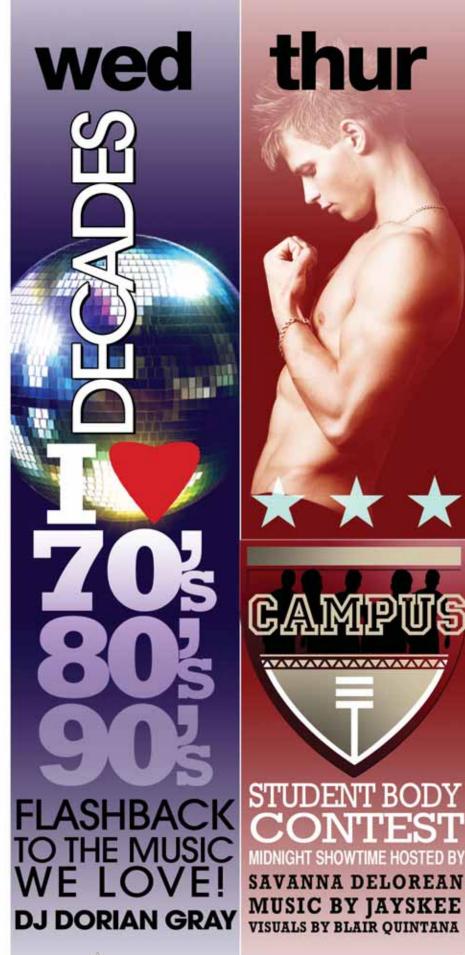


New Attitude... Upstairs at the Parade



sun



Bourbon Pub

Parade







BOURBON PUB (



JOIN US ON FACEBOOK facebook.com/bourbonpub



DJ BLAIR QUINTANA

THE BOURBON PUB 801 BOURBON STREET NEW ORLEANS 504.529.2107

Blake & Robert having a party @ B-Bob's along with Miss Cie



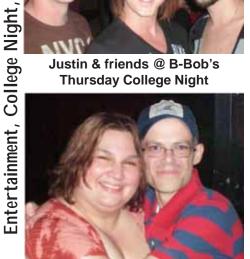
The beautiful & talented Toni Dee performs @ B-Bob's

l

Cocktails



Justin & friends @ B-Bob's **Thursday College Night**



Bob's long time bartender & DJ Leroy, hangin' out with friends & family



Miss Venus Deviss @ B-Bob's



The talented Miss Samantha Foxx performs @ B-Bob's



Happy Birthday, Keith, along with **Guthrie & Rob**



Pensacola, Florida's Emerald City DJ Jay R hangin' out @ B-Bob's for Thursday College Night



Michael & David having a cocktail @ B-Bob's



The Gulf Coast Favorite, DJ Chromactic @ B-Bob's w/Miss Cie



the pink pastor

by Rev. Clinton Crawshaw Email: pastor@bigeasymcc.com www.bigeasymcc.com

Mercy hois my neighbor? I have been rather vague about this question in the past - but the answer you give to it can either unsettle you and your whole lifestyle, or can reassure you that whatever you are doing is just fine and dandy.

We are at a real turning point as a society. For the first time the old excuse of ignorance is falling away - we now know better! We now have an approximate grasp of cosmology and our place in the universe: we understand something of the human brain, and now understand the extreme effects that chemical imbalances and genetics have upon character, mood and the ability to perform highly or otherwise in society. We realize that the differences between us genetically are trivial, and we are indeed 'brothers under the skin' - the old myths of race superiority have been shown to be mean spirited attempts to dehumanize large swathes of humanity. We understand the inherent nature of sexuality and sooner or later the 'isms' that afflict us will be banished through scientific rigor and the lack of any reasonable hiding place for ignorance and hatred. We no longer hunt witches, in the future we will no longer see and be threatened by difference like we do today rather we will recognize similarities and value diversity.

I am a great optimist; I believe that what scripture calls 'the kingdom' and what I may want to call a 'Jesus shaped future' based upon compassion, kindness, honesty and respect is our birthright, and sooner or later humanity will achieve it.

In my own lifetime we have made great strides - in law and social reform toward our community we have moved further than I ever could have hoped (but not far enough) when I came out as a frightened 14 year old in 1984.

This future rests upon who we define as neighbor. When the religious legal expert asks Jesus 'who is my neighbor' in Luke's gospel he gives an uncompromising answer-the parable of the Good Samaritan.

Familiarity has drained the story of it's potency – but to a first century Jew Samaritans were beneath contempt, and chosen by Jesus because they were the 'lowest of the low' who the Jews saw as 'God defilers' because they believed differently. Today we may choose a Muslim or a Trans woman or a gay man or some other feared and hated group to represent the core message. Of course the core message is

'everybody is your neighbor!!!' with no get out clauses.

But the story has a subtle twist at the end - neighbor status is not just by virtue of existence, Jesus asked the man who was a neighbor to the man that fell into the hands of the robbers. The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

There are 64 references to 'mercy' in The New Testament – it is presented as a foundational attribute of God, and an imperative for human behavior. The Greek word used for this in the New Testament is ëåïò, el-e-os, and means compassion, empathy, to forgive and cover mistakes and hurts - to dwell within another's reality and understand them and not to judge solely by external behavior. We all judge ourselves by our intent and everybody else by their words/actions. God sees the intent of our hearts, and we, by being called to show mercy are being called to do the same thing. We can only build 'The Kingdom' by looking through the behaviors which are nothing more than symptoms of the internal struggle, and seeing the human soul. When we look upon human hearts, external differences such as race, sexuality, creed or nationality have only peripheral impor-

The mindless reflex reactions to actions and the harsh words returned for harsh words - the executions and the slaughter, the useless attempts by our society to criminalize the broken and the mentally ill - the baying of the masses and the politicians for more and more jails and less and less money spent on the causes of dispossessed communities must end. The cycle has to be stopped by the 'responsible adult' those who claim moral superiority must show it, and not mindlessly return like for like. Mercy will set us all free even though it carries short term risks it carries the full weight of the Christian promise, and we, possibly above all communities, have most to gain from it. We will find we are treated as neighbors, even as we accept others as our neighbor.

Rev Clinton Crawshaw is the full-time pastor of The Big Easy MCC. They meet every Sunday at 1pm (liturgical service) and 5pm (larger Praise and Worship service with communion) at 1333 S. Carrollton Avenue. For full details of Christian Education classes, social functions, marriages and events, and also to check out online sermons, go to www.bigeasymcc.com. Tel: 504.214.4340 to speak to the pastor or email at revcrawshaw@yahoo.com.



Hunter & Robby @ Jules



Having a blast @ Sound Factory PJ Party



Kasi & Thomas @ Jules' **Toga Party**



Too cute, Rodney & Kyle @ Jules



Alright for that Sound Factory Pajama Party!



Kira being that wonderful host @ Sound Factory



Always cute, Ben & Mitch



Stephen, Kasi & Kim @ the Toga Party



What a great after-party at Rick's house



Mya Nicole @ Sound Factory's **Talent Show**



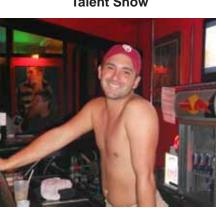
Justin & Joe, perfect match @ the Toga Party



A cute bunch @ Jules' Toga Party



Cutting up @ Sound Factory



George bartending @ Sound Factory



Trevor @ Jules' Toga Party



Hanging out @ Sound Factory



DJ Kyle D spinning the mix @ Sound Factory



What a beautiful mix @ Jules' **Toga Party**



Mitch & DJ Kyle D @ Sound Factory



Kasi, Ryan, Ronnie, Eddie, Brian & Trey @ Jules' Toga Party

Beer ...it does a body good



Renee & Joey



Eric & Dan





Dann & Eric

@



Hot body ...look out!!!



Brandi & Crystal

Hear no drag queens, see no drag

queens, speak of no drag queens



Marsheya St. Clair, the



bell of the ball

acadiana happens



by Joey Collins, Lafayette, Louisiana Email: ejcollins583@gmail.com

Iright Acadiana, is it hot enough for you? The shorts have grown shorter, the tans have become darker, and partying has just begun. Take those slutty togas off because now it's time to move this hot crazy summer right along. This week shall be short and sweet so buckle up for the ride. You're listening up with Joey Collins and here's the dish.

Bar Spill

ound Factory has very recently broken a few barriers when it hosted its Pajama Party. Bar patrons didn't have to worry about looking their best on this night when attendees showed up in their slippers, pajama pants, and t-shirts. The mood was comfortable while the crowd enjoyed the mix which was presented by DJ Kyle D. Even if you missed the comfort zone, there's still more to come. Do not forget that every Tuesday night Sound Factory hosts its talent show. This is an open night where all are welcome to show up and display his or her talent. On Saturday, June 26th, Sound Factory will host its infamous Bears on the Backside night. Odds are that you have heard many rumors of such an event and it's way past time for you to see for yourself if the rumors or true or not. On Saturday, July 3rd, the Miss Sound Factory pageant will be in full swing. Such a display of area talents will not be found anywhere else. Tease up that hair and bring out those turquoise leggings because on Saturday, July 17th, Tim Pflueger will be mixing up your favor hits from the 80's when a decade of retro returns to Sound Factory.

Jules Downtown recently hosted its Toga Party and if you missed it then you then you missed a great time. Participants went beyond their creative endeavors when they displayed some of the most immaculate togas. If you happened to stumble onto such a party then you noticed that Jules has recently updated their patio area. An intimate atmosphere has recently been created with the use of lighting and cool ceiling fans. This is the exact thing that is just in time for the days of summer. Summer is just the mood that Jules has been inspired by. On Saturday, July 17th, Jules will be hosting its annual White Party. Throughout the summer do not forget that Jules also offers karaoke on Thursday nights and daily drink specials with bar-top dancers every Saturday night. Don't forget to follow Jules on Facebook. This is the best way to keep up with daily drink specials.

Chez Gizele

ecently I took the time to peak through a window of our community and cultural past when I attended the production of Chez Gizele. Such a performance would not have been complete had I not been sitting with a few of my good friends: Trey Schmaltz, Adam Foreman, and John Landry. As the lights dimmed in the theatre, all four sat in our seats, very delicately, and with very few expectations. We were greeted with a

slide show of the actual Gizele Carriton, who in the late 1960s and early 1970s operated the very first openly gay cabaret bar in Lafayette.

Suddenly we were whisked away into a time period where diversity was not as accepting as it is today. We were introduced to Gigi aka Gizele Carriton (Stephanie Broussard) who amazed the audience with her fantastic French accent. From the moment this character stepped on stage the audience became very captive by the strong heart and openmindedness in which such a humble person could grow to display. It was not very hard to fall in love with such a main character. The handsome supporting character, Clarence (Jack Robertson), portrayed a struggle in which many find ourselves facing almost a day to day basis. The struggle for the search of acceptance amongst our family and friends runs deep in such a character when he is disowned by his own family for being openly gay.

Clarence finds himself confiding in other supporting characters such as Miss Marie (Blaine Peletier), Miss Fancy Fontenot (Gavin Willis), SoFonda Peters (Sasha St. Julien), and Miss Hannah (Pat Cravins) when they display a true family which lies deep within our own friendships in which we create. Such a display of supporting characters gave away the true feeling of a close-knit family. Such a thing is the sort of family that we often find ourselves in when we sit within the comfort of a random night with a group of close-knit friends in which we confide our deepest feelings with. No better display of sisterhood could have been displayed.

In the end, each character deals with his or her struggle for acceptance. As time passes, the group stands strong against hate, ignorance, and even murder. They continue to stand up for what they believe in and who they are. They take a stance and refuse to back down. Such a resilient display of character showcases how strong the past of our community has chosen to lead with. Without such a continuation of stronghold, we just may not be able to enjoy the opportunities in which we enjoy in everyday Acadiana today.

In the end, each character moves on with their lives. The end result is displayed in a vision of the after-life, heaven, where all are at peace and enjoying a cocktail and reminiscing with one another about the good ole days. I must admit that when such a scene was set, a tear instantly ran across my face. I couldn't help but to hide a grin which grew from cheek to cheek. It rained true to my own heart because I know that that would be my own unique heaven, simply a room filled with my closest friends. Always remember that you may not be able to choose your family but you can choose your friends. Work hard to embrace and bridge the gaps between your closest friends and those who continue to touch your life.

[continued on 35]