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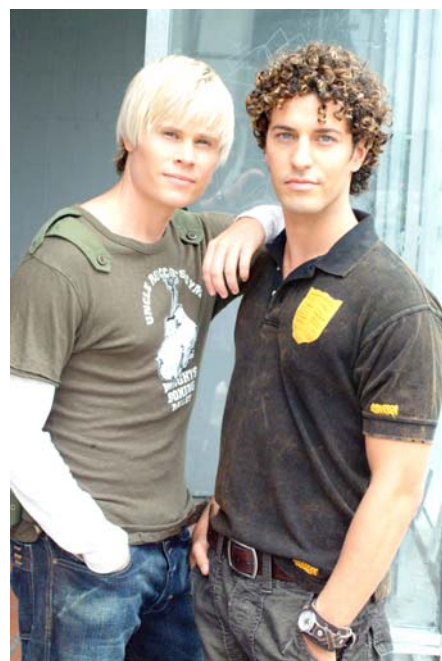


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the "official dish" ...from 4 clubs, at pride events, and even in churches. The movie takes a look at how their openness about their sexuality often pits them against evangelical Christianity, while their faith at times meets with resistance from the gay community. As Jason & deMarco prepare to release a new album to appeal to a wider mainstream audience, *We're All Angels* turns the spotlight on how they integrate their sexuality and spirituality within their relationship and professional careers. Jason & deMarco have had the opportunity to perform at



Jason & deMarco
 Photo by Scott Ashton Photography

numerous high profile events including the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Awards in Los Angeles, the Matthew Shepard Foundation's annual gala in Denver, and the 2006 Human Rights Campaign Gala at the Waldorf Astoria New York. They have also been a part of the Human Rights Campaign star-studded benefit two-pack CD album celebrating marriage equality, *Love Rocks*, alongside artists such as Christina Aguilera, Pink, and The Dixie Chicks.

Friday Night Before Mardi Gras Has Awarded More Than \$115,000 to Charities

Friday Night Before Mardi Gras (FNBMG) has awarded more than \$115,000 to local HIV/AIDS charities over the past 10 years. This year's recipients of FNBMG's annual grants were the NO/AIDS Task Force Food for Friends and Care Van projects, and AIDSLaw of Louisiana. The NO/AIDS Task Force projects received \$8,300 and AIDSLaw of Louisiana received \$1,500. Organized and incorporated 11 years ago as a very unique 501(c)(3) charitable organization, FNBMG is dedicated solely to raising funds for HIV/AIDS charities and service organizations. Funding for the annual charitable gifts are derived from donations and the proceeds from one single fund-raising event held on the Friday nights just before Mardi Gras. These events are often referred to as FNBMG Extravanzas.

Recipients of funds derived from Extravanza XI this year are AIDSLaw of Louisiana, Belle Reve of New Orleans,



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Buzzy's Boys and Girls, Forum for Equality Foundation, NO/AIDS Task Force Food for Friends Project, and Project Lazarus.

This year's FNBMG circus-themed Extravanza XI will be at the Audubon Tea Room on February 12 from 9pm until midnight. All participants are encouraged to arrive in costumes or drag. Otherwise, formal wear is required. These parties, open to public have been dubbed, "The Mardi Gras Ball Where Everyone Is The Tableau".

Extravanzas always included an open bar, a wonderful buffet, live entertainment, music, dancing, complimentary professional photographs, a silent auction and great prizes for the best costumes. The organizers expect that Extravanza XI will be a sold-out event this year. All those interested in attending should make their purchases as early as possible. Individual tickets and Host, Contributor, Benefactor and Angel packages are all available at this time.

[continued on 8]

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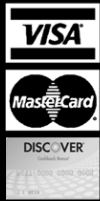
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11pm **Marcy Marcell's Golden Age Revue**
starring Marcy Marcell, Princesse Stephaney, Regina Adams,
Opal Masters, Zsa Zsa d'LaHor & Linda Lucky



Marcy Marcell



● Sunday, Jan. 10th

1-4pm **Lords of Leather** presents
A Royal Leather Tea

honoring Lord King & Consort XXVII & the Reigning Monarchs of
Amon Ra, Armeinius, Mwindo, Petronius, Queenateenas & Satyricon
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5-7pm Friday Night Before Mardi Gras Rush Party

featuring Princesse Stephaney,
Opal Masters, Elizabeth Bouvier,
Marcy Marcell, Zsa Zsa d'LaHor,
Rhonda Roget & Tami Tarmac



Princesse Stephaney



Elizabeth Bouvier

● Friday, Jan. 15th

9pm **FourPlay**

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the "official" dish ...from 6

To increase awareness of FNBMG and Extravaganza XI, FNBMG is hosting two socials this. On Sunday, January 10, a social is being held at JohnPaul's Bar beginning at 5pm. A social especially for the women in the community will be held on Wednesday, January 6. More details about both of these events are available on the FNBMG web site. Both events are open to the public.

Please visit FNBMG's official website (fridaynightbeforemardigras.com) to learn more about FNBMG and Extravaganza XI. All visitors are encouraged to sign up on the web site for email updates (as always, your personal information will be kept private).

Gay Games Seeks Contributions for Scholarship Athletes

San Francisco, CA - Thirty four (34) lesbian & gay athletes from countries as diverse as South Africa, China, Chile and The Philippines have even greater reason to celebrate the New Year. The international Federation of Gay Games has awarded scholarships to these 34 sports & cultural participants so they can attend and participate in the 2010 Gay Games in Cologne, Germany, from July 31 to August 7, 2010.

Ten (10) additional deserving applicants from Indonesia, Jamaica, Mexico, Pakistan, Philippines, South Africa, and Sri Lanka have been approved, but won't be able to go to Germany unless \$20,000 in additional scholarship funds are raised. (Games Cologne is separately funding some athletes from Eastern Europe.) Contributions can be made online at <http://www.gaygames.com/en/donate/>.

"Many of these athletes face challenges that most of us will never experience," said Paul Oostenbrug, co-chair of the FGG Scholarship

Committee. "Where being openly gay or lesbian can risk life or limb, participating in the Gay Games may seem like a luxury. But the experience is extremely moving for them, and offers our scholarship athletes a chance to learn how the LGBT sports movement can be a vehicle for change in their own community. Without a full scholarship, participation would be impossible."

Gay Games scholarships include travel, room and board, and waived registration fees, plus special leadership and organizational development programs designed to help participants build local capacity for LGBT sports & cultural programs. The FGG's Scholarship Fund works in cooperation with the host city scholarship program. For the 2010 Gay Games, Games Cologne is separately funding as many as 200 participants from Eastern Europe. There were more than 100 scholarship recipients at the 2006 Gay Games in Chicago. [See Photo Below]

Approved and funded scholarship athletes are from countries like South Africa, Argentina, Chile, China, Jamaica, Kenya, Philippines, Taiwan, and Brazil, and include the Chosen FEW, the South African women's soccer team that won people's hearts - and a bronze medal - at the 2006 Gay Games in Chicago. The 10 athletes on the waiting list are from countries as diverse as Indonesia, Jamaica, Mexico, Pakistan, Philippines, South Africa, and Sri Lanka.

The ten (10) "waiting list" applicants have been notified that their applications were approved but that the FGG lacks the funding to be able to bring them to Germany. The FGG has redoubled its efforts to secure the funding and is asking individuals and companies to make a donation to the FGG Scholarship Fund so that the final group of athletes on the waiting list can be fully funded. If more than \$20,000 is donated, additional scholarships may be awarded, or the FGG will use the funds to support Games Cologne's efforts in Eastern Europe.

As a nonprofit tax-exempt 501c organization, donations to the Federation of Gay Games can be included as an income tax deduction in the United States of America, subject to certain limitations. Check with your attorney or accountant for full details.

Lords of Leather Royalty Appreciation Party set for Jan. 10

The Lords of Leather honor the reigning royalty of the local gay Mardi Gras krewes at their annual Royalty Appreciation Party, A Royal Leather Tea, on Sunday, January 10. Feted will be the royalty from Amon Ra, Armeinius, Mwindo, Petronius, Queenateenas and Satyricon. Lord King XXVI and Lord Consort XXVI will be the special guests of honor.

The gala afternoon event is scheduled for 1 to 4pm in the Victorian Galleries at JohnPaul's, 940 Elysian Fields. As part of the festivities, the krewe will also be holding its annual

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Lord Consort & King XXVI Bruce Orgeron & Gary Vandeventer, Queen Amon Ra XLIV Rhonda Roget, King Cake Queen XVI Tami Tarmac & Queen Amon Ra XLIII and King Cake Queen XVII-Elect Opal Masters

Mardi Gras Wreath auction. Attendees can bid on fabulous Mardi Gras decorations created or donated by the members of the krewe. Tickets are \$10 donation at the door and include hors d'oeuvres and wine tasting. Formal leather or cocktail attire is requested. For more information visit LordsOfLeather.COM.



sappho psalm

by Toni J.P. Pizanie
Email: psalmwrite@att.net

Hello 2010, Farewell 2009

As I wrote on **FaceBook**, all I feel like doing is watching a movie, smoking a cigarette and drinking coffee. Now that's depressing and I know the reason. Ever had someone in your life that you thought was a good friend turn on you? That happened to me a few months ago and this day I am mourning the loss... I see this person once a week at church whether I want to or not, and his knife in my back hasn't bothered me until now. What I'd like to be writing is a letter to "old chicken queen" asking what made him so mean-spirited.

Sometimes at the end of a year, I find

it helps me to start the New Year fresh if I can confront any problems that linger in the old year. Even with all the health problems that plagued me the first eight months of '09, I am very thankful for and happy with 2009. I'm really lucky to have only one jackass to complain about; and so many friends to be thankful for.

Christmas was good. Spent it with the Thompson's again this year where I knew there would be great food, thoughtful gifts and interesting people. Christmas Eve Dr. Amy and Bud took me to Luke's for a wonderful lunch. I received calls and letters from out of town friends so I know that I am loved and thought of. That's nice.

The day after Christmas Julie and I

did our annual lunch and a movie. I do not recommend *Up in the Air* as there was no story even though the acting was exceptionally good. The movie received four stars, Julie told me so I was willing to give it a try. Julie and I were both disappointed.

In a few days from now we have a date to see another movie and try a new restaurant. I get to pick the next movie which always frightens Julie because I like action, adventure films and she isn't too keen on them. She is a really good sport about my movie choices so I'm not going to make her suffer this time. I've picked *Nine* which I think she'll enjoy. (P.S. – *Nine* was great but you have to like 1962 Italian style art films.)

As I write this, Dr. Amy is in surgery for a broken arm sustained while playing football on Christmas afternoon. My question is, *Why Wasn't A Foul Called?* Her dad Charlie is still reviewing the play that took place on his front lawn. I don't know why the great minds at Ochsner had to wait five days to do the repairs but I am praying that they do a better job on her than they did on

me more than once.

It is time to look forward, and there is a lot to look forward to in 2010. I've promised myself that I would spend less time on **Facebook** games and more time going out. After the festivities of New Year's Eve and New Year's Day, I'll be looking forward to 12th Night, and attending the Forum for Equality's 12th Night Party.

2011 is a big celebration for Petronius, the 50th Anniversary, and I am rejoining since past kings and queens will be taking part in the 2011 Ball. 2010 is the build up and it should be fun. So many friends have left other krewes to join Petronius that I know I'll feel right at home again.

Preparing for Mardi Gras is exciting. I haven't a clue how active I'll be this coming year but a little something is better than nothing. I'm hoping to be back up on the **Ambush** balcony.

There are political reasons for feeling optimistic about the new year. We are closer to repealing **Don't Ask, Don't Tell** than in years past. We are closer to marriage equality for same sex couples. Transgenders are being included in legislation. And ENDA seems to be going ahead to protect Gays in the work place.

There are Gay men and women working on Capitol Hill in the offices of conservative congressmen. They are educating those who once feared and hated our community. Although these workers are conservative themselves, they are Gay and accepted as valued members of the staff.

We also have change facing us at home with the election of a new mayor and city council. I was dismayed to see/hear the latest Georges ad that slams our friend Mitch. Mudslinging should not surprise or upset me but it does. This is one reason I've stopped watching local TV. I'm tired of screaming at the TV screen, and reserve that energy for Saints games.

Saints! In my head are visions of a Super Bowl where Drew Brees vs. Payton Manning. Don't laugh. It could and may happen. The two losses we suffered in the last two games is the real reason for any depression I might be feeling. I cannot remember a time when I wasn't a Saints fan so being this close to a winning season is a thrill mixed with the fear that they are falling apart from the pressure and injuries.

Like all true fans, I believe. That is what the **Who Dat Nation** keeps writing over and over on **Facebook**.

I'm trying not to plan much beyond Mardi Gras because there is so much coming up that I want to keep my schedule open. But one important date to save is the Saturday evening before Mother's Day when PFLAG will be holding its 25th Scholarship Reception. Get your tickets early. Chairman Randy Trahan promised this will be the best event of its kind that PFLAG has hosted.

On a sad note, I send my love and best wishes to Stewart Butler who is very much under the weather. It started, I understand, from a simple insect bite which saw him hospitalized. Then there was a reaction to the drugs. I can relate to that. Stewart has a strong group of friends that are taking very good care of him. Ron assures us that Stewart will be fine in no time. Please remember him in your prayers.

It was my intentions to write about the Friday Night Before Mardi Gras organization. This is an old established group that has met for dinner, dancing and partying each year before Mardi Gras. The history and information will be my next story if I can get together with Ed sometime soon.

My best wishes for a Happy New Year!

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Le Roundup Givin' The Season Some Joy

Even though it was late after finishing up the last edition of **Ambush**, we managed to make it out to Le Roundup. It was the bar's annual Christmas blowout and was it packed wall to wall. We were greeted at the door by the ever vivacious Felina Colby Shane, definitely in the spirit of the season. You can imagine our surprise when she pointed out George Simons in the house. We haven't seen him in ages. He rarely comes to the Quarter since he retired from bar life. George managed Le Roundup for years and was Easter Grand Marshal IV along with Electra City. He looked great and we were so glad to have a chance to chat with him.

Making our way towards the back of the bar while hobnobbing with the festive crowd, we spotted Carol, one of our fav bartenders here. She was off for the night and enjoying a little party time with the rest of the gang.

A sparkling tiara caught the corner of our eye when we realized it was Deanna Ninneman. She was dazzling in her sexy holiday attire. We had to let her know about Cotton Boy. Our newest ferret owes his life to Deanna, since she rescued him from a couple who had been evicted and were about to put him on the street. She had him about a week when she heard that we had ferrets and wanted to know if we might take him in. It is not the first time we have taken in a rescue ferret, but Cotton Boy was quite squeamish and very, very thin when Deanna brought him to us on September 10th. At first he wouldn't eat and did



Cotton Boy

not want to be touched or played with. We were really worried that he might die because he was so thin. But after a couple of days with our oldest baby Queenie and her younger sister Sassy, he started to come around. Once he started eating and taking his vitamins from Mom Marsha, we both knew he was going to make it. We told Deanna, she would not even recognize him today. He has grown very long, and strong. He looks like a baby polar bear. The vitamins made his fur thick and luscious. He's all white with a small black streak on his lower back and the tip of his tail is black. Now he plays like crazy with all of us, and is cuddly and cute.

Next we caught up with Le Roundup GM Candise Holman, and owners Mark and Colette Ambrose. All three were in a jolly mood, which made the evening even more enjoyable. It was interesting to learn

about Mark's new past time, cultivating his own orchard of grapes in Mississippi. And he is doing this all by himself. He promises us a tour in the Spring to observe the progress of this endeavor. Collette is busy as ever keeping up with Little Mark who is now in kindergarten. And Candise is always running like crazy managing all three of the couple's clubs: Le Roundup, Divas and The Harem.

Special thanks to Candise, Mark and Collette for inviting us to enjoy the camaraderie of the season at one of our first hangouts when we moved to New Orleans in 1985 from Baton Rouge, Le Roundup.

We closed out the evening with a couple of nightcaps at The Double Play where we found Trevor behind the bar. He was playing all the Christmas favorites and singing right along with them. This boy has an incredible repertoire of songs that he can sing with any holiday. The Double Play is one of those famous clubs on the St. Louis Street Strip and touts itself as "The happiest bar in the French Quarter."

Monday Blues, Naw...Monday Fun

Yes, we all grew up with it. The old adage around was Monday Blues. Well, it's never blue on Monday for us with so much fun around and readily available. At the beginning of practically every week, we start out our venture at Starlight By The Park to catch up with our dear sister, Marcy Marcell. It's always the best time to catch up with the latest gossip since Marcy is showgirl extraordinaire in more shows than any other girl in The Big Easy can ever claim fame to. She's always got tales of her latest escapades or those of other delightful divas. Sometimes it's pretty, and of course, other times, it's *NOT* pretty. So if y'all want to start the week off with a laugh, get over and catch up with Miss Marcy Marcell. And before we left, two reps from the fire department arrived and picked up a truck load of toys brought in by the Toys For Tots fundraiser hosted by Starlight.

A short walk down Dumaine brings us back to Neighborhood Bar of the Year Cafe Lafitte in Exile. Did y'all know it is still Movie Night on Mondays? Yes, and it all begins at 8pm. But, if you get there earlier you might even get some hot popped theater style buttered pop corn from Bartender of the Year Jeff. The videos here are always festive and the bar still features its Bourbon Street Bailout with \$2.50 well drinks 24 hours a day from 1pm Mondays to 9pm Fridays, and 4-9pm Saturdays and Sundays. What a deal!

Tuesday Delivery Day & Countdown to Cocktail Hour

Every other Tuesday is delivery day for **Ambush** and this Tuesday was no exception. After

[continued on 12]