



One of the biggest Gay Appreciation Awards, Circuit Party/Event of the Year was won by the 43rd Southern Decadence celebration of gay life, music and culture, and was accepted by Southern Decadence Grand Marshals XL Chad Boutte, Aubrey Synclaire and Reba Douglas. GAA Board of Directors Teryl-Lynn Foxx and Lisa Beaumann presented the award during the 28th Annual GAA Gala hosted at Oz New Orleans. Some 21 winners, voted online by the readership of **Ambush Magazine**, were brought on stage. The gala honored Sy'ria Jackson-Synclaire for her outstanding work for, and on behalf of the Trans Community Benefiting Southern Decadence 2015 and its charities, the gala raised \$2,665 minus plaque expenses of \$311, for a total donation of \$2,354. Since 1997, the gala has raised \$54,085 for charity. For additional information on the Gay Appreciation Awards, visit www.AmbushMag.com/gaa. Photo by Darwin Reed.



The Big Easy Sisters hosted the first Southern Decadence Bingo raising \$492 minus \$81 - 50/50 raffle expense for a total of \$411 for Southern Decadence 2015 and its three charities. Hosted at the Phoenix, the event even featured a game of bingo called by adult film star Boomer Banks with his own special private basket for the game winner. Photo by Darwin Reed: The Big Easy Sisters with Southern Decadence Grand Marshal XLI Steven Mora, Phoenix's Clint Taylor & Boomer Banks, and SDGMs XLI Rip Naquin, Frankie Fierce & Marsha Delain.



Southern Decadence Grand Marshals XLI Steven Mora, Misti Ates, Marsha Delain and Rip Naquin join Southern Decadence Courtyard Soiree hosts Coca J. Mesa and Sally-FLY Jeffrey Palmquist (center) at the PalMesa Petit Chateau raising \$2,650 for Southern Decadence 2015. The elegant affair of only 30 guests boasted passed hors d'oeuvres by Catering d'Orleans including foie gras sliders and Peking duck canapes, musical entertainment from Wes Raymond & The Soul Factory, and Decadent entertainment from the talents of Rafi, Matt, Jake and Andre. It was a wild evening on Bourbon Street!



Cutter's own Mac McAll joins 2nd place Paul Chiriaco, Southern Decadence Grand Marshal XLI Frankie Fierce, 1st Southern Decadence Deviled Egg Contest winner Dudley LeBlanc and SDGM XLI Steven Mora at Sippin' with the Sisters hosted at Cutter's in New Orleans. The contest with nine entries raised \$405 for Southern Decadence 2015.



Hostess Coca J. Mesa joins Wes Raymond as the two sing live the Official Song of Southern Decadence, Uptown Funk by Bruno Mars, during the Southern Decadence Courtyard Soiree at the PalMesa Petit Chateau. Surprised Southern Decadence Grand Marshals XLI Steven Mora, Rip Naquin, Marsha Delain and Misti Ates blew their SDGM whistles in salute!



Miss Golden Lantern and Sally-FLY Monica Synclaire-Kennedy joins Southern Decadence Grand Marshal XL Reba Douglas, MC Bradley Latham, Sharona Edry, Teryl-Lynn Foxx and The Cheese Queen Felicia Phillips for Sunday Jubilee celebrating Reba's ?? birthday at the Official Home of Southern Decadence, The Golden Lantern.



Gold Sponsor GrandPre's Ken Grandpre joins Queen Amon-Ra L Opal Masters and Ron Graham for the Krewe of Amon-Ra Sponsors Party hosted at the House of Blues in New Orleans. The krewe gave each sponsor a beautiful replica pin of the krewe logo with the word "sponsor" attached to it.



Irish Mike & Greg welcome you to CUIR, 708 Toulouse St.



Lafitte's bartender Cullen & Golden Lantern bartender Drewsky @ Golden Lantern



Teryl-Lynn Foxx in Reba Douglas' Birthday Jubilee @ Golden Lantern



Electra City welcomes Wood Enterprises' Chris to Amon-Ra's Sponsor Party



Felicia Phillips & Madison Faile join MC Opal Masters for Zingo @ The Corner Pocket

The Big Easy ~ New Orleans ~ Photos by Rip Naquin



WITH
Rikki Lee
AND
DJ PINO

WED
7:00-9:00pm



VANESSA CARR
& ALEC BARNES

LIVE MUSIC

SAT 7:30-9:30pm **SUN** 3:00-5:00pm



**Retro
Review**

FRI 10:00-11:30pm

Featuring Princess Stephanie, Clorox Bleachman and Regina Adams!



*Divas
"R" Us*

FEMALE
IMPERSONATORS
SAT 10:00-11:30pm

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BLOWUP
ROLLS**

SD

**15
Southern
Decadence
FUND**

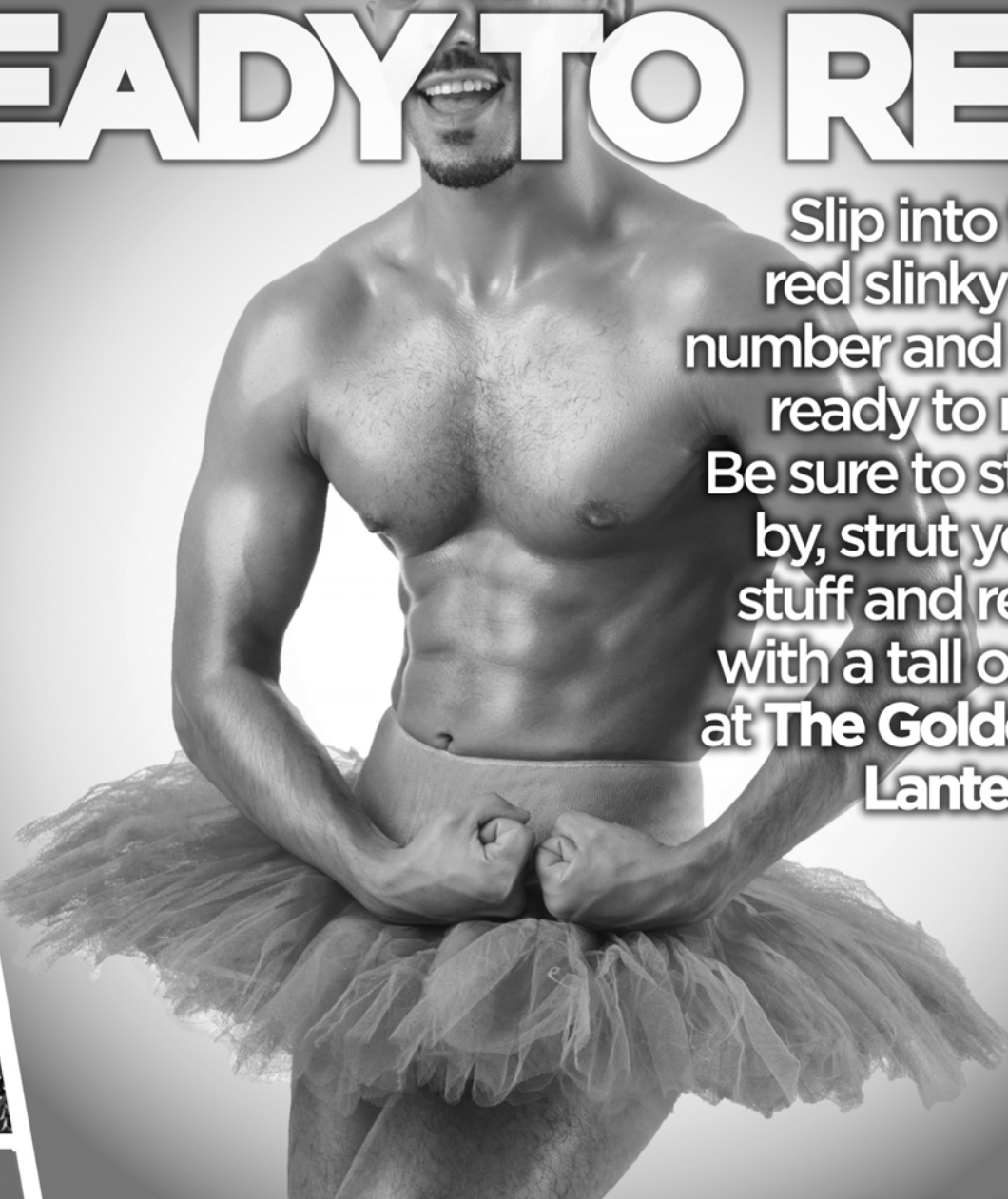
FUNDRAISER

MONDAY, AUG 3RD, 6-8PM,

Italian Feast of the Gods
& Poster Signing by SDGM!

catered by Little Vic's, \$5
All-U-Can Eat, \$10 Posters

READY TO RED?



Slip into that
red slinky red
number and get
ready to run!
Be sure to stop
by, strut your
stuff and refill
with a tall one
at **The Golden
Lantern**

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\$7000

\$6000

\$5000

\$4000

\$3000

\$2000

\$1000



**SUNDAY
SOCIAL**

JUBILEE

WITH REBA DOUGLAS

SUN 5:00-7:00pm

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the "official" dish ...from 4

ship of **Ambush Magazine** in public online voting. And the winners are:

Circuit Party/Event of the Year: Southern Decadence 43

Hair Salon of the Year: Two Guy Cutting Hair



Gay Mardi Gras Ball of the Year: Krewe of Amon-Ra

Neighborhood Bar of the Year: The Corner Pocket

Buzzy Fanning AIDS Award: NO/AIDS Task Force

Bitch of the Year: Princess Stephaney

Show Club of the Year: Oz New Orleans

Donnie Jay Performing Arts Award: New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus

Restaurant/Deli/Coffee House of the Year: Quartermaster: The Nellie Deli

Dance Club of the Year: Oz New Orleans

Bartender of the Year: Ashlee Logan/Corner Pocket

DJ of the Year: Jonathan "JRB" Reed/Oz New Orleans

Leather Bar of the Year: Rawhide Cheridon Comedy Award: Persana Shoulders

Fly Fashion Glamour Award: Aubrey Synclair

LGBT Business of the Year: Bourbon Pride

Leather Person of the Year: Matthew Birkhoff

Transgender of the Year: Chi-Chi Rodriguez

Lesbian of the Year: Misti Ates

Gay Man of the Year: Andy Bergeron

Marcy Marcell Entertainer of the

Year: Gia GiaVanni

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, Marsha Delain, Teryl-Lynn Foxx, and Rip Naquin. (www.AmbushMag.com/GAA)

Join the Final Month of Fundraising Benefiting 44th Southern Decadence Charities

There is still time to do great things for the LGBT community by joining the fundraising efforts of Southern Decadence Grand Marshals XLI Steven Mora, Rip Naquin, Marsha Delain, Misti Ates and Frankie Fierce. Your Southern Decadence team chose the LGBT+ Archives Project of Louisiana to preserve the past, Louisiana Equality Foundation to preserve the present, and PFLAG New Orleans (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) Scholarship Fund to preserve the future as the official charities of this year's Decadence celebration.

The remaining fundraising events include:

SATURDAY, August 1st

8-10pm, doors open @ 7pm, Southern Decadence Spectacular Benefit & Show with MCs SDGMs XLI Steven Mora & Rip 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 or \$100 VIP tables for 4 (including admission-contact Rip Naquin @ 504.522.8049 or 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

THURSDAY, August 6th

9pm, Oz Turnabout Show & Southern Decadence Auction, come see all your favorite employees in drag with auction benefiting Southern Decadence 44 & its charities. For the auction, sexy studs in our community are stepping up to the auction block to be sold to the highest bidder! Everyone loves a great dinnering experience, especially with good company and with the added bonus of a great cause. (Sounds Priceless) Exclusive dinner for 2 packages have been furnished by some of New Orleans most exciting culinary destinations, \$5 donation @ door, @ Oz New Orleans

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, karaoke winner & prizes; hosted @ The Marshall Mansion along the banks of historic Bayou St. John

SATURDAY, August 8th

4:30-7:30pm, Southern Decadence XLIV Benefit, with show, 50/50 Raffle & Auction, \$5 donation, @ Third Base in Bay St Louis, Mississippi

WEDNESDAY, August 12th...

6-8pm, Southern Decadence Sally-FLY Cookout with Head SF (Sally-FLY) Chef Jeffrey Palmquist grilling up cheese burgers & all the fixin's with Southern Decadence Grand Marshals XLI Rip & Marsha's Award Winning Potato Salad & non-award winning Cole Slaw, SKYY Basket Auction & more benefiting Southern Decadence, \$5 per burger, Cafe Lafitte in Exile

FRIDAY, August 14th...

7-10pm, Southern Decadence Gong Karaoke, pay \$5 to gong karaoke singers off the stage, all in good fun for a good cause-Southern Decadence, singers can match the amount of the gong to remain on stage & keep singing, @ Kajun's Pub

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

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

SATURDAY, August 22nd...

7-10pm, "Y'all Come As Your Favorite Southern Decadent" A Southern Decadence Costume Gala, Join your Southern Decadence Grand Marshals Steven, Misti, Rip, Marsha, and Frankie for an evening of Decadent History,

Fabulous Entertainment, Revelry & Fun. Dress up as your favorite Southern Decadent, enter the costume contest and show off your decadent side. Silent Auction and Costume Contest. Tickets: VIP - \$100 (Become a Pearl Sponsor) with special VIP Reception, hors d'oeuvres, open bar @ 6pm. General Admission - \$25 admission time 7pm with hors d'oeuvres, open bar, entertainment - Dapper Dandies from 7-10pm, joined by Bella Blue at 8:30pm. @ Storyville Hotel, 1261 Esplanade Ave.

SUNDAY, August 23rd...

3-5pm, SDS: Sunday Decadence Social with buffet, show, auctions, prizes, \$10 donation @ door with 2nd drink free on Chuck & Bill, @ The Double Play

SATURDAY, August 29th...

3-5pm, Southern Decadence Grand Marshals XLI Steven Mora, Rip Naquin, Marsha Delain, Misti Ates & Frankie Fierce present the Annual Southern Decadence Grand Marshals Luncheon, by invitation only.

Catch all the events scheduled at www.SouthernDecadence.com!

Lords' Bath House Beer Bust July 31

Miss the bath house? We do too, so we're bringing it back for one night. Come out to the Phoenix on Friday night July 31 for the Lords of Leather's 5th Friday Beer Bust. All the beer, soda and snacks you can devour for just \$5.00 if you're wearing a towel. No towel, no problem – you can get one from us for just a \$1.00. In street clothes it'll cost you \$10. Beer Bust begins at 9 p.m. and goes until midnight on the patio. Free coat check will be provided.

Miss Louisiana Leatherette 2016

Miss Louisiana Leatherette 2016 will be chosen on Saturday, August 15 at The Friendly Bar, 2301 Chartres St. The Lords of Leather's annual camp drag contest starts at 8pm and admission will be \$10. Contestants will be judged on a "parish" costume, talent presentation, fetish wear and evening gown competition. The winner will receive a \$100 cash prize. Any member of the community, male or female may enter. Contest applications and more information are available on the krewe's website – www.lordsofleather.org.

Lords SD Events

As always, the Lords of Leather are planning a full set of events for you and your guests during Southern Decadence, September 3-7. Plan on Beer Busts at the Phoenix during the Block Parties, a "Decadent Behavior" Party and of course, the Mr. Louisiana Leather Contest on Saturday, September 5. Info at www.lordsofleather.org.



Head Quarters Hair Salon

Hair Salon of the Year 2011-2013

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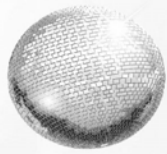
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Friday July 31

Miss Gay Four Seasons USofA 9PM



MAYA MCNEIL
MISS GAY LOUISIANA USOFA 2015

Saturday August 1

The Appletini Review 10:30



Friday August 7, 10PM

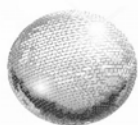
Exotique 10PM

With Taze Ya Balls, Pussy Hertz, Dominique Delorean, & Ilayna Eve

Saturday August 8, 10

The Glitter Girls 10PM

Starring Countess C Alice, Tatiana Nye Dupree



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moments in gay new orleans history

by Professor Frank Perez
E-mail: f.perez@sbcglobal.net
Photo by: Larry Graham, GrahamStudioOne.COM

“Johnny Jackson: An Early Ally and Straight Leader for LGBT Rights”

The remarkable evolution of politicians’ attitudes toward LGBT+ folk in recent years is a classic example of political leaders not really leading but rather hurrying to catch up with the public. The seismic shift in such attitudes culminated in the recent landmark Supreme Court ruling that effectively legalized same-sex marriage nationwide, an event that prompted President Obama to light up the White House in rainbow colors. But it’s important to remember that in 2008, when he was first running for President, Mr. Obama was not in favor of marriage equality (well, he probably was but political pragmatism prevented him saying so).

The first politician in New Orleans to openly court the gay vote was Harry Connick, Sr. in his first unsuccessful run for District Attorney in 1969. Meeting with several members of the LGBT+ community, Connick promised an end to the long-standing practice of police raids of gay bars. At the meeting, which was mostly a question and answer session, a notoriously outspoken drag queen named Jo Jo Landry dared to ask the question that was on everyone’s mind, “Let’s cut the crap. What we really want to know is, are we going to jail if we get caught sucking d**k in the bars?” Connick answered yes, noting that public sex acts, regardless of who committed them, was still illegal. Despite this disappointing answer, most in attendance came away relieved that Connick was at least not aggressively hostile to them.

In 1981, Mayor Ernest “Dutch” Morial established a Public Education Task Force to look into problems in the gay community. Political activists from that era agree Morial was the first mayor to demonstrate any support for the gay community and the first mayor to meet with the community. Attorney Jack Sullivan recalls the meeting, “Dutch gave a very supportive speech and the one line I’ll always remember is him saying, ‘As long as I’m mayor, no one will ever be discriminated against because of his sexual affectation’.”

Connick and Morial are rightly remembered as early political allies of our community, but it wasn’t until 1986 that a true champion for LGBT+ rights emerged. In that year, Johnny Jackson, Jr., was elected to the New Orleans City Council. During his eight year tenure on the council, Jackson was at the forefront of championing LGBT+ rights. In addition to leading the Louisiana delegation in the historic 1987 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, Jackson also sponsored, and led the fight for, the non-discrimination ordinance, he fought for adequate HIV/AIDS funding as well as advocated for extending health benefits to the partners of gay and lesbian city employees. Jackson’s courage and vision is especially remarkable when one considers he represented a majority African-American district with very few out constituents.

A city ordinance outlawing discrimination against homosexuals in employment, housing and public places had first been proposed, and defeated, in 1984. After Jackson’s election to the council in 1986, he sponsored and introduced the ordinance again. On the day of the vote, Jackson gave a rousing 20 minute speech

in support of the ordinance. Unfortunately, it failed to pass by a vote of 2 to 5. After the ordinance’s defeat, Jackson continued to work closely with LAGPAC (Louisiana Lesbian and Gay Political Action Caucus) leaders and he introduced the measure again in 1991. After six hours of heated debate, the ordinance passed by a vote of 5-2 (Jackie Clarkson and Peggy Wilson voted against it). When the vote was taken, the roughly 130 people in attendance erupted in applause and celebration. Afterward, Jackson was quoted as saying, “I always had faith that people would get over their fears.”

In addition to shepherding the non-discrimination ordinance to passage, Jackson was also a vocal advocate for AIDS funding. He served on a council subcommittee to work with the City Health Department and local AIDS agencies and, furthermore, Jackson was actually arrested in a sit-in on Loyola Avenue to protest a lack of proper funding to study AIDS and help AIDS patients.

In 1993, Jackson authored a proposal and voted with a majority of the city council to extend health insurance to the “domestic partners” of gay and lesbian city workers and when the mayor vetoed the measure, Jackson was only one of two votes to override the veto.

Johnny Jackson, Jr. grew up in several New Orleans neighborhoods and became a community activist in the 1960s. After Hurricane Betsy in 1965, he worked on a clean-up crew at the Desire Community Center and within a few years he was the directing head of the center. He also worked with Total Community Action and the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Foundation. He served in the state legislature from 1972 to 1986, where he became the New Orleans delegation’s floor leader before being elected to the New Orleans City Council.

Now advanced in age, Jackson is battling a variety of health issues and financial difficulties arising from those issues. Long-time LGBT+ activists Stewart Butler and Rich Magill (both key figures in the passage of the non-discrimination ordinance) observe:

“Now our friend Johnny needs OUR help. During the past year and a half he has confronted numerous health challenges, including a stroke, high blood pressure, diabetes, dental surgery, colon cancer, surgery and chemotherapy. Although he fortunately is currently cancer—and chemotherapy—free and on his way to recovery, some health challenges continue.”

“Johnny now faces the challenges of paying off his outstanding medical bills which, after his insurance has kicked in,

currently exceed \$11,500. Some of you may think that’s no big deal, but with his limited SSI income, it’s difficult for him to meet his financial obligations.”

“You may contribute a modest amount by writing a check made payable to Johnny Jackson, Jr., and including on the memo line “Medical Expenses” and mailing it to Johnny Jackson, Jr. 4800 Good Drive New Orleans, LA 70127. It’s important that somewhere on the check you write “LGBT+” so he’ll know it’s from a community that has not forgotten its friend.”

book review

Butterfly in the Typewriter: The Tragic Life of John Kennedy Toole and the Remarkable Story of A Confederacy of Dunces

Cory MacLauchlin. De Capo Press, 2012. ISBN: 978-0-306-82040-3. 319 pages. \$26.00.

by Frank Perez

In 2005, Rene Pol Nevils and Deborah George Hardy published *Ignatius Rising: The Life of John Kennedy Toole*—a shabbily researched and poorly written book that purported to be a biography. Nearly everyone the authors interviewed were horrified when the book was published and one of them, Joel Fletcher (a close friend of Toole), was so incensed he wrote his own book in response—*Ken and Thelma: The Story of A Confederacy of Dunces*. Fletcher, who knew Toole and his mother well, points out that his book is a memoir, not a biography.

A good biography of John Kennedy Toole, has been waiting to be written since his Pulitzer Prize masterpiece, *A Confed-*

eracy of Dunces, was published in 1980. Cory MacLauchlin has satisfied that need with not only a good biography but an extremely insightful one. And a well written one at that.

Many are familiar with the incredible story of *Confederacy*’s unlikely odyssey to publication. Written in 1963 while Toole was stationed at Fort Buchanan in Puerto Rico, the novel was not published until eleven years after his suicide in 1969. Toole’s mother was excessively persistent, one might even say neurotically persistent, in attempting to get the book published. She eventually placed the manuscript in the reluctant hands of Walker Percy, who then passed it on to his wife and asked her to take a look at it. He was surprised when she reported to him that it was a great novel. He read it and came to the same conclusion and eventually persuaded the LSU Press to publish it. The rest, as they say, is history. The novel has been translated into eighteen languages and sold nearly three million copies. Many New Orleanians proudly proclaim it to be the best book ever written about the city.

The first two-thirds of *Butterfly in the Typewriter* are faithful in chronicling Toole’s life and early career and in the process yields some interesting insights into what New Orleans was like in the 1940s and 1950s. Drawing upon Toole’s papers and interviews with his friends as well as school and Army records, MacLauchlin’s research is exhaustive and presented in an accessible manner, but the author’s analysis of Toole’s mental decline and his legacy in the last third of the book are exceptional, and here is where the writing is at its best.

This book is a fine literary biography and a must read for anyone interested in learning more about *A Confederacy of Dunces*. *Confederacy* lovers will especially appreciate discovering the real-life sources of the novel’s marvelous array of remarkable characters, including the man upon whom Ignatius Reilly is based.



matters of health

by Jack Carrel, MPH
Email: JCarrel@HAARTinc.org

In searching the media for interesting and useful LGBTQ health notes, the following caught my attention.

Third Anniversary of PrEP Approval

We have just celebrated the third anniversary of the approval by the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) of the HIV anti-retroviral medication, Truvada (tenofovir DF + emtricitabine), for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). For those of you unfamiliar with PrEP, it is the use of Truvada on a daily basis to reduce the risk of HIV infection in HIV negative individuals. If you are interested in finding out more about PrEP in your area, check out the Gay Men & Transgender Wellness Centers around the state by visiting <http://wellnesscenter.hiv411.org>

Poppers & Gay Men

Participants in a new study have reported a small but growing trend among some gay men. Often described as a new

way to use poppers or as huffing poppers, the practice is simply inhaling organic solvents or propellants. This practice appears to have been going on for several years but may be increasing. “Poppers” originally referred to recreational use of amyl nitrite, a substance that triggers production of nitric oxide and thereby produces a potent effect of widening of the blood vessels. It has been used to enhance sexual experience through relaxing smooth muscle and its mild psychoactive effects. Since the 1980s, amyl nitrite has been restricted to medical uses in the United States and Europe, but a number of related alkyl nitrates continue to be available in legal or semi-legal form. The current trend does not involve the conventional poppers, which are inhaled directly from a bottle, typically in smaller amounts. The new huffing of solvents and propellants carries substantially greater risk both for death and for long-term neurocognitive damage than does the use of nitrite poppers. These new

[continued on 12]