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sometimes infamous — costume contest to the enchanted land of Oz, one of New Orleans' top-rated dance clubs, according to *Ambush Magazine*, *Gambit Weekly* and *OUT* magazine. Oz is located at the corner of Bourbon and St. Ann Streets. This year the event, co-sponsored by Bud Light, will begin at noon.

Come early and claim your spot. You won't want to miss the colors, feathers, leathers, fame and some of the costumes are a show themselves! Direct from New York, Bianca Del Rio returns home to host the gala and traditional event. Hosting the event with Bianca is her faithful, sidekick and straight man, Blanche Debris!

Through the years The Bourbon Street Awards have engulfed the presence of world travelers for sight seeing as well as participation. The event brings world wide media to cover this feast for all eyes. Come join in the madness. There are four categories of awards presented: Best Drag, Best Leather, Best Group and Best of Show. Contestants can register at the site on Mardi Gras morning beginning at 10am.

The Bourbon Street Awards at Oz is the place to be on Mardi Gras day! For more information, call 504.593.9491 or visit www.ozneworleans.com.

All New One Mighty Party Paris June 29 & 30

Pensacola — Johnny Chisholm, founder and producer of the famous *One Mighty Weekend* events at The Walt Disney World® Resort Orlando, announced that in association with Ray DeForest they are bring-

[continued on Main-8]

the "official" dish ...from M-4

Membership in the parade krewe is open to all dogs - regardless of their past. Pre-registration (membership dues & parade pass) is \$40 until Feb. 9. Day-of-parade registration (Feb. 11) at Armstrong Park is \$50. Registration includes one dog and one human escort. Additional human escort passes can be purchased

for \$8 each online or the day of the parade at Armstrong Park. Only dogs who are registered krewe members with parade tags will be allowed to be part of the parade.

If you are not parading this year, but still wish to support the doggone good cause, you can become a krewe member for \$20. Krewe members receive all mailings of the Krewe for one year.

Barkin' Up The Ritz Ball (humans only): the black-tie optional, costume-encouraged event will take place at The Windsor Court Hotel, New Orleans (300 Gravier) from 8pm to midnight, on Friday, Feb. 9. Individual tickets are \$80 each and include cocktails, fabulous edibles, and entertainment. Tables of 10 are \$1,500, include reserved seating, cocktails, fabulous edibles, entertainment, four passes to VIP re-

viewing stand day-of-parade (12noon-5pm), four passes to VIP tent at Armstrong Park (10:30am-2pm); two signed & numbered limited edition Barkus posters by Matt Rinard; and two official Krewe of Barkus T-shirts to info@barkus.org, put "VOLUNTEER" in the subject line. Our volunteer coordinator will be in touch with you. Click on the "Volunteers" Bone at the top of the page for more details.

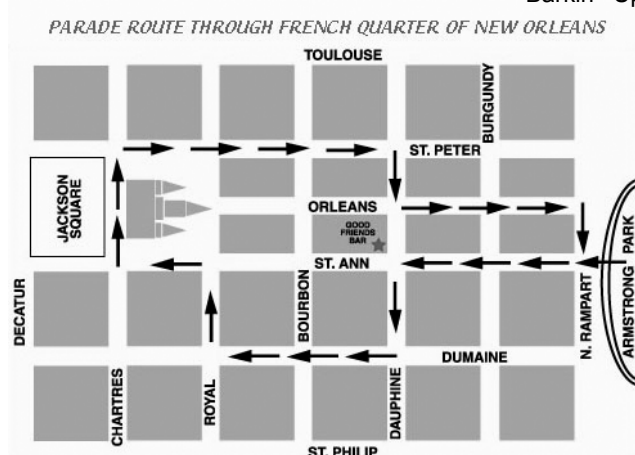
For more information, e-mail info@barkus.org.

The Mystic Krewe of Barkus is a non-profit organization founded by Wood Enterprises.

Oz & Bud Light Present 43rd Annual Bourbon Street Awards

The glitter and glamour of the world famous Bourbon Street Awards will strut its stuff on the corner of Bourbon and St. Ann Streets on Mardi Gras Day.

Mardi Gras Day, Tuesday, February 20, once again brings this famous — and





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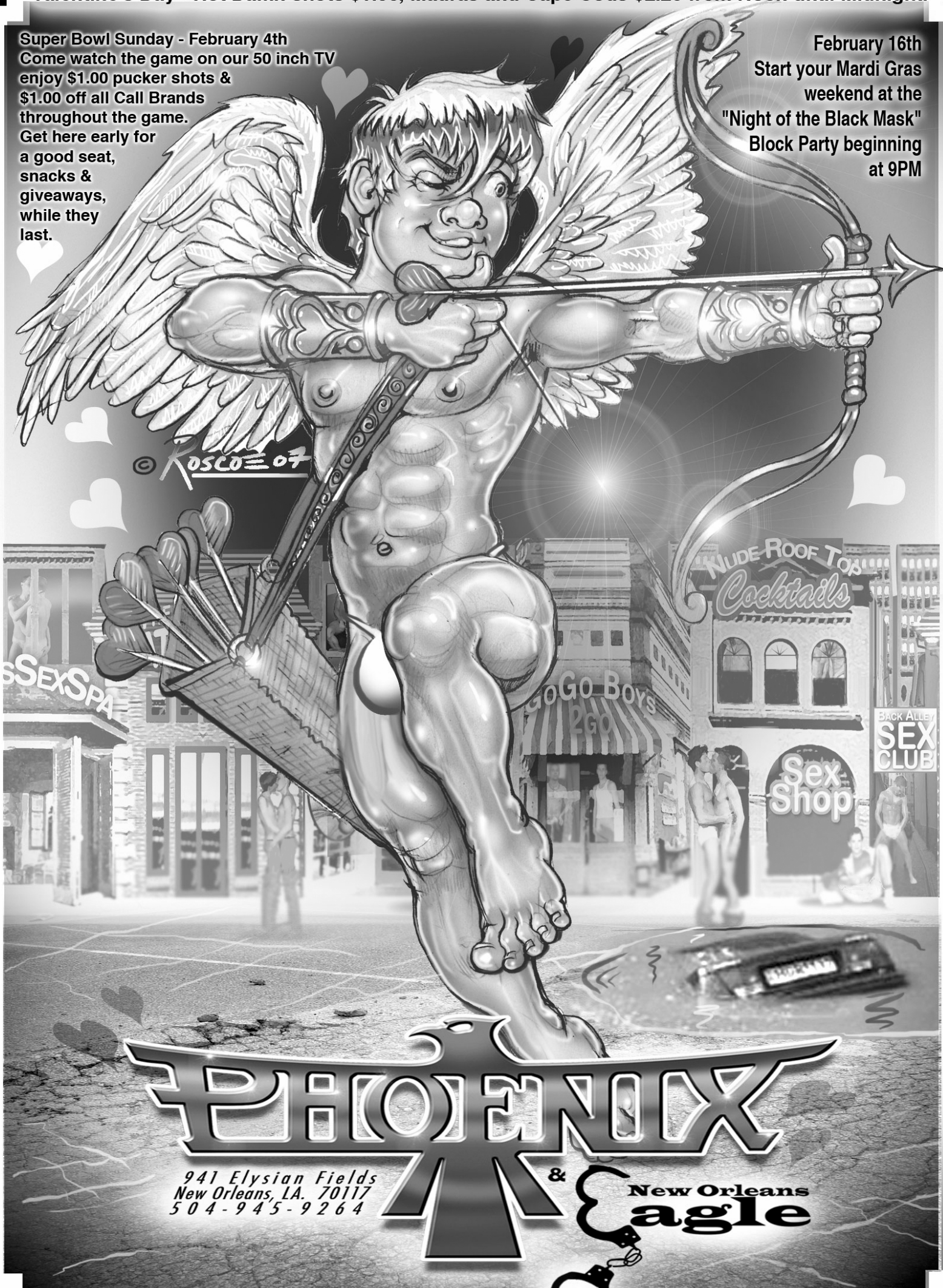


Valentine's Day - Hot Damn shots \$1.00, Madras and Cape Cods \$2.25 from Noon until Midnight.

MONDAYS Beer Bust 7PM - 10PM • **TUESDAYS** Pool Tournament beginning at 9PM • **WEDNESDAYS** Boots-Boxers & Beer \$2.25 Bud, Bud Light, Miller Lite 7PM until Midnight

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February 16th
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the "official" dish ...from M-6

ing the party to Europe. On June 29 and 30, The Disneyland Resort Paris will host **One Mighty Party Paris**, the first of four such annual events in Europe

"**One Mighty Weekend** events in the United States attract 135,000 guests, including international visitors from 30 different countries around the globe," Chisholm said. "Now, we are ready to go global and take the party to them – and Paris is the first stop."

Over the past 14 years, Chisholm's annual **One Mighty Weekend** at The Walt Disney World Resort Orlando has grown to become America's largest gay and lesbian celebration. The event also has generated sizeable contributions to its beneficiary organization, the non-profit Elton John AIDS Foundation (www.ejaf.com). The 2006 event raised \$50,000 and this year's parties – in Orlando and Paris – are committed to raise at least that much from each event.

"We are grateful for the support of Johnny Chisholm and **One Mighty Weekend**," said EJAF Executive Director Scott Campbell. "These contributions are a tremendous boost for the Foundation's work in the worldwide fight against AIDS."

One Mighty Party Paris will be headlined by legendary GRAMMY® award-winning artist Gloria Gaynor, famous for such hits as "I Will Survive" and "Just Keep Thinkin' About You."

"I look forward to working with Johnny again and with the Elton John AIDS Foundation," Gaynor said. "I'm also very excited to be a part of **One Mighty Party Paris**."

Johnny has joined forces with Ray

DeForest, a fellow event promoter to produce **One Mighty Party Paris**. The synergy of their talents promises to bring exciting new dimensions to this event.

"I am excited to be working professionally with Johnny and his team", said Ray DeForest. "Together we will be able to present an event that will be unrivaled."

One Mighty Party Paris will transform The Disneyland Resort Paris at 9pm with two large dance floors in Discoveryland and Frontierland. Attractions will be open in Frontierland, Discoveryland and Adventureland with a special performance and Magic Castle Party finale fireworks display starting at 11:30pm over Le Chateau de la Belle Au Bois Dormant.

The evening will continue with a second event, **Magic Journeys**, located at the Disney Pavilion in Discoveryland from 2am until 6am.

Tickets will go on sale February 1. See www.onemightyweekend.com and www.onemightyweekendparis.com for more details.

Sympathetic Magic Plays through Feb. 11

To Do Productions presents Lanford Wilson's **Sympathetic Magic** at the Marigny Theatre, 1030 Marigny Street. It runs week-ends thru February 11. Performances are at 8pm on Fridays and Saturdays and 6pm on Sundays.

In **Sympathetic Magic** the mysteries of the universe as well as artistic and human creation are explored in an ensemble comedy/drama. A varied group of friends and family, living in San Francisco,



Steve Kubick & Lisa Davis in Sympathetic Magic

ourselves waiting to be explored and released.

The cast includes: Steve Kubick, T.J. Troups, Lisa Davis, Lewis Routh, El Tahra Ibrahim, Tony Fennelly, Carlos Gonzalez, and Frederick Mead. The Director is Don McDonald and the assistant director Ann Sauve. Tickets are \$20 each, \$15 for students and Marigny Theatre members. For reservations phone 504.218.8559 or 504.948.9608.

Elise's Playground Feb. 16 at Tipitina's

After a short hiatus, Elise's Playground is at it again! A mini tour begins in New Orleans on Friday, February 16 at Tipitina's in the French Quarter. New Orleans' own Southern Sexual will open up the night followed by performances from Penetratia and Mistress Natasha. Special guest DJ (tba) will be spinning synthpop, ebm, industrial and retro. The theme will be "P.O.P.s Ball" for those unable to attend Mom's Ball.

in the nineteen nineties, are confronted with the knowledge that not only do we know next to nothing about the world we live in and the people we live with, but that we each have a chaotic universe inside

Hence, wear your most outrageous costume to earn those beads. The New Orleans Leather Company will be at hand providing equipment for those wanting to play.

The rest of the tour is as follows:

Friday, March 9 - Washington, D.C. - Bound,

Saturday, March 10 - Baltimore, Maryland - LoFi Social Club,

Friday, March 23 - Pittsburgh, PA - Altar Bar,

Saturday, March 24 - Cleveland, OH - Peabody's Down Under.

Local bands to each show to be announced. Visit elisesplayground.com for more information.

Buying Power of U.S. Gays and Lesbians to Exceed \$835 Billion by 2011

New York - No longer considered a narrow niche, corporate America is waking up to the enormous opportunity of marketing to gays and lesbians, whose buying power is set to exceed \$835 billion by 2011, according to **The Gay and Lesbian Market in the U.S.**, a new report from market research firm Packaged Facts, in collaboration with the premier gay and lesbian PR and marketing firm Witeck-Combs Communications Inc.

This year's report pegs the 2006 buying power of gays and lesbians at \$660 billion, an amount that will increase significantly as the gay and lesbian population, estimated at 15.3 million, grows to a

[continued on Main-10]



◆ Krewe du Vieux Parade

Saturday,
Feb. 3rd 6pm

◆ Candy Riedl

Friday, Feb. 9th 6-10pm

◆ Regina's Gumbo Revue

Saturday, Feb. 10th 10pm

Starring SDGM XXXIII Regina Adams



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Bartenders:

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The ZOO REVUE

Sat., Feb. 3rd ▼ 11pm ▼ no cover

starring SDGM XXXI

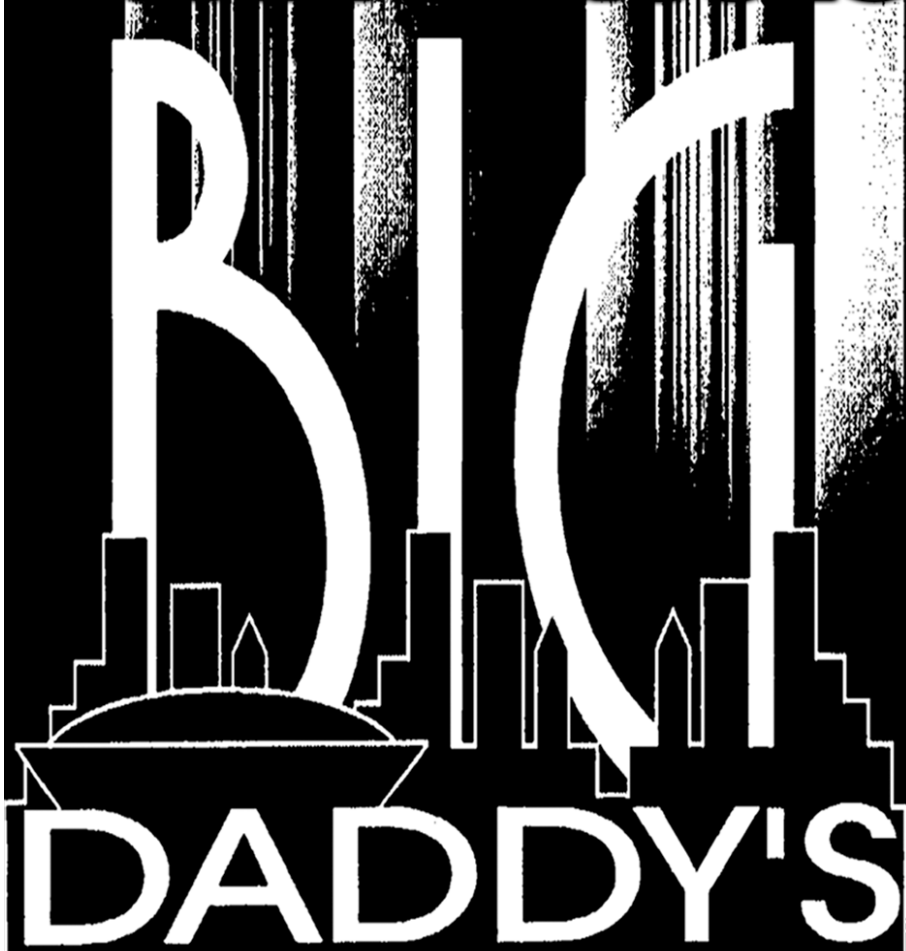
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CANDY RIEDL

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the "official" dish ...from M-8

projected 16.3 million in 2011.

Such phenomenal growth and consumer power has not gone unnoticed by major national marketers. **LOGO**, the new gay and lesbian cable TV outlet, has more than 80 major brands as sponsors, and advertisers are increasingly targeting gays in mainstream media, particularly online, as gays tend to have a higher proclivity towards digital entertainment than their heterosexual counterparts.

The report also tracks the exceptional visibility in the growing numbers of gay and lesbian households and families and provides a comprehensive demographic and regional profile highlighting the core nesting, consumption and travel habits of gay men, women, and couples.

"What we're finding since our last report two years ago is a greater openness among gays and lesbians to share their consumer habits, leisure and media pursuits, and personal/social attitudes," notes Don Montuori, the publisher of Packaged Facts. "At the same time there is a growing trend towards acceptance among the American people which is opening up greater opportunities to market to gays and lesbians in traditional and online venues."

"As trendspotters, we see marketers hungry to acquire more appreciation of gay America's economic standing, as well as more sophistication about what makes gay households like and unlike other households," said Bob Witeck, CEO of Witeck-Combs Communications. "This report should make a profound and timely contribution to these insights."

Now in its 5th edition, ***The Gay and Lesbian Market in the U.S.*** provides the most in-depth psychographical look at the consumer behaviors and attitudes of gays and lesbians available. Priced at \$3500, this report can be purchased directly from Packaged Facts by visiting: **www.packagedfacts.com/Gays-Lesbian-1259124**. It is also available at **MarketResearch.com**.

NO/AIDS Task Force Looking for Participants for a Research Study

The NO/AIDS Task Force is looking for both HIV positive and HIV negative men of color (men who identify ethnically/racially as other than White/Caucasian) at least 18 years of age and who have sex with men to participate in a new program (SouthPOL+), which is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

"The purpose of the program is to teach MSM about how to have conversations with their friends-in person and on-line about HIV risk reduction in a friendly, non-technical way. Right now, we are looking for input from MSM to help develop the program.

There are three ways to get involved: participate in an on-line chat room group discussion using a computer with internet access; do a one-on-one phone interview; or take our on-line survey. All participation will be strictly anonymous and confidential. Participants who fill out the survey may opt to enter their e-mail address for a chance to win 1 of 5 \$100 cash prizes. The other two ways of getting involved offer

\$20.00 each for participation. Compensation for time and prize payments will be paid through PayPal or Amazon e-gift certificate or mailed to the participant. The participant can suggest other ways that they would like to receive \$20 or equivalent value; if it's doable, we'll try.

We need input from the community to ensure that the program, once it is developed, will truly fit the needs of the MSM community in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Since MSM population is seeing a rise in HIV infections, their input in the development of the program is vital to its future success.

The next on-line (computer with internet access) chat room group discussion will be held on February 6 at 7.30pm.

For more information, interested parties can either visit the website at **www.southpolplus.com**, or contact: Community Awareness Network, c/o NO/AIDS Task Force, 507 Frenchmen St., New Orleans, LA 70116; 504.945.4000, 866.783.4737, **info@southpolplus.com**.

Pro-Bono Legal Advice for Local Artists

New Orleans - The ELLA (Entertainment Law Legal Assistance) Project provides pro bono legal advice to low income artists, performers, musicians, and grassroots non-profit arts & culture organizations. A partnership of the Arts Council, Tipitina's Foundation, and Tulane Law School, ELLA does client intake Friday mornings at the Arts Council of New Orleans, 818 Howard Avenue, Suite 300, New Orleans, from 9:00 AM to Noon, and Friday afternoons at

Tipitina's Music Office Co-Op, 501 Napoleon Avenue, New Orleans, from 1:30 - 4:30 PM. Since its creation in 2005, ELLA has handled over 150 clients, and provided over 500 hours of direct meetings with clients, not including hundreds of hours of research and preparation by ELLA supervising attorney Ashlye Keaton, and law student volunteers from Tulane Law School.

In 2007, ELLA anticipates holding 300 hours of direct client intake and interaction, and will assist 100-125 clients. As one of the cornerstones of the ELLA Project is to provide pro bono legal assistance from concept to completion, as opposed to many pro bono legal programs that meet for one time with a client, ELLA often meets with clients multiple times. Common legal issues addressed by ELLA include: intellectual property, business formation, landlord/tenant dispute, and non-profit formation. Post-Katrina, ELLA is also working with area musicians to assist them with their credit to enable them to qualify for housing programs such as Habitat for Humanity's Musicians Village. For more information, please contact the Arts Council of New Orleans at 504.523.1465.

The ELLA Project is supported in part by funding from the Louisiana State Bar Foundation, Tulane Law School Community Service Program, and the Arts Council of New Orleans.

The Arts Council of New Orleans is a private, non-profit organization designated as the City's official arts agency. Now in its 31st year, the Arts Council serves as one

[continued on Main-12]