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## the "official" dish ...from 4

& Parade, Corner Pocket, Four Seasons & Patio Stage Bar, The Golden Lantern, Oz New Orleans

Bartender of the Year: Ashlee Logan/ Corner Pocket, Jake Morris/Four Seasons & Patio Stage Bar, Jeff Palmquist/Cafe Lafitte in Exile, Wayne Penton/Bourbon Pub & Parade, Chi-Chi Rodriguez/Oz

DJ of the Year: Deanne Cooley/Four Seasons, Dominick "Dom" Kolb/Corner Pocket, Four Seasons Kyle David/Oz, Tim Pflueger/Oz, Jonathan "JRB" Reed/Oz

Leather Bar of the Year: Double Play, GrandPre's, Mag's 940, Phoenix, Rawhide Cheridon Comedy Award: Reba Douglas, Gia GiaVanni, Persana Shoulders, Princesse Stephaney, Tittie Toulouse

Fly Fashion Glamour Award: Dominique DeLorean, Connie Hung, Monica Synclaire-Kennedy, Karli LaCorre, Aubrey Synclaire

LGBT Business of the Year: Bourbon Pride, Crescent City Tour Booking Agency, Delaney & Robb Attorneys at Law, Rab Dab Clothing & Gifts, Scully'z Recordz

Leather Person of the Year: Jason Ashford, Matthew Birkhoff, Troy Powell, Adikus Sulpizi, Gary Vandeventer

Transgender of the Year: Regina Adams, Adrian Claveria, Joann Guidos, Rikki Redd, Chi-Chi Rodriguez

Lesbian of the Year: Misti Ates, Catherine Gaither, Mina Hernandez, Nikki Max, Carla Torlucci Rogers

Gay Man of the Year: Andy Bergeron, Bradley Latham, Tony Leggio, Derek Penton-Robichaeux, Stephen Valiente

Marcy Marcell Entertainer of the Year: Reba Douglas, Gia GiaVanni, Karli LaCorre, Aubrey Synclaire, Monica Synclaire-Kennedy

Sponsored by **Ambush Magazine**, the awards thanks those in the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Community who are often not recognized for the outstanding services and efforts they perform. These individuals and businesses have made the LGBT Community into the viable, successful and powerful community it is today.

The Gay Appreciation Awards Board of Directors includes Lisa Beaumann, Teryl-Lynn Foxx, and Rip and Marsha Naquin-Delain. ([www.AmbushMag.com/GAA](http://www.AmbushMag.com/GAA))

## Decadence Says “I Do!” raises \$5,948.66 for Southern Decadence

Southern Decadence Grand Marshals XLI Steven Mora, Rip Naquin, Marsha Delain, Misti Ates and Frankie “Fierce” Wingerter are excited that “Decadence Says ‘I Do!’” raised \$5,948.66 for the 44th Southern Decadence celebration and the 2015 Southern Decadence Charities. Not

only did the event make history as Louisiana’s first LGBT wedding expo, it was held on June 26, 2015, the same date the Supreme Court of the United States legalized same sex marriage in all fifty states.

Southern Decadence charities include LGBT+ Archives Project of Louisiana, Louisiana Equality Foundation, and PFLAG New Orleans (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) Scholarship Fund.

None of this would have been possible without the extreme generosity of wedding and events venue, The Chicory, and vendors including Luminous Events, Melissa’s Fine Pastries, Perrier Party Rentals, Sapphire Events, and Urban Earth.

The Chicory, an elegant venue for your New Orleans wedding ceremony and reception, features exposed beams, brick walls, and gas lanterns. Originally built in 1852 as a coffee warehouse, The Chicory has maintained its simple name with New Orleans pride. With over 9,000 square feet, the ability to accommodate up to 800 people and 4 different rooms, The Chicory is a very versatile space. From intimate private dinners to grand New Orleans weddings, and corporate events, The Chicory offers a unique and historic event space ([www.ChicoryVenue.com](http://www.ChicoryVenue.com)).

Wedding Belles and The Formal Connection provided wedding attire for the great wedding fashion show.

Another tremendous thank you goes out to events planner extraordinaire Tony Leggio who put this fabulous evening together with immense help from Barrett DeLong-Church and Laura B. Tennyson. Leggio is an account executive at Hosts New Orleans, a long-time *Ambush Magazine* columnist, and one of SDGM Frankie Fierce's lieutenants. DeLong-Church is Chief Project Manager at Element B2 Productions LLC. Tennyson is with Lura Belle Productions, and one of SDGM Frankie Fierce's lieutenants.

The event raised \$3,449.70 for 99 VIP and advance tickets, \$1,729.08 for 50 tickets at the door, \$420.00 for the Cake Pull raffle, and \$650.00 for the Alex Harvie painting auction for a total of \$6,248.78; minus \$164.70 for TicketLeap charges and \$135.42 for Pal Pal charges, for the grand total of \$5,948.66.

Visit [www.SouthernDecadence.com/events2015.htm](http://www.SouthernDecadence.com/events2015.htm) to join all of the fundraisers/ events for Southern Decadence 2015.

## Another Whopping \$3,137 Raised for 44th Southern Decadence

Five events over a two week period raised another whopping \$3,137 for the 44th Southern Decadence celebration of gay life, music and culture. Two events on

June 27 at Tulane Ave Bar and Pelican Bay raised \$720, two events over July 4th weekend at GrandPre's brought in \$1,156, and the final event on July 7th at The Friendly Bar another \$1,261.

Many thanks to all who made this possible from Southern Decadence Grand Marshals XLI Steven Mora, Rip Naquin, Marsha Delain, Misti Ates and Frankie Fierce.

The Krewe of Petronius kicked off this round of fundraisers June 27th hosting the Petronius BBQ & Bingo raising \$500. Tulane Ave Bar's Bertrand Washington and Pedro Antunes were the perfect hosts for this great event. There was loads of great food, and Bingo with hostess Kitty D'Litter was hysterical!

Later that night GrrlSpot did a pop-up lesbian & queer bar night party, billed as Sexxe at Pelican Bay Restaurant raising \$220.

The 4th of July weekend brought the 2nd Annual Potato Salad Contest at GrandPre's on July 4th raising \$275. Out of 14 entries, Southern Decadence Grand Marshals XLI Rip and Marsha Naquin-Delain won the contest by popular vote.

The next day it was a return to GrandPre's for the Southern Decadence Brunch July 5th raising \$881. The grand marshals and their lieutenants provided some delicious eats including Chef's Rip & Marsha's Chili Relleno Frittata with green chilis, chorizo, eggs & loads of cheese; Chef Steven Mora's Cajun Red Beans & Rice, Chef Frank Joseph Wingerter IV's Shrimp & Grits, Bacon; Chef Philip Anthony's Southern Smothered Chicken with Rice & Slap Yo'Mama Collards; Chef Monica Synclaire-Kennedy's Southern Style Cornbread Dressing; Chef Ken GrandPre's homemade Blueberry Muffins; Chef Bonita Folse - Solitaire's Bread Pudding with Bourbon Sauce, and Chef Sharon Barreca's fresh watermelon cubes. The brunch/mimosa donations raised \$590, Jello Shots/Raffle \$181, and Treme' Coffeehouse sponsorship \$100. The two events at GrandPre's raised \$1,156.

Next up was Steve Tregre's 60th Birthday Bash at The Friendly Bar raising \$1,261. This fabulous afternoon of camaraderie featured loads of homemade culinary delights, raffles, pudding shots and even a Juke Box Drag Show with nobody in DRAG! Yes, everyone got in on the act, and even a huge unrehearsed production number led by Koo Gaffney and all the Southern Decadence Grand Marshals there, both current and past, did a rousing rendition of God Bless America! The Sylvia Frank Egg Auction raised \$300.00, raffles \$596.00, buffet \$160.00, Don Dubay donation \$100.00, drag tips \$57.00 and Pudding Shots \$48.00.

## You Can Make a Difference at Upcoming Decadence Events

Yes, you can make a difference at many of the upcoming Southern Decadence events and fundraisers. All expenses have been met, so your participation benefits the three charities of Southern Decadence 2015 including LGBT+ Archives Project of Louisiana, Louisiana Equality Foundation, and PFLAG New Orleans (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) Scholarship Fund.

### FRIDAY, July 17th...

8-10pm, Four Seasons presents Swimming with the Goddesses benefiting Southern Decadence Charities, Four Seasons

### SATURDAY, July 18th...

8-10pm, *Ambush Magazine's* 28th Annual Gay Appreciation Awards benefiting Southern Decadence 2015, \$200 VIP Tables for 4 (call Rip 504.522.8049 for table reservations), \$10 door donation. Oz New Orleans

### SUNDAY, July 19th

3-5pm, Sippin' With The Sisters Deviled Egg Contest, \$10 Taste/Judge, Contestants must supply 30 eggs/60 cut in half by 2:45 to 3pm to be eligible to compete, Cutter's

### THURSDAY, July 23rd

7-9pm, Southern Decadence Courtyard Soiree hosted by Jeff Palmquist & Coca Mesa with open bar, passed hors d'oeuvres & live entertainment: both Musical & Decadent (your choice), only 25 tickets, \$100 per ticket, see Jeff Palmquist or Rip Naquin for tickets

### SATURDAY, July 25th

10pm, Johnny Passion's 2nd Annual Smatch Game! It's RuPaul's Drag Race & the old TV game show Match Game blended together... starring Elizabeth Bouvier, Tony Leggio, Electra City, Tittie Toulouse, Frankie Fierce, Felicia Phillips, Brad Arsenaux, Derek Penton-Robicheaux, Karli LaCorre, Solitaire, Persana Shoulders, Barbara Ella, Vanessa Carr, Taze-ya Ballz, Monica Synclaire-Kennedy & Countess C. Alice, with auctions & more, VIP seating available (\$50.00 for a table for 4, contact Misti Ates or Catherine Gaither for reservations), \$10 donation, Pelican Bay

### MONDAY, July 27th

8-10pm, Southern Decadence Fundraiser featuring the HOT Boy Auction with 6 chances to bid on the boys with dinner, hosted by Persana Shoulders with drawings for prizes & more!, \$10 donation, The Corner Pocket

### SATURDAY, August 1st

8-10pm, doors open @ 7pm, Southern Decadence Spectacular Benefit & Show with MCs SDGMs XLI Steven Mora & Rip

[continued on 8]



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Retro  
Review



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## the legal corner

by Attorney Troy A. Tureau  
Email: [thelawprofessor@comcast.net](mailto:thelawprofessor@comcast.net)

### Marriage Equality: Be Careful What You Wish For!

First, it has to be said: "CONGRATULATIONS TO US, every member of the LGBT community and all of our straight brothers and sisters who have fought so hard to make marriage equality a reality! We MUST also remember all of those who came before us and paved the way. As a young child growing up in Baton Rouge, I remember feeling like I was the only person in the world who was attracted to someone of the same sex. I still find it difficult to believe that we can get legally married! I honestly never expected to see it in my lifetime. Poor Bobby Jindal! Try as he may, he couldn't stop it. Don't worry about him though - he will find other ways to spew his legacy of hatred and intolerance.

Now that we have gotten what we have wanted for so long, what now? Well, while I hate to be Debbie Downer (I am an attorney – that's what we do! It is our job to look out for possible problems and ways to prevent them or alleviate them.), we need to think about some of the issues that surround marriage. Issues such as community property, prenuptial and postnuptial agreements, divorce and alimony.

#### Community Property

For those of you who do not know, Louisiana is one of nine community property states. So, what exactly does being a community property state mean? First, generally everything either of you makes or buys is community property and belongs to both of you. Separate property that you bring into the marriage and inherited property are exceptions to this rule and is each spouse's own property. Second, with some

exceptions, debts incurred during marriage are considered community debts, making both spouses responsible for them. A few scenarios that might surprise you about community property: a) One spouse's wages can be garnished to satisfy a debt incurred by the other spouse; b) One spouse's retirement account belongs to both spouses; c) Income generated by separate property quite often becomes community property unless specific measures are taken.

#### Prenuptial and Postnuptial Agreements

Think of the community property regime as the default rules of the state of Louisiana. Although they are the law of the land, they can be altered. With prenuptial agreements and postnuptial agreements, spouses can choose to opt out of the community property rules and basically write their own rules that will govern their marriage (with some exceptions). Prenuptial agreements are those that are entered into before marriage. Postnuptial agreements are those that are entered into after marriage. Caution should be taken, however, because each state has its own rules which govern the validity of these agreements. Louisiana courts will not hesitate to strike them down.

#### Divorce and Alimony

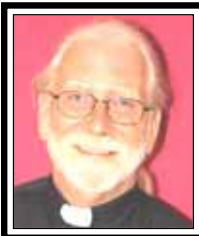
Of course all the divorce rules that have governed heterosexuals in Louisiana for many years are now applicable to members of the LGBT community. Louisiana does have both no-fault divorces and fault divorces. Divorces can be completed in as quickly as 180 days from the date that the spouses have been living separate and apart. Temporary and permanent maintenance (alimony) for a spouse is determined

by a number of factors including fault of the parties, the need of a spouse to receive and the ability of a spouse to pay. Alimony is one of the many items that can be addressed in prenuptial and postnuptial agreements, with a few prohibitions.

So, if you have plans to get married, I congratulate you and wish you the best of luck! If you live in Louisiana and the community property laws that I described above are in line with your wishes, there's no need to do anything. However, if you and your spouse do not wish to be governed by the community property laws of this state, you're in luck – prenuptial and postnuptial agreements are not just for the wealthy any more! I urge you to contact me or another attorney in order to draft an agreement that accurately reflects the rules that you and your spouse wish to govern your marriage.

As always, I invite your comments and questions.

(These are the personal views of Troy A. Tureau, and nothing here is intended to be legal advice of any kind.) Troy A. Tureau, J.D., L.L.M., Attorney at Law, Tureau Legal, 4631 S. Carrollton Ave., New Orleans, LA 70119, [thelawprofessor@comcast.net](mailto:thelawprofessor@comcast.net) 504.308.1608.



## a community within communities

by The Rev. Bill Terry, Rector St. Anna's Episcopal Church, New Orleans  
Email: [fr.bill@stannanola.org](mailto:fr.bill@stannanola.org)

### Jerome's Wisdom

Jerome is an odd duck in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. He is a legacy and sometimes an uncomfortable legacy. He is a black man that is an elder of "the movement." He was in the sit in's in the 1960s in New Orleans. He marched, he toiled, he raised his voice against racism and Jim Crow laws. He is still, on this very day, doing the work that he set out to do fifty years ago.

Sometimes I wonder what makes a person like Jerome. What influences in his life created him to be the active justice seeker that he is? I would really like to know. He could well have turned violent, he could well have ignored the affront of racism, he could well have turned out a dozen different ways. Even in his own community some admire Jerome and some are uncomfortable around Jerome. But he still carries the banner of justice high. Regarding the Emmanuel Church shootings he had some interesting observations.

First he viewed the kind of hatred that was exhibited as an illness. He said that such an illness is pure evil that even if two of the group were white they would have been dead and shot as well. Why? Because the illness of hatred fulfills itself with those acts of violence and that is the end not some shift in policy. Violence begets violence.

Jerome, today, mentors many young Black Americans in the Treme. As such a young boy, 11 years old, started to talk to Jerome about the shootings:

Boy: My Grandma goes to Bible study

every week and I like to go with her. If we went to that Bible Study at Emmanuel she'd be dead and I would too!

Jerome: That kind of violence is a sickness. It only wants to kill what is in front of it. It really has less to do with skin pigment than it does pure evil.

Boy: I want to go and shoot that dude. I want to kill the person who killed those people. I hate them.

Jerome: I want you to think about Mary. When they killed her son she did not go out and kill a Roman or other perpetrators. If she did she would in turn have been killed and we would never have heard of her. But she didn't she took a different way to make it right.

Jerome then went on to explain to me that he believes that we must have a spiritual grounding and that children today are not getting it, at least not enough, because if you don't have that spiritual grounding the only thing left is discontent and violent responses to oppression. Whatever Jerome is he has wisdom to share and I hope he shares it abundantly to those that are in his community. Jerome Smith continues the good fight without malice but with the certitude of a Gospel driven man. No, he is not preachy but he is informed by his spirituality. That is the grounding of his justice work. He does not talk much at all about his faith. He simply tries to transform the lives of those around him who are at the greatest risk of becoming haters.

Jerome's justice work looks much like

our own aging but active Stewart Butler. Stewart, for those that know him, is a font of wisdom. He is a living history in many ways. While he was largely unchurched for much of his justice work Alfred, his life partner, was not. Alfred sought Christ always and everywhere and it rubbed off on Stewart in ways that we have yet to understand. The fact is, like Jerome, Stewart Butler is/was a social justice speaker that sought real and concrete solutions to real issues and challenges and did so with a spirit. He took in young men who were 'lost' that is, had run away or were headed for sad endings. He became a surrogate mother and father to many. He was active in PFLAG and other organizations that sought equality and the freedom to love. One of the great virtues that I have seen in the LGBT Community is its concern for the young men and women just coming out. More often than not an elder in the community will become a mentor and kind of protector just as Jerome is to his own community. I hope that such continues.

Now, more than ever, we should as a community seek and find that spiritual grounding that Jerome talked about and that Stewart lives. If you don't seem connected to Jerome's story then maybe you should think about your own story and how that might parallel his in so many ways. The more we seek, find, identify, and name common experience the lower the fence comes between our communities. Jesus called the ultimate expression of connectedness "The Kingdom of God" and later Paul called it "The Body of Christ." These familiarities of person and experience are often the ties that bind us together a Community within Communities. Whatever may be said, we share a common pilgrimage. Yes, it is true that some of the travelers would reject our connection such as Pastor Fred Luter, Jr. and that is OK. They do so out of tradition and conservatism where change and adaptation are never easily worked out. But regardless of that perspective there are so many others that do stand in solidarity against that illness that Jerome spoke about, that hatred that knows only

hatred and violence. We must stand together against this informed by the spirit, moved by the consequences of our forbearers Stewart and Jerome, and concrete in our message of Justice, Freedom, Peace, and Dignity for all human beings.

### the "official" dish ...from 6

Naquin, featuring performances by SDGMs XLI Marsha Delain (in her Bourbon Pub debut), Misti Ates & Frankie Fierce along with former SDGMs & guests, Happy Hour prices, 50/50 raffle, live auction, \$75 VIP tables for 3 (including admission-contact Rip Naquin @ 504.522.8049 or [ripna@ambushmag.com](mailto:ripna@ambushmag.com) for table reservations), \$10 donation @ the door, Bourbon Pub & Parade

#### MONDAY, August 3rd

6-8pm, Italian Feast of the Gods & Poster Signing catered by Little Vic's, \$5 All-U-Can Eat, \$10 Southern Decadence Posters signed by SDGMs 41 Steven Mora, Rip Naquin, Marsha Delain, Misti Ates & Frankie Fierce, Official Home of Southern Decadence: Golden Lantern

#### FRIDAY, August 7th

9pm, "Singing Under the Stars" on Bayou St. John, featuring stars at this Karaoke Party with food, fun, music & you; \$20 ticket includes buffet & two drinks, \$5 each song selection, \$5 cocktails, raffles, \$20 chances to win a genuine natural black pearl necklace valued at \$150.00, karaoke winner & prizes; hosted at The Marshall Mansion along the banks of historic Bayou St. John

#### SATURDAY, August 8th

4:30-7:30pm, Southern Decadence Drag Show Fundraiser, \$5 donation, Third Base in Bay St Louis, Mississippi

#### SATURDAY, August 15th...

8-10pm, Magnolia Cotillion 2015 celebrating the 42nd Anniversary of SDGMs 41 Rip & Marsha Naquin-Delain benefiting Southern Decadence 2015, \$25, \$50, \$75, or \$100 donation, by invitation only, Ambush Mansion

[continued on 10]



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**Friday July 17th 8PM**

**Swimming w the Goddesses!**

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8-10PM**

**Johnny Passion's LaFamilia**

**Starring Johnny Passion & Special Guests 10PM**

**Saturday July 18**

**Red Velvet Review!**

**Starring Reba Douglass, Electra City, & Tittie Toulouse**

**Sunday July 5 5PM**

**Johnny Passion's Sweet Sunday Soirée**

**Saturday July 25th**

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# moments in gay new orleans history

by Professor Frank Perez  
E-mail: [f.perez@sbcglobal.net](mailto:f.perez@sbcglobal.net)  
Photo by: Larry Graham, [GrahamStudioOne.COM](http://GrahamStudioOne.COM)

## “Upstairs Inferno World Premiere Makes History”

June 24 marked the 42<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the Up Stairs Lounge arson—the deadliest fire in New Orleans history and the largest mass murder against gay people in United States history. In 1973, the Up Stairs Lounge was a popular gay bar in the upper Quarter. On the fateful night of the fire, an unruly patron was thrown out of the bar and is widely believed to have started the blaze in a fit of anger. An arrest was never made and the case remains officially unsolved. The chief suspect, Rodger Dale Nunez, committed suicide about a year and a half after the fire, presumably because of guilt and remorse.

June 24 also marked the world premiere of a new documentary film, *Upstairs Inferno*, chronicling the fire that claimed 32 lives. The film debuted to a packed house at the iconic New Orleans Prytania Theater.

Documentary filmmaker Robert Camina had learned of the fire three years ago, and, like many people, was astounded he had never heard of the fire before. Until recently, the tragedy had gone largely ignored in national LGBT historical narratives. The first researcher to show any significant interest in the fire was Johnny Townsend, who began compiling information on the victims and writing the story of the arson in 1989. The manuscript he completed in 1990 would later be published as *Let the Faggots Burn* (2011). In 2013, on the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the fire, filmmaker Royd Anderson released a short documentary called *The Upstairs Lounge Fire* and a short article, *Remembering the Worst Mass Killing of LGBT People in U.S. History* by Diane Anderson-Minshall, appeared in the *Advocate*. A longer article appeared in *Time* magazine, *The Upstairs Lounge*

*Fire: The Little Known Story of the Largest Killing of Gays in US History* by Elizabeth Dias.

On the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the fire in New Orleans, Frank Perez and Rip and Marsha Naquin-Delain planned a Commemoration Ceremony, which was hosted by the Williams Research Center of the Historic New Orleans Collection. Artist Skylar Fein, who had previously created an exhibit based on the fire, gave a brief lecture accompanied by a slide show. Fein's presentation was followed by a talk by author Clayton Delery-Edwards, who was then still writing a book about the fire. Attendees were then invited to a viewing the Williams Research Center's archival material concerning the fire, including the original police report as well as an original manuscript of Johnny Townsend's book about the fire. The Historic New Orleans Collection event was followed by a Jazz

funeral procession from the Williams Research Center to the site of the fire at the corner of Iberville and Chartres Streets. There, a solemn reading of the victim's names took place. After the ceremony, a second line parade proceeded to a cocktail party at Café Lafitte in Exile. The commemoration ceremonies were capped off at Café Istanbul with the New Orleans premiere of *Upstairs*, a dramatic musical by playwright and composer Wayne Self.

Delery-Edwards book, *The Up Stairs Lounge Arson: Thirty-Two Deaths in a New Orleans Gay Bar, June 24, 1973*, was published in 2014 and was named one of two Books of the Year by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities. The book was also nominated for a prestigious Lambda Literary Award in the category of LGBT nonfiction.

The premiere showing of *Upstairs Inferno* sold out quickly, as did a second screening. The premiere was attended by three survivors of the fire: Regina Adams, Francis Dufrene, and Ricky Everett; friends of victims: Stewart Butler, Henry Kubicki, Mike Moreau; relatives of the following victims: Joseph Adams, Ferris LeBlanc, Bud Matyi, Clarence McCloskey, and Duane Mitchell; close family friends and relatives of Up Stairs Lounge owner Phil Esteve and manager / bartender Buddy Rasmussen; witnesses Clancy DuBos, Ronnie LeBoeuf, Jimmy Massachi, District Fire Chief Chris Mickal, and Bishop Paul Breton; and special guests Louisiana State Fire Marshal “Butch” Browning and Deputy Fire Marshal Trevor Santos.

Many of the aforementioned attendees came from across the country and some of them had not seen each other in over 40 years. Camina observed, “Never again will you have so many survivors and key players of one of the biggest events in U.S. LGBT History in the same room. It's not hard to see the significance of that.”

Camina is now taking the documentary on the film festival circuit. This is a daunting challenge because every film festival charges an entrance fee. If you would like to help with these expenses, you can donate to the film festival submission fee fund at [www.UpstairsInferno.com](http://www.UpstairsInferno.com).

If you live in New Orleans and were unable to attend the two sold out World Premiere screenings of UPSTAIRS INFERNO on the 42<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the fire, we are happy to announce that the film is scheduled to play encore screenings at the Prytania Theater in New Orleans.

The film will screen through July 16th at 3:45pm and 8pm.

Tickets are available at [www.upstairsinferno.com](http://www.upstairsinferno.com) and <http://prytaniatheatreneworleans.com>.

The Up Stairs Lounge fire was a seminal moment in our history—both locally and nationally. It is a tragic story but one that is worth remembering. For that reason, we owe Robert Camina a debt of gratitude for making this important film.

More information is available at

unaware of how people perceive him. In his delusional mind, he sees himself as a great leader and moral crusader. In reality, most people look at him and see a dork. And while most republican politicians are generally creepy, even when they are not talking about legitimate rape or Jesus riding dinosaurs side-saddle, Jindal is just dweebishly sad. And pathetic. And lame. And limp. And all the political Viagra in the world can't change that.

[www.NOLAPride.org](http://www.NOLAPride.org).

# book review

## Bad Kid

David Crabb. Harper Perennial. ISBN: 978-0-06-237128-7. 2015. 335 pages. \$14.99.

by Frank Perez

*Bad Kid* is one of the best memoirs I've read in a long time. Honestly, I wasn't sure I was going to enjoy the book when I started it, but then, after a few pages, I was astonished at how good it is. Captivating, engaging and hilarious, *Bad Kid* is a must read.

More than anything, the book is nostalgic. Crabb recounts his awkward adolescence in Texas in the early 1990s and in so doing transports the reader back to his or her own youth. As Crabb describes his coming out process, he unlocks the reader's own memories of the joys and terror of being a gay teenager. His writing is a spell that effectively conjures up the mystery, curiosity, fear, excitement and sense of wonder that marks the first steps every teenager's journey of self-discovery.

Somehow David Crabb had convinced himself that every guy preferred French-braiding his girlfriend's hair to making out, and that the funny feelings he got watching Silver Spoons and Growing Pains had nothing to do with Ricky Schroeder or Kirk Cameron. But discovering George Michael's Faith confirmed for David what every bully already knew: he was gay. Surviving high school, with its gym classes, locker rooms, and naked, glistening senior guys, would require impossible feats of denial.

What saved him was finding a group of outlandish friends who reveled in being outsiders. David found himself enmeshed with misfits: wearing black, cutting class, staying out all night, drinking, tripping, chain-smoking, idolizing The Smiths, Pet Shop Boys, and Joy Division—and learning lessons about life and love along the way.

This book is clever, vivid, truthful, endearing, delightful, and poignant. I highly recommend it.

David Crabb is a performer, writer, teacher and storyteller in New York City. He is a Moth Story Slam host and three-time Moth Slam winner. His solo show “Bad Kid” was met with critical acclaim from *The New York Times*, *MTV*, *Flavorpill*, *NY Metro* and many others, and named a *New York Times* Critics' Pick. The show has been performed in New York City since 2011 and completed a sold-out run in Virginia in 2013.

## the "official" dish ...from 8

### SUNDAY, August 16th...

7-10pm, Sunset Social (a Southern Decadence Fundraiser) with Sicilian Sweets & Southern Spirits plus local brass band in the courtyard, \$30 includes open bar & dessert bar, Little Vic's

### FRIDAY, August 22nd...

8-10pm, “Come As Your Favorite Decadent Character” Costume Gala, \$25-\$100 donation at door, silent auction, entertainment, food, Costume Contest, Hotel Storyville, 1261 Esplanade Ave.

### SATURDAY, August 29th...

3-5pm, Southern Decadence Grand Marshals XLI Steven Mora, Rip Naquin, Marsha Delain, Misti Ates & Frankie Fierce

[continued on 12]

# commentary

## Bobby Jindal, Like Cheese, Does Not Travel Well

by Frank Perez, [f.perez@sbcglobal.net](mailto:f.perez@sbcglobal.net)

We are almost a month into Bobby Jack-Ass Jindal's presidential campaign and the verdict is in: Bobby Jindal is more pathetic than anyone could have possibly imagined.

The avalanche of national ridicule began as soon as Jindal “announced” his candidacy in a highly bizarre video taken with a cheap hidden camera he had installed overlooking his back patio. In it, Jindal and his wife are sitting with their three children, who are unaware they are being recorded, when he tells them he is running for President. The kids are underwhelmed. One of them asks if they can get a dog while another child is preoccupied with a nearby turtle lurching across the lawn. The audio quality of the video is horrible and the camera angle obscures nearly all their faces.

Social media posts describing the event were filled with words like “strange,” “creepy,” “awkward,” and “bleak.” *Rolling Stone* went so far as to say, “Far from being folksy, it looked like the sort of footage the Tooth Fairy from Red Dragon uses to select his next victim.” Jon Stewart had a field day with the video on *The Daily Show*.

Later, during his formal announcement speech, he invoked the words and memory of Richard Nixon when he declared that he was “Tanned, rested, and ready.” Creepy.

Then Jindal went on *Meet the Press* and spat out his conservative talking points, never mentioning that Louisiana has the 7<sup>th</sup> highest unemployment rate in the nation and the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest poverty rate in the nation. Attempting to shred his “Kenneth the Page” image from his disastrous response to the President Obama's State of the Union speech a few years ago, Jindal desperately tried to come across as earnest and serious, but what he projected was over-eagerness and silliness. The

moderator, in my opinion, was too easy on him but probably figured, what the hell; this guy is at less than 1% in the polls.

And then there was the Twitter debacle. On the day Jindal participated in a town hall meeting in Iowa, he started an “Ask Bobby” campaign on Twitter. The idea was to have people ask him questions to be addressed at the meeting but the plan backfired when critics began posting tweets that mocked his ultra-conservative beliefs. Here are a few gems: “Do all Republicans believe *The Flintstones* is a documentary, or is there room for debate?” “When performing an exorcism, is it necessary to drag the recipient by the hair?” “If I sail too far will I fall off the edge of the Earth?” “If you're going to spend 5 days a week in Iowa can we put the gov mansion on AirBnB & make up some of the deficit you've created?” “Which spice girl is your favorite and if you had a chance, what laws would you pass to oppress them for having a uterus?”

The sad thing is Jindal is completely