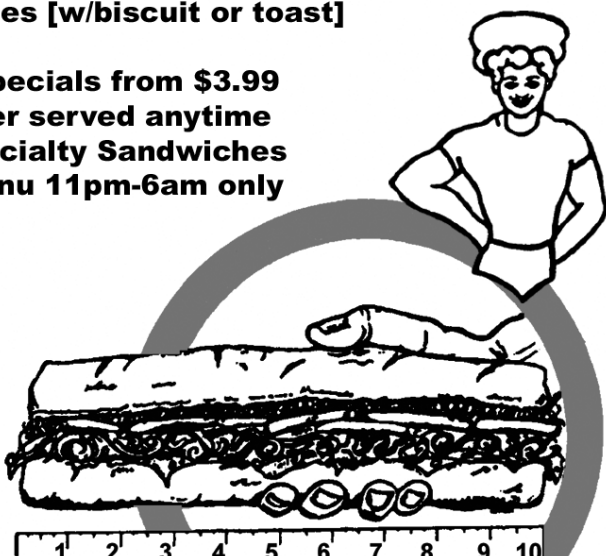


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Pat escorts Sylvia into Feelings Cafe for Sylvia surprise birthday party with 20 invited guests



Marty & Koo join birthday girl Sylvia @ Feelings Cafe



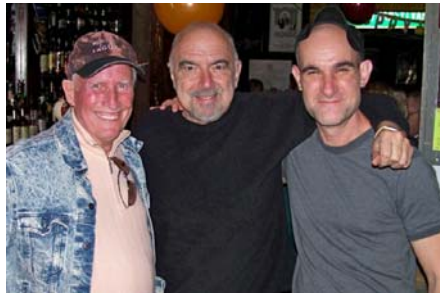
Rip & Marsha get their photo op with birthday girl Sylvia



The rededication of the New Orleans AIDS Memorial on World AIDS Day in Washington Square Park



Bartender Wayne celebrates his birthday @ the Phoenix by asking for toy donations in lieu of gifts for Toys For Tots



Phillip & Marigny Manor House's John join b-day boy Wayne @ the Phoenix



Marcy Marcell (center) celebrates her first birthday show @ Starlight By The Park



Toebe celebrates his birthday with Marcy @ Starlight



Chester celebrates with Marcy for her b-day @ Starlight



King Cake Queens XIV Princesse Stephaney & XVI Tami Tarmac join Marcy's b-day show @ Starlight



All the girls join in the b-day finale @ Starlight



Marcy continues with her second birthday show @ JohnPaul's



Special guest Richie Rich joins Marcy b-day show @ JohnPaul's



The real girls open Lords of Leather's American Bandstand: *One Night in Nashville* @ JohnPaul's



Minnie Pearl @ *One Night in Nashville*



Esther Goodman "Looking For A City" @ *One Night in Nashville*



Beyonce' & her backups "Put A Ring On It" @ *One Night In Nashville*



Lady Scarlett Alan gets a little help from King Cake Queen XVII Opal Masters @ American Bandstand



The finale of Lords of Leather's *One Night In Nashville* @ JohnPaul's



Lords president Gary, Panda Bear's Ed & Mr. Beyonce' do the basket raffle

BIRTHDAYS, TOYS, SURPRISES ~ NEW ORLEANS

Happy Holidays!

2009

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by Brian Sands
E-mail: bsnola2@hotmail.com

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee at Muriel's Cabaret/Le Petit Theatre

Over the years, there have been a number of local productions that have outshone the original ones in New York, e.g., *The Musical of Musicals—The Musical!* at Le Chat Noir, Rivertown's *Little Shop of Horrors*, and Southern Rep's recent *I Am My Own Wife*. Add to this list forefront theatre's *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*.

Broadway's *Spelling Bee* was certainly delightful. But what director David Hoover and his exceptional cast bestowed upon this *Bee* was a warmth and a gentle loving



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glow that the NYC version lacked. Who knew a spelling bee could leave you with a lump in your throat?

While never straying too far from the look or style of the original, Hoover made his spellers less self-absorbedly competitive and with this came a sweeter, but never cloying, tone. Frannie Rosenberg's choreography seemed to be more imagi-


native and joyous than on Broadway which further enhanced the fun.

On Eric Porter's authentic looking school gymnasium set, all six of the spellers were believable as kids. James St. Juniors did well with the least plausible character, a Boy Scout whose hormones

[continued on 26]


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'Tis The Season to be GAY!



The annual Holiday Shopping Guide of *Ambush Mag* has many different ideas for that special present you may be seeking. There are selections featured on this page, but there are many ads in this edition with ideas ranging from autos to jewelry, clubwear, portraits, eclectic gifts, hair care products, underwear, accommodations, gift certificates, cds/dvds, services, books, calendars, erotica and more. Several of the krewes are having special holiday events and auctions, another great place to shop.

And, very importantly, by shopping with our gay and gay friendly business on these pages, you will help our own GLBT community to survive and thrive in these tough economic times. You can also find your favorite spots to shop in the classifieds on pages 28-31.



Dave Rabalais offers fantastic club wear at Rab Dab Clothing & Gifts, 918 Royal St.



La Mina's exclusive model, Chlamydia Nomora Clapp, is wearing a 20 cm sterling silver ball necklace, a fleur de lis ring, clip-on earrings, and a concave cuff bracelet. All jewelry reasonably priced at La Mina Sterling, 840 Royal Street.



The colorful **Men of Southern Decadence 2010 Calendar** is presented by Sir Speedy Printing, 343 Carondelet, with a portion of the proceeds benefiting Belle Reve. Calendars featuring many highlights from Southern Decadence XXXVII are available at Sir Speedy Printing, Belle Reve, Napoleon's Itch and Matassa's.



Scott Wells shows off his number 1 seller, Lady Gaga's **The Fame Monster** CD at Skully's Records, 907 Bourbon St.



Alternatives' Jack Jones displays two of the fab ornaments he affectionately says Miss Pool modeled for at 907 Bourbon St.