

May 6, 2004



Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor,

In today's society where the issue of Gay marriage is perplexing the so called "moral majority", it is quite troubling to me how some of the Gay and Lesbian community can still be stuck in the 1900's. Since I can remember, Soakies Lounge has opened its doors always to anyone regardless of gender, race, and or sexual preference.

Sure, there has been some confrontations, and yes dare I say it a stabbing and shooting (which incidently happened outside the club). However, what nightclub can say they haven't had to deal with their share of fights? That is the reason why the majority of the Caucasian clientele that I have spoken with can't really win the debate on this topic. They concede.

With this in mind, The Darts Over Missouri League was here the weekend of May 1st. We (Soakies) registered a team and received confirmation of such. We by rights were to have teams playing at our establishment but didn't. When asked on Sunday why we didn't have a team playing at Soakies, we were told that because we paid with cash, that they did not realize that Soakies had a team. Nothing else!

What kind of @#*^ is that? To whom this may concern, I can respect the truth better, after all the truth is the light! To the Gay Black community and those that support us like Flo and the Gay Pride Association, who has worked diligently with us to promote togetherness, I say to you, don't continue to allow us to be downtrodden. We have been looked down upon as being Gay. Don't allow the race card be an issue.

If we continue to allow ourselves to be double stigmatized, then we get just what we deserve. We must stand up for ourselves. We are proud, Black and strong. Our economic power is a formidable resource. If we can not be appreciated, then why should we spend our money somewhere we are not wanted. If we do, then the words, "Free at last" means nothing to you. Remember however that the struggle begins within. If you carry yourself in a respectful manner, then this is what you will receive. I challenge those that read this to free yourselves from the oppressions still going on in 2004. And by the way, If I offended someone, maybe this was true.

Tish Taylor
Manager - Soakies