

see him behind the bar during one of the games. And if you like a little skin with your football and I do not mean pig skin, go see the game at the Corner Pocket's big screen at 940 St. Louis Street. Try to not be distracted with all the sacks around you.

Of course watching the game at one of our many Bourbon Street bars is always a plus. There is Oz, the Pub, Cafe Lafitte in Exile and Napoleon's Itch, which is smoke free which I love. Like I said viewing a Saints game is a social occasion and especially at one of the many gay bars.

I just recently witnessed our wonderful win over the New England Patriots at JohnPaul's which was amazing and we scored a lot. So I had numerous jello shots, which morphed into numerous schnapps shots which led me to become more friendlier than normal. So as I woke up this morning and rolled over, I exclaimed in surprise at the person laying beside me. "Who Dat!"

Congratulations Opal Masters

I would like to take a moment to congratulate Miss Opal Masters for being chosen as King Cake Queen XVII, the Parisian Queen. Following in the footsteps of many other great personalities in the city, Opal will reign supreme at the 23rd Official Gay Mardi Gras Bead Toss on February 16 at 2pm. This event takes place every year at 828 Bourbon Street at **Ambush** Headquarters and is not to be missed, I cannot wait to see her costume. You can best believe that this year she will definitely "let them eat cake."

Book Report Time

Ladies and gentlemen, it is book report time. No actually I wanted to let you know about a great book I have just read. It is called **Amuse Bouche** by Anthony Bidulka. The author has won the Lambda Literary Award and hails from Saskatoon, Canada. That is actually where **Amuse Bouche** takes place. This novel is the first book in the **Russell Quant** mystery series and is an excellent read. Quant is a private detective searching for a missing groom from a gay wedding. There are plenty of twists and turns to keep the reader guessing up until the end. Although, I figured out who did it well before that. Being an avid mystery reader, I found Bidulka's style of writing very easy to read and truly enjoyed his characters. You actually like Quant's non-traditional approach to solving the crime, especially since he is a gay detective in a mostly heterosexual business. His character is funny, flawed and real. The reader can relate to him and what he is going through both in his personal life and in his work. After reading this, I am snapping up the other books in the series which are **Flight of Aquait**, **Tapas on the Ramblas**, **Stain of the Berry**, **Sundowner Ubuntu** and **Aloha, Candy Hearts**. To find these books by Bidulka and many more gay mysteries, go our local gay bookstore, FAB at 600 Frenchman Street or call at 504.947.3700.

The Holidays Are Here

Well, ready or not the holidays are here and so is the party season which began well before Thanksgiving. The Friday before the big Turkey Day, City Park held its Celebration in the Oaks Preview Party. The lights this year are truly magical and City Park is a wonderful holiday tradition to take your family and friends. I went with my friends Jennifer, Valerie and Erin and we had a ball sampling all the great restaurants that participated and dancing to Cowboy Mouth. Kudos for them for getting Cowboy Mouth to play their event. It offered guests a chance to see this popular band in a more intimate setting instead of a crowded bar.

The following day, the Krewe of Satyricon kicked off the holiday festivities with their Thanksgiving Dinner at JohnPaul's. The food was amazing and so was the entertainment by Lisa Lynn. They also had a great silent auction with lots of goodies. Also that night the New Orleans Hispanic Heritage Foundation held their Azucar Ball at the Hotel InterContinental

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on St. Charles Avenue. The theme this year was **Tropicana** and the night was alive. From the brightly colored décor around the room to the greeting Tropicana showgirls at the entrance, the mood was festive. The food as always at this event was incredible, but most of all, the exquisite outfits worn by the guests was well worth the price of admission.

As I approach December it is with trepidation because the realization that the parties have not even started yet has just dawned on me. So I am grabbing my disco heels and getting ready for the holidays.

Black Friday

If you like shopping as much as I do, then you realize that it is just not something to do, it is a sport. I swear it should be included in the gay Olympics. Finding the right bargain or great deal gives me an adrenalin rush like no other. I am one of those crazy people who thoroughly enjoy shopping on Black Friday, the traditional shopping day after Thanksgiving. Although, I am not crazy enough to be spending the night at a store until it opens at midnight, even I have my limits. But I wanted to talk about two great outlet malls in that area nearby to New Orleans that you might want to visit. The first one is in Foley, Alabama and this place has some great stores. Stay in nearby Mobile and make a weekend out of it. You can even check out some of the gay bars in the area like Club Evolution in Foley or B-Bob's and Gabriel's Downtown in Mobile.

I spent Black Friday shopping at the outlet mall in Destin Florida, which is one of the best ones I have ever visited. They opened at midnight and had outrageous sales until noon. With my mother Dawn in tow, we

were there at the respectable hour of 7am. And some of the sales were mind numbing. 75% off, 50% off, buy one get one free, hell, I finished my entire holiday shopping list and had a latte before 10am.

We spent the weekend in Pensacola which was fun, because I got to go to my favorite bars there Emerald City, The Other Side and The Roundup. With our trunk full of goodies, I could not decide how we were going to get our luggage home, so we went to Target and bought a luggage rack for the top of the car. Problem solved. Happy shopping.

Have an event or have something of interest to the LGBT community, feel free to send press releases or information to tonymgp@hotmail.com.

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QUEEN ON THE SCENE

by Nathan Brooks

Email: Nathan@nathanbrooksentertainment.com

Well my friends it has been the longest two weeks of my entire life. For all those who have not heard I will be departing New Orleans at the end of December so the next article will be my last. My departure is due to a great opportunity that I can not refuse in Tampa, Florida. I do admit the past week I have had my time to cry and I think that is why when I go out lately I am very stand offish towards people. On the good side I would like to thank all of those friends...True friends who have sent me such lovely emails after hearing of this sudden news and the answer to all your questions is "YES".

The question for all those who are just thinking nasty thoughts was made into three parts:

1. Will you be having a farewell show? Yes. I am talking with Tommy from Oz to have something there in late December.
2. Will Apheelia Breast be retiring? Unfortunately, yes Apheelia will do the show and will retire and I will also be retiring as a male entertainer.
3. Who will be asked to perform at the farewell show? Any and all of my friends who would like to, just like my USofA benefit.

Although I will have another article after this one, I would like to thank all of you for taking this little part of me home and taking time out of your day to read my thoughts. Lord knows if this ever falls in the wrong hands I will be sitting in a nice little room with a jacket that makes me hug myself. But at least it will be an excuse to wear white after Labor Day.

Okay now all that is over with let's dry our eyes and know that we will always be connected and in the immortal words of

Bianca Del Rio, "Go Ahead bitch LEAVE... but you will be back! They always come back home!" that being said, New Orleans will always be my home and you all will ALWAYS... ALWAYS be my family!

Okay now I need to stop that pop my F**k-et-All and Xanax and let's go on with the week ladies....and pass the tequila!

An Apology?!?!?

Oh Lord! Jesus take the wheel I am about to say those words! I have to apologize to some people for something I have been saying. For the past year drag, female illusion, ect. has been DYING! Yes my sisters! Admit it! It has gone to hell in a hand basket according to me! HOWEVER! The past few Sundays I have dragged my lazy old ass out of my French Quarter apartment to watch the shows at Oz and Pub.

I have given every show a little of my time, and I have finally figured it out! I must say and apologize to the cast of Oz because after coming the past two weeks I feel like drag has finally gotten a heartbeat back! BUT! Figure this out! All the entertainers at Oz are Oz grown! Just as the Kingdom Show back in 2006 showed, Oz has put their cast together not by what titles someone has or what they have done because as mean as this will sound...the queens in this state could really care less what the hell title you have! I mean how many people can name the current Miss USofA, Continental, or even Miss America? They can't even name the local title holders. Thus enters Tommy Elias' evil scheme (just kidding Tommy), Why recruit those who think they are great when you can raise those and make them

great! Honestly people think about it for just a moment. Bianca del Rio - taught and created by Tommy Elias, Blanch Debris, Persana Shoulder, Coca, and as of late the up and coming Sable Nicole Starr! If you want to get really factual Raquel Chevalier, Lisa Beauman, and even your current Miss Louisiana graced the Oz stage before they were "found" by the other bars. They all started at Oz!

Now you can say I am kissing ass but you can also ask anyone who knows me, "I would rather cut off my lips then kiss someone's ass!" this is the gospel according to Nathan! Praise Allah!

Now that you read this when you plan your Sunday and you would like to actually learn how to ENJOY drag again head on over to Oz. Also tell Blanche she should have to do "I Believe" in the XXXXXL Drew Brees Jersey every week until the Saints win the Super Bowl but I think Tommy should add back up dancers lol! Make a big production out of it lol! If you missed her performing it, you missed out! That song is now tattooed to her like "Gimmie a Break" is tattooed to Kofi! Tommy....Make it happen!

NattyB-TV site Launches

Okay well I know this is SHAMELESS SELF PROMOTION but screw it! Last time I looked I was on Tequila Sunrise number 4 and I was screwing this cat! Okay so here we go Thelma! After 3 months of laziness I finally finished launching **NathanBrooksEntertainment.COM**. I know you are all excited. You would be amazed how Photoshop and Dreamweaver kinda merge when you sit at a computer for 12 hours. It is pretty much done and includes a news page for NattyB-TV and for Miss American Dynasty so you can get all your news and gossip there. Also I will be updating it with news about me when I leave so you can stalk me! I know you queens always gotta know the Tea! And you also know that I always have the good gossip!

Like Momma said, "If you ain't got

nothing good to say....come sit by me!" And "I Never repeat gossip, so listen closely the first time!"

NELLLLLYYYY~!

And I am not talking about a former bartender at Oz! Now you know a girls gotta eat and if you thought the steak deal was great last time well have I got a little question for you. So I am stuck between one of my favorite sandwiches the Philly Cheese Steak. It is as my friend from Chicago says..."better then sex" well after I figured out I was suppose to eat it and not use it...well I am getting way to personal with you people! Anyway! Yes they are AMAZING at the oddest locations.

My friend from Chicago DRAGGED my ass to the Nellie Deli where I would usually get just my 1/2 roasted chicken with mashed potatoes and broccoli and cheese....(don't judge. I might be skinny but this queen can put a Chinese buffet out of business, which is why I am banned from most of them), but I threw caution to the wind like Tyra Van Ryan throws her legs up (Love Ya!), and got the damn philly cheese steak. I hate to admit when I could be, possibly, in a way, wrong. I know scary isn't it. I do have to admit that it was absolutely delicious. It was gone faster then Blanche can devour a Latin Boy on Bourbon Street! (Sorry Blanche it was too easy.) So I had one for the entire weekend, every day for three days.

Here is my problem though. We have already reviewed how much I like to eat and I wasn't as lazy as usual and went to Fiorella's on Decatur across from Rubyfruit Jungle on one of my little walks. I sat down and ate their Roast Beef po-boy, which is designed just like a philly, just named different. It was HUGE! I had to bring a good bit of it home just so I wouldn't feel like a hog at a state fair and I would just feel fluffy enough to make it home and take a nap. So back to the problem, I need you to go test these out and tell me what you think is better because I can't argue with good food. Also if you bring someone with you to

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Fiorella's and they don't want a Philly then defiantly get the World Famous Fried Chicken! It will make you slap your Momma! Don't though! It is rude and that lady suffered through enough dontcha think?!?! Just slap Persana instead. The world will thank you for your contribution.

So just do a Sista that favor and go tour those places and tell me when you see me on the street what you think!

VARLA! VARLA! VARLA!

-M-G Becky! Our little home town sweetheart Varla Jean has done it again! I have written up documents this week to bill her for the deaths of 4 of my close friends who died tragically by laughing too much at her current endeavors! Miss Varla is touring and performing to SOLD OUT CROWDS all over with **Shut Up Sweet Charlotte**, **The Girl with the Pearl Necklace** and **Scrooge in Rouge**. I get calls from all the cities she is touring about how amazingly funny she is!

It makes me worry what the hell OUR night clubs are thinking! Decadence we lost Shirley Q due to prior obligations and the year before we lost Chi Chi due to her surgical ummmm reduction of her mid-section, and Lady Bunny is getting OLD! There is only so many times you can see an unprofessional queen get drunk and almost fall off the stage before you say ENOUGH!

Now back to my point! Why aren't our lovely night clubs hiring Varla?!?! Why stop there get the whole cast from **Girls Will Be Girls**, which if you have not seen, please turn in your gay card at the front desk until you have! The movie stars two

[continued on 16]

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New Orleans Restaurant/Deli Guide

700 Club Restaurant, 700 Burgundy St., 561.1095, has just opened and is now serving sliders, paninis, quesadillas, and more at the popular club in the French Quarter. Restaurant hours are 7pm till Wed.-Sun. Visit **700ClubNewOrleans.COM**.

Bywater Restaurant, Deli & BBQ, 3162 Dauphine St., 944.4445, is noted for its gumbo, barbeque, pizza, sandwiches and specials serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. Open 9am-9pm Mon.-Tues., 8am-10pm Thurs.-Sun., closed Wed. MasterCard/Visa accepted.

Cafe Amelie, 912 Royal St., offers romantic courtyard or indoor dining along with both eclectic culinary creations and cocktails. Serving lunch and dinner, Wed.-Sat. 11am-9pm, Sun. brunch 10am-3pm. Call 412.8965 for reservations or additional information.

Clover Grill, 900 Bourbon St., 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. Call 598.1010 or visit **CloverGrill.COM**.

Country Club Restaurant, 634 Louisa St. 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. Visit **TheCountryClubNewOrleans.COM** or call 945.0742 for more information.

The Embers Original Bourbon House, 700 Bourbon, 523.1485. You can still enjoy the charm and ambience of Old New Orleans while dining on fresh Louisiana seafood, great steaks, po-boys, and authentic Cajun and Creole cuisine and some Italian to make it interesting, all served on the largest balcony on Bourbon Street. Only two blocks from the corner of Bourton and St. Ann Streets, and the heart of Decadence. Lunch Thursday-Sunday 11am-3pm, dinner nightly 4pm-midnight,

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

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

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

Orleans Grapevine Wine & Bar Bistro, 720 Orleans, 523.1930, is located in a beautifully renovated 1809 building offering a pleasant atmosphere, extensive wine list with over 350 selections and delicious food including prime steaks, lobster tails, and rack of lamb. Serving dinner 5-11pm daily.

The Pelican Club, 312 Exchange Alley, 523.1504, **PelicanClub.COM**. With its tasteful but comfortable ambience, The Pelican Club serves contemporary Louisiana cuisine specializing in seafood. The restaurant is conveniently located in the French Quarter on historic Exchange Alley, an easy walk from most downtown hotels.

Quartermaster: The Nellie Deli, 1100 Bourbon St., 529.1416, was voted Restaurant/Deli of the Year once again and is open 24 hours 7 days. Serving breakfast, lunch and dinner, the deli offers free delivery.

Tiramisu 55 Restaurant & Bar, 123 Carondelet, 581.3288, serves Southern, Italian and seafood specialties. Get breakfast, lunch and dinner here. Open 24 hours, take out and delivery is also available for the French Quarter and CBD.



16oz. Porterhouse Cut 'T-Bone' with loaded baked potato at The Embers Original Bourbon House, 700 Bourbon St.



Seafood Martini Ravigote: Maine Lobster, Gulf Shrimp and Jumbo Lump Crabmeat with Yukon Gold Potato Salad at The Pelican Club, 312 Exchange Alley



Gourmet Burger with fries at The Country Club, 634 Louisa St.



Spaghetti at Tiramisu 55 Restaurant & Bar, 123 Carondelet



BBQ Brisket with two sides at Restaurant/Deli of the Year Quartermaster: The Nellie Deli, 1100 Bourbon St.



Eggplant & Crab Benedict Sunday Brunch at Bywater Restaurant, Deli & BBQ, 3162 Dauphine St.



Prime Rib with baked potato Sunday evenings at Bywater Restaurant, Deli & BBQ, 3162 Dauphine St.



Eggplant Parmesan at Mona Lisa Restaurant, 1212 Royal St.



Roasted Duck Breast at Cafe Amelie, 912 Royal St.



Louisiana Crawfish Pasta at The Embers Original Bourbon House, 700 Bourbon St.



Gourmet Pizza (Salsiccia Marinara) at Louisiana Pizza Kitchen, 95 French Market Place



Blackened Ribeye at The Country Club, 634 Louisa St.

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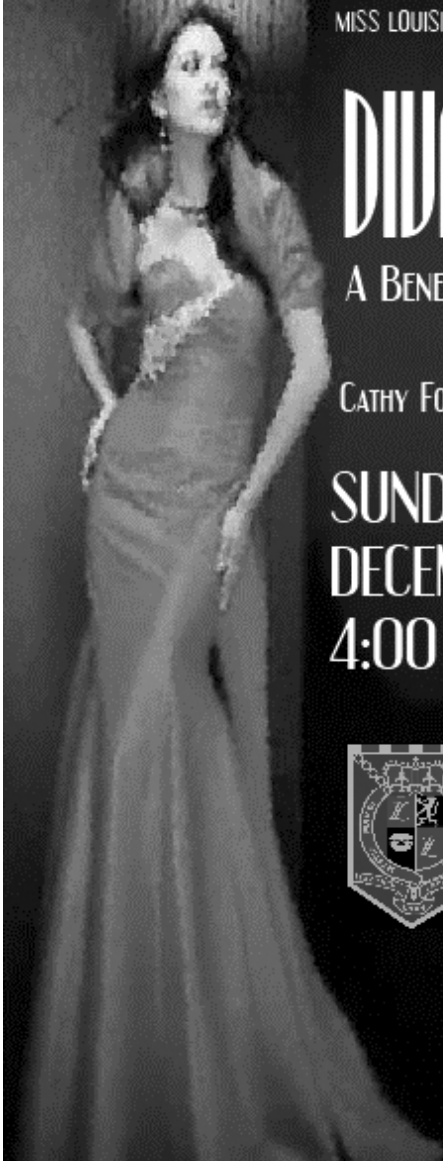

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