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AND LESBIAN NEWS FOR NEW ORLEANS AND THE GULF SOUTH

IMPACT

eclipse

SINCE 1977

VOL. 22 NO. 11 MAY 25 - JUNE 7

...INSIDE

Special
PENSACOLA
Memorial Day Issue
Features • Quotes • Tips
Map of the Scene



PLUS:

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- STATE LEGISLATURE UPDATE: Is the Same-Sex Marriage Debate Over?
- Gay Parents and their Children
- WYES explains why New Orleans is the only gay metro area in the nation not airing "The Life"
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OUT IN THE COMMUNITY



Pageant, opens Friday, May 23, at the Contemporary Arts Center. Pictured: Russell Hodgkinson, Brooks Braselman, Ken Weatherup, Paul Solleau, Steven Sherman and Douglas Park.

MAY 23

Theeeeere she is ... no, wait ... there HE is, HE ... is.

Don't miss All Kinds of Theatre and the Contemporary Arts Center's Southern Premiere of the hit off-Broadway musical *Pageant*, directed by Carl Walker and opening tonight at the CAC. Chances are it'll be bigger than anything you've ever seen before, in no small part because the lineup of Girls, Girls, Girls is played by Guys, Guys, Guys.

Show times at the CAC are 8 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays and 6 and 9 p.m. Saturdays, with Sunday matinees at 3. For ticket information, 528-3800.

Also on tap tonight is a benefit for **Hunt Scarritt**, local playwright and recent recipient of a fellowship to the Edward Albee Foundation, which will be held at UNO's Lab Theatre at 8 p.m. in the Drama/Communications Building. The program includes readings of two short plays by Mr. Scarritt, *Bleeders* and *Moses Did Spoke*. The program, one hour in length, is free. But donations are being accepted in order to pay for Scarritt's transportation and miscellaneous costs to the Edward Albee Center in Montauk, Long Island. For any further inquiries, please contact Mr. Scarritt at 949-1547.

MAY 24

The New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus is sponsoring a gala performance of the hit Off-Broadway production of *Pageant* at the Contemporary Arts Center at 6 p.m. This show is a "beauty pageant" as only a bountiful, buxom, bevy of drag queens could present it, complete with audience participation. The Chorus is providing a champagne reception starting at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 and are available through Chorus members or by calling 456-7018.

MAY 25-JUNE 1

Teddy's Corner of Le Petit Theatre continues *Beauty and the Beast*. If there is only one show you can see this season, make

it to Edward R. Cox's production of Ricky Graham & Freddie Palmisano's *Beauty and the Beast*. Performances begin at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. For ticket information and reservations, please call our Box Office at 522-2081.

MAY 29

Proudly sponsored by Miller Life, **IMPACT**, **AMBUSH**, and *The*

Weekly Guide, the Parade presents one of Louisiana's favorite native entertainers, **Mary Griffin**, live in concert at 10:30 p.m. The performance will be a benefit for the NO/AIDS Task Force. In addition to all of your favorite songs, Mary will be performing from her just released CD. The Parade doors will open at 9 p.m. The show will be followed by dancing.

JUNE 1

The Vieux Carré Metropolitan Community Church presents a "Queer Month of Sundays" at 11 am. Today's service is "Our Story Too." June 8, look for "Namaste."

JUNE 2

Vaquero's Restaurant is unofficially proclaiming the month of June as national **Tequila Month**. They are teaming up with Sauza Tequila & *Gambit Weekly* to celebrate and educate Southern Louisiana on tequila, its history, production, its preparation in beverages as well as cuisine, and of course, pleasure. The month begins Monday, June 2 with a Bartender's Seminar featuring free tappas, beer and tequila! The bartender's seminar will introduce the rules and regulations for the month-long bartender's competition. The grand prize is a trip for two to Belize. Each Monday in May, competition will be held to pick semi-finalists for the grand prize completion to be held Monday, June 30. Advance registration (by May 31) is \$15, or \$25 if you sign up after that. Call Vaquero's for details (891-6441). Vaquero's is located at 4938 Prytania, the corner of Robert.

Other Tequila events will include a cooking demonstration by Chef Richard Buschbaum, trivia contests on the World Wide Web, Tequila Flight Night on Thursdays; also look for creative drink specials as well as a special menu using tequila in their cuisine.

JUNE 4-22

The Contemporary Arts Center presents *Screaming Divas in Aberrant Acappella* at the Bank One Theatre on

Wednesdays, Thursday, Sundays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m. (June 6, no shows and June 14, 10 p.m. show only.) Tickets prices are \$12.50 general admission; \$10.50 for students, seniors and members of CAC. Purchase tickets by phone from Ticketmaster at 522-1314 or call the CAC at 528-3800. The Divas revive their 1996 San Francisco smash hit: *Aberrant Acappella*! From Tchaikovsky to the Who, the Divas' skewed musical commentary breaks the fourth wall with an interactive show that lets the audience call the shots.

JUNE 5-15

The 9th Annual New York Lesbian and Gay Film Festival opens with *Leather Jacket Love Story*, an erotic romantic comedy set in Los Angeles.

The 11 day festival, which will screen a total of 27 new dramatic features, will be hosted by Manhattan's Joseph Papp Public Theatre, where the bulk of the features and feature-length documentaries will be screened. The Festival will close on June 15 with the New York premiere of Yvonne Rainier's new film, *Murder and Murder*.

COMING-UP

June 19. Previews begin for the North Star theatre's production of *A Closer Walk With Patsy Cline*, the Louisiana Premiere with Mary Vigueira, the Instigators Band and Michael Bennet.

GREAT NEWS!!

Impact and *eclipse* have exclusively been selected to represent Louisiana and the Gulf Coast on Gay.Net, a resource for lesbians and gays on the World Wide Web. Gay.Net is a free service featuring news and information for gays including other health-related information, plus entertainment, chat rooms and photos.

Membership is free, just point your browser to www.Gay.Net to join. You can find **IMPACT** and *eclipse* in the "newsstand" area.

Of course, you can still go directly to our ever-changing and always updated web site at www.ImpactNews.com to review each issue of **IMPACT**, or to find the latest information on events, holidays, bars, restaurants and other happenings in the New Orleans area gay scene.

ERRATA

Last issue, we inadvertently published a wrong phone number for ...and the Ball and all, the number to call for ticket information is 522-2907

about the cover

Ron Williams does it again! This cover drawing elicits images of the fun you can have Memorial Day weekend in Florida. Don't forget to check out *eclipse* for beach happenings this weekend.

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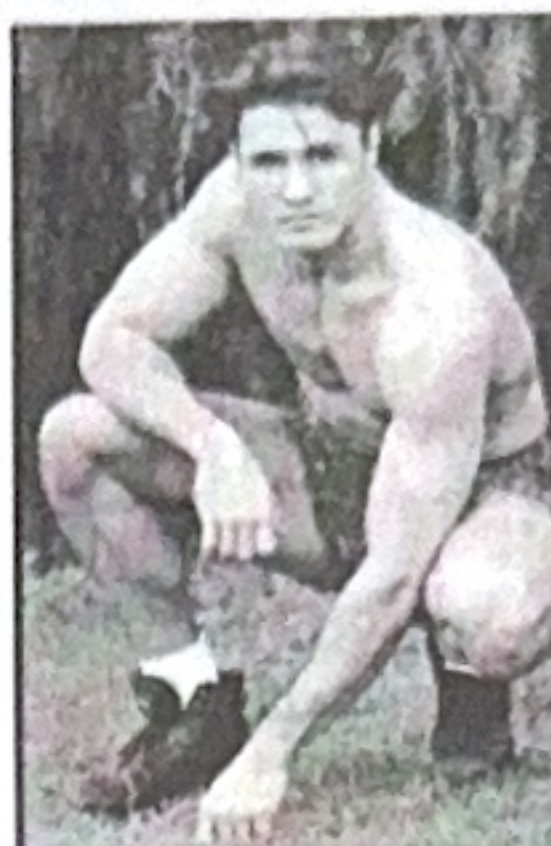
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Andrew Cunanan is suspected in as many as four murders. Local FBI officials are concerned that he may be headed South. (FBI photo)

FOUR SLAYINGS, THREE STATES: IS HE HEADED SOUTH?

BY JAMES WEBB

Last month, Andrew Cunanan said he was leaving San Diego to take care of some business in Minneapolis. Now, a former lover and three other men are dead in his wake, friends are in hiding and Cunanan seems to be a step ahead in a nationwide hunt.

As police try to piece together evidence in three states, photos and a description of the darkly handsome Cunanan (pronounced koo-NAH-nin) are plastered on the FBI's World Wide Web page and in gay nightspots in New York City.

The pictures suggest a clean-cut, happy 27-year-old, but authorities say he's a desperate fugitive who killed a cemetery caretaker in New Jersey to steal his red pickup truck. They fear he may be trying to disappear in New York or another big city, perhaps even a heavily gay-populated city in the South like New Orleans or Atlanta.

The cross-country drama began April 29, when police discovered a bludgeoned body rolled in a carpet in the apartment of Minneapolis architect David Madson.

The dead man was Jeffrey Trail, a district manager for a Minneapolis gas company who knew Madson and was a friend of Cunanan before Trail moved last year from California to the Midwest.

Four days after Trail's body was discovered, Madson's body was found on the edge of a lake north of Minneapolis. He had been shot three times.

Police, relatives and friends of Madson say that Madson and Cunanan were once lovers but that Madson had ended the relationship because he considered Cunanan "shady." Investigators say Cunanan told friends in San Diego several weeks ago that he was going to Minnesota to "take care of some business" with Trail and contact Madson.

Minnesota authorities have charged Cunanan with murder in Madson's killing; prosecutor Jim Reuter says authorities believe Madson was killed because he

witnessed Trail's murder. Cunanan has not been charged in that crime.

While Minneapolis investigators were dealing with the killings, news reports circulated about the killing of Lee Miglin, a millionaire real estate developer whose slashed body was found May 4 in the garage next to his townhouse in Chicago's posh Gold Coast neighborhood.

The next morning, police discovered Madson's red Jeep Cherokee parked near Miglin's home. Miglin's green 1994 Lexus was missing.

Chicago police won't discuss details of Miglin's death or say whether they have a suspect, but authorities in Minnesota and California have said Cunanan is under suspicion.

It's unclear whether Cunanan had any connection to Miglin. The Minneapolis Star Tribune reported that Cunanan knew Miglin's son, Duke, but the Miglin family has repeatedly denied any link between the men.

Acquaintances of Cunanan describe him as a "party boy" known in San Diego's gay community for having lots of money but working only as a part-time drug store clerk.

"I think a lot of people hung around with him just because he had money. ... He had a very distinct, loud laugh, and you definitely knew when he was in a restaurant," said a San Diego business owner who knows Cunanan. He spoke on the condition of anonymity; like some other Cunanan acquaintances, he said he now fears for his life.

Police and acquaintances say the sometimes bespectacled Cunanan may have been supported by older, wealthy men. They won't provide details, but the Chicago Sun-Times reported that Cunanan's mother believes her son was a "high-class homosexual prostitute."

Last week, a signal from the cellular phone in Miglin's car was picked up near Philadelphia. On Friday night, the car was discovered at Finn's Point National Cemetery in Pennsville, N.J. Nearby was the body of caretaker William Reese, 45. He had been shot to death.

As the search — and the publicity surrounding it — widen, investigators are sifting through reported sightings of Cunanan all over the country, most recently in Scranton, Pa.

That reported sighting occurred Sunday, May 11 on a bus from New York City to Scranton. Two men were chatting amiably and, as the bus neared a Trailways depot, one asked the other if he knew any skin bars in the Scranton area.

Upon entering the terminal, the second man spotted his fellow passenger's face plastered on a New York newspaper. The mug shot was of Cunanan.

Friends and acquaintances of Cunanan on the East and West coasts are worried about where he will show up next, and several have gone into hiding, police said.

Cunanan, who has brown hair and brown eyes, is 5 feet 10 1/2 inches tall and weighs 185 pounds, according to FBI

spokeswoman Linda Vizi.

Anyone who sees the suspect is asked to contact the local office of the FBI. (James Webb writes for the AP in Chicago.)

THE CENTENNIAL OF GAY LIBERATION: MAY 15, 1997

On this day, exactly 100 years ago, the organized gay liberation movement began. On May 15, 1897, in a Berlin apartment, Magnus Hirschfeld and others founded the Scientific-Humanitarian Committee, the first documented organization ever created to oppose governmental oppression of homosexuals and to educate the public.

The Committee was an outgrowth of developing philosophies expressed in the journal *The Women's Movement*, first published in 1895, and Hirschfeld's 1896 book, *Sappho and Socrates*, in which he defined homosexuality as a healthy, natural behavior. One of the Committee's first projects was to urge abolition of Paragraph 175, which subjected German homosexuals, both male and female, to legal penalties.

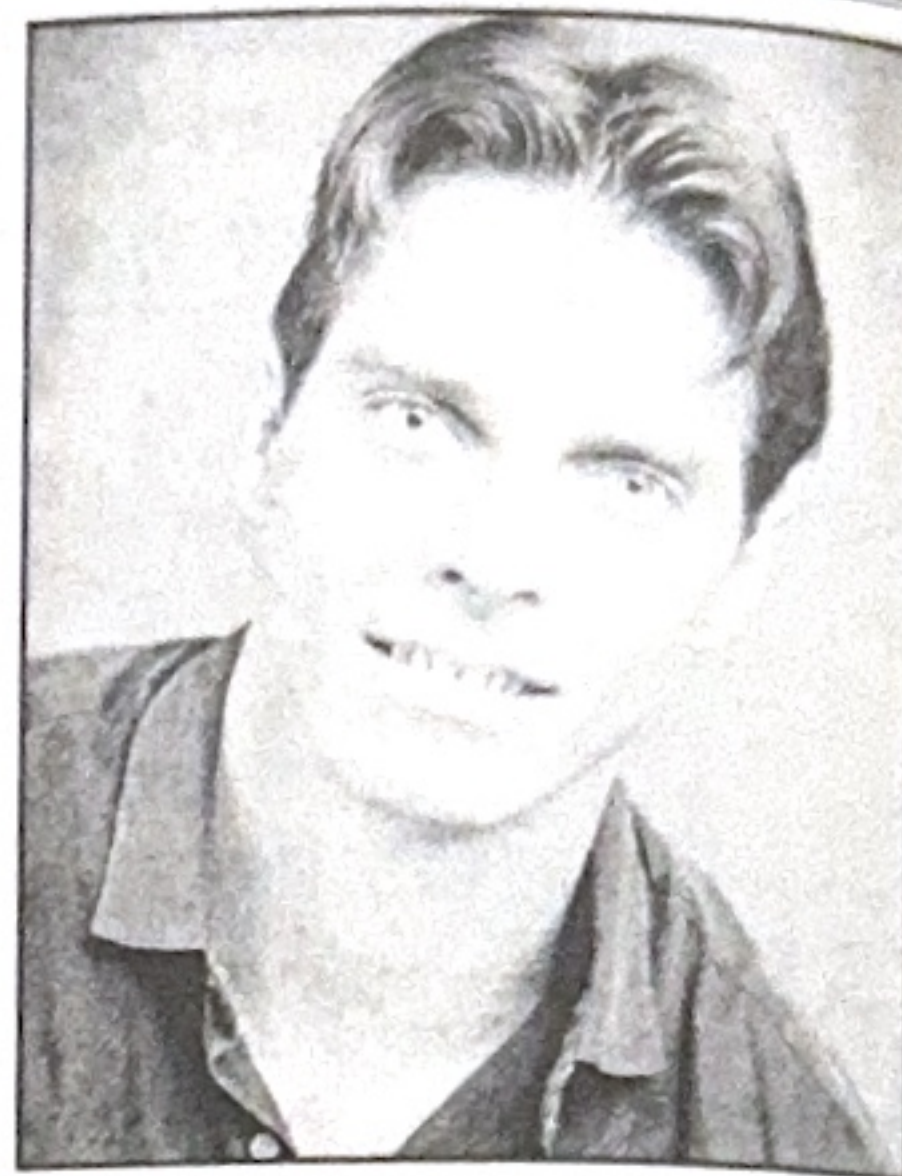
Hirschfeld and the Scientific-Humanitarian Committee, with time, would have a tremendous influence in laying the groundwork for the movements that would emerge in the second half of the twentieth century. Over the years, Hirschfeld accumulated the world's most extensive archives of documents relating to homosexuality.

When the Nazi Party came to power, however, Hirschfeld's ground-breaking work was destroyed. In 1933 his library was raided by Nazi fanatics, and 12,000 volumes were publicly burned on the square in front of The Berlin Opera House.

Magnus Hirschfeld escaped to France, where he died in 1935.

LOCAL PLAYWRIGHT WINS LOCAL AWARD

Hunt Scarritt, past recipient of the Eugene O'Neill National Playwright's Conference



Hunt Scarritt has been awarded a fellowship to the Edward Albee Foundation in Montauk, Long Island.

Award and the Louisiana Arts Council Playwrighting Award, has been awarded a fellowship to the Edward Albee Foundation in Montauk, Long Island. Mr. Scarritt has been a resident of New Orleans for the past six years and is finishing his Masters Degree in Playwrighting at the University of New Orleans. He has also worked as an actor in film and television work in New Orleans. Most recently, he acted in four episodes for "The Big Easy" on the USA Cable Network.

ANTI-MARRIAGE BILL AGAIN DEFEATED, COULD RE-SURFACE

(BATON ROUGE) The Anti-Marriage Bill (SB 37) by Sen. Phil Short, R-Covington, was soundly defeated again Wednesday, May 14 after it became apparent to its author that support for it had quickly dwindled during debate. The bill, defeated by a slim margin in April, was brought back up for reconsideration by the Senate, prompting a list of senators to spend nearly an hour debating the legislation.

The debate sparked the emotions of senators and sent lobbying groups like the Christian Coalition scurrying to urge

QUARTER NOTES

What advice do you have for gays/lesbians coming to Pensacola for Memorial Day Weekend?



Joey Harigel — nightclub proprietor (The Riviera) Make hotel arrangements early because a lot of the hotels are already booked. There are new bars and nightclubs in Pensacola this year, so we should be able to accommodate you a little (actually, a lot) better than in the past. Plan on having a great time!



Scott Bishop, LeAnne & Randy Hooper — owners, Mill House Inn Bed & Breakfast Just bring your swimsuit, sunblock, sunglasses and a smile. That's all you'll really need.

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Regional News

Annual PFLAG Scholarship Reception Held at City Park a Success



For several years now, PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) has held an annual reception in which scholarships are given to members of the gay and lesbian community who are in pursuit of higher education. This year's reception was held at City Park on May 10. Above, Sandra Paillet (2nd from left) and Marilyn McConnell (far right) are pictured with Michael and Randy in front of the flying horses. Below, (l to r) Robert Ripley (co-chair LA HRC) poses with Mark (NO/AIDS Task Force), Mike Theis (HRC Table Committee Chair), Dr. Kevin White, and Scott Speake (HRC Executive Committee). (photos by Chuck Davis)



senators to pass the bill. Monologues were initiated which ran the gamut from gaybashing to teen suicides to biblical prophesy to the origins of sexual orientation

One legislator, a Republican senator from Metairie who was absent when the first vote was taken last month, spoke against the bill as "absolutely unnecessary."

"I'm absolutely convinced that those people who lead the alternate lifestyle do so because of genetics," said Sen. Ken Hollis, R-Metairie. "I don't condone their way of life, but I'm not gonna sit up here and condemn it and to vote for a constitutional amendment to bring it to a vote to divide our people..."

Hollis said that he had not tried to "run out on the vote" when it was taken last month, but that he had been away on business. He indicated, though, that it was probably good that he hadn't been present then because the vote might have been different.

One major factor in the decisions of several of the senators to oppose the bill was the probability of a rise in hate crimes as a direct result of such legislation being passed. Many senators recalled murders and "gaybashing" that had occurred in their districts in the past, fearing an "acceleration" of such assaults if SB 37 were passed.

"Not too terrible long ago a gaybashing got a man killed," said Sen. Lynn Dean, R-Braithwaite. "Come to find out he was straight, but someone got the idea that he was gay."

Dean spoke about New Orleans' first documented hate crime victim, Joe Balog. Balog, a tourist visiting New Orleans from Mississippi, had been murdered a few years ago while in the French Quarter. His attackers mistakenly took him for gay and stabbed Balog and his friend, killing him and seriously injuring his friend.

"I know of a terrible fight in my parish a short time ago because they called one

continued on page 6

guy a 'faggot,' but he was straight," Dean continued. "It's time to cut away from that stuff."

"They [lesbians and gay men] don't want to have bricks thrown through their windshields, their tires slashed and houses set on fire. And history in the last few years will show each time we bring this up ... many of them will be singled out and they'll be hurt."

Sen. James Cox, D-Lake Charles, the author of a Hate Crimes Bill (SB 914), spoke of the need for Hate Crimes laws because of incidents arising from assaults brought on by statewide votes on lesbian and gay issues.

"I think that it could unduly heighten tensions and concerns," said Cox, "and could conceivably result in people being singled out for criticism or unnecessarily involved in [hate crimes]."

Sen. Ron Bean, R-Shreveport, spoke against the constitutional amendment, reiterating the stance he had taken on the

bill the first time it received a vote.

"I see no reason to dig this up and grind it around in public again," said Bean. "The session before last we had a hate crimes bill, and one of the things we put in it was 'sexual orientation', and that stirred up a lot of controversy out in the community. And this'll do the same thing in the long run."

Finally, when Sen. Ron Landry, D-LaPlace, went to speak against the bill, it appeared that Sen. Short had had enough. Short requested that SB 37 be voluntarily "returned to the calendar" (this would cause no vote to be taken on the bill, but allow the bill to be brought up later for another debate and another vote).

Sen. Dean, however, objected to this occurring, apparently wanting the bill to be voted on so that it would be killed a second time and not be brought up again. But that objection lost the vote and the bill was laid up to conceivably be resuscitated another day.

With tensions still running high, Sen. Jon Johnson, D-New Orleans, asked the question that was on the mind of every senator: "Does he (Short) intend to bring it back up during the session?"

"With the bill in the posture of being returned voluntarily the author has the right to bring the bill up again," explained acting Senate President Robert Barham, D-Oak Ridge.

"Short's bill died without a single round being fired," said Brian Hartig, lobbyist for Louisiana Electorate of Gays and Lesbians (LEGAL). "The body just hasn't been dragged off yet."

"This is like some bad horror movie: *Night of the Living Dead*. The thing's not going to die until its head is lopped off. The question is: 'When are we going to be able to do that?' I don't know."

"In the meantime, call your senators," he said.

(This article was provided by the Louisiana Electorate of Gays and Lesbians.)

HATE CRIMES AND NON-DISCRIMINATION BILLS

Coming up in the capital are two bills of interest to the g/l/b/t community. There is one Hate Crimes Bill (SB 914) filed by Sen. James Cox, D-Lake Charles, in the Senate. A House version (HB 2279), has been filed by Rep. Yvonne Welch, D-Baton Rouge. Both versions of the Hate Crimes Bills are virtually identical.

The second bill is a House and a Senate version of the Non-Discrimination Bill (which would make it unlawful to discriminate based upon sexual orientation in the workplace). The House version, filed by Rep. Mitch Landrieu, D-New Orleans, is HB 1819 and the Senate version, filed by Sen. Jon Johnson, D-New Orleans, is SB 1099. Both versions of the Non-Discrimination Bills are also virtually identical. (This article was provided in part by the Louisiana Electorate of Gays and Lesbians.) Δ

THE COMMUNITY CENTER: TO BE OR NOT TO BE?

BY KYLE SCAFIDE

The community was exhilarated when, five years ago, the Lesbian and Gay Community Center of New Orleans was founded. After years of meetings with this and that group between these and those persons, a long-held fantasy had finally been realized. New Orleans could join the growing number of gay- and lesbian-friendly cities that could boast the presence of its own community center. But five years later, the Board of Directors is considering the possibility of closing down the center.

Interest in the community center seems to have waned, and the Board has set forth an ultimatum which holds that, unless

\$15,000 is raised by July, the doors to the center will be closed for good.

"There have been a few generous donations made," said Co-Chair Joan Ladnier, "but we have a long way to go to reach our goal."

The money is needed to cover the budget for 1997 and to acquire what the center has long-needed, namely a staff person. In the meantime, there are two people who are performing operations management on a volunteer basis until such a person is hired.

The board resolved to raise this money because they were of the mindset that they needed to "push the center to another level." They believe that a full-time staff person could provide more consistency for the center, leaving the board to be concerned with policy and fund-raising rather than with the day-to-day operations of the center.

So why is there a problem? Having made a few unofficial queries here and there, we could only find three answers which seemed to be the most common: location, location, location.

Last year, a drive to solicit funds to buy a building for the center was successful. The drive managed to obtain pledges and donations, all of which will be returned if the center closes. One potential location for the center seemed promising, but the deal fell apart for various reasons. There is hope that a new location is in the works.

"We acknowledge that location is a problem," said Ladnier, "but we are still committed to finding a new place. We have a promising location in mind, but nothing is official yet."

The present location, 816 North Rampart Street, is an attractive cottage that — though not large — seems to serve the needs fairly well. However, there is a perceived undesirability about the location, namely, that it is located on the edge of the

Quarter. Locals are concerned about their safety in that area, though no one could name any specific problem. Others cited parking as a problem, since only street parking is available.

Whatever the "problem" may be, the Board is nonetheless proud of what the center has accomplished to date.

"We're open seven days a week," said co-Chair Rev. Dexter Brecht, pastor of Vieux Carré MCC, "but the center is not being used as it should or could be."

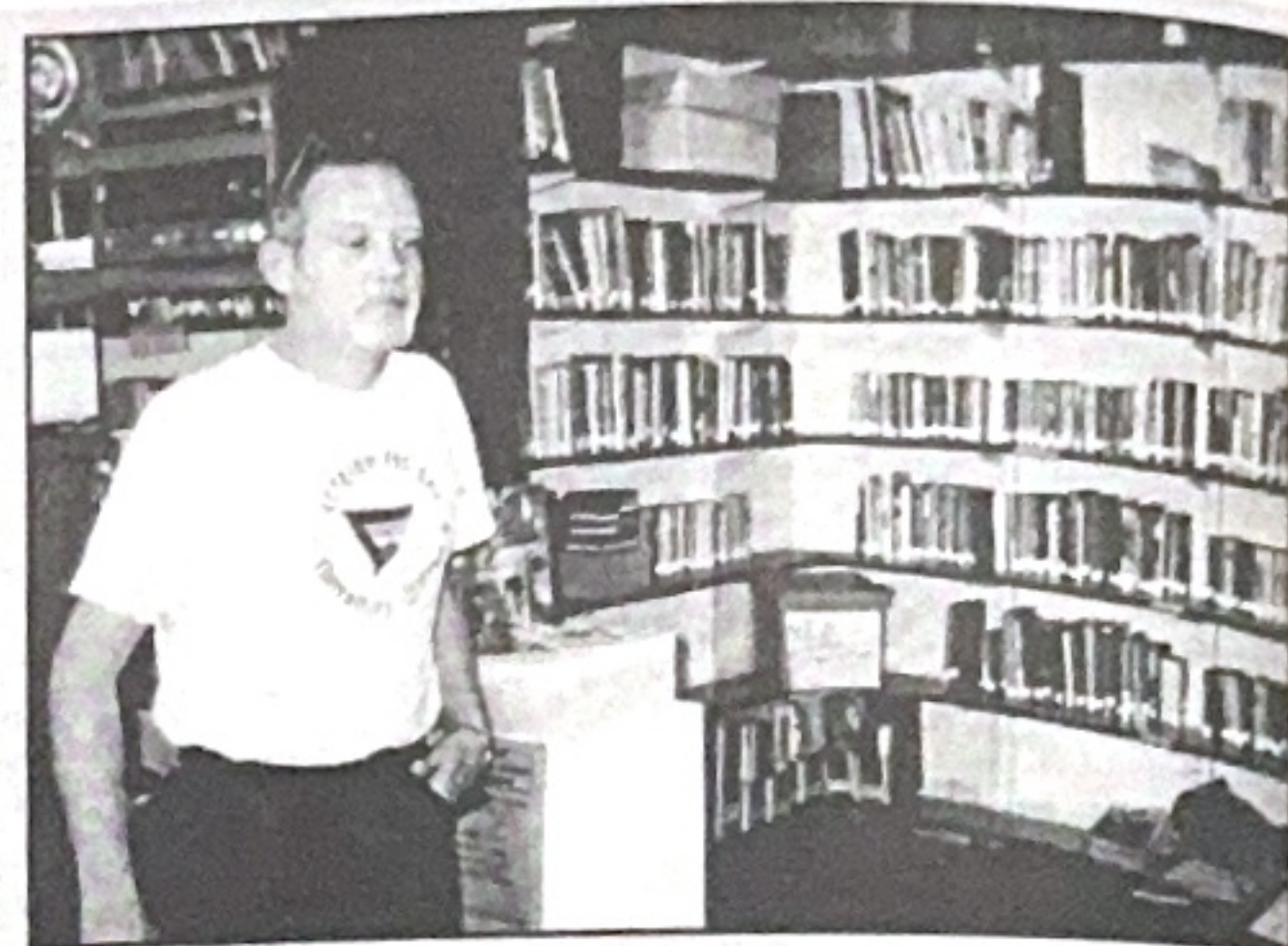
"We've had some ups and downs," said Ladnier, "but we've been there to provide services."

Some of the accomplishments of the Center include the establishment of a library, which is now smartly cataloged and organized. Even though the present art exhibit caused some controversy among a few members of the community who thought that the show was a bit racy, the art shows overall have been amazingly successful under the direction of Brian Sands.

Another program which has received widespread attention and acclamation is the Youth Group, which convenes regularly to provide support for young people of the g/l/b/t community between the ages of 15 and 22.

Among yet other services, the community center has Friday night movies, monthly socials for the transgendered community, and volunteers regularly offer assistance to newcomers and visitors.

Even with the improved services of the center, interest is still fading. And, Brecht said, a new location won't solve all of the



David Leslie, one of the volunteers for the Community Center, stands in front of the many neatly-shelved books that comprise the library at the center. (staff photo)



MCC Pastor Dexter Brecht and local activist Joan Ladnier are the co-chairs of the Lesbian and Gay Community Center of New Orleans, which may close its doors in July if the Board's fundraising goals are not met. (staff photo)

problems, the greatest of which seems to be a sort of malaise.

"We want to be in the best possible location and have everything in place," said Brecht, "but if the community does not utilize the center, it will never be a success."

"For some reason," he continued, "the potential has never been realized because of people's unwillingness to invest."

The co-chairs pointed out that the center is available for all types of meetings, and that interested parties need only call for information if they are interested. They also described some of the other resources that are available at the center, such as videos, magazines, information on city organizations, a directory of gay-friendly professionals and, of course, a variety of books.

Ladnier and Brecht said that persons interested in helping the Center reach its goal can send checks to 816 North Rampart Street. They also welcome any ideas for fund-raising activities.

The best way to support the center, they said, was to become a member.

"If you're not already a member of the center," said Ladnier, "take this opportunity to become one. This is your community center, and it is at risk." Δ

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VIDEO ALTERNATIVES

Gay and Lesbian Parents New Orleans Style

BY JAMES PALMER

When I asked Loretta Mims, a local cable TV personality, how her children dealt with having a lesbian mother, she answered, "Well, one day many years ago, my daughter, out of the blue, asked, 'Mommy, is being gay hereditary?' Without hesitation, even though at the time, I hadn't the slightest idea if I was answering correctly, I said 'No.' Well, Wendy smiled at me and said, 'Good. Now can I go out and play.'"

Perhaps Wendy's reaction to having a gay parent may not be typical, but it does hint of some of the challenges, issues, and rewards of gay parenting. Continuing *IMPACT'S* policy of increasing our readers' awareness of the diversity of issues confronting our gay and lesbian community, I randomly interviewed four gay parents in order to get some sense of what's it's like to be a gay New Orleans' parent.

RICKY AND JESSICA KETCHUM

Ricky Ketchum, co-owner of Headquarters, the popular hair salon at the corner of Dumaine and Dauphine, and his daughter Jessica are now spending a lot of time together, because Jessica is working for her father. But such was not always the case. Ricky's wife took off with his kids for five years, so he didn't see Jessica again until she was about thirteen years old. Ricky had hired an investigator and found his children in California.

How did Ricky get custody? "I came home from a tea dance and they were on my doorstep."



Well, not literally, but close. Ricky found a note on his door from his neighbor, instructing him to take a deep breath and then come to her house next door ... and that Ricky's life had just changed. At his neighbor's house, he found his girls, who had run away from home. "I just wanted to be with my Dad," said

Jessica, with a big smile. Ricky's life took a drastic turn that day, but one which he enjoyed. "It was a big change," he said, "but it was fun." Ricky had a lesbian friend who had a daughter about the same age as Jessica, and the two teenagers became friends. He said the fact that both had gay parents made it a little easier for them all to get along and understand each other.

Did Jessica ever have difficulty dealing with the fact that her father was gay?

Jessica just shook her head, with a determined look in her eye that belied her youth, and said, "Not one time did it bother me."

Was Ricky a good father?

With an even bigger smile this time, Jessica answered, "Oh, he had his moments, but he was a pretty good dad."

For awhile, Ricky and Jessica lived together in Ricky's home in the Marigny, but not anymore. "We can't live together and work together."

Ain't that the truth? Who can?

SUSAN AND JOEY GIROIR

When Susan Giroir divorced her husband several years ago, she got split-custody of Joey, her autistic son. When I asked Susan if she encountered any problems being a gay parent, she responded, "When I was still married there were more issues involved, and things got a little difficult. It was hard at first, but now things are pretty good. Everyone is used to it. Now people have come to sort of expect us to behave like a normal family."

In addition to Joey, Susan's "normal" family now includes her partner of four years, Suzanne Milano, who has been trying to have a baby of her own.

Even though Susan has been busy lately, following the opening of her new bar, Pier 11, located in Slidell, her nine-year-old son is still the center of her life.

How does he deal with having a lesbian mother?

"It's a different situation. Since Joey is mentally handicapped, my being gay really isn't much of an issue. As far as Joey is concerned, I'm his Mom. And my lover is his Mom. And it's been that way a long,



long time. And besides, he's such a loving kid."

GAYNEL SCAFIDE

Gaynel Scafide, a purchasing agent in the Marine Industry, was married for 14 years when she came-out.

Several years later, a difficult marital struggle ended in a painful divorce. While Gaynel and her former husband were awarded joint-custody of their two children,



Jeremy and Casey, both boys continued to live with their father.

Gaynel said that this time was very difficult, because "my macho

husband wanted me to keep my private gay life, but to stay living at home so that I would be there for him and the kids. But I just couldn't do it. I'd have been too torn between the two worlds."

How did her family deal with her coming out?

"My gay brother," Gaynel, with eyes twinkling, said, "of course, accepted things." And holding back her laughter, Gaynel continued, "But our Mother often tells us both, 'Why couldn't you kids just wait until I die?' Also, Gaynel's mother feels that her daughter is really bi-sexual, and "just hasn't met the right man."

How do Gaynel's sons deal with their mother's lesbianism?

Casey, 14, doesn't know. "It just never has come up. But if Casey ever approaches me, I'd tell him." Gaynel is out to her 21 year old son, Jeremy, whose standard response to friends reveals a wry wisdom: "Look, my Mom has to be happy. And I understand where she's coming from — I like women, too. And if you can't deal with her being gay, then you don't need to be my friend!"

What's the greatest challenge Gaynel faces as a gay parent?

"Well, it's a day-to day thing." Gaynel said. And taking a deep breath, she continues, "It's just lonely sometime. I go to a soccer game, where parents share things common to their children. But I'm always by myself! Because I'm not totally out, because of my younger son, I really can't bring a woman with me who would act as a co-parent."

LORETTA MIMS

As mentioned earlier, Loretta Mims has two children, Wendy and John. And while "Wendy has no problem with my being gay, my son, on the other hand, has had a harder time dealing with it. He's still coming around. It's been a slow process." But Loretta's young grandson "has no problem at all."


When Loretta divorced her husband, whom she only "stayed married to long enough to have two children," she found that things were not going to be easy, "because no support groups for gays existed. I was closeted and used to think I was the only gay person who had children ... my greatest fear was that my children would be made fun of by their friends and peers." When I asked Loretta if there was a single instance of prejudice that sticks in her mind, she responded, "Yes, there was. At Halloween, a few years ago, I had the studio make-up artist transform me from Loretta to Larry. I did the show dressed up that way. Well, after the show, my daughter picked me up. We were taking my car into the shop. When we arrived at the shop, the mechanic's wife recognized me. She said that what I'd done was fun, but added, 'Certainly, you're not gay!' Well, I looked at her and said, 'But I am




gay.' The woman pretended she didn't hear me. So I persisted, 'Read my lips. I'm gay.' And the woman retorted 'But you can't be gay, you have children.' In the end, the

woman got so angry that she and her husband refused to fix the car, passing on a \$300 repair bill. It's hard to believe that in this day and age such ignorant people still exist."

But they do! And while these four gay parents' stories seem to be moving to happy endings, not everyone has been so fortunate. My own story is a case in point. I have a son in his mid-thirties from whom I have been estranged for 17 years. And there seems to be no possibility of reconciliation. Frankly, I admire and salute Loretta, Ricky, Susan, Gaynel, and other gay parents and their children for their courage and perseverance, but I also envy the joy they obviously share with their children. Perhaps in time many more of us will come to know that same happiness. Δ



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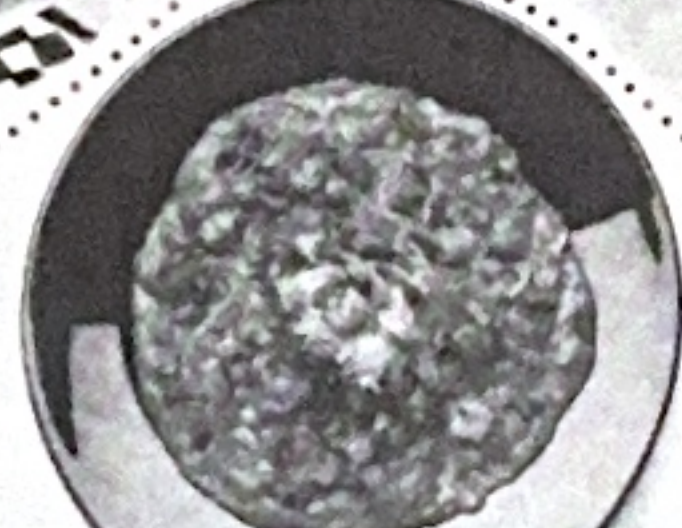
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CLINTON'S STATEMENT ON ENDA

WASHINGTON, D.C. After meeting with a bi-partisan delegation from Congress, President Clinton issued the following statement:

"The Employment and Non-Discrimination Act ('ENDA') is an important piece of civil rights legislation which would extend basic employment discrimination protections to gay and lesbian Americans ... I underscore my strong support of the bill, which will soon be re-introduced in Congress, and my intention to work hard for its passage.

As I said in my State of the Union address this January, we must never, ever believe that our diversity is a weakness, for it is our greatest strength. People on every continent can look to us and see the reflection of their own great potential — and they always will, as long as we strive to give all of our citizens an opportunity to achieve their own greatness. We're not there yet — and that is why ENDA is so important. It is about the right of each individual in America to be judged on their merits and abilities and to be allowed to contribute to society without facing unfair discrimination on account of sexual orientation. It is about our ongoing fight against bigotry and intolerance, in our country and in our hearts.

I applaud the bi-partisan efforts of Senators Jeffords-Kennedy and Lieberman and Congressmen Shays and Frank to make the Employment Non-Discrimination Act the law. I also thank the members of the Human Rights Campaign and the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, whose executive directors joined in our meeting, for their early support and hard work on behalf of this bill. It failed to win passage by only one vote in the Senate last year. My Administration worked hard for its passage then and we will continue our efforts until it becomes law.

Discrimination in employment on the basis of sexual orientation is currently legal in 41 states. Most Americans don't know that men and women in those states may be fired from their jobs solely because of their sexual orientation, even when it is has no

bearing on their job performance. Those who face this kind of job discrimination have no legal recourse, in either our state or federal courts. This is wrong.

Individuals should not be denied a job on the basis of something that has no relationship to their ability to perform their work. Sadly, as the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee has documented during hearings held in the last Congress, this kind of job discrimination is not rare.

The Employment Non-Discrimination Act is careful to apply certain exemptions. It provides an exemption for small businesses, the Armed Forces, and religious organizations, including schools and other educational institutions that are substantially controlled or supported by religious organizations. This later provision respects the deeply held religious beliefs of many Americans. The bill specifically prohibits preferential treatment on the basis of sexual orientation, including quotas. It does not require employers to provide special benefits.

As I indicated when I originally announced my support of this legislation in October of 1995, the bill in its current form appears to answer all the legitimate objections previously raised against it, while ensuring that Americans, regardless of their sexual orientation, can find and keep their jobs based on their ability and the quality of their work. It is designed to protect the rights of all Americans to participate in the job market without fear of unfair discrimination. I support it and I urge all Americans to do so. And I urge Congress to pass it expeditiously."

COURT WON'T HEAR APPEAL OF DENTIST

BANGOR, Maine (AP) A federal appeals court has declined to review its ruling that a Bangor dentist broke the law by refusing treatment in his office to a woman infected with the virus that causes AIDS.

The 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals denied Dr. Randon Bragdon's request to reconsider his case.

The Boston-based appeals court

unanimously upheld a lower court decision that Bragdon's refusal was a violation of the Americans With Disabilities Act. It was the first ruling by a federal appeals court that asymptomatic HIV qualifies as a disability under federal law.

The only remaining legal avenue for Bragdon is the U.S. Supreme Court, which his attorney, John McCarthy of Bangor, acknowledged Friday is a long shot. His client has 90 days to petition the U.S. Supreme Court.

ABOUT 30 SEX PARTNERS OF MAN TESTED POSITIVE FOR HIV

ST. LOUIS (AP) Health officials continue to scramble to find the sex partners of an HIV-infected man from Illinois after confirming about 30 women and men have now tested positive.

The number of infected includes Darnell "Bossman" McGee's sex partners and the partners' partners, health officials said. Dozens more are still awaiting results.

McGee is one of only a few documented cases nationwide in which someone knowingly spread the HIV virus to 12 or more people, health officials said.

The national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention was expected to join local health officials in their effort to identify McGee's sex partners and others exposed to the virus through them.

About 100 women and girls in Missouri and Illinois are believed to have had sex with McGee, 28, of East St. Louis, Ill., before he was killed in January in St. Louis. A few months earlier, he had been shot and wounded near East St. Louis.

PARENTS HAVE TROUBLE PULLING GAY SON FROM SCHOOL

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. (AP) The mother of a Fayetteville High School student who says he is homosexual is having trouble getting him out of the school district and into a college.

Carolyn Wagner wants to let her 16-year-old son, William, obtain a general equivalency diploma instead of making him go to school or enter a home-schooling program.

She once had a letter clearing the way, but a school district official took it back, saying the Fayetteville principal wasn't authorized to write it.

Ms. Wagner says her son has been harassed since junior high school and was assaulted in December. Bradley Huffard, 17, and Jerry Lynge, 16, face juvenile court misdemeanor hearings June 10. They initially were charged as adults with second-degree battery.

Mrs. Wagner wants the school district to establish a clear sexual harassment policy that addresses harassment directed at a person's sexual orientation. She has complained to the federal Education Department about the school. Mrs. Wagner says she was told she could obtain a letter from the district releasing her son to the adult education program. Principal John

Delap gave her a release letter April 11, she said.

But the district's human resources supervisor, Ivy Lincoln, took the letter away.

William Wagner had been placed on homebound status since the alleged attack in December.

COURT TURNS DOWN APPEAL BY WOMAN WHO BARRED LESBIAN

WASHINGTON (AP) A Wisconsin woman penalized because she refused to let a lesbian be her housemate and share the rent on a Madison home lost a Supreme Court appeal.

The justices, without comment, left intact state court rulings that said Ann Hacklander-Ready violated Madison's fair-housing ordinance.

The state courts ordered her to pay Caryl Sprague damages of \$300 and lawyer fees that reportedly total more than \$10,000.

Hacklander-Ready's appeal challenged the government's power "to dictate how one may choose with whom to associate as living companions in the anticipated privacy of their own homes."

Hacklander-Ready was single when she and three friends began renting a four-bedroom, two-bath home in Madison in 1987. When two of the friends got jobs out of town, Hacklander-Ready and her housemate, Maureen Rowe, advertised to find two suitable housemates.

According to Hacklander-Ready's lawyers, they did not want males, women with boyfriends who regularly would stay at the house, women with children, smokers or drug users.

One potential housemate was rejected for being too boring; another for "seeming to wear her religious beliefs on her sleeve."

When initially interviewed by Hacklander-Ready and Rowe, Sprague said nothing about being a lesbian. But the subject of her sexual orientation did arise in later discussions.

Sprague was invited to live with Hacklander-Ready and Rowe, but that invitation was withdrawn after both housemates determined they would not be comfortable living with a lesbian.

Sprague eventually sued, and a state trial judge ruled that Hacklander-Ready and Rowe had violated the city's fair-housing ordinance by refusing to rent to someone because of sexual orientation.

A state appeals court upheld that ruling, and the Wisconsin Supreme Court rejected an appeal by Hacklander-Ready and Rowe last December. Rowe chose not to appeal to the nation's highest court.

MALE IMPERSONATOR SENTENCED FOR SEX WITH GIRL

PASCO, Wash. (AP) A judge ordered a woman who disguises herself as a man to serve 27 months in prison for having sex with a 15-year-old girl.

News continued on page 24

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"IN THE LIFE" STILL IN THE DOGHOUSE?

In our last issue, we published an article explaining that the national series, "In the Life," is aired in every gay metropolitan area except New Orleans.

"In the Life" is produced in New York City and is now nearing its sixth season. The show reaches approximately 70-80 percent of the nation's viewing audience, including markets like Houston, Tampa and Atlanta.

IMPACT questioned the management of WYES, and we received a written statement from President Randall Feldman, who said that, while the show has improved, it is still "uneven in quality and unbalanced when it gets into political issues."

He made a similar statement in the April issue of *Current*, the public telecommunications newspaper.

Because we thought that clarifications needed to be made about his statement, we sent a list of seven questions to Mr.



For the premier show of its fourth season, "In the Life" traveled to Beijing for the "Fourth World Conference on Women." WYES management is of the opinion that the show does not meet the standards of the station, even though the largest PBS station in the nation, WNET, is the presenting, or sponsoring station of the show, and every major gay market except New Orleans airs the show. (photo by Donna Binder)

Feldman. In our next issue, we hope to hear a more specific critique from him about the show, and we have also asked him to provide us with some sort of statement on the station's policy regarding minorities, including the gay and lesbian community. We hope to print his quotes in our next issue. *editor*

OTHER HIV NEWS

VIRUS DISCOVERER: AIDS VACCINE MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE

WASHINGTON (AP) Medical science may never find a vaccine to protect against the AIDS virus because the infection poses unique problems that may be unsolvable, an expert says.

Although researchers have found vaccines for polio and other diseases, Dr. Robert Gallo, co-discoverer of the AIDS virus, said, "nobody can say that they will (succeed) for sure" in making a vaccine against HIV.

Others on the panel did not specifically echo his pessimism, but Dr. Anthony Fauci, head of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said lack of precise scientific knowledge about HIV is the major stumbling block preventing development of an AIDS vaccine.

Gallo said that the uncertainty about finding an HIV vaccine has led some people at the World Bank to consider controlling AIDS by treating all of the world's HIV patients with the new and expensive drugs that have been shown to successfully suppress HIV. Protection may require that every single virus in the body is killed, a trick that is not required of other vaccines. Gallo said, for instance, that polio vaccine merely represses the virus and "then it goes away," preventing an infection. It may take more than this to prevent an HIV infection, he said.

COULSTON: "WE HAVE A VACCINE THAT LOOKS LIKE THE ANSWER"

ALAMOGORDO, N.M. (AP) Chimpanzee tests of an anti-AIDS vaccine show preventive results promising enough to allow human trials and even show improvement in animals infected before inoculation, optimistic scientists said recently.

The vaccine developed by a team from the University of Pennsylvania working with the Coulston Foundation of Alamogordo and Apollon Inc. of Malvern, Pa., is already being used on selected human subjects.

Foundation chief executive Frederick Coulston said that he expects it could be further tested starting later this year on human patients confirmed to have the human immunodeficiency virus, or HIV.

If human testing goes as hoped, a vaccine could be available commercially within two to three years, Coulston said.

But he suggested the odds may be 100 to 1 in favor of success in humans. And while there are many strains of HIV, he said he believes the vaccine will prove universal for the various strains.

The Food and Drug Administration approved human trials for the vaccine two months ago. Coulston said it took less than two weeks for approval, making it "the fastest or one of the fastest tracks ever."

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LA HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN — BLACK TIE V



The Louisiana HRC Dinner, "Black Tie V," was held on Saturday, May 17 at the downtown Sheraton Hotel. This year's award recipients were Alan Robinson (far left), shown here with "Skip" Brown, and Regina Matthews (far right), pictured here with her partner, Dr. Judy Harris.



A variety of entertainment was provided at the dinner. After the cocktail reception, Senator Mary Landrieu led the guests into the dining room, at which time Raquel Chevallier (left) performed along with other professional dancers. Tommy Elias (center) and Fancy Music performed during and after dinner, and the mistress of ceremonies was nationally renowned lesbian comic Georgia Ragsdale.



The event was attended by nearly 600 people, an increase of over 20 percent from last year's event. In the photo at left, Good Friends manager Ken GrandPré speaks with attorney Glenn Reames, and at right, US Senator Mary Landrieu poses with (l to r) IMPACT's office manager Gay Scafide, Marty Harmon, and editor Kyle Scafide.

(All photos by Chuck Davis)



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IMPACT CELEBRATES 20 YEARS: 1985

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

New Orleans: REMEMBERING 1985

BY ROBERTS BATSON

When the 1984 World's Fair ended, a melancholic miasma seemed to settle over the collective psyche of the city. For some, the economic failure of the fair dashed dreams of making quick fortunes, but for most, it meant that our private playground was taken from us. For everyone, 1985 meant getting back to life as usual in the land of dreamy dreams.

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As was true for several years in a row, 11 gay carnival balls welcomed their friends (Perseus, David, Polyphemus, Ishtar, Olympus, Amon-Ra, Celestial Knights, Petronius, Apollo, Armeinius, and Lords of Leather.)

In June, both Celebration and Gay Fest enjoyed considerable successes, bringing healthy doses of pride to the local community. Celebration '85 was held June 21-22 in the Clarion Hotel. Several hundred attendees heard presentations by Abby Rubinfeld of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, Gil Gerald of the National Coalition of Black Gays, and San Francisco Supervisor Harry Britt. Gay Fest (June 29-30) was once again thriving, and, for the first time since the initial parade in 1981, re-instituted a short parade from Armstrong Park to Washington Square.

December 26, 1985

Culture

By Jon Newlin

formally philosophic mind of the period

At IMPACT, several important staff changes were made. Jon Newlin returned, this time as editor, for what would, with time, be viewed as his "Middle Period" with the paper ('85-'86). Stewart McCloud came and went as Executive Director. He was followed by John Ognibene, who, as a reporter, lasted at least until the end of the year. *Plus ça change...*

On the political front, two long-term efforts finally came to fruition. In April, Congresswoman Lindy Boggs agreed to sign on as a co-sponsor of the proposed gay rights bill, becoming the only member of the House of Representatives from the Deep South to do so. LAGPAC (Louisiana Gay Political Action Caucus) subsequently presented a well-attended reception at the Bourbon Orleans Hotel to provide an opportunity for the community to thank her.

Another significant political breakthrough came on June 21, when Mayor Dutch Morial finally issued an executive order prohibiting discrimination against gay people by the City of New Orleans. This historic action was the first time any governmental body in the State of Louisiana officially recognized the rights of gay people to live and work free from discrimination. The policy memorandum stated, "The City of New Orleans does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, handicap, or sexual orientation in employment or in the operation of city programs or services."

April 19, 1985

The New Orleans Regional Chapter of the Louisiana Gay Political Action Caucus (NORCO/LAGPAC) and the National Organization for Women (Louisiana and New Orleans Chapter) invite you to a champagne reception for Congresswoman Lindy Boggs in recognition of her co-sponsorship of the Federal Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights Bill (HR 230). This bill would amend the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to include protection bas-

ed on affectional or sexual orientation.

The reception will be held at the Bourbon Orleans Hotel, 717 Orleans Ave., on Friday, April 26 from 6-8 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to come and bring their friends to express our appreciation to Lindy Boggs, who has shown her support of full equality and civil rights for all people. (No admission charge)

LAGPAC had been urging Morial to issue such an executive order since 1981, but he had resisted their entreaties.

Some people in the community viewed Morial's change of heart as a cynical and desperate ploy, but, regardless of the purity of his intent, the executive order was truly a milestone in the advancement of civil rights for gay people in Louisiana, and Dutch Morial should, rightfully, receive all due honor for it. Morial had previously tried to convince voters to amend the city charter to allow mayors to serve for unlimited terms. That effort had failed, and in the summer of 1985 he was launching a second effort to amend the charter, this time to allow him to run for a third term.

June 28, 1985

Mayor's Memorandum Proclaims End To Discrimination

On Friday, June 21, Mayor Morial issued a Policy Memorandum against discrimination

Georgia challenge will set the stage for

Legal Defense and Education

decisions of title and source

EDITORIAL

In an article in this past Wednesday's Times-Picayune, "Gays Praise Morial For Efforts As Other Demonstrate Outside," gay activist Alan Robinson was quoted as saying, "The majority of the gay community supports Morial." In the same article, Robinson was also quoted as saying that "The Lavender Left is a fringe group not representative of the larger community." With these statements, we feel we must take issue with Mr. Robinson. Collectively, we normally deal with at least 200 gay individuals on a daily basis, and from the opinions we gather during these dealings, we have to say that the majority of the gay community is not in support of the present mayor of this city. Even during the course of the cocktail party in honor of the mayor, there was a general consensus of opinion among those inside of not supporting the mayor in his bid for a charter change to allow himself a third term.

Referring to The Lavender Left as a fringe group clearly illustrates that Mr. Robinson does not recognize the diversity of the gay community in New Orleans which he attempts to represent. Indeed, The Lavender Left is a "fringe group," but on the other hand, there is represent. Indeed, The Lavender Left is a "fringe group," but on the other hand, there is represent. Indeed, The Lavender Left is a "fringe group," but on the other hand, there is represent.

Each organization that works within the community has made great strides in their own particular way toward gay and human rights, however, for Mr. Robinson to be quoted on behalf of the gay community of New Orleans is wrong. For Mr. Robinson to assume that he is in touch with the opinions of "the majority," is clearly a misunderstanding on his part.

August 23, 1985

The Staff Of Impact

The third-term referendum deeply divided gay political activists in New Orleans. A reception given by Paul Harmon and Joe Garbert, ostensibly to thank Morial for the executive order, was viewed by many as an effort to create the impression that there was wide-spread support for the third-term measure. As a result, gay pickets appeared on the sidewalk in front of

Harmon's house. Morial loyalist Alan Robinson was quoted in The Times-Picayune saying that Morial had deep support in the

gay

community, though IMPACT took editorial issue with him.

The membership of LAGPAC wisely decided to avoid a divisive fight by voting to take no stand on the matter of the third term, deciding instead to present a debate on the issue, which provided the public with a thorough and informative airing of the topic. The g/l/b/t public would be well served by more such debates.

On other political matters, the Sexual Privacy Project, an effort to overturn the Louisiana "crime against nature" statute in federal courts, continued apace. A fund-raising dinner for the project was announced in October, and, on that occasion, Outstanding Service Awards were presented to activists Charlene

Schneider and Stewart Butler.

By 1985, the AIDS epidemic had

gained the attention of the general public, and long-time opponents of the gay movement were seizing upon it to further their agendas. Demagogues throughout the country were demanding that all people who tested positive on the HTLV-III test (the AIDS blood test) be locked

up as a quarantine action.

One such advocate was Dr. Robert Mendelsohn, who authored an alarming article that was irresponsibly printed in The Times-Picayune. Fortunately for Louisianans, the Chief Epidemiologist for the State, Dr. Louise McFarland, promptly responded to Mendelsohn in a clear, point-by-point rebuttal of all his reasons for quarantining. In the early years of the AIDS crisis, McFarland courageously weighed in with the full authority of her professional credibility to defuse the public hysteria. Hers was a contribution of mammoth proportions, which, sadly, was not adequately recognized in the previous issue of IMPACT, as we were unable to obtain a copy of that letter from her at press time.

IN MY OPINION... JOHN OGNIBENE

Does anyone really care what my opinion is? I doubt that they do. Then why write a column expressing it? I'm writing this because I hope that my opinions will stimulate thought.

June 28, 1985

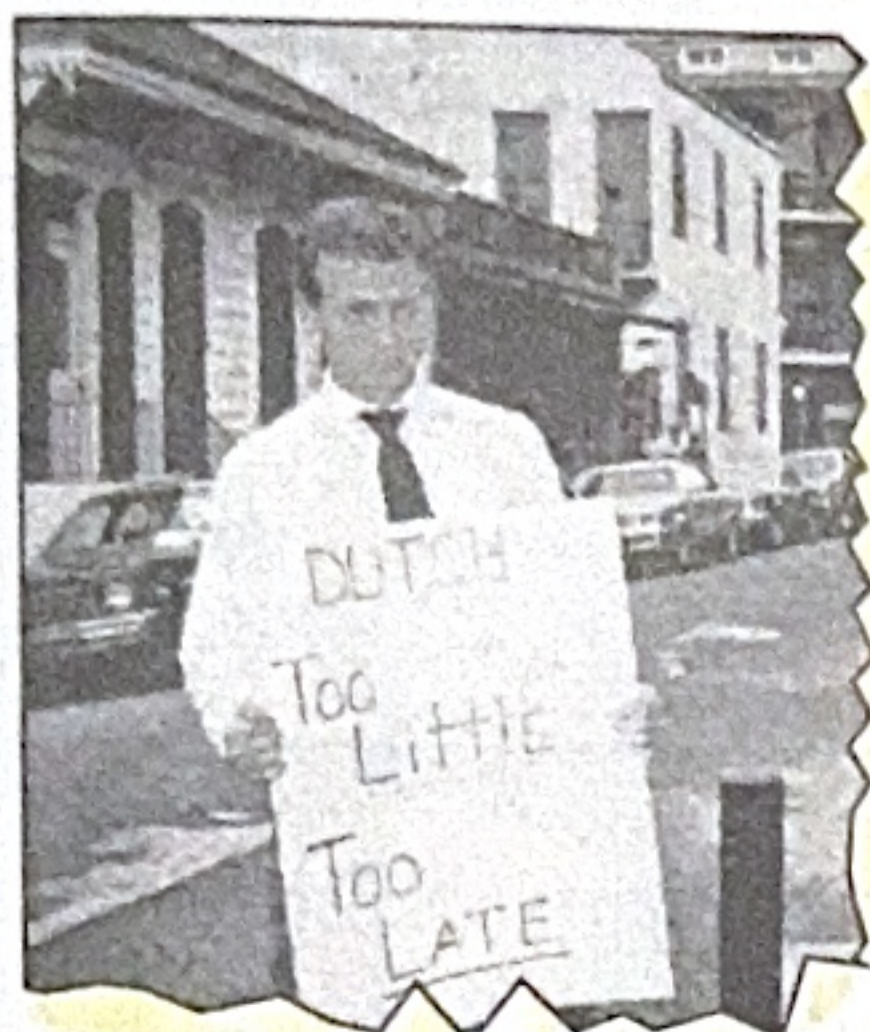
The AIDS blood test was highly controversial throughout 1985, with most medical and gay political authorities urging against it. Arguments against the test centered on its accuracy, as well as fear that confidentiality would not be protected.

May 3, 1985

Dangers of AIDS blood test

The year also saw the creation of new institutions in the fight against AIDS: a new organization called Citizens for AIDS Prevention Education, organized principally by Judge Miriam Waltzer and activist John

IMPACT CELEBRATES 20 YEARS: 1985



Ognibene, Project Lazarus, and the AIDS Information Center on Bourbon Street. Lazarus House was the result of Father Bob Powell's petitioning of the Archdiocese of New Orleans to donate a building and utilities for the first year to house people with AIDS. The AIDS Information Center was housed in donated space and would eventually grow into the NO/AIDS Task Force office.

The worsening AIDS crisis could also be measured by the fact that 1985 was the first year that public funds became available to provide services in New Orleans. \$19,860 came from the U.S. Conference of Mayors, \$45,000 from the State of Louisiana, and \$20,000 from the New Orleans City Council.

November 15, 1985

CITY COUNCIL PLEDGES \$20,000 TO AIDS INFO CENTER

HELP! !!

IMPACT is missing issues from 1987 and 1988. They were destroyed in a fire in the late '80s. Do you have any of these issues sitting around in closets or attics? IMPACT would greatly appreciate your lending them to us so we can adequately continue our documentation of our history. Call us at 944-6722 and we will come pick them up! !!

Honored Citizen: Jack Sullivan

BY ROBERTS BATSON

Earlier this spring, when Jack Sullivan was honored with an award from AIDS Law, a reception was held in the Riverview Room atop the Jax Brewery. After the presentation portion of the evening was completed, some people left and others milled about, socializing in small conversational groups. Rather quickly, a space opened in the center of the large room. On one side of the chasm was, conspicuously, Randy Evans, founder of the political organization, Forum for Equality. Sixty or so feet away, on the other extreme edge of the room, was a group of Board of Director members from LAGPAC (Louisiana Lesbian and Gay Political Action Caucus.)

The only person in the room moving back and forth between Evans and the LAGPAC group was Jack Sullivan. And he did so comfortably and agreeably. It was a quintessential Jack sort of thing, and his ease of movement was more than just symbolic. In the hurly-burly of gay activism, which is often a mine field of inflated egos and turf battles, Jack, probably more than any other local activist, moves among all groups, and is welcomed everywhere.

His resume reflects this little "c" Catholicism: he is a founder and, currently, steering committee member of the Forum for Equality, while serving on LAGPAC boards longer than any other human [thirteen consecutive years]. Jack is like that. You can take him anywhere.

Big "C" Catholicism has also been a significant part of his life. He says that he is "the frightening result of twenty years of Catholic education," but adds with a chuckle, "I don't think I was very scarred by it."

"The power structure of the church has definitely presented problems for lesbians and gay men, but, on lower levels, there's actually a great deal of support for lesbian and gay people," he maintains. As an example, he recalls that while calling LAGPAC's gay and gay-friendly phone-bank list at elections, he has been greeted with calls answered by "Sister somebody or other," who would reply, "Don't worry. We all have the LAGPAC ballot and all the sisters are going to vote tomorrow."

He came to accept his sexuality during his undergraduate years at St. Leo College in Florida, and it was during his senior year there that he came to New Orleans for the first time. It was at Halloween. He loved it. The following year he moved to New Orleans to attend Loyola Law School, where he was the only out gay person in his class. Except for a year when he returned to New York to handle family business, he's been here ever since. Today he continues to live uptown with his partner of fourteen years, artist Chris Karnes, whom he introduced at the AIDS Law

reception as "the love of my life."

He has been a practicing attorney since 1981, but he demurs with a chuckle that "the only honest labor I have ever done was working as a lifeguard in high school and college." He practices under his given name, which is John, but is widely known as Jack, which he says he prefers. The only people who've ever called him John, he says, are impatient judges, grade-school nuns, and people trying to sell him something.

Sullivan's exposure to grass-roots politics began as a child, when he accompanied family members to campaign offices where, as a youngster, he was put to work stuffing envelopes for city council candidates in New York. Later, as a young man, he would be in Madison Square Garden witnessing the 1980 Democratic National Convention. That event serves him now as a marker to measure the political progress of the g/l/b/t community. At the 1980 convention, he remembers that words such as "gay" weren't heard at all from the podium, whereas now "there's no hesitation to use the word on the convention floor at Democratic Conventions. In 1980, I frankly never expected change so quickly."

Similarly, he notes how quickly other issues have developed: "Two or three years ago, same-sex marriage was virtually unthinkable, but the dialogue is causing mainstream society to take it seriously."

Another encouraging sign of the times, according to Sullivan, is the increasing number of closeted gay people who are beginning to support the gay movement. A decade ago, he says, he would often call people soliciting their support and they would be horrified at the mere prospect. Today, he notes, some of those same people are writing large checks.

To some extent, the AIDS crisis has contributed to this change. The "only good thing AIDS has done is to advance the civil rights movement, but at an unspeakable cost."

"The community has developed from the bottom up," he observes, noting that the heroes at the Stonewall Bar fighting the police were street people who felt they had little or nothing to lose. "I don't want to see us forget them." He sees a parallel today regarding the question of including transgendered persons in the movement. "Civil rights for everybody needs to be kept in the forefront of gay and lesbian minds. We really need to remember that other people have helped us and we need to be there for other people."

Sullivan is encouraged by the progress of the gay movement. "We're light years ahead," he concludes, "because of acculturation of the nation at large. The lesbian and gay community has become a recognized part of America. For mainstream people, there's nothing untoward or shocking or wrong in being gay. That is good for the gay community and it's good for the nation as a whole."

QUOTE: "I've been concerned about the creation of a ghetto. A lot of people thought they needed to live in one in order to survive. I have an appreciation for that, but I don't think it's always been healthy. I think people now feel less of a need for a ghetto."



JACK SULLIVAN

BORN: New York City, 10/12/55

RESIDENCES: New York City, New Jersey, Florida, New Orleans since 1977

EDUCATION: Catholic elementary and prep schools in New York and New Jersey; Bachelor of Arts, St. Leo College, 1977; Juris Doctor, Loyola Law School, 1980

PROFESSIONAL: Attorney since 1981, in private practice the last thirteen years

COMMUNITY ACTIVISM: Member, Human Rights Campaign Fund, since 1980; Member and Board of Directors, Crescent City Coalition, 1981-84; Board of Directors, LAGPAC, 1984-97; Host, Halloween Fundraiser for Project Lazarus, 1985-97; Founding Member and Steering Committee, Forum for Equality, 1989-97; Member, Team New Orleans, 1994; Mayor's Advisory Committee, 1996-97; NO/AIDS Task Force; AIDS Law

COMMUNITY HONORS: Governor's Commendation for Service to the Lesbian and Gay Community from Governor Edwin W. Edwards, 1994; Community First Award, LAGPAC, 1996; Teri Estrada Memorial Award, AIDS Law, 1997

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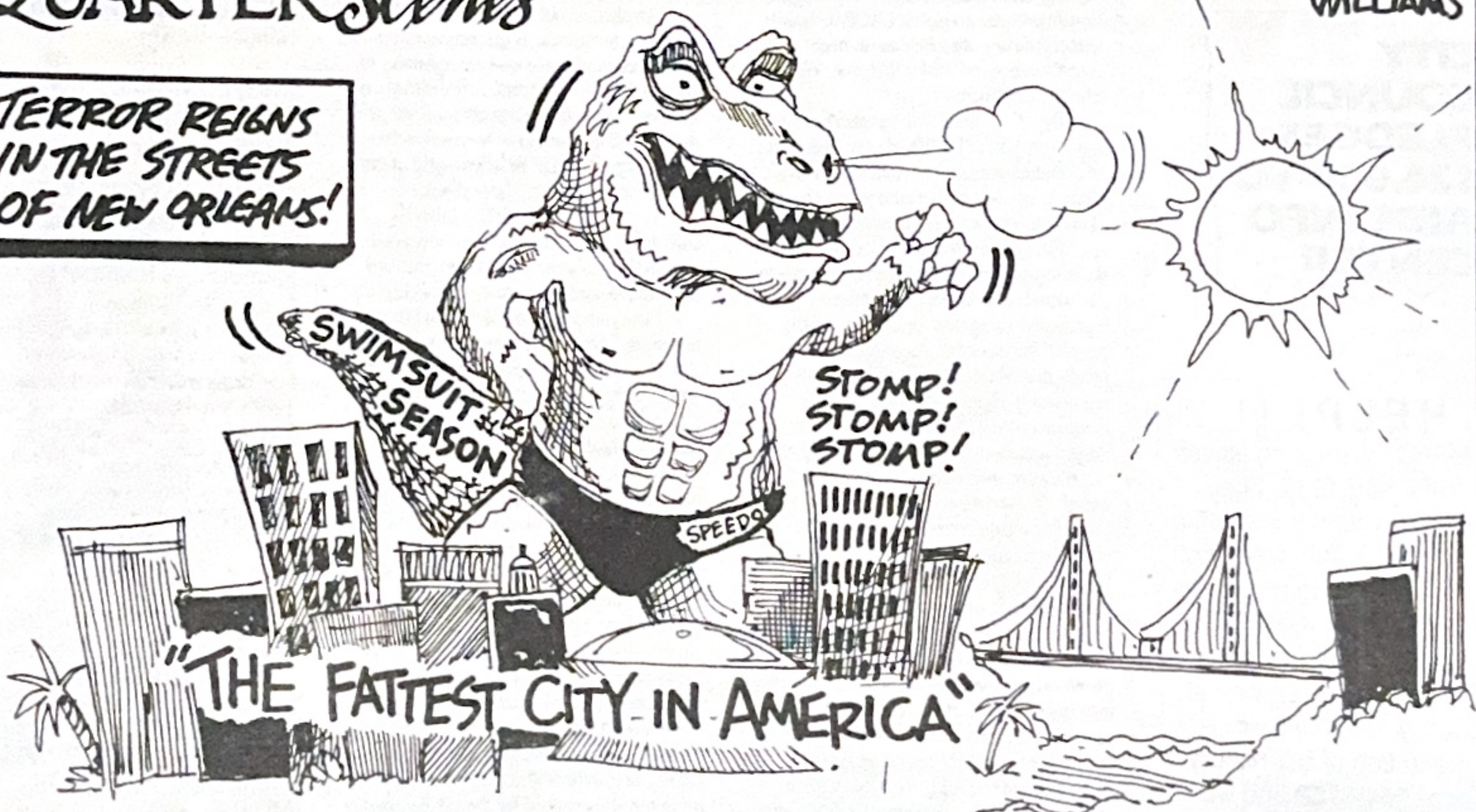
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LETTERS

Dear Editor,

This is a response to the comment of Sen. B.G. Dyess, D-Alexandria, on p. 6 of *IMPACT*, April 25, 1997 near the top of the third column: "I don't want fire and brimstone to rain down on us and do unto us like he did to Sodom and Gomorrah." God did not destroy Jerusalem because of sex (Ezekiel 16:15; Ezekiel 16:48, Verses 48, 49). "As I live says the Lord God, Sodom your sister and her daughters have not done as you and your daughters have done." Verse 49: "Behold this is the iniquity of Sodom your proud sister: she and her daughters had abundant food and lived in tranquillity, but she did not help the poor and needy." Our country, unlike Sodom, has helped the poor and the needy! Also see Ezekiel 16:53,55. Sodom's lack of kindness to strangers and lack of hospitality is mentioned in other places. Leviticus 18 and 21 say nothing of God being against homosexuality for females. I urge readers to consult "Is the Homosexual My Neighbor" by Letha Dawson Scanzoni and Virginia Ramey Mollenkott. I found this book in Books A Million in Jacksonville, FL.

In closing, Jesus also talked about Sodom in St. Luke 10:10-12. Many gays accept Jesus and love him and know Adam and Steve came from Adam and Eve. Zacheriah 8:17 "... and let none of you devise evil in your heart against your neighbor ...," and so Romans 2:1 "Therefore you have no excuse, whoever you are, when you judge others; for in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you the judge are doing the very same things."

Name withheld by request.

Ed. Note: The following letter was received prior to the May 17 HRC Banquet.

An Open Letter to the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Communities:

On May 17, 1997, the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) will host an awards dinner to honor local members of the gay and lesbian community for efforts in the pursuit of gay and lesbian equality. This is fitting and proper as we are blessed with some dynamic, hard working individuals who make great personal sacrifices to stand up and defend human rights—the rights of all human beings. I applaud and commend all the recipients. Well Done!

Many of the recipients, and others who will not be recognized at the dinner, have been instrumental in the recognition and inclusion of bisexuals and transgendered in various activities, events, and organizations. To these individuals and organizations I extend my heartfelt appreciation for your efforts on behalf of all human beings and your true commitment to equal human rights for all.

For many years, I was an active supporter of HRC and, frequently, assisted in letter writing campaigns and telephone calling to my congressional representatives. I was very glad to assist because, until recently, I thought that the Human Rights Campaign Fund, more recently renamed The Human Rights Campaign, was truly devoted to the cause of equal human rights. In 1995, upon learning of HRC's opposition to the rights of transgendered persons, I was dismayed that HRC would be opposed to the rights of fellow Americans and I withdrew my financial support and wrote to HRC to inform them about reasons for withdrawing support.

During the past two and a half years, the transgender leaders of several national organizations have met with HRC on two separate occasions to determine ways for HRC to become more inclusive of transgendered. On both occasions HRC national leaders have indicated that they cannot support transgendered for a variety of reasons. Several reasons are that major contributors will no longer support

HRC if they include transgendered in ENDA and that ENDA supporters will not support an inclusive ENDA bill. HRC has also indicated that their mission includes only gays and lesbians and therefore, they can not be true to their mission and support transgendered. Instead of being supportive and inclusive, HRC has stated they will be "helpful" to transgendered.

Understandably, there were two factors which caused the confusion among the transgender population. The general public and congressional supporters of ENDA continue to be similarly confused. The first point of confusion is that ENDA was about employment non-discrimination rather than a bill promoting "special rights" for gays and lesbians. I quote directly from a fact sheet on ENDA published by HRC: "Employment discrimination strikes at a fundamental American value—the right of each individual to do his or her job and contribute to society — without facing unfair discrimination ... ENDA does not create any 'special rights' for lesbians and gay men. It simply affords to all Americans basic employment protection from discrimination based on irrational prejudice." The transgender population has learned that ENDA is not about fair employment practices for all Americans, as HRC promotes in public discussions is certainly a "gay rights" bill. HRC played a significant role in excluding transgendered from ENDA and limiting the bill to protections for sexual orientation. HRC admits that ENDA is a gay rights bill which will grant special rights to some Americans. The emphasis is clearly on gay rights and not on fair employment opportunities for all Americans. I am sad that I was mistaken and am sad to see HRC continue to mislead the public.

The second item which led to my confusion is directly attributed to the name of the organization. I was mistaken in my belief that an organization which was named the Human Rights Campaign would be devoted to equal rights for all Americans. The mistake was an honest error on my part. HRC has clearly stated to transgendered that their mission is limited to promoting "equal rights" for gays and lesbians and, therefore, cannot openly support bisexuals or transgendered. I suggest that this point of confusion can be cleared up with another name change. The Homosexual Rights Campaign would be a more appropriate name and will clear up further confusion. It would allow HRC to be true to their mission and will eliminate other persons from approaching HRC to support their efforts to obtain equal human rights. Additionally, it would enable the public to readily understand that they have a very narrow mission ... one which does not truly encompass human rights.

I suggest that prejudice, fear, and political expediency are among the chief reasons for HRC's exclusion of transgendered from ENDA and from their literature. Prejudice, fear, and political expediency are not exactly qualities which guide most human rights organizations. In order to save face, HRC offered transgendered the opportunity to introduce a separate ENDA bill and suggested they look to the courts for protections under existing Title VII legislation. Even novices to the ways of Washington can see through this tactic. These are hollow gestures, however, HRC's gesture of "helpfulness" allows them to demonstrate to transgendered that they no longer directly oppose them. The bottom line, though, is that HRC excludes transgendered and opposes their inclusion in the ENDA legislation.

Sadly, these tactics reveal that HRC's is shortsighted, and is even willing to sacrifice employment protections for gays and lesbians in an effort to pass ENDA. With ENDA in its current form, employment discrimination against gays and lesbians will continue to be legal and permissible. The only

change employers will make is in the wording of their reasons for discrimination.

The "back door" to continued discrimination against gays and lesbians is open. HRC intentionally left it open! Just as the courts will rule that ENDA offers no protection for gender identity or gender expression for transgendered, the courts will rule that ENDA also does not offer protections for gender identity or gender expression for any Americans: heterosexual, gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender. Precedent court rulings already exist, so it will not require much effort to affirm that employment discrimination against gays and lesbians is still permissible and legal as long as they are discriminated not because of their "sexual orientation" but because of their non-conformity to "traditionally accepted" gender expressions, behaviors, dress, or traits. Lesbians with "masculine" gender expressions and gay males with "feminine" expressions need to be concerned. Expressions of "masculinity" and "femininity" are in the domain of "gender identity and expression," not "sexual orientation." When one crosses over the barrier for permissible amounts of "masculinity" in females and "femininity" in males, one quickly finds themselves on common ground with transgendered. Indeed, they are in the territory of "gender identity" and may be subject to the same type and forms of discrimination which is used to oppress transgendered persons. HRC has totally failed to acknowledge that some discrimination directed towards gays and lesbians is due to a failure or inability to conform to traditional codes of gender behaviors or conduct. HRC's biggest problem is that the federal courts have not failed to acknowledge this fact!

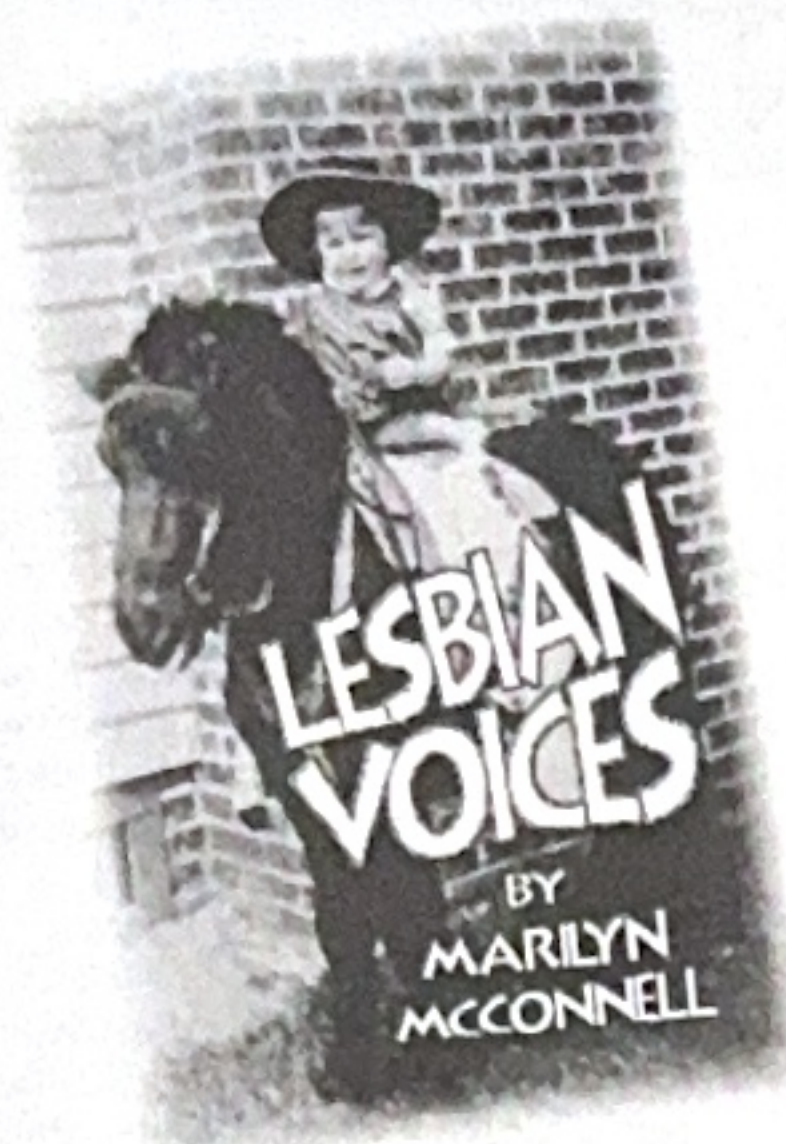
If you do not believe that employers will continue to discriminate against gays and lesbians, just watch to determine how long it takes for Cracker Barrel Restaurants and Old Country Stores to determine how to legally continue to discriminate against gays and lesbians.

HRC National has to realize that their actions have a detrimental and divisive affect on the New Orleans gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered community. It causes great pain to members of the community who have supported the community for so many years, to watch local dollars being raised to, in the end, further discriminate against bisexuals and transgendered. Because I refuse to support discrimination against transgendered and bisexuals, I cannot and will not send money to HRC National. It is very sad indeed to think that local transgendered entertainers who have raised many dollars to support the local gay and lesbian community are being targeted by HRC as unworthy of equal rights. I cannot support, much less understand, a human rights organization that relegates my transgendered sisters, brothers, and me to second-class citizenship.

It is not my intent to criticize or condemn the New Orleans gay and lesbian community. As transgendered, we have found support, acceptance, and friendship with many of our gay and lesbian colleagues. This letter is an attempt to enlighten local gay and lesbian supporters of HRC of the true nature of the so-called human rights organization. Also, I hope to encourage gays and lesbians who have an interest in ENDA to investigate this matter further.

I look forward to the day when I can, in good conscience, again financially support HRC. However, the choice belongs to HRC. All they have to do is rededicate themselves to human rights and end their discriminatory policies and practices. This may be too much to ask of the "largest national organization dedicated to obtaining civil rights for gays and lesbians," but it is not too much to ask of a true "human rights" organization.

Sincerely, Elaine Quinn, Transgender



WOMEN IN GOOD COMPANY

For almost a year, "Women In Good Company" has met monthly at different restaurants throughout the city. These women, all lesbians in business, exchange information, "talk business," and socialize at these informal gatherings. These powerful women have all started businesses, headed agencies, or are in some way self-employed. The list of members and their businesses reads like the lesbian yellow pages. The reasons these women give for attending these meetings are echoed by each: a safe space, support, exchange of information and the opportunity to socialize with other lesbian women.

Trish Schirer, the group's founder and coordinator, owns Technically Speaking with her partner Laura Hay. After 12 years of working in management in a totally patriarchal corporate world, Schirer started her own computer consultation business. Over the years, her Women in Good Company's informal group meetings have grown to include about 10 to 20 women, who meet regularly. Each month, the group will include a diverse collection of professional women: accountants and insurance agents, contractors, attorneys, painters, graphic artists, dentists, photographers, therapists (massage, psycho,

and hypno), packaging and mail service providers, a horticulturist, a psychic counselor, and



Trish Schirer, founder and coordinator of Women in Good Company (left). M.M. Jalenak, individual and family hypnotherapist is also a member.

an internet consultant. This powerful group of women would like and deserve your support. If you are a lesbian business owner and would like to join the group, or if you are interested in the services of any member of this talented group, call coordinator Trish Schirer at 488-4075.

AN OBJECTIVE LOOK: AFRICAN AMERICAN LESBIANS IN NEW ORLEANS

What do African-American Lesbians want from society? What do African-American Lesbians need in a community? Three heterosexual African-American female students at Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine discovered that African American Lesbians "want and need a voice."

What started as a project to fulfill the requirements of a Community Organization class became a learning experience for the three students, their classmates and their teacher as well. The investigators spent a significant amount of time conducting research within the African-American Lesbian community in New Orleans. Their purpose lay in seeking more about the wants, needs, desires and barriers of African-American Lesbians.

Their first technique involved observing their target population in various settings. First, they observed their subjects in relaxed settings, and then identified key informants affiliated with the gay and lesbian communities who helped to locate areas frequented by gays and lesbians.

Their first stop was a lesbian nightclub that catered mainly to Caucasian females. Upon visiting this nightclub, they observed few African-Americans in the establishment. Immediately, the question arose: Why is this so? The second stop was another popular nightclub that caters to the lesbian community; however, not to African-Americans. Once again, few African-Americans were in this setting, which was quite surprising, because the researchers had assumed that there would be a sense of sisterhood among lesbians of all races.

The final stop was a nightclub frequented by African-American Lesbians, where the students conducted casual interviews with the club's patrons. The most notable observation was the absence of Caucasian patrons. During a relaxed conversation with one of the bartenders, Bobbie, an African-American lesbian, several important issues were addressed. When asked about the various nightclubs, Bobbie commented, "Most of us [African-American Lesbians] don't go there. We don't feel welcome there. They don't play the kind of music we like or have shows." (A form of entertainment that consists of talent competitions and as well as striptease performance by gays and lesbians). She also said, "They have the nerve to be prejudiced. Now how you gon' be prejudice and gay?"

Bobbie's comment implied that the separation between blacks and whites is alive even in the lesbian and gay communities. And as much as we try to put prejudice behind us and achieve some form of togetherness, there will always be the burden of having to cross yet another hurdle in order to succeed.

The more the students searched, the more they began to realize that African-American Lesbians are not heard; they are without a voice. These women of color are fighting triple barriers. They must deal with being black, female and homosexual. Because our society is dominated by white males, life for African-American lesbians is particularly difficult. As they got deeper into their research, they discovered the degree to which lesbian women of color lack services, opportunities to interact, and opportunities to actively participate in decisions that concern and/or affect their lives.

As part of their research, they wanted to identify support services that assist members of the lesbian community in New Orleans. They were unable to locate a single organization that is devoted solely to assisting lesbian women of color. The Lesbian and Gay Community Center on Rampart Street offers services to gays and lesbians of all races. It is an excellent center in that several services are offered, including: support groups, HIV/AIDS information, and referrals to gay and lesbian "friendly" businesses. However, when the researchers visited the center, there were no African-Americans, male or female using the services. The center does not have a program to actively recruit African-Americans, nor are there any African-American board members. Thus, this facility cannot meet the needs of African-American lesbians, because their needs aren't even known.

For the informal interviews, the researchers asked several open-ended questions. Do you feel prejudices play a key role in a lot of your day to day lives? Is there any real unity in your community? Do you feel as though you have back-up or support from organizations that assist lesbians? How well do you deal with your family? Your lover? How does the aspect of child raising fit in? What changes would you like to see within you community?

The answers to these questions were a crucial factor in showing that the government and most sectors within society just don't care about lesbian issues. Because lesbians are not included in the "moral majority," things that concern them are often put on the back burner.

During these interviews with several African-American Lesbian couples, the students found that denial of the legal right of marriage is a major issue in their community. The fact that they have to suffer with the knowledge that their government won't allow it is just one of the facts that disturbs them.

Many women are also angered by the fact that they face a serious hassle if they want their lovers to care for their children should something happen to them. As it stands now, family members can interfere and a woman's mate has little say in the rearing of her lovers children. Many of the women hope to see a change in the future.

One of the other issues that was discussed was the fact that some lesbian women still feel the need to hide in the "closet," even though facts and issues about lesbian are public knowledge and are frequently and openly discussed. Many of the interviewees felt that homosexuality in the African-American community is still not accepted. "Black people are just not ready to accept the demands that lesbians make in order to be heard ... to understand the things that we need to better our lives," said Libby, a thirty-two year old African-American lesbian mother of three.

The harassment that African-American lesbians endure from males is another issue that was discussed during the interviews. Some black men seem to assume that they can give these women something they've been "missing." One interesting comment was made by Cindi, a 25 year-old student: "A man feels as though if he can get a lesbian in bed, it's just like having a virgin because some of us have never been with a man ... so they think they can bust a cherry." With this type of mentality coming from some African-American men, a woman would be thankful to have the lover she chooses!

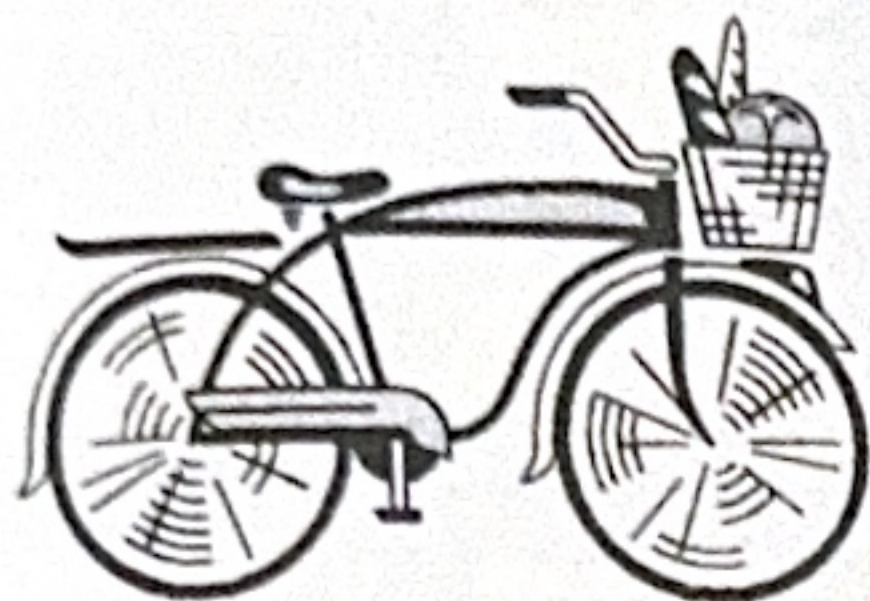
The African-American lesbians that have been with men stated that they did so to avoid the scrutiny of family and friends or just to have a baby. Some women indicated that they stayed with men for economic reasons. For some, being with a man was part of their learning experience, helping them to figure out what they really wanted. Once they decided that there was no use in masking their identity for anyone, and pleasing themselves came first, there was no turning back.

Another issue that came up during the interviews is domestic abuse. It is important to note that domestic violence is not limited to heterosexual relationships, but occurs in all relationships. This abuse can be of varying degrees including beatings, sexual and verbal abuse or just plain jealousy.



Dr. Louise McFarland (right) after presenting Dana Worley with the "Mamou" P-FLAG Scholarship. (photos by Marilyn McConnell)

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The final research tool used to assess this community was a focus group. This activity was conducted in a relaxed environment with only small limitations on where the discussion could go. There were seven volunteers who agreed to participate. They ranged in age from 19-51 and had varying educational and economic backgrounds.

Many of the same topics that were discussed during the interviews emerged during the focus groups. Domestic violence, legal rights to marriage, children and finding adequate health care and other services were all hot topics among the group's participants. The subjects of racism and prejudice also made for lively conversation.

Conducting this project will most certainly have a lasting effect on the three students. However, even more than that, they hope that the issues they uncovered within the African-American lesbian community will be addressed in the near future. In particular they think that it would be beneficial to the community if an African-American Lesbian Coalition is formed in New Orleans. They would also like to see at least one African-American member elected to the board at the Lesbian and Gay Community Center. Finally, more support services are needed to help lesbian women of color, particularly in the area of health care.

The researchers wish to thank their teacher Dr. Marian McDonald for giving them continuous support and guidance. Her encouragement played an important role in the completion of the project. This report was compiled by Danielle Dugas, Shannon Hebert and Catrina Webb.

I would like to thank Danielle, Shannon, and Catrina for their interest in the New Orleans lesbian community. The racism that exists among some of the lesbian community in New Orleans grieves me. As women and lesbians, we know oppression too well. As African American and Caucasian lesbians, we are further oppressing ourselves by the division among us. More knowledgeable persons than I have suggested and tried solutions to racism over the years. Some worked and most did not. In a city with a 50 percent African American population, ideally, the approximate percentage would be reflected in lesbian political, athletic and social groups, and in the lesbian bars. It is not.

Our problems cannot be solved by announcing every year or so that, "Yes,



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racism still exists." Nor can it be wished away. We have to do something about it; or, in therapy vernacular, take the "Action Step." What ever that step is — for you or your group,

Caucasian, African American, or both — please just do it! It is essential for a viable, exciting, political lesbian community in New Orleans. And others may notice (and be surprised, as these women were) and advise us of our racism. Perhaps others can help us, but Caucasian and African American lesbians alone must end this oppressive pattern for ourselves.

PARIS WAS A WOMAN

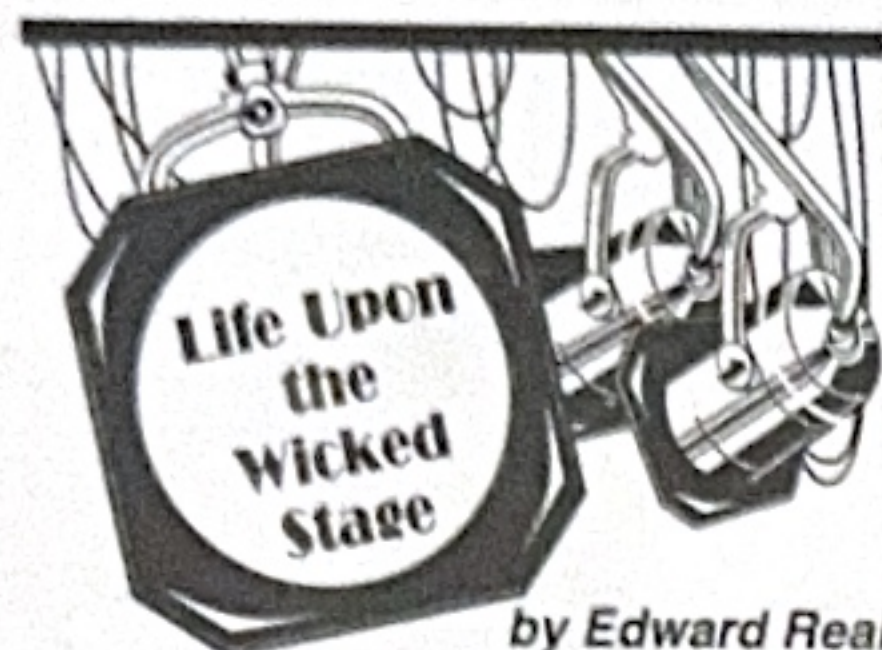
This documentary by Greta Schiller and Andrea Weiss explores the lives and atmosphere of the community of women artists and writers who immigrated to the left bank of Paris in the early 1900's. It includes Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas, Collette, Djuna Barnes, Bernice Abbot, Romaine Brooks, Gisele Freund, Marie Laurencin and others. It's showing at ZEITGEIST at its new location 2010 Magazine, between St. Andrew and Josephine, on June 1 and 3-5 at 7:45 p.m. One only has to see *Chasing Amy* to realize how important it is to support women-made, particularly, lesbian-made movies. It is of the utmost importance that we define ourselves in film. In this film, we were defined by misogynistic, homophobic, heterosexual males, who perpetuate their fantasies on the movie-going public by showing that women are only lesbian until they meet the right guy. Shame on the gay guy in the movie who agreed lesbians were ugly, implying the "pretty" female lead couldn't be lesbian.

PEOPLE AND POLICE WORKING TOGETHER

On May 31 join the 5K "Walk the Beat" run/walk to benefit NOPD. The entrance fee of \$15 gets you a T-shirt with your precinct on it, food and entertainment. Local favorites, Robin E. Frogman Henry and "Dixie Cups" will perform at the post race festival. Here's our chance to stop complaining about police services and help do something about it. Your entry fee goes directly to your own neighborhood precinct. Thanks to Ti Martin of Palace Cafe and Mark Mayer of Peter Mayer Advertising, nine New Orleans businesses have agreed to put up matching funds. Be there!

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When *Miss Saigon* opened in New York in 1991, the new spectacle from the creators of *Les Miserables* (Alain Boublil and Claude-Michel Schönberg) proved itself impervious to attack. The musical was assailed on ethnic and political grounds because a British star was imported to portray an Asian role, and the producer threatened to withdraw the production rather than give in to the demands of the American union; additionally, the show was attacked on artistic grounds, and deservedly so in my opinion. But here it is seven years later, still going strong on Broadway, and in its touring version, in New Orleans. There's no denying that *Miss Saigon*, whatever its artistic limitations, strikes a chord with a vast public.

Most of the objections to *Saigon* centered on its being a poor follow-up to its predecessor. It was dubbed "Miz Saigon" by *New York Magazine*, and the *New Yorker* critic provided character-by-character and song-by-song comparison of the two shows to illustrate that the latter musical "seems not so much a rehashing of earlier material as an actual transposition."

What I find objectionable about *Miss Saigon* is not its formulaic construction — many perfectly entertaining musicals based on classic literary works are formula affairs which depend for effect in large part on the associations the audience brings with it to the theatre, and one doesn't expect a musicalization to have the literary resonance of its progenitor — look at *West Side Story*, *Man of La Mancha*, and yes, even *Les Miz*. But *Miss Saigon*'s source was hardly a great literary work. Instead it is based on a lovely and much-loved opera, which in turn was based on a sentimental period drama by David Belasco. Boublil and Schönberg, having borrowed from that

opera for one of the better songs in *Les Miz*, apparently decided to borrow the plot, too.

That plot — a cross-cultural east-west romance that ends in tragedy — is a simple and intimate story, ill-suited to the grandiose theatrical styles of producer Cameron Macintosh or the directors of the Royal Shakespeare Company. The story's sentiment and tenderness are ill-suited to the symphonically orchestrated Euro-disco rock music of Boublil and Schönberg. Moving *Madama Butterfly* into a twentieth century setting as controversial and morally ambiguous as the Vietnamese War would be self-defeating for either of these reasons. But in attempting to update the story and make it relevant (or, more aptly, trendy), all sense is lost.

They've had to tinker with Pinkerton so that he's no longer a villain, just a good-old G. I. Joe caught up in events over which he has no control. Cio Cio San has evolved into Kim, a bargirl from the Vietnamese boondocks who somehow acquires the grit and strength to survive the messy war and its aftermath and to raise a child for three years under hostile circumstances. Somehow, her suicide just doesn't ring true after such events; certainly it isn't the inevitable culture-dictated choice it was for Cio Cio San. And doesn't it strike anybody else as silly that when this wimpy do-gooder of a yank meets this strong-willed savvy Asian girl in a Saigon saloon, his first instinct is to protect her from the sexually predatory fellow American soldiers, and his second instinct is to bang her himself? Perhaps modern sensibility condones such an approach to love if, after all, that emotion is expressed, like everything else here, in triple forte, eardrum shattering pop-rock song.

Unlike *Les Miz*, the *Saigon* score boasts few memorable melodies. I can recall about four bars of its "Solo Saxophone" aria, but the rest recedes into a sea of high-decibel sameness. The lyrics, however, are quite unforgettable, as is so often the case with doggerel. For trite and hackneyed simpleminded rhyme, *Miss Saigon* rivals even the appalling *Blood Brothers* of Willy Russell. Only in the eleven o'clock number by the Engineer (a sort of Eurasian counterpart to such narrator characters as El Gallo or *Cabaret*'s Emcee) do we get a song that stands on its own and says something. Of course, what it says is a

paean to corrosive capitalism, a tawdry concept for which the creators of this show seem ideally fitted.

However much one may be offended by *Miss Saigon* poetically, musically and morally — the second act opening with film footage of real Amerasian orphans is an unforgivable act of exploitation — one must admire the craftsmanship of this artless enterprise. The performers were excellent, given the drek which was performed, and we would welcome an opportunity to see Joseph Anthony Foronda (The Engineer), Deedee Lynn Magno (Kim), Will Chase (Chris), and Andrea Rivette (Ellen) in more artistically rewarding material. (I doubt they will ever find more financially rewarding material.)

The design team of John Napier (sets) and David Hersey (lights) is superb, as is the staging of Nicholas Hytner (director) and Bob Avian (choreography), except for a truly tasteless Act One ballet which suggests that Ho Chi Minh City has turned into a Vegas theme hotel. It's too tacky to produce a reaction of Ho-hum or Ho-ho.

I like theatrical spectacle as much as anyone else. I can like it when it is mindless (as in *Cats* or *Starlight Express*) or when it is employed in support of some artistic statement (as in parts of Kander and Ebb's *Kiss of the Spiderwoman*). But when serious subjects are dishonestly employed as fodder for theatrical spectacle, as the Vietnam experience is here and the Perons were in *Evita*, I am offended by the exploitive motives of the project.

If I can somewhat understand the attraction of an audience to the manipulative *Miss Saigon*, I suppose I should be able to comprehend why a dated drama from 40 years ago should attract the attentions of young theatre people today, especially since The Space Between, Inc., producers of the revival of John Osborne's *Look Back In Anger* at the CAC, have obligingly provided a press release in explanation: "The feelings of disempowerment and disconnectedness pervade over consciousness today," it says.

Osborne's play may have seemed a breath of fresh air in 1956 — "fresh" in the sense of impudent, at least — but it is rather difficult to remember at this late date that there was censorship in the British theatre

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then, so Jimmy Porter's audacious rants were pretty shocking when new. And he had plenty to rant about the English caste system being what it was, and still is, and is likely to remain under Blair and Labor.

What I find surprising is that contemporary young theatre practitioners like those at the CAC should find Osborne's voice, which seems rather tame by today's standards, speaking for them. An essay on Osborne's unendingness which appeared in 1977 spoke of a company of youthful British actors reacting to the play which was proposed for their revival. "The actors did not find naturalism, rawness, social significance, anger; instead they found old fashioned melodrama. The actor playing Jimmy inquired what accent he was to use for 'the different characters this chap pretends to be — most of them unconsciously funny'."

The writer of that piece, Gareth Lloyd Evans, concluded that "that part of Jimmy's anger, hate, love, sentimentality is explicable in terms of self-indulgence ... and even that is a shallow fickle thing that is dependent upon the waywardness and versatility of his ability to talk himself into one posture or another."

If in their anger and discontent the participants in this *Anger* had looked back to Evans' revisionist concept of Osborne's Jimmy Porter, they might have had a more interesting production. Certainly their Jimmy might have achieved more variety of tone than the one-note rag we get here from Mikko Machionne, who has been seen to better advantage in the past (i. e., *Streamers*).

Curiously, it is the women of the cast who make the best impression. Veronica Russell as Jimmy's long-suffering, better-born wife gives an understated (sometimes

inaudibly so) performance as the definitely pre-feminist drudge. Kimberly Patterson has enough flair to play her assertive, "actress" friend, but is anyone actress enough to convince us of the Helena's two quick changes of attitude toward Jimmy? Stephen Thurber, as Jimmy's friend Cliff, makes his character as appealing as the director seems to want, instead of capturing Osborne's layabout lout whom Jimmy can't rise above in spite of his education.

I don't usually review children's theatre, but I was lured to Le Petit's Children's Corner for a preview of Freddie Palmisano and Ricky Graham's *Beauty and the Beast* which benefited UNO's Palmisano Scholarship Fund. The occasion was a pleasant reminder of Freddie's productive career and musical legacy, and of Graham's ability to create lyrics that are lyrical instead of satirical when he is of a mind to. The score is a bit reminiscent of Sondheim's *Night Music*, so I don't know quite how children will respond to its maturity, but this adult found pleasures in it, as well as in the performances of Sarah McMahon as Beauty, and Richard Arnold in the supporting role of her brother Winston. One also experienced some annoyance with the Michael Crawford hand jive of the beast, and some amusement as a chandelier snagged a curtain and threatened to provide another suggestion that what we were seeing was really *Beauty and the Phantom*.

This production may mark the end of the Children's Corner, for there are plans, we are told, to convert the space into more workspace for the theatre's technical staff and move the kids' shows to the main theatre. *Sic transit Gloria* and all that. Δ

Between the Sheets

BY JAMES PALMER



"Gay and Grey..."
A Time to Live
by Jim Brogan
(Equanimity & GLB
Publishers, \$13.95)

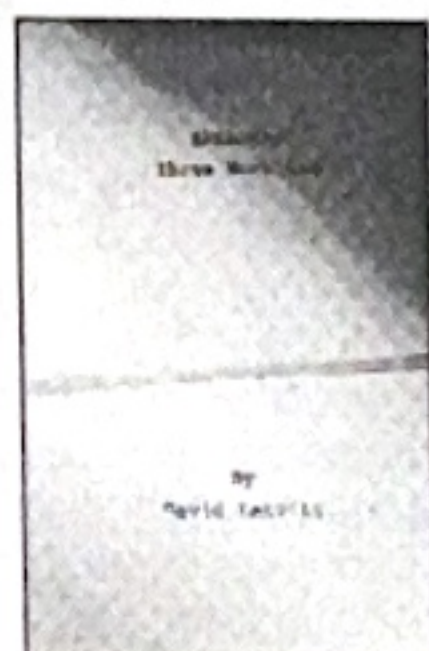
Naturally, as a "gay and grey" man, I was attracted to Jim Brogan's novel, *A Time to Live*, whose back cover claims that this book is "a 'must read' for the gay community, because, finally, here is a book concerned with the problems of aging, especially those of sex, affection and grief in an AIDS-haunted San Francisco." While New Orleans is "haunted" by a lot of things, in addition to AIDS, the comparison to San Francisco ends there. Nevertheless, Brogan does offer, ultimately, some meaningful observations and helpful suggestions, as his protagonist, Brian, "becomes vastly richer through his need to accept the inevitabilities of maturing in the 1990s."

In a "well-told tale," we follow Brian, Brogan's modern and very gay Everyman, in a search for meaning as he resists the inevitability of encroaching middle-age. Brogan details Brian's journey in short chapters, expertly narrating Brian's recurrent encounters and adventures with diverse and fascinating characters that make up his urban family of friends. Each person, along the way, provides Brian with some bit of wisdom to accompany him on his quest for peace and contentment.

From Richard, a kind and benevolent man in his '70's, who is so racked with back pain that he can't even get an erection, Brian learns the various laws of acceptance, the most important being that the older gay man must be satisfied with what "crumbs" he can get. From Will, a much younger, beautiful man, for whom Brian is a "secondary" lover, he discovers the joy of forgiveness. From Timothy, a gorgeous, younger colleague, he comes to understand the pleasure that can be derived from a friendship free of competition. From Edmond, another older friend, Brian's waning sense of humor gets an ironic lift from the former's AIDS-dementia. And there are a host of others: Liz, his lesbian tenant, Christopher, Richard's nephew, who is in search of a new homosexual identity; Daniel and Robin, a troubled couple — all of whom, in some way, effect the direction of Brian's life. Near the end of his travels, Jeremy, Liz's nephew, quietly enters Brian's

life, and the novel closes with Brian feeling a "new re-affirmation of life."

My overall reaction to *A Time to Live* is definitely positive. Brogan weaves an excellent story in simple and straightforward prose. I agree with his editor, who wrote, "It may be the west coast ambience that makes this story different." While the "Everyman" structure is sometimes too obvious, and while I'm not sure I buy the notion that "friendship is not quite a lost urban art," I did enjoy reading a writer with whom I share a common experience. It's just nice to know, as Tennessee Williams once put it, "that someone's been there before."



"A Pleasant State of Mind..."
Arkansas: Three Novellas
by David Leavitt
(Houghton Mifflin Co., \$23.00)

David Leavitt draws the title of his most recent novel, *Arkansas*, from a quote attributed to Oscar Wilde near the end of his life: "I should like to flee like a wounded hart into Arkansas." The three novellas contained within the book result from Leavitt's four year dry spell in which he suffered from writer's block, following the furor that arose when he published *While England Sleeps* in 1993. Sir Stephen Spender, a British poet, sued Leavitt for using, without permission, the poet's life as the basis of the novel. As a result of the suit, the novel was pulled from the shelves by the publisher and reissued in a "revised" paperback edition. Feeling battered and abused by the media, critics, and other writers, Leavitt changed publishers and went into a sort of literary exile, the result of which, according to noted critic and journalist, Michael Bronski, "the new David Leavitt — having shed the old skin of reputation and genteel respectability — seems less conflicted as a gay man and more assured as a writer."

But Leavitt's growth as a gay-identified writer has been a long and troubled one. With the publication in 1984 of his first novel, *Family Dancing*, a collection of short stories, David Leavitt established himself as a new, hot talent in Gay publishing. And while subsequent novels, *Equal Affections*, *The Lost Language of Cranes*, *A Place I've Never Been*, and *Italian Pleasures* (with Mark Mitchell) were critical successes and garnered a large cross-over heterosexual readership, gay writers, critics, and readers (myself included) attacked Leavitt's seeming refusal to deal openly with gay male sexuality. Leavitt's fictional world is so populated by such pleasant, upper-

middle class, wholesome families with clean-cut and happy sons that Felice Picano, a successful novelist and critic, once remarked, that Leavitt wrote "as though he didn't have a penis."

Well, rest assured, *Arkansas*, Leavitt's latest work, will change that notion. In fact, the three novellas contained in the book are so full of male sex that prior to publication Leavitt, once again, found himself in the center of a publishing controversy — this time with *Esquire*. According to R.L. Pela of *Advocate* newsmagazine, "Reportedly spooked by Leavitt's in-your-face gay prose, *Esquire* editor in chief Ed Kosner yanked 'The Term Paper Artist,' one of the book's stories, from the magazine's April issue." Whatever the reason Kosner had for pulling the story, the fact remains that, in the long run, *Esquire's* action has certainly boosted Leavitt's sales. I know that while I purchased *Arkansas* mainly to read a new Leavitt book, I also was curious to see what all the ado was about.

As mentioned earlier, *Arkansas* consists of three novellas, the first of which is the shocking, arrogant, satirical, and, perhaps even amoral, "The Term Paper Artist." In this story, a writer named David Leavitt, in exile in Los Angeles, writes term papers for humpy UCLA male undergraduates in exchange for sex. While there are legions of gay academics who have wondered if they ever could or should exchange such favors, David Leavitt throws caution to the winds and does! As the number of term papers accrue, Leavitt begins to realize that writing for pleasure is more fulfilling than writing for profit. Near the end of the story, he muses that, all things considered, those term papers ironically represented

some of the best writing he's ever done. Frankly, I loved this story and wish the following two could have had the same impact.

Continuing Leavitt's exploration of the themes of escape and exile and also drawing from Leavitt's life, the second story, "The Wooden Anniversary," involves characters of Celia and Nathan from the title story in *A Place I've Never Been*. Bronski describes this entry as an "E.M. Forster-esque erotic romp in Tuscany told as a Woody Allen comedy of manners." Friendship and fealty is the major thrust of this beguiling story.

The final entry, "Saturn Street," finds a disaffected writer, (Leavitt, again?) in Los Angeles volunteering to deliver lunches to homebound AIDS patients only to find himself falling in love with one of them. This story, fueled by sexual desire and discordant relationships, has the same haunting quality that pervades the entire collection.

Of the three novellas, my favorite was "The Term Paper Artist." I just wish that Leavitt had placed it as the last of the three instead of the first; thus, making a wonderful end to a night of pleasurable reading. Certainly, it could be argued that the price of the book is a little high for so short a novel, but here is definitely a case in which size doesn't matter. In any event, David Leavitt is now at work on a new novel, *The Page Turner*. And according to Bronski, for Leavitt, "the act of writing now produces pleasure in and of itself." When Bronski asked the author, "And are there material sexual benefits as well?" Leavitt laughed and responded, "Do I do it to get laid? I love the idea that if someone liked a story they might go to bed with me." Δ

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National News

News continued from page 10

Franklin County Superior Court Judge Dennis Yule said the case had more to do with Christy Wheatley's "predatory nature" than her sexual identity issues.

"That is something you have at this point been unwilling or unable to focus upon," Yule told the defendant.

Ms. Wheatley's defense attorney, Rem Ryals, argued for the low end of the standard sentencing range — 21 months — and said his client would be best served by a sex change.

Ms. Wheatley, 20, has described herself as a man trapped in a woman's body and uses the name Christopher Bryan Wheatley. She also takes male hormones and has grown a beard.

She pleaded guilty in March to third-degree rape of a child. Prosecutors said Ms. Wheatley fooled a 15-year-old girl into thinking she was a man by wearing a fake, strap-on penis.

The victim told Pasco police she didn't realize Ms. Wheatley was using the device until they'd had sex twice.

Yule advised Ms. Wheatley to take advantage of any sex-offender treatment programs that might be available in prison. The judge said she would be sent to a women's institution.

Ms. Wheatley also faces a third-degree child molestation charge in Benton County involving another 15-year-old girl. She has pleaded innocent to that charge.

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL CHARGED WITH SODOMIZING STUDENT

NEW YORK (AP) The assistant principal of a special program at a Harlem junior high school was arraigned on charges that he paid a 15-year-old male student to have several sexual encounters with him.

Ronald Taylor, 50, was held in \$30,000 bail after his Manhattan Criminal Court arraignment on charges of third-degree sodomy, endangering a child's welfare, and witness tampering.

Taylor lured the teen-ager to his home, showed him pornographic homosexual movies, and induced him to have sex by giving him money and promising to promote him to his next grade, prosecutors said.

Barbara Thompson, spokeswoman for the Manhattan district attorney's office, said Taylor met the youth while Taylor was a teacher and dean of boys at JHS 43 on West 129th Street. The teen had truancy and study problems and Taylor took advantage of him, she said.

Police armed with a search warrant found more than 400 videotapes of homosexual pornography in Taylor's apartment, Thompson said.

Thompson said that investigators believe that Taylor first had sex with the boy on June 10, 1996, at Taylor's home. It is believed that the two have had "six or seven" sexual encounters until the last

occasion on or around March 20, Thompson said.

The third-degree sodomy charge is a felony that indicates the defendant is 21 or older and the alleged victim is younger than 17. Upon conviction, the defendant faces up to four years in prison.

Thompson said the witness tampering charge, a misdemeanor punishable by a year in jail, alleges that Taylor called the youth and told him not to tell police anything incriminating about their relationship.

Assistant District Attorney Kerry O'Connell told Judge Robert Sackett that Taylor has been seen out with teen-aged boys as late as 2 a.m. Thompson said her office believes there are other Taylor victims and they should call police or the Manhattan district attorney's office.

CLERK ACCUSED OF USING WITCHCRAFT TO LURE TEENS

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP) A convenience store clerk lured teen-age girls into having sex with him by promising to teach them about witchcraft, police said.

Robert D. "Sonny" Griffiths, 19, of Orchard Park, told the girls he would enlighten them and help them understand his religion, police said. But part of that process involved "getting naked, having sex with him and rubbing oil on him," Orchard Park Police Det. Joseph Wehrfritz said.

Griffiths was arrested charged with rape, sodomy and endangering the welfare of a child, a 13-year-old girl.

Two other girls, both under age 18, have also come forward but no charges have been filed on their behalf, Det. Thomas Norman said today. Police believe other girls may be involved.

FOOTBALL COACH ACCUSED OF SEXUALLY ABUSING PLAYERS

STREAMWOOD, Ill. (AP) A former football coach has been charged with sexually abusing seven team members. Michael Hughes, 31, of Hanover Park was charged with four counts of criminal sexual assault and seven counts of aggravated sexual abuse. A spokeswoman in the Cook County state's attorney's office said Hughes is accused of assaulting or abusing 12- to 14-year-old boys last year. Bond was set at \$2.5 million.

Hughes coached for about three years before resigning last year in the middle of the league's regular season.

Streamwood park and recreation director Rick Pyle said Hughes opposed a policy established last August requiring all coaches to go through Illinois State Police background checks. Pyle said Hughes did not return a required form and was not checked. Almost 600 other coaches were.

Attorney Michael Gerber said Hughes gave the boys alcohol and marijuana and showed them pornographic movies. A

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BAY AREA NOTES

The biggest news in the travel industry regarding the bay area is simply that getting there is cheaper today than it was 20 years ago, because of discount carriers. And you can even find inexpensive housing if you look and explore some unique places for a change of pace.

In San Francisco is Rafiki House, a transitional group home for Americans with AIDS with eight furnished bedrooms. Individuals can stay here for up to six months with transitional housing for 25% of their income. If you are involved in this area and want to see a remarkable project, check out this program of the San Francisco Black Coalition on Aids. Call 415-641-5641.

I collected so much "stuff," when I was recently in San Francisco, that I had to buy a few suitcases at the Purple Heart Thrift Shop at 1855 Mission Street. This old time thrift shop is the kind of place you might see in Lake Charles. While very funky, it's worth a pit stop when you're roaming the Mission District, where you will want to see Good Vibrations, many unique book shops, the murals on the mission, and go on the Levi Strauss factory tour.

San Francisco is the only city in the country to have a dance club bus tour. "3 Babes and a Bus" offers a female chaperone, who will get you into some of the hip clubs, where the waits are often terrible on a Friday or Saturday.

I met two gorgeous women from Shreveport who were overwhelmed by the San Francisco night scene. Lovers for several years, they wanted to get a 'feel for the S.F.' club scene, but were too suburban to walk the streets or taxi to places with which there weren't familiar. The buses are ultra modern and you are given a necklace that gets you into clubs without waiting or

paying steep admission fees. Brazilian, Rap, Disco, Jazz — you never exactly know where you are going and that's part of the fun. There are a few cities in the country that could probably duplicate this, but it would be nice to find "3 Babes and a Bus" in Houston, Chicago, and Los Angeles, as well as New York City. It's a great concept. Call 415-552-CLUB.

No tour for the gay/lesbian traveller is complete without cruising the Castro — a historical perspective with Trevor Hailey. Now that the Harvey Milk story has been made into a play, it should renew more interest in the man. Coincidentally, Hailey, who has a degree in tourism, meets with those slated for the tour at the Harvey Milk Place atop the Castro Street Muni Station. Many straight people have taken the tour to understand what makes San Francisco, the Gay Mecca of the world, tick. At \$30 a head, including lunch, you will visit "The Names Project," home of the Aids Memorial Quilt.

History buff Hailey is a wealth of information who kicks off your trip to San Francisco by familiarizing you with the Castro before you roam on your own. Do you need to take this tour? Absolutely not! Should you take this tour? Absolutely yes! It's either Hailey Trevor in San Francisco or Joyce Gold in NYC, if you want a historical gay pride tour, running Tues-Sat, 10-10:30. Six people have to be there for it to happen, but no more than 16 can be on any tour. Call 415-550-8110 to make a reservation.

A popular stop on the tour, where everyone ineluctably returns, is A Different Light Bookstore. Here you will find exactly "what's what" in the San Francisco gay/lesbian community.

If you're a single lesbian and wondering if you're too fussy and have difficulty with dating, you might want to take a workshop with Loveworks. Call 415-572-1999. Also, check out the Aru Gallery at 736 14th Street, where you'll usually find some photographs on some aspect of gay, lesbian, bi, and transgender life.

Women should start planning now to come down to San Francisco, during the Labor Day Weekend to attend the 16th annual West Coast Women's Music and Comedy Festival. You can take Gray Line or Greyhound to Yosemite. There are 150 cabin spaces available. So if you want to attach this festival to any San Francisco holiday, you'd better do it immediately. Write W.C.W.M.F. 15842 Chase St., North Hills, CA 91343.

You can pick up a copy of *Dyke Review* at A Different Light Bookstore or write to 584 Castro, Suite 456, San Francisco, CA 94114. Please enclose \$5. The Cafe at 2357 Market St. is San



San Francisco: Bay Area

Francisco's more popular gathering spot for women. They have a great DJ, two pool tables, and an outdoor sun deck. For free Western dancing lessons in the early evening, try Rawhide — 280 Seventh St. off Folsom. For dinner, consider Leticia's at 2247 Market St.

If you want to sample "The SAFEQUAKE," head to the California Academy of Science. For the price of a movie ticket, you can visit it as well as the Steinhart Aquarium, the Morrison Planetarium, and the Natural History Museum. The new San Francisco Museum at Yerba Buena Gardens has been getting enormous ink by travel writers around the country. Hopefully, it will live up to the hype — it cost almost \$100 million.

Some things will naturally disappoint you like the Pacific Stock Exchange — dreadful! But the Chevron World of Oil at 55 Market and the World of Economics in a downtown office building on Market will more than compensate. All of these things are free and you cannot moan and groan, when there's no charge, or maybe you can! But don't miss the Tonga Room at the Fairmont at 950 Mason, or the Redwood Room at the Four Seasons at 495 Geary. For a great view of the city, it's the Marriott View Lounge at 55 4th St. For shopping, it's the Six Sixty Center at 660 Third St. in the SOMA area. This is a good place for shopping bargains since it's an outlet center, one of the few in the country in a downtown space. A popular hotel on Van Ness with free continental breakfast is the Van Ness Motel — 800-872-4667. No trip is ever complete without some type of tour with the Red & White Fleet. If you have time for only one tour, Alcatraz is a high priority. I prefer a day of peace in this go-go city by taking in Tiburon and Sausalito.

The public relations director of Red & White is Frank Heaney, a San Francisco Institution. This is one guy who's been there; he used to be a guard at Alcatraz. Call 800-229-2784 for a list of tours. Frank, who is a bit modest, was not only the youngest correction officer to ever serve as a guard on Alcatraz but also the author of a book, *Inside the Walls of Alcatraz*. He is also a guide for Red & White's exclusive "Rock the Rock" tour. Δ

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nice 1 BR w/ balcony, wd flrs, large open rooms. \$300/mo for 1, \$325 for 2. Call Gary Martin, Latter & Blum, 948-3011. (6/6/97)

Bywater

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MESSAGES

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Lee a.k.a. Ms. Fly — Rumors of my behavior have been greatly exaggerated. However, could you explain about the man you were seen riding around with in a yellow convertible? KJS

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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 (NoLAN), PO Box 2397, Slidell 70459, (504) 641-6750
 Project Lazarus — 949-3609
 PWA Coalition, The Boswell Center — 704 N. Rampart, 524-3488
 RAIN (Regional AIDS Interfaith Network) — 523-3755
 The Living Room at the MCC — 1128 St. Roch Ave., Wed. 7 p.m.
 Tulane/LSU Adult AIDS Clinical Trials Unit — 585-4002 or Perdido Street office 584-3605
 United Services for AIDS — 522-5239
 V. A. Medical Center — 589-5920
 Wednesday's Child (Adult Children of Alcoholics) — 2106 Decatur, Lambda Center, Wed. 6 p.m.

ARCHIVES

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

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BARS

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 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

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A&P — 701 Royal, 523-1353
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 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

Chez Burke — in The Fairmont Hotel, 523-5271, 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
 Pride Institute at Solutions — Depressions, Drugs, Anxiety, 1-800-DIAL-GAY
 Dr. Jim West, Counseling — 943-1436
 see also *Chiropractic & Dentistry*

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NEWSPAPERS & BOOKS

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 Bookstar — Jackson Brewery, 523-6411
 Faubourg Marigny Bookstore — 600 Frenchmen, 943-9875
 IMPACT, & *eclipse* — 944-6722 (on the web: <http://www.impactnews.com>)
 Pink Pages/New Orleans — 947-3969
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 The Weekly Guide — 522-4300

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Pro-Tech — 736-0736

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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
 Lattier & Blum — 948-3011. Agents: Robyn Halvorsen 947-2086, Lane Lacey 948-4334, Pat O'Rourke 945-4545, Ray Ruiz 948-2217, Kyle Scafide 482-0009, Gary Martin 539-9752
 Marigny Brokers, LLC — Robert Rollins, 947-1999 or 944-0205
 Martha Ann Samuel Realtors — Erwin H. Wallen, 861-4700 or 899-6372
 Robert Rollins Appraisals — 726 St. Roch, 947-0397
 Winter's Title Agency — 488-0091

RELIGIOUS GROUPS & ORGANIZATIONS

1st Unitarian Church of New Orleans Gay & Lesbian Task Force — 5212 S. Claiborne Ave., 865-7005 (men) or 822-3278 (women)
 Abundant Grace Christian Fellowship — 634 E. Boston, Bldg. #3, Covington 70433, Pastor Lee Thompson, 871-9527
 Associated Catholic Charities — 1000 Howard Ave. Ste 1200, NOLA 70113
 Grace Fellowship in Christ Jesus — 3151 Dauphine Street, 944-9836
 Integrity — 1329 Jackson, 866-1577 or 865-7343, 3rd Tues. each month at Trinity Episcopal Church
 Jewish Gay & Lesbian Alliance — Contact: Amos Lassen, 525-8286
 Joie de Vivre Metropolitan Community Church — 330 East Chimes (504) 383-0450
 Lambda Chi Gay & Lesbian Jews — 3330 W. Esplanade, Ste. 600, Metairie, LA 70002, 831-8475
 Old Catholic Diocese of La. — 433-5912
 Queer Taoists — 504 949-8876
 St. Ambrose Holy Catholic Church — 1128 St. Roch Ave. (Upstairs Chapel), 558-0713, Sun. 10 a.m. Mass
 St. Mark's United Methodist Church — 1130 N. Rampart, Sunday 9:30 a.m. Worship, 529-1681
 Tau House — 1029 Governor Nicholls St.; 4:15 p.m. Sunday mass, Everyone is Welcome!
 Vieux Carré Metropolitan Community Church — 1128 St. Roch Ave., 945-5390

RESTAURANTS & CAFES

Bywater Bar-B-Que — 3162 Dauphine at Louisiana, 944-4445. BBQ, Sunday Brunch & Mol

Cafe Lafayette — 717 Orleans, 571-4615
 Cafe Marigny — 1913 Royal, 945-4472, sandwiches, soups, coffees, sodas, pastries
 Cafe Sbis — 1011 Decatur, 522-5565, innovative culinary delights; Major Cards (d)
 Feelings Cafe — 2600 Chartres, 945-2222, classic Creole; lovely courtyard (l,d)
 Figaro's Pizzeria — 7900 Maple St., 866-0100, exotic pizzas, pastas, specials (l,d)
 Fiorellas — 45 French Market Place, 528-9566, Italian & Creole, daily specials, closes early; Major Cards (b,l,d)
 Krystal — 114 Bourbon, 523-4030, 24 hrs, famous square burgers, breakfast & more
 La Madeleine — 547 St. Ann, 568-9950, Caesar salad, croissants, French Onion soup (b,l,d)
 Louisiana Pizza Kitchen — 95 French Market Place, 522-9500 gourmet wood-fired pizzas, lunchtime sandwiches; Visa, MC, AX (l,d)
 Lucky Cheng's — 720 St. Louis, 529-2045, Asian Creole Cuisine; Major Cards (l,d)
 Mona Lisa — 1212 Royal St., 522-6746, pizza, salads, sandwiches, Turkish, Visa, MC, AX (l,d)
 Poppy's Grill — 717 St. Peter, 524-3287, burgers, sandwiches; Visa, MC, AX (b,l,d)
 Red Bike Cafe — 746 Tchoupitoulas, 529-2453
 Rotisserie Cafe — 47 French Market Place, Italian wines, pasta & grilled chicken (l,d)
 Sebastian's — 538 St. Philip, 524-2041, dinner restaurant with Sunday brunch.
 Upperline — 1413 Upperline, 891-9822, casual atmosphere; Major cards (d)
 Vera Cruz — 1141 Decatur, 561-8081
 Vaqueros — 4938 Prytania (at Robert), 891-6441, southwestern cuisine, Major cards

RETAILERS

Alternatives — 907 Bourbon, 524-5222
 Anton Jewelers — 3121 22nd St., Metairie, 833-4367
 Diversions — 337 Burgundy, 522-8721
 French Quarter Camera — 809 Decatur, 529-2974
 Futonia — 3811 Magazine, 899-4356
 Gargoyles — 1205 Decatur, 529-4387
 Gay Mart — 808 N. Rampart, 523-6005
 Kruz — 432 Barracks, 524-7370
 Limbo — 1125 Decatur, 523-3435
 Panda Bear — 415 Bourbon, 529-3593
 Postmark New Orleans — 631 Toulouse, 529-2052
 Rings of Desire — 1128 Decatur, 524-6147
 Video Alternatives — 4725 Magazine, 891-5347

SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS

Bayou Women's Tennis Club — PO Box 19797 NOLA, 70179-0797, contact Sharon, 482-4807
 Frontrunners Running Club — 528-3023, Barry
 Gay Bowling League — Mon. at Mid-City Lanes, 482-3133
 "Husbands for Husbands" — at the L & G Community Center, 3rd & 4th Wed. at 7 p.m., 522-1103
 Knights d'Orleans — Box 50812, NOLA 70150
 Lords of Leather — Box 72105, NOLA 70172
 Men of All Colors Together — PO Box 52801, NOLA 70152-2801
 Men of Color — PO Box 57694, NOLA 70157-7694, 482-5341
 National Leather Association: New Orleans — PO Box 50133, NOLA 70150
 New Orleans Bear & Bear Trapper Social Club — Box 13584, NOLA 70185, 897-1594
 New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus — 245-8884
 New Orleans Women's Music Collective — 2903 Jefferson Ave., NOLA 70115, 838-7918 or 833-2834
 Original Kocktail Bunch Bowling League —

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

SUPPORT

Coming Out Support Group — first and third Wednesday, 7 pm at Unitarian church, Info at 943-5976 or 524-6036
 Gay Counseling Line (24 hrs) — 885-4476
 Gulf Gender Alliance Cross-dressers, TS, TG Support Group — 833-3046
 Relationship Therapy Center — support for gay and straight spouses & kids, 488-9924, 4th Tue. each month

TRAVEL

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

VETERINARY SERVICES

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

VIATICAL SERVICES

Positive Living Resources, 1-800-398-5177

WOMEN'S HEALTH

Woman Care Midwife Center (and well woman GYN) 6010 Bullard Ave. Suite 210, NOLA 70128, 243-3279

WEB SITES & SERVICES

eclipse — www.impactnews.com/eclipse
 Gay.Net — lesbian/gay resources
 IMPACT — www.impactnews.com
 for lesbian and gay New Orleans — www.showmesomething.com (944-6722)
 Web-Net, \$20/month internet! 469-7777

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