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It's Mardi Gras Time!

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## under the gaydar ...from 30

Frankie Fierce and I attended the Mayor's Ball at Gallier Hall for the krewes of Nyx and Druids parades. What a fun night mingling with the political world of the Big Easy while listening to great musicians like Jeremy Davenport. The food was provided by different caterers and restaurants around the city. Both parades were lively and fun. Knowing how to become a chameleon in any environment is a great attribute I learned early. So after attending the black tie Mayor's Ball, we went to the drag show at Oz which as always was an engaging experience. The following night, more parades filled my evening, when I attended Contessa Breau's Muses Party at her exquisite Uptown Mansion on the route. This one is just a casual mix of friends and neighbors to watch three fun and exciting parades. I left with my Muse shoe this year, so I was very happy. Not wanting to go home, I went to the Peacock Party at the Phoenix, and get your horrible minds out of the gutter, it was not some weird sex party to my disappointment (just kidding), it was a kick-ass dance party with lots of hot men and DJs on both floors. It was hosted by Akrum who did a brilliant job in transforming the Phoenix into a new look. I had so much fun and hope that they will do something like this again often.

The Mardi Gras weekend rolled into this city quickly and the final countdown to Mardi Gras had begun. On Friday, I attended one of the best parties of the season, the Friday Night Before Mardi Gras at the Audubon Tea Room. My friend Jared and I dressed in full costume to go to the Immortals Ball which boasts incredible costumes, delectable cuisine, hot bartenders, and dancing all night. There is even a costume contest, in which I won best costume in the theme of the night, yeah! Always fun when you get a prize at the end of the night.

Saturday was a blur of a day. I worked the beginning part of the day then got home in time to change and attend the Armeinius Ball with friends at the Frederick J. Sigur Center in Chalmette. Everyone had fun "Makin' Groceries" that night with Bianca Del Rio and Blanche Debris as emcees for the night. Unfortunately, I could not stay for the entire event and was whisked off with my friend Nick to the Endymion Extravaganza at the Superdome. To me, this is one of the most exhilarating events of the year with the parade rolling into the dome throwing lots of great stuff. The entertainment of the night was Big & Rich and the fantastic Maroon 5 with the hotness Adam Levine. If you have never been before, words are hard to describe this wild ride of dancing, drunken bead catching and unbridled festivity. Suffice to say, when the parades come in, keep your hands up, your head down and your drinks safe.

Sunday, I strolled into the Quarter for a small impromptu gathering at Rip and Marsha's. We tossed a few beads, and had a relaxing time before the Mardi Gras crowd would fully overtake us. After that, I did a quick change and attended the Lords of Leather Sci-Fi Ball at the Chalmette Civic Center. My friends, Nick, Jared, Laura and James joined me as we blasted off to galaxies unknown.

And what a wild ride the krewe showed us, with Darwin Singleton and Bianca Del Rio as emcees, it was a non-stop laugh riot. I loved all the costumes but one of my favorites was Lance's Jurassic Park, simply wonderful. But all the costumes were fabulous not just at this ball but all of them. Congratulations to all those who participated in the Gay Mardi Gras balls this year.

Has everyone noticed how Lundi Gras is slowly becoming just as big a party day as Mardi Gras. Between the balls, parades and parties, there rarely is a break before the big day. My day started out with work for most of it, but I managed to get back in time to change into a tuxedo and stop briefly at the Bears and Bubbly party at the Sweet Olive Guest House. Their Lundi Gras party and Decadence parties are always fun to attend, filled with lots of hirsute men. Then my friend James and I were guests at the Orpheus Ball, so we met up with my friend Nick at his Warehouse District Condo for pre-party cocktails with a few other friends, then off to the ball at the Convention Center. My God, the Orpheus Ball was like one huge gay social. The gays must love some Harry Connick, or at least be in charge of this event, because there

were homos aplenty. The parade as always was spectacular and we caught lots of throws. Harry Connick, Jr., Cindy Lauper and Brett Michaels were all very entertaining. So all and all, it was a successful night, after which I dragged myself to bed at three in the morning.

It was finally Mardi Gras and I was up moving early. I donned my costume and started my day with mimosas, bloody marys and a full breakfast at my friend Laura Tennyson's St. Anne party in the Marigny. Her husband is a chef, so the spread was delectable, from braised short ribs and fried chicken to turkey bacon and shrimp and cheese grits. After laying a good foundation for the day and having a few champagne cocktails, I slowly made my way into the French Quarter. I was honored to be asked to judge for the Bourbon Street Awards so Oz was my next stop. They outfitted me in my robe and white wig, and I was ready with eleven other of my peers. We had a great time and Bianca and Blanche were enjoyable. Kudos to Tommy Elias for producing this event/costume contest which also added entertainment elements from his show *Glitz* into it. Teryl-Lynn Foxx, Dusty Debris and Lisa Beuamann all performed as Whitney Houston, Lady Gaga and Liza Minelli respectively.

Once the contest was over, I fought the crowd to the Ambush balcony for the annual Gay Mardi Gras Bead Toss, led by King Cake Queen Nicole DuBois who looked ravishing. What a wonderful afternoon spending it with friends throwing beads, sipping libations and enjoying the day. After a few hours there, I left and made my way to a few gay bars before taking the long walk home in platform shoes. But all the weeks of work and play finally caught up with me as I was in bed and sound asleep Mardi Gras night by 7pm.

That concludes my Mardi Gras adventure, I hope everyone had just as splendid a time as I did. What's next, well St. Patrick's Day, St. Joseph's Day and Easter celebrations. So get that party dress dry cleaned, we are in for a busy Spring.

## Tony's Tidbits of Wisdom

I hope everyone had fun at all the Mardi Gras balls this year. Each one was just as spectacular as the next, from the grandeur of the costumes to the lively shows. But it takes a lot to put on these events, they are not cheap, trust me. As Captain of the Krewe of Satyricon, I know, so all the balls need your help, not only in attending the many events we have, but actually becoming a member.

Gay Mardi Gras is an art form and one that needs to be kept alive. So the krewes need your help by becoming members. These social organizations are wonderful chances to be a part of a time honored tradition in the gay community.

This is a way to meet people and strut your stuff in front of hundreds of people. I cannot tell you what a rush it is when you are on stage in your costume, you are a star, and for that moment in time, you are gay glamour personified. All the krewes have membership drives, so I wanted to list them for the readers. Before making your decision, I suggest you go to all of them. Finding the right krewe that fits your needs is important, sort of like pledging a fraternity or a sorority, except we do not have hazing; although that might be fun. So please come out and play a role in one of the most dazzling of the gay carnival season.

Sunday, March 4th... ~2-4pm, 52nd Krewe of Petronius Rush Party, Micheal's On The Park

~6-8pm, 30th Lords of Leather Rush Party, Phoenix

Sunday, March 11th... ~2-5pm, 49th Krewe of Amon-Ra Rush Party, Good Friends Bar, Upstairs in Queens Head Pub  
~3:30-5:30pm, 11th Mystic Krewe of Satyricon Rush Party, Michael's On The Park

Sunday, April 1st... ~2-5pm, 45th Krewe of Armeinius Rush Party, Michael's On The Park

If you have an event, story or idea, you want covered, contact me at [tonymgp@hotmail.com](mailto:tonymgp@hotmail.com).

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Lords of Leather Bal Masque XXIX: The Sci-Fi Ball @ Frederick J. Sigur Civic Center ~ New Orleans ~ Photos by AL Dwain, Grey Cross



Friday Night Before Mardi Gras Extravaganza XIII: Immortals Ball @ Audubon Tea Room ~ New Orleans



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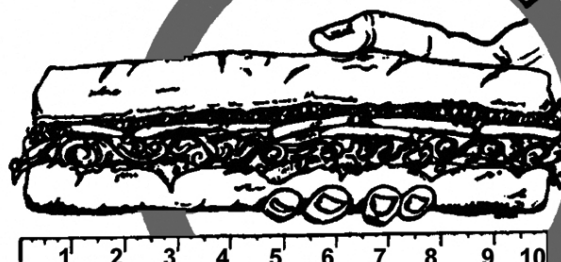
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3/5 8pm  
Café Istanbul Open Mic

3/11 2:30pm (play) Tic Tic Boom

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Trinese Duplessis Delusion vs Truth

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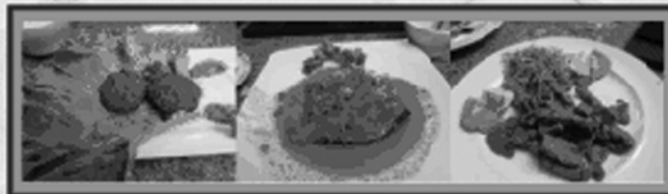
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Mardi Gras Highlights ~ Metairie, New Orleans ~ Photos by Tony Leggio, Paul Melancon, Nawlins Pix



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## pride: beyond the rainbow

**T**here are many exciting events coming up for Pride 2012 that we encourage you attend! Come out and meet the new Board Of Directors, ask questions, and have some input for this year's Pride!

The Pride Grand Marshal Announcement Party and Gala is April 7, 7pm-Midnight. Come out to the Hotel Monteleone 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, 214 Royal. All former Pride Grand Marshals will be presented, and the 2012 Grand Marshals will be announced! Advance tickets on sale now for \$20 at [www.prideneworleans.org](http://www.prideneworleans.org). This gives you: entry to the gala, a concert by Amanda Shaw from 9pm-midnight, food, and raffle items. A cash bar is available. There are only three VIP tables left at the party, and this is the only seating available at the event. Get your tickets today.

The Mr./Miss Pride Pageant 2012 is May 20 at 6pm. Come on out to Harrah's Hotel, 228 Poydras. There is a \$25 contestant entry fee and \$5 donation at the door.

Other information:

Visit [www.prideneworleans.org](http://www.prideneworleans.org) to: Nominate someone for Pride Grand Marshal, enter the Pride Pageant, purchase tickets for Amanda Shaw/Grand Marshal Party, enter the Pride Parade, or donate to Pride 2012

Make sure to "like" us on Facebook, and follow us on twitter @NewOrleansPride.

Anyone interested in becoming a Pride sponsor, please email us at [nolapridesponsorship@gmail.com](mailto:nolapridesponsorship@gmail.com)

For all other questions, please email [nolapride@gmail.com](mailto:nolapride@gmail.com)

Hope to see you out there! Stay tuned for the next issue of **Pride: Beyond the Rainbow**.

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