Golden Lantern:  
Ringo & Christmas  

Things are surely jumping at the Lantern on Wednesdays, which happens to be Ringo Night starting at 8pm. And you don’t want to miss the Ringo caller herself, Sister Mary Izahor, and you can tell by her make-up that her name is very appropriate. Of course, Sister has other duties to do besides Ringo, such as slinging drinks, and the fact that she is working with a miniature Ringo set, she sometimes has trouble reading her balls so it might take a little longer than usual. However, she does give out nice prizes, and the house seems to be packed on this night. So you might want to go check it out and see if you know who this Sister really is if!!!

Coming up on July 25th, there will be Christmas in July with food, and prizes and all kinds of specials. Hopefully we’ll get to see a hunky Santa and a few naked elves, now I know that you all would love to sit on a hunky Santa’s lap, and reach into his bag for a present. I promise that you will not want to miss out on this, who knows maybe Santa will slide down your chimney that night. Jingle my bells!!!

Miss Leatherette  

It’s getting close to the Lords of Leather Miss Louisiana Leatherette Contest on August 8th at JohnPaul’s. I’m sure that the Lords have something special planned for this contest, after the great contest that they did with the “Where’s your Daddy?” at the Phoenix. Am wondering what the different categories will be? (Corset, Bondage, Whipping, Nipple Play) I’m shaking with anticipation. You know that I’ll be there to capture the whole thing on film.

(Don’t forget the pun that I had written about previously, that was wishing Liz Mikel luck in the future, and she will be on the new second season of Sordid Lives coming up in the fall.

GAA Awards  

I must say that having gone to the Awards for the first time, I was pleasantly surprised at how efficiently the ceremony went, and my compliments to Teryl-Lynn Foxx and Lisa Beaumann for keeping it interesting. The ceremonies were held at Oz and the set looked great with a new backdrop that was very Las Vegas. And the crowd seemed to be very much in the moment, waiting with anticipation to see if they had won an award.

All of the Show Bar Finalists, that showed up, were very good in their numbers, but the one that was late coming to the stage ended up being the best of all. That was from JohnPaul’s with Marcy Marcel’s doing their “Nun” number, what a hoot! I can only hope that someone video’d it, as it was too priceless. And who knew nun’s could dance, ala Sr. Regina.

I must say over all that the spread of awards was quite decent, and of course not everyone is going to be happy with the one out come. All of the winners were very accommodating in their acceptance speeches and some even wished the winners in there category luck in the next year. Some thought the competition was too tight, but, they were just hoping since they won this year that that person should be the winner for next year.

I was very happy to see that Coca won for Entertainer of the Year, she was most deserving. And also, that JohnPaul’s won for Show Bar of the Year.

Congratulations to all the winners for jobs well done!!

Welcome Alexandria, LA  

Last issue forgot to welcome the new kid on the block, or in the paper, Jodi Belgrad as the new correspondent for the Olympus Bar in Alexandria, LA. Don’t know how big Alexandria is but, they are already having oil wrestling and wet underwear contests, unfortunately they don’t do that here in New Orleans they just complain.

Was glad to read in your article, about C.J. Jackson’s advice and thoughts about “drag”, and I must say a person after my own heart, sometimes these “girls” just don’t get it. They don’t know how to separate the real world from the make believe. But, Jodi, who was the lesbian you were talking about with the fashion faux pas, and what exactly was she wearing????? Anyway just wanted to welcome you to the paper, and just keep it coming in your own thoughts and words. Good luck girl.

Sordid Lives & Friday Night Lights  

Had the distinct pleasure to meet Liz Mikel, from Sordid Lives and Friday Night Lights on Sunday night at the Oz Show at 8pm. She happened to be seated next to me on the balcony when Blanche Debris was screaming at me about someone who had ruined her steps from the night before. Miss Mikel introduced herself to me and we took some pictures (next issue) and she was telling me that she was here to do a benefit at the Le Petit Theatre on Thursdays, so it hit. Though he started 50 minutes late and held forth for an hour and half with hit after hit. Though he started 50 minutes late (Green went over by a half hour), nobody seemed to care as that just meant the party would go on that much longer. Some might call Ritchie a bit slick but she still an enthusiastic professional after 25+ years of being a star is no mean achievement. Radiating charisma, he seemed to be singing “You Are the One, Tendler, Stuck On You, Seal On, You Sail On, Running with the Night, Commodores medley (Three Times a Lady, Easy, Just to be Close to You, etc.) and many more right to you. The only disappointing moment of the evening was when I went to one of the Superlounges to hear the legendary gospel group the Blind Boys of Alabama and there was hardly anybody there. When they came on, their leader quipped, “I can see the crowd hasn’t gotten here yet from Al Green.” Though their audience eventually grew to several dozen people, they deserved better. For the audience, however, it was like getting a private concert by musical royalty.

An early morning flight forced me to leave before Maze featuring Frankie Beverly came on but I hope to be back next year to see this perennial closing night act. Two things to remember: Budget permitting, get floor seats as the performers look like ants from the loge even with the help of video screens. And no matter how hot it is outside, wear a long sleeve shirt cause they keep it COLD inside for the benefit of the performers. Otherwise, have fun. If you don’t, you’ll have no one to blame but yourself!!

Sordid Lives & Friday Night Lights  

will be made as to what the theme, colors, song, poster, and sponsors will be by Southern Decadence Grand Marshals 2009’s Title Toulose and Paloma. You can also go online to SouthernDecadence.COM and find out most the most up-to-date schedule of events. Many bars are planning on lots of special things as they feel that this will be one of the biggest years to date. Let us hope and pray that it won’t be as hot as it is now, however let it be nice and warm so we can have a fabulous parade and a big turnout of people that want to come and party. As I said last time, I want it to be hot enough. I want to see lots of naked men and I mean lots.

Well, I’m off on another trip to the Windy City for Halsted St. Market Days, August 1st/2nd. This is the time of the year when the gay section of town closes down the street for 8 blocks and has a street fair dedicated to the gay life-style. They also have 4 stages that are set up that feature more than 40 musical acts, many of which are top-name, national headliners. This year some of those acts include: Kristine W, En Vogue, CeCe Peniston, Kathy Sledge, Jody Watley, Abba Band, Linda Clifford, Village People, and several TBA. (Sounds like a Disco Dream come true.) I’ll be there and taking pictures and enjoying being in the heat without humidity. It will be a fast two days, but will make the rounds to see my friends and go shopping. Am meeting up with Brian Peterson, aka Sadie Shepherd, to go jewelry shopping and to have lunch at the best pizza place ever. And this time I’m going to try and take some pictures when I go through the swamps on the train.

Be Cool!! And remember: “It’s not the heat, it’s the stupidity!”

P.S. To Blanche Debris: Just to let you know that Sunday when you were complaining about not winning any of the GAA awards, I have found for you that the Gambit is taking a poll for the Best of New Orleans, and there are several categories you could get: Best Local Scandal, Big Easy Roderg, Best Tourist Activity, Best Blog, and The Best Public Spat. Good luck girl, you can work on these and by next year you might be ready for GAA. Love ya!!
22nd GAA Gala raises $3,587 for Buzzy's Boys & Girls hosted at Oz ~ New Orleans ~ Photos by Regina Adams, Ambush, Gary Glitter

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Entertainer of the Year 2008 Nicole Fox from Baton Rouge

Max, Top 5 DJ Finalist Myke, Myke's Mom, Scully's Records' Scott, Top 5 Hair Salon Finalist Bobby Blue's Scott, & Myke's Dad

Randy, Top 5 GLBT Business Finalist Rab Dab's Dave, & winner Alternatives' Philip & Jack

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SOAK UP THE RAYS!
DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY!

WINNER! “Places Not To Bring Your Parents”
2006 & 2007 Independent News

WINNER! “Best Dance Club”
2007 Pensacola News Journal

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WEEKLY LINEUP

MONDAY • Urban/Hip-Hop with DJ Bunnie Hopson and The Penny Holliday Show @ Midnight

TUESDAY • DRAG BINGO! with Lauren Mitchell 10PM-Midnight

WEDNESDAY & SUNDAY • DRINK & DROWN!

THURSDAY • “Heart to Heart” Show @ Midnight with Valerie & Monica Heart! DJ Bunnie Hopson

FRIDAY • DRAG BINGO! with Lauren Mitchell 6-8PM

BOYS NIGHT OUT! $2 WELL & DOMESTIC BEER FOR THE BOYS UNTIL MIDNIGHT!

DJ Jay-R & LJ Richard J.

SATURDAY • DJ Dewight Barkley & LJ Richard J.
Plenty of Events & Parties

I do hope everyone is trying to stay cool and keep the heat from getting to you. Plenty of Events & Parties are happening throughout the summer. But the heat is here to stay for the rest of the summer. Time has a habit of flying by and before you know it, we will be rolling into the holidays. The heat will continue to burn. But there are plenty of events and parties throughout the summer to keep you from becoming idle.

How did you spend your Independence Day? Well for me, the Fourth of July was filled with merriment, patriotism and a little bit of decadence. All going to prove that no matter what anyone says and the problems we have in our government and economy, we are still live in one of the greatest countries in the world.

My holiday started off with a bang when I attended Sheepdust and Lester Perkins' Fourth of July Bash at the Palm Palace right off of Bayou St. John. This pool party and picnic was right out of the pages of Southern Living. The picnic was held in their sprawling backyard which is right on the banks of Bayou St. John. The exquisitely manicured oasis was the perfect spot to host this event with lots of shade provided by their many trees, a beautiful breeze off the water and winding paths through their tranquil garden. The pool also provided an excellent way to cool off from the sun. The drinks flowed graciously. And the Southern home cooking feast which included fried chicken, okra, Lester's cornbread and biscuits, peach cobbler and pecan pie would have made Paula Deen proud. Who knew that Lester was a master chef.

That was truly my favorite part of the afternoon was getting acquainted with new people and having a chance to catch up with people I haven’t spoken with in forever. There were so many people at this event from the gay community that I had never met before. Thanks Lester and Sheep, I’ll see you next year.

After my afternoon of fun in the sun, I did a quick costume change and was off to my next destination. I was joined by my friend Doctor Ben (or Curly Sue as he was affectionately dubbed by the wonderful Robin Malta) and his girlfriend Mollie as we went to fellow Ambugh writer Brian Sands third floor apartment with a great view of the French Quarter. Brian celebrated the holiday by hosting a Vietnamese inspired soiree. There was plenty of sushi, oriental delicacies and sake to get everyone in the Independence Day spirit. At nine, everyone moved to Brian’s balcony to get a perfect view of the fireworks which illuminated the sky. I have to say that the view of the fireworks display above the rooftops of the French Quarter was memorable.

After watching a pretty decent fireworks show, we continued our patriotic escapade to a party hosted by two wonderful women Beth and Pauline who moved to the French Quarter from California after retirement. To say that there home is something out of the pages of Architectural Digest is an understatement.

It was a showplace with a courtyard which was a haven unto itself complete with pool, Jacuzzi and guest house. One of the highlights of the party was the hottie bartender Eric who was making watermelon mojitos. Very good, after three of them, I thought I was beginning to see my forefathers, till I realized I actually was in Good Friends.

Again, at each party we met many new and interesting people. Well after doing the house party scene, I was off to Rusty LaRoux’s show at Big Daddy’s. If you have never been to Big Daddy’s in the Marigny then put it on your list. This neighborhood bar located at the corner of Royal and Franklin Streets, oozes character, as well as colorful characters. I love to go there for their show nights every other Saturday if nothing more to people watch. But Rusty’s cast of show girls always livens the crowd and this Fourth of July show was a crowd pleaser. Filled to capacity with locals, both straight and gay, the show opened with Princess Stepheaney doing her best Martha Washington (or Barbara Bush depending on how you look at it) impression in a red, white and blue star spangled outfit that would make Betsy Ross do somersaults in her grave. Then she was followed by Bliss who did a Beyonce number to celebrate her performing at Essence that weekend. As always rounding out the cast of showgirls was the incomparable Miss Mandy Marcell, Opal Vanderhurst and Ava Sinclair.

Not only was The Zoo Revue non-stop entertainment, but they had lots of “straight” boys who stumbled in from Mimi’s across the street. I love in a holiday that ends in fireworks!

From Writers to Street Performers

New Orleans is one of the greatest cities for artists in the world. From writers to street performers, this city acts as a muse for many people. I have recently discovered a new artist living in the gay community that has combined his love for art with fashion. Philip Pizzi is the creative mind behind Cuff It Out which specializes in designer leather cuffs for men and women.

Okay by discovering, I mean my friend Laura and I stumbled into Napoleon’s which oozes art and saw these gorgeous designer leather cuffs displayed behind the bar. After admiring the cuffs, we met the designer. Philip who just so happens to also be Napoleon’s Itch’s main bartender. After looking at his portfolio, he customized a cuff with the seven deadly sins, which I recently wore to the Tales of the Cocktail Seven Deadly Sins sold out party.

Philip starts his process of creating these one of a kind cuffs by hand-picking the best quality hides available in the country. The evolution of his cuffs are custom in their design, cutting, tooling and finishing. All of his work are signed and numbered. My “Seven Deadly Sins” is an artist’s proof which adds to the value of having a PZ cuff. I now own two PZ cuffs and after the compliments I received on my custom piece, will definitely be adding to my collection.

So stop in and check out Philip’s work at Napoleon’s Itch or Rab Dab on Royal Street. He is a talented and after the compliments I received on my custom piece, will definitely be adding to my collection.

The P-Town Murders

S o you may remember a few issues ago, I talked about attending the Saints and Sinners writing conference. Well one of the writers I met was Jeffrey Round who made a splash with his debut mystery novel, The P-Town Murders. I have to recommend this book for anyone who wants a fun summer read while at the beach or on the plane while traveling. The plotline of this gay themed murder mystery is pretty basic, someone dies, hero comes in to search for clues, meets many people who all have reason for murder, then some more death and the culprit is identified.

The story revolves around gay underagent Bradford Fairfax whose ex-boyfriend Ross Pretty has just died under suspicious circumstances in all places the gay mecca in the country. Fairfax is sort of like a gay James Bond who works for a shadowy security section of the government. There are plenty of possible suspects which make the read even more fun. I have always loved murder mysteries ever since a young age when I read the Hardy Boys and Agatha Christie is one of my favorites. I highly advise reading this book on the camp factor alone from the mysterious drag queens to the over the top male baddie. This books screams summer fun. Round is a accomplished writer who keeps the reader interested by interweaving pop culture and current topical gossip in his storyline.

The book also contains lots of descriptive narrative on the male physique as well as a few juicy erotic scenes. The author definitely has a talent on writing about the male body. So when you are thinking about that book to lay on the beach pretending to read while gawking at the array of hot men that pass you by, may I suggest The P-Town Murders you will not be disappointed. For this book and other gay and lesbian writers, check out FAB (Faubourg Marigny Arts & Books). In a world of Borders and Barnes and Noble’s, please try to support our local gay and lesbian book store. Enjoy the read.

Philip Pizzi of Cuff It Out at Napoleon’s Itch

[continued on 26]
4 GREAT EVENTS
IN THE BIG EASY
ALL FOR CHARITY

NEW ORLEANS

OCT 29 - NOV 1  COSTUME PARTY ON HALLOWEEN NIGHT
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