to become NO/AIDS Task Force volunteers, three additional workshops will follow in March. Call 945-4000 for more information.

In a 1996 issue of *IMPACT*, we featured artist **Kathy Sizeler**, who continues to produce wonderful work and gain wider



"Flirtation," acrylic on canvas, by Kathy Sizeler. (See March 1)

recognition for her talent. The downtown **Gallery d.o.c.s.** will be featuring Kathy's recent paintings with her trademark "hands" theme during March and ending on the third of April. The opening will be held tonight from 6-9 p.m. at the gallery, located at 709 Camp Street. Also featured this month will be the work of California artists Ray Klausen, displaying his internationally acclaimed geometric metal and marine rope sculptures.

In November of last year, a conference was held to

allow citizens to come forward and discuss items they felt would improve race relations in the city. **"A Day of Healing, Part II"** takes place today from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at **Xavier Prep High School**, located at 5116 Magazine Street. **Pre-registration is required.** Please call Mrs. Dorinda Mack at (504) 565-7916.

MARCH 9

The Vieux Carré MCC will sponsor a **Healing Touch/Massage Therapy workshop** from 1-3 p.m., to be facilitated by Tim Higdon and Cindy O'Donnell. The workshop is free and open to the public, but interested persons are encouraged to register by March 2. Do so by calling the church office at 945-5390.

Also, an **Evening of Oldies** hosted by **Lady Magic Necha** at **Charlene's**. This 50's beer bust is a fund raiser for Sue Martino (co-founder of Ishtar). Dance Contest and Prizes!

MARCH 10

Belladonna Day Spa will host the first of a three part **benefit** for the Task Force from 7-9 p.m., as hair stylists and salon owners gather to kick-off the **Fourth Annual HairRaiser**, which takes place April 6 and 7.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The **Mayor's Advisory Committee** on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues is **seeking people who are interested in serving** on the committee. Members must live in New Orleans, be at least 18 years of age and demonstrate familiarity and support of community issues. Members must also serve on one sub-committee. The MAC meets once a month, sub-committees meet as necessary.

People interested in joining should call MAC Chair Robert Udick at 527-6387. The next MAC meeting is March 11, 5:30 p.m. at City Hall.

ALSO COMING UP:

Part of February, all of March: Camp Sister Spirit Spring Break; call (601) 344-1411.

February 27: *Three Sisters* opens, CAC.
March 1 (-31): New work by Jock Sturges, 322 Royal St., opening reception 6-9 p.m.
March 2: Uptown Square Bookshop, John Magill book-signing.
March 7: Newcomb Departmental Concert with special appearance by Laura Robson, Dixon Hall (Tulane), 8 p.m.
March 9: Uptown Square Bookshop, Julie Smith book-signing.
March 10: Chamber Music, Dixon Hall (Tulane), Menahem Pressler, 8 p.m.
March 11: Robert Goulet starring as Don Quixote in *Man of La Mancha* opens at the Saenger, today through March 16.
March 19-23: 14th Annual Women in Medicine Conference; (415) 255-4547.
March 22: The New Orleans Ballet Association presents *The Secret Garden*, performed by the Oakland Ballet, 7:30 p.m.
March 27-30: Annual Gulf Coast Womyn's Festival, Camp Sister Spirit (601) 344-1411
April 6 and 7: Fourth Annual "HairRaiser."

IN LAFAYETTE:

March 1: League for Equality monthly meeting, 7 p.m.
March 12: P-FLAG Meeting, 7 p.m., Wesley Building.
Every Sunday, 11 a.m.: MCC Worship Service, Wesley Center Chapel.

OTHER INFORMATION

In a future edition of *IMPACT*, we will be writing a story about **gay and lesbian parents and their children**. If you are a gay man or a lesbian, have at least one child and are comfortable having yourself and your child photographed with an accompanying story, please write to us: *IMPACT* P.O. Box 52079, NOLA 70152.

Volunteers are needed for the **first nationwide study of Alternative medicine and HIV/AIDS**. If you are: HIV positive, using alternative medicine or treatments, able and willing to give informed consent and complete questionnaires and are at least 18 years old, you may be eligible. Call 1-800-475-0135 for more information. Δ

"A KREWE PRODUCTION"

Mondays 10 p.m.; Saturdays 9 p.m.

The current show features: Roberts Batson, writer for *IMPACT* and author of gay heritage; Tim Watson, Leilano Heno, personal trainer, and; Kerry Lamare, the history of the St. Joseph Altar.

about the cover

Ron Williams, local artist and creator of *IMPACT's* hysterical cartoon "Quarter Scenes," designed this cover to accompany our "Closeted Clergy" feature, which appears on page 8.

IMPACT

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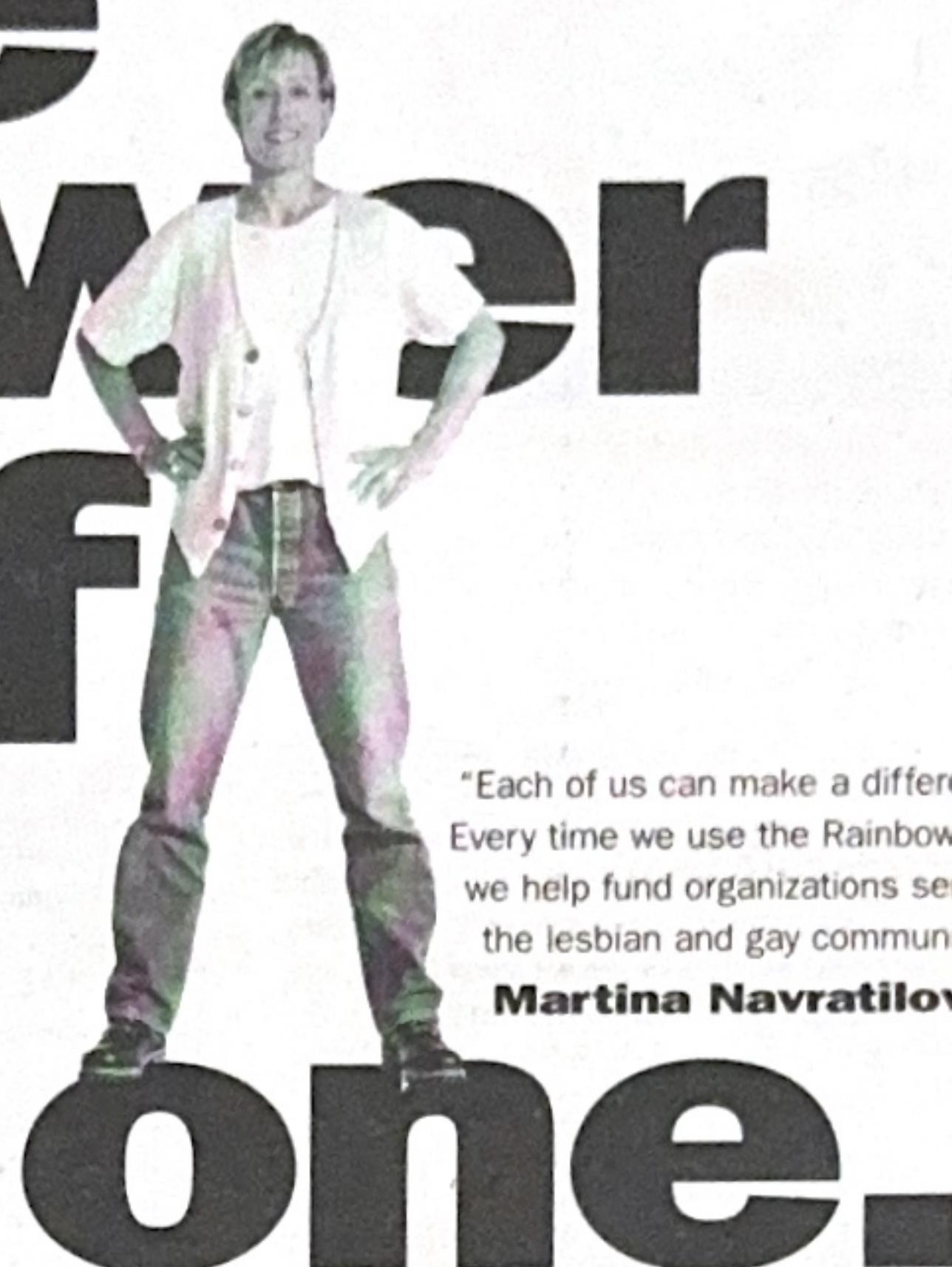
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Photo: Peter Lien

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The Krewe of Lords of Leather raised \$2,400 during their 14th annual Carnival Ball. The money was distributed to charitable organizations, including Shelter Resources, Project Lazarus, United Services for AIDS Foundation, and Buzzy's Boys



(William J. Fanning Foundation). In the photo, Ernie O'Steen represents the Lords of Leather as he presents a check in the amount of \$433 to Shelter Resources Executive Director Judith Chassaignac and Director of Social Services Clark McCown. The Krewe has made several such donations to Shelter Resources, the parent non-profit organization of Belle Reve and Belle Esprit, which offer housing and services to PLWAs.

(IMPACT staff photo)

LA LEGISLATURE TO FILE BILL AGAINST SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

By Leslie Zganjar

Marriages by people of the same sex would be illegal in Louisiana under a bill filed for the regular legislative session set to begin March 31.

The measure by Sen. Phil Short (R-Covington) would amend the state Constitution to forbid those types of marriages. The bill would need a two-thirds vote of the Legislature and approval by the people before it could take effect.

Short filed a similar proposal as a resolution during the 1996 session, but it died in the Senate. A resolution does not carry the weight of law, but expresses the Legislature's sentiments on an issue.

The bill was among 43 measures filed by senators in advance of the regular session. Representatives have already filed 227 bills. (Leslie Zganjar works for the AP.)

IT'S OFFICIAL: MISSISSIPPI BANS SAME SEX MARRIAGES

By Gina Holland

Mississippi Governor Kirk Fordice signed a law banning homosexual marriages, denouncing same-sex relationships as "perverse."

"For too long in this freedom-loving land, cultural subversives have engaged in trench warfare on traditional family values," Fordice said, as Mississippi became the 17th state in a year to outlaw such marriages.

State Rep. Jim Evans, one of three lawmakers to oppose the bill, said the governor should "be giving it a second thought before he begins to moralize right now."

"Hypocrites love to talk about family values, but if they search deep down and do a truth analysis, they wish their own families were different," Evans said.

Mississippi's law denies recognition of homosexual marriages performed in other states. Fordice said the law would ensure that gay couples do not enjoy benefits of marriage such as health insurance.

"Insurance benefits for dependents were never intended for perverse relationships such as the same-sex marriage," he said.

The American Civil Liberties Union is considering challenging some state laws banning gay marriage, said Mississippi ACLU executive director David Ingebretsen.

"It's just another expression of intolerance," Ingebretsen said. (Gina Holland writes for the AP)

LOCAL GIRL ELLEN MAY FINALLY COME OUT IN HER TV SHOW

The much-rumored episode about the TV character "Ellen" coming out as a lesbian has been written, but there's no word on whether it will ever see the light of day, according to TV Guide.

The special one-hour episode, targeted to run during the May sweeps, has Ellen Degeneres' character finally reveal to her therapist that she is in love with a woman, according to the March 1 issue of TV Guide.

The script has yet to be approved by ABC or Walt Disney Television, which produces "Ellen," the magazine said.

The story involves a visit from a single guy that Ellen went to college with, TV Guide said. But instead of falling for him, Ellen is attracted to his lesbian friend, who may be played by Laura Dern of "Jurassic Park." The therapist may be played by Oprah Winfrey.

The magazine said Degeneres took personal interest in the story, sitting in with the writers on several occasions to give input.

Walt Disney studio executives, who must approve the script, have asked for

revisions but apparently liked the story, according to Disney sources quoted by TV Guide. After Walt Disney Television President Dean Valentine approves the script, it will be sent to ABC executives, who also must sign off on it.

The ABC series is moving to Tuesday nights starting March 4. During the May sweeps, "Ellen" will return to its regular Wednesday time period, and Arsenio Hall's show, if it does well, will be moved to another time slot. (compiled from an AP story)

INVESTIGATION: LAKE CHARLES RECRUITERS' MISCONDUCT

The Army is investigating alleged sexual misconduct and recruiting violations by at least three sergeants assigned to the Lake Charles Recruiting Station.

The allegations were made during the past week, said Col. Karen Maguire, spokeswoman for the U.S. Army Recruiting Command at Fort Knox, Ky.

She confirmed that the Criminal Investigation Division at Fort Polk is investigating three of the station's six recruiters.

The three have been reassigned to Fort Polk, the nearest Army post, during the investigation, she said.

Maguire would not give their names, the allegations against them, or the name or names of their accusers. (compiled from an AP story)

ACADIANA PRIEST ACCUSED OF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT WITH BOY

A New Iberia priest was arrested in January, having been found with a 14 year old boy in a parked car by authorities who claimed that the area was frequented by "parkers."

The Reverend Mark Richard, who is 29 years old, serves as the associate pastor at St. Joseph's Church in Rayne, just outside of the city of Lafayette. He claims innocence and denies any wrongdoing.

Fr. Richard lived in the New Orleans area several years ago, when he attended St. Joseph Seminary College, located on the Northshore. (compiled by AP and Staff)

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

• For information on upcoming events, please read "Out in the Community." (page 2)

• For information on events that are club-related, please see eclipse, our separate "nite-life" magazine, which is inserted into this issue of IMPACT.

• Our feature story focuses on the issue: "gay men in the priesthood." (page 8)

• We continue with our 20th anniversary series; our "Honored Citizen" for 1979 is Alan G. Robinson. (page 14)

QUARTER NOTES

Do you think that our fellow citizens realize the contribution that gay men and lesbians make to the community? Should they?



Louis P. Theriot IV — liquor distributor

No. Yes, the reason being is look around. The French Quarter area is predominately gay-populated, by people who fix up their homes, support local businesses (hotels, bars, etc).



Paul Heiner — artist, student

I'd like to think that everyone with even a trace of intelligence would realize and recognize contributions that gays and lesbians have always made to their communities, and society at large.



Timothy Kandall — accounts receivable

We do make up the community. We all are equal in the Lord's eye. We are all human beings. No matter what race or nationality we are. We are all citizens.



Dr. Michael Lechleiter — chiropractor

The G/L community doesn't even realize the social and economic impact that the G/L community makes in New Orleans! How would everyone else? The Mayor, the papers and TV stations ignore the financial impact of Halloween, Decadence and the lower Quarter during Mardi Gras! Cultural and social aspects cannot be measured easily, but \$\$ can be estimated. Let's put the word out!

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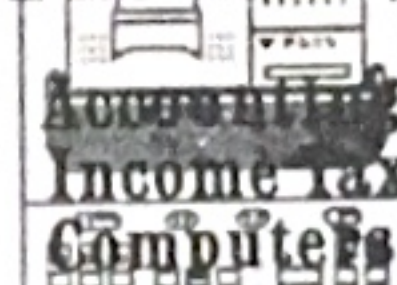
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EPISCOPALIANS DEBATE HOMOSEXUALITY

BIRMINGHAM (AP) The discussion was supposed to be about the sanctity of marriage, but Alabama's Episcopal church leaders conceded that they were trying to clarify its stance on homosexuality.

The Episcopal Diocese of Alabama concluded its three-day convention last month at St. Luke's Episcopal Church. Clergy and elected delegates from each of the state's 89 churches worshiped together and voted on a platform.

The one they passed affirmed the sanctity of marriage, while deleting controversial sexual references that could have been seen as insensitive to homosexuals.

Rev. Francis X. Walter said it was good to discuss the issue but warned the church risked inflicting "pain and sorrow" on homosexuals.

"It was a debate which reflects the lack of clarity within the church on homosexuality," said Bishop Robert O. Miller. "There are people on both sides of the issue and they need to continue to dialogue."

During the debate, such substitute terms as "genital sexual intimacy" and "intercourse" were suggested and voted down before the whole phrase was finally dropped.

In another resolution, the diocese voted without opposition to affirm God's love and care for people with AIDS.

BOMB ROCKS ATLANTA GAY BAR

BY TARA MEYER

On Friday, February 21 a bomb blast injured at least five people at a crowded nightclub and has forced authorities to consider the possibility of a serial bomber.

"Clearly, we believe that we are dealing with a deranged killer, but one who is very clever as well," Atlanta Mayor Bill Campbell said.

The bombing rocked The Otherside Lounge, a mostly gay and lesbian club. The lounge was crowded with about 150 people when the nail-packed device exploded in a rear patio.

"We heard it and felt it," said Scott Raimor, who was standing inside a club across the street when the blast occurred. "I ran out immediately, and we heard shrapnel landing on the ground in our parking lot."

Memrie Wells-Griswell of Snellville, the most seriously wounded with a 3 to 4-inch nail in her arm, was in stable condition after surgery at Grady Memorial Hospital. The blast blew out a window and part of a door, said club owner Beverly McMahon, who recently sold another club with the same name in Fort Lauderdale after 17 years.

"We have had no problems in seven years with this club," she said. "I'm shocked it happened to my club."

A club patron, who would not give her name, said she saw five people on the ground after the blast. "One guy had pieces of wood in his back and nails sticking out in his arm," she said.

PRESBYTERIAN LEADERS REJECT CONTROVERSIAL POLICY

RALEIGH (AP) Presbyterian church leaders across North Carolina rejected a policy that would have barred ministers and church officers from having sex outside of marriage.

Church leaders voted 172-140 against an amendment to the denomination's constitution that would require ministers, elders and deacons to be faithful in marriage or chaste in singleness.

Although the amendment does not mention the word "homosexual," many attending the meeting saw the proposal as an attempt to deny ordination to gay men and lesbians who are sexually active but cannot legally marry.

The vote will be tallied with those of other regions this June when the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has its annual meeting.

Opponents to the amendment said its passage would usher in repression toward homosexuals.

JEWISH VIEWS ON HOMOSEXUALITY

SEATTLE (AP) The four main Jewish movements differ significantly in their perspective on homosexuality.

The nation's 400,000 Orthodox Jews consider homosexual behavior an abomination forbidden by the Torah.

Two of the people injured were inside the club when the blast went off. The two, a man and a woman, were taken to hospitals, said Lt. King of the Atlanta Fire Department.

The man, who was not identified, was being treated at Piedmont Hospital for minor, "shrapnel-like" injuries to his back, said Stacey Wheeler, a nursing supervisor. Gold said the woman's injuries were more serious.

Deputy Police Chief C.B. Jackson said two other people went to another hospital suffering from hearing problems.

Police found a "suspicious" backpack with a second bomb shortly after arriving. That device, set near a low brick wall in a parking lot beside the building, was detonated by a remote-controlled robot.

The robot gave authorities an X-ray-like image of the bomb's components before it was detonated. The blast slightly damaged the robot and a car.

Aspects of the bombing echoed the July 27, 1996 Centennial Olympic Park attack, which killed one woman and injured 100 people, and two January 16 bombings at Atlanta Northside Family Planning Services, which injured seven. Authorities drew no immediate connections among the attacks.

"They will be worked as separate investigations but we all recognize the similarities here," FBI agent Woody Johnson said. "We will be searching out the possibility that we have a serial bomber."

"Bombers don't just do this on the spur of the moment," said Brian Levin, an associate criminal justice professor at Richard Stockton College in Pomona, N.J. "There is significant planning about where

•The Conservative movement, followed by about 2 million U.S. Jews, holds that people are entitled to their own sexuality. There are no openly gay or lesbian conservative rabbis or cantors.

•Reform Judaism, representing about 1.4 million U.S. Jews, has accepted gay and lesbian rabbis since 1990. Last year, its Central Conference of American Rabbis voted to support same-sex civil marriages and to oppose state government efforts to ban such unions. Many reform rabbis perform commitment ceremonies.

•The most liberal group, known as Reconstructionists, is also one of the smallest at 40,000. Reconstructionists don't consider homosexuality an issue, saying equality in every aspect is part of its main philosophy.

GUMBLETON SAYS CHURCH SHOULD WELCOME GAYS

DAYTON, Ohio (AP) The Church should welcome, understand and accept homosexuals for who they are in the eyes of God, says Bishop Thomas Gumbleton.

"A reason why we've failed in the church to accept gay and lesbian people is we have not listened to their experience," the social activist told about 700 people at the University of Dayton. "We must let them share ... what their experience of love is as they live out life as a homosexual person."

they should put a bomb to target individuals."

McMahon said, "Obviously, it's a murderer. I guess you could call it hate. They wanted to kill us."

Unlike the park bombing, authorities don't know of any warning calls in the latest blasts. The bombing was called into the city's 911 center at 9:58 that evening as a shooting, said Police Chief Beverly Harvard.

"Several customers thought a lady had been shot," said bartender Rhonda Armstrong, who was mixing drinks when she saw a flash of light and heard the blast. "She rolled her sleeve up and had a spike nail through her arm."

"This is the second incident with two devices we've had," said Jack Killorin, an ATF agent. "We have no information to match them up, but we would be unwise not to be prepared for that possibility."

The federal task force investigating the abortion clinic explosions will take over the nightclub bombing, joined by an ATF team arriving from Washington. A separate team is looking into the Olympics blast.

"Maybe this was something to scare us, to put us in our place," said Atlanta gay activist Lynn Cothren. "We will not let this bomb or any kind of hate send us back into the closet."

Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign, said she wants the Justice Department to treat it as a possible "bias motivated crime."

The Otherside Lounge will not reopen immediately, authorities said. "It's going to be a crime scene for a couple of days, so it can't be open," said FBI spokesman Jay Spadafora.

By demanding that gays deny their sexual orientation, "the church is asking gay people not to be holy, but to be warped," Gumbleton said.

Gumbleton, from the Archdiocese of Detroit, became the first high-ranking Catholic clergyman to speak out against the Vatican's teaching on homosexuals.

COURT UPHOLDS MILITARY BAN ON HOMOSEXUAL CONDUCT

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) A federal appeals court has upheld the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy on gays in the military, rejecting a discharged sailor's claim that the policy is unconstitutional.

In upholding the discharge of Navy Petty Officer Mark Philips, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals became the first appellate court to rule on the policy that requires dismissal for homosexual conduct.

The Navy has defended the policy as necessary to maintain unit cohesion, preserve privacy and reduce sexual tension. Judge Pamela Rymer ruled that those reasons are not irrational or based merely on prejudice.

In a dissent, Judge Betty Fletcher said the policy of discharging homosexuals, but not heterosexuals, for private sexual conduct is discrimination based entirely on prejudice.

"Gay men and lesbians are no less able and no more prone to misconduct than their heterosexual counterparts," Fletcher said.

HIGH SCHOOL PAPER APPEALS TO RUN AD FOR GAY SUPPORT

GILROY, Calif. (AP) The editorial staff of Gilroy High School's student newspaper, *The Free Press*, wants to run an ad for a gay and lesbian student support center. The staff also wants the backing of school trustees, but some officials are hesitant because they know little about the support center.

"Because someone is gay or lesbian is their business. We have no right to interfere with that," Trustee Kim Merrill said. "But we can't be in the business to promote any lifestyle or imply promotion of a lifestyle ..."

At issue is an ad for the Billy DeFrank Gay and Lesbian Community Center, which invites students to "meet and talk with others your age." The United Way agency provides support groups and other services.

Ads for the San Jose center have appeared in the Live Oak High School and Prospect High School newspapers. *The Free Press* published a similar ad last year, but it drew protests from some students, parents and church leaders.

Senior Laura Gonzalez, *Free Press* editor-in-chief, said that's one reason she and two other senior editors appealed to trustees for support to run the ad.

Trustee Richard Rodriguez said he supports running the ad. "It's something that can be helpful. I know there are a lot of teens who find themselves unsure of their sexuality and because they are unable to find help or talk to people about it, they end up committing suicide," he said. "If running the ad can save one life, it's worth it."

continued on page 12

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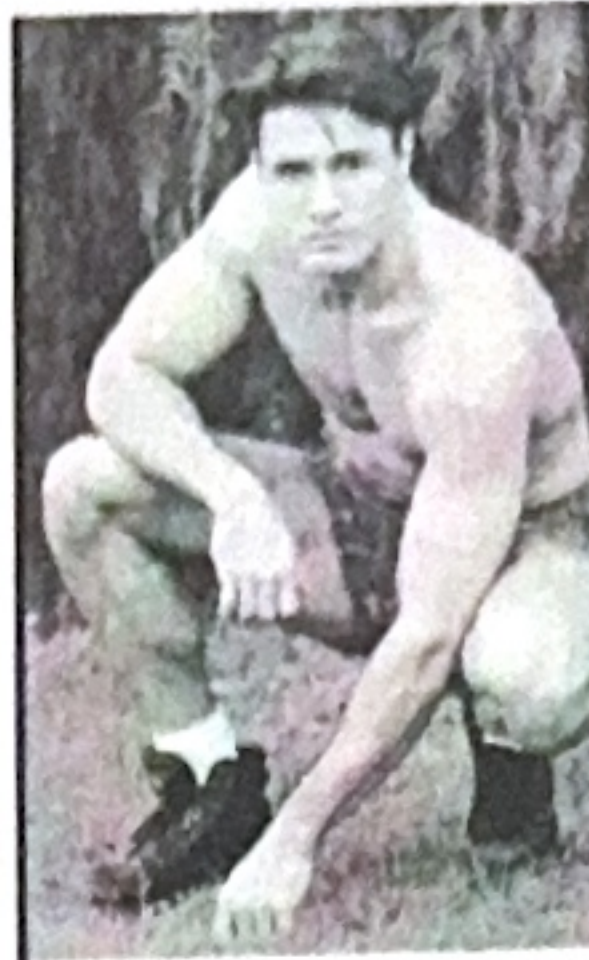
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Serving God Loving Men

by Kyle
Scafile

(It's a small world. And this city is downright tiny. In an attempt to keep confidential the names of the priests I encountered, I made a conscious effort to mask their identities, even to the point of altering quotes and phrases. In the interest of dispersing suspicion from those clerics whom I know well, I have avoided speaking to those priests in my personal sphere of influence, both gay and straight.)

I am thankful to the many priests who have been frank and candid with me. I also wish to thank the many ex-seminarians and ex-priests who offered their input, as well as the ministers from religions other than the Catholic Church. As time passed and I received a plethora of information and offers for assistance, it became apparent that the scope of this undertaking was growing far too wide, and so it was a necessary editorial decision to focus on the original intent of the story: a casual survey of ordained clergy who live in the closet. Because of the local, predominantly Catholic population and the realm of my own experience, the priests questioned are all Roman Catholic. The breadth of this topic is so gargantuan that it is nearly impossible to tackle the subject without talking first to a publisher. In the interest of clarity and brevity, the article targets those questions that most people have, with thoughtful comments by the priests thrown in for good measure.

Let it be known that this article does not pretend to be scholarly or precise. Its purpose is to appease the curiosity of our readers.)

In 1993, the nation was abuzz with the words that summed up the new policy on gays in the military: "Don't ask, don't tell." The Church's stance on homosexuality is even easier to sum up: "Don't."

In truth, a better way to paraphrase the Catholic Church's teaching is this: "Be, but don't." Especially in the past 20 years or so, the Church has taken a more pastoral approach to homosexuals, teaching that homosexual orientation, in and of itself, is not a sinful thing; however, homosexual behavior is unacceptable.

Now, a short moral theology lesson ...

Homosexual acts are sinful because the Church's moral teachings are still based mostly upon natural law, the fundamental premise being that the primary purpose of sexual expression is procreation. Since Vatican II, thanks to the growth of the social sciences, there has resulted a better understanding of the complexities of sexual expression and the important role that sex plays in relationships. As a consequence of these new insights, the teachings have evolved to include not one but two aspects of sexuality: the procreative and the unitive.

One might (rightfully) argue that there is a unitive function in homosexual expressions of love, but the Church holds that BOTH of these factors must be present, and since homosexual genital expression could never be procreative, it cannot be condoned.

Since the Catholic Church is so staunchly opposed to homosexuality and the expressions of love that gay men and lesbians have for one another, why is it that so many gay men become priests?

There is no denying the fact that the Catholic priesthood is rife with men who are homosexual.

Considering the varying sources which estimate that only 5 to 15 percent of the general population is gay, why are there so many gay priests?

The question has merit, and since it is difficult to swing a dead cat in this city without hitting a priest, an ex-priest, an ex-brother (religious) or — hardest of all — an ex-seminarian, we thought that at least a perfunctory investigation was in order. We have selected the questions that most people ask, and then we have "filled in the cracks" with comments and observations made by the priests.

Why would a gay man even want to enter the seminary?

There were many responses to this one question. The most prevalent was that the seminary seemed a viable option for a gay man. It was an easy way to explain why he was not getting married. It was a reasonable explanation for why he was not pursuing women.

"It may sound odd, but the seminary was a good place to 'come out,'" said one. "It was a safe environment, and spiritual directors were there for guidance." Some priests, on the other hand, did not have good experiences with their spiritual directors.

"My director got nervous if I just tried to talk about masturbation," said one priest, wistfully recalling his seminary days. "How was I going to tell him that I wanted to have sex with my roommate?"

There were other answers as well.

"Actually, the call to my vocation came long before I realized that I was gay," said one priest, whose first sexual experiences were with a man who later left the seminary and married a woman.

In answer to this question, yet other priests surmised that, ironically, it was their homosexuality that transformed them into the pastoral persons that they have become. The intense loneliness of their childhood, the isolation from their friends and families, the "shamefulness" of their feelings attributed to a form of introspection that blossomed into spirituality with the passing of the years.

"There was a time when I thought that God was my only friend," said one priest. "There was no one else that I could talk to about my feelings."

Others were attracted to the personalities of their parochial priests, seeing them as happily single and involved in their ministries.

According to one priest, "I thought, 'I can do that,' and so I did."

Similarly, some gay priests felt drawn to the priesthood because they felt unconditional love from the priests in their parishes.

"I was accepted by priests when I was a kid," said one. "They didn't seem to mind that I was different from the other kids. In fact, they encouraged me and told me how important it was for me to be myself."

How many gay priests are there? Are they active?

When I asked these questions, the answers varied, but every priest said with certainty that at least 50 percent of the Roman Catholic clergy is gay, whereas some estimated that as many as 75 percent of priests are gay.

"But being gay doesn't mean that they are active," said one priest. "In fact," he continued, "most of the gay priests I know are celibate," though he added that most had not always been chaste and that they would probably find themselves involved in sexual situations later on.

Another priest said, "Really, priests are not as genitally active as people think."

In fact, some of the priests claimed that they were completely celibate, and that they were happy to live that way, despite the occasional loneliness.

"It was hard [to be celibate] when I was younger, but now it's not really a problem," said one.

One priest said that he had just ended a long term relationship with another priest and that he hoped to have another relationship one day with another priest.

"With another priest, a relationship seems less complicated," he said. "We're both in the same boat and understand what's involved."

A priest who has had a couple of relationships said, "At

first the guilt was an albatross, but now that's gone." He said that his conscience allowed him to be in relationship, even though he acknowledged that promiscuity (casual sex) was not moral.

Some of the priests were not afraid to say that they were open to a possible relationship with another man. Almost without exception, the ones that were interested in a sexual relationship were only interested in one that was based upon mutual trust and commitment. Only one seemed content to have occasional sex, though some priests pointed out that they knew of a couple of priests who were in pursuit of casual sex. Some commented that these priests are usually in "denial," because they don't want to consciously admit that they are gay. They have fleeting encounters and leave it at that.

How do priests cope with being closeted?

There were three general answers to this questions. The largest number of priests said that they befriended other gay priests, with whom "they could be themselves" without

having to be guarded. Some priests made it a point to actually belong to a support group made up of gay priests, for the same reason. Finally, some priests don't really see their homosexuality as a big issue. They discuss it with their friends and/or a spiritual director as they would address any pressing issue.

"But it's never comfortable living in the closet," one priest said. "It's always a lie. It's a burden that will never go away."

Some of the priests admitted that they had seen or were seeing a counselor about their homosexual feelings, but for the most part those who fell into this category had a gay support group of some sort, as well.

Is it possible that the Church will accept homosexual relationships and condone them as they do the institution of marriage? Everyone agreed that it would probably never happen, at least not for hundreds of years. What about the Church accepting the fact that there are gay priests?

One priest admitted, "I know it's a futile hope, but I hope that the Church will begin to see us as a blessing, not a curse."

Is there still an influx of gay men into the priesthood?

One priest said that the seminarians that he met recently were mostly straight. When I asked him why this was so, he said, "The world is more open, and maybe they don't need the seminary as an alternative."

Several priests were really happy about this article, but not because it was an opportunity for them to talk openly about their homosexuality. Instead, they hoped it would provide them an opportunity to reach out to those who were so angry at gay priests.

Said one priest, "Some gay men get really angry at gay priests and say things like, 'They have their nerve.' But the fact is, it's not really closeted priests who are pointing the finger [in judgment]."

Others disagreed, saying that they knew of frustrated, homophobic priests who spent a great deal of time "pointing the finger" at gays, but they imagined that the judgmental attitude of these priests was borne out of their frustration at not being able to express themselves, "or even admit it to themselves," said one.

One desire was common among all of the gay priests — they want to reach out to gay men and lesbians who feel angry and disenfranchised.

"It would be nice if this [article] could be an opportunity for reconciliation between gay lay people and gay priests," said one.

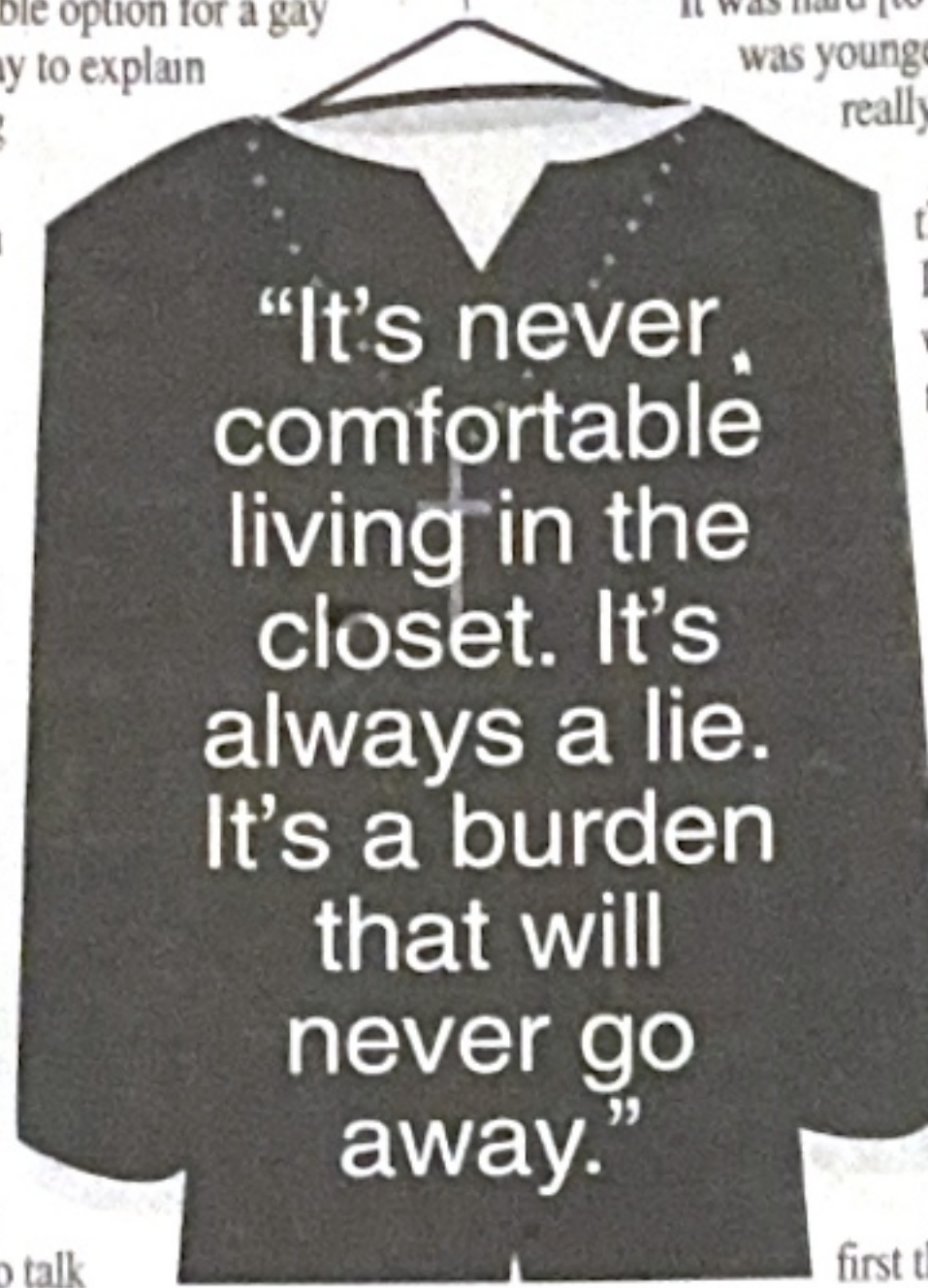
When asked how they think that gay priests could reach out, one suggested that perhaps they could be present during an exchange of vows between two men.

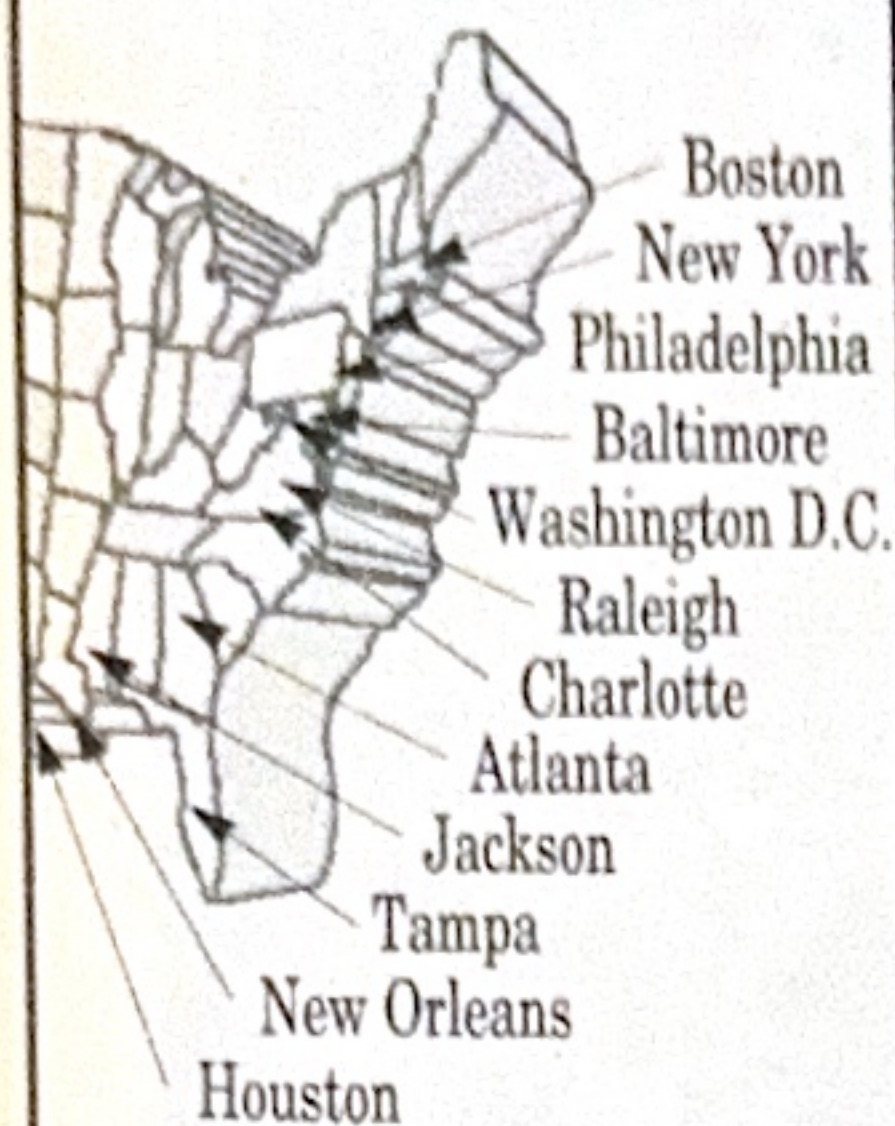
"I know we can't do that officially," he said, then confided that he longed for the opportunity to say a Mass at the home of two men who were celebrating a commitment to one another.

When I asked one priest if there was anything that he wanted to say in this article, he said, "I want gays to know that we're not the enemy. We're on the same side." He went on to say, "The way I look at it, those of us who are gay and in the priesthood can try to change the institution from within."

Will the institution change? Can it change? Who knows?

Said one priest with a grin, "I'd like to think that God does." Δ





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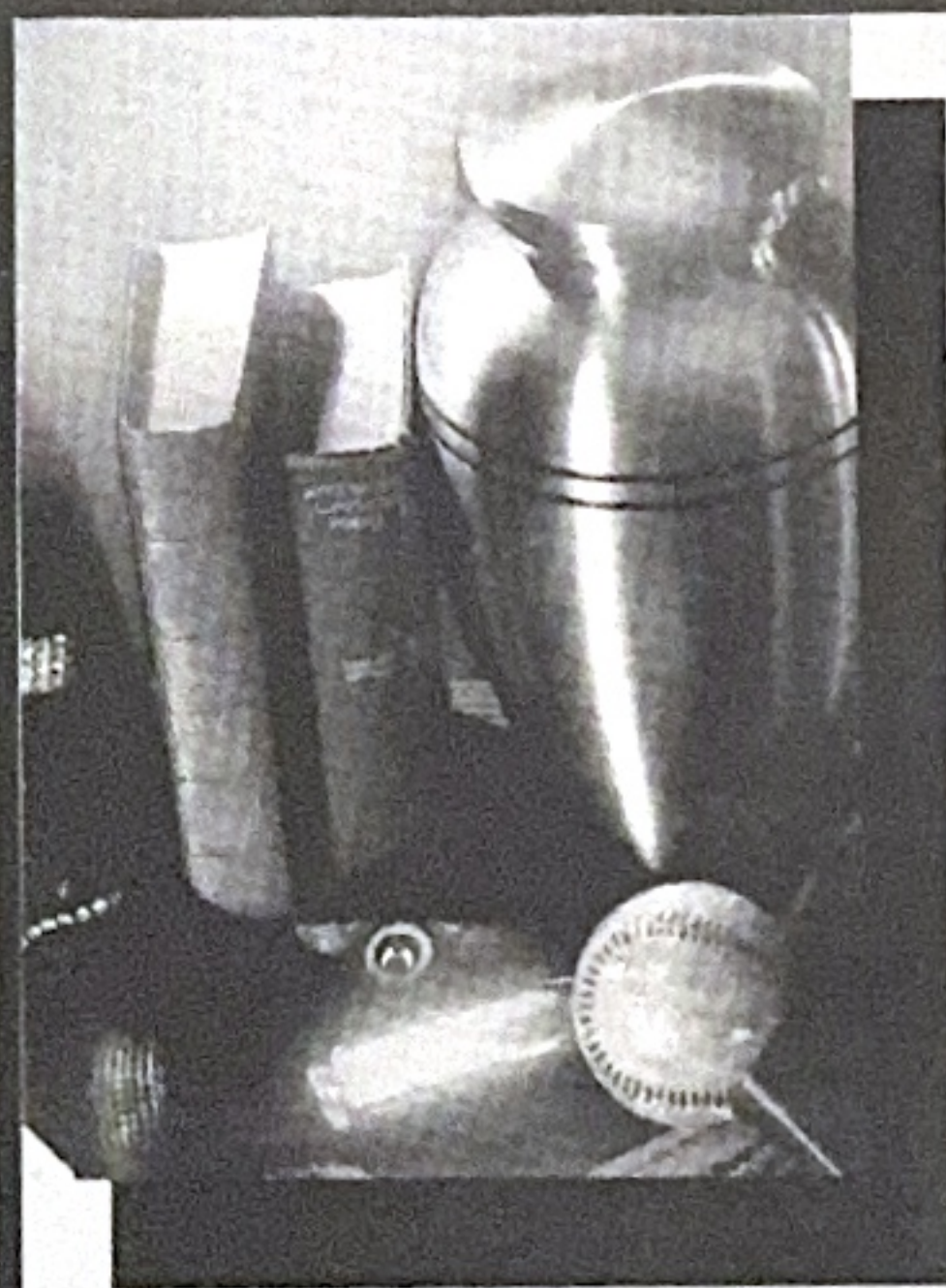
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EDITORIAL

A couple of years ago, I was compelled to find a new dentist. The one I had previously called upon was retiring, and I was forced to look elsewhere.

As I usually do when I'm looking for a vendor or service of any kind, I perused the IMPACT Service Directory, only to realize that there were no dentists who targeted the g/l/b/t community.

It is an incontrovertible fact that, when it comes to the world of medicine, the first task assigned to a new patient is the completion of one of those questionnaires. These questions are not intended to pry; they provide vital information to the doctor, whose job is to discover any possible problems and, ultimately, provide the utmost in health care to the patient. Some of the answers may lead the doctor to ask more questions, some of which could be embarrassing if the doctor or nurse has a problem with gay men or lesbians.

Since I wish to patronize a health professional who would not have a problem with my sexuality, I decided to ask around to see if someone would suggest a gay-friendly dentist. Please note that I wrote "gay-friendly" and not "gay." My main concern was that I could feel comfortable with someone who wouldn't ask me stupid questions like, "Have you been dating any nice women lately?" Or, "Boy, that Demi Moore is fine, huh? Don't you just want to do her?"

Granted, though these sexist or presumptuous remarks usually come from blue collar hets, I have nonetheless heard these types of comments from people in the medical field, so I didn't want to take any chances.

During my quest, several people suggested this one particular dentist, and they said that his reputation was good. The fact that he was gay was lagniappe.

So off I went to see ... let's call him Dr. Gay.

Dr. Gay was affable enough, and undoubtedly competent. During the course of our visits, I had mentioned to Dr. Gay that he should consider advertising with IMPACT, since he said that he could use some new business. I also explained that, since no other dentist had targeted our market, he would probably see marked results from an ad campaign.

"No offense," he said, "but I'm a little nervous about the gay thing." He continued, "I wouldn't want to be too public about it, because it might hurt my practice." He finished by saying something like, "Really, no offense. It's just business."

The above comments are not verbatim, but they convey the general attitude that Dr. Gay held.

His remarks really bothered me, though it was difficult at the time for me to uncover the root of my annoyance, because I imagined that my feelings may have been influenced by the fact that he refused to advertise in IMPACT, which I hold so dear.

Because of his statements, I decided that I wanted to try a new dentist — someone who had conquered that internalized homophobia.

One of the goals in IMPACT's mission statement is "To promote the truth that gay men and lesbians are capable of living productive, ordinary lives beyond, though not exclusively outside of, the realm of stereotypical expectations." A few months ago, we started this feature called "Completely Out" to spotlight men and women in the community who live ordinary lives, but who are openly gay and not ashamed to publicly divulge that fact. We felt certain that this column made for a fine objective to achieve one of the goals from our mission statement.

Our first subject was, coincidentally, a dentist named Kathryn Philpott-Hill. This woman was perfect as a start-up for the series, so delightful was she and so enthralled with her work. I met her at Pride '96 and then again at a party that she hosted at her office. There were lots of people at the party, all kinds of people, and she was having a blast with all of them — gay and straight alike. And there was, inarguably, a noticeable contingency of gay men and lesbians there.

I was hooked. I knew that I had found a new home for my teeth.

Incidentally, she said that she wanted to run several advertisements in the paper, and she did — boldly going where no dentist had gone before.

Recently, I went in for my first check-up. When I arrived at her office, she was thrilled to see me and was quick to mention that her advertising had produced fine results. We chatted on and off during her ministrations, and it was then that the idea of this editorial began to form.

Here's the point: I have made a conscious decision to go to this wonderful, talented, lovely, competent dentist. I have not chosen her just because she is a lesbian (though that is an added bonus), but because she wants my business. She wants me there. She's not afraid to tell others about herself. She's not afraid to solicit business from the g/l/b/t community. We are, after all, perhaps the last remaining lucrative consumer market committed to living in this city that care (and a few hundred thousand people living in the 'burbs) forgot.

My response to Dr. Gay? Here it is:

I'm quite happy with my new dentist. She likes me. She even proudly introduced me to others as the editor of IMPACT. Dr. Gay, you'll not receive any referrals from me.

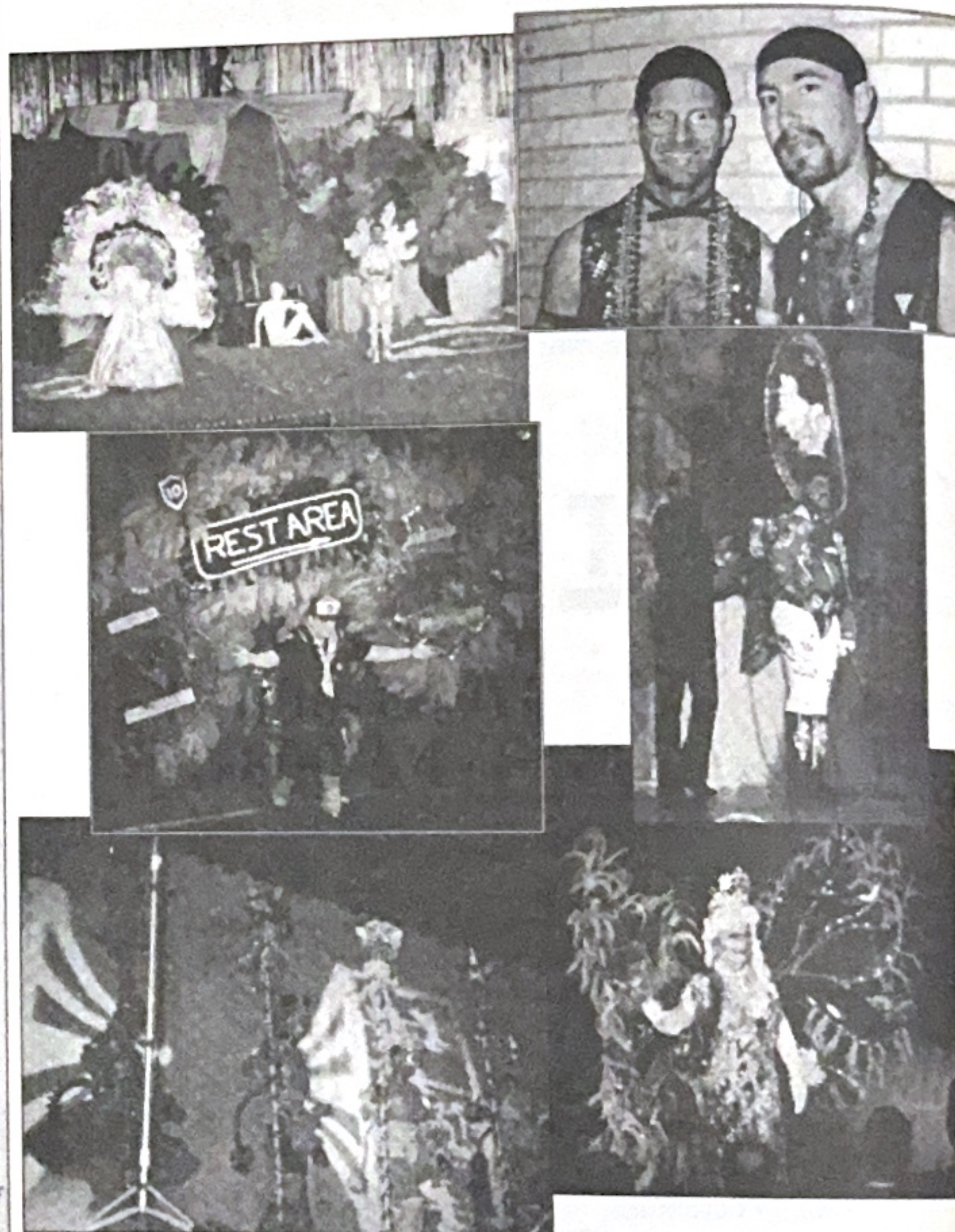
No offense, really; it's only business.Δ

Kyle Scafile, Editor in Chief



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continued from page 6

HATE GROUPS FIND OTHERS LIKE THEM ON THE WEB

DETROIT (AP) As the computer bug begins to seep even further into mainstream society, it also is opening a widespread venue for hate groups.

Albion College sophomore Steven Krom didn't have luck drumming up support for his "white pride" views around campus.

But on the Internet, he has found support and understanding from hate groups that have taken to the Web to spread their word.

"It's one of the good things about the Internet," Krom told *The Detroit News*.

In the past year, the number of hate-related sites on the Web has jumped from about 50 to as many as 400, said experts, adding that the numbers have doubled in the last three months alone.

"It isn't that the information, the hate, the groups are new," said Rabbi Abraham Cooper, an associate dean at the Simon Wiesenthal Center, a human rights organization in Los Angeles that has been tracking Internet hate. "It's that it has been taken from the gutter into the mainstream."

Groups such as the Ku Klux Klan, the Aryan Nations and Skinheads have Web sites that vilify minorities like gays.

SAME SEX NEWS

BILL WOULD BAR RECOGNITION OF SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

AUSTIN (AP) Same-sex marriages couldn't be recognized in Texas under legislation filed as a pre-emptive strike against gay men and lesbians who might want their unions to give them them legal rights.

The bill would "define the traditional family unit as being one male, one female, and I think would make a very strong statement about what many of us believe a marriage represents," said Sen. Jane Nelson (R-Flower Mound), who is sponsoring the measure in the Senate. Rep. Warren Chisum (R-Pampa) is the House sponsor.

Diane Hardy-Garcia, executive director of the Lesbian-Gay Rights Lobby of Texas, dismissed the legislation as "just another attempt to gay-bash."

"We would love our families to have the same protections as other families," she said. "At this time, our community has had to deal with so many other issues like violence and employment discrimination, marriage is a long-term, far-away thing. ... Maybe in 25 years, this will be our top priority."

ACLU WORKER RECANTS THREAT TO EXPOSE GAY LAWMAKERS

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) The director of the American Civil Liberties Union in North Dakota admitted he made a mistake when he threatened to name gay lawmakers who vote to ban same-sex marriages.

Keith Elston's announcement that he

was withdrawing his threat came after the national ACLU director did not back him.

"I made a mistake, and it will not happen again," Elston said in a statement he released. "The ACLU does not 'out' people, nor threaten to out people."

Earlier that day, Elston, who is gay, had threatened he would expose lawmakers he believes are gay if they supported the proposal.

SENATE OK'S GAY-MARRIAGE BAN; LOCKE READY WITH VETO

OLYMPIA, Wash. (AP) A ban on same-sex marriages zipped through the Washington Senate by a veto-proof majority, rebuffing critics who called it government-sponsored bullying of a minority group.

Democratic Gov. Gary Locke called the bill divisive and unnecessary, since the state already has court decisions against gay marriage. He pulled a red pen from his jacket pocket to indicate his plans to veto it.

Supporters of the ban say they'll try to override a Locke veto. That takes a two-thirds vote of both houses. Senate Majority Leader Dan McDonald, R-Bellevue, said if that fails, they will put it on the November ballot for voters to decide.

Shortly after the vote, about a dozen Lesbian Avengers staged a "kiss-in" on the Capitol steps. They unfurled a huge black plastic banner that said, "Don't legislate hate," and passed along kisses.

The measure defines marriage as the union between a man and a woman and says gay marriages performed elsewhere will not be recognized in Washington state.

"This bill isn't about marriage; it's about picking on a minority group," said Sen. Mike Heavey (D-Seattle). "It's wrong for government to spit in someone's face, to bully, to kick the disenfranchised."

Sen. Jeanne Kohl (D-Seattle) described herself as "mother of five, a Christian, with a nice, traditional family." None of that is threatened in the slightest by the idea of gays and lesbians wanting to form a lifelong commitment, she said.

Sen. Pat Thibaudeau, D-Seattle, who represents a Capitol Hill district with a heavy gay population, called the bill a huge waste of time.

NOW-NJ URGES LAWMAKERS TO KILL SAME-SEX MARRIAGE BAN

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) Donna Templeton and Sandy Powers are a regular couple ... except that they share the same gender, and they are unfortunate enough to be committed to a lifelong union that would be forever denied legal recognition under a proposed bill.

The "Protection of Marriage Act" is unjust and "hateful," the women said at a news conference designed to emphasize the idea that "love not laws" makes a family.

Currently, New Jersey does not allow gay couples to marry, but it doesn't ban same gender marriage. This bill would do that. It has cleared all necessary committees and now awaits a full legislative vote.

LESBIAN COUPLE DENIED MARRIAGE LICENSE

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) Harriet Clare and Becky Thacker had picked out matching outfits for their big day, then drove downtown to apply for a marriage license. As they expected, though, they were denied.

"We're still married, as far as I'm concerned," Ms. Clare said after being turned away at the county clerk's office. "The people were very nice. The clerk seemed genuinely sorry she couldn't give us a license."

"We would like very much to be legally married," Ms. Clare, 54, said. "I would like to see that happen in our lifetime." Ms. Clare said she wants people to understand that she and her partner aren't trying to undermine heterosexual marriage.

"We love each other the same way," she said. "We would like to get some of the benefits."

That's why the couple decided to apply for the marriage license as part of a national campaign by the NOW.

"Maybe by doing this action, we can do a little educating," she said.

The Indiana Senate passed legislation that would bar the state from recognizing same-sex marriages certified in other states.

HIV NEWS

DYING MAN CANNOT HAVE ASSISTED SUICIDE, COURT RULES

TALLAHASSEE, Florida (AP) A Florida man who is dying of AIDS and wants to commit suicide with his doctor's help must wait for several more months now that the state Supreme Court reinstated a stay.

Charles Hall, 35, is the lone survivor in a 1996 lawsuit seeking the right to have a doctor prescribe him a lethal dose of drugs without interference from the state. The other men died before a ruling.

Hall, who suffers from chronic pain, won a ruling January 31 that said he had the right to doctor-assisted suicide. The state's immediate appeal automatically triggered a stay, which another judge lifted last week. In an unsigned order, the state Supreme Court reinstated the stay and said it would hear arguments May 9.

HIV HOME TEST: ACTIVISTS CRITICIZE PHONE COUNSELING

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) With a quiver in her voice, a nervous phone counselor told Tom Spring that he had HIV.

She then referred him to a pediatrician whose telephone had been disconnected for three years. She also asked how he planned to tell his wife. But ... Spring is gay.

"It's inbound telemarketing masquerading as counseling," said Joseph Hall, director of the Nebraska AIDS Project and coordinator of the review that Spring participated in a few months ago.

A bill has been introduced in the Legislature to encourage retailers to put

labels with the state's AIDS hotline number on the kits. The Health Committee heard testimony in Lincoln on the bill, which would provide the labels free to retailers.

Hall wants to make sure that those who have the virus are referred to the state's largest AIDS advocacy group. "We want to give them an opportunity to do this voluntarily ..." he said.

Spring, who has been HIV positive for 10 years, took the test at the group's suggestion. "It's not to be Mr. Mean, but to correct the problem," he said.

Several AIDS groups contacted across the nation reported few if any complaints. In fact, the once-controversial kits have generated little interest, said Mike Shriver, a NAPWA spokesman in Washington, D.C.

AIDS GROUP PULLS AD CAMPAIGN AFTER COMPLAINTS

DALLAS (AP) An AIDS charity yanked a nationwide ad campaign after receiving complaints that messages such as "Prayer won't cure AIDS. Research will" insulted people who believe in the power of prayer.

The American Foundation for AIDS Research said objections to the campaign focused on two of three ads that ran on public buses: "Prayer won't cure AIDS. Research will" and "Sexual abstinence won't cure AIDS. Research will."

Transit agencies in both Dallas and Fort Worth already had heard objections and canceled the ads earlier this month.

"AmFAR seeks to educate, not offend the public," said Dr. Mathilde Krim, chairwoman of the board of directors of New York-based AmFAR.

"Since the complaints over two of the ads distract from our crucial message that only medical research can generate true solutions to AIDS we have agreed to discontinue the campaign," she said.

"That's just a swipe in the face of praying people," said David Miller, executive director of the Tarrant County chapter of the American Family Association. "It's almost as if ... they were trying to offend people. And anybody that believes in prayer is going to be offended."

FIRST TIME EVER IN FLORIDA, FEWER PEOPLE DIE OF AIDS

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) For the first time, fewer Floridians are dying from AIDS, and officials attribute the drop to improved treatments and access to medical care.

"We're clearly in overtime, our friends and colleagues who we expected not to be here this year are here and still hanging in there, and some are thriving," said Ann Prochilo, director of educational services at the Health Crisis Network in Miami.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention expect to release national figures on AIDS deaths later this month, said spokeswoman Tammy Nunnally. But last year, for the first time, the national death rate from AIDS didn't go up, said Dr. Richard Selik, a CDC epidemiologist. A



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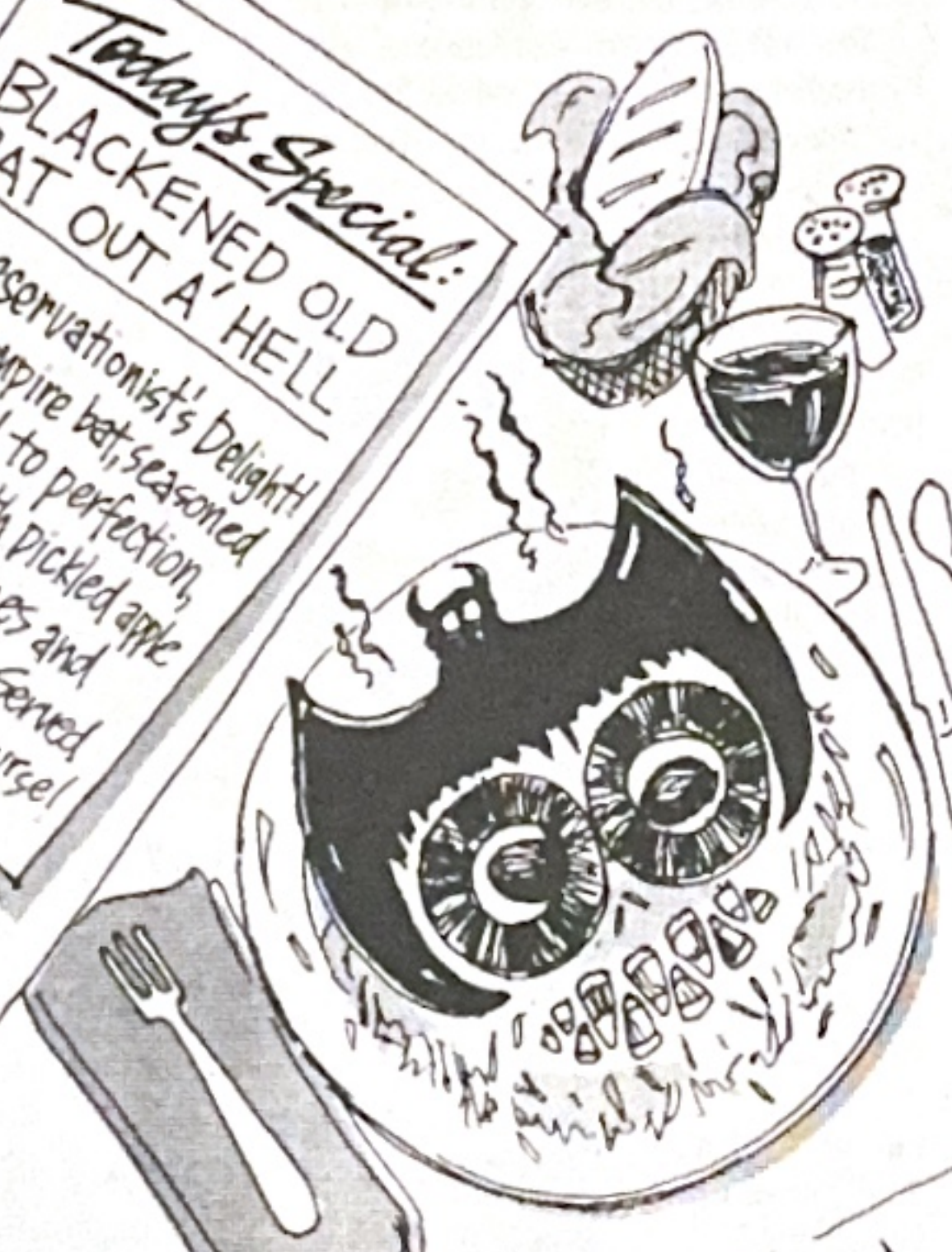


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peacock, bedecked in layers of pastel rayon and polyester,
gold chains jangling—jangling—
Waves of nausea overcame me as the putrid stench of his
petroleum-based hair wax wafted over the humid summer
air currents. His lip curled, exposing the gleaming capped
teeth, and then, from the gaping maw, a horrifying sound—
"What's da matta wit' you, sistah? Somebody die or sumpin'?"

*
CHAPTER 11

GOT LATEX?
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A PARTNERSHIP FOR LIFE

New Orleans: REMEMBERING 1979

IMPACT • February 28, 1997

IMPACT CELEBRATES 20 YEARS: 1979

New York and Time magazines ran cover stories on gays, and *Esquire's* feature on sex in New Orleans prominently included gay men and lesbians. Locally, the highly-respected journalist Iris Kelso penned a feature in the weekly *Figaro*. Her story was the first really in-depth feature accurately depicting gay carnival, gay economics, gay lifestyles, and the emerging gay politics.

In 1979, lesbians continued to be a major force in feminism, producing concerts of women's music as Terpsichore Productions and by organizing a Take Back the Night march to edify the public on matters of violence against women.

Other than the establishment of Gay Fest, it

December, 1979
Take Back The Night
to unite women against the common threat of violence that restricts our movements. To notify our assailants that we are uniting and will fight back. To celebrate the strength and solidarity of women who take action.

was in the arena of gay politics that lesbians and gay men achieved their most significant progress. Early in the year, Reverend Will Cain of Lutherans Concerned and the Care and Counseling Center spoke to a class of recruits at the New Orleans Police Academy, a seminal contribution continued over the years by a number of individuals and organizations.

The GSS continued important efforts to register gay voters and to educate political candidates. Its voter education committee, League of Independent Voters for Equality (LIVE), interviewed state-wide and local legislative candidates and sponsored candidate fora, stopping short, however, of endorsing candidates.

Most significantly, however, was the emergence of an openly gay

REGISTER AND VOTE

October, 1979
ALAN ROBINSON

Democratic State Central Committee
District 70
(Quarter - Tremé - Marigny - Bywater)

A WELL-QUALIFIED CANDIDATE

candidate: Alan Robinson ran for a seat on the Democratic State Central Committee. Although he lost, his candidacy signaled the arrival of gay people onto the playing fields of Louisiana politics.

Now there could be no going back to the acquiescing silence of the closeted past.

Honored Citizen: ALAN G. ROBINSON

BY ROBERTS BATSON

He came South to escape the bitter cold. And stayed. "My car died in Ft. Lauderdale, and that is a town you don't exist in without a car, so I flew to New Orleans to spend the winter." He figured he wouldn't need a car in the Quarter. Alan Robinson has been here ever since.

Brimming with gay consciousness and Yankee impatience, he quickly jumped into activities. As an undergraduate he had cofounded the gay and lesbian student organization at the University of Illinois. Here he volunteered to help try to get the first gay community center established.

That effort failed, but he kept going. He teamed up with Bill Rushton, managing editor of the *Vieux Carré Courier*, dedicated preservationist, and all-around gadfly in the ointment of local establishment institutions. To Robinson's energy and willingness to be openly gay, Rushton brought experience in grass roots organizing and a fine understanding of local politics and culture.

In 1976, they threw a party for about 40 men and women, taking advantage of the occasion to propose the idea of forming a social/political organization. Together with such stalwarts as Ann Galmeyer, Betty Hugh, Annis Rae Reid, and Regina Matthews, the Gertrude Stein Society was launched.

Within the year, G.S.S. was offering "salons" that brought together an ever-widening group of lesbians and gay men to enjoy an array of informative and entertaining events. Largely mainstream and middle class, the G.S.S. group was decidedly less radical than previous activists, such as those that had formed the short-lived Gay Liberation Front in 1971.

Like the French salons pioneered in the 17th century and revived in 20th century Paris by Stein and Toklas, these occasions also created an environment where men and women would meet comfortably on an equal ground and get acquainted. Robinson says today that the principal purpose of G.S.S. was to develop a nucleus who would identify themselves as part of the emerging gay and lesbian movement, hoping that gay activism would grow from that core.

Indeed it did. G.S.S. brought together talented, dedicated people who with time would be the founders of much of the New Orleans g/l/b/t infrastructure: LAGPAC, Celebration, NO/AIDS Task Force, P-FLAG, and so on. They were able to work together without the divisive rancor that characterized organizing that came principally from the bars, such as the Gay Business Association and Gay Fest.

When Anita Bryant arrived in June of '77, it was G.S.S. people who designed and promoted a large umbrella coalition (H.E.R.E) to produce the planned protest.

Between three and five thousand people turned out, exceeding the organizers' wildest hopes.

Robinson remembers that, at the time, success appeared highly doubtful. A thunderstorm erupted that day, catching Robinson — along with Rushton, Reid, and Matthews — in Molly's Irish Pub. The organizers were despondent, fearing the downpour would destroy their weeks of building a coalition out of nothing.

The rain ended a mere 15 minutes before the rally, and they rushed to Jackson Square. Robinson recalls excitedly, "Suddenly, people started coming! The square was filling up and the sun was coming out and our moods were going up! Apparently people cared that much!"

Unlike many local gay people, Robinson was willing to be visible and open, and it often fell to him to carry the mantle of gay organizing forward into the glare of public view. As political organizing developed, he agreed to be the first visible, openly-gay candidate by running for a seat on the Democratic State Central Committee.

A minor party office, this race was chosen as a modest place to nudge gay presence onto the playing fields of hard-ball local politics. And the campaign proved to be an invaluable learning experience for incipient political workers. Says Robinson, "It also proved there was a real bloc of gay and lesbian voters willing to put signs on their houses."

Campaigning was not an assignment he relished, however. Now he laughs, "I hate politics and I never was very good at it!"

As a result of the campaign and the other activities which he pursued tirelessly, Robinson became the most visible local gay activist in the city. Soon he was being asked to serve on a number of committees and boards, becoming, as he says, "everybody's token fag." But he accepted those invitations willingly and with an unfailing commitment to be an exemplary community representative.

After a decade of unrelenting gay community activism, Robinson purchased the Faubourg Marigny Bookstore from founder Tom Horner. Since then, his life has turned from volunteer activism to the bookstore, "a twelve hour a day job." But as he stands now behind the counter on a gray winter afternoon, customers (many of whom he knows by name) drift in and out of the store, stopping to listen to his stories. "I've enjoyed the bookstore," he says while checking out a young gay couple. "It's sort of a focal point for thinking about gay culture, gay arts, that sort of thing. It's a part of the growth of the gay community."

And how does he see that growth today? "Continuing the experience of coming out and becoming more and more involved. Integrating openly into society is the most important thing right now."

QUOTE: "The battle we are facing, have always faced, is whether it is possible to create a society where it is all right to be different. Unfortunately we have to fight against our own fundamentalism. There simply isn't one right (or left) way to be gay."



ALAN G. ROBINSON

BORN: Chicago, IL 9/26/49

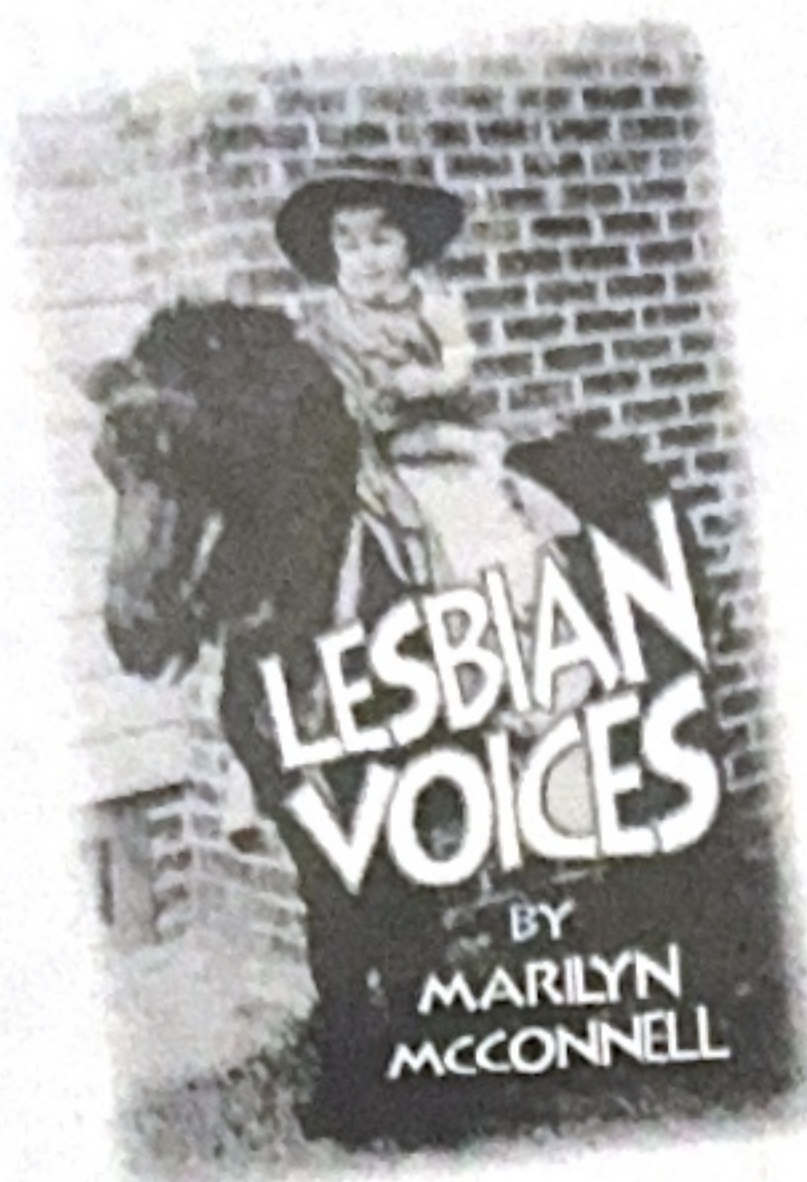
RESIDENCE: Grew up in suburban Chicago. Lived in Provincetown and Ft. Lauderdale before moving to New Orleans in 1975.

EDUCATION: B.A. in Anthropology and Asian Studies, Univ. of Illinois

PROFESSIONAL: Laboratory Technician; Shop Manager; Accountant; Owner-operator, Faubourg Marigny Bookstore.

COMMUNITY ACTIVISM: Gay Community Center Volunteer, 1975; Cofounder, Gertrude Stein Society, 1976; Treasurer, Human Equal Rights for Everyone, 1977; Appointed openly-gay member, Mayor's Citizen's Committee Against Crime, 1979; Candidate, Democratic State Central Committee, 1979; Writer, *IMPACT* and *The Advocate*; Community Needs Assessment Committee, Cox Cable, 1980; LAGPAC: Founding Treasurer, 1980 and Co-chair, 1981-84; Police-Gay Relations Ad Hoc Committee, 1981-83; Co-chair, State Gay Conference, 1982; Secretary, NO/AIDS Task Force, 198; World's Fair Advisory Committee, 1983-84; New Orleans Ordinance Committee, 1984; Advisory Board, The Forum for Equality.

COMMUNITY HONORS: Elected openly-gay Delegate, LA State Democratic Conventions, 1980, 1981; Elected Member, Orleans Parish Democratic Executive Committee, 1982; We're Here Award, LA Council for Equal Rights, 1991; Parade Marshall, Alliance for Pride, 1993.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY "BIKE"

The Red Bike Bakery and Café on Tchoupitoulas commemorated its first anniversary this February. The day-long celebration began with free champagne for brunch and ended with Jazz Fest favorites, Kat and the Kittens. Owners Mary Jo Webster and Beth Miller have worked hard to make "the bike" a favorite with a wide variety of tourists and locals. It's roomy and bright with a beautiful wooden bar and bakery case, made by local master carpenter/craftsperson, Barbara Johnson. Barbara also made many of the wooden tables in the restaurant. The logo, done by graphic artist Kerry Tully, is from a 40s vintage "Western Flyer" bike. If you've never eaten there, you're missing a real treat. I have many favorites, but the foccacio veggie sandwich is to kill for, and the spinach salad is the best in town. An added feature is sidewalk dining. About 11 a.m., the tables are directly in the sun for the perfect spring brunch. Call 529-BIKE for hours and reservations.



Left: One of the "Bike" owners, Mary Jo Webster with her parents Dr. Doug and Molly Webster, founders of N.O.-P-FLAG at the Bike's birthday party. Right: Barbara Johnson stands by the bar and bakery case she made for The Red Bike Café.



Friends celebrating with The Red Bike during its birthday. Right: Women at Gay Games in New York. It's not too early to plan for Amsterdam in '98! (photos by Marilyn McConnell)



9TH ANNUAL GULF COAST WOMYN'S FESTIVAL

Easter weekend, March 27-30, in Ovett, Mississippi, Brenda and Wanda Henson will once again host this friendly festival in the Pines. A leisurely three-hour drive takes you to the large wooded area with rustic housing and camping facilities. It is a wonderful opportunity to see and hear lesbian performers in safe women's space. This year singer/songwriter Alix Dobkin will perform. Alix is a very important person in our lesbian history: writing and singing of women loving women, women empowering women. At the festival, there will be other musicians, comedians, story tellers and a crafts area. This year renowned sculptor Carolyn Whitehorn of California has donated a beautiful "Amazon" sculpture to raffle and benefit Camp Sister Spirit. The tickets are \$20 each or 6 for \$100. You may obtain tickets and festival information from Camp Sister Spirit PO Box 12, Ovett, MS 39464 or phone (601) 344-1411. The drawing will be held at the festival, and winners need not be present to qualify.



CONGRATULATIONS "HALF MOONS" AND "MUDBUGS"

The local Club rugby team Half Moons went all the way to the finals before they lost to the tournament winner Vixens. In spite of the cold and often rainy weather at the UNO fields, the women rugby players who came from all over the country had a great time. Most will be back for the 18th Annual Mardi Gras Rugby Tournament next year, at the same time, the weekend before Mardi Gras day.

The Mudbugs began by winning their first three games, but then losing in the women's Mardi Gras Soccer Tournament at Lafrenier Park. Women Soccer Players from all over the U.S. enter this popular tournament held two weekends before Mardi Gras Day. Congratulations to the coordinator, Laurie Hart, for a great tournament.

GAY GAMES, AMSTERDAM 1998

From July 31- August 9, 1998, Amsterdam sought and won the right to host the 1998 GAY GAMES. It's not too early to make your plans if you want to be there. Between the opening and closing ceremonies at the new Amsterdam Arena, many parties, choir and storytelling festivals, a women's festival with 20 programs, a film festival with over 50 screenings, art exhibitions, and performing art presentations will be happening. All of this is in addition to the many sports events held all over the city. If you think it sounds like a wonderful time, you're right! If you run, racewalk, play tennis or other sports, you will want to join the members of Team New Orleans who will be going. You can make hotel and travel arrangements yourself, but there are many good tour packages at reasonable prices. If you'd like to go on Robin Tyler's Women's tour, she has six rooms left for nine nights in the first-class Jan Luyken Hotel. The package includes opening and closing ceremonies, daily breakfast and airport transfers. I've traveled with Robin, whose tours attract

women from all over the U.S. She accompanies every tour and is experienced in handling travel and tour problems, ensuring that the trip is trouble-free. The price, including air fare, is about \$2500. Call (818) 893-4075 for information. At least 10 New Orleans women will be on this trip. Locally, Betty Morrison at Alternative Tours and Travel has a variety of good packages with and without airfare. Sightseeing and canal cruises, opening and closing ceremonies are included in the packages. For information call Betty at 949-5815. With the convenient pay plans offered, your trip will be paid for when you go. Make your plans now!

WOMEN IN MEDICINE

The Annual Women in Medicine Meeting for lesbian physicians and their significant others will be held in Kailua-Kona Big Island, Hawaii from March 19-23. Roberta Achtenberg will be one of the featured speakers. For information call the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association (GLMA) at (415) 255 4547.

FRIENDS OF H.E.R.M.P.

Members of the lesbian and gay community are always being asked to contribute to worthy causes. It's a constant struggle for our civil rights. Friends of Hawaii Equal Rights Marriage Project are hard at work on an effort to legalize same sex marriage. If they succeed, this would mean so much to all lesbian and gay people all over the U.S. Our civil right of marriage would be recognized by all states that have no specific law against it.

There are tax code benefits, adoption and guardianship rights, insurance benefits, pension and social security benefits, immigration and naturalization, estate and transfer tax benefits, and rights to make critical decisions on behalf of ill or deceased partners. Now Catholic, Mormon and Evangelical Churches, "Concerned" Women of America, Operation Rescue, and



Left: The Mud Bugs soccer team at the Mardi Gras Soccer Tournament. Center: Official Mud bug and Half Moon cheerleader, Dr. Louise McFarland. Right: Brenda and Wanda Henson, producers of the 9th Annual Gulf Coast Festival.

(photos by Marilyn McConnell)

The Christian Broadcasting Network are combining their efforts to influence Hawaii legislatures who are supportive. Help h.e.r.m.p. in this battle for our civil rights. Your contribution is tax deductible. Their fate will directly affect our lives. Write: Box 11690 Honolulu, HI 96828.

FRIENDS FEST WOMEN'S MUSIC FESTIVAL

Recreation Plantation in Dripping Springs, Texas will be the site of this April 4-6 Women's Festival. Camp under the stars with hot showers and flush toilets, RV hookups. Enjoy Texas' warm

days and cool nights. There are workshops, movies, a raffle for breast cancer research, a volleyball tournament, swimming, hiking, and entertainment. Write: Recreation Plantation 3650 Pursley Rd. Dripping Springs, Texas for more information.

1ST ANNUAL LESBIAN VARIETY SHOW

This show will be held in Pensacola during Memorial Day Weekend '97. Denise (904-438-0333) is looking for performers, MCs, women to sell T-shirts, etc. If you are planning to go to Pensacola Beach for that weekend, check it out.

COMING UP

5TH ANNUAL CRESCENT CITY OPEN

The program of Men and Women's Foil, Epee and Sabre will be Saturday March 22 and Sunday March 23 at Joe Brown Gym. Local favorite Angela Torres will be competing in Women's Sabre at 3 p.m. Saturday. Fencers from both Southwest and Southeast sections of the country will compete.

Here's a schedule of sorts: Sat 9 a.m., Men's Foil; Sat 1 p.m., Women's Foil, Sat 3 p.m., Women's Sabre; Sun 8:30 a.m., Men's Epee; Sun 9 a.m., Women's Epee; Sun 1 p.m., mixed Sabre.

Here is an excellent opportunity to see Fencing Matches in this area. To get to Joe Brown Gym, take I-10 East to Read Blvd., then exit right. Pass Lake Forrest Blvd. to the next light, which is Nature Center Drive; turn left and go through the gates. The Gym is on the right.

FUND RAISER FOR SUE MARTINO

Sunday, March 9, at Charlene's, Lady Magic Necha is presenting a fund-raising 50's Beer Bust for Sue Martino. This Evening of Oldies mega-retro event will feature a dance contest, prizes, and raffles all afternoon. The festivities start at 3 pm. Δ

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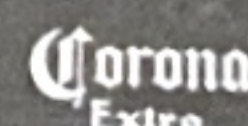


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THE MOVIE POLICE BY KAREL GAZDACKA

SOUTHERN GOTHIC

Ever since the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (hereafter, The Academy) announced this year's Oscar nominees on Mardi Gras day, every ink-stained wretch covering the entertainment beat has felt compelled to crank out a ThinkPiece on how the "independents have left Hollywood in the dust." Of the five films nominated for "Best Picture," only *Jerry Maguire*, an aggressively trivial Tom Cruise sports vehicle, has Hollywood written all over it; *The English Patient*, *Shine*, *Secrets and Lies*, and *Fargo* were all art house hits that occasionally crossed over to the mall. From their perches at various publications, the critics trumpeted the triumph of these Davids over the studio Goliaths. While it is true these films were not financed by any major Hollywood studios, it is not as if the major distributors were left holding the bag. In one of the better feature stories on this year's Oscar race by Bernard Weinraub in the *New York Times*, the author points out that the distinction between Hollywood and The Independents is mostly illusory: "What blurs the line between the studios and

independent films, and something the top independent film companies are reluctant to discuss, is that the independents aren't quite so independent as they seem." Miramax (*The English Patient*) is owned by Disney, while Fine Line (*Shine*) is part of Time Warner and Gramercy (*Fargo*) is a division of Polygram. Sony Classics (*Lone Star*) is owned by Sony. Fox has created Searchlight (*The Brothers McMullen*), an arm for lower budget, edgier movies. And October Films (*Secrets and Lies*) is in negotiations with several companies, including Universal, for either a partnership arrangement or a purchase.

By all accounts, the independent companies are generally left alone, although Miramax embarrassed Disney when it released *Priest*, about a gay priest, which stirred some protests. The benefit for the independents in this arrangement is that they are left financially secure. The benefit for the larger companies is that they have an avenue to release films that enhance their reputations and create Oscar potential.

"It's almost like two businesses going on simultaneously," said Russell Swartz, president of Gramercy Pictures, whose films include *Four Weddings and a Funeral* and *Fargo*. "So many of us are basically owned by studios," he said. "They are basically in the business of event films. So instead of having their production executives focus on these movies, they're letting these separate labels do it. It is a whole different mentality."

Many a film that might get two big thumbs down — were it perceived as a

Kama Sutra ...



Two students from the royal court practice the arts of "The Kama Sutra," the ancient philosophy of love, in Mira Nair's *Kama Sutra: A Tale of Love*.

(photo courtesy Trimark Pictures)

studio film — can garner many an adjectival bouquet from the critics if positioned as the love child of a struggling film maker. Just take a gander at Billy Bob Thorton's *Slingblade*. Were this Southern Gothic yarn a slick studio production with A-list acting talent, I'm certain it would have been dismissed as just so much treacle. But with a shrewd campaign that parlayed its no-budget production values into a badge of integrity, film reviewers seem to have embraced it as a true American primitive, in the process ignoring elementary lapses of dramaturgy.

Slingblade opens with the release of Carl (Billy Bob Thorton) from an institution for convicted felons judged to be mentally incompetent. When Carl was a child, he off'ed his mother and her lover with a slingblade. Though adept at fixing engines, Carl appears to be borderline mentally retarded. Upon his release, Carl helps a young boy carry home several sacks of laundry. The kid takes a liking to Carl and brings him around to meet his mother, who works in a small town discount store.

Though Carl is harmless now, there's still something unnerving about his

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presence, to say the least. But just seconds after meeting him, she invites him to move in with her and the boy. Not only is this response difficult to accept, but her rationale that Carl would be a father figure to the boy is downright ludicrous. Momma also has a hard-drinking, abusive boyfriend, and it doesn't take long for a viewer of even below-average intelligence to see that things are going to end badly, especially for Carl. Unfortunately, the movie still has two hours to go. One can only surmise that all those good reviews and the Oscar nomination for Billy Bob is a reward for his dogged determination in making the film, never mind whether or not it was worth making.

Because my life was particularly empty this past week, I caught up with some recent Hollywood releases on video that I missed in the theatres. I had some hope for *Kiss of Death*, a re-make of a forties film noir of the same title. Conceived as the vehicle for "NYPD Blue" star David Caruso's transition to the big screen, *Kiss of Death* is the familiar story of an ex-con trying to go straight only to have the fates trick him up. Director Barbet Schroeder (*Reversal of Fortune*) never manages to convey an atmosphere of implacable doom no matter how much he tightens the screws — and then Caruso's ultimate fate has him walking off into the sunset in what plays like a happy ending. A film noir with a happy ending? As the heavy, Nicholas Cage does another of his off-the-wall characterizations that borders on a Dick Tracy villain; given the naturalness of Caruso's acting style, Cage

by contrast seems like a refugee from the next installment of the *Batman* series.

The next night I rented *French Kiss*, a vehicle to consolidate the annoyingly cutesy Meg Ryan's reputation as a light comedienne. Playing someone terrified at the prospect of flying, Ryan initially won by sympathy, since I need to be heavily sedated before I can go anywhere near an airport. Ryan's beau, Timothy Hutton, is going to Paris for a medical convention and pleads with her to join him in the most romantic of cities. But Ryan just can't get on the plane. Once Hutton arrives, he proceeds to fall for a femme fatale. After receiving a phone call from Hutton with the bad news, Ryan finally gets the courage to fly the friendly skies to win Hutton back from the clutches of this French tart. On the way over, she meets a Parisian con-artist (Kevin Kline) who initiates her into "l'amour fou."

If anyone ever had any illusions about director Lawrence Kasdan (*The Big Chill*) as an "auteur," *French Kiss* will be the *coup-de-grace*. Totally witless — forget any cheap laughs — Kasdan even manages to make Paris seem like just another big city with a lot of tall buildings and, oh yeah, the Eiffel Tower. Even the predictable dig about the French as rude and snobbish seemed not only tired, but downright offensive. The French may be the last nationality that one can still reduce to gross stereotype on film and not have hell to pay for it. After rewinding *French Kiss*, I couldn't wait to return to the emptiness of my life. Δ

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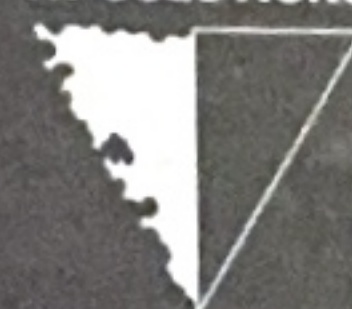
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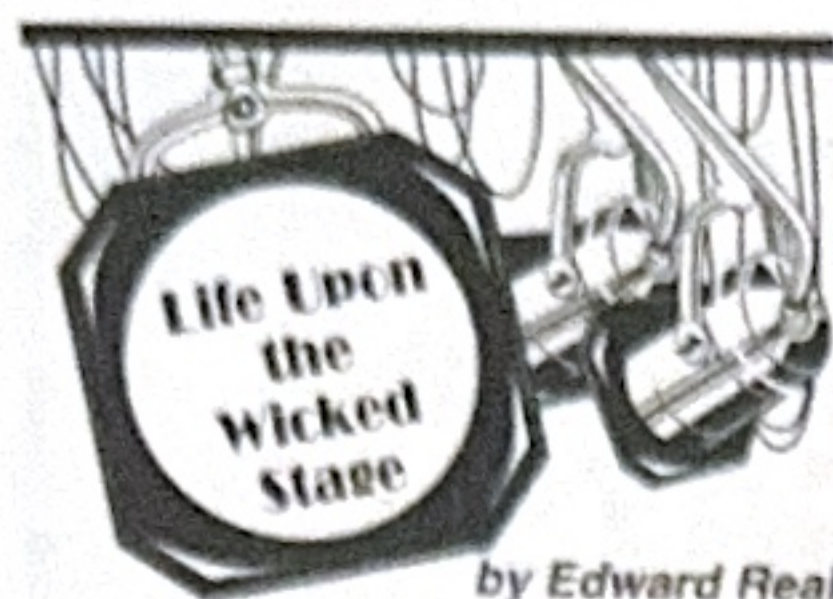


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Photo: Martin Ryler



by Edward Real

February is not the ideal time for a week of theatre-going in New York — the major new shows of the season mostly open in late spring just prior to the Tony Awards, and this year an unprecedented number of new musicals are in a holding pattern. Still, February is the best time to get away from New Orleans and its seasonal street theatre, and this year's retreat to Broadway and its environs had numerous rewards: nine of the ten shows I saw were quite good.

This is not a strong season for those who seek serious drama. Perhaps the best effort in that genre I encountered was *Old Wicked Songs* by Jon Marans, an exquisitely acted work which was a finalist in the voting for last year's Pulitzer Prize (losing to the grunge musical *Rent*). Marans' play has been accused of being formulaic and a bit too pat in its predictable dramatic reversals. While such charges may have some validity, they in no way diminish the well-crafted play which is an effective and affecting old-fashioned melodrama.

Briefly, *Wicked Songs* concerns an emotionally inhibited young pianist, a former concert prodigy who has burnt-out professionally and is now seeking a career change by studying to become an accompanist to vocal performers. His teacher has insisted that voice lessons are a prerequisite, so he will understand those with whom he must work.

Thus the play depicts the conflict between the unwilling pianist and his aged vocal coach who gradually awakens the younger man's emotional psyche. This personal conflict is set against the Austrian election in which Kurt Waldheim's possible Nazi affiliations became an issue, thus allowing Marans to embellish the theme of discovering identity in personal, artistic, and socio-political terms.

All of these complexities are played out against a musical background (Marans seems to have learned a trick from McNally) as the student works on Schumann's *Dichterliebe* with his instructor. The performances of Hal Robinson as the teacher and Justin Kirk as the student are moving and frequently thrilling. Unfortunately, this poignant and touching play will close in early March.

A major contender for dramatic awards this year will undoubtedly be Pam Gems' *Stanley*, a British import from the Royal National Theatre which has already swept the Olivier awards in London. The eponymous *Stanley* is the eccentric English painter Sir Stanley Spencer, played by Anthony Sher. In spite of bravura performances by Sher and his cohorts, the play itself never develops the numerous thematic possibilities offered by the artist's life. Instead, Gems concentrates on the melodramatic aspects of the subject's family life — abandoning his soul-mate wife and children to marry a beautiful but vacuous lesbian who was interested only in his money and reputation.

As with several British plays of recent vintage, including *The Madness of George III*, I felt that the impetus behind the writing was to provide some choice scenery-chewing roles for actors, rather than to explore the ideas suggested by historical events.

A charming American entry to the dramatic sweepstakes this season is provided by Alfred Uhry, who several years back gave



Clockwise: Christine Pedi (seated) as Elaine Pagie, Donna English as Julie Andrews, Bryan Batt as Lou Diamond-Phillips, and David Hibbard as Nathan Lane, in scenes from Gerard Alessandrini's *Forbidden Broadway Strikes Back!*, an all-new musical spoof of *The Great White Way*.

us *Driving Miss Daisy*. His new play, *The Last Night at Ballyhoo*, is an examination of the assimilation of Southern Jews in the 1930's. The action takes place in Atlanta about the time of the premiere of the film *Gone With the Wind*. Characters include two widows, each with a single daughter, who reside with their brother in a fashionable Atlanta street where they are the only Jews. The play opens as they decorate their Christmas tree — and argue over the appropriateness of decorations which might have undue association with Jesus.

Conflict arises when the daughters fall for a newcomer from New York, one of "the other kind" (that is, someone whose ancestry is "east of the Elbe"). Considerable irony is achieved by juxtaposing this prejudice with the great American racial divide exemplified by the popular film and novel of the era. Yet for all the serious issues *Ballyhoo* does raise, it remains warm and fuzzy comedy, sparked by deft performances — especially that of Dana Ivey, the erstwhile Miss Daisy.

Oddly, it is an unabashed farce that is receiving the big-product treatment among non-musicals. Noel Coward's *Present Laughter* is blessed with a major star in a virtuoso turn (Frank Langella as the Cowardly matinee idol alter-ego of the writer), a sumptuous set design (the façade of the hero's London home is the show curtain, which parts to reveal the posh digs of a superstar of a grander era), and a general air of highly polished professionalism in which Mr. Coward would revel.

Langella's star turn as Gary Essendine reveals the character as flashy, campy, snobbish, vainglorious, selfish, and always very theatrical ("I'm always acting, watching myself go by"). He is abetted in farcical mayhem by a first-rate cast including a naked man, an obscene dachshund, and the inimitable Steve Ross,

the cabaret pianist who plays Coward and Porter songs before the curtain and during intermissions in addition to taking the role of the butler. The production brings to mind a Coward lyric: "I've been to a marvelous party; I couldn't have liked it more."

While most of the season's new musicals are still waiting in the wings, Broadway is getting by nicely with spectacular revivals.

The recently arrived *Chicago* is as brilliant as you might expect from the fact that it got a front-page photo in the *New York Times*. Bob Fosse's reaction to Watergate has brilliantly transformed itself into a metaphor for America's mood in the post OJ period. Even from the third row from the back of the mezzanine I was astounded by the show's razzle-dazzle.

A holdover from last spring, *The King and I* also lives up to its publicity. The current production is the most sumptuous spectacle I've seen since the original production of *Camelot*. The management even sacrificed the theatre's boxes to the elaborate set, so the King and his entourage would have a suitable place to watch the "Small House of Uncle Thomas" ballet.

Lou Diamond Phillips makes an excellent king, making the role his own even after we have been indoctrinated by 40 years of Yul Brynner. Donna Murphy also manages to give Anna a modern slant. Apart from some operatic staginess among the supporting players and some frequently slow tempi, this is an ideal version of the classic musical.

A third musical revival is *Once Upon a Mattress*, and as everyone knows by now, something is amiss here. Both the star (Sarah Jessica Parker) and the property itself have been cited in the what-went-wrong post-mortems. I've always had a fondness for the show, and Ms. Parker is a personable star. The problem, I think, is that the production is just too big. *Mattress* works best when the production, like its characters, makes the most of limited resources. The show is a "delicate thing," and it is lost in overdone sets and costumes; even the musical arrangements have been made more complex. And the situation isn't helped by really bad choreography by Liza Gennaro.

An off-Broadway revue proved to be one of the great joys of this excursion. Howard Crabtree's *When Pigs Fly* is, in its own words, "a major airborne pork attack." Crabtree first came to our attention with a show called *Whoop-de-doo*, a glorified drag show with inspired costumes. In *Pigs*, completed just before Crabtree's death, the wit and originality of the creator's costumes is matched by the satiric material — gay-themed skits which are tied together by a wisp of a plot about the thespian dreams of a wispy high school Dream Curly.

Among the risible and ribald moments are torch songs to right wing luminaries, a centaur in the health club shower wondering "Why Do They Think I'm Not All Man," a very contemporary Hawaiian wedding song which gives new meaning to Diamond Head, and a patriotic first act finale about the importance of gays to America which makes it impossible to overlook the "fruited plain."



Anne Reinking and Bebe ("Lilith") Neuwirth in a scene from the Kander/Ebb/Fosse musical *Chicago*. Under the direction of Walter Bobbie, the musical also stars James Naughton and Joel Grey. (photo by Dan Chavkin)



Left: *The King and I* starring Tony Award-winning actress Donna Murphy as "Anna" and acclaimed film actor Lou Diamond Phillips as "The King." (photo by Joan Marcus). Right: Mary Louise Wilson as Diane Vreeland in *Full Gallop*.



Two former Orleanians are currently starring in off-Broadway hits. Bryan Batt is one of the cast of four in *Forbidden Broadway Strikes Back*, which may be the best ever edition of that series of send-ups of the theatre scene. Batt is allowed to bite the hand that has fed him in a parody of the role he understudied in *Sunset*, and he scores comically as a Siamese king whose Anna looks a lot like Fosca from *Passion*. The show also takes deadly aim

at Julie Andrews, the producer of *Grease*, and the marketing of *Rent*, with the grungy cast hawking fashion wares to the tune of "Think Pink" from the film *Funny Face* — only now the words are "Think Punk."

The character who sang that number in *Funny Face* was based on one-time *Vogue* editor Diana Vreeland, who is currently being celebrated in the off-Broadway hit, *Full Gallop*. Mary Louise Wilson, who conceived

the show and is its star, is currently being celebrated by all New York for her fabulous star turn. She should be so adored for creating so much joy from material so relatively trivial as a revel in style.

Gallop focuses on Vreeland as she mulls over her situation after being fired by *Vogue*, before she decides to take over the fashion institute of the Metropolitan Museum. There are some requisite bows to seriousness and sentiment along the way,

but mostly Wilson's Vreeland thinks about the joyous freedom and creativity which are the results of style (not to be confused with fashion). One has to rejoice in a set of values which leads one to proclaim that "Jeans are the greatest invention since the Gondola." Perhaps a zest for living life on one's own terms is ultimately more important than those big issues which surround us but which we can do nothing about. Δ

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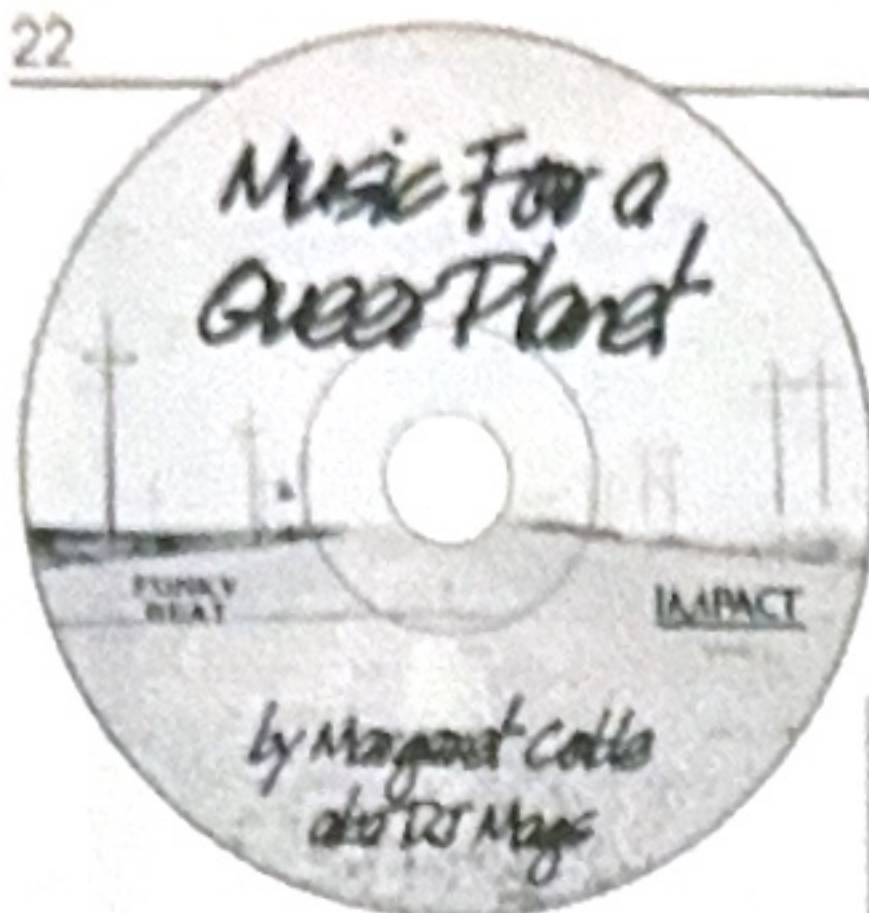
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In conjunction with *OUT* magazine, Atlantic Records has put together an *OUTstanding* collection of continuously mixed dance tracks for your exercise enjoyment, cleverly titled *Work Out*. With the help of renowned fitness expert David Barton, *Work Out* distinguishes itself from the myriad of other dance compilations on the market by supplying detailed instructions for a comprehensive, full-body workout in its liner notes, to accompany its 60+ minutes of nonstop dance music. This collection also distinguishes itself in its track listing, which includes an impressive six #1 dance hits from artists like Tori Amos, Full Intention, The Buckheads, Jimmy Somerville, the Waterlilies, and Ruffneck featuring Yavahn, as well as contributions by Le Click, Fun Factory, Robin S, Jordan Hill, Jomanda and the Braxtons. Mixed by Atlantic Records' Dance Promotions guru himself, Johnny "D" DeMairo, *Work Out* is truly one of the most diverse and consistent dance compilations available — not to be missed by fitness freaks and club kids alike.

Last year I told you about a phenomenal three-disc box set which assembled more than 40 women's voices from around the world, entitled *Global*

Divas: Voices from Women of the World (Rounder Records). Inspired in part by the historic United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China, *Global Divas* was a landmark release in the realm of contemporary women's music, giving exposure and paying homage to female musicians and singers of all walks of life in many countries. Well, no sooner had it been released to much critical acclaim than its creator, Brooke Wentz, had begun collecting for a sequel, which I am now delighted to tell you about, *Divine Divas: A World of Women's Voices* (Rounder).

Again, more than 40 artists are gathered here, this time many lesser-known names from earlier generations as well as several younger performers. Americans as diverse as Cassandra Wilson, Ani DiFranco, and Alison Krauss are amongst international artists as varied as Marcia Griffiths (Jamaican), India (Puerto-Rican born, Bronx-bred), Joyce (Brazilian), Tish Hinojosa (Tejana), Françoise Hardy (French), Eva Molnar with Vasmalom (Hungarian), Dagmar Drause (German), and Detty Kumia (Indonesian). As the liner notes remark, some of these women have achieved international stardom; most are well-respected within their cultures. More than a few have taken control of their careers — leading their own groups, producing their own albums, even starting their own record labels. But all are gifted, creative performers with unique and compelling voices, making this set a must-have for collectors and all lovers of music by women. Like its predecessor, a portion of the proceeds from *Divine Divas* will be donated to UNIFEM (United Nations Development Fund for Women), whose mission is to support the efforts of women in the developing world to achieve their objective for economic and social development and for equality, and by so doing to improve the quality of life for all.



Cris Williamson and Tret Fure have released their second full-length collaboration entitled *Between the Covers*. (photo by Irene Young)

On a more traditional women's music note, longtime partners and lesbian icons Cris Williamson and Tret Fure have unleashed their second full-length collaboration, *Between the Covers* (Wolf Moon/Goldenrod Records, L.L.C.), the much-anticipated follow-up to 1993's acclaimed *Postcards From Paradise* (Olivia Records). Released on Valentine's Day, the disc (which Bonnie Raitt calls "a beautiful celebration of Cris and Tret's love for each other") contains 14 stellar examples of their collaborative genius: music that deftly travels the terrain between the rock & roll, folk, and pop arenas while remaining, as Williamson calls it, "heart music." Highlights on this, Williamson's twentieth and Fure's sixth album release, include the breathtaking piano-and-strings balladry of the title track, the peppy reggae-rooted rhythms of the opening "Please Stay" and the upbeat "Positive Solution," and the Joan Armatrading-styled straight-up rock and roll of "Say Goodnight."

Marking the debut of Fure and Williamson's new record label, Wolf Moon Records, as well as their joint venture with Goldenrod Distribution's new label, Goldenrod Records L.L.C., *Between the Covers* is an inspiring musical venture that even singer/songwriter Janis Ian admits is "transparently elegant... an album I would have liked to have written." Keep your eyes peeled for the duo on tour throughout the spring, summer and fall.

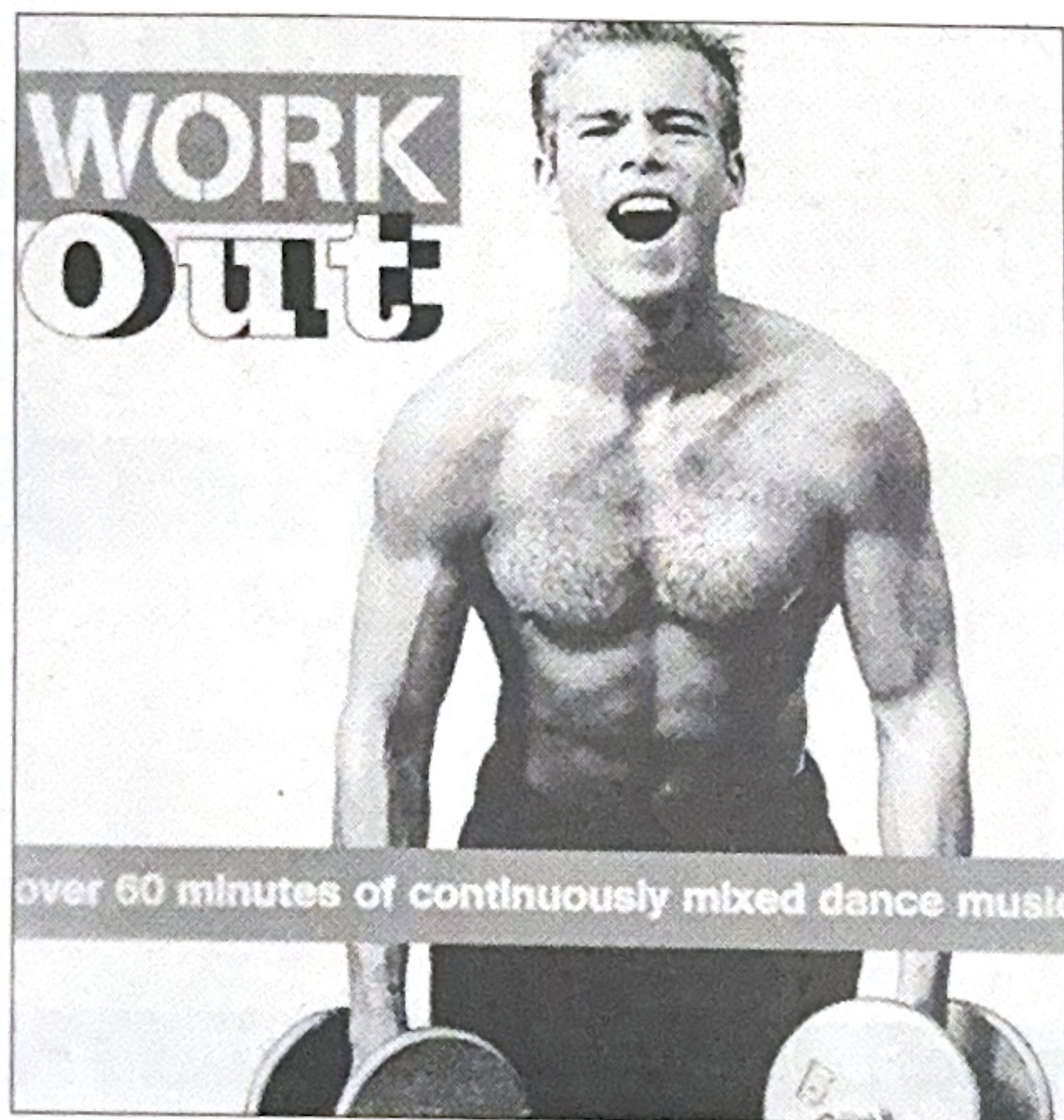
Hmm... well, he sounds sort of like a cross between the *Rocky Horror Picture Show* Soundtrack and Queen's Freddie Mercury, with a little David Bowie and T. Rex thrown in — but there's no guitars. What's that hard stringed instrument then? It's a cello, and Tommie Saeli is perhaps one of the world's only rock cellists. A flaming, glittering, feather-bow'd rock cellist, at that.

Classically trained since age 7, his cello playing is no joke. Saeli toured the world with the Long Island Youth

Orchestra, and later went on to study music at Boston University, eventually landing in New York City where, in 1993, he released his debut album effort, *Hello*. Perhaps best known as the host of the long-running popular Manhattan cable TV series "The Gay Dating Game Show" in the mid-80's, Saeli also had stints as a window display artist ("like Rhoda," he says) and as a go-go dancer at New York's famed Pyramid Club.

His most recent album release, *Let the Lion Loose* (Howling Wolf Records), is truly a unique listening experience. It showcases 13 original glam-rock tunes, as well as a host of covers running the gamut from Heart's '70's classic "Barracuda" to Tom Jones' "She's A Lady" to Purcell's 17th century "Thy Hand Belinda." On the original material, bizarrely intriguing lyrics reflect the artist's own personal mythology, including "Mechanized Clone Slave" (about keeping a perfect clone of yourself to do all your errands), "Among the Stars" (which describes death as a space trip), "Avenging Alien" (full of Furies, Titans, and a Gorgon's head), and "Full Tilt Diva" ("you've got your boa, and quite a desire"). And musically, though his arrangements include virtually no guitars, they are quite the early '70's meld of glam rock and opera, featuring instead harpsichords, cathedral organs, and Gloria Jones-styled background vocals. You've just got to hear it for yourself. His albums are available at Tower Records (New York) and A Different Light Bookstore (New York and San Francisco), or contact Howling Wolf Records at: (212)-254-0175.

dj mags spins at Rubyfruit Jungle and will be guest DJ at Charlenes, Saturday, March 1 at 10 pm. She is the Music Editor at Girlfriends Magazine and a regular contributor to Dance Music Authority Magazine. Correspondence should be directed to: dj mags@aol.com. Product for review consideration should be sent in care of IMPACT, PO Box 52079, NOLA 70152.



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WANDERLUST



by Ira Gruber

OPEN YOUR GOLDEN GATE

Gaytown USA generates more travel stories than the next five major American cities combined, according to a tracking that I have done with gay newspapers over the past 10 years. Being the most openly gay city in the entire world has to count for something. Yes, the gay population of New York City and Los Angeles is much larger. But numbers don't tell the whole story. Gay culture is part of the social fabric here like nowhere else in America. Recently when a radio show went right-wing the gay community mobilized hundreds of demonstrators. No one raises an eyebrow when gay couples walk down the street holding hands here, or when they get union-ed by Mayor Brown!

San Francisco has a rich history, as it was once noted for the infamous Barbary Coast — a district of crime, prostitution, and the first gay private club in America. Its mild climate has made it a favorite abode for people all over the country, but for gay people, it is the closest thing to paradise. I have met people over the years who told me San Francisco was too much for them and that they had to leave. I was always puzzled by "too much." Often they admitted they had become sexual addicts. (Sounds better than sexual starvation, which I hear is rampant in many places.) I guess if you believe the earth can quake any moment, you might as well carry on in the here and now.

With one of the best transit systems in the world, including A. C. Transit Golden Gate Transit, the Municipal Railway, the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) system, and Sam Trans, not having a vehicle here doesn't mean you're a bit psycho like it seems in most of America. Americans cannot get over it when you tell them you don't drive, but in San Francisco commuter time is cruise time. What a waste being in a car with no one to communicate with.

Historically, the city is divided into Castro Village (kinda butch), Polk Guich (anything that moves), South of the Market (the new trendy part of town), Haight/Cole (where hippy gays meet guppies) and Pacific Heights (uppity, posh and

Victorian gay). The oldest gay neighborhood is the Tenderloin, but you probably don't want to stay here unless you're a hustler or seeking a cheap pad.

San Francisco's downtown is vibrant and happening. Montgomery Street is still the financial center of the west.

There's only 1 hotel here that I can vouch for that is very gay. It's the Willows Bed & Breakfast Inn. It has survived the test of time, and people who were here 15 years ago keep coming back. Call (415) 431-4770. The classic gay restaurant hangout here is the Grubstake at 1525 Pine. The upscale gay restaurant that is a favorite of tourists is the Patio Cafe at 531 Castro. Hamburger Mary's at 1582 Folsom is almost 20 years old. The legendary eatery like the Grubstake is very popular after midnight. Here hip straights, slumming voyeurs, and blissed out gays are often found until the wee hours of the morning.

Twin Peaks at the corner of Castro and Market was the first gay bar in the country to have big picture windows on the street so straights could check out how the other half lives. Midnight Sun, the I-Beam, and Esta Noche in the Mission were all around when I was the Mayor of Polk Street, and I don't want to date myself. With all the bathhouses gone, sex clubs have become their replacements. Boy, do I miss the Sutor. Imagine you have to go to Berkely (the Steamworks) or San Jose (the Watergarden) to get a locker or room. Nude sunbathing happens at Baker's Beach, Land's End and Fort Funston, near Lake Merced.

The Gay Pride Parade, Halloween, the Polk Street Fair (the weekend closest to July 4) and the Castro Street Fair (the third Sunday in August) are especially tough times to get a room. But if you want a room, just plan your trip carefully.

San Francisco's real gay history starts in 1961. That's when the League for Civil Education started. They began the first gay newspaper in the city. In 1963 the Tay-bush coffeehouse was raided and the Chronicle blackballed those who were caught because they were waiting for Mr. Right. The Society for Individual Rights resulted. At last, a gay organization providing services for gay people. Del Martin, the founder of Daughters of Bilitis and her lover, Phyllis Lyon, wrote Lesbian/Woman and remember San Francisco in the 40s, 50s and 60s as a place where the police constantly raided gay bars for lack of something better to do. In 1965, some 500 people crossed the line of cops that were blocking a building where a costume ball was being held by the Council on Religion and the Homosexual. The 70s brought Harvey Milk, George Moscone, Armistead Maupin to the scene, and Moscone's murder by Dan White almost 19 years ago radically changed things in San Francisco as well as the rest of the country. Then came the not at City Hall.

Today the country looks to San Francisco as being in the vanguard of issues affecting gays and lesbians. This vibrant, visible diverse, and organized community is an inspiration to gay people everywhere and more than its museums, more than the Golden Gate Bridge and Coit Tower and Fisherman's Wharf is the reason that the gay/lesbian traveler comes here more than any other city. It's like breaking bread, going to communion, or as they say in GaySpeak — next year in San Francisco. Truly, this is Jerusalem for Gays, and the Castro's Harvey Milk square is like a wailing wall. And to think Gaytown USA is in actuality only celebrating its thirty-sixth birthday this year when the whole shebang began with a costume ball.

Before you visit Gaytown USA, send away for a copy of the San Francisco Book. Write-San Francisco Convention and Visitors Bureau 201 third street, San Francisco, CA. 94103-3185Δ



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The (former) shotgun double on Desire Street is an excellent example of a house built in a transition period. Most of the features classify this property as Victorian, though a classic Victorian would lack the gable, instead having a simple roof slanted forward.

The roof pictured here has a gable, a nice architectural detail that developed later and became commonplace during the Edwardian Era.

Now about the interior ... Though the façade has graciously retained its original "double" appearance, the building has actually been renovated and converted into a single family dwelling. The living room is huge (14.5' x 26.5') and has double parlors with pocket doors on each side, so that four rooms can actually become one. The floor-to-ceiling windows allow an incredible amount of light into that area.

During the renovation, the kitchen was moved to the center of the house to accommodate the modern lifestyle. There are also two center baths (all new) and three bedrooms, including a spacious master (13.5' x 26').

During the renovations, the owner managed to preserve the beauty of the wooden floors and the high ceilings, replete with original moldings and other details.

Some of the other features of the house: central air and heat, ample closet space, ceiling fans, a covered rear deck, and an alarm system. The lot is large, with plenty of room for the off-street parking.

The property is being offered for sale by the owner and agent, Robyn Halvorsen of Latter & Blum. Robyn is considering offers including Bond for Deed, bond money, lease/purchase or other acceptable forms of financing. Δ



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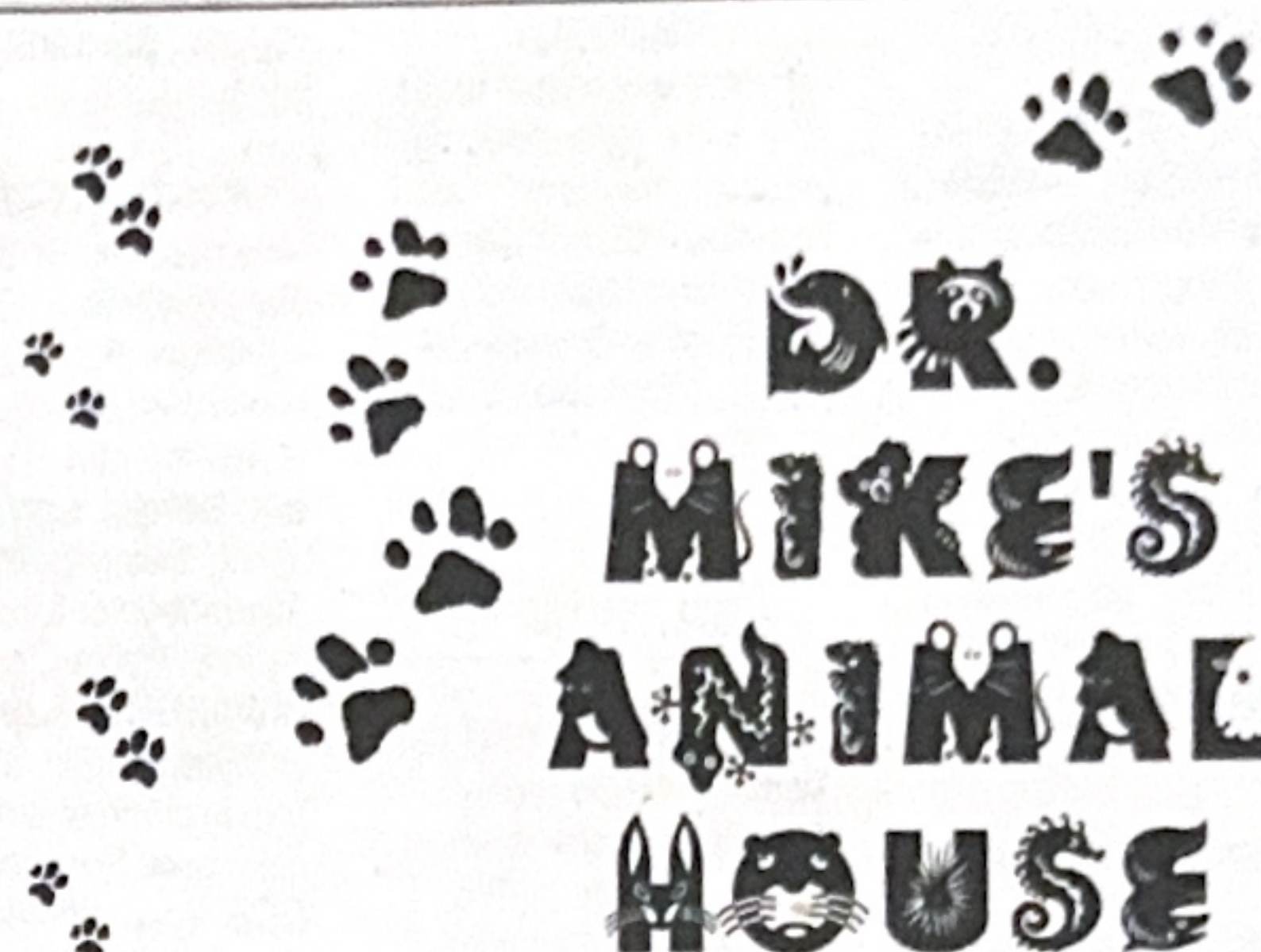


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Would you like your own web page for your business? We can design your page and have you on line for as little as \$365 a year. That's hard to beat in this market! Call Kyle or Phil at 945-9955.

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WANTED

MODELS

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

HELP WANTED

ACCOUNT SPECIALISTS

With IMPACT's recent growth since the dawn of eclipse, we are in dire need of addtl ad reps. Flexible hrs, a fun workplace, a real chance to meet people and become well-known and respected in the community. Wouldn't you like to be a part of a team that creates one of the top 10 gay & lesbian papers in the U.S.? Both part- & full-time positions are available. Transportation a +. Call Kyle to set up an appt., 944-6722.

MANAGING ATTORNEY

New Position. Leading lesbian, gay and HIV/AIDS rights law organization seeks managing atty for new ofc in Atlanta. Pref 5 yrs litig exp & some mngmt exp. Ldrshp, exc spkg & wrtng req. Awareness of &

commitment to lesbian, gay and HIV/AIDS rts, & dedication to multiculturalism also req. Exp in communities of color pref. From \$50 DOE. + exc benefits. Resumé & writing sample by April 18, '97 to: Beatrice Dohm, Lambda LDEF, 120 Wall St., Ste 1500 NY, NY 10005. (3/14)

STAFF ATTORNEY

New position. Leading lesbian, gay and HIV/AIDS rights law organization seeks staff atty for new ofc in Atlanta. Min. 5 yrs legal exp, incl litig. Ldrshp, exc spkg & writing req. Awareness of & commitment to lesbian, gay and HIV/AIDS rts, & dedication to multiculturalism also req. Exp in communities of color pref. From mid \$40s DOE. + exc benefits. Resumé & writing sample by April 18, '97 to: Beatrice Dohm, Lambda LDEF, 120 Wall St., Ste 1500 NY, NY 10005. (3/14)

TIDY CLEANING

Looking for stable, committed worker, part time or full time possible. non-smoker preferred. Pleasant work experience! 341-6959. (3/14)

WANTED

SUBMISSIONS

College student or '90s grad? Editors Kim Howard and Annie Stevens are in search of first-person true stories for a proposed

anthology describing undergraduate experiences coming out, being out, and staying closeted on college campuses. For guidelines send a self-addressed stamped envelope to P.O. Box 5345, Takoma Park, MD 209143, e-mail us at as154@umail.umd.edu or check out our web page at <http://www.wam.edu/Steve/na/book.html>. The submission deadline is March 31, 1997. Confidentiality and discretion assured, if that is a concern. (1/31)

GUEST RENTALS

CYGNE (Swan) Guest House

Cozy rooms, reasonable prices, in Marigny, minutes from the Quarter ... Jazz Fest availability! (504) 948-4334. (3/14)

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

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Lower Garden District, over 4500 square feet in mint condition. Formal areas, perfect for someone w/ discriminating taste who likes to entertain. Recently REDUCED to \$385,000. Offered by Kyle Scafide with Latter & Blum, 948-3011 or 482-0009.

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1/2 block from Fbrg Marigny. Modern lower rear, BR, LR, BA, furn. kit., closets, all electric, c a/h, w/d hkps, wtr pd., use of yard, no pets. \$375 + deposit. 834-2655 or 835-1610, Merlin. (3/14)

Bywater Half Double

2BR (1 up, 1 down)/1BA, LR, DR, Kit w/ ref & stove, w/d, wtr incl. a/c, cing fans, secure yard & wndws., patio, wd flrs, \$550 + deposit. 945-2972 (3/14)

Charming 2BR Cottage

Dble parlor, modern kit with w/d. Ceiling fans, private patio, half block from "Country Club." \$700/mo. Call Gary at 539-9752. (3/28)

University Area

Newly renovated 2BR/1BA apt. near Audubon Park & Tulane campus. Hdwd flrs, a/c, furnished kit., & w/d hkups. \$550/mo includes water. Deposit required. Avail. March '97. (504) 866-7705. (3/14)

Marigny 1 Bedroom

Loft style apt., 1.5 BA, c a/c, DW, icemaker, disposal, cing fans, blcny, crtyd, view of skyline, new paint, carpet & tile. w/d hkps, gas heat & wtr incl. Avail. 3/15. \$500/mo + dep. 945-8895. (3/14)

Lovely Victorian

315 S. Jeff Davis Pkwy, 3 br, study, furnished kitchen,

w/d, central a/h, deck, hardwood floors, off street parking. \$1000. 504-624-4978. (3/28)

Esplanade Ave. Apt.

Newly renovated 1BR/1BA, w/d, new ac, ref & stove. Wtr & gas paid. \$500/mo + deposit. No dogs. 524-4248. (3/14)

MESSAGES

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

The next issues of **Impact** and **eclipse** hit the streets Friday, March 14, just in time for St. Patrick's Day. Advertisin gdeadline is Friday, March 7, call now to reserve your space. 504/944-6722

eclipse. The one-stop guide to gay nite life in new orleans. Leather, Drag, Horoscopes, Advice, Photos, Food & More!



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MEMORIALS & OBITUARIES

Are absolutely free when you need them, please submit information to Impact, P.O. Box 52079, New Orleans, LA 70152. Photographs can be returned, if requested.

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IMPACT DIRECTORY

27

ACTIVIST GROUPS

Forum For Equality — PO Box 850096, NOLA 70185-0096
 Homosexual Information Center — 115 Monroe, Boissier City, LA 71111
 Lesbian Avengers of New Orleans — PO Box 791375, NOLA 70179-1375, voice mail 365-3069
 New Orleans Alliance of Pride — PO Box 52343, NOLA 70152, Penny Young, info 830-5056

AIDS/HEALTH

Advocacy Center for the Elderly & Disabled — 210 O'Keefe, Ste. 700, NOLA 70122, 522-2337 (New Orleans), or 800-960-7705
 AIDS Law — 944-5035
 Belle Reve — 945-9455
 Buzzy's Boys & Girls/The William J. Fanning Foundation — 943-8929
 Charity Hospital/C-100 Clinic — 568-5304
 Darrell Hamby Memorial Food Bank — 704 N. Rampart, 524-3488
 Food For Friends — 2533 Columbus, 944-6028
 Gay Counseling Line — 885-4476
 Jefferson Parish Human Services Authority — 3101 W. Napoleon, Metairie, 70001, 83805215 (HIV Mental Health Program, 846-6947 (Transportation and HOPWA Housing))
 Lambda Center — 2106 Decatur, 947-0548 (AA & Al-Anon)
 The Live Foundation — 3562 Vestasian Suite 105, NOLA 70114, 366-8697; free nutrition education & blood monitoring
 NO/AIDS Task Force — 1401 Decatur, NOLA 70116, 945-4000 (administration), 944-AIDS (hotline), 800-992-4379 (statewide hotline), 944-2492 (TTD)
 North Lake AIDS Network (NoLAM), PO Box 2397, Slidell 70459, (504) 641-6750
 Project Lazarus — 949-3609
 PWA Coalition, The Boswell Center — 704 N. Rampart, 524-3488
 RAIN (Regional AIDS Interfaith Network) — 523-3755
 The Living Room at the MCC — 1128 St. Roch Ave., Wed. 7 p.m.
 Tulane/LSU Adult AIDS Clinical Trials Unit — 585-4002 or Perdido Street office 584-3605
 United Services for AIDS — 522-5239
 V. A. Medical Center — 589-5920
 Wednesday's Child (Adult Children of Alcoholics) — 2106 Decatur, at the Lambda Center, Wed. 6 p.m.

ARCHIVES

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

ATTORNEYS

Robert Clemenz — 210 Baronne, 525-4361

AUTO DEALERSHIPS

Crescent City Motors — 836-7575
 Bill Garrett Autoplex — 800-826-6562
 Bill Watson Ford — 243-7237

BARS

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

CATERERS

Top of the Quarter Catering — 525-6483

CHIROPRACTIC

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

CLEANING SERVICES

Tidy Cleaning Services — 341-6959

COMMUNITY CENTERS

Adolescent Drop-In Center — sponsored by NO/AIDS, 1434 N. Rampart, 948-6696
 Camp Sister Spirit — PO Box 12, Ovett MS 39464, (601) 344-2005
 GL Friendly Community Center — 308 Caillavet, Biloxi MS 39530 (601) 396-3333
 Lesbian & Gay Community Center — 816 N. Rampart, 522-1103, fax 527-5334
 Westbank Community Ctr. — 103 Brunswick Ct. Algiers 70131 433-5912

CONTRACTORS

Contracting by Harold — 840-0428 (bpr)

DENTISTRY

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

FINANCIAL

N. American Mortgage — 831-2908

FITNESS/SPAS

Club New Orleans — 515 Toulouse, 581-2402
 Midtown Spa — 700 Baronne, 566-1442

GROCERIES & DELIS

A&P — 701 Royal, 523-1353
 Whole Food Co. — 3135 Esplanade, 943-1626

GUEST HOUSES

Claiborne Mansion — 2111 Dauphine, 949-7327
 CYGNE Guest House — 934 Port 948-4334
 French Quarter Suites — 1119 N. Rampart, 524-7725
 Lafitte Guest House — 1003 Bourbon, 581-2678
 La Residence — 1239-41 Marais, 522-4828
 Henry Howard House — 822-2798
 Macarty Park — 3820 Burgundy, 943-4994
 Mazant — 906 Mazant, 944-2662
 Over C's — 940 Elysian Fields, 943-7166
 Reinbowe House — 2311-15 N. Rampart, 943-5805 or 949-5815
 Royal Street Inn & Bar — 1431 Royal Street, 948-7499 or 1-800-449-5535

HAIRCARE/SALON

Antonio's — 839 Rue Spain, 943-0333, ask for Barry
 Headquarters — 900 Dauphine, 522-2666
 Tantalistics Tanning Salon — 301 Burgundy, 525-TANN (8266)

LAUNDRY

Hula Mae's — Dumaine/Rampart, 522-1336
 Washing Well — 841 Bourbon, 523-9955

LAWN CARE

Duane Myers — 947-5709

MEDICAL

Dr. Waldo Holt — 2001 Canal, 524-2054
 Jewish Family Services — 3330 W. Esplanade, Ste. 600, Metairie, 831-8475
 Dr. Jim West, Counseling — 943-1436
 see also *Chiropractic & Dentistry*

NEWSPAPER & BOOKS

Beckham's Bookshop — 228 Decatur, 522-9875
 Bookstar — Jackson Brewery, 523-6411
 Faubourg Marigny Bookstore — 600 Frenchmen, 943-9875
 IMPACT, & *eclipse* — 944-6722
 Pink Pages/New Orleans — 947-3969
 Second Stone — 899-4104
 The Weekly Guide — 522-4300

PEST CONTROL

Pro-Tech — 736-0736

PHARMACIES

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

POLITICAL

LAGPAC (Louisiana Gay Political Action Caucus) — PO Box 53075, NOLA 70153
 League for Equality — PO Box 53425 Lafayette, LA 70505
 LEGAL (Louisiana Electorate of Gays and Lesbians) — PO Box 70344, NOLA 70172, voice mail 365-3105
 LEGAL: Alexandria-Pineville — PO Box 3036, Pineville, LA 71361
 LEGAL: Baton Rouge — PO Box 44370, Baton Rouge, LA 70804
 LEGAL: Lafayette — PO Box 90501, Lafayette, LA 70509
 LEGAL: Shreveport — PO Box 44543, Shreveport, LA 71134-4543
 Log Cabin Republicans, Louisiana Log Cabin — Randy Evans, meeting info & voice mail 593-1083
 P-FLAG (Parents, Family & Friends of Lesbians & Gays) — meetings 2nd Thurs at St. Charles Ave. Presbyterian Church, 581-2749 or 895-3936

REAL ESTATE

Commodore Apartments — David, 891-9300
 French Quarter Realty — 949-5400; Agent Gary Williams 581-2889
 Henderson Condominiums — 700 Commerce, 585-1903
 Latier & Blum — 948-3011 Agents: Robyn Halvorsen 947-2086, Lane Lacoy 948-4334, Pat O'Rourke 945-4545, Ray Ruiz 948-2217, Kyle Scafile 482-0009

RELIGIOUS GROUPS & ORGANIZATIONS

1st Unitarian Church of New Orleans Gay & Lesbian Task Force — 5212 S. Claiborne Ave., 865-7005 (men) or 822-3278 (women)
 Abundant Grace Christian Fellowship — 832 E. Boston, Bldg. #3, Covington 70433, Pastor Lee Thompson, 871-9527
 Associated Catholic Charities — 1000 Howard Ave. Ste 1200, NOLA 70113
 Grace Fellowship in Christ Jesus — 3151 Dauphine Street, 944-9836
 Integrity — 1329 Jackson, 866-1577 or 865-7343, 3rd Tues. each month at Trinity Episcopal Church
 Jewish Gay & Lesbian Alliance — Contact: Amos Lassen, 525-8286
 Joie de Vivre Metropolitan Community Church — 330 East Chimes (504) 383-0450
 Lambda Chai Gay & Lesbian Jews — 3330 W. Esplanade, Ste. 600, Metairie, LA 70002, 831-8475
 Old Catholic Diocese of La. — 433-5912
 St. Ambrose Holy Catholic Church — 1128 St. Roch Ave. (Upstairs Chapel), 558-0713, Sun. 10 a.m. Mass
 St. Mark's United Methodist Church — 1130 N. Rampart, Sunday 9:30 a.m. Worship, 529-1681
 Vieux Carré Metropolitan Community Church — 1128 St. Roch Ave., 945-5390

RESTAURANTS & CAFES

Cafe Lafayette — 717 Orleans, 571-4615
 Cafe Marigny — 1913 Royal, 945-4472, sandwiches, soups, coffees, sodas, pastries
 Cafe Sbisà — 1011 Decatur, 522-5565, innovative culinary delights; Major Cards (p)
 Feelings Cafe — 2600 Chartres, 945-2222, classic Creole, lovely courtyard (L,p)

Figaro's Pizzeria — 7900 Maple St., 866-0100, exotic pizzas, pastas, specials (L,p)
 Fiorellas — 45 French Market Place, 528-9566, Italian & Creole, daily specials, closes early; Major Cards (B,L,p)
 Krystal — 114 Bourbon, 523-4030, 24 hrs, famous square burgers, breakfast & more
 La Madeleine — 547 St. Ann, 568-9950, Caesar salad, croissants, French Onion soup (B,L,p)
 Louisiana Pizza Kitchen — 95 French Market Place, 522-9500 gourmet wood-fired pizzas, lunchtime sandwiches; Visa, MC, AX (L,p)
 Lucky Cheng's — 720 St. Louis, 529-2045, Asian Creole Cuisine; Major Cards (L,p)
 Mona Lisa — 1212 Royal St., 522-6746, pizza, salads, sandwiches, Turkish; Visa, MC, AX (L,p)
 Poppy's Grill — 717 St. Peter, 524-3287, burgers, sandwiches; Visa, MC, AX (B,L,p)
 Red Bike Cafe — 746 Tchoupitoulas, 529-2453
 Rotisserie Cafe — 47 French Market Place, Italian wines, pasta & grilled chicken (L,p)
 Sebastian's — 538 St. Philip, 524-2041, dinner restaurant with Sunday brunch.
 Upperline — 1413 Upperline, 891-9822, casual atmosphere; Major cards (p)
 Vera Cruz — 1141 Decatur, 561-8081
 Vaqueros — 4938 Prytania (at Robert), 891-6441, southwestern cuisine, Major cards

RETAILERS

Alternatives — 907 Bourbon, 524-5222
 American Aquatic Gardens — 621 Elysian Fields, 944-0410
 Anton Jewelers — 3121 22nd St., Metairie, 833-4367
 Artifacts — 5515 Magazine, 899-5505
 Casell Galleries — 818 Royal, 524-0671
 Diversions — 337 Burgundy, 522-8721
 French Quarter Camera — 809 Decatur, 529-2974
 Futonia — 3811 Magazine, 899-4356
 Gargoyles — 1205 Decatur, 529-4387
 Gay Mart — 808 N. Rampart, 523-6005
 Hat Attack — 620 Decatur, 523-5770
 Kruz — 432 Barracks, 524-7370
 Limbo — 1125 Decatur, 523-3435
 Panda Bear — 415 Bourbon, 529-3593
 Postmark New Orleans — 631 Toulouse, 529-2052
 Quarter News — 541 Dumaine, 529-6050
 Rings of Desire — 1128 Decatur, 524-6147
 Studio Inferno — 3000 Royal, 945-1878
 Video Alternatives — 4725 Magazine, 891-5347

SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS

Bayou Women's Tennis Club — PO Box 19797 NOLA, 70179-0797, contact Sharon, 482-4807
 Frontrunners Running Club — 528-3023, Barry
 Gay Bowling League — Mon. at Mid-City Lanes, 482-3133
 "Husbands for Husbands" — at the L & G Community Center, 3rd & 4th Wed. at 7 p.m., 522-1103
 Knights d'Orleans — Box 50812, NOLA 70150
 Lords of Leather — Box 72105, NOLA 70172
 Louisiana OUTdoors — Outdoors group meets Sat. of last full weekend each month, 889-8720 for schedule.
 Men of All Colors Together — PO Box 52801, NOLA 70152-2801
 Men of Color — PO Box 57694, NOLA 70157-7694, 482-5341
 National Leather Association: New Orleans — PO Box 50133, NOLA 70150
 New Orleans Bear & Bear Trapper Social

Club — Box 13584, NOLA 70185, 897-1594
 New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus — 245-8884
 New Orleans Women's Music Collective — 2903 Jefferson Ave., NOLA 70115, 838-7918 or 833-2834
 Original Kocktail Bunch Bowling League — 861-0233
 Positive Attitudes — a social club for HIV+ people. P.O. Box 2543, Lafayette, La 70502, (318) 365-8090
 Positively Social — a social club for those HIV+ or HIV- friendly, 947-6306
 Prime Timers of New Orleans — PO Box 71611, NOLA 70172-1611, Contact: John Alexander 525-3299; meets 1st Sun each month at Queen's Head Pub 1 p.m.
 Team New Orleans — 940 Royal Street, Box 288, NOLA 70116
 Twentysomething, alternative group — at the Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 816 N. Rampart, 522-1103
 UNO Gay/Lesbian Alliance — UNO Student Affairs Office, NOLA, 70148, 286-6349
 Womyn of Color — 488-5708/891-0673

SUPPORT

Gay Counseling Line (24 hrs) — 885-4476
 Gulf Gender Alliance Cross-dressers, TS, TG Support Group — 833-3046
 Relationship Therapy Center — support for gay and straight spouses & kids, 488-9924, 4th Tue. each month

TRAVEL

800 Ideas — 1-800-FLY-GAYS
 Alternative Tours & Travel — 1001 Marigny, 943-5805 or 949-5815
 Dart Travel — 522-6669
 French Quarter Reservations — 1-800-523-9091, 523-1246
 Great American Travel — Vito Zuppardo, 833-0600
 Travel New Orleans — 400 Magazine, Ste 201, Discounted air and hotel rooms, 1-800-535-8747
 TravelScope — Dexter, 488-3742
 Uniglobe Travel — 522-0003

VETERINARY SERVICES

Begue Veterinary Hospital — 1421 N. Rampart, 944-6855
 Dr. Mike — 1120 N. Rampart, 523-4455
 Louisiana S.P.C.A. — 1319 Japonica, 944-7445

VIATICAL SERVICES

Medical Escrow Society, 1-800-361-2839
 Positive Living Resources, 1-800-398-5177

WEB SITES & SERVICES

eclipse — www.impactnews.com/eclipse
 IMPACT — www.impactnews.com
 for lesbian and gay New Orleans — www.showmesomething.com
 Web-Net — \$20/month access! 469-7777
 If you would like your group, organization or gay-owned/gay-friendly business listed in the *Impact* Directory call 944-6722 or e-mail us at mail@impactnews.com. Because of space limitations, we can publish only the essential addresses, information and/or telephone numbers. Unless otherwise indicated, all telephone numbers have a (504) area code. Businesses who are not regular *IMPACT* advertisers may have their enterprise listed here for \$40 per year.

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