

# IMPACT news

**PURE  
"PLEASURE":**  
Angela  
Motter's latest  
release has  
earned due  
attention for  
its edgy  
hybrid of styles  
and gender-  
bending lyrics.  
Page 19



**MAKING "LOVE":** Find out how one of the most heart-touching books about LGBT families came to be published. Page 19

Please Recycle

GAY AND LESBIAN NEWS FOR NEW ORLEANS AND THE GULF SOUTH SINCE 1977

SEPTEMBER 24/1999

## Convention trains spotlight on gay media

Journalists explored ways to 'shatter stereotypes' that oppress gays in the newsroom and in the news; featured speaker addressed 500 journalists 'off the record' at NLGJA convention

by PAIGE PARVIN and LAURA BROWN

ATLANTA—Gay journalists from around the country turned professional scrutiny on themselves last weekend, taking a long, hard look at their roles as gay media professionals, the portrayal of gays in the media, and the climate for gays working in the news industry.

Gays in "mainstream" media and the gay press were represented at the eighth annual National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association convention here, which included a weekend of panel discussions, workshops and networking where journalists tackled head-on the tough issues impacting gay journalists.

Katie Couric, anchor on NBC's *Today Show*, opened the convention last Thursday night, speaking candidly via satellite to a room of more than 500 reporters, editors, TV anchors, writers, producers, technicians and other guests. Couric spoke about her own experiences, and the ethical responsibilities and professional challenges of a career in news media.

But Couric surprised her audience by declaring her appearance off the record. This unexpected move left many in the audience, including *IMPACT News* editor Melinda Shelton, closing their notebooks and shaking their heads.

"How in the world do you make an hour-long question-and-answer period with the press 'off the record'?" Shelton

asked. "While I can appreciate her unwillingness to be on the record with her opinions about stories and people she's covered, or how she feels on a deeply personal level about society or violence or homosexuality, I still think it's unreasonable to demand that we not do our jobs at a journalists' convention. Still, 'off the record' is just that."

### 'View from the Top'

Other convention highlights included a luncheon last Friday where journalists gathered to hear some of the biggest names in the business talk shop.

Richard Kaplan, president of CNN/U.S.; Howard Chua-Eoan, assistant managing editor for *TIME Magazine*; Cynthia Tucker, editorial page editor for conference host newspaper the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*; and moderator Charles Kaiser debated the role of the media in shaping and delivering the news.

Asked how a reporter can avoid perpetuating stereotypes by putting a particular "spin" on events, Kaplan said the media should strive for neutrality.

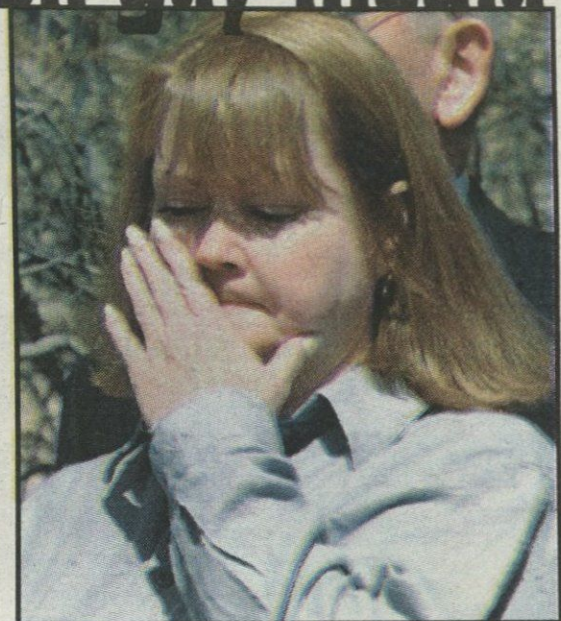
"We try not to 'spin' stories. We don't talk about a crime being committed by a gay person, a Jew, an African American, but by a person. We try to look at what we report and not lead you in racist or prejudiced directions," said Kaplan.

Kaplan agreed with another audience member that more "mainstreaming" of gays in the media and in coverage is needed, and said he'll seek to include gays routinely in non-gay news stories.

"But I don't want to play into Jerry Falwell's hands, either," he added. "I don't want to portray you as different because I don't think you are. I think there is a danger in having a 'gay reporter.'"

"Homophobia is there, and it's strong," she said. "And bigotry among people who have been oppressed bothers me very much."

**Matthew's mother speaks out on coverage**



Judy Shepard holds back tears during a news conference last April. She told gays in California last week to educate people not to hate.

Last Saturday's largest session asked whether the deluge of media coverage of the murder of gay Wyoming college student Matthew Shepard represented "a fluke or a milestone." The panel featured Shepard's mother, Judy Shepard, whose soft-spoken testimony riveted the audience.

"Matthew could have been anybody's son, anybody's brother," Shepard said when asked why her son's murder drew national media attention when countless other gay killings had gone unnoticed. "People could identify with

➤ Continued on page 9

## Millenium March on Washington to hold open meetings in N.O.

Since the Millennium March on Washington was announced last year, organizers have held meetings across the country to gather support—and to listen to opposition—for the event set for April 30, 2000, in Washington, DC.

The MMOW roadshow comes to New Orleans this weekend, first when event producer and lesbian comic Robin Tyler speaks out Saturday at PrideFest '99, and then Monday and Tuesday when the MMOW board holds public meetings.

In an interview with *IMPACT News*, Tyler said the public meetings are designed to find out what grassroots activists want in the way of a March platform of issues, and to recruit local organizers who are the key to getting hundreds of thousands of people to Washington next spring. As a longtime organizer, Tyler said, "I know we have to reach out beyond Washington and the east coast, to let LGBT communities across the country know how important it is that they come to Washington."

While the purpose of public meetings is to garner support, Tyler and the board have also met with vocal opposition on several occasions. In the early planning stages, some gay organization leaders accused the March board and one of its primary backers, the Human Rights Campaign, of practicing exclusionary tactics by not expanding the board and the March's issues platform. While criticism has weakened in recent months, Tyler said the board still feels compelled to "discuss the issues openly and honestly in as many cities as we can."

Meetings will take place Monday and Tuesday, Sept. 27-28, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Sheraton, 500 Canal St.

A reception for the board will be held Monday at 7 p.m. at Tulane University's

Woldenberg Arts Center on the Newcomb Quad.

MMOW board members who have confirmed include: Duane Cramer, the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt; Ann DeGroot, OUT Front Minnesota; Diane Hardy Garcia, Lesbian and Gay Rights Lobby of Texas; Malcom Lazin, PrideFest America; Butch McKay, CoastalPride of Florida; David Medina, AFL-CIO; Deborah Oakley-Melvin, InterPride; Rev. Troy Perry, Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches; Nicole Murray-Ramirez, National Latino/a Lesbian and Gay Organization; Jose Alberto Ucles, Whitman Walker Clinic of Washington, D.C.; and Ginny Foat, MMOW associate producer.





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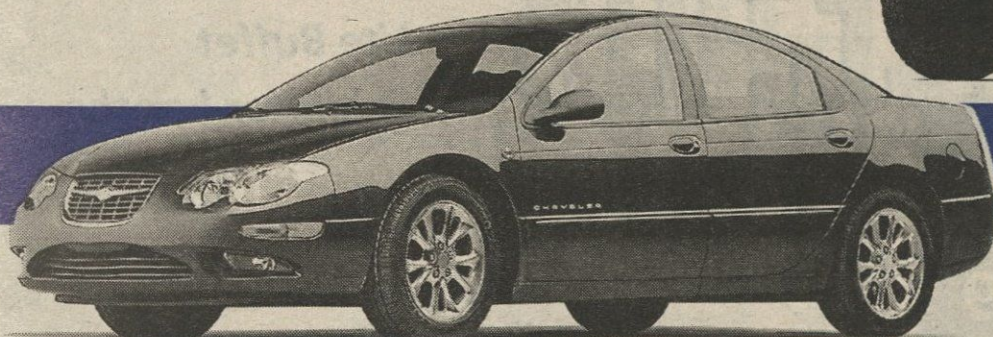
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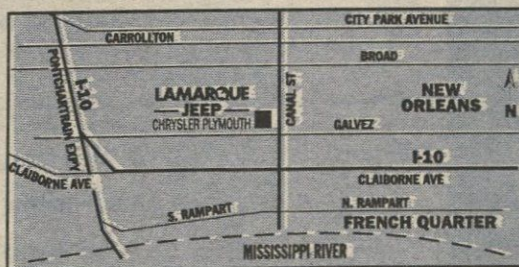
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## Q-SCOPES

VOLUME 24  
NUMBER 20

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IMPACT NEWS  
2116 - 18 Burgundy  
New Orleans, LA 70116  
(504) 944 6722

## NEWS ANALYSIS

# Qualifying for primary ends; candidates to submit statements

by MELINDA SHELTON

When qualifying ended for Oct. 23 local and statewide elections, eight candidates had thrown their hats in the ring to fill the unexpired term of the late Rep. Avery Alexander in the 93rd District. Voters also will decide who will serve a subsequent four-year term representing the district.

Openly gay candidate Larry Bagneris, a New Orleans Democrat, faces a contingent of opponents for Alexander's seat. Challengers include: Democrats Avis Brock, Karen Carter, Carlos Hornbrook, Al Jackson, Rufus Johnson and Phillip Lawrence, and Republican Allan Jathoo.

Bagneris received an early endorsement from the Lesbian and Gay Political Action Committee. LAGPAC will issue all of its endorsements in the Oct. 8 edition of IMPACT News.

Six legislators, and Attorney General Richard Ieyoub, Secretary of State Fox McKeithen, and Agriculture-Forestry Commissioner Bob Odom—all unopposed—were re-elected to four-year terms. The New Orleans legislators re-elected without opposition included Democrat Sens. Paulette Irons, 4th District, and Diana Bajoie, 5th District; and Reps. Peppi Bruneau, R-94th District, and Ed Murray, D-96th District.

Incumbent Republican Gov. Mike Foster faces a hefty field of 12 challengers, with the most serious challenges predicted to come from U.S. Rep. William Jefferson,

D-New Orleans, and Phil Preis, a Baton Rouge Democrat.

New Orleanian Albert Jones created controversy when he filed for the governor's race as Albert "Super Nigger" Jones. In an interview in the Sept. 10 *Times-Picayune*, Jones, an African American, said he believed the self-prescribed nickname would gain him voters' attention.

"It (the racial epithet) applies to all colors. You can be considered a 'nigger' if you don't vote. The way I'm using it is not to offend people. We use it all the time; it's used in the black community all the time," Jones told the newspaper.

Following a review by the secretary of state's office, officials let the nickname stand on the ballot. Jones reportedly has withdrawn from the race.

Incumbent Lt. Gov. Kathleen Blanco, D-Lafayette, faces several challengers, but the most candidates—12—qualified for commissioner of elections. Incumbent Commissioner Jerry Fowler was indicted on charges of money laundering and malfeasance in office, and challengers include Republicans Woody Jenkins of Baton Rouge and Suzanne Terrell of New Orleans.

There will be numerous other state senate and house elections, as well as local and regional ballot issues and elections.

## Candidate platform statements

IMPACT News is accepting platform statements from candidates interested in reaching more than 25,000 LGBT IMPACT readers across Louisiana. The statements must not exceed 700 words and should include general philosophy and support of LGBT issues/legislation.

The information must be received no later than 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 1, via FAX at (504)944-6794, e-mail at editor@impact-news.com, or general mail/delivery to 2116-18 Burgundy St., NOLA

70116. Photographs will be accepted.

IMPACT News reserves the right to edit all submissions. The statements will appear in the Oct. 8 edition.

## ACTION info

Voter registration ends Tues., Sept. 28. Check with your local elections office or a candidate's headquarters for location information.  
Absentee balloting: Oct. 11-16.  
Run-off elections: Nov. 20

# 12,000+ participate in WALK

by NOEL TWILBECK, executive director  
NO/AIDS Task Force

The 1999 NO/AIDS WALK was a huge success, thanks to phenomenal community support. This year's WALK was lead Sept. 19 by tri-chairs JoAnn Moinet, Charlotte Cunliffe, and Gabe Nassar. The strong leadership of this trio guided the activities of a superb steering committee and over 400 event volunteers. An estimated 12,000 people participated, raising more than \$245,000. Since the inception of the WALK in 1990, in excess of \$3 million has been raised to fight the disease of AIDS.

The underlying theme of this year's WALK was expressed in the incentive poster created by artist Ron Williams. The slogan "We're not out of the woods yet," sums up the sentiments of the WALK organizers. Even with the inspiring news of available drugs and therapies, this epidemic continues to devastate our communities. People still become very sick. Individuals still die due to complications from HIV. New infections continue to be reported at an alarming rate.

Jean Redmann, Task Force Director of Education, said "We continue to see an alarming number of HIV-infected women and young adults. In addition, we are seeing an increasing number of cases of sexually transmitted diseases and HIV infected individuals

in the African American and Latino communities."

The importance of the WALK cannot be underestimated. Besides the dollars raised, a major objective of the WALK is to raise community awareness about HIV and AIDS. The WALK provides an opportunity for people from all segments of society to get involved by volunteering, walking, and/or pledging money to support HIV/AIDS services. Money raised by the WALK help to support services such as the statewide HIV/AIDS hotline, HIV counseling and testing, early intervention and mental health services, case management, food pantry, home meal delivery, and community education.

Several trophies were awarded to participating groups during the WALK. The "Principal's Cup" was awarded to McMain Secondary School (school with largest number of walkers, pledges, and most school spirit). Second and third place (respectively) went to Slidell High and Newman High schools.

The "Chancellor's Cup" was awarded to Tulane University for the college or university with the largest number of walkers, pledges, and most school spirit. Second and third places were awarded to the University of New Orleans and Nunez Community College. The "Corporate Cup" was awarded to the Banana Republic/GAP/Old Navy for the corporate team with the largest number of

pledges brought in on the day of the event.

WALK teams bringing the largest pledges collected included "the Gap" with \$8,717 and "the Founder's team" with \$6,899. Among the mega-teams (teams with more than 10 walkers), "Team NO/AIDS" took the lead with \$11,396 in pledges. The leading individual WALKer was Rip Naquin with pledges totaling \$9,175.

"This is truly a community event and a community issue that touches each of us in some way," said Task Force Director of Development Jack Pruitt. "Despite new medications, people continue to become infected and are dying—regardless of race, gender, economic status or lifestyle. Financial support from the community is vital to continue providing critical services for people living with AIDS and continue prevention efforts. AIDS has no boundaries.

"We thank all walkers, volunteers, as well as individuals, families and corporate and foundation participation. It truly is a partnership for life."

Pledges are still expected to come in after the official WALK date. A limited supply of WALK T-shirts and tank tops are still available (\$12 each). Pledges may be mailed to or dropped off at NO/AIDS Task Force, 2601 Tulane Ave., Suite 500, New Orleans, LA 70119. For more information contact Pruitt at (504)821-2601.





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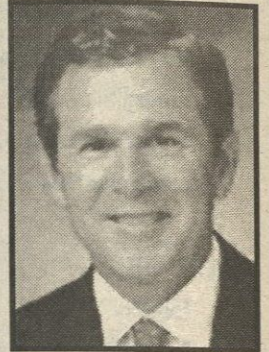
# Around the Nation

## **Bush offers anti-gay views to conservative newsletter**

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—Questioned by an anti-gay rights publication, Texas Gov. George W. Bush said he opposes gay marriages and that a court erred in striking a ban on gays in the Boy Scouts. Publishers of the newsletter said Bush's comments were "a good start" but said they had more questions about the Republican presidential front-runner's position on gay rights.

Bill Horn is a leading anti-gay rights activist who publishes a newsletter called "Straight from the Heart." Horn said the questions had been posed to all the Republican presidential candidates, and only former cabinet officer Elizabeth Dole and Arizona Sen. John McCain had failed to respond.

Bush told the newsletter that he believes the New Jersey Supreme Court "was wrong" when it struck down the Boy Scouts' ban on gays in the organization. "He believes the Boy Scouts is a private organization and they should be able to set their own standards," according to a Bush campaign statement sent to Horn.



**George W. Bush speaks out against gay marriage and allowing gays in the Boy Scouts.**

## **Bradley continues move to left**

LOS ANGELES—Democrat Bill Bradley continued his leftward shift last week with the boldest statements to date by any presidential candidate on gay rights.

Democratic presidential hopeful and former New Jersey senator Bill Bradley said in an interview with the *Advocate* magazine that he would eliminate the Clinton administration's "don't ask, don't tell" policy on gays in the military and would go beyond legislation to protect homosexuals in housing and employment matters. He also became the first candidate to oppose a California initiative against same-sex marriage.

Bradley brought his own unique approach to the debate over gay rights by saying he links the issue to racial harmony in America.

"We also should add sexual orientation to the 1964 Civil Rights Act," he said in the interview due on newsstands Sept. 28. "That would clearly indicate that discrimination against gays is in the same category as discrimination against other protected groups."

Bradley's remarks brought a skeptical response from civil rights leader Jesse L. Jackson, who worried aloud that reopening the 1964 law may invite the GOP-led Congress to pare back other protections.

Bradley's comments also forced Vice President Al Gore to finally take a position on the California ballot question, known as the Knight initiative. In his interview with the magazine last month, Gore said he needed to study the proposal, but following word of Bradley's comments, Gore spokeswoman Kiki Moore said the vice president had been "educated" on the proposal and now opposes it. Bradley and Gore still oppose same-sex marriage, largely for religious reasons, but say gays and lesbians should receive domestic partner protections.

## **Florida man resentenced to electric chair for gay killing**

JACKSONVILLE (AP)—A Virginia man once on the FBI's "Most Wanted" list as a serial killer of gay men has been resentenced to death for the 1994 slaying of a man who had befriended him. Circuit Judge Jack Schemer again sentenced Gary Ray Bowles to die in Florida's electric chair. The jury deliberated less than an hour before agreeing in May to recommend the death penalty.

Bowles, 37, first received the death penalty in 1996 for the 1994 murder of Walter Jammell Hinton, but he was given a new sentencing hearing by the Florida Supreme Court. The court said prosecutors shouldn't have been allowed to use Bowles' admitted hatred of gays against him because they did not prove it led Bowles to kill Hinton.

Bowles was placed on the FBI's list of 10 most-wanted fugitives in 1994 in the slayings of four gay men. When he was arrested late that year, he gave police statements about six killings in Florida, New York, Georgia and Maryland.

Hinton, 42, was asleep in his bed in Jacksonville when Bowles slammed a 40-pound stepping stone onto his head, prosecutors said.

## **Jury acquits Virginia man snared in undercover park sting**

ROANOKE, Va.—A Virginia jury quickly acquitted a man accused of sex in a Roanoke park, indicating concern about how police operations that targeted gay men were conducted, the *Roanoke Times* reported. The jury took just 15 minutes to acquit Jeffrey D. Anders of soliciting an undercover officer for oral sex, who did not dispute that he went to the park hoping for just such an encounter. But the defense argued that Anders' felony charge was the product of an overzealous undercover officer and selective enforcement of a law that deems consensual oral sex a "crime against nature." Since 18 men were arrested last year in a crackdown on gay cruising in Wasena Park, two men were acquitted; the third was convicted and sentenced to 60 days in jail. Another 12 have pleaded guilty, but on the condition they can challenge the constitutionality of the law, which makes oral sex between consenting adults a felony punishable by up to five years in prison. Three cases are pending.

—from staff and wire reports



# Around the South

## University denies request for lesbian campus wedding

WINSTON-SALEM—Wake Forest University has denied a request from a local Baptist church to use a university chapel for a same-sex union for two lesbians, the *Raleigh News & Observer* reported. Wake Forest Baptist Church in Winston-Salem had asked to use Wait Chapel, where the church holds its services, for the commitment ceremony of church members Susan Parker and Wendy Scott.

In a Sept. 8 statement to church officials, a special committee named by university trustees turned down the request: "Since the university is not prepared to render an ecclesiastical judgment, there is no compelling reason not to respect the prevailing collective wisdom of the Christian church regarding this question."

"I'm overall disappointed, but I'll have to sit down and see what it said," said Richard Groves, pastor of Wake Forest Baptist Church.

Additionally, Wake Forest administrators told reporters for campus radio station WFDD not to report anything about the controversy other than the school's official statement. The school did not make the same request of the Wake Forest student newspaper, the *Old Gold and Black*, because its reporters are not employed by Wake Forest.

## School cancels trips to art museum over homoerotic images

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP)—School officials canceled field trips to an exhibit of artist Francis Bacon's paintings they have deemed inappropriate for young students. Administrators from the Fort Worth school district reviewed the paintings at the Modern Art Museum after getting complaints from the parents of fifth-graders who saw the show, which included images of distorted human faces and figures, and nudes.

After viewing the show, the school officials decided to screen any further exhibits before scheduling field trips. "I'm concerned that children have protected eyes at all times," said the district's art program director, Beverly Fletcher. "It's not age-appropriate. It's an emotionally charged show. It has references to homosexuality—and umpteen frontal nudity views."

Parent Catalina Starnes agreed: "In descriptions, it says he is engaged in homosexual sex with his lover. I was really disturbed that my child was exposed to that without my knowledge."

## Missouri court decision leaves in place law that legalizes gay sex

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.—A Missouri court has declined to reaffirm that state's sexual misconduct law, in spite of the Attorney General's request that it do so, the *Columbia Daily Tribune* reported. The decision from the state Court of Appeals leaves in place a July 6 opinion that calls the law into question. The court in that opinion ruled that if a party consents to sexual activity, that sexual activity will not be found criminal, a ruling that would decriminalize all consensual sexual activity under the recently-passed sexual misconduct law.

State lawmakers will now have to decide whether to rewrite the law, which some Republicans said they would consider.

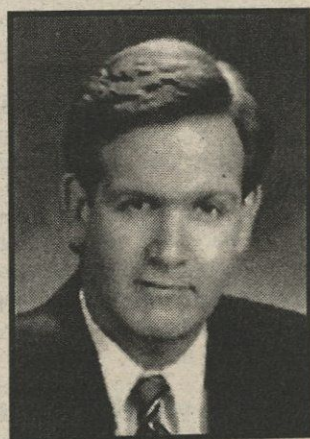
Also recently, Missouri Attorney General Jay Nixon, a Republican who had requested the opinion, indicated that his personal stance differed from the position that his job required him to take. "Sex between consenting adults should not be a crime, regardless of the sex of the people involved," Nixon said, adding that his role is to defend the law, regardless of whether he likes it. "We defend all the laws, even the ones I don't agree with. I took an oath to support the laws and constitution of the state."

## Arson suspected in blaze that gutted offices of Texas AIDS agency

DALLAS—An AIDS services program that targets Hispanics was damaged by a fire that authorities believe was deliberately set, the *Dallas Voice* reported. Destroying two neighboring businesses, the blaze also caused smoke and water damage to the offices of Project Esperanza.

Esperanza director Laura Trujillo-Koster said the fire ruined everything the project had, including five years of records. "The building is unavailable, and we cannot go inside. We have not been able to rescue anything," she said.

The group provides an average of 125 clients with medical and mental health care, education and translation services.



Missouri Attorney General Jay Nixon, a Republican, said same-sex acts should not be illegal.

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# Around the World

## Charges dropped against men nabbed in Canadian bar raid

TORONTO—Charges were dropped against 18 men arrested for engaging in sex acts at a gay bar because of confusion about the law, the *Toronto Sun* reported. The arrests were the result of a raid at a gay bar called the Bijou, and had raised charges that a different standard existed for public sex acts in straight clubs versus gay clubs.

"These particular people who were charged were lulled into a false sense of security," said Toronto Crown attorney Paul Culver. "It's an ignorance brought on by the lack of police action for a number of years." Culver said there were grounds for prosecuting the charges, but withdrew them at his discretion.

But Ontario Attorney General James Flaherty warned that the law applies to everybody and that the gay community should not view the dropped charges as tacit approval for public sex. "It is not," he said. Police are investigating whether some officers had a special deal with gay bars about ignoring sexual activity. The Bijou closed July 1, but the owner has applied to have it reopened as a public bath house.

## Great Britain ready for openly gay prime minister, poll shows

LONDON—According to a poll published in a London newspaper, residents here are ready to consider a gay prime minister, Reuters reported. The poll was conducted just days after former Conservative Defense Minister Michael Portillo acknowledged having homosexual experiences as a young man.

The poll said seven out of 10 voters would accept a prime minister who had been gay in the past, and six out of 10 would accept one who was openly gay. Some 77 percent of those questioned said Portillo's decision to talk about his background had made no difference to their opinion of the man widely seen as a possible leader of the opposition Conservatives, and many saw Portillo's Sept. 9 admission as a bid to clear the decks before declaring his candidacy.

His party, under the leadership of William Hague, is still struggling to rebuild itself after the big loss the Tories suffered at the hands of Tony Blair and the Labour Party in the 1997 general elections, when Portillo lost his seat in Parliament to an openly gay Labour candidate.



After former British Defense Minister Michael Portillo said he had gay flings, a majority of citizens said they would support a gay prime minister.

## Jailer questions discipline after same-sex ceremony

WELLINGTON, N.Z.—A prison officer disciplined for organizing a lesbian marriage ceremony between two inmates is filing a grievance against his employers, the *Christchurch Press* reported. The man's lawyer, Peter Cullen, confirmed Sept. 8 that his client was seeking compensation for breach of contract and humiliation.

The officer, who worked at Arohata Prison in Tawa, is believed to have been placed on a one-year probation. A letter had been sent to the Corrections Department with a long list of grievances against the prison, pre-dating the disciplinary action over the mock wedding service, as well as the amount of compensation he desired. The officer was suspended immediately after the marriage in July.

## Victor in gay rights suit considers move due to discrimination

CALGARY—A gay man who won a groundbreaking suit for gay rights in the province of Alberta is considering a move to the U.S. because of discrimination he continues to experience in Canada, the *Edmonton Sun* reported.

Delwin Vriend, center of a controversial Supreme Court decision ordering protection from discrimination for Alberta gay men and lesbians, wrote a letter to Maclean's magazine charging, "the typical social attitude here, especially in Alberta, is far less advanced than what can be found in some areas of the States."

Another Albertan, Maureen Irwin, denied access to pension benefits when her same-sex spouse died last year, doesn't blame Vriend for seeking refuge in the U.S. "We want nothing more than what everybody else has. If I don't get what everybody else has, I should pay less taxes," Irwin said.

## Canadians gay 'marriages' find approval in church

EDMONTON, Alberta—Ministers here have been performing same-sex unions in churches for many years and have found that gay couples often take their vows more seriously than straight couples, the *Edmonton Sun* reported.

Rev. Charles Bidwell, a retired minister of the Freedom Metropolitan Community Church, has been blessing the unions of gay couples for many years. "I wasn't concerned about it being legally recognized," said Bidwell. "The ceremony proves not only to yourself but to your partner that you're really serious about them and when problems creep up you're going to hang in there. It also keeps it from being such a closeted or private relationship."

—From staff and wire reports



# spotlight on gay media

> Continued from page 1

him—he was everybody's kid."

But while Shepard has also formed the Matthew Shepard Foundation to help create a "safe haven" for young people, she acknowledged she initially shied away from taking such a public role.

Shepard said that she at first shared the "stereotype" of the media as "rats on feeding frenzy," and said she was concerned by some press coverage of her son's death.

"One thing that really bothered me was the religious allegory that was going on—the 'crucifixion' of Matthew Shepard," she said. In an attempt to dispel that image, Shepard explained that her son "was not tied to the fence like Christ [on the cross]. He was tied on the ground."

"Matthew was not a saint. He was a young man in search of his life. He was a real person who had some problems," Shepard said, her voice breaking.

But now, Shepard describes herself as "on a mission."

"I want parents to love their kids, I want this to stop, and I don't ever want this to ever happen again," she said. "I'm determined to make whatever difference I can—for Matthew."

The panel, moderated by *Washington Post* financial reporter Justin Gillis, also included MTV News Editorial Director Chris Connelly; Cathy Renna, community relations director for the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation; and Jason Marsden, a reporter for the *Casper Star-Tribune* in Wyoming who was a friend of Matthew Shepard and came out in the paper in the wake of Shepard's murder.

All agreed that coverage of the killing brought hate crimes targeting gays to an unprecedented level of national attention.

Renna said the media did an "overwhelmingly good job" with Shepard's story, but noted that the brutal murder of gay Alabama resident Billy Jack Gaither several months later, as well as recent murders and attacks on transgendered people, drew much less coverage.

"Matthew as a person was a very acces-

sible, safe image of our community," Renna said.

## Indigo Girls speak on the ins & outs of the media

Journalists gained an inside perspective from Atlanta acoustic duo the Indigo Girls, who arrived to talk about their own social activism and field questions from conventioners last Saturday afternoon.

Asked about their hesitancy to "come out" as lesbians early in their career, Emily Saliers described her concerns that they would be stereotyped by the media as a "lesbian band."

But in recent years, she said, audience response has been positive as they have become more open, although their honesty may have proven costly in some mainstream media coverage.

"We've gotten a better response from people who are grateful that we've come out," said Amy Ray, the band's other half. "It has probably held us back to a

certain extent, but it's been well worth it." Ray said other recording artists have asked her advice on "coming out" in the music industry, and she tells them to go ahead, although she acknowledged there are risks.

"What I found is, you need a home," she said. "I used to be afraid of alienating anybody—but you need to be able to rest somewhere."

In response to a questioner who wanted to know how the media can improve, Saliers said she would like to see more female editors in the industry, to combat the sexism that continues to pervade news and entertainment coverage.

Ray added that many journalists seem unwilling to do the intense research required for in depth, thorough news coverage. The public is willing to read more detailed reporting, she speculated.

The pair also spoke about their advocacy efforts for environmental preservation, gun control and gay rights causes.

"We're just your basic bleeding heart liberals," Saliers smiled.



Keynote speaker Katie Couric addressed journalists off the record.

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## STAFF

### Editor

Melinda Shelton

### Graphic Designer

Lucas J. Mire

### Advertising Sales

Mike Theis

### National Advertising Representative

Rivendell Marketing  
(212) 242-6863

### Internet Consultant

PC Solutions

### Senior Writer

Roberts Batson

### Music Critic

Margaret Coble

### Contributors

Alison Bechdel, Laura Brown, Jill Dearman,  
Greg Herren, Loosley & Ethyl, Marilyn McConnell,  
Mindy Milam, Lucas J. Mire, Eric Orner, Paige Parvin,  
Noel Twilbeck, Rex Wockner

### Cartoonist

Ron Williams

### National News

Associated Press

A WindowMedia Publication

### Publishers

Chris Crain  
Rick Ellsasser

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### IMPACT News

2118 Burgundy Street  
New Orleans, LA 70116  
Phone: 504-94-impact  
Out of state: 1-888-94-impact  
fax: 504-944-6794  
E-mail: editor@impactnews.com  
Internet: www.impactnews.com

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## EDITORIAL

# Taking Pride in what we do at IMPACT

by MELINDA SHELTON

For thousands of New Orleanians and visitors, this PrideFest '99 weekend affords a wonderful opportunity to celebrate—collectively and individually. Whether we choose to participate in the Dyke March and the Pride Parade or cheer from the sidelines, or if we partake in two days of festival events at Armstrong Park or quietly reflect alone or among friends and family, there is an unmistakable sharing of what we live everyday: Gay Pride.

This weekend is equally important for those of us at IMPACT News. Deadline and production schedules seldom afford us the opportunity for introspection of why we do what we do or celebration of our accomplishments. In this issue, we take the time.

Last week we received word that IMPACT News had won five 1998-99 Vice Versa awards in competition that pitted us against the best gay publications in the country. In less than a year, IMPACT and our staff have matured into a viable, professional newspaper that continues to receive accolades from our readers, supporters and advertisers. And now we have earned recognition from respected peers in gay journalism's most prestigious and vigorous competition.

Here are the Division A awards:

1st place, best illustration or cartoon: Ron Williams for "Straight man brutally murdered." Judges' comment: "Most effective."

3rd place, best news interview or personality profile: Margaret Coble, "A chat with Charlene." Judges' comment: "Provides a glimpse into the heart and soul of a courageous and spirited bar owner, while at the same time chronicling the changing eras of gay and lesbian America."



You saw it here first this summer: Ron Williams' 1st place award-winning cartoon

Honorable mention, best specialty column: Roberts Batson, "Claiming Our Past: Fernando Rios, Age 26." Judges' comment: "Interesting and well-told account about a brutal hate crime and its judicial outcome in New Orleans' recent past."

Honorable mention, best publication Web-site. Judges' comment: "Easy-to-use site gets classy boost from handy city guide."

Honorable mention, best editorial: Melinda Shelton, "Foster/Duke connection not a rude awakening—but should be." Judges' comments: "Enlightening."

Our sister paper, Southern Voice in Atlanta, won nine awards.

IMPACT now is competing for the most coveted Vice Versa awards: best re-design and best publication.

These awards give us the opportunity to take pause and answer why we do what we do. Individually, it's because we simply must to fulfill our personal and professional needs. We are advocates, gatekeepers, educators, entertainers.

Our newspaper's purpose is to educate the community and provide information that is fair, accurate, trustworthy, and inclusive. As we continue to grow, we unceasingly strive to improve in quality and content, to steadily get better at what we do and how we do it.

We remain steadfast in retaining our objectivity, even when it means covering controversies that divide the community, and even at the risk of criticism or threats. Our role is not to create or manipulate news; our role is to report it fairly, accurately, completely.

Unlike some publications that silence writers with opinions that may rile a select few, IMPACT News does not dictate what should be said, and when. Just as our community's voices and opinions are diverse, so are those that appear in these pages—as long as they are fair and accurate. This is not a gossip rag or an outlet for self-gain at the expense of others or our community.

It is not the role of a responsible, community press to be mean-spirited, coercive, and divisive. Nor is its role to be a source of misinformation, lies, or petty, childish jabs fueled by jealousy.

As Al Thompkins with the Poynter Institute for ethical journalism said: "In order to be excellent, you have to be ethical."

We at IMPACT News continue to strive for excellence because our community wants—and deserves—a newspaper that takes the high road, that understands and practices good journalism.

We encourage our readers to become even more involved in IMPACT News. Write letters. Suggest stories. Criticize, encourage, participate, and demand that we be the best we can be.

And we ask you to challenge those who act in their own self-interest instead of for the good of the entire LGBT community. There is strength in unity, as this PrideFest weekend demonstrates.

Thanks to our entire staff at IMPACT for your hard work and dedication to quality journalism. The gay press in New Orleans is growing, and we're proud to be making an impact.







## VIEWPOINT

# Why not Gay Pride every day?

by LUCAS J. MIRE

I might get a lot of flack from my gay brothers and sisters for writing this, but I really have to say it: I don't get Gay Pride events.

Don't misunderstand me. I'm certainly proud to be gay, or rather, proud to be who I am—a 27-year-old man who lives and loves just like everyone else on the planet, except I happen to be attracted to men. So let me get this, ahem, straight: we like to have sex with people of our own gender, so we get our own parade?

I know what you're thinking. Lighten up, life is short. I'll even consider the possibility that I'm just buying into skewed stereotypes, but do we really need another flimsy excuse to throw a party? And exactly how many rainbow flags, freedom rings, car decals, and now, rainbow-infused home tchotchkes, do we need to prove that we like who we are?

There's lot of evidence that I'm in the small minority on this subject. When the rest of the country celebrated Gay Pride earlier this summer, gay and lesbian friends of mine criss-crossed the country, going to events in different cities and racking up mucho frequent flyer miles. It seems like Gay Pride has become quite a booming enterprise. Locally, this year's New Orleans Gay Pride celebration at Armstrong Park is shaping up to be the largest yet. There will be queer music performances, a battle of the DJs, and I'm sure the rainbow will be more than adequately represented. There'll also be tents

for almost every segment of gay culture—from a drag tent to one for leather lovers and every subgroup in-between. And, get this, there's even a lesbian tent. Huh??? I'm not a lesbian, but I am insulted. So, that's probably why we have the 2nd Annual Dyke March, an event separate from Gay Pride, in which men can't participate.

There's so much sub-dividing, grouping, and identification going on, goddess forbid I should be interested in a little bit of everything, or better yet, want to rid myself of all those superfluous labels. The label "Human being" will suit me just fine. After all, I thought the point was inclusion. And that's just my own inner dilemma. For a real crisis, let's think about how many questions all this grouping and naming might provoke in the transgendered community.

Lest you think this is a case of contempt prior to investigation, I will admit that I've only been to one Pride celebration back in 1993 or so, when it was in Washington Square. I stayed about 15 minutes. On hand were the usual suspects with a smattering of dogs and dykes, but other than the sunshine and fresh air, it only made me think: "Hmmm....this is just like a gay bar that's outside." I didn't understand what all the fuss was about. I still don't.

My friend JoAnn and I discussed my confusion about the purpose of pride one day last year. She told me how important it is to stand and be counted. To let people know that gays and lesbians are out

there—*en masse*—and have a voice in the community, politics, etc., etc.

"But I don't hide my sexuality," I countered. "My boyfriend's picture is on my desk at work, my neighbors know I'm queer, I work for a gay company—hell, for a couple of years I even had a rainbow bumper sticker on my car!"

ground. The message is: You're different and you should change to be more like the rest of the kids. But if I don't belong in that group, and I don't belong in this group, then where do I belong? Which tent at Gay Pride is for me? If I don't believe in Pride or go to Decadence, do I have a place in the gay community? Does

There's so much sub-dividing, grouping, and identification going on, goddess forbid I should be interested in a little bit of everything, or better yet, want to rid myself of all those superfluous labels. The label "human being" will suit me just fine.

She wouldn't budge.

"It doesn't matter—you simply MUST go to Pride," she commanded. "It's not an option."

I stood firm and didn't go—thanks to Hurricane Georges—although a part of me did do some self-reflecting: *Is this my internalized homophobia run amok? What is it about this whole "gay thing" that I'm not getting?* When I think about Gay Pride celebrations, I feel how I often feel when it comes to gaggles of gay men: a weird sensation that I'm somehow abnormal for preferring to express and enjoy myself in my own way. When I talk to people about Gay Pride, I get that familiar, queasy feeling inside like the one I used to get on the grade school play-

my confusion about the purpose of Gay Pride make me less proud to be gay? Does that make me less queer? I don't think so.

I'll never forget my friend Lee's vivid retelling of his first Chicago Gay Pride parade back in 1994. "You've never seen so many gay people in your life," he exclaimed, like quantity was better than quality. Still, I know what groups I prefer: kind, accepting faces—friends—no other labels necessary, no parks rented, no talent flown in, no T-shirts printed, no parade. Just trying to live a life of pride all year long.

Lucas Mire welcomes feedback at [LucasMire@aol.com](mailto:LucasMire@aol.com).

## The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life Of Ethan Green

By Eric Orner

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## LESBIAN VOICES

# Show your pride!

by MARILYN  
McCONNELL

## DYKE MARCH

At 7 p.m. today, Sept. 24, the 2nd Annual New Orleans Dyke March will get under way at Jackson Square. A dedicated group of Lesbian Avengers has planned not only the march, but great entertainment at a post-march celebration at Cafe Brazil on Frenchmen. The popular band "Zrazy," as well as local favorites "Ovary Action" and DJ Mags, will provide the music. There will be a sliding scale admission.

If you like a more quieter evening, the Lesbian and Gay Community Center will be open to lesbians as a drug-free, smoke-free space both during and after the march. An exhibit of New Orleans' Lesbian History will be on display at the center.

Please join in the March and let us support each other in our wonderful, diverse New Orleans Lesbian Community. Personally, I'd like to see a large representation of older lesbians who may never have had the opportunity to march in solidarity with other lesbians. Bring your drums, banners and signs and show your pride.

On Saturday, the Pride Parade begins at 10 a.m. at Lafayette Square on Elysian Fields, followed by another party in Armstrong Park, the site for the weekend of Pride activities. Be sure to catch Robin Tyler at 4 p.m. on the main stage. Robin, who's a great lesbian comic, is

executive producer of past lesbian and gay marches on Washington, including the upcoming Millennium March on April 30, 2000. Candace Gingrich, Newt's half-sister, will also speak about the great work the Human Rights Campaign is doing. Don't miss them! See this issue's Time Out section for a more detailed schedule of Pride events.

The March Board will be in New Orleans Monday and Tuesday. See Page 1 for details and plan to learn more about the MMOW and how you can get involved.

## WOMEN'S SPORTS

### Volleyball

Friday, Sept. 24: Tulane/ S. Florida, Fogelman Arena.

Sunday, Sept. 26: Tulane/ Houston, Fogelman Arena.

Tuesday, Sept. 28: Tulane/ UNO, Fogelman Arena.

Fogelman Arena is on Freret Street on the Tulane Campus.

### Soccer

Friday, Sept. 24: Tulane/ S. Florida.

Friday, Sept. 26: Tulane/ UNC Charlotte.

Tulane Soccer Field is on Airline and Dickory

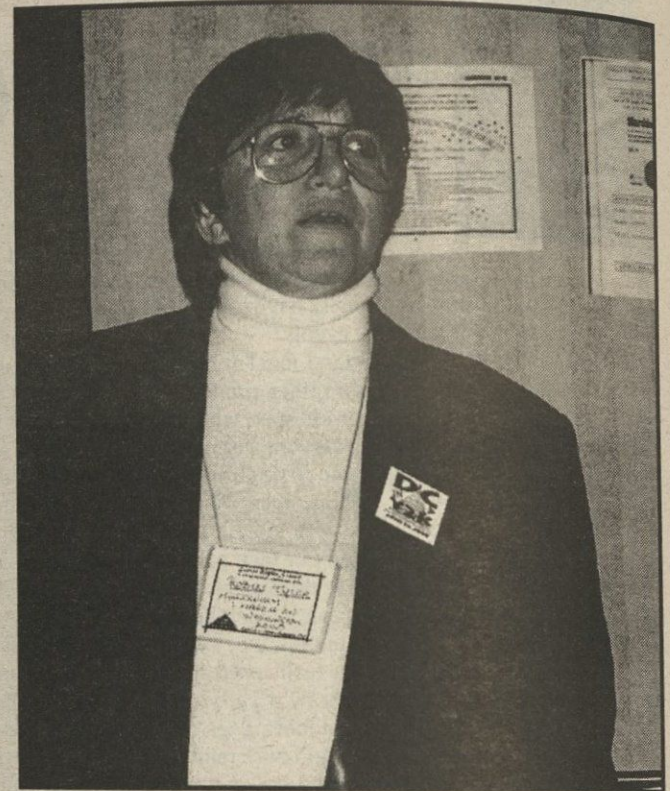
### Tennis

The Bayou Women's Tennis Tournament is Oct. 15-17 at City Park. The most popular women's tournament on the GLTA tour will begin with an elegant draw

party at Hanson Gallery on Royal Street that Friday night. Breakfast and lunch are provided on Saturday, followed by dinner and dancing at the peristyle by the bayou. Music for dancing will be provided by Becky Eymard. On that Sunday trophies will be presented to winners in the final rounds. Original T-shirts are provided to each registrant. The tournament includes all levels of playing ability from beginner to 5s. It costs \$65 for one event and \$70 for two, with proceeds from the tournament going to "Girls First," a camp for underserved girls held on Tulane's campus, and Belle Reve, a facility for HIV infected women and their children. Call Sharon at 943-4807 for applications or information.

### Biking

October 2-3 is the Multiple Sclerosis Tour for the Cure. Starting in Hammond and extending to McComb and back, bicycle riders will complete the 150 miles in two-day trips of 75 miles each. With a food and drink rest stop every 10 miles and support vehicles for mechanical troubles, the ride is both fun and safe. This event, in its 16th year, draws riders to raise dollars for the debilitating disease, MS. Symptoms may include numbness of the limbs or severe paralysis, with most people diagnosed between ages 20-40. Its unpredictable physical and emotional effects can be lifelong. Progress and severity cannot be predicted, but advances in research and



Robin Tyler, producer of the upcoming MMOW, will perform at Pride.

treatment are giving hope to those affected by this disease.

The local eight-women team, "Akiki Makobe" (female turtles in Swahili), has raised over \$1,400 for MS and hopes for more. The team has been training with long rides the last few weekends and is well-prepared for the tour. If you are interested in donating to MS please call Marilyn at 504-866-1705. If you would like more information on the tour call 504-832-4013.

## DANCING

Wednesday, Sept. 29: Becky Eymard at Presley's Steak Night, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 2: Becky Eymard at Presley's, 9:30 p.m. til

Presley's is in Metairie behind Zippardo's Economical Supermarket at Vets and Transcontinental. Exit Clearview from I10V, left to first light.

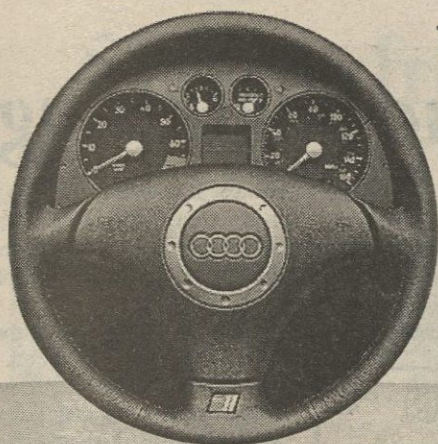
## WOMEN'S NET VORK

Tuesday, Sept. 28, 6-7 p.m. Support/ educational/ social lesbian group. The topic will be Sexuality and Spirituality with Shirley VanDamme. The presentation is free and held at The Relationship Center, 620 N. Carrollton.

## Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel







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## CLAIMING OUR PAST

## Gay Pride in New Orleans: the beginnings

by ROBERTS BATSON

The celebration of gay pride this month continues a tradition that originated much earlier than many might know. The first public gay celebration occurred 28 years ago, in 1971, and annual gay pride events have taken place every year for 22 years.

In 1971, the newly-formed Gay Liberation Front of New Orleans—the first local gay rights organization in Louisiana to publicly proclaim itself—invited the community to a "Gay In," Feb. 6 at Popp Fountain in City Park.

It was a remarkable, radical, courageous act. And it was a success. People came. So "Gay In II" was announced for Feb. 20, this one in Washington Square. By summer, the little GLF group had fallen apart, but it had given birth to several off-shoot groups. Two of them, a local chapter of the Daughters of Bilitis and something called the Gay Services Center, sponsored a "Gay Day Picnic," again at Popp Fountain, to celebrate the second anniversary of Stonewall on June 27th.

There is no record of any public pride events for the next five years. Political and civic organizing, generally, were almost non-existent until a small band of men and women established the Gertrude Stein Society in 1975. They initiated a larger coalition to sponsor a protest rally and march in June 1977 on the occasion of Anita Bryant's first concert appearance after leading the effort to overturn of the gay rights ordinance in Miami.

The Anita Bryant protest succeeded far beyond the wildest dreams of its organizers; several thousand gay people tumbled out of their armchairs and into the streets. It became for the New Orleans community what the riots at the Stonewall Inn had been for New York City: an event that galvanized for the first time a substantive number of people who were willing to organize publicly. One of those was journalist Roy Letson, who founded this publication. The first issue of IMPACT rolled off the press in September, becoming the oldest continuing gay community media organization in Louisiana.

The following year there were

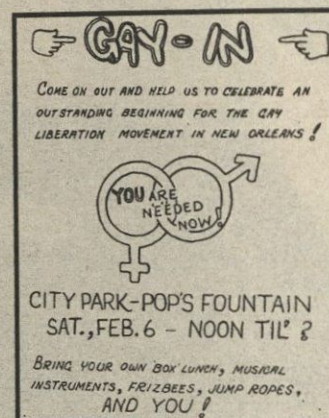
two gay pride observances in June. DOB organized a picnic in City Park, reviving the tradition established by the GLF in 1971. The picnic also featured games. This fun day in City Park continued for some years afterwards, known by various names. It was always informally produced; no actual organization was ever created.

Also, on June 25, 1978, a "gay pride rally" was staged in Jackson Square, repeating the site and the time of the Anita Bryant rally the year before. This was the first event in Louisiana to call itself "gay pride." It was presented by the newly-formed Pink Triangle Alliance, a small collective of gay men who lived communally. They later called themselves Louisiana Sissies in Struggle (LaSIS), and, still later, the Lavender Left.

Speakers at that first gay pride rally included Betty Hugh of the Gertrude Stein Society, Ron Panell of the Metropolitan Community Church, Annabelle Walker of the National Organization for Women, and author Tom Horner.

The PTA, however, was widely viewed as uncomfortably radical, and was, indeed, only a small seg-

ment of the local gay community. The following year they generously stepped aside so that a more mainstream organization could plan a pride event that would appeal to a wider cross-section of participants.



The Gay Liberation Front's first flyer.

In its May 1979 issue, IMPACT reported, "Yes, it's happened. After an initial meeting three weeks ago called by the Pink Triangle Alliance, a group of concerned members of several gay organizations is under way planning a Gay Fest celebration. The group decided upon a festival rather than a rally or march

because it was thought to be more in keeping with New Orleans' Carnival Spirit. ... It is sponsored by the non-profit Lambda Chapter of the ACLU."

Gay Fest took its name from the young but popular Jazz Fest. Most who attended that 1979 Gay Fest were delighted. Charlene Schneider, Mark Gonzales, Richard O'Connor and attorney Pat O'Brien were its principal organizers. IMPACT reported: "Guess what, it worked. You did it. This community again proved it can work together."

The two-day festival format with a party-like atmosphere has, with a few exceptions, continued ever since. It has been a turbulent history, fraught with public fights, inept leadership, and stolen moneys—but more importantly, it's survived as a great celebration by thousands from our community.

Roberts Batson is the author of more than 200 published articles on GLBT history and contemporary culture. His research provides the basis for his acclaimed Gay Heritage Tour, which he conducts. He welcomes suggestions and corrections and can be reached at The Bienville Foundation, (504)945-6789.



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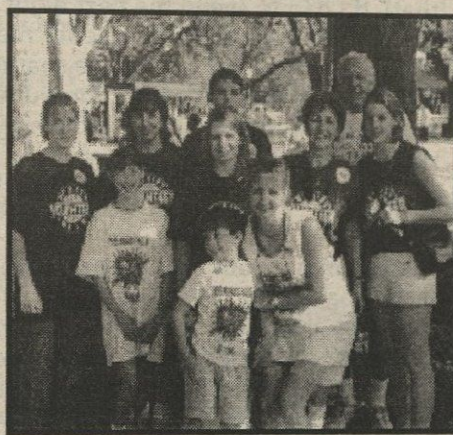
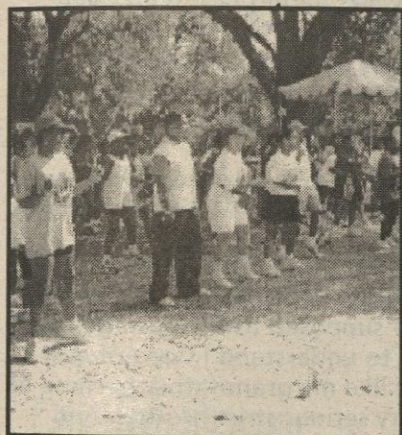
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# "Quote unquote"

compiled by REX WOCKNER & STAFF



"I lived ... under a communist system in Czechoslovakia. And I left that country so I would be free. I thought this was the land of the free. I didn't think it meant land of the free as long as you're heterosexual. Now the Czech Republic, they're having domestic partnerships. They're having relationships that are recognized homosexual relationships that are recognized as much as heterosexual ones. And I feel like, what do I need to do now? Go back? I don't want to."

Tennis star Martina Navratilova, left, on CNN's "Larry King Live."

"If I had to do a story about a gay love affair, I don't know [about that]. If I had to spend the next eight weeks eating face with some guy, I'd think it wasn't the role for me. But it's different if the story's about whatever and one of the characters happens to be gay. [My new film] 'Happy, Texas' is about unrequited love. The sheriff I play is smitten with, and gets his heart broken by, Jeremy Northam. It's unclear whether the sheriff is out or not."

Actor William H. Macy, best known as Jerry Lundegaard in "Fargo" and Dr. Morgenstern on "ER," to *Out* magazine, September issue.

"Look, I'm not your average man in his 50s. I don't have the gray hair slicked back, I don't have glasses on, I'm not in a coat and tie. My persona was always what a man was never supposed to be: outrageous, gregarious, crazy, silly, funny. You have to understand I was not ever close to men. I had my father, who was like my grandfather because he was older. I had no relatives. I had a very serious strict brother. And [my] Uncle Milton seemed like a really gruff guy, but he let me sit on his lap while he'd tell me a story. He hugged me. And no one that I'd ever met from my father's family—none of them hugged me, none of them kissed me—only Uncle Milton. So having a relationship that there was a male in the house that gave me some kind of affection was very important to me."

Exercise/diet guru Richard Simmons when asked at a press conference if he is gay, according to *Salon* magazine.

"One reason why I recommend the abandonment of religious beliefs is because I think those beliefs are wrong. There is no evidence that our world was created by divine intention, that a god intercedes in human affairs, or that there is life after death. Religion is a hangover from humankind's timorous infancy; it's time for us to walk upright and unafraid, and to take charge of our own lives."

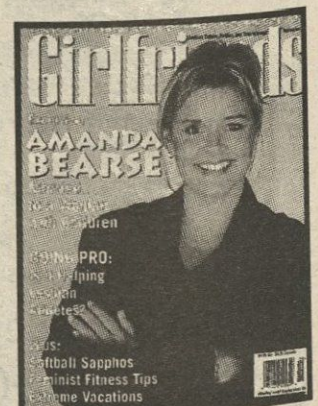
Syndicated gay-press columnist Simon LeVay, in Sacramento, California's *Outward* newsmagazine.

"The Boy Scouts insisting that they have a leader they can feel safe to be alone in the woods without fear of molestation is not discrimination, it is common sense. They should not be forced to admit members who are homosexual, as they would be forced to share a tent with a professed homosexual or be made to feel they are strange or a bigot because they don't want to bunk with another male at summer camp who might find them attractive."

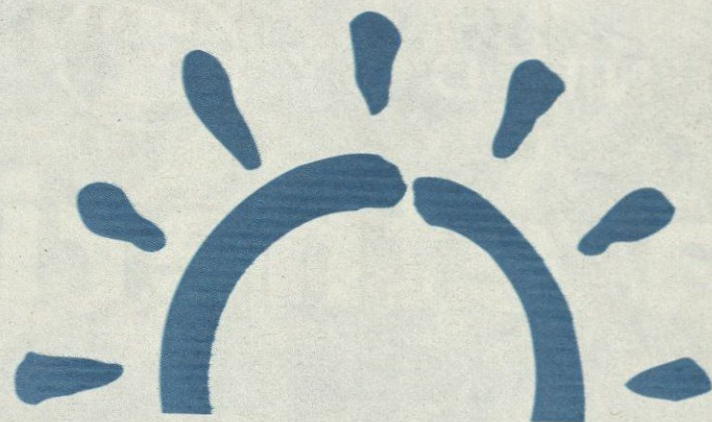
Charles W. Billings, of Moncks Corner, S.C., in a letter published by the *Charleston Post & Courier*.

"I long for a simpler life. If there's one thing where I'm at with my mid-life crisis, it's that I'd like to get out from under the intensity of the life that we have. It's full of wonderful joys. It's a good ride to be on, but sometimes I'd like to get off."

Amanda Bearse, right, in an interview with *Girlfriends*, September issue.







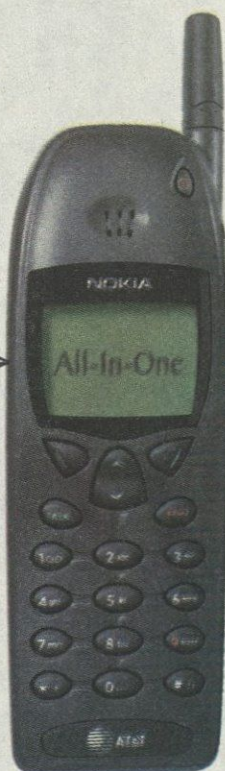
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# time out

IMPACT NEWS • SEPTEMBER 24/1999

## Gay Pride!

### SCHEDULE of EVENTS

PrideFest '99 kicks off tonight with the Dyke March beginning at 7 p.m. at Jackson Square.

The Gay Pride Parade will begin at 10 a.m. at Washington Square and winds its way to Armstrong Park for the kick-off of PrideFest 99. Complete information can be found at [www.neworleanspride.com](http://www.neworleanspride.com).

#### Saturday PrideFest Highlights

12:00 p.m.	Opening Ceremony: New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus
12:30 p.m.	Parade Awards
1:00 p.m.	New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus
1:30 p.m.	Marlee Napurano, Brooklyn, NY
2:00 p.m.	Steven Gellman, Germantown, MD
3:00 p.m.	Glass Candle Grenade, Atlanta, GA
4:00 p.m.	MMOW, Robin Tyler
6:00 p.m.	Zrazy, Dublin, Ireland
7:00 p.m.	Raunchy Reckless, Austin, TX
8:00 p.m.	Temptress Rocks, Boston, MA
9:00 p.m.	Concert and Dance Party
10:00 p.m.	Stage closes

#### Sunday PrideFest Highlights

11:00 a.m.	Worship Ceremony
11:30 a.m.	Couple Blessing Ceremony
12:00 p.m.	Scott Long, New Orleans
3:00 p.m.	Milonga, New Orleans
3:30 p.m.	Freddy Omar, New Orleans
4:00 p.m.	Temptress Rocks, Boston, MA
5:00 p.m.	Kindred Spirit, Pearl River
6:00 p.m.	Shereece Band, New Orleans
7:00 p.m.	HRC spokesperson Candace Gringrich
9:00 p.m.	Tiffany Rae Button's Grand Finale
10:00 p.m.	Stage closes

There will also be a Gospel Stage, organized and directed by Grace Fellowship, which will present a host of spiritual psalms and songs from many groups all weekend long. A Kid's Tent will be set-up for entertaining children. This year's Drag Stage will provide a chance for all local male and female impersonators to strut their talents, from lip synching to live singing. The theme for the Drag Stage is "Titanic."

The Marketplace and Food Court will host over 40 vendors, both local and out-of-state. There will be merchandise, information, and food and drink.

Three new additions to the PrideFest are the Disco Tent—which will host a battle of the DJs, a Country/Western Dance Tent for all of you who might have a hankering for a two-step, and a Leather Tent, which will present the first historical leather archive.

Taking pride in our culture

## IT'S ALL ABOUT

# Love

A new book takes a mesmerizing look at the landscape of today's GLBT families.

by LUCAS J. MIRE

Originally a traveling exhibit of photos, the new photo-essay book **LOVE MAKES A FAMILY**, makes an impassioned and persuasive plea for love and acceptance for families of all shapes and sizes. Though that might sound nice, when photos of gay and lesbian families were included in a similar school exhibit titled "Of Many Colors: Portraits of Multiracial Families," it engendered the biggest brouhaha Amherst, Mass., had ever seen. The controversy culminated in a federal lawsuit in which five families sued to prevent the exhibit from being shown. Though a federal judge ruled in favor of the exhibit, the seeds of a new idea were

➤ Continued on page 32

# LOVE

## MAKES A FAMILY

Portraits of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Parents and Their Families



Photographs by GIGI KAESER  
Edited by PEGGY GILLESPIE  
Foreword by Marnie Bruce-Pratt  
Introduction by Kath Weston  
Afterword by April Martin

INFO

**Love Makes A Family**  
Photographs by Gigi Kaeser  
Edited by Peggy Gillespie  
University of Mass. Press



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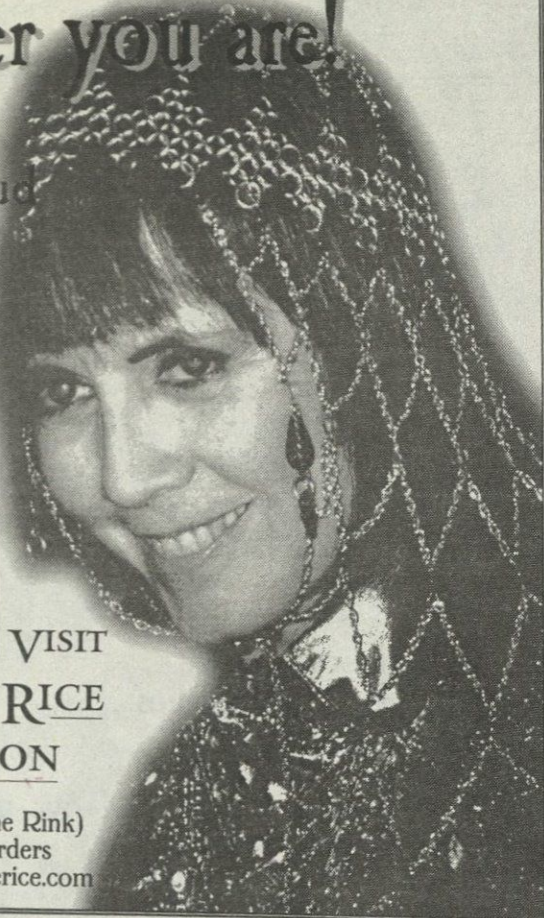
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## Music for a Queer Planet

MUSIC  
REVIEWS

by MARGARET COBLE

### Queer tunes to be proud of

Ah, Gay Pride. Time to rejoice in our collective queerness. A weekend for everyone to come out of their closets, cliques, and the proverbial woodwork to enjoy our diverse culture and community. What exactly DO all you people do the rest of the year, anyway?

Since last year's Pride was cut short due to Hurricane Georges, this year's celebration is long overdue—and it promises to be quite an experience in Armstrong Park. Irish lesbian duo Zrazy (Saturday, 6 p.m.), D.C. folkie Steven Gellman (Saturday, 2 p.m.), and Austin grrl band Raunchy Reckless are just a few of the musical highlights, but see page 19 in this issue for complete entertainment listings.

Me? I'll be spinning the Dyke March After-Party at Café Brasil (Friday, 9 p.m.) and at the Lesbian Tent in Armstrong Park (Saturday, time TBA). And I wouldn't miss Zrazy's Sunday night performance at Café Brasil (8 p.m.) for anything in the world.

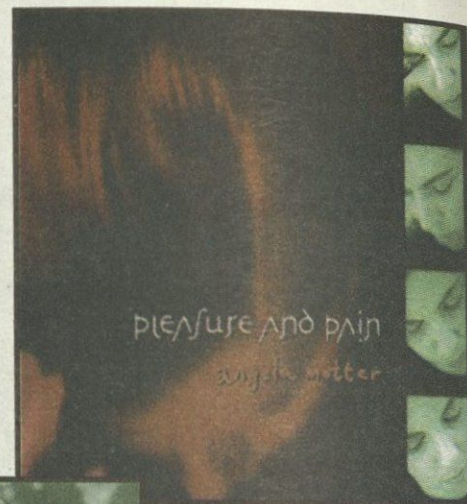


Angela Motter

One disc I can't wait to play this weekend is *PLEASURE AND PAIN* (Hey Mister! Records), the new one from gender-bending Atlanta native Angela Motter. Motter has duly impressed the queer music community with her wicked acoustic-funk sound, earning a 1999 Gay and Lesbian American Music Award for Best Out Recording and the praise of *Southern Voice*, *Etcetera*, and the on-line queer music site *Outvoice*, but it's inexplicable why the mainstream music press has yet to catch on to her stunning sophomore set. Perhaps it's her androgynous appearance, her self-proclaimed trans gender, or maybe it's her envelope-pushing lyrics that boldly deal with controversial thin-line dichotomies like boy/girl and pleasure/pain. Whatever the reasons, it certainly isn't for lack of quality in production or performance, because Motter's definitely got it going on.

"Pleasure and Pain" features two songs that would be runaway hits if they ever made it to radio: "My Mama Told Me," the tune for which she won the GLAMA, and the gender-play ode "IsItABoyIsItAGirl." Both have infectious danceable drum loops that ride under some seriously funk-up acoustic-guitar driven folk, and both sport clever, thoughtful lyrics culled from her own life experience.

Beyond these two single-worthy tracks "Pleasure and Pain" features several more standouts that display Motter's amazing stylistic versatility and unwaveringly soulful vocals. On the title track and the relationship drama "Cake," Motter sounds more like a Melissa Etheridge-ish heartland-rock, while she struts her stuff Chaka-Khan-diva style on the spunky "Better Get Used To It." She takes



a well-crafted turn at acoustic gospel-soul with the uplifting anthem "I'm Free," featuring Atlanta rapper Faceman and choral vocal help by Michelle Malone and DeDe Vogt, and does her best Robert Johnson tribute on the slide guitar with the delta blues of "Louisiana Air." An electrifying cover of "Damn Your Eyes" does Etta James' classic justice, and the tender "Imprint"

is a gorgeous heartache ballad of the highest caliber.

In short, "Pleasure and Pain" is one of the most compelling discs of 1999. I wish I had more space to sing its praises; I can't recommend it highly enough. (For ordering info, go to [www.angela-motter.com](http://www.angela-motter.com).) **A+**

On the other end of the pop musical spectrum, Soft Cell alumnus Marc Almond is back with his first U.S. solo album in over eight years, *OPEN ALL NIGHT* (Instinct Records). Featuring collaborations with Siouxsie Sioux, Budgie (The Creatures) and vocalist Kelly Ali (Sneaker Pimps), "Open All Night" is a succulent slice of glamorously mature electronic pop. Lush orchestration, a host of trendy rhythms, and musical influences as diverse as gospel, R&B, Latin, and lounge-jazz, make for a darkly sensual sonic experience, anchored by Almond's distinctly torchy voice. The skittering jazz of "Black Kiss" and trip-hoppy Ali duet "Almost Diamonds" stand out as personal favorites, but all 69 minutes are thoroughly enjoyable. Best suited to chilling out after-hours, long car rides, or bedroom interludes. **B+**

Lastly, if you too have found yourself singing "I'm in love with/Julie Christie/she makes me go misty" after seeing the new Canadian dyke film *BETTER THAN CHOCOLATE* (now playing at Canal Place), then you'll be happy to hear the soundtrack CD (Dexter Entertainment) does include that memorable number, as well as the dazzling transgender ode "I'm Not A Fucking Drag Queen." Sadly, Sarah McLachlan's "Ice Cream" is not included, but the quirky collection is still well worth the sticker price. **B**

Send your feedback to [djmags2000@aol.com](mailto:djmags2000@aol.com).



# On Stage

THEATER REVIEW

by ROBERTS BATSON

## Simply Grand

The fall theatre season opened with a bang—two bangs, actually, a double-barrel blowout. On the same night, two of New Orleans' leading community theatres launched their millennium seasons with large-scale musical productions. Both offer a variety of delights.

ly strong. Noteworthy interpretations of uppercrust British archetypes are etched by Kelly Hirling, Marc Fouchi, Robert Richardson, Chase Waites, Adriana Bate, and Chip Stelz. Contrasting with the blue bloods is Ashley Smetherman as the Cockney girlfriend, who per-



Karen Hebert and Vatican Lokey star in Le Petit Theatre's "Grand Hotel."

Le Petit Theatre du Vieux Carre's vessel is "Grand Hotel," and Rivertown Repertory Theatre in Kenner offers "Me and My Girl." Both plays are period pieces of sorts. "Grand Hotel," although a contemporary work, is based on the classic film and set in Berlin in 1928. "Me and My Girl" is a 1930s musical.

Interestingly, although "Grand Hotel" is set in the glitzy 20s, it is not at all the cliched, lighthearted take on that decade; it is much more musical drama than musical comedy. On the other hand, "Me and My Girl" is set in the depths of the Great Depression, but is about as light and frothy as cotton candy.

Both shows are handsomely mounted and are visually and musically successful. Although the "Me and My Girl" sets are a bit drab for so sunny a show, they function well, as do the lighting, costumes, and wigs. Julie Winn's clothes for the garden party are a special stand-out.

Directed energetically by Alton Geno and led by an irrepressible Gary Rucker, the large and attractive "Me and My Girl" cast is consistent-

forms with warmth and sings just as well.

This is joyfully silly entertainment of the sort that doesn't usually get written now. Rivertown Rep's mounting reminds audiences how much uncomplicated fun can be had in the theatre.

"Grand Hotel" is much more in line with the serious turn that musical theatre has taken during the last decades. All its major characters are desperately needy, grasping frantically for money, love, youth, fame, health. This hotel is as much heart-break as it is grand.

But out of this unrelenting gravity, Le Petit Theatre has fashioned a

> Continued on page 29

### INFO

#### Me and My Girl

Rivertown Repertory Theatre, 468-7221  
Through October 3

#### Grand Hotel

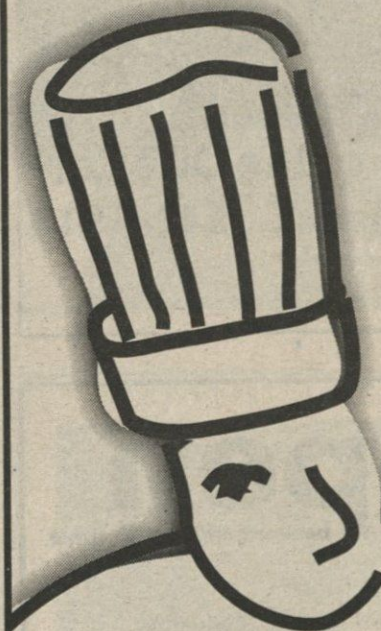
Le Petit Theatre, 522-2081  
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# Muncheon

RESTAURANT REVIEWS

by LOOSEY & ETHYL

## Memories of munch

Do you ever just want to stroll down memory lane and think of all the good times? All those pies, cakes, cookies and casseroles? We certainly do! Back in the days before Loosey was doing that Sugarbuster thing, we used to just chow down. Actually, we still do, but now she grazes on salads and things of wheat, while I still go for the tasty morsels from some of our all-time favorites.

For example, we were out in Chalmette recently and drove past **ROCKY & CARLO'S**. The mere thought of the macaroni and cheese, the roast beef po-boys, and that "wop" salad kicked in the Pavlovian drool response. In fact, we thought about it so much (we were on our way to **CICI'S PIZZA**), we stopped at Rocky & Carlo's on the way home to pick up a few snacks for later.

Speaking of CiCi's, have you been recently? They've re-arranged some of the furniture and now those annoying video games are not right at the front door, but in the back, near the television constantly plays the Cartoon Network. We try to make it there around three-ish, so we can keep up to date on the latest Sailor Moon dirt. We think Sailor Jupiter might have some lesbian tendencies; she's soooooo butch!

Oh, a little closer to home, did you know that you can get very big weenies at the **CLOVER GRILL**? That's right, for only a buck-ninety-nine, you can get a warm weenie shoved into a bun. Toppings are extra, but worth every penny.

While we're on the subject of burger joints, you might want to sample the new Cajun Chick 'n' Crisp at **BK Lounge** (That's **BURGER KING**, Mary!) And if you hurry, you can get cheap McNuggets from the Golden Arches—remember the old saying that parts is parts—20 of the little buggers for only \$2.99.

We also recently had a craving for some good cookin' late at night, and one of the best spots, loaded with character and characters, is the **HUMMINGBIRD GRILL** on St.

Charles Avenue. It's ideal if you've got business at Kinko's; you can just walk across the street and chow down real cheap.

Still looking for something up-scale and casual at the same time? **ANGELI** on the corner of Decatur and Governor Nicholls is the choice for you. Great salads, sandwiches and pizzas of all shapes, flavors and sizes. If you want a something a little less elegant but just as good, there's always **IORELLA'S** just across the street in the 1100 block of Decatur. You might consider either of these two if you're in the market for a new nipple ring or other body piercing, because Rings of Desire is right in the same block.


Soups? You want soups? The chicken andouille gumbo from **ROYAL STREET GROCERY** is as good as everything else on the menu. And don't underestimate the soothing, healing properties of a good oriental soup. In the French Quarter, I'd suggest **THE MOON WOK's** hot and sour or egg drop. You want French onion soup? Well, there are two choices in the Quarter for that: **LA MADELEINE** and **CAFÉ MASPERO** (the one on Decatur), not **PIERRE MASPERO'S** on Royal (which is great for red beans and sandwiches).

Salads, my dear? The Caesars from **MONA LISA**, **La Madeleine** and **MAMA ROSA'S** are the cream of the crop. We haven't ventured into **MICKY-D'S** salad shakers yet, but they certainly look cute. Why don't you try them, and tell us what you think.

Dear hearts, that's just a partial list of our local favorites. Don't forget that we adore **LEGAL SEAFOOD** (in Boston and Washington, D.C.), **HOPKIN'S HOUSE** and **H&O RESTAURANT** in Pensacola, casino buffets in Las Vegas and Biloxi, and the list goes on.

As always, if you have a suggestion or comment (we don't accept complaints) just drop a note to muncheon, c/o **IMPACT News**, 2116 Burgundy, New Orleans, LA 70116, or e-mail us at [muncheon@hotmail.com](mailto:muncheon@hotmail.com). Keep licking those plates!!

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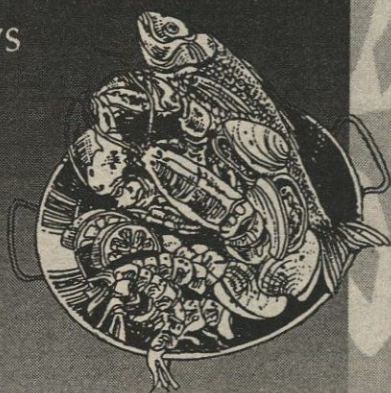


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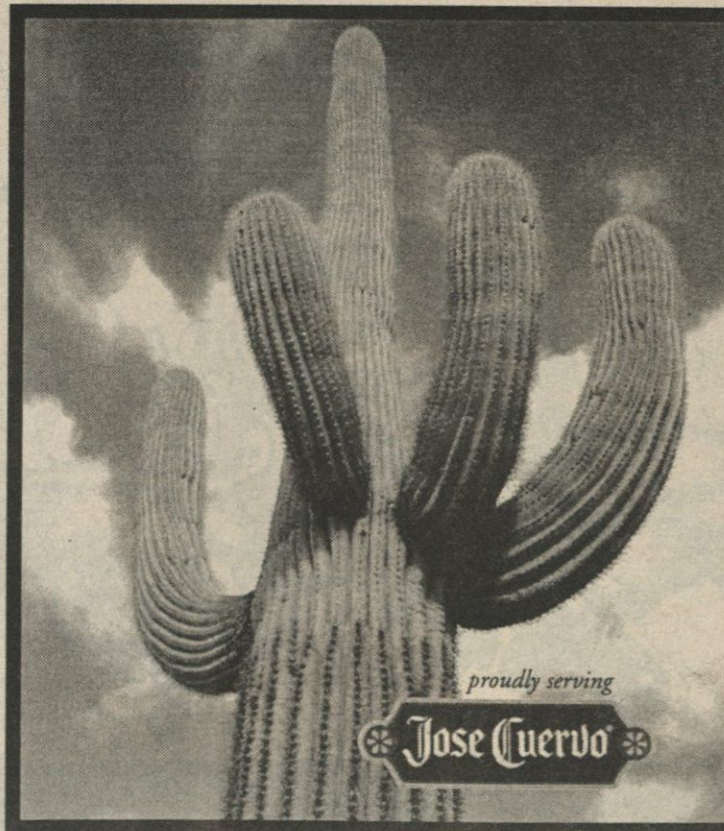
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# Out in Print

BOOK REVIEW

by GREG HERREN

## Shallow and substantial

True crime novels, if done well, can be fascinating and compelling reads. Tommy Thompson's "Blood and Money," Dominick Dunne's articles in *Vanity Fair*, and of course Truman Capote's "In Cold Blood" are classic examples of this genre.

**DISCO BLOODBATH** by James St. James (Simon & Schuster, \$23) is not a classic. If you are unfamiliar with the world of New York's "club kids," then you probably have never heard of James St. James. His main claim to fame was a *Newsweek* article about the "fabulous" world of night-clubbing called him a "celebutante." The world of the club kids is one of drug abuse, partying all night, backbiting, backstabbing, feuds and grudges. Why anyone would want to be a part of all of this would probably be more fascinating than this book.

St. James was basically an accessory-after-the-fact in the murder of a drug dealing lub kid named Angel by Michael Alig, self-proclaimed king of the club kids and party promoter. St. James tries to distance himself from Alig by claiming, over and over again, that they were not friends.

If this is true, why on earth did St. James cover for Alig after he confessed to the murder, when the body was still decomposing in Alig's bathroom? Why didn't he go to the police?

St. James also spends a lot of time explaining that Angel, the victim, was a horrible person. No one liked him. He was just horrible. On and on and on, ad nauseum. Yet St. James never gives any examples of what made Angel an awful person or why he was so disliked in the world of the club kids. The only time he does, he makes this statement, in italics: "Angel would never give anyone a bump!"

That, apparently, in the twisted reality of the clubs, can justify a murder and the cover-up that followed. How tragic.

St. James never explains why he became a club kid, or what motivates someone to enter this world. The book jacket proudly proclaims "When was the last time a true story about murder made you laugh out loud?" Whatever attempts St. James makes at humor fail in the face of the horrible facts of the world he inhabited

and the gruesome reality of the murder. (To dispose of the body, Alig and his other accomplice, a hardened drug fiend named Freeze, sawed off the legs and threw the parts into different areas of the East River.)

Maybe in St. James' twisted world that's funny. To the rest of the world it's a crime.

On the opposite end of the spectrum is Dan Woog's latest, **FRIENDS AND FAMILY** (Alyson Publications, \$13.95). Subtitled "True Stories of America's Straight Allies," this book is a compelling read. Woog interviewed straight men and women who are gay activists and explored what their motivation is for bucking conventional straight thinking.

A common thread that runs through the stories is that the majority of them had a child, grandchild or parent who was gay and was abused in some way by the straight majority. Some of the stories are heartbreaking and will move you to tears. Particularly poignant are the stories involving suicides of gay teens. Another point that Woog's book subtly makes is that none of these people would have given gay rights a second thought had someone close to them not come out.

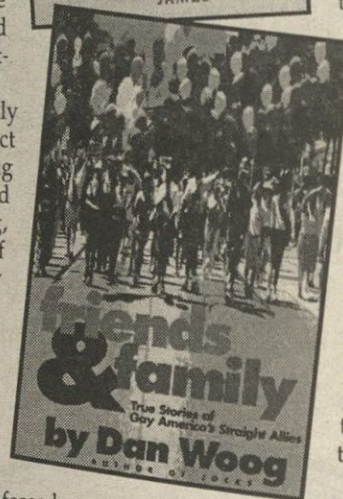
That is the reality the GLBT community has to face; the closet means invisibility,

and with invisibility comes lack of impetus for change. It is by being open, by talking to friends and family members, that the GLBT community can win over the hearts and minds of the homophobic majority and finally stop being second class citizens.

Woog is a brilliant writer and manages to remain objective in his interviewing behavior. Last year's book, "Jocks," which exposed the world of gay athletes and what they face, was an important milestone. "Friends and Family" gives faces, hearts, and souls to the straight community. They all are not the enemy.



JAMES ST. JAMES



**DISCO BLOODBATH**  
by James St. James  
Simon & Schuster, \$23

**FRIENDS AND FAMILY**  
by Dan Woog  
Alyson Publications, \$13.95

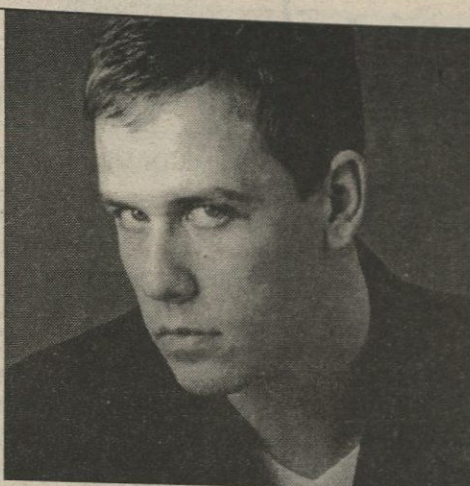
INFO





*Doug*

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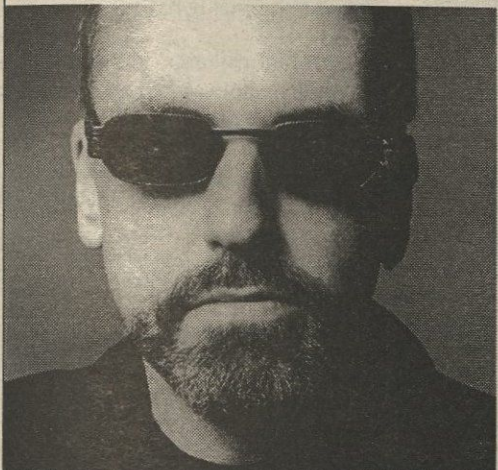
*Jayson*

contemporary, new breed, protege



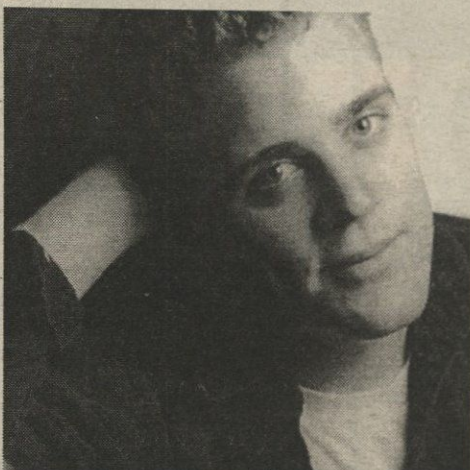
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sin-sational, theatrical, current



*randy*

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*stephen*

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## Mental Check

ADVICE

by MINDY MILAM, MSW, BCSW

### What to look for in ACOAs

Dear Mindy,  
*I was raised by a parent who was an alcoholic.  
Do you think this has affected me as an adult?*  
—Wondering

Dear Wondering,

You probably were affected, because growing up in a dysfunctional family has an impact. A dysfunctional family is a family which does not provide the emotional components which are needed for children to feel good about themselves. Examples of dysfunctional families include those where there is physical or sexual abuse, behaviors such as gambling, drug abuse or alcoholism, or where there is mental illness.

There are 28-34 million children and adults in America today who grew up, or are presently growing up, in alcoholic homes. Children of alcoholics are four times more likely than other people to become alcoholics. Because denial is such a key part of alcoholism, Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACOA's) need to be especially alert to their use of alcohol or other substances.

ACOA's tend to have low self-esteem. In child rearing, three conditions are usually necessary for children to develop a sense of value and worth, or high self-esteem. These conditions are parental warmth, clearly defined limits or rules, and respectful treatment. Often these conditions are absent in an alcoholic home, or are not present on a consistent basis. This is because the alcoholic parent's behavior is affected by their use of alcohol, and the non-alcoholic parent's behavior is affected by the behavior of the alcoholic. Little emotional energy is left to consistently fulfill the many needs of a child.

There are common unspoken rules in alcoholic families: 1). Don't talk, 2). Don't trust, 3). Don't feel.

Many ACOA's carry these rules into their adult relationships, often without knowing they are following them.

There are common problems that may be experienced by children living with an alcoholic parent. The child may experience guilt, because she sees herself as the main cause of her parent's drinking. The child may experience anxiety and may worry constantly about the situation at home. And she may be afraid the alcoholic parent will hurt him/herself.

The child may be embarrassed and may not invite friends home, or may not want to go to public events with the alcoholic parent. The child may be disappointed, because the alcoholic parent does not keep her/his word. This may lead to the child having difficulty trusting people.

The child may be confused, because the adult's behavior may be inconsistent or erratic, and unpredictable. The family may not stick to a daily routine or schedule. The child may experience anger, both at the alcoholic parent for drinking and the non-

alcoholic parent for lack of support and for staying with the alcoholic parent.

Finally, the child may experience depression, due to the secrecy, isolation and helplessness they feel.

The following is a list of common characteristics of Adult Children of Alcoholics. More information about these can be found in "Adult Children of Alcoholics" by J. Woititz.

- Adult children of alcoholics guess at what normal behavior is.
- Adult children of alcoholics have difficulty completing a project once they have begun it.
- Adult children of alcoholics lie when it is just as easy to tell the truth.
- Adult children of alcoholics judge themselves very harshly.
- Adult children of alcoholics have difficulty having fun and playing, and take themselves very seriously.
- Adult children of alcoholics have difficulty with intimate relationships.
- Adult children of alcoholics over-react to changes over which they have no control.
- Adult children of alcoholics seek approval and affirmation from others.
- Adult children of alcoholics are overly responsible or very irresponsible.
- Adult children of alcoholics may feel that they are different from others.
- Adult children of alcoholics are very loyal, even if that loyalty is undeserved.
- Adult children of alcoholics are impulsive. They may not give adequate consideration to options or possible consequences.

Most of these characteristics affect your ability to relate in an honest, intimate manner. If you are an ACOA, you may want to learn more about how you were impacted by growing up in an alcoholic home. There are numerous books on this topic.

There are also free support groups that meet at a variety of locations. For lesbian and gay groups, call the New Orleans Lambda Center at (504) 947-0548, the Baton Rouge Lambda Center at (225) 383-0777, or look in your telephone directory for the local AA main line listing.



# Out in the Community

## Couples' Group

A group for lesbian couples meets on four consecutive Fridays beginning Sept. 24. The group meetings are based on IMAGO Relationship Therapy, and facilitator is Peggy Demarest. Cost is \$25 per person for each meeting, or \$200 per couple for the four sessions. Other dates are Oct. 1, 8, 15. The groups meet at 620 N. Carrollton Ave. Call (504)861-7734 for more details.

Women's Network, an educational, support and social group for lesbians, meets the 4th Tuesday of every month from 6-7 p.m. at the Relationship Therapy Center, 620 N. Carrollton Ave.

The topic Sept. 28 is "Sexuality & Spirituality," with Shirley Van Damme. Other dates and topics include: Oct. 26, "Long-term Successful Relationships" with Betty Caldwell and Niki Kearby; Nov. 23, "Holiday Stress—How to Survive," with Dru Moody.

## Belle Reve benefit

A benefit ballgame for Belle Reve will be held Sunday, Oct. 10, beginning at noon at City Park, Marconi and Harrison avenues. Players and supporters should bring lunch, drinks, friends, and canned goods for Belle Reve, an HIV/AIDS support residence/program in New Orleans.

## MCC events

The Metropolitan Community Church of Greater New Orleans is accepting nominations for the 1999 Spirit Awards. Awards are presented to individuals who have demonstrated outstanding service or leadership in the community in the area of Celebration/Pride, Education,

Community and/or Care.

Nomination information should include the person's name, address, telephone number; description of service/leadership; the nominator's name, address, telephone number. Nominations deadline is Sept. 30.

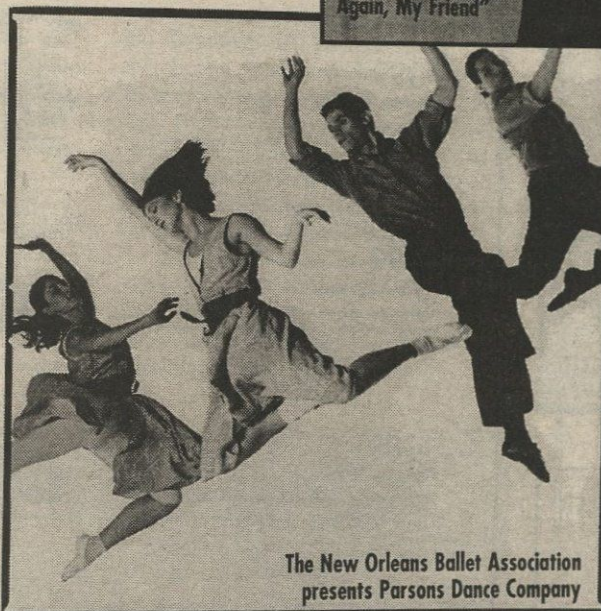
Nominations can be sent to MCCGNO, 1128 St. Roch Ave., NOLA 70117; FAX at (504)945-1638; or via e-mail to VCMC-CGNO@aol.com. Call (504)945-5390 for information.

The MCC annual fall spiritual retreat is Oct. 8-10 at Fontainebleau State Park in Mandeville. This is an opportu-



Kathy Randels in "The End and Back Again, My Friend"

LIBBY NEVINGER



The New Orleans Ballet Association presents Parsons Dance Company

nity to share with others, to relax, and to challenge spiritual growth. A \$35 registration fee includes food and lodging.

## Theatre/Dance

Artspot Productions and Zeitgeist Multi-Disciplinary Arts Center present "The End and Back Again, My Friend," opening tonight and running through Oct. 3 at the Zeitgeist

center, 1724 Oretha Castle Haley Blvd.

The production features New Orleans performance artist Kathy Randels in a story based on her travels throughout former Yugoslavia. Performances will be Sept. 24, 25, 26, Oct. 1, 3, at 7 p.m.; and Sunday, Sept. 26 and Oct. 3, at 3 p.m.

Admission is \$10, \$9 for students, \$8 for Zeitgeist mem-

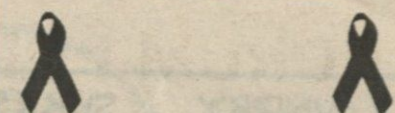
bers. For tickets and information call (504)525-2767.

The New Orleans Ballet Association will present a master class with the Parsons Dance Company on Friday, Oct. 22, from 6-7:30 p.m. in McWilliams Hall on the Tulane University Campus. The class is free, but space is limited. Call (504)522-0996 for information.

The acclaimed Parsons Dance Company will make its New Orleans debut Saturday, Oct. 23, at 8 p.m. at the Mahalia Jackson Theatre of the Performing Arts. Tickets are \$20.50, \$32.50, \$46.50 and \$66.50, and student and group discounts are available. Call the NOBA at (504)522-0996.

## Forum awards

The Forum for Equality will present the first Acclaim Awards at a special dinner and reception Friday, Oct. 1, beginning at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$150 per couple. The event will be at the Red Room, 2040 St. Charles Ave. Call (504)522-4377 for information.

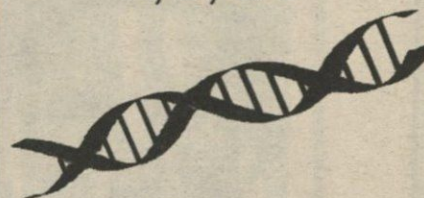


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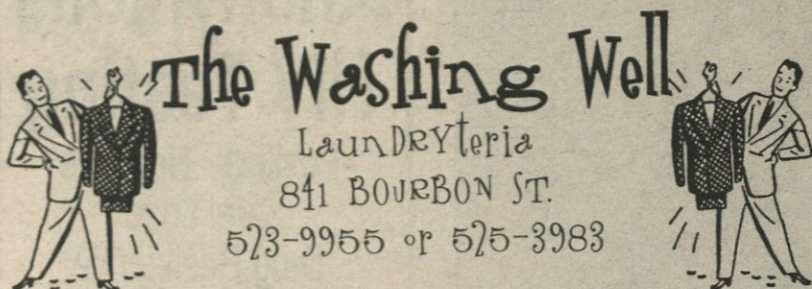
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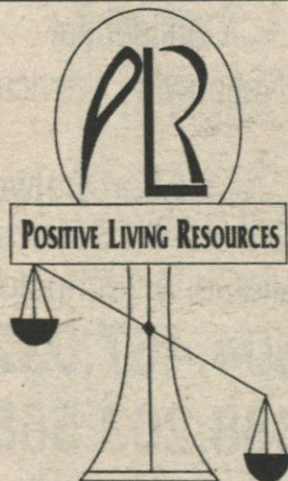
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# Simply Grand

> Continued from page 21

Contributing importantly is a visual production that is stunningly opulent. Bill Walker's set and Debby Simeon's costumes are wonderfully complimentary, the reds and golds proclaiming an overwhelming lushness. As the action becomes more tragic, Simeon gradually substitutes black garments for the red ones—a brilliantly realized effect.

Also outstanding are the staging and musical direction by Sonny Borey and Derek Franklin. They have guided a first-rate cast into performances that are always compelling and often dazzling. Likewise, Karen Hebert's choreography is inventive, adding both mood and extraordinary force to the production.

Among a uniformly excellent cast, Bert Pigg delivers a superbly nuanced performance; Sarah Jane McMahon intriguingly blends Marilyn Monroe vulnerability with Joan Blondell grit; and Patrick Mendelson and Eric Haston are both heartbreakingly affecting. Adding strongly are characterizations by Walter Bost, Katherine Keberlein, Greg Di Leo, and Ken Weatherup, and the exquisite artistry of ballroom dance professionals L. Suzanne Burke and Ron Marchal.

In addition to choreographing, Karen Hebert essays the role of a faded ballerina. It is a performance that takes your breath away. She inhabits the role, revealing a woman who is exotically ethereal but indeli-

bly credible. Her love scene with the young baron (Vatican Lokey) is achingly passionate, achieving a sensuality rarely achieved by performers in any medium.

Perhaps the most exciting revelation in both "Grand Hotel" and "Me and My Girl" is the emergence of two young leading men. Gary Rucker and Vatican Lokey both show unusual polish as musical actors, although their performances are totally different. Rucker's is an over-the-top comic tour de force, mixing charm with acrobatic pratfalls. On the other hand, Lokey succeeds by demonstrating the power of control, commanding the stage with mesmerizing restraint. In these two performances, Rucker and Lokey claim their places as skilled musical actors of the first rank.

Overall, both shows are highly professional. The reminders that Le Petit Theatre and Rivertown Rep are, after all, amateur operations are few, but telling. With Le Petit, the shortcomings are minor technical flubs such as late curtains and missed lighting cues. With Rivertown, they are intrusive vulgarity and schlock: sexual references that are gratuitously demonstrated, and—how low can you go?—Gretna jokes.

Although it is sad to note that these deficiencies mark the difference between first class and second, they are minor quibbles that should not deter anyone from enjoying these two excellent productions.

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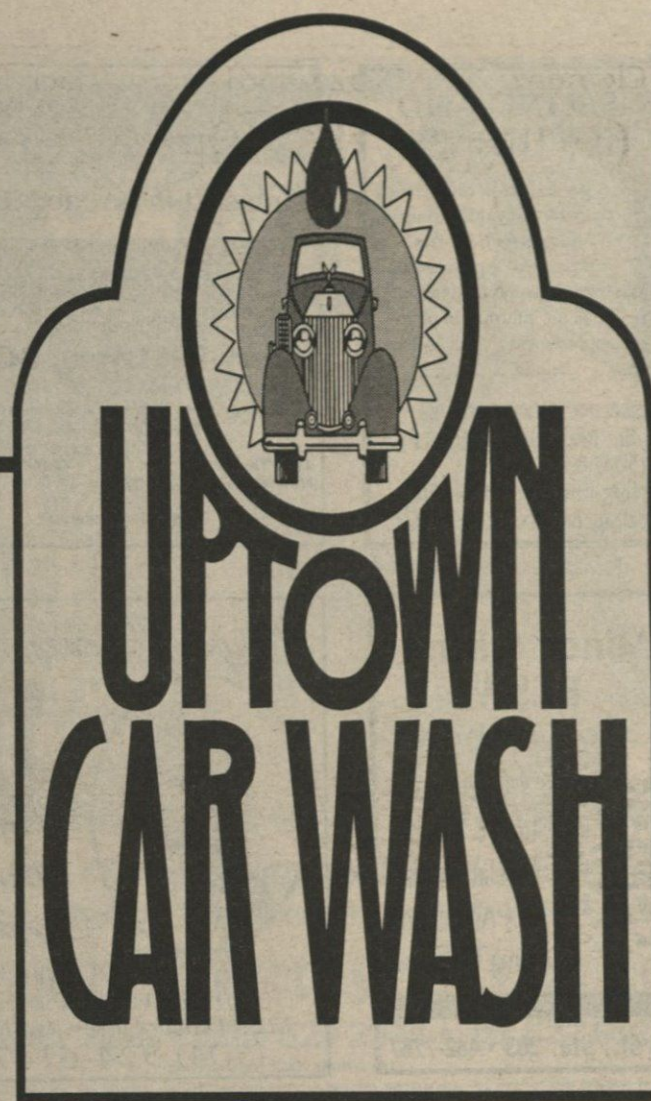
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# Service Directory

### Accommodations

French Quarter Reservations — 1-800-523-9091, 523-1246,  
www.neworleansgay.com

### Activist Groups

Gulf Gender Alliance—http://www.gga.org; email: info@gga.org;  
POB 56836, New Orleans, LA 70156-6836; (504) 833-3046  
Homosexual Info. Center — 115 Monroe, Boissier City, LA 71111  
New Orleans Lesbian Avengers (NOLA) — 739-4124  
New Orleans Alliance of Pride — PO Box 52343, NOLA 70152, info  
949-9555 (NGaypride@aol.com)

### 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 — 568-1631, 144 Elks Pl. Ste 1530 NOLA 70112  
AIDS Monument Info Line — 504 364-5554

Belle Reve — 945-9455

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

Charity Hospital/C-100 Clinic — 568-5304

Food For Friends — 2533 Columbus, 944-6028

Gay Counseling Line — 885-4476

Jefferson Parish Human Services Authority—3101 W. Napoleon,  
Metairie, 70001, 838-5215 (HIV Mental Health Program, 846-6947  
(Transportation and HOPWA Housing)

Lambda Center — 2106 Decatur, 947-0548 (AA)

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

New Orleans Center for Living — 507 Frenchman, 943-9009

NO/AIDS Task Force — 2601 Tulane Avenue, Suite 500, NOLA  
70119, 504-821-2601 (administration), 504-821-6050 (hotline), 800-  
992-4379 (statewide hotline)

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

Project Lazarus — 949-3609

RAIN (Regional AIDS Interfaith Network) — 523-3755

The Living Room/HIV Day Center at the MCC — 1128 St. Roch Ave.,  
Tue-Sat, noon-6pm.

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 — 2106 Decatur, Lambda Center, Wed. 6 p.m.

### Archives

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

### Attorneys

Clemenz & Jernigan — 210 Baronne St., Ste. 1042, 527-6111

Glenn J. Reames — 919 St. Philip Ste. 8, NOLA, 70116, 527-6126,  
800-337-6126

### Automotive

Crescent City Motors — Chuck LaCoste, 827-1200; Luke Williamson,  
prev. owned cars, 827-1200

Leather Specialties, Inc. — 3522 12th St., Metairie 455-5505

Lamarque Ford — 3101 Williams Blvd. at I-10, Kenner, 443-2500

Lamarque Jeep Chrysler Plymouth — 2226 Canal, 822-7121

Peake BMW — 42630 Veterans, 469-6165

### Chiropractic

Dr. Michael Lechleiter — 3600 St. Charles, Ste 203, 895-2350

### Cinemas

Landmark's Canal Place Theatre — 581-5400

Movie Pitchers — 488-8881

Prytania Theatre — 5339 Prytania St., 891-ARTS

### Cleaning Services

Tidy Cleaning Services — 341-6959

### Community Centers

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

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

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

The Lambda Center — 1733 Florida Blvd, Baton Rouge; hotline:  
(225) 383-0777; (225) 346-0670

Lesbian & Gay Community Center — 2114 Decatur, 945-1103

### Financial

Crescent Bank and Trust — Mortgage Div., 4621 W. Napoleon  
Ave., Ste. 307, 885-5626

Gay & Lesbian Bank — Pensacola, FL, 1-850-429-7400

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### Fitness

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### Floral

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### Guest Houses

1412 Thalia — 522-0453 (70130)

Claiborne Mansion — 2111 Dauphine, 949-7327 or Toll Free:  
1-888-942-4334

La Dauphine — 948-2217 www.ladauphine.com

Lafitte Guest House — 1003 Bourbon, 581-2678 (www.lafittguest-  
house.com)

Macarty Park — 3820 Burgundy, 943-4994

Millhouse Inn — Pensacola, Fla., toll-free 888-999-4575

### Haircare / Salons

Busta — 752 Tchoupitoulas, 523-4645

Headquarters — 900 Dauphine, 522-2666

### Insurance

Allstate, Ben Mach — 494-8168

John Kane & Associates — 523-2826

### Laundry

Washing Well — 841 Bourbon, 523-9955

### Massage Therapy, LA Licensed

David A. Briggs, L.M.T. — LA Lic. 0886, 866-8442

Lucas J. Mire, L.M.T. — LA Lic. 0547, 488-4094

Irma Russell, L.M.T. — LA Lic. 1491, 248-9996

### Marketing

Hess Marketing — 333 St. Charles, Ste. 1300, 522-HESS

### Medical & Counseling

Freelife — Jennie Williams, R.N., neutraceuticals, 828-5747

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

Terry F. Mayers, BCSW — individual, couple, group, 524-5973

Mindy Milam, BCSW, counseling, 482-7767

Shirley VanDamme — psycho-spiritual counseling,

L. David Wagner — Counseling and Psychotherapy, 836-0000, 833-  
1500

Dr. Marcus Ward — Cosmetic Dermatology, 525-3355

Westcare — 1220 Barataria Blvd., Marrero, LA 340-6711

### Mortuary Services

Bultman — 3338 St. Charles, Billy Henry, 895-7766

### Newspapers & Books

Beckham's Bookshop — 228 Decatur, 522-9875

FM Bookstore — 600 Frenchmen, 943-9875

Lenny's News — 622 S. Carrollton, 314-NEWS

Uptown News, 5420 Magazine, 897-NEWS

### Pest Control

Pro-Tech — 736-0736

### Pets & Grooming

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

### Pharmacies

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

VitaRx National Mail-Order Pharmacy — 1-888-456-7274 or 504-  
862-7274, www.vitarx.com

### Political

Federal Club of LA — 896-8777

Forum For Equality — PO Box 850096, NOLA 70185, 522-4377

Human Rights Campaign (HRC) — 733 Esplanade Ave., 949-2572

LAGPAC (Louisiana Gay Political Action Caucus) — PO Box 53075,  
NOLA 70153, 836-9086

Lavender Left — 1733 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225)  
346-0670

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, 595-8586

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

### Real Estate & Rentals

Latter & Blum — 948-3011. Agents: Robyn Halvorsen 947-2086,  
Lane Lacey 948-4334, Pat O'Rourke 833-5643, Ray Ruiz 948-2217,

Kyle Scafide 482-0009, Gary Martin 539-9752, George Cossitt  
948-2068

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, 1st Thurs. ea. mo.  
at Trinity Episcopal

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

Lambda Chai Gay & Lesbian Jews — 3330 W. Esplanade, Ste. 600,  
Met, LA 70002, 831-8475

Old Catholic Diocese of La. — 433-5912

Saints for Sinners—serenity stories for sharing, 482-2467. Available  
at "Just Another Friday" & "The Living Room"

St. Ambrose Holy Catholic Church — Sunday Mass @ 12:30 pm;  
meets @ St. George's Episcopal Church, 4600 St. Charles Avenue,  
New Orleans; (504) 558-0713

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



Tau House — 1029 Governor Nicholls St.; 4:15 p.m. Sunday mass. Everyone's welcome!  
Vieux Carré Metropolitan Community Church — 1128 St. Roch Ave., 945-5390

**Restaurants & Cafés**  
Adolfo's — 611 Frenchmen, 948-3800, Chicken, seafood & more, great prices  
Angeli — 1141 Decatur, 566-0077  
Café Rani — 2917 Magazine St, 895-2500, bistro, major credit cards accepted  
Feelings Café — 2600 Chartres, 945-2222, classic Creole; lovely courtyard (l.d.)  
Figaro's Pizzeria — 7900 Maple St., 866-0100, pizzas, pastas (l.d.)  
Grill Room at Windsor Court — 523-6000  
Louisiana Pizza Kitchen — 95 French Market Place, 522-9500 gourmet wood-fired pizzas, lunchtime sandwiches/wraps.  
Marisol — 437 Esplanade Ave., major credit cards, upscale bistro  
Paella — 3637 Magazine, 895-0240, Mediterranean Span. Cuisine  
Vaqueros — 4938 Prytanía (at Robert), 891-6441, southwestern cuisine, Major cards

**Retailers**  
Ann Rice Collection — 2727 Prytanía St. (at the Rink), 89109483  
Chartres St. Connoisseur — 107 Chartres, 586-8006  
The Flat Earth — 1501 General Taylor  
French Quarter Camera — 809 Decatur, 529-2974  
Hit Parade — Gifts & Clothing, 741 Bourbon St., 524-7700  
Lindz — New Orleans Centre, 581-2140  
R&B DaB — Clothing, gifts, 508 St. Philip, 529-3577  
Rings of Desire — Body Piercing, 1128 Decatur (2nd fl), 524-6147  
Saints for Sinners (SfS) a div. of Ormalints, Inc. Available at the Gothic Cathedral Store, 225 N. Peters or 856 City Park Ave. 482-2467.  
Video Alternatives — 4725 Magazine, 891-5347

**Social Organizations**  
Bayou Women's Tennis Club — PO Box 19797 NOLA, 70179-0797, Sharon, 943-4807  
Frontrunners Running Club — 947-1081, George  
Gay Bowling League — Mon. at Mid-City Lanes, 482-3133  
"Husbands for Husbands" — at the L&G Comm. Ctr, 3rd & 4th Wed. at 7 p.m., 522-1103  
Knights of Orleans — Box 50812, NOLA  
Krewe of Amon-Ra — 1000 Bourbon St., PMB 294, NOLA 70116-2702  
Krewe of Mwindo, Corp. — Box 51031, NOLA 70151  
Lesbian Artists — 949-8876  
Lords of Leather — Box 72105, NOLA 70172  
Men of Color/NO — PO Box 57694, NOLA 70157, 482-5341  
Men of All Colors Together — PO Box 52801, NOLA 70152, 488-1679, 522-1103  
National Leather Association: New Orleans — PO Box 52591, NOLA 70152  
New Orleans Bear & Bear Trapper Social Club — Box 13584, NOLA 70185, 897-1594  
New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus — 245-8884  
Original Cocktail Bunch Bowling League — 861-0233  
Positive Attitudes — social club for HIV+ Box 2543, Lafayette, La 70502, (318) 365-8090  
Positively Social — a social club for those HIV+ or HIV- friendly, 861-8187  
Prime Timers of New Orleans — PO Box 71611, NOLA 70172-1611, John Alexander 525-3299; meets 1st Sun  
Team New Orleans — 940 Royal Street, PO 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  
Volleyball New Orleans — 945-4634; POB 13306, NOLA 70185; gnofn.org/~vno/welcome.htm  
Womyn of Color — 488-5708/891-0673

#### Support

Coming Out Support Group — 866-6024, Liz Simon  
Gay Counseling Line (24 hrs) — 885-4476  
Gulf Gender Alliance Cross-dressers, TS, TG Support Group — 943-1999, http://www.gga.org  
The Lambda Group, Inc. — P.O. Box 1911, Baton Rouge, LA 70821; Anita 749-3786, or 504-383-0777  
The Living Room — 1128 St. Roch, 945-1635  
P-FLAG (Parents, Family & Friends of Lesbians & Gays) — 392-0001 or 895-3936, http://pflagnola.homepage.com  
Relationship Therapy Center — Women's network: lesbian support group 488-9924, 4th Tue. ea. mo.

#### Telecommunications

SunCom - AT&T — 1-877-786-2661

#### Travel Agencies/Tours

Gay Heritage Tour — 945-6789

#### Theatres

Saenger Performing Arts Center — 143 N. Rampart, 525-1052

#### Veterinary Services

Dr. Mike's Animal House — 1120 N. Rampart, 523-4455

#### Viatical Services

Benefits America — 1-800-777-8878  
Positive Living Res. — 1-800-398-5177  
Southern Estate Services — 831-1666

#### Women's Health

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

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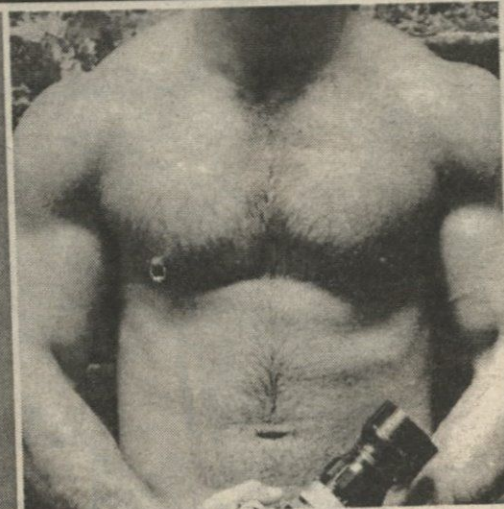
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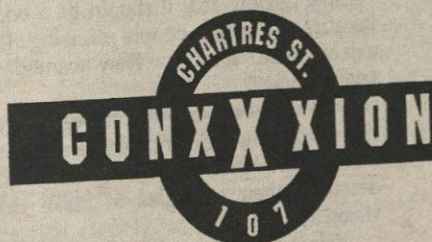
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## IT'S ALL ABOUT

➤ continued from page 19



already blooming. The exhibit's producers, editor Peggy Gillespie and photographer Gigi Kaeser, felt that the homophobia in schools was pervasive and deeply destructive. They said that the next step should help eradicate the fears and prejudices around gays, lesbians and transgenders.

"The original purpose of the photo exhibit was to fight homophobia in the schools," explained Gillespie in an interview with *IMPACT News*. "We wanted to educate staff and students about these issues, and celebrate diversity. But then it became obvious that it should be a book because so many people viewing the exhibit asked for one. They wanted to take it home."

The interviews are rich, powerful stories of what the different members of each family think a family should be, while detailing their struggles to make that vision a reality.

Kaiser and Gillespie also saw the book as a resource for school libraries, for college courses on families and gay studies,

and a way for GLTB families to celebrate their lives.

Educating non-GLTB community members may have been the primary aim, but another equally important goal was achieved as well, they believe.

"I believe our book will inspire and empower many gay youth to realize that families can take all kinds of shapes, sizes and structures... with or without children," said Gillespie. "We see this book as required reading for gay or questioning youth, and we want these images and stories to give them many models of their possible happy futures."

The book illustrates the myriad possibilities for creating families that nurture and sustain their members. Gillespie and Kaeser hope that when people look into the faces of these 42 families, and read their stories, they will recognize why the exhibit is so powerful—and necessary. And, even more to the heart of the matter, the authors hope that when you read how a kid loves his two dads or moms, it will become clear that love really *does* make a family.




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'95 Infiniti G20	Green	13995 mi.
'97 Jeep WRANGLER	Green	14995 mi.
'96 Pontiac GRAND PRIX GT	White	13995 mi.
'97 Saab 900S CONV	White	25995 mi.
'97 Saab 900SE TURBO	Beige	25995 mi.
'98 VW PASSAT GLS	Green	21995 mi.
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## HELP WANTED

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French Quarter studio in quiet courtyard. Avail. Oct. 1. No pets. \$275 plus deposit, utilities. Rental history, references, credit check. (504) 521-0831.

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**1020 Esplanade**—3 bdrm., 2 BA, liv., din., furn. kit, cen. a/h, pool, parking. \$1,200 dep., \$1,200 mo., 1-yr lease. Call Bobby: (504)947-0397.

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## TRAVEL

[www.LambdaResorts.com](http://www.LambdaResorts.com)

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# Q Scopes

by JILL DEARMAN

Sept. 24-Oct. 8



**ARIES:** It could be hard for you to get all your work done while you are so distracted by relationship issues. Relax and let those you trust carry you to the place you want to be. A little tenderness goes a long way with a Virgo.



**TAURUS:** Don't push your luck right now on the job front. Play the humble worker-bee role and bide your time. Your unconscious is leading you in the right direction, but be advised that direction is scary. In the meantime, share your body with another Taurus.



**GEMINI:** The Sun is currently transiting the most creative sector of your chart, so please do something artistic. Don't be afraid to make a big wonderful fool of yourself, the kind of fool people admire—and desire. A Pisces is so glad you are letting go of your inhibitions ... finally.



**CANCER:** Life is full of strange omens in early October. Try to get a handle on the metaphorical meaning of things. Work at undoing some of those destructive old patterns. A new Aries you meet could change your life (and infiltrate your fantasy life).



**LEO:** The Sun and Mercury are transiting the communication sector of your chart, so think about putting some of your ideas into writing, darling. Don't be afraid to take a chance and try something new. In your career, flexibility means everything. A certain Scorpio can be very flexible.



**VIRGO:** People who challenge you can tell you a lot about your own bizarre issues. Be receptive to all emotional lessons. You definitely need more physical and spiritual space in order to get back in touch with your childhood dreams. A Capricorn helps you make those dreams come true.



**LIBRA:** This is the right time for you to put all your eggs in one basket, sweetie. Stop "weighing your options" and make a decision. You really do have the power to change your life. Your old-fashioned charm is alluring, especially to an unconventional Aquarius.



**SCORPIO:** Go forward into the deep dark night and find out who you are. You have about three weeks. It's time to pull out all the stops to be true to your highest (and most primal) nature. Dig your own contradictions. A Cancer certainly does.



**SAGITTARIUS:** Mars in your sign gives you staying power, especially in the lovemaking area. Show off your stamina to another Sag. On the work front, be crafty and slip some of your creative ideas into a dry old project.



**CAPRICORN:** You don't know how respected you are, sweetie. Talk to colleagues who used to intimidate you and get the skinny on how much your personal stock has risen in recent months. Don't just go for the easy buck. A Scorpio isn't easy, but worth the effort.



**AQUARIUS:** Jupiter and Saturn want you to fix up your home life, darling. If you've been avoiding old problems with lovers, roommates or family members, now's the time to work them out. Listen to the advice a Gemini gives you. Just be wary of anyone who is overly dogmatic (like the old you, perhaps?)



**PISCES:** Other people can help you with your money problems. Not by lending you dough, but by going into business with you. Collaboration is gold to you now. In your personal life, a serious relationship (with a Libra?) needs your attention. Seriously.

Jill Dearman is the author of two new books, "Queer Astrology for Men" and "Queer Astrology for Women" (both from St. Martin's Griffin). For information on charts and consultations, call (212)841-0177.



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