



## the pink pastor

by Rev. Clinton Crawshaw  
Email: [pastor@bigeasybcc.com](mailto:pastor@bigeasybcc.com)  
[BigEasyMCC.COM](http://BigEasyMCC.COM)

### Can I finally be an American?

I am at this moment I'm feeling so many things. My soul is bubbling over with mixed emotions: anger, frustration, sorrow, melancholy, hope, hopelessness, and disappointment.

It seems I get this way every time I turn on the TV, go on the internet, speak on the phone or use any other form of media. The world as I know it has for ever changed, possibly beyond measure. I am no longer the child who was thankful to be born in America, I know longer have that beautiful innocence I once had. Looking back I wish I had clasped it as closely as I used to clutch my teddy bear! These familiar lyrics deeply affected me as a child:

"For purple mountain majesties,  
Above the fruited plain!  
America! America!  
God shed His grace on thee,  
And crown thy good with brotherhood  
From sea to shining sea!"

That place in the song was the most beautiful place my 10 years old mind could imagine, and I believed I had the privilege of being born there. I believed every word with my whole heart and any one who knew me as a child could testify to the fact that I sang so loudly during assemblies in elementary school that you would have thought I had a solo part. I believed with every fiber of my existence this truly was "the land of the free".

Today I'm a long way from those sentiments in this ever-changing world, where in order to claim fame you must be eager to degrade, exploit, mock, and attack others with a sincere heart. I find if you can do these things without a conscience they can be most effective in attaining success in our society.

There are all different kinds of people in the world but the two groups that I discern most readily are the **predators** and the **prey**. Predators being bred from a stronger group having more resources and are people who will typically go to great lengths to get what they want, even if it means the destruction of others. The prey are the gentle and the meek, the vulnerable and the helpless; what some would consider the weaker group. I think it could almost be compared to the lion and the lamb in the animal kingdom. America is a country that was founded by predators and established on the laws of predatory minds. Hence the people of this country who are "willing to play the game" are bound to become predators at some point or another. The American citizen who wants to live out the "American Dream" in my opinion will not be able to without becoming something of an opportunist, liar, persecutor, or possibly a hypocrite. In our society, if you want to 'fit in' and not 'rock the boat' then sooner or later you are going to have to take a position on issues regarding morals and ethics that will either offend or reassure your fellows. These same fellows



are going to be the ones who make the decision as to whether you will be trusted to lead, to have power and influence, and they are easily offended! In my experience most people - not surprisingly - agree to be lead by predators. These are the people who make life exciting, get us all fired up proclaiming a desire for peace.... while sending us off the war, often quite literally! Our American leaders want peace yet our troops our dwindling daily in a senseless and needless war. Our churches are supposedly set in place to teach us about the love and the peace of God yet they are constantly protesting and marching to stop the GLBT community from having the same human rights as every one else. They are passionate about continuing the oppression of the oppressed,

It is apparent that the day has not come yet where the lion will lay down with the lamb, or the predator will lay die with the prey, and as long as we can not appreciate one another for differences then there will always be division amongst us, whether it is the persecution of a pedophile or a porn star, a con-artist or congressman, a sex worker or a salesman. Until we can start to try to understand each other before passing judgment then youth of the country, like myself, will continue to grow up with a absence of faith in the country, opting for suicide (as I had tried many times my self in my teens, when my young mind first learned the truth about my church and my government and their views about people like myself). In essence, the teen suicide has made a discovery as to what it truly means to be an American - an American who is not as the majority. If I could have one wish for America, my wish would be that American leaders would revisit those policies and laws which are redundant, an echo from an age of hatred and ignorance, and with the aid of the American people change them accordingly. Moreover, I wish they would uphold those principles that to this day still ring true. Until this is done, then the great nation's pride is its own

## The Decadence Shoppe

coffeehouse, bakery, cafe



Wed.-Sun. 7am - 3pm

"We take pride doing all our own baking, and you can order your next special treat from us."

806 N. Rampart • New Orleans  
504.529.8874  
[DecadenceShoppeCafe.COM](http://DecadenceShoppeCafe.COM)

## real estate

### New Foreclosure Scandal Impacts LGBT Buyers and Sellers

A new drama in the foreclosure markets has shocked the real estate industry, is another sensational scandal for the mortgage sector, and is being carefully scrutinized by many consumer watchdog groups.

The gist of the fresh turmoil is simple. The fundamental legality of the foreclosure process followed by major mortgage lenders is being questioned. There is a strong possibility that tens of thousands or even millions of foreclosures that were transacted within the last 2-3 years have no sound legal basis and are, in fact, fraudulent.

The enormity of it all started to come to light last month when major lenders - including J.P. Morgan Bank, Bank of America, and GMAC's mortgage division - issued a moratorium on foreclosures to give them time to reexamine their paperwork and procedures. Fannie Mae stopped doing business with a law firm that had been handling massive numbers of their foreclosures because they question the legality of its methods, and offices of the Attorney General in all 50 states began investigating foreclosure practices.

One lawyer working to process foreclosures - including those against LGBT borrowers - instructed staff members to sign about 1,000 foreclosure documents per day. That's more than one every 30 seconds, which means it was impossible to read the documents before they were

signed. Employees of that legal firm stated under oath that when the designated signers got tired they just asked other people in the office to sign them on their behalf.

So signatures on many important affidavits - like those that confirm how much a LGBT borrower owes on their mortgage - are fraudulent. Many cannot be validated, for example, because two signatures that are supposed to be from the same person bear no resemblance to one another. In other cases signatures were ostensibly witnessed in the presence of an official notary public, but the notary's address was hundreds of miles away from the address where the documents were signed and supposedly witnessed.

Bear in mind that many of the docu-

[continued on 38]

undoing. It is a hollow vanity; for if this is the land of the free and we indeed are all created equal we should the same rights and the freedom to LIFE, LIBERTY and LOVE among two (or more) consenting adults and the pursuit of happiness. With this comes the right to responsibility - to serve our country honestly as our complete selves so that those of us who show great love, and devoted service to their homelands may take there rightful place in the history books, and etched into our nation's memory, so that the next generation will come will know with all certainty.... ALL HUMANS BEINGS WHETHER GAY,

STRAIGHT, LESBIANS, BISEXUALS, OR TRANSGENDER, HAVE LEARNED, LIVED, LOVED, FOUGHT AND DIED FOR AND ON AMERICAN SOIL.

I guess my question is, when will I be able to be fully American?

--Written by Tela Clark, a trans woman, and a member of The Big Easy Metropolitan Community Church. The Big Easy MCC is an open Christian community, meeting every Sunday at 1pm and 5pm at 1333 S. Carrollton Avenue. Contact Pastor Clinton for more information - 504.214.4340, or [revclawshaw@yahoo.com](mailto:revclawshaw@yahoo.com), [www.bigeasymcc.com](http://www.bigeasymcc.com).

Feed & Supplies French Quarter Grooming

# Pet Asylum

513 Rue Dumaine  
New Orleans, LA 70116  
504.302.9845

We now have Crickets! and Mealworms!

Hours: Tue thru Fri 11-6  
Sat thru Mon 11-5



**Announcing:**  
The newest boutique hotel property in the  
French Quarter in over three decades.



## HOTEL le marais

NEW ORLEANS HOTEL COLLECTION

### 717 Conti Street

just a half block off Royal, and one half block away  
from the jazz clubs of Bourbon Street

This sleek, contemporary hotel will offer high level service,  
a "happening" bar, delightful amenities and an inclusive  
concept that avoids a "nickel and dime" mentality...

- Heated saltwater courtyard pool
- Complimentary daily newspaper
- Complimentary Wi Fi in all areas, all rooms.
- Complimentary extended continental breakfast
- Complimentary Fitness Center
- Complimentary Business Center
- Complimentary welcome drink

#### Hotel Le Marais:

Taking its name from the historic Marais district of Paris,  
the Hotel Le Marais is a contemporary destination in the  
heart of New Orleans historic district.

All Overnight guests of the hotel through December 15  
will be entered in a sweepstakes to win four tickets to  
attend the Jan. 2 Saints Home Game with Tampa Bay  
Buccaneers and a \$75 bar tab at Hotel Le Marais  
following the game! For an entry form without staying,  
please visit the Hotel Le Marais Bar between 4pm and  
9pm any day and ask for an entry form.

**For reservations and information**

**800.535.9111**

**[www.neworleanshotelcollection.com](http://www.neworleanshotelcollection.com)**



HOTEL le marais

NEW ORLEANS HOTEL COLLECTION

SCISSOR



SISTERS



**HOUSE OF BLUES**  
THE HOME OF LIVE MUSIC® NEW ORLEANS

**TUESDAY**  
**APRIL 5-8PM**

BUY  
TICKETS  
AT **LIVENATION.com**



**NEW ALBUM NIGHT WORK**  
AVAILABLE EVERYWHERE  
**SCISSORSISTERS.COM**

**HOUSEOFBLUES.COM • 225 DECATUR • 504-310-4999**





JohnPaul's John & Paul @ Amon-Ra's *Girls Gone Broadway*



Star of *The Gar Williams Show* Gar Williams @ Amon-Ra's *Girls Gone Broadway*



Russel & Keith in for Marcy's Golden Age Revue @ JohnPaul's



Enjoying a night @ Cafe Lafitte in Exile



Tami, Maybelline & Princesse @ the filming of the new Varla Jean Merman movie



Brian Peterson @ filming of Varla Jean's new movie sporting the Krewe of Queenateenas' King Cake Queen Crown



New Yorkers Kuki & Ivan meet Princesse Stephaney @ Oz's Friday Dingo event



Leslie, Juan & Laura @ NOMA's Odyssey Ball



Brian & Ashley @ NOMA's Odyssey Ball



Roland & James @ NOMA's Odyssey Ball



House of Broel's Bonnie Broel @ NOMA's Odyssey Ball



Regina & Natasha @ NOMA's Odyssey Ball



Opal Vanderhurst in Marcy's Golden Age Revue



Amon-Ra's Miss America Deja Vu in *Girls Gone Broadway*



King Cake Queen XVII Opal Masters in Satyricon's Holiday Auction show



Gene's Po Boys' Gene with friends @ Craftin' & Cocktails with Countess



Countess & Eddie raising funds for Odyssey House's Louisiana Women & Children's Program



Safonda Peters joins Craftin' & Cocktails with Countess



Countess with the two gingerbread finalists @ Craftin' & Cocktails with Countess




Lola & Rene having a moment @ Cutter's

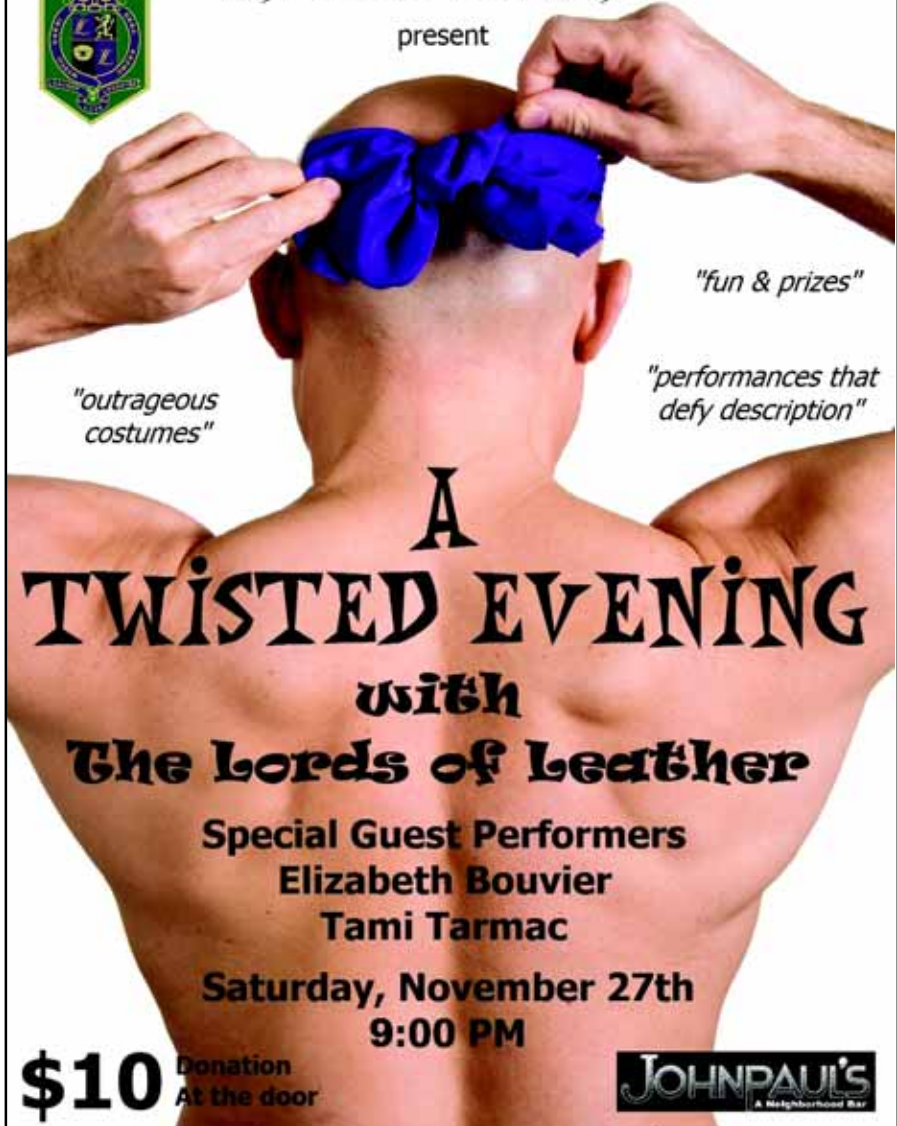


Around The Big Easy ~ New Orleans ~ Photos by Tony Leggio





The Lords of Leather  
present



"outrageous costumes"

"fun & prizes"

"performances that defy description"


# A TWISTED EVENING

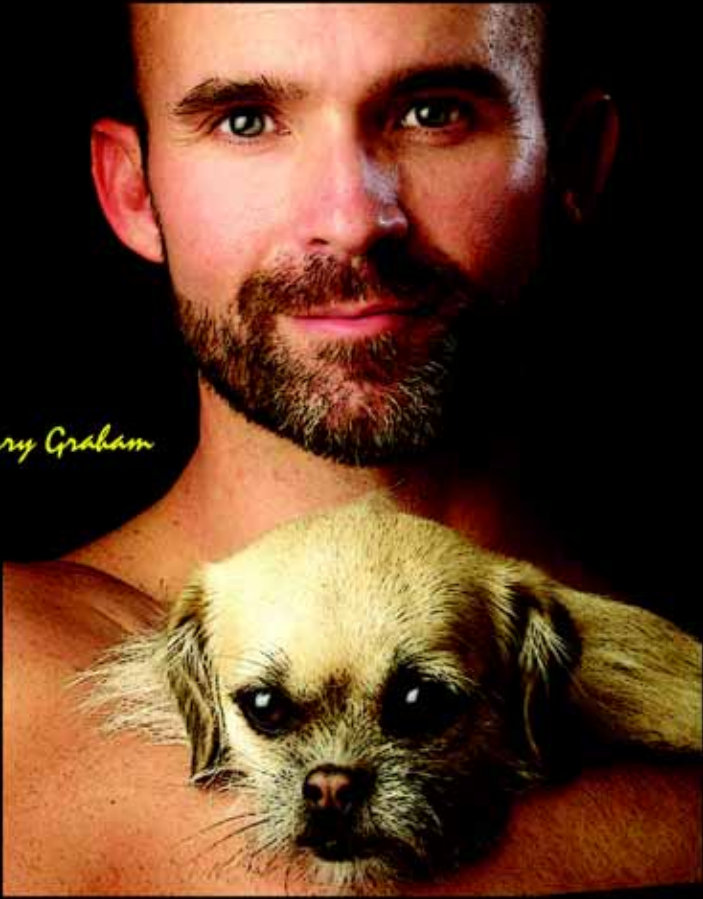
with  
The Lords of Leather

Special Guest Performers  
Elizabeth Bouvier  
Tami Tarmac

Saturday, November 27th  
9:00 PM

**\$10** Donation  
At the door






GrahamStudioOne.com

Larry Graham

## Charles and Peanuts



caring clinic of louisiana

### A GENERAL INTERNAL MEDICINE PRACTICE

Medicare and most insurance accepted • Internal Medicine • Endocrinology • Metabolism/Thyroid  
Testing and treatment for HIV/AIDS • Health care for the LGBT community

Warren M. Fraser, MD, FACE  
Michael E. Hymbaugh, MD  
Christine Brennan, FNP, Ph.D.

4550 North Blvd #115 • Baton Rouge, LA (near BR General and BRCC)  
For appointments: 225-341-5901





# chop chop

by Rip & Marsha Naquin-Delain  
Email: [marsha@ripandmarsha.com](mailto:marsha@ripandmarsha.com)

## New Orleans Restaurant Guide

**700 Club Restaurant**, 700 Burgundy St., 561.1095, [700ClubNewOrleans.COM](http://700ClubNewOrleans.COM), is serving sliders, paninis, quesadillas, and more at the popular club in the French Quarter. Restaurant hours are 7pm til Wed.-Sun. with extended Decadence hours.

**Bywater Restaurant, Deli & BBQ**, 3162 Dauphine St., 944.4445, is noted for its gumbo, barbeque, pizza, sandwiches and specials serving lunch and dinner. Now under the direction of Executive Chef David Duvall, the restaurant is open 11am-10pm Mon.-Tues., Thurs.-Fri.; 9am-10pm Sat.-Sun. with brunch 9am-3pm, closed Wed. MasterCard/Visa accepted.

**Cafe Amelie**, 912 Royal St., 412.8965, [CafeAmelie.COM](http://CafeAmelie.COM), offers romantic courtyard or indoor dining along with both eclectic culinary creations and cocktails. Open Wed.-Sat. with lunch 11am-3pm, dinner 6-9pm, Sun. brunch 11-3.

**Candy Bar**, 908 Bourbon, 504.52.CANDY, is a new upscale dessert & specialty food store, open 7 days & weekends 24 hours. Best in desserts, snacks, cheeses, crackers, candies, NY bagels & knishes, po-boys, wraps & sandwiches. PLUS PLUS PLUS many organic, all natural & gluten free items, also DOG TREATS.

**Clover Grill**, 900 Bourbon St., 598.1010, [CloverGrill.COM](http://CloverGrill.COM), is open 7 days and features breakfast including build your own omelettes. But let's not forget their fab burgers grilled right under a hub cap and then there's all those sandwiches, sides, desserts and shakes.

**Cooyon's Cajun Cooking!** 1100 N. Peters St., 337.339.1131, [CooyonsCajunCooking.COM](http://CooyonsCajunCooking.COM). C'est Bon! This new open air restaurant in the Historic French Market is the perfect place to enjoy some of the best Cajun cooking. Come get "U" some!

**Country Club Restaurant**, 634 Louisa St., 945.0742, [TheCountryClubNewOrleans.COM](http://TheCountryClubNewOrleans.COM). Under the direction of Chef Coy LeBeau, he has taken attention to detail and ingredient, and focused on a more contemporary menu at an even more affordable price point. Still the best food, but at even more unbelievable value! Serving 7 days 11am-10pm and Sunday Brunch 11am-3pm.

**The Decadence Shoppe**, 806 N. Rampart, 529.8874, [DecadenceShoppeCafe.COM](http://DecadenceShoppeCafe.COM) is part coffee shop, part cafe, and part bakery. "We take pride doing all our own baking, and you can order your next special treat from us," says owners Matt and Kevin. This little neighborhood place will fulfill your sweet tooth or both your breakfast or lunch cravings in a quiet setting while serving "desserts like Mom use to make". Located across the street by the Armstrong Park arch, the cafe is open Wed.-Sun. 7am - 3pm.

**The Green Goddess**, 307 Exchange Place Alley, 301.3347, [GreenGoddessNOLA.COM](http://GreenGoddessNOLA.COM), opened in May 2009 with a progressive menu that blends New Orleans sensibilities with a globetrotting sampling of ingredients, all emanating from the small open kitchen where chefs Chris DeBarr and Paul Artigues make it happen.

**Krystal**, 116 Bourbon at Canal, 523.4030. Open 24 hours, it's one of the best stops for fast food with tasty burgers, hot dogs and breakfast.

**Louisiana Pizza Kitchen**, 95 French Market Place, 522.9500 or visit [LouisianaPizzaKitchen.COM](http://LouisianaPizzaKitchen.COM), is famous for its wood fired gourmet pizzas, pastas, salads and appetizers. Open 7 days from 11am-10pm.

**Little Vic's Gelateria**, 1912 Magazine St., 309.8236, is a gay owned and operated family labor of love in the works since owner Vic Caracci learned at age 11 to make real Italian gelato from his family, three generations of Sicilian-Americans who first immigrated to New Orleans's French Quarter in 1911. Pulling from almost a century of family experience in the food industry, Vic, 23, enlisted the help of his uncle from Messina, Sicily to train he and his cousins in the detailed and fine art of gelato making. Little Vic serves over 40 inventive flavors of gelato, including stracciatella, amaretto, bacio de gama, and limoncello, as well as fresh-made panino, pastries, and Lavazza espresso. Open 11am-10:30pm 7 days.

**Maximo's Italian Grill**, 1117 Decatur St., 586.8883, [MaximosGrill.COM](http://MaximosGrill.COM), features New Orleans inspired Italian cuisine along with a wonderfully assorted wine selection. Experience Maximo's open kitchen and watch Chef Thomas Woods prepare his extraordinary dishes. Open 6pm 7 days a week.

**Moms Mini Mart**, 902 Poydras, 596.2223, is a quick stop in the CBD for hot dogs, nachos, snow balls, fresh fruit, coffee, tea, Ices and groceries. Open Mon.-Fri. 6am-7pm, Sat. 7am-7pm, open later & Sundays during special events.

**Mona Lisa Restaurant**, 1212 Royal St., 522.6746, features Italian specialties including salads, pizzas, sandwiches and both lunch and dinner entrees. Lunch 11am-5pm Thurs.-Mon., Dinner 5pm-10pm 7 days.

**Quartermaster: The Nellie Deli**, 1100 Bourbon St., 529.1416, [QuartermasterDeli.NET](http://QuartermasterDeli.NET), voted Restaurant/Deli of the Year, is open 24 hours 7 days. Serving breakfast/deli, dinner and late night menu, the deli offers free delivery.

**Who Dat Coffee Cafe**, 2401 Burgundy St., 872.0360, offers Fair Trade gourmet coffees, teas, cupcakes, scones, coffee by the pound, gift baskets, art & merchandise by local artists, stamps & mail box rentals, along with outdoor seating & Wi-Fi. Open 7am-10pm daily.



**Gourmet Sliders with Onion Rings @ 700 Club Restaurant, 700 Burgundy**



**Occo Buco, braised veal shank in a garlic, thyme and white wine demi with asparagus & potatoes @ Maximo's Italian Grill, 1117 Decatur St.**



**Garlic Shrimp Pasta (jumbo shrimp with garlic butter sauce over angel hair pasta) @ Louisiana Pizza Kitchen, 95 French Market Place**



**12 oz. Blackened Ribeye @ Bywater Restaurant, Deli & BBQ, 3162 Dauphine St.**



**Red Velvet Cupcakes @ Who Dat Coffee Cafe, 2401 Burgundy St.**



**Glazed 10 oz. Pork Chop with Steen's Cane Syrup & Creole Mustard served with duck fat potatoes & green beans @ The Country Club, 634 Louisa St.**



**Club Sandwich with Zapp's Potato Chips @ The Decadence Shoppe, 806 N. Rampart St.**



**3-Layer Carrot Cake @ Candy Bar, 908 Bourbon St.**



**New Orleans Muffuletta (generous helping of ham, salami, provolone and olive salad) @ Restaurant/Deli of the Year Quartermaster: The Nellie Deli, 1100 Bourbon St.**



**Special Combo Pizza (pepperoni, Italian sausage, ham, onions, mushrooms, green peppers & black olives with jalapenos & anchovies optional) @ Mona Lisa Restaurant, 1212 Royal St.**