New Orleans own Maybelline Maskara, a representative of Miss Gay Lafayette 1st Alternate, went on to win Miss Gay Louisiana America in competition with fourteen other contestants in Baton Rouge. It was Maskara's first state competition, and now will represent Louisiana along with 1st Alternate Athena Campbell in the upcoming Miss Gay America Pageant. As Miss Gay Louisiana America, Maskara reportedly received a $1,200 cash prize package, along with crown, plaque, jewelry and makeup. For additional information on the pageant, visit MissGayLouisianaAmerica.INFO.

A benefit to help defray the cost of sending Miss Gay Louisiana America Maybelline Maskara to Miss Gay America is set for Saturday, October 1st, 9pm, at Show Bar of the Year JohnPaul’s in New Orleans.

Josie Mae Cotton is honored with the first BELT (Bouvier, Elizabeth/Leggio/Tony) Life of the Party Award at the first Gay Depreciation Awards hosted by Elizabeth Bouvier and Tony Leggio at JohnPaul’s in New Orleans. (Photo courtesy of Clarence Denenea: 4th Alternate Gia Giavanni (Miss Gay Olympus America), 3rd Alternate Mercedes Ellis Loreal (Miss Gay New Orleans), 2010 Miss Gay Louisiana America Zhane Kennedy, 1st Alternate Athena Campbell (Miss Gay Capital City America), 2011 Miss Gay Louisiana America Maybelline Maskara (Representative of 1st Alternate Miss Gay Lafayette Pageant), 2nd Alternate Dextaci (Miss Gay LakeShore America), & 2011 Miss Gay America Coll Collins)

Petronius Princesse for Life Princesse Stephany is presented a birthday surprise at Petronius’ Queen of Desserts by Queen Petronius L Bootsie Deville. Hosted at Kajun’s Pub, the krew held a marveous event with a show interlaced with dessert auctions, all benefitting the krewe’s 51st bal masque on January 28, 2012. For additional information on the krew, visit KrewofPetronius.ORG
The Bar of New Traditions

SHOW BAR of the YEAR

A Neighborhood Bar
JohnPaulsBar.COM

Thursday, Sept. 29th
> 8:30pm “OUTRAGEOUS” with Tittic & Electra
Outrageous Trivia, Outrageous Comedy, Outrageous Drag, Outrageous Contest
Free Gifts & Giveaways during the show

Friday, Sept. 30th > 10:30pm Benefit for Bartender Bobby Fisher
starring the casts of FourPlay, Golden Age Revue, Opal's Follies, Engender & Outrageous

Saturday, Oct. 1st > 8am-12noon Big Easy Stompers Garage Sale
> 9pm Benefit to send Maybelline Maskara to Miss Gay America
starring newly crowned Miss Gay Louisiana America Maybelline Maskara & Guests
> 11pm Marcy Marcell's Golden Age Revue
Bringing A World of Entertainment from New Orleans
hosted by Princesse Stephanie with ZsaZsa d'LaHor, Regina Adams, Eva Las Vegas,
Raven Kennedy & Guests

Sunday, October 2nd > 5pm Opal's Follies
hosted by Opal Masters with MC Tony Leggio starring Deja Deja-Vue', Gizelle Bouvier,
Cathy Fox & Georgeanna Belle

Monday, Oct. 3rd > 9:30pm Engender
starring Corynne Synclaire Deville, Reinita Synclaire Deville, Monica Synclaire Kennedy,
ZsaZsa D'LaHor, Wendy G Kennedy, Dante Angelus Deville

Thursday, Oct. 6th > 9:30pm Traveling Karaoke
between JohnPaul's & the Phoenix

Friday, Oct. 7th
> 10pm FourPlay with Elizabeth Bouvier
starring Lauren Brown, Tami Tarmac & Dominique DeLorean with DJ Richie Rich

Saturday, Oct. 8th
> 9pm-1am Big Easy Stompers Country Western Dance
$5 Beer Bust

Thanks Jeff & Tony for a great Gay Depreciation Awards Ceremony.
JohnPaul's-Proud Recipient of Gay Scandal/Drama Award!
James Buchanan: America's first gay president?
by Timothy Cwiek, Exclusively for Ambush Mag, National Gay History Project

More than 150 years before America elected its first black president, Barack Obama, it most likely had its first gay president, James Buchanan (1791-1868). Buchanan, a Democrat from Lancaster County, PA, was the 15th president of the United States, and a lifelong bachelor.

Historian James W. Loewen has done extensive research into Buchanan’s personal life, and he’s convinced Buchanan was gay.

Loewen is the author of the acclaimed book Lies Across America, which examines how historical sites inaccurately portray figures and events in America’s past.

“I’m sure that Buchanan was gay,” Loewen said. “There is clear evidence that he was gay. And since I haven’t seen any evidence that he was heterosexual, I don’t believe he was bisexual.”

According to Loewen, Buchanan shared a residence with William Rufus King, a Democratic senator from Alabama, for several years in Washington, D.C.

Loewen said contemporary records indicate the two men were inseparable, and wags would refer to them as “the Siamese twins.”

Loewen also said Buchanan was “fairly open” about his relationship with King, causing some colleagues to view the men as a couple.

For example, Aaron Brown, a prominent Democrat, writing to Mrs. James K. Polk, referred to King as Buchanan’s “better half.” “His wife” and “Aunt Fancy…rigged out in her best clothes.”

In 1844, when King was appointed minister to France, he wrote Buchanan, “I am selfish enough to hope you will not be able to procure an associate who will cause you to feel no regret at our separation.”

Loewen also said a letter Buchanan wrote to a friend after King went to France shows the depth of his feeling for King.

“I am now solitary and alone, having no companion in the house with me.” Buchanan wrote. “I have gone a wooing to several gentlemen, but have not succeeded with any one of them. I feel that it is not good for man to be alone; and should not be astonished to find myself married to some old maid who can nurse me when I am sick provide good dinners for me when I am well, and not expect from me any very ardent or romantic affection.”

Loewen said their relationship—though interrupted due to foreign-service obligations—ended only with King’s death in 1853.

In the late 1990s, Loewen visited Wheatland, the mansion in Lancaster, PA, where Buchanan spent his later years.

Loewen said he asked a staff member at Wheatland if Buchanan was gay, and the reply was: “He most definitely was not.”

Loewen said the staff pointed to a portrait of Ann Coleman, the daughter of a wealthy iron maker, whom Buchanan was engaged to briefly in 1819—shortly before he committed suicide.

However, Loewen scoffed at the staff’s suggestion that the brief engagement to Coleman proved Buchanan was homosexual.

Loewen said Buchanan showed little interest in Coleman, appeared more interested in her fortune, and possibly contributed to her suicide due to his emotional detachment.

Patrick Clarke, the director of Wheatland, said the staff now take a neutral stance on Buchanan’s sexual or affectional preference.

“There’s no solid proof that Buchanan was heterosexual, nor is there solid proof that he was homosexual,” Clarke said. “If we ever come up with a smoking gun that proves it one way or the other, I would definitely encourage our staff to share it with the public.”

But, he said Ann Coleman’s portrait no longer is displayed at Wheatland.

The tours focus mainly on the mansion’s décor and activities that took place there during the later years of Buchanan’s life, he added.

Wheatland also has about 45 volunteer tour guides, and to Clarke’s knowledge, none of the guides is openly gay.

Clarke said he wouldn’t object if a volunteer offered a personal opinion that Buchanan was gay, if asked by a visitor.

“When you have 50 minutes to take people through a nine-room house, there’s only so much you can discuss,” Clarke said. “But if the question is raised, the guide may express a personal opinion.”

Loewen said many historians rate Buchanan as one of the worst U.S. presidents. Buchanan was part of the pro-slavery wing of the Democratic Party, and corruption plagued his administration.

But Loewen said those flaws shouldn’t discourage members of the LGBT community from acknowledging Buchanan’s status as a gay man.

“Lots of gay people have been exemplary,” he said. “Let’s look at Walt Whitman. For my money, he’s the best poet in the history of the country. But we also have to acknowledge the failures. If we only admit that really great people are gay, what kind of history is that? And how is that believable? It’s ridiculous. We have to tell it like it was.”

As a heterosexual male, Loewen added, he has no hidden agenda in outing Buchanan.

“I’m not gay,” Loewen said. “I don’t run around trying to find gay folks or black folks underneath every rock. But I’m not going to ignore clear evidence.”

Timothy Cwiek holds a bachelor of art degree in U.S. history from West Chester University. He has written for Philadelphia Gay News since the late 1970s and written freelance articles for numerous publications on topics such as the Lincoln assassination, the Kennedy family, the shootings at Kent State University, first ladies and the macrobiotic movement in America.

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Princesse Stephaney
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10:30pm
Variety Show with
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Johnny Passion
& Guests

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under the gaydar

by Tony Leggio
Email: tonymgp@hotmail.com
Photo by: Larry Graham, GrahamStudioOne.COM

Book of the Month: September
I have always been a fan of horror writers, from Stephen King to Clive Barker and especially my pick for September, author Dean Koontz. I find that horror novelists seem to have it much harder trying to convey that eerie and disturbing atmosphere like in the movies. But Koontz has done an amazing job with his newest novel What The Night Knows.

The story revolves around Detective John Calvino who survived the massacre of his family by psychopath Alton Turner Blackwood. Fourteen years later, John killed this maniac who had slain four families previously. Now two decades later, the murders have begun again and John fears his own family is once again threatened by a seemingly unstoppable killer. With lots of thrills, Koontz spins his tale with precision as he ratchets up the suspense to a frenzied and brutal climax.

Mixing paranoia with sheer unadulterated terror, Koontz truly knows what scares you. The ruthlessness of this killer along with the paranormal aspects makes this a suspenseful journey for the reader. So if you want a great read guaranteed to have you afraid of the things that go bump in the night, pick up a copy of What The Night Knows. For more information on the author and his novels, go to www.deankoontz.com.

West We Go!

The Mystical Krew of Satyricon is going west literally; Westwego that is. It is not too late to get your tickets for the opening night of The Drowsy Chaperone on Thursday, September 29 at the Westwego Performing Arts Theatre. The show is directed by Gary Rucker with choreography by Kelly Fouchi and stars Brian Peterson, Ricky Graham and Janet Shea.

Tickets are $30 for this wonderfully zany musical comedy. To buy tickets or for more information, call 504.525.4498. The Westwego Performing Arts Theatre is located at 177 Sala Avenue.

Movie Review: Straw Dogs
Before beginning this review, be forewarned I am slightly jaded. Anything that features the holiness Alexander Skarsgard in it, I will love. That being said, I went to see the remake of Straw Dogs, the classic 1971 Sam Peckinpah psychological thriller that starred Dustin Hoffman and Susan George, with some trepidation. I find most remakes (or retoling) quite unnecessary when the original was such a huge hit. But since I had not seen the original, I had no preconceived notions.

Replacing Hoffman and George this time is James Marsden and Kate Bosworth. They play David and Amy Sumner, a Hollywood screenwriter and his actress wife, who return to the Deep South to prepare her family home for sale after her father’s death. Once there, tensions build in their marriage and conflicts arise with the locals that include Amy’s ex-boyfriend Charlie played by Skarsgard.

Rob Lurie wrote and directed this remake which was controversial when it was first released in the seventies. Unfortunately audiences are so desensitized to violence these days, that the movie was actually milder than I expected. But Lurie does a great job at building the tension to the unflinching climax that had me on the edge of my seat. The leads were all very strong, as well as several of the secondary characters. James Woods’ turn as a drunken and brutal ex-football coach which bullies the entire town is sheer brilliance and Dominic Purcell is noteworthy as Jeremy Niles, a mentally handicapped man who is very reminiscent of Lennie Small from Of Mice And Men.

The movie is owned by Marsden who competently fills Hoffman’s shoes as a man pushed to the brink by forces he cannot control. For those who love preconceived notions. But Lurie does a great job at building the tension to the unflinching climax that had me on the edge of my seat. The leads were all very strong, as well as several of the secondary characters. James Woods’ turn as a drunken and brutal ex-football coach which bullies the entire town is sheer brilliance and Dominic Purcell is noteworthy as Jeremy Niles, a mentally handicapped man who is very reminiscent of Lennie Small from Of Mice And Men.

The Drowsy Chaperone is a frenzied and brutal climax.

Concert Review: Katy Perry
There are two things that make a concert experience outstanding in my opinion. The first is the performer’s ability to connect with the audience and the second is the entertainment value of their actual show. This month Katy Perry delivered both in spades. Now I know she is very pop culture and her songs appeal to the tween girl set, but I can’t help it, I love her music. She is fun, flirty, upbeat and just downright charming.

I went to her concert at the New Orleans Arena with my friends Aysmley and Erin who also brought along her parents and of course, the gays. Perry's California Girls tour was more than I expected. Her backup dancers have the incredible stamina, those guys and girls never stopped moving. They literally danced their asses off. They are also one of the main appeals to the show. Their vitality and fluid movements enhanced Katy’s songs bringing them to life vividly on the stage. From her first hit I Kissed A Girl to her concert namesake song, she brought the house down singing all her top ten tunes and a cover or two.

The stage set was a candy themed explosion, as a storyline mashup of the Wizard of Oz and Alice in Wonderland played overhead in between the songs. And with all great divas, her costume changes were fabulous. She connected with the audience even shouting out the Saints score during her performance. Katy embraced our city and made every person who attended the concert feel special and her knockout guitar solo levitating above the crowd was very cute. So if you have a chance to check her California Girls concert out in another city, by all means by your ticket now. For more information on Katy Perry, tour dates and anything else, go to www.katyperry.com.

You're A Depreciated Winner!
The Gay Depreciation Awards happened this month to a packed house at John Paul’s and it was a rollicking success filled with great entertainers, wonderful acceptance speeches and hysterical presenters. Elizabeth Bouvier and I hosted the show and we could not have asked for a more exciting crowd. Everyone (well most everyone) accepted their award graciously. Entertainers that evening were James Marsden, Philip Gordon and Derek Stevens singing live. Guest presenters included Tiffany Alexander, Rip and Marsha Naquin-Delain, Cathy Fox, Barry Rutherford, Richie Rich, Princessce Stephen, Persana Shoulbs, Rikki Gay and Opal Masters.

And who were our winners for the evening. The awards went to:

Most Boring Gay Event: New Orleans Gay Pride
Worst Bar Bathroom: Big Daddy’s Hustler of the Year: Ashlee the Traffic Trannie
Player of the Year: Richie Rich

[continued on 12]