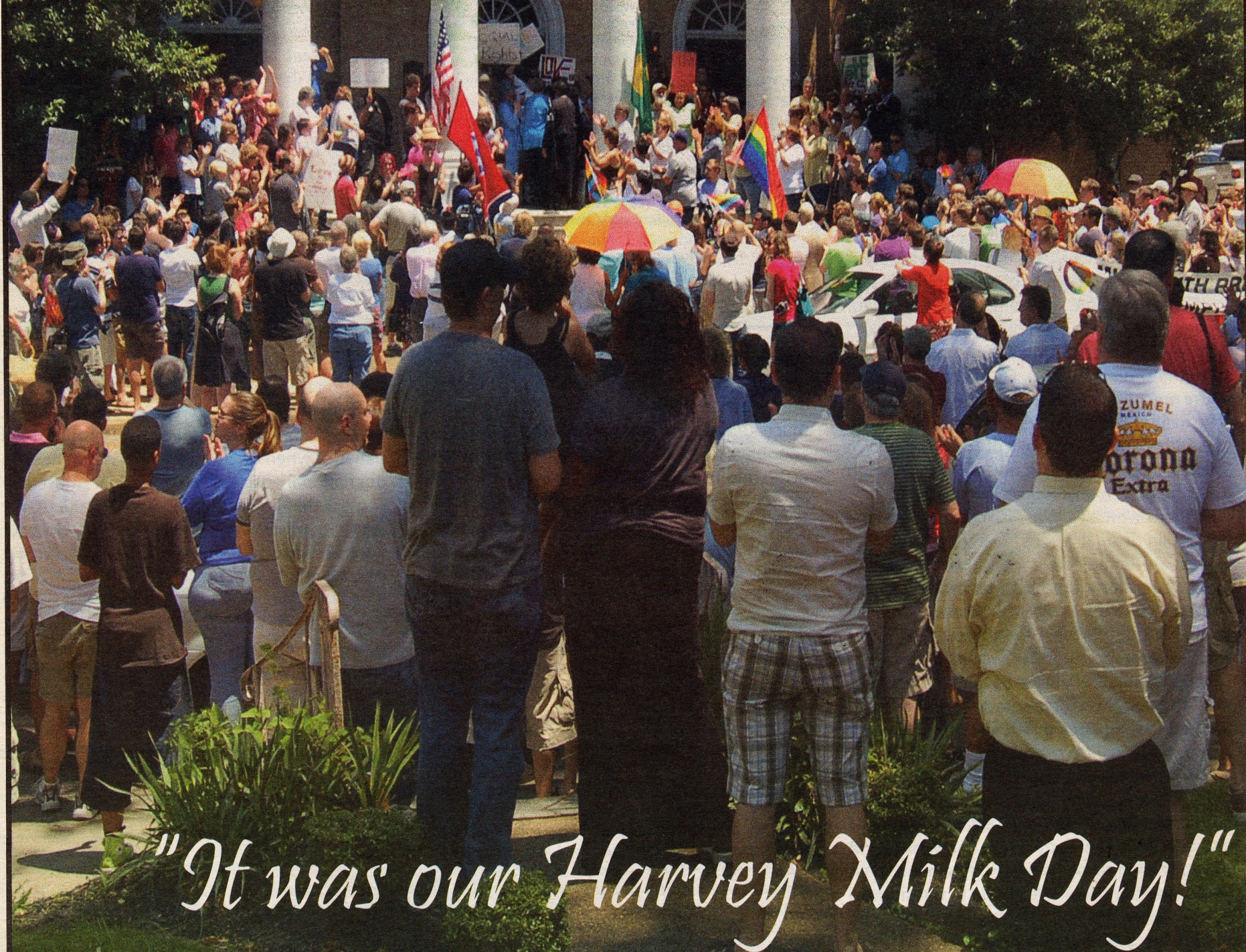


TRIANGLE JOURNAL

July 1, 2009

Vol: 4 Issue: 7

GLBT News for the Midsouth



"It was our Harvey Milk Day!"

Unity Rally stirs the community on to victory!

Shelby County Commission passes non-discrimination resolution - p. 3

Hobgoblins, movers and shakers

by Len Piechowski



You'll probably say "no big surprise", but I must say I'm feeling a bit schizoid this month. I'm sure there's a prescription drug for that, but it may be faster, cheaper and more constructive to express it here, rather than to medicate it privately. You see, I'm wrestling with strong emotions about Memphis Light Gas and Water, TJ, Memphis politics and social dynamics, and the Obama administration. All of which seem to have an urgency all of their own. One of the many things I appreciated about my predecessor Allen Cook is how he always seemed to be able to bring light to many local issues in one article. I'm not so good at multitasking. I'm from the "one-thing-at-a-time" generation. So this may seem disjointed. Bear with me.

It's hard to put a news magazine together without power. After six days without it, it seems to me that MLG&W could do better, much better. I lived in Cleveland, Ohio, for 19 years and in Chicago for four. We had brutal, and I do mean brutal, weather there. I was in graduate school in Chicago during the great blizzards of 1978 and 1979. The city came to a complete standstill for several days during each of those winters. But I was never without power. MLG&W, you're doing something really wrong. Or at the very least, you're not doing something right. Please take the time to fix it. Life in the 21st Century depends on you. Did you see the remake of *The Day the Earth Stood Still* yet, MLG&W? If not, try to sit through it and be sure to take the ending to heart.

Emerson once said "foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of small minds." Many people forget to include the adjective foolish when quoting him. Regardless, the editorial team decided immediately after our last publication to delay implementing our decision to go green for at least several months. Our world in Memphis changed dramatically in the days after the June TJ went to print. Those dramatic developments are covered in the pages that follow. Even though going green will be necessary from a financial and environmental perspective, now is not the time. Too much is going on right now of which our community needs to be aware. We cannot lose our traditional communication vehicle and risk your need to know while implementing an immediate transition. We intend to transition in a few months, but not just yet.

Speaking of these tremendous events, you will probably remember that last year we began a tradition of naming the *Triangle Journal* Movers and Shakers for 2008. We named more than 20

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JULY 2009

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people, all GLBT or straight allies, who were making a difference in our community. This year, our team didn't need to give this happy task too much thought. It is my profound pleasure to announce that this year, there is only one winner of this title. The *Triangle Journal* Mover and Shaker for 2009 is Shelby County Commissioner Steve Mulroy, and we wish to place all of the attention on him. The bravery he displayed during his principled advocacy for our equal rights in Shelby County needs to take its rightful place in our history. I will never forget watching the look of admiration in his young son Quinn's eyes while he stood next to his dad at the Unity Rally on May 31. Commissioner Mulroy, you deserve this honor. We'll be presenting you with a small

token of our esteem at a community town hall meeting that that is scheduled later this month. See page 10 for details. We hope you will join us.

And finally, in a recent editorial, I advocated patience when awaiting the change we need in our national policies and legislation. I must now confess that I'm losing mine. Mr. President, my admiration is wavering. I devored both of your books. I supported you. I voted for you. And most importantly to me, I believed you. Yes, I know, it's still early in your administration. But we will not be able to say that much longer. Thanks for your declaration of June 16 initiating an effort toward equality of benefits. It's good. Very good. But don't patronize or try to placate us. We're waiting for the real change you promised.

Opposite page

Our community's first ever Unity Rally drew a crowd of 500 people who gathered on May 31 to urge the Shelby County Commission to pass a non-discrimination ordinance referencing gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender citizens. 1) Rev. Elaine Blanchard, author and director of religious education at Neshoba Unitarian Universalist Church, claims it is time to show the church the meaning of the golden rule. 2) A participant captures the emotion of the day (photo courtesy of Ann Hackerman). 3) Jonathan Cole of the Shelby County Committee of the Tennessee Equality Project delivers the keynote address. 4) Will Batts, executive director of Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center offers an urgent plea for equality during what he later called "our Harvey Milk Day". 5) Mid-South Peace and Justice Center coordinator Brad Watkins passionately tries to persuade the County Commission. 6) Attorney, political leader and former County Commissioner Walter Bailey speaks fervently in support of equal rights for all citizens. 7) One of the GLBT communities staunchest allies, State Senator Beverly Marrero proclaims why she cannot waiver in her support of equality. 8) Minister and Spiritual Director of Open Heart Spiritual Center John Gilmore tells the crowd that he is there to let the community know that the pastors who stood in opposition to the non-discrimination ordinance a few days earlier do not have a corner on spirituality. 9) A portion of the crowd of 500 waits for another speaker. 10) Darlene Fike expresses the need for a trans-inclusive ordinance. 11) Shelby County Commissioner, TJ's 2009 Mover and Shaker, and sponsor of the non-discrimination ordinance Steve Mulroy performs the duties of master of ceremonies. He is cheered on by Heidi Cranford Williams of Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center (photo courtesy of Ann Hackerman). The Unity Rally was organized by Jonathan Cole of TEP, Brad Watkins of Mid-South Peace and Justice Center, Elokina CaPece who serves on the board of directors of Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center and MGLCC's executive director Will Batts.

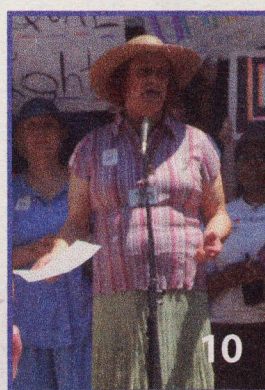
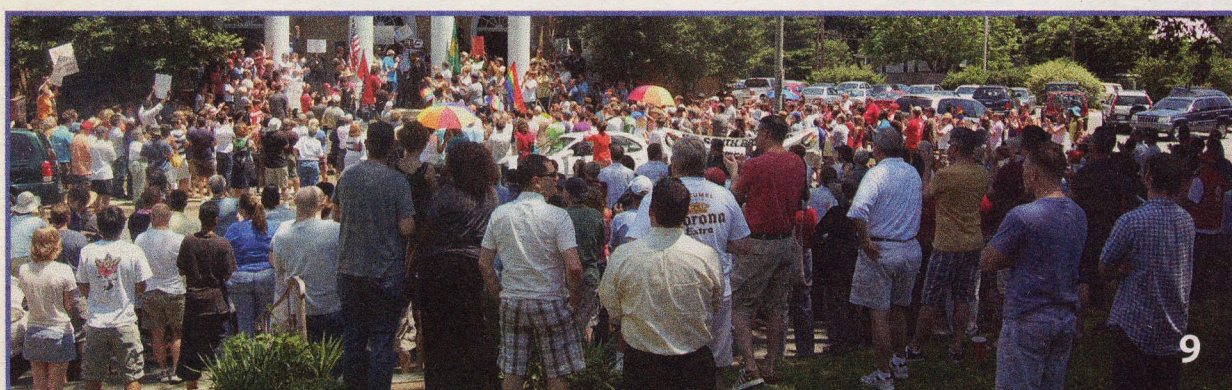
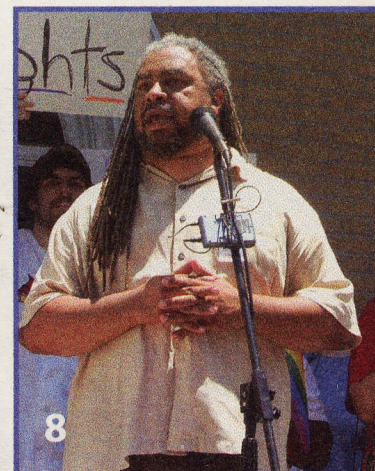
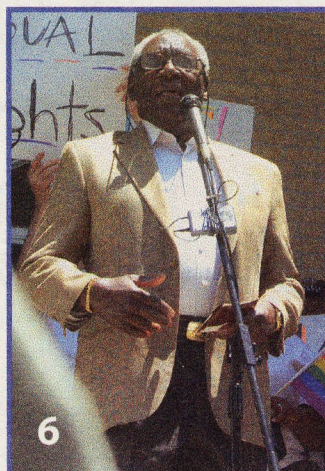
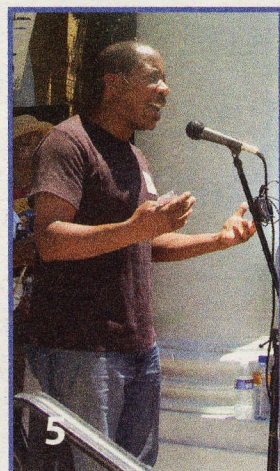
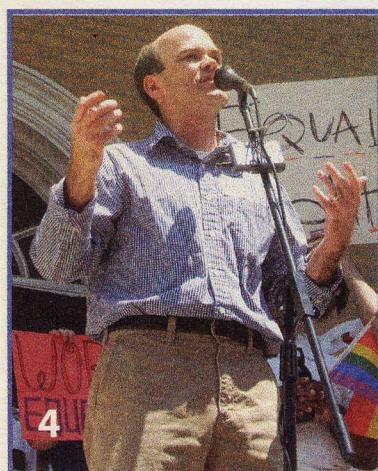
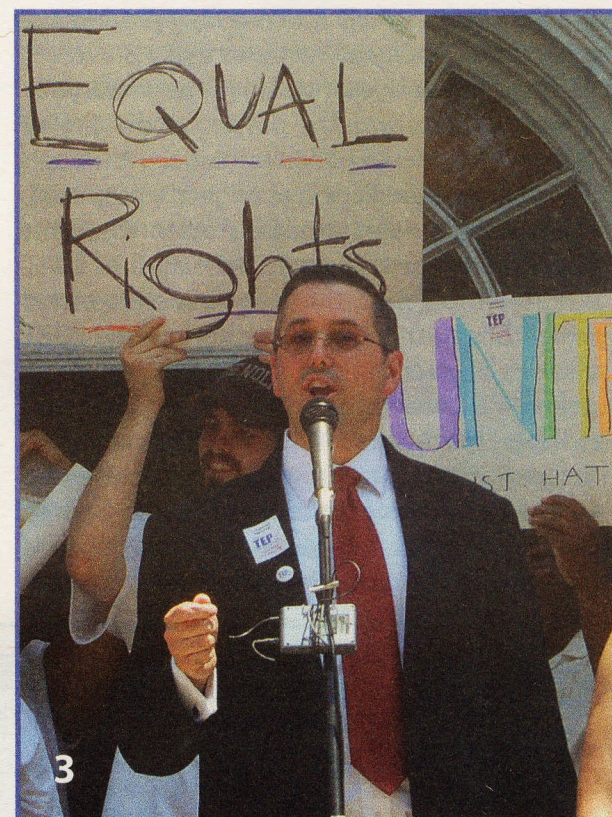
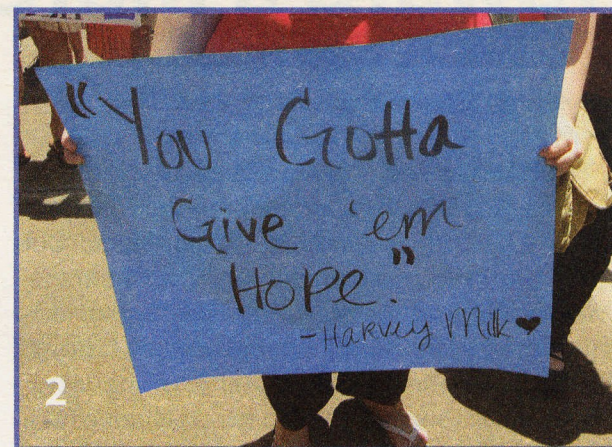
"Now, therefore, be it resolved..."

by Jonathan Cole and Christopher Sanders of Tennessee Equality Project

On June 1, before a packed audience, the Shelby County Commission voted 9 to 4 in favor of a non-discrimination resolution with bipartisan support that prohibits discrimination against County employees based on "non-merit factors." During the hearing, commissioners read into the record some of those factors including sexual orientation and gender identity or expression in order to establish the resolution's legislative intent. The resolution does not go as far as the ordinance we originally worked with Commissioner Steve Mulroy to introduce, but it establishes protections for County employees and makes the County government a more welcoming employer for the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community.

An incredible coalition came together with the TEP Shelby County Committee to advocate this policy that advances equality. We are grateful to the organizations and individuals who worked so hard for passage of the resolution, especially Commissioner Steve Mulroy, who is a true ally and an eloquent advocate for equal rights.

Perhaps the biggest win that came out of the movement for this resolution was that hundreds of people came together to fight for equality. This network will continue to work together to advance equality at the local, state, and federal levels. We intend to pursue stronger non-discrimination policies in the City of Memphis, in Metro Nashville, and around the state.



Toward a more progressive Memphis

by Caleb Simmons

This is an exciting time to be a Memphian," reads the first statement on the Memphis City Council's web site. It continues: "Our city is on the move. Building on our heritage, working together, we've made great strides in recent years. From Downtown to Midtown to East Memphis, from Frayser to Whitehaven, Memphians share a pride in the past and a faith in our future."

Very soon we will find out how progressive and proud the City of Memphis really is.

It has been a month since the victory for our community with the passing of the Shelby County non-discrimination resolution. Although the ordinance didn't pass as originally proposed, the resolution was a huge step in the right direction. It not only gave protection to LGBT county employees, but a movement formed which brought together a community. LGBT citizens of every race, background, religious denomination and their allies came out in large numbers to voice their support of the ordinance. Because of this united front which was presented to the Mid-South community and the County Commission, the non-discrimination clause is expected to be added to the Shelby County

Government Employee Handbook in the next few months.

Even before the non-discrimination ordinance was voted on by the Shelby County Commission, plans were in the works to approach the Memphis City Council with similar legislation. Tennessee Equality Project (TEP) Shelby County Chair Jonathan Cole says a proposed ordinance has been drafted which will protect not only city employees from workplace discrimination but also employees of all city contractors. This is very similar to the original proposed county ordinance which was sponsored by Commissioner Steve Mulroy. Although the city ordinance as proposed would not protect employees working for private businesses that do not hold contracts with the city, it *would* ensure that your tax dollars will not go towards payment of companies that discriminate against LGBT employees. Beyond Memphis, TEP is simultaneously working to push forward a similar ordinance to the Metro-Nashville government.

Cole is optimistic for the success of the Memphis city ordinance. He cites that there is already an ordinance on the Memphis city books that protects LGBT citizens. Memphis City Ordinance 12-52-8 provides protection to the public against discrimination based on

"sexual orientation and gender-related grounds" when applying for parade or public assembly permits. Cole feels the precedent of protecting LGBT citizens against discrimination which was established by a previous city council will make it easier for the current council to protect their own employees against discrimination in the workplace. "The language is already there," said Cole, who states that TEP will not settle for anything less than "full equality in the workplace for the LGBT community" and the ordinance must include protection against discrimination based on "sexual orientation, gender identity and expression."

In preparation for the vote on the Memphis non-discrimination ordinance, TEP, Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center (MGLCC), Mid-South Peace and Justice Center, supportive religious groups and other organizations will again work together to rally supporters. Although there is no Wyatt Bunker on the Memphis City Council, both Cole and Will Batts, Executive Director of MGLCC, expect strong opposition based on conservative religious views. Cole believes though that the religious-based opposition has been seriously weakened. He

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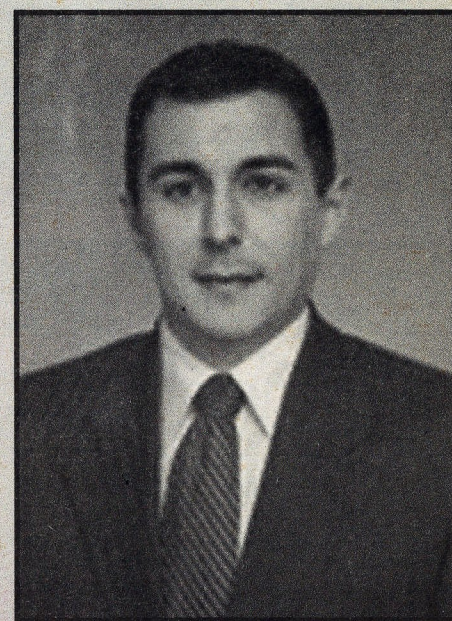
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Toward a more dangerous Memphis

by Marisa Richmond

I have to start this month by offering my heartfelt congratulations to all in Shelby County for your success in getting a non-discrimination resolution. All of you who were part of the campaign, which the Tennessee Transgender Political Coalition (TTPC) supported, did an excellent job of raising the profile of the community, building alliances with other constituencies and identifying future leaders. I was particularly impressed by the grassroots work done to get so many out for the county commission meeting. The supporters of equal rights who spoke even outnumbered the opponents who spoke, 47 to 13. In the end, the ordinance was watered down to cover "non-merit factors" because some commissioners were not yet ready embrace equal rights for all, despite the fact that they had previously told organizers that they would support such an ordinance. This may not have been the victory everyone had worked for, but it is a significant first step, especially since several commissioners read into the record the legislative intent to ban discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity or expression in Shelby County government. A special thanks has to go to Commissioner Steve Mulroy who filed the resolution and worked so

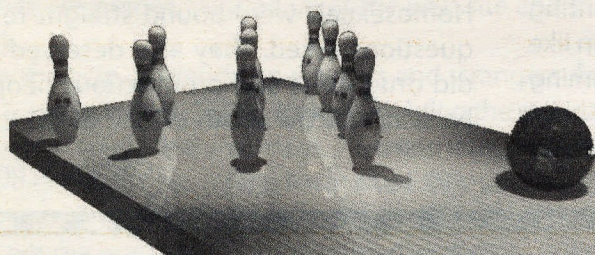
closely with Shelby County's LGBT community on this issue.

Of course, the excitement of the moment was tempered by the news of yet another shooting of a transgender person in Memphis. I learned of this latest tragedy when a reporter called me as I was driving along I-40 to attend the county commission hearing. Memphis has quickly gained a national reputation as being the single most dangerous city in the country for transgender people. The non-discrimination ordinance was one step in addressing this hate violence. If people can find gainful employment, they are less likely to end up on the streets. Furthermore, by respecting the contribution of all, it sends a clear message to the rest of the community that the lives of LGBT people are not expendable. The community education effort must continue.

The man who admitted to this crime, Terron Taylor, told police that he shot the victim for "misrepresenting his gender." Fortunately he is being held on a \$500,000 bond for attempted murder in the second degree. This is in contrast to the \$20,000 bond given to D'Andre Blake for the 2006 murder of Tiffany Berry, or the outright refusal of the Shelby County district attorney to press charges against Bridges McRae

for 2008 beating of Duanna Johnson. These, as well as the other hate crimes against LGBT people, must be aggressively prosecuted. That is also why we can no longer accept any excuses from the United States Senate for not taking up S.909, the Federal Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009. This bill has already passed the House, so as soon as the Senate does so, and we know they have the 60 votes necessary to invoke cloture, it can get to the President. With recent statistics from both the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation and the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs showing that bias hate crimes are on the rise, there is no reason not to pass this bill to promote public safety. The fact that neither the TBI nor FBI even counts hate crimes against transgender persons, makes this legislation even more timely. Turning a blind eye to anti-trans violence will not make it end. Both the state and federal governments must address this violence immediately. Both of Tennessee's Senators, Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker, are both opposed claiming that current state law is effective. You need to let them both know that Tennessee law is not effective and people here, and in many other states, are looking to the federal government for

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Response to Pastor Gaines' position on county ordinance

"I like your Christ, I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ." - Gandhi

by Kevin Dean

I remember sitting in Ms. Noblett's class when I first heard that word. I was 8 years old, a third grader with a limited vocabulary in slang. I didn't know many "bad words," but somehow I managed to learn a lot my third grade year by trial and error. So when I heard a little boy call another little boy the word — "fag!" — I could immediately tell by the reaction of the class and the teacher that this three-letter word was more like a four-letter word. Ms. Noblett marched over to the boy, grabbed him by the ear, and pulled him out the door straight to the principal's office. Wow, how bad a word was that? Sounded terrible.

My father picked me up that day from school. Having no other school gossip, I immediately told him what the little boy had said. "Do you know what that word means, Kevin?" my father asked sternly. I had no clue. He proceeded to tell me that the word meant "a man who likes other men, like how men are supposed to like women."

Ah, so there it was. I now had a word that described me. Even in third grade, I knew something was different. I liked boys. I had crushes on boys. I wanted to hold their hands. I wanted to make googly eyes with them and send them notes. I was different from anyone else I knew, and no matter how hard I tried, I was still an anomaly even to myself.

Not realizing this was a bad thing, I almost said out loud that I was a fag, but then remembered the boy being dragged down the hall after he said the word. This "fag" word connoted something bad. My father told me that these type of people were evil, and they should be avoided. I sat silently and said nothing else about it. I didn't want anyone to know about my problem.

That Sunday at church during prayer time, I prayed that God would not make me a fag.

The next year in fourth grade, a discussion came up in class about AIDS, this new disease that was killing people. A substitute teacher told us that AIDS was a punishment from God on gay people (by now I knew gay and fag were synonymous) and that gay people deserved what they got. Yeesh. Not only was I evil, I also deserved to die of AIDS. And I was only in the fourth grade!

Elementary and junior high school became even more difficult to handle knowing my secret and unable to tell anyone. I felt isolated from my classmates, and I was always the odd duck in class. I was a sweet kid, but I demanded attention in any way that I could. I knew I was different, and most of the kids in school either picked on me or kept me at arm's distance. I didn't have many friends. Between being effeminate, intelligent, scrawny and clumsy, I was the highlight of a

bully's day whenever I played any kind of sports. I remember being called that word — *that word* — so many times in high school. Fag. Kevin's a fag. Faggot. Kevin Dean's a queerbait. That fag can't even throw a football. Look at the faggot run. (Yes, even some of my Facebook "friends" said these things, and I haven't forgotten. I look forward to the day your child comes out as gay or lesbian.)

By the 11th grade, my family had switched to the ultra-conservative Bellevue Baptist Church. Between the wrath of God sermons about homosexuality and the constant reinforcement that straying from traditional male roles was sinful, I was a mess. At my school, I was humiliated almost constantly for being different, and at church, I was shamed for being different. I remember lying in my bed praying to God for years that I would stop liking boys, that I would start liking girls "that way," and that hopefully no one would ever find out about my tendencies. There was a new word in the vocabulary now — homosexual — that I kept trying to outrun. I did not want these tendencies. I did not want to be gay or homosexual or a faggot. I wanted to be normal. I wanted to overcome my "sinful behavior" and be a good Christian boy who enjoyed football, sex with women and hunting deer. I wondered what life would have been like had I not been surrounded by people shaming me for who I was without even realizing it.

I heard about a boy who went to Bellevue that was quietly shipped off to a treatment center. Word was that he was a homosexual, and he was going to be fixed through a Christian rehabilitation camp. I was intrigued but didn't want to blow my cover. (The boy, as it turns out, was not rehabilitated. He died of a drug overdose in 2002 after being disowned by his family for continuing to be gay.)

My senior year, I decided that if I went off to college and had not overcome my homosexuality, I was going to kill myself. The idea that my parents might find out that I was gay was horrifying to me. And my grandparents: Oh, God, if my grandmother found out she would hate me. The idea that the rest of my life would be filled with as much humiliation as I had faced in high school made death seem like the best alternative. The concept that God hated me for something I couldn't control made me angry at God, though He remained silent when I asked for change. I had

spent my whole life feeling alienated from almost everyone, feeling like an outcast even when I had built a healthy support system for myself. My mother and father didn't understand me. Most of my teachers didn't understand me. My classmates didn't want to understand me. I felt so utterly alone, and God would do nothing to make it better. In addition to all of this, all around me I had people spewing bile about homosexuals. At Bellevue, homosexuality was apparently worse than most other sins. At Briarcrest Christian School, homosexuality meant expulsion and counseling for students.

How could God make me something that I didn't want to be and condemn me for it? How? I spent a lot of time alone wondering why God would be so cruel to me. I attempted to do everything right and this is what I get?

Finally, it happened. Briarcrest held a special "Spiritual Emphasis Week" every year, ushering in top talent from the Christian Evangelism circuit to bring us all back to Jesus. His name was Macil Duncan. In his sermons, Duncan preached that women deserved to be raped if they wore slutty clothing. Women should be subservient to their husbands, no matter what. Jews and Catholics must repent now or burn for eternity. Homosexuals were bound straight to hell, no questions asked. They also deserved AIDS, as did drug users and promiscuous people. This, he said, was the wrath of God at work, smiting

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Legislature adjourns without adopting discriminatory legislation

Commentary by Christopher Sanders

Late Thursday night June 18, in a move applauded by LGBT activists throughout the state, the Tennessee General Assembly adjourned without passing the discriminatory bills that were pending.

These bills included attacks on our adoption rights, voter I.D. bills that disenfranchise the transgender community, and the absurd "Don't Say Gay" bill. Unfortunately the hate crimes and birth certificate bills didn't pass this year. But we can expect all these bills — negative and positive — to be back in January.

It wouldn't have been possible to hold off these negative bills without allies like the Tennessee Transgender Coalition, Tennessee Equality Project (TEP), the ACLU of Tennessee and the Human Rights Campaign.

TEP county committees around the state played a vital role in bringing people from West, Middle and East Tennessee to Nashville for Advancing Equality Day on the Hill in February to meet with lawmakers.

We want to thank all of you for e-mailing and calling lawmakers throughout the session. Your contacts made a difference in protecting our rights.

Finally, I want to thank our lobbyist Jenny Ford for all of her work of developing effective strategy and keeping all of you informed about legislation. She's a great general who knows how to keep the troops motivated and focused!

Lesbian Divas in Literature come to Memphis

by Ann E. Hackerman

On June 20, Girl Pride Memphis welcomed an afternoon of Lesbian Divas in Literature, hosted by Alpha Chi Upsilon Sorority. In a packed room at the Crowne Plaza, authors C.D. Kirven, Nikki Rashan, Erin Dutton, Laurinda D. Brown and Robyn G. Wright with Kings Crossing Publishing came to share their work and offer advice for up-and-coming writers.

Lesbian romance author Erin Dutton, who is a 911 dispatcher in Nashville during the day, has used her work experiences to pen books with a fire-fighting setting. Her newest work, *Point of Ignition*, adds to her previous titles *Undesigned for Love*, *Fully Involved*, *Place to Rest* and *Sequestered Heart*. *Point of Ignition* will be available mid-July.

Nikki Rashan's *Double Pleasure, Double Pain* is a poignant work that shares the coming-out struggles of a woman in Rashan's 20's. Her work deals with the fact that coming out is not a one-time issue, but a lifelong endeavor.

Walk Like a Man adds to Laurinda D. Brown's previous works of *Fire & Brimstone*, *Strapped*, *Undercover* and *Highest Price of Passion*. All set in Memphis, her books address critical issues of coming out, domestic violence and racial and cultural issues.

Political LGBT activist C.D. Kirven discussed her debut novel, *What Goes Around Comes Back Around*. Her work carries on her passion of encouraging adults to look back and reflect on their struggles of childhood and adolescence. She stressed that everyone should know that they are beautiful and may be seen by others as beautiful. To arrive at this understanding, each of us must accept our sexuality if we are to fully accept ourselves.

Robyn G. Wright of Kings Crossing Publishing Company shared the works of Skyy, who was unable to be present. Her two books, *Consequences* and *Choices*, share the intense and sensual relationships among women.

All of the professionals stressed a key point: Self-esteem issues run deep in their works.

All persons have the same struggles. LGBTs are no different than their heterosexual counterparts with life's journey. The use of religion to discriminate condones hatred. Kirven stated that, "Love is not a sin. Condoning hatred is a sin." The condemnation of LGBT teens begins a systemic path to suicide, as Kirven pointed out, adding, "You're killing us slowly (by telling us that we are sinners, that we are

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Early sterilization suggested for our smallest family members

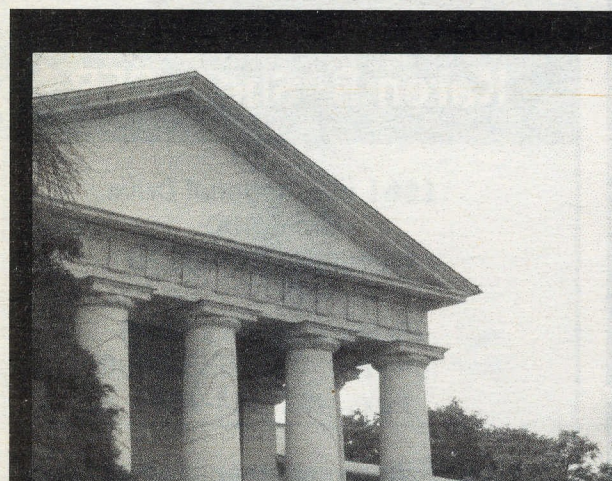
Mid-South Spay & Neuter Services, a non-profit spay/neuter clinic located near the University of Memphis, has begun pediatric spay/neuter surgeries. This new policy allows for the sterilization of pets that are at least six weeks old and weigh one and a half pounds.

"There is abundant information based on recent studies that indicate early spay and neuter might actually be better for pets," says Executive Director Amy Kalkbrenner. "It is a safe procedure, and with new technology, better anesthetics and surgical techniques, early pediatric spay and neuter is becoming the new standard. Our veterinarian, Dr. Isis Johnson-Brown, DVM, is also well versed in the procedure, having performed it for 12 years."

While euthanasia remains the number one cause of death for dogs and cats in the United States, altering animals at a young age can decrease the number of unwanted litters. The benefits of the surgery — for both cats and dogs — include the curbing of behavioral problems as well as decreasing the possibility of certain cancers.

According to the American Humane Society, the number of homeless animals far exceeds the number of available homes. This means that many healthy animals must be euthanized as the only solution to the tragic overpopulation problem. Spay and neuter, especially when done early, is the only 100% fail-proof way to address the dilemma.

Mid-South Spay & Neuter Services recently changed its name from Animal Protection Association. The organization has been offering affordable spay/neuter services for more than 25 years. For more information about the Mid-South Spay & Neuter Services, please call 901-324-3202 or visit www.spaymemphis.com.



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Black and Gay Forum fills MGLCC's Benefactor Hall

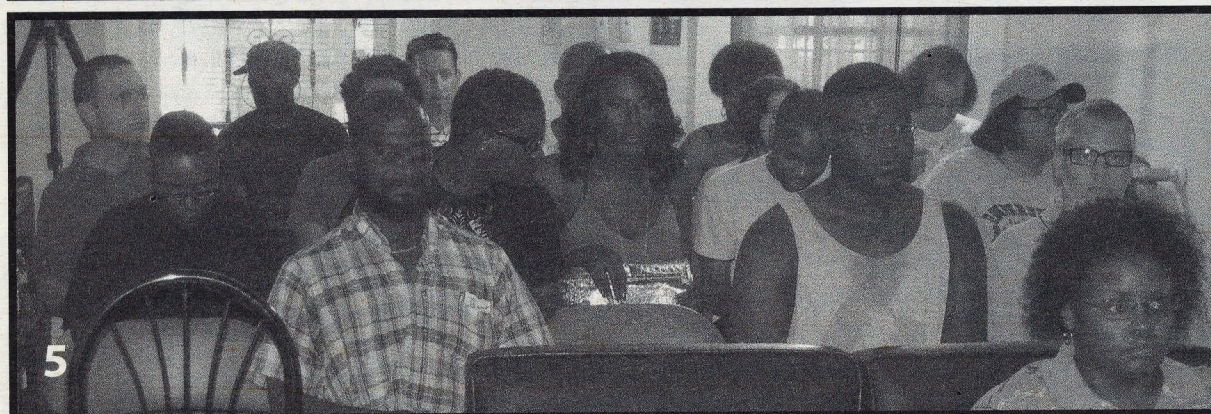
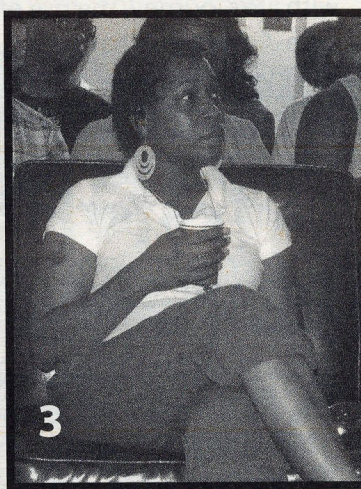
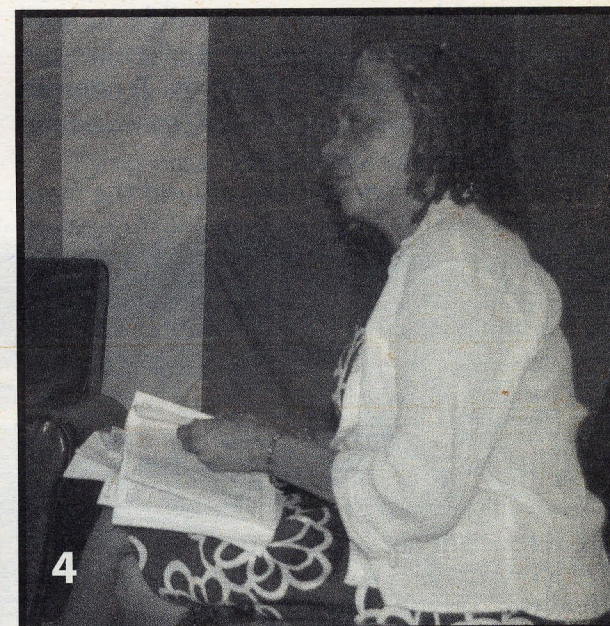
by Natasha Burnett-Holmes

The Black and Gay Forum on July 19 at MGLCC was a rousing success as people of different races and sexualities filled the room to talk about homosexuality in the black community. Four segments were presented: "Homosexuality in the Black Church," in which Minister LaPaula Turner helped to give truer interpretations of some of the Bible scriptures that are used to condemn homosexuals; "Homosexuality in the Black Family," in which panelist Erin Swinney, a lesbian whose siblings are trans and bi, and whose parents are ministers, told of their family dynamic; "Alternative Gay Families," in which Sassy family head Ja'Taun Stafford spoke about why people join gay families; and "Down Low Brothers/HIV in the Black Community," in which statistics on the state of HIV/AIDS in the black community were presented.

Panelists Hanifah Walida and Olive Demetrius, filmmakers from New York, presented a trailer from their movie, "U People," which will be shown uncut at the National Civil Rights Museum on October 3. It will be the first GLBT film ever to be shown at the museum.

Many of the audience members stood and spoke during the different segments, including one young person who came out for the first time. Many expressed thanks for the forum because, like me, they felt that there was a need for something of this nature to be presented and talked about. The audience was mostly African American, but there were some white audience members, including one who spoke about the suicides of two friends after having their families and church turn their back on them because of HIV. The audience also consisted of gay, lesbian, transgender, and straight members.

All in all, the Black and Gay Forum was very successful, and I look forward to doing it again very soon. The event was filmed by G&K Productions and sponsored by Whole Foods Market. If you are interested in being a panelist on the next potential forum (with a different focus), contact me at theoutlookmemhis@yahoo.com. It will be posted on www.veoh.com when it becomes available. I would like to thank all of the people that came out and supported this event and MGLCC for the venue.



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- 1) Natasha Burnett-Holmes welcomes participants to the Black and Gay Forum at MGLCC on July 19.
- 2) Panelists Olive Demetrius and Hanifah Walida presented a trailer from their movie "U People."
- 3) Ja'Taun Stafford addressed the topic of gay families and the problem of the down low in the Black community.
- 4) Minister LaPaula Turner addresses homosexuality in the black church with a focus on the Judeo-Christian scriptures.
- 5) Some of the participants of the first Black and Gay Forum begin to take their seats in MGLCC's Benefactor Hall.

Seminar on suicide prevention in the LGBT Community hosted by MGLCC

Commentary by Marian Bacon

On May 2, I attended a seminar titled "Suicide Prevention in the LGBT Community" with Sharon Horne, Associate Professor at the University of Memphis, and Mike LaBonte, Program Director at the Crisis Center. Present were 13 individuals at Memphis Gay Lesbian Community Center which hosted the seminar.

Horne began the presentation by asking if suicide is an issue in LGBT communities. She told us that the majority of LGBTQ and same-sex oriented individuals reported positive mental health, healthy and satisfied relationships and affirming and supportive friends and family members in the community. She reiterated these three qualities throughout the presentation, but also indicated that LGBTs have greater rates of depression, substance abuse, suicidal ideation and reported suicide attempts in comparison to heterosexual individuals.

Horne said that the suicide attempt rate is higher earlier in the coming out process. This may be due to earlier awareness of same-sex attraction, non-disclosure of sexual orientation to others, gender non-conformity, rejection by family, drug and alcohol problems, lower self-worth, depression and occurrences of physical and sexual violence.

Horne presented six stages in the coming out process: Stage 1: Identity Confusion. The person has general feelings of being different and realizes "LGBTQ issues seem to have some relevance to me (but I'm not sure why)." The person listens to information about LGBTQ issues and realizes he or she has an interest. Stage 2: Identity Comparison. The person begins to think "I may be gay, lesbian or bisexual." They have an awareness of same-sex feelings, yet the person thinks that this may just be a phase or that the feelings are toward only one specific person. At this time there is a heightened risk for feelings of loss, depression and suicidal feelings. Stage 3: Identity Tolerance. The person now thinks "I probably am LGBTQ." He or she feels a stronger identity of being LGBTQ and the person starts to reach out to contact other LGBTQ individuals. The person engages in a balancing act, cautiously looking for more information. High-risk behaviors are highly possible at this time. Stage 4: Identity Acceptance. The person now knows "I am gay. I am lesbian..." They seek out an increased contact and affiliation with other LGBT individuals. Stage 5: Identity Pride. "I value LGBT culture. I am angry with the dominant heterosexual culture." This is the "These are my people" stage whereupon the person comes out to more and more people and often starts to feel anger toward heterosexuals, devaluing many of their institutions. Feelings of isolation from family and from the straight



Dr. Sharon Horne speaks about suicide prevention at MGLCC on May 2

community are common. Suicidal ideation may occur if idealized family of choice is not found. Stage 6: Identity Synthesis. "My LGBTQ identity is just one part of my self". The intense anger of stage 5 diminishes and the person comes to perceive "less of a dichotomy between the heterosexual and LGBTQ worlds" yet retains pride for LGBTQs. At this time there is a low risk of suicidal ideation.

Mike LaBonte presented the second part of the presentation called "Suicide Intervention". Labonte told the audience six steps to use when talking to an individual who might be suicidal.

1. Engage and Explore. Engage in a compassionate and responsive manner. Explore recent losses and traumatic events.
2. Ask and Estimate. Directly ask about suicidal thoughts. Estimate risk (Plan, Attempts, Pain, Supports, Mental Health).
3. Listen and Leverage. Listen to suicide talk. Leverage life supports.
4. Recognize and Reflect. Recognize and reflect client's ambivalence. Respect death-side, affirm life-side.
5. Plan and Contract. Develop a plan with limited objectives. Always attempt to make a no-harm contract. Always include 24-hour safety contracts. Establish access to long-term resources and support. Have client repeat back plan and contract agreements.
6. Follow-Through. Keep your commitments. Use the Crisis Center as a resource 274-7477. Be ready to engage emergency help if necessary.

I feel the seminar was well presented by Horne

and LaBonte and there was an ample amount of time for discussion. A couple of LGBT members in the audience requested more information about suicide in this particular population. I am glad that Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center hosted this seminar and allowed such a bold topic to be put out on the table.

Oh, and yes, I am a survivor of multiple suicide attempts, and I think this seminar needs to be presented over and over again. Suicide is *real*. Learn the signs. Don't be afraid to ask if someone is thinking about it and get them assistance.

TEP elects new board, officers

by Christopher Sanders

At the annual meeting of the Tennessee Equality Project in late May, TEP members elected a new board, who in turn selected their new officers. Newly elected members of the board include the following: Rev. Cynthia Andrews-Looper, Wes Aull, Latoya Belgrave, Jonathan Cole, Ryan Ellis, Darlene Fike, Brandon Hutchison and Lane Scoggin. Re-elected to the board are Kim Council and H.G. Stovall. These new and re-elected board members join the following continuing board members: Lisa Beavers, Tom Ekman, Daniel Forrest, Stephen Henry, Chris Nelson, Chris Sanders, Peter Westerholm and Rhonda White.

The board elected the following officers: Chris Sanders, Chair; H.G. Stovall, President; Stephen Henry, Vice President; Wes Aull, Treasurer; Jonathan Cole, Secretary; Latoya Belgrave, At-large Executive Committee member. This leadership team is notable for several reasons. For the first time, we have elected different people to the offices of chair and president. As TEP faces an increasing workload and as the time has come to turn over responsibility for the organization to a new generation of leaders, I look forward to sharing oversight of the organization with H.G. Stovall, our president-elect, and the other officers. Also notable about the new executive team is the strong representation from Shelby County. Secretary Jonathan Cole and At-large member Latoya Belgrave are the chair and vice-chair of the TEP Shelby County Committee. Their election marks a recognition of the role that citizens of the Memphis area (who now have four representatives on the board) play in our state and local lobbying efforts.



County Commissioner Steve Mulroy
Triangle Journal's Mover & Shaker - 2009

**Please join us for a reception in Commissioner Mulroy's honor during
the Annual MGLCC membership meeting
at MGLCC ~ 892 South Cooper Street on Sunday, July 26 at 4 pm.**

Mid-South Pride week recap

Our rights are civil rights

by Vincent Astor

Pride began with an enormous rainbow kickoff at Crossroads on Sunday, June 14. The 50-foot rainbow flag, still going strong after 12 years, became a canopy big enough to cover Crossroads' entire patio. A delicious cookout was followed by games on the patio and donations were taken for Mid-South Pride.

Tuesday, The Pumping Station had its Pride Party with rainbow decorations and Asian food to a good turnout. The Pumping Station was one of the three bars on a shuttle service Saturday evening, the others being Crossroads and Dru's Place.

Wednesday, a near capacity house enjoyed *Were The World Mine*. The film was an enormous favorite at last year's Outflux festival, so an encore presentation to benefit this year's event was scheduled during Pride Week. All proceeds went to the festival scheduled for Sept. 11-17. A bit of excellent news was forthcoming from the Center City Commission: the CCC distributed rainbow flags for display during June's Trolley Tour of South Main. The flags were purchased at Inz and Outz. The last Friday of every month, South Main Arts District galleries, shops and restaurants are open for this unique event from 6 to 9 p.m. The Trolley is free between the Beale Street Stations and Central Station.

Thursday, an enthusiastic crowd at TheatreWorks attended a special preview of *ClappTrapp — The Sound of Musicals*. It was a pastiche that not only parodied *The Sound of Music* but referenced more than 40 other musicals. Audience members were given a blank list and invited to name as many as possible — a theater queen's dream. The prizewinner received a gift certificate to Inz and Outz. The performance benefited Mid-South Pride and was produced by Emerald Theatre Company (ETC).

Also that evening was the Pride party at Dru's place with specials, decorations and door prizes. Dru's was among the hosts of the Mid-South Pride Karaoke Contest (including Crossroads, The Pumping Station and MGLCC).

Continued on page 20

Girl Pride in Memphis

by Ann E. Hackerman

LGBT Pride events began almost 40 years ago, after the Stonewall Riots in June, 1969. Major cities throughout the world have seen their Pride festivities and parades grow from a few dozen participants to hundreds, and now into the thousands of people over the years. The South's events have been slow-going, but as LBGTs unite, the larger the parties and culminating parades have become.

Memphis participants increase every year, with approximately 1,500 people celebrating Pride events locally. The three major Prides of Memphis are the MidSouth Pride, Memphis Black Pride and Memphis Girl Pride, for which women of all races are invited.

For those unfamiliar with Girl Pride, event coordinator Skyy was able to provide insight.

"The philosophy and mission of Girl Pride is to provide events for women who love women. Many times the Pride events are focused more on men. Girl Pride wants to celebrate Pride for who we are and pride for being women." The 2009 theme was The Doll House. Each Pride event had a doll theme, such as Barbie's Beach House, Porcelain Doll Fantasy Affair and Babes in Toyland. Girl Pride was packed with a variety of activities that offered something for everyone. As Skyy stated, attendees were to "Expect the unexpected." The ultimate goal was for everyone, "To be amazed and have an amazing time."

On a more serious note, Girl Pride partnered with Planned Parenthood to offer health education and confidential testing. Women need the opportunity to know about health risks for women who are involved with other women.

Girl Pride hosted Lesbian Divas in Literature, showcasing authors from the genres of romance, contemporary fiction, urban literature, mystery, and poetry. An evening of events featured nationally known poet Red Summer. That same evening, the mic was turned over to all of those who wanted to share their voices through poetry, song, and the spoken word. As I have said on more than one occasion, "Everyone has a voice. Everyone deserves to be heard."

The culmination of Girl Pride was a customer appreciation party at Mary's Memphis.

The Girl Pride Planning Committee and others spent many of countless hours developing the weekend festivities. Shane Trice with Trice Management and other sponsors gave so much to help it all come into fruition.

For those who would like to learn more about Girl Pride Memphis, Skyy invites all to visit the web site www.girlpridememphis.com.

Black Pride 2009

by Kenan Gilmore

If you wanted to be among those who kicked things off for Black Pride 2009, you would have needed your best pair of undies, because there was a pajama party at The Artisan Hotel on Thursday, June 18. The DJ set the tone so that you couldn't mistake that there was anything but a party going on.

"While I didn't see foam as promised, I think it would have only slowed the party down" one pajama-prepped partier said.

The Friday Meet and Greet was canceled due to last-minute conflicts. Nevertheless, the turnout at the 901 Complex later that night gave plenty of opportunities to meet and greet as there was wall-to-wall movement. A large audience of ladies found it hard not to move or to dance due to the high energy of the performers. Blaq, a member of the audience that night, said, "Ooohzee shut it down as always!"

The gentlemen, on the other hand, also had entertainment whose names were Hypnotic, Morocco, and a few others. I think the crowd would agree that ReDickulous stole the show! While the temperature packed a wallop at 102 degrees on Saturday, the pool party may have actually blown thermometers all around the city. A Best Body Contest for the guys, a J-Setting contest for a cash prize and a separate contest for the ladies were held. All of these added to the fire that started at the hotel and blazed throughout the entire city! It was apparent that imagination was present when choosing some of the swimsuits. The grand finale was called Unity in the Community! Overton Park was in utter-crowd mode shortly after 5:30 p.m. The temperature, which was in the high 90's again, didn't hold back the party for too long as the J-Setters made their way to the center of the park for the last contest.

David Upton of the Tennessee State Democratic Party graced us with his presence by taking the mic and reminding us that we can create our own destinies by speaking up! While I believe in equality, I think he was right on time. Hats off to Terryl Buckner, Anthony Hardaway and every one on their teams for producing a successful turnout. While I'm sure that I missed a few things, I advise you to go to YouTube for video because there was a lot going on, and a visual will serve you well!

Deadline for August

Triangle Journal

July 22, 2009

Please send your contributions to
editors@tjmemphis.com

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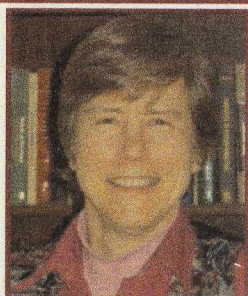
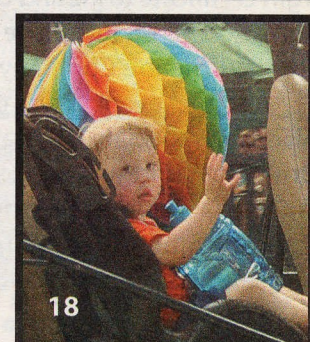
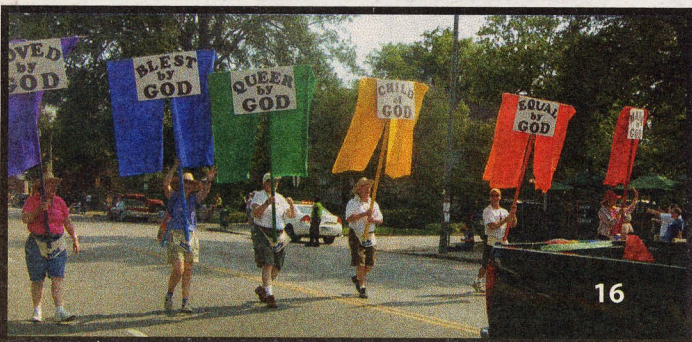
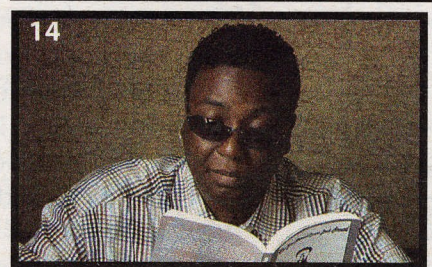
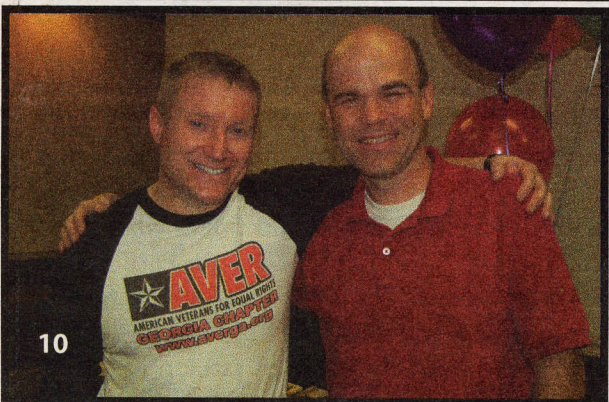
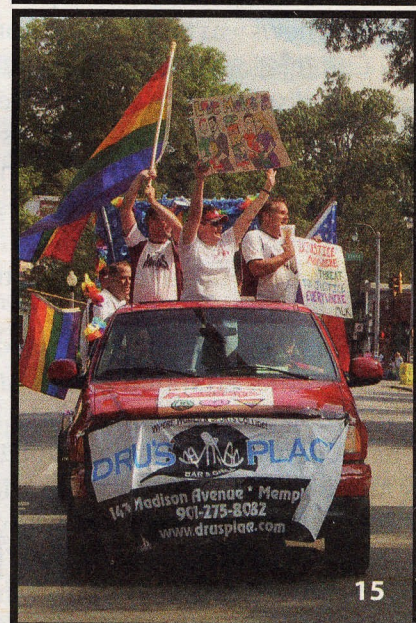
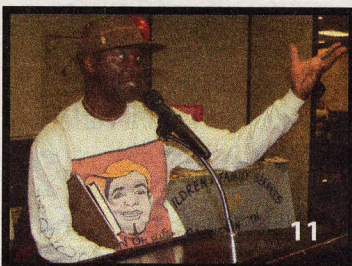
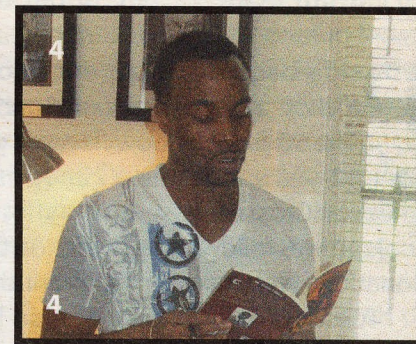
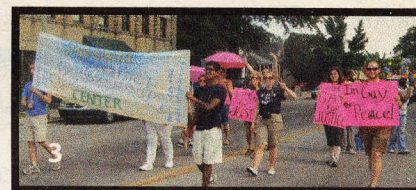
"Do give us a ring, darling!"

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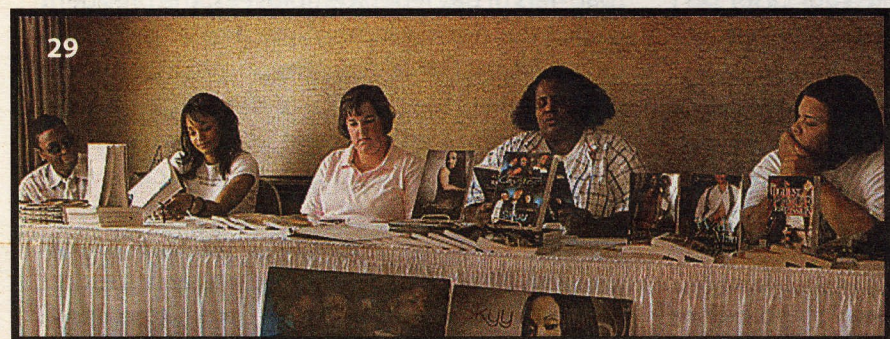
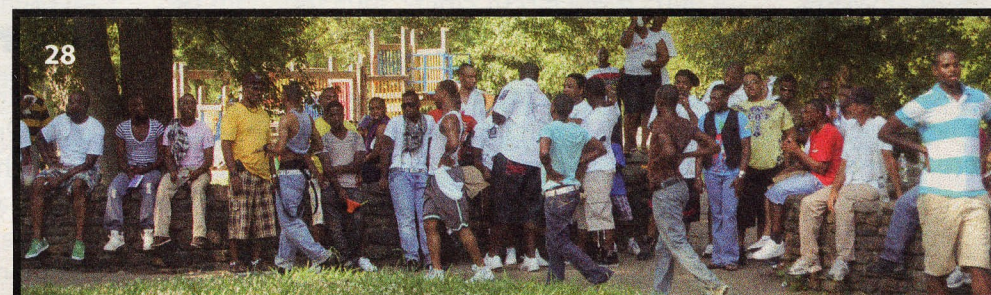
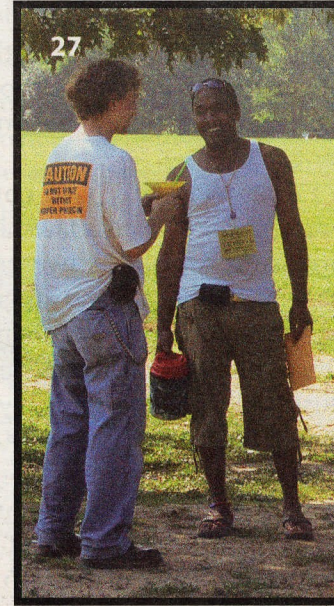
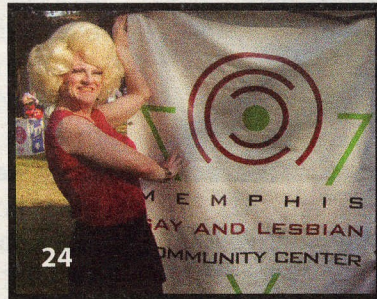
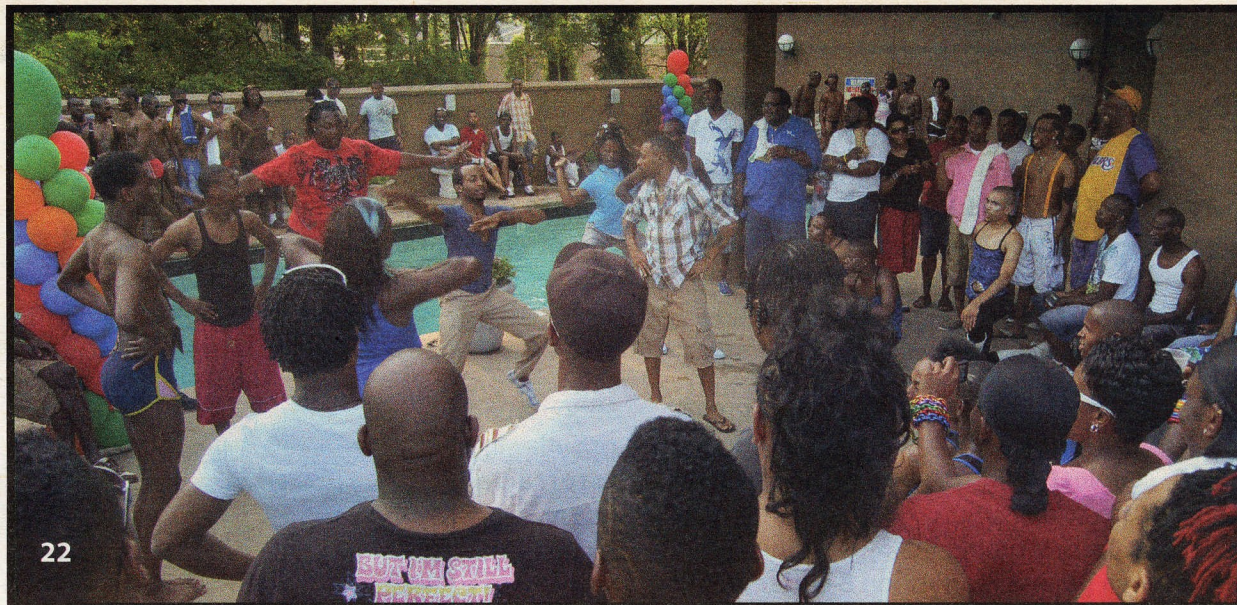
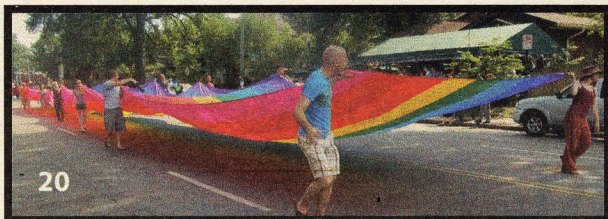
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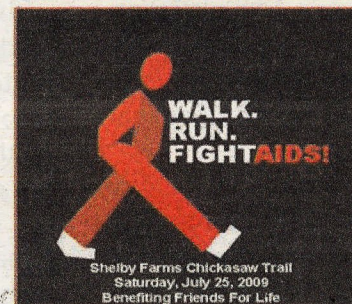
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1) The Mid-South Pride Parade was led by the color guard who marched to the cadence called by Sgt. Danny Ingram (second from left). 2) The CowPattys came to celebrate Cybill (Shepherd's) rights. Imagine their surprise when they were informed later that the theme was our civil rights! 3) The parade included our allies from The Mid-South Peace and Justice Center. 4) Author Kenan Gilmore reads a portion of *Is This Him?* at his Saturday booksigning at MGLCC. Also marching in the parade were representatives from 5) Neshoba Unitarian Universalist Church, 6) Nike GLBTF Network, and 7) Medtronic. 8) Our allies, David Upton of the State Democratic Party, Shelby County Commissioner Steve Mulroy, State Senator Beverly Marrero and City Councilman Myron Lowery stand with TEP's Jonathan Cole. (Photo courtesy of Mark Jones). At the Saturday morning Black Pride Seminar at The Artisan Hotel: 9) Natasha Burnett-Holmes and Christopher Mathews served as emcees; 10) Sgt. Danny Ingram (left) posed with MGLCC executive director Will Batts, and 11) Black Pride Coordinator Anthony "Ladybug" Hardaway delivered the keynote address. 12) PFLAG and 13) MGLCC's Queer as Youth also marched in the parade. 14) Author C.J. Kirven reads from her book after speaking with passion at Lesbian Divas in Literature at Girl Pride Memphis. (Photo courtesy of Ann Hackerman) 15) Dru's Place celebrated their spirit as 16) Holy Trinity United Church of Christ testified to their spirituality. 17) The staff and supporters of Friends For Life were on hand to mark the occasion and 18) the youngest member of the parade was a member of Neshoba Unitarian Universalist Church. 19) The Memphis Area Gay Youth (MAGY) asked "Two, Four, Six, Eight. How do you know your kids are straight? You don't!" 20) Michael Hildebrand inspired enthusiasm from the bystanders as he and his team carry the 100 foot pride flag. 21) Sgt. Danny Ingram blows "Taps" honoring Major Alan G. Rogers who was the first known gay casualty of the Iraq war. (Photo courtesy of Mark Jones). 22) The Black Pride Pool Party took place at the Artisan on Saturday afternoon. 23) Celebrating in Overton Park are, from the left, Jimbo "Ida Clair" Tidwell, Terrence Jones, Vincent Astor, Ladybug, Kent Hamson and Sean Alexander (Co-chairs of Mid-South Pride). 24) Patty O'Door displays her loyalties at the Peabody Park Festival. (Photo courtesy of Mark Jones). 25) Nikki Rashan listens to her peers during the panel discussion at Lesbian Divas in Literature. (Photo courtesy of Ann Hackerman). 26) Michigan Womyn celebrate Girl Pride at Peabody Park. (Photo courtesy of Ann Hackerman). 27) Terryl Buckner of 901 Complex talks with Kent Hamson at the Black Pride Picnic. 28) The J-Steppers ignore the 90 degree heat while the crowd enjoys the entertainment. 29) The panelists of Lesbian Divas in Literature were, from the left, C.J. Kirven, Nikki Rashan, Erin Dutton, Robyn G. Wright and Laurinda D. Brown. (Photo courtesy of Ann Hackerman).

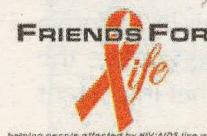


On Saturday July 25, you can Walk.Run.Fight AIDS

With Friends For Life

Bring your family and friends (no dogs, please) and support local AIDS prevention and care. All registered walkers and runners will receive a souvenir event tee shirt.

Register online at <http://walkrunfightaids.racesonline.com> or visit www.friendsforlife.org and click the link to **Run.Walk.Fight AIDS**



This is a Memphis Runners Track Club sanctioned event and will occur rain or shine.

Prop 8 brought to the federal level

Gay rights groups warn that ill-timed lawsuits could cause regression, not progression

by Jared Burrow

On May 15, 2008, the California Supreme Court ruled that denying same-sex couples the right to marry was a violation of the state constitution. Just a few months later, on Nov. 4, a simple majority of the voters of California passed Proposition 8 and reversed the ruling, banning same-sex marriage. On a challenge to the proposition, the state high court decided on May 26 of this year that Prop. 8 was to remain in effect, although marriages that took place before the passing of Prop. 8 would remain valid.

Following this, two couples — one gay, one lesbian — filed a lawsuit against California governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, attorney general Jerry Brown and other officials. Their case was taken up by two prominent lawyers — Ted Olson, the U.S. Solicitor General under President Bush (43) and the attorney who represented him in the Bush v. Gore 2000 election case, and David Boies, who represented Gore in the same case. The 10-page complaint claims Prop. 8 is in violation of the Due Process Clause and the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

However, many civil rights groups are against the idea of bringing this to the federal level, especially now that the Obama administration has done a reversal on their campaign policy when it comes to gay rights, supporting laws such as DOMA and comparing homosexual relationships to incestuous ones.

The American Civil Liberties Union, the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, the National Center for Lesbian Rights, the Equality Federation, Freedom to Marry, the Human Rights Campaign and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force all came together and released a publication entitled "Why the ballot box and not the courts should be the next step on marriage in California."

It reads:

"Since we lost Proposition 8 just six months ago, and since a ballot initiative to repeal is likely to require a huge investment in time and money, it is tempting to at least try a federal lawsuit first. But it's a temptation we should resist. It is by no means clear that a federal challenge to Prop. 8 can win now. And an unsuccessful challenge may delay marriage even longer, not only in California but in other states, and seriously damage the rights of LGBT people on many other important issues."

The groups claim that the U.S. Supreme Court usually does not get ahead of public opinion: Few states still had laws requiring racial

segregation or outlawing interracial marriage by the time the Court struck those laws down. Most states had already struck down or repealed their own

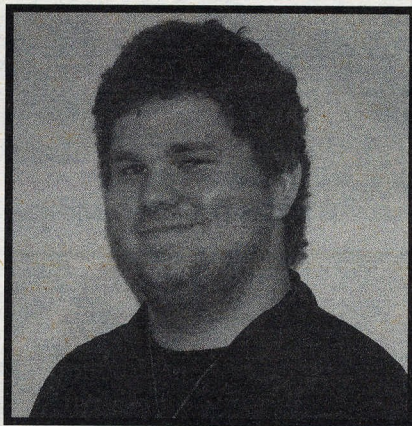
laws against same-sex intimacy when the Supreme Court finally invalidated Texas's law.

However, Olson and Boies do not seem to believe there is as much to lose as these groups would have it seem. The Wall Street Journal quotes Olson as saying:

"Look, I don't know how everybody in America feels about this, but we feel that this is the right time. When an individual comes to you and his or her constitutional rights are being violated, what do you tell them? Do you tell them yes I'm a lawyer, but I won't take your case? Do I tell them to go wait a year until the time is right? I don't think so."

Olson is well known for his conservative credentials, however, and some people believe he took the case because he secretly wants it to be shot down. Olson claims, however, that neither he nor Boies would take a case they were not confident they could win.

This challenge has a long way to go before it reaches the U.S. Supreme Court. It is currently before U.S. District Judge Vaughn Walker, who has set a hearing date of July 2. After Walker, it must go through the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals before making its way to the Supreme Court. And with the recent victories for marriage equality in Iowa, Maine, Vermont and New Hampshire (bringing the total number of states to allow same-sex marriage to six), and with other states (such as New York) considering similar legislation, the timing of this case, although risky, may never be better.



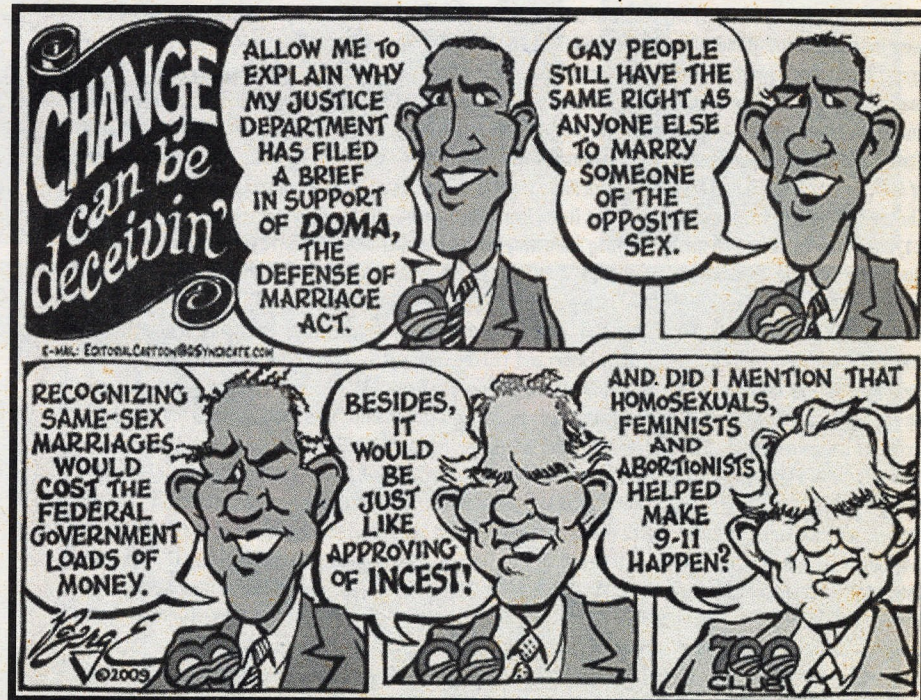
Jared Burrow

Justice Department supports DOMA

Numerous mainstream media outlets reported in mid-June that the Justice Department submitted a brief in federal court that states that it is "reasonable" for states to favor heterosexual marriages because they are the "traditional and universally recognized form of marriage." The media outlets reported that the Department cited previous case rulings that hold that states do not have to recognize marriages between cousins or aunts and uncles. A *New York Times* editorial on June 19 cited the apparent discrepancy between then-candidate Barack Obama's campaign pledge to overturn the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) and called the brief a "bad call on gay rights." Joe Solmonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign, told the *New York Times*, "I cannot overstate the pain that we feel as human beings and as families when we read an argument, presented in federal court, implying that our own marriages have no more constitutional standing than incestuous ones."

Obama takes "one step"

According to the *Associated Press* (AP), President Obama offered some evidence that he is listening to the cries of human rights activists in mid-June by signing a memorandum extending some benefits, such as visitation and dependent-care rights, to same sex partners of gay federal employees. The president called this memorandum "one step" after signing it in the Oval Office. The AP reported that human rights activists and critics of the administration are becoming increasingly vocal and angered by the lack of implementation of campaign promises and progress in issues of equality. In its June 18 release, the AP reported that "several powerful gay fundraisers withdrew their support from a Democratic National Committee event scheduled for June 25 where Vice President Joe Biden is scheduled to speak."



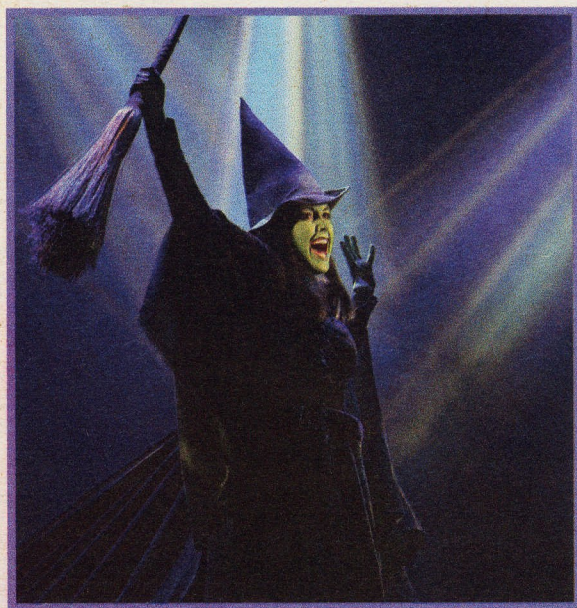
Three gay-themed plays in Memphis this month

Wicked is the untold story of the witches of Oz: Long before Dorothy drops in, two other girls meet in the land of Oz. One – born with emerald green skin – is smart, fiery and misunderstood. The other is beautiful, ambitious and very popular. Wicked tells the story of their remarkable odyssey, how these two unlikely friends grow to become the Wicked Witch of the West and Glinda the Good Witch.

Wicked, produced by Marc Platt, Universal Pictures, The Araca Group, Jon B. Platt and David Stone, is a new musical with music and lyrics by Stephen Schwartz (*Godspell*, *Pippin*, Disney's *Enchanted*, Academy Award winner for *Pocahontas* and *The Prince of Egypt*) and book by Winnie Holzman ("My So Called Life," "Once And Again" and "thirtysomething") based on the 1995 best-selling novel by Gregory Maguire. The musical is directed by two-time Tony Award winner Joe Mantello (*Take Me Out*, *Love! Valour! Compassion!*, *The Vagina Monologues*, 9 to 5) and features musical staging by Tony Award winner Wayne Cilento (*Aida*, *The Who's Tommy*, *How To Succeed...*).

Called "one of the most successful shows in Broadway history" by *The New York Times* and "a phenomenon that keeps growing" by the *Los Angeles Times*, Wicked continues to thrill audiences around the world. There are currently eight productions of Wicked worldwide, including two North American tours, a Broadway production, San Francisco production, London production, a Japanese-language production, a German-language production and Australian production.

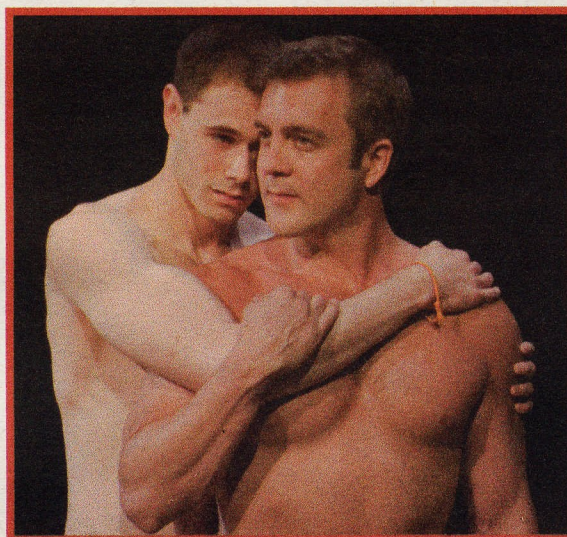
Wicked will be performed through July 12 at The Orpheum Theatre. The performance schedule is available (and tickets may be purchased) at www.orpheum-memphis.com, by phone at (901) 525-3000, the Orpheum Box Office from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, David-Kidd Booksellers and all Ticketmaster locations. Tickets range from \$38-\$138. (Photo of the Wicked Witch of the West below is courtesy of Joan Marcus.)



The *Little Dog Laughed* by Douglas Carter Beane is now playing at the Circuit Playhouse through July 12.

Yes, we love the cinema for its great auteurs, its glorious faces and its daring images. But in this tabloid age where big stars go on *Oprah* and jump around like heartsick schoolboys, what we really love is all that dish! The players here include a hard-driving Hollywood agent, her budding screen idol client, a sexy young drifter, and the drifter's naive, needy girlfriend. *The Little Dog Laughed* follows the adventures of Mitchell Green, a movie star who could make it big if it weren't for one teensy-weensy problem. His agent, Diane, can't seem to keep him in the closet. Trying to help him navigate Hollywood's choppy waters, the devilish Diane is doing all she can to keep Mitchell away from the cute rent boy who's caught his eye and the rent boy's girlfriend.

"Big fun and an out-and-out delight. Don't be surprised after seeing it that you giggle in your dreams." – NY Daily News. Directed by Jerry



Chipman (*Doubt*, *Orson's Shadow*), *The Little Dog Laughed* stars Resident Company Member Irene Crist (*Third*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *The Glass Menagerie*), John Moore, and Associate Company Members DJ Hill (*Third*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *The History Boys*) and Megan Stein (*Into the Woods*, *Seussical*, *1776*).

The Little Dog Laughed runs at The Circuit Playhouse on Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 pm and Sundays at 2 pm. The Circuit Playhouse is located at 1705 Poplar Avenue in Midtown. For more information, or to make reservations, please call 901-726-4656 or visit our website at www.playhouseonthesquare.org. (The picture above is of the lead characters DJ Hill and John Moore. It is courtesy of Josh Mansker.)

EXPLICIT THEATRE ADVISORY:

The Little Dog Laughed
contains male nudity.



Rent by Jonathan Larson is playing at Playhouse on the Square through July 26. It is a winner of the Tony Award for Best Musical as well as the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 1996, this exuberant musical sensation is the eighth-longest running Broadway show in history. An East Village rock version of Puccini's opera *La Bohème*, Larson's stirring and life-affirming score captures the heart and spirit of a generation of struggling artists, addicts and impoverished young people living in the shadow of AIDS, battling the coming wave of gentrification. A time capsule of a world where hope crawls out of dark despair, these Bohemians find the salvation of love within each other and prove there can be a better world where art thrives, and everything good is free. "People who complain about the demise of the American musical have simply been looking in the wrong places. Well done, Mr. Larson." – NY Times

Directed by Resident Company Member Courtney Oliver (*Seussical*, *The Great American Trailer Park Musical*, *The Glory of Living*), Rent stars Associate Company Member David Ryan (*Into the Woods*, *Altar Boyz*, *A Year with Frog & Toad*) as Mark and Rory Dale (*Romeo & Juliet*) as Roger. Rent features standout performances from former Resident Company Member Sheana Tobey (*The Producers*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, *The Wild Party*) as Maureen, Alvaro Francisco (*Romeo & Juliet*, *Altar Boyz*, *The Pirates of Penzance*) as Angel, Matt Reed (*1776*, *Compleat Female Stage Beauty*, *Scapin*) as Collins, Marcus Gill as Benny and Guest Artists Lili Thomas as Mimi and Ryane Nicole Studivant as Joanne. Rent runs at Playhouse on the Square June 26 – July 26, Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 pm and Sundays at 2 pm. The Pay What You Can performance is Thursday, July 2 at 8 pm. Playhouse on the Square is located at 51 South Cooper Street in Midtown. For more information, or to make reservations, please call 901-726-4656 or visit the playhouse website at www.playhouseonthesquare.org. (Photo above is of Rent stars Rori Dale and Lili Thomas and is courtesy of Josh Mansker.)

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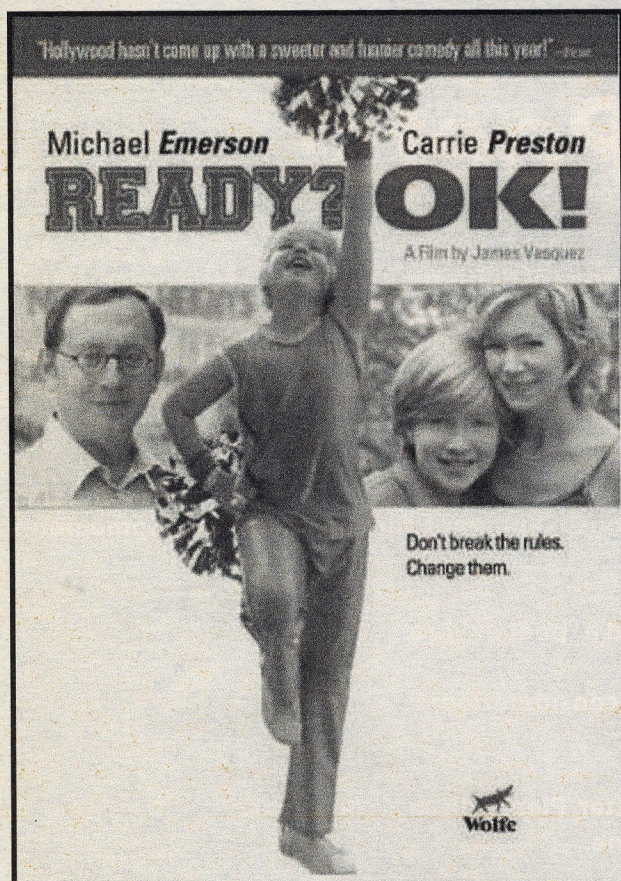
Ready? Ok!

by Carl Smith

As a gay child (which seems to be about a 100 years ago now), I remember taking the path of greatest resistance by engaging in activities that were typically seen as female in tradition. In the movie, "Ready? Ok!", directed by James Vasquez, I was invited to walk down my own personal memory lane of sorts. Joshua Dowd (Lurie Poston) is a typical 10-year-old boy who sees life through innocent eyes. While he searches to find his place in the world, it becomes painfully clear to his single mother, Andy Dowd (Carrie Preston), that little Joshua is different from other little boys because Joshua wants to become a cheerleader on his grade school cheerleading squad. Mature beyond his years, Josh is bound and determined to pursue his dream of becoming a cheerleader, but soon learns that the people around him including his family, school and clergy seem to do everything they can to discourage him.

Andy, Josh's mother, is a typical, hyper, over-achieving mother who tries to steer Josh away from his dream. Her intentions are good, like any mother who wants to protect her child from society's pressures, she tries to push Josh in the same direction of other so-called "normal" boys his age. At one point, she seeks the advice of Sister Vivian (Tara Karsian), one of Josh's Catholic school nuns, who suggests that Andy encourage Josh to join more "manly" activities such as the boy's wrestling team. This provides both a sad and comedic situation, where Josh becomes infatuated with the captain of the wrestling team, only to end up being bashed by him. Later, Josh is befriended by next door neighbor Charlie New (Michael Emerson), who tries to take Josh under his wing to offer guidance to him when it comes to standing his ground and not giving up on himself. You get the feeling that Charlie ends up learning a little more

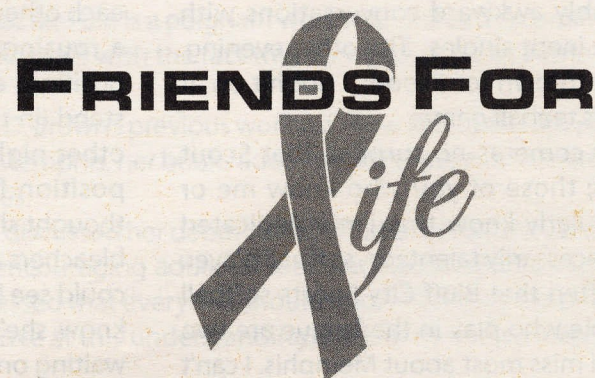
about himself in this pairing. Josh's uncle, Alex Dowd (John Preston), a hapless, good-hearted, under-achieving character wanders into and out of the family's life from time to time which further strains his relationship with his sister, but brings an additional child-like nature and comfort to Josh. I'm sure everyone will find themselves remembering their own Josh moments from their formative years during the



course of this film. "Ready? Ok!" is a funny, sad and often poignant depiction of life's ever-changing battles seen through the eyes of a 10-year-old. It's charming, smart, and will stir up old feelings of battles fought, both won and lost, but ultimately gives a feeling of triumph.

Ready? Ok! will be one of the feature presentations at MGLCC's Outflix coming in September.

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Bluff City Sports Association's powers are beyond our understanding

by Elizabeth Flanders Pitts

I've mentioned a few times in the past that I've re-re-entered the dating scene; having revived The Bitchiest Match Dot Com Profile Ever and lined up backup friends who'll call my cell with fake emergencies in the middle of a first meeting, I figured I was a pro at all of the cheesy lines and predictably awkward conversations with other socially inept singles. The other evening, though, I got thrown for a loop: I got hit on at my daughter's tee-ball game.

It should come as no surprise that Scout plays tee-ball; those of you who know me or read this regularly know that I'm a dedicated – albeit not necessarily talented – softball player. I comment often that Bluff City Sports softball and the people who play in the league are two of the things I miss most about Memphis. I can't imagine what my life would've been like without BCSEA, and I've worked hard to make sure that Scout sees her mom get good and dirty while being a good sport. "Tomboy" is not a bad thing to be called, in our opinion, and we spend a lot of time in the yard playing catch and going after

grounders.

In Level 1 tee-ball, there aren't any "outs" and there's no score kept; it's just learning about the game. Everyone does their best to get the ball and throw it to first base, and if you can get the kids to stay in one spot instead of chasing each other all over the infield, you're considered a rousing successful coach. Players switch positions every inning to get a feel for where to stand (in theory), and everyone gets to hit. The other night, Scout was placed at the catcher position for an inning and you would have thought she'd won a prize. She ran to me in the bleachers and asked me if I'd stand near her so I could see her play Mama's Spot. Next thing you know, she's crouching down behind the tee as if waiting on a pitch. My chest swelled with pride, but I had to get her to stop lest she be hit by a wild bat swung by another five-year-old. When the batter finally made contact with the ball, she ran down the first base line to back up the throw. Her coach tried to correct her and she stamped her foot: "But that's how MAMA does it."

Afterward, a young man walked up to me and introduced himself as the uncle of one of the players. He asked how long she'd been playing, and where she got her great catching style. Which led to a conversation about the local softball leagues. Which led to the topic of how much cooler the BCSEA in Memphis is by comparison, and why I'm virtually talentless but still the hustlin'-est catcher in all of slow-pitch.

Which led to him showing up at one of my church-league games and asking me out for a beer afterward.

This is all by way of saying: the Bluff City Sports Association is one heckofa group of marvelous, magical people who truly love to play softball, and share that with as many people as possible. Because of my participation for so many years, I learned to love the game so much that I've passed that enthusiasm with my daughter, the Next Hustlin'-est Catcher. And I got a date. That's one powerful, unifying organization. Who needs match.com?

Calling Lesbian Poets!

Poetry has long been important to lesbians, lesbian publishing, and lesbian identity. The Daughters of Bilitis took the name of the organization from the lesboerotic poems of Pierre Louys, *Songs of Bilitis*. From the Sappho fragments to the words of Gertrude Stein, Alice Dunbar-Nelson, Renee Vivien, Michael Field (two women writing under a male pseudonym), Adah Isaacs Menken, Emily Dickinson, Angelina Weld Grimké, Muriel Rukeyser, May Sarton and hundreds of other mid- and late- 20th century poets, what it means to be lesbian is often expressed and understood through poetry.

The 81st issue of *Sinister Wisdom* seeks poems by 30 to 40 contemporary lesbian poets, each paired with a poem by a lesbian poet of yore. Think about what work inspires your work and submit creative, eclectic, interesting, and unusual pairings for consideration. Some notes about submission:

1. Each pair should include a poem by the contemporary poet and a "poet of yore."
2. The submitter should provide a bio of both poets.
3. Poets are encouraged to submit up to three pairs of poems for consideration.
4. Pairings of poems and visual art work are also welcome.
5. Other creative responses to the theme are welcome.
6. Permission to print both poems must be secured by the submitter. Please discuss copyright and permission with the guest editor well in advance of deadline.

Submit manuscripts to Guest Editor Julie R. Enszer,
6910 Wells Parkway, University Park, MD 20782
with SASE for response or email JulieREnszer@gmail.com by March 1, 2010.

Ride on

Life Cycle was thrill of a lifetime

by Michael Hoots

From May 31 to June 6, I participated in AIDS Life Cycle 8, a seven-day, 545-mile bicycle ride from San Francisco to L.A. to raise money and awareness for HIV and AIDS. More than 2,250 riders and 600 volunteer roadies from 44 states and 14 countries took part in this event. I raised more than \$5,500, and the other participants collectively raised \$10.5 million dollars to help fund HIV and AIDS programs for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and the L.A. Gay and Lesbian Center. To date, it was the most beautiful experience of my life.

My journey began in August 2008, when I saw a documentary about AIDS Life Cycle on the LOGO channel. After watching the seven-episode documentary I decided that I had to participate. I started training and weightlifting to get ready for the physical challenge that I knew awaited me in California, where they refer to the high points of the rolling countryside as hills, while in Tennessee we call them mountains. And believe me they are mountains. But with all this training, I still had not made the major commitment which was to pay the \$75 registration fee and start the fundraising process. In late December, I signed up at the web site and there was no turning back.

Through the help of friends, co-workers and strangers from all over the U.S. and Canada, I raised \$5500, almost doubling the mandatory \$3000 minimum to participate. In the process, I learned that, despite these hard economic times, people are willing to do what they can to help if you are passionate enough about what you are doing. All you have to do is talk to people and ask the question, "Do you mind donating to help me out?"

The most inspirational thing was that if people could not donate financially, they did what they could to help in other ways. Local stores were awesome in helping with discounts on riding gear. Outdoors Inc., The Peddler, Varsity Spirit, UPS, Fed Ex and a local travel agent all helped out. Everyone came together to get me to California, which was greatly appreciated.

The ride itself was very challenging. I saw beautiful views of California that I had never seen before. But what stood out even more than the views were the people involved in the ride. Gay or straight, young or old, black or white, everyone lived and worked together during a seven-day period to achieve a common goal. Every time you thought you couldn't get to the top of a hill, there would be 10 people cheering you on with music and chants. If you had a flat, three people would stop to help. If you needed a hug, someone was there. It was how the world should be everyday.

I thought a lot during those seven days, and I realized that the actual time on the bike wasn't the the hardest part of the experience. The real accomplishment came when I started raising the first dollar. And by speaking to everyone I met before the ride, I spread the word that AIDS is still a disease for which there is no cure. And by completing the ride and talking about the event, I am still spreading the knowledge I gained.

Though AIDS is no longer a death sentence, it is still a costly disease which physically changes a person for his or her entire lifetime. The average annual medical cost for someone living with HIV is about \$20,000. Many of the medical costs are not fully covered by insurance, and given the



state of the economy and numbers of layoffs, many people have no way to pay for medicines. Every nine minutes someone is infected by HIV, an estimated 56,300 will become infected this year, and 1.1 million are currently living with HIV in the U.S. today. The reason we must talk about HIV and AIDS is because our youth — those in the 13- to 29-year-old range — account for more than 34% of all new infections.

In camp each night, they gave us pep talks and information. One of the most memorable statements was that as long as HIV and AIDS exists in the world and until there is a cure, we will ride. And as long as one of us in this world has HIV or AIDS, then ALL of us have HIV and AIDS!

If you would like to learn more, please visit the AIDS Life Cycle web site at www.aidslifecycle.org where you can find out information about donating and maybe even be inspired to ride with me next year

(Photo is courtesy of Michael Hoots.)

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Progressive *continued from p. 4*

explains "there is no universal agreement from the religious community" referring to the many Mid-South religious leaders who spoke out in support of the county ordinance.

With momentum building to approach the city council and demand equality, members of the local LGBT community should pay close attention. We will again be asked to call and write elected officials, we will again be asked to come out to show our public support, and we will again be asked to recruit support from our friends and family. Now is not the time to be apathetic. If we want to be on the forefront of change here in the Mid-South, now is our opportunity. "If we can move elected officials at the local level, it will filter up," says Cole. "If you start at the grassroots and move up, it makes things easier to make big changes and others will follow, all the way to the top. We have entered the water and others are going to dive in, too."

Let's unite, and together we can make sure the city council's web site statement holds true for the LGBT community because *now* truly can be an exciting time to be a Memphian.

Divas *continued from p. 7*

doomed to Hell)." You can take prayer out of school because of separation of church and state, yet you can use the same argument to take away legal rights based on religion?"

All of the authors provided counsel and recommendations for those that wish to pursue writing. If you want to get published, complete your manuscript fully before seeking publishers. Get the work professionally edited. If you make grammatical and spelling errors, you risk not having your work read. Check out the publishers' web sites. Follow the directions to the letter. If you cannot follow the basics, then you are less inclined to have publishers look at your work. If a query letter is requested, do it. Do not write a wordy letter or include chapters.

Get a mentor. Get trusted friends to read your work and give sincere, critical feedback. Be open to the feedback. Find "free" outlets. Use Facebook and MySpace. Study vending opportunities.

When you go to editors, be able to articulate what you want to say. When you are able to get your work "out there," do not take critical comments (such as through Amazon) to heart. Some people can be extremely cruel and can take away your confidence. Yet also be open to some reviews that can be beneficial.

Get a thick skin. Don't expect to get rich. Take pride in your work. Above all, follow your passion.

Deadline for August **Triangle Journal**

July 22, 2009

Send your contributions to editors@tjmemphis.com

Dangerous *continued from p. 5*

the protection that state or local authorities will not provide.

Those of you in Arkansas have Blanche Lincoln and Mark Pryor, both of whom were supporters in 2007. The Senators from Mississippi are far behind. If we are going to get any votes from Tennessee or Mississippi, we have to make sure they understand that we need federal protection. The Tennessee Hate Crimes law is simply inadequate, and even if the bill being offered by TTPC is adopted, it will still require a commitment from local law enforcement to value the lives of LGBT people, a commitment that has been sorely lacking to date.

At the state level, TTPC had to roll the state Transgender Hate Crimes bill, SB0253 by Beverly Marrero and Ophelia Ford, and HB0335 by Jeanne Richardson and 21 others, until January 2010. In the meantime, we are working to create an ad hoc coalition on hate crimes to build support for the bill in rural areas across the state to counter the misinformation and deceitful statements that were made against the bill during the recent session of the Tennessee General Assembly. If you want to assist in getting this bill passed in 2010, please contact TTPC at ttgpac.com.

Most of the media interest in Washington has been focused on marriage equality and the military. The insulting and offensive brief offered in defense of the Defense of Marriage Act was totally inexcusable coming from an administration that made repeal of DOMA one of the central planks of the campaign. It is time to live up to those words. In addition, the silence on other LGBT issues, after soliciting our money, energy, and votes, must come to an end. No other community provided as much support, and had received so little in return, as has the LGBT community. That is not the way you treat your base. The recent "Memorandum" from President Obama on benefits for federal employees, is a first step, but only a first step.

The president already has it in his power to issue an executive order to add gender identity or expression to the non-discrimination policy for federal employees, the case of *Schroer v. Billington* has put the federal government on notice that delay will not be tolerated by the courts. The president can also put a LGBT person in a high, policy-making role right in the White House, as well as being the first president to appoint one of the many highly qualified transgender people who have applied for positions to serve this country. We wait to see how the latest battle of Employment Non-Discrimination Act shapes up. Passage of that would truly be an historic first, and would show Obama's commitment to equal rights and opportunity for all.

Mid-South Pride *continued from p. 11*

Friday evening, members of Mid-South Pride attended the Meet and Greet event at the Artisan Hotel. This was the kickoff event for Memphis Black Pride.

Saturday morning, Mid-South Pride and American Veterans for Equal Rights participated in the Memphis Black Pride Forum along with MGLCC and many local agencies. Author Kenan Gilmore participated in this forum and held a book signing at MGLCC that afternoon.

The Pride Festival began at noon. Around 30 vendors and organizations turned Peabody Park into a colorful celebration venue. The entertainment began at noon highlighted by Gravitron MC Zack, Ali & Wally, DJ RAJA, Valerie June and the finals of the Mid-South Pride Karaoke Contest which closed the festival. Mickey Maxwell representing MGLCC won first prize. He faced some very challenging competition using a variety of musical styles. Herb Zeman came in second, also representing MGLCC, Sheila representing Crossroads won third and Terry Reeves representing Crossroads fourth. Antonio representing the Pumping Station was fifth.

Sgt. Danny Ingram, representing American Veterans for Equal Rights, spoke about the issues of GLBT service persons and veterans. He then played taps in front of a large festival crowd in memory of Major Alan G. Rogers who became the first known gay casualty of the war in Iraq when he was killed in January 2008. Other speakers at the festival included US Congressman Steve Cohen, State Senator Beverly Marrero, County Commissioner Steve Mulroy and Memphis City Council Chair Myron Lowery, all introduced by Jonathan Cole of the Tennessee Equality Project.

The Pride Parade stepped off at 4 pm led by three veterans carrying the colors. Grand Marshals Wayne Newsome and Bill Goodman were joined by Anthony "Ladybug" Hardaway representing Memphis Black Pride. The parade judges were members of Americans Disabled for Attendant Programs (ADAPT) and the winner of Best in Show was the Mystic Krewe of Pegasus, plumes, sequins and all. Pegasus will hold their annual Mardi Gras Ball in January to benefit the Child Advocacy Center. Best Walking Group was Holy Trinity UCC, Best Rolling Group was Crossroads, and Best Use of Theme was a tie between Backstreet and Dru's Place. Dru's Place used an enlarged blue and yellow Human Rights Campaign equal sign in their elaborate display.

Members of Mid-South Pride attended the Memphis Black Pride Picnic on Sunday. In 2009, Pride was celebrated in true Memphis style and to much acclaim.

Response *continued from p. 6*

sinner for their actions. I watched this man and thought, "Macil Duncan, I get it. I get what you are *against*. But what are you *for*?" It's disconcerting to have religious leaders spewing such contempt in God's name. That is *not* the God I knew and loved — and, more importantly, who *knew and loved me*.

As a person who was raised in the church, who has literally read every verse in the Bible, who believes that Jesus died on the cross for my sins, I was at a loss for how contemptuous not only Macil Duncan was but how so many people treated one another within the church and within a supposedly Christian school. The same athletes who would walk down the aisle at chapel to receive the Holy Spirit were the ones who were stuffing me in lockers and stealing my lunch money after chapel. The same minister who spoke of helping the poor was also condemning people to hell. Did Jesus tell him to say that? I think not.

I went home that day sobbing. I cried all the way home from school and cried in front of my parents for the first time since I was a kid. I went to bed crying. How could this man say such horrible things? And why were people clapping for him and cheering when he said them? I wondered if Jesus would be clapping and cheering if He were there. Macil Duncan didn't even know me, but he — a mortal — was condemning me to hell. I tried to do everything right. I didn't even want this whole homosexuality thing, but I get condemned to hell for it? All I saw in this man was hate. Where was Jesus in his words and actions? Everything I had been taught seemed never truly to be in practice at the church I attended or the school I attended. With the exception of some beautiful staff at Briarcrest and some good friends who accepted me for who I was along the way, I went to school every day feeling hate instead of love, intolerance instead of compassion. All of the scripture that I had read completely went against much of the behavior that I watched all around me. I woke up that next morning angry. I never went to church again.

Graduating from high school was one of the greatest days of my life. I was free to worship how I saw fit and could pursue the relationship with *my God* in a way that was mutually agreed upon by *Him and me*. I was so tired of hearing inaccuracies, hypocrisy, and hate directed right at me. Like most things in my life, I was not about to let someone else tell me how to worship my God and have a relationship with my God. My God is so much bigger than the things that I was taught. My God was fantastic, and He loved me for the person that I was. I was accountable to no one but Him.

In college, I abandoned my plan to commit suicide and somehow managed to come out of the closet without much backlash (other than my parents . . . but that's a different story with a very happy ending). No one was really surprised

when I came out. After all, the warning signs were all there. I liked theatre. I got excited when a new Madonna CD came out. Most of my friends were fat girls, oddballs, or hippies. My favorite show was *Designing Women*. No one was shocked.

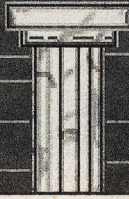
Today, I am very happy with who I am, and I have made my peace with God, who also loves me the way I am. I am not conflicted about my sexuality, and I realize that I will never be heterosexual, no matter how hard I try. And trust me, I tried. When people say things like, "Well, you chose to be that way," I immediately think in my mind, "This is me writing you off." How silly to suppose you know what a person chooses to be and is. For someone to profess to know that my "lifestyle" is not a choice, when they haven't walked in my shoes, when they haven't faced the struggles I have, when they haven't felt the sting of isolation like I have, when they haven't spent years talking to God about it . . . it's absolutely infuriating. I didn't ask to be this way, and I doubt anyone in their right mind would enjoy disappointing their parents, isolating themselves from most of the people on the face of the earth, risking being attacked physically or verbally, etc. Who would choose a life like that? That's not a choice. I didn't get to make that choice.

Thankfully, I live in a world where I can be who I need to be. Without the love and support of many people — most of them Christians — I probably would have followed through with my plan to commit suicide. It pains me to think that so many young people actually carry it out. I have made peace with God about this issue, and I don't have to justify myself to you or my parents or the Shelby County Commissioners or Pastor Steve Gaines of Bellevue or anyone else who has something to say (specifically on behalf of God). And if any of these people want to comment, I ask that they look in the mirror first. We are all God's children. We are all sinners. God loves us all. And thankfully, Steve Gaines doesn't get to make the call on where I am headed after I die. I love myself and live a vibrant, passionate life. I wake up every morning knowing that I am not only helping people, but helping to keep them alive. (The children we serve here — they don't deserve AIDS either, Macil Duncan) I did not choose to be this way, but I accept it, and I still love myself though many in my community do not.

When I see the horrible things that preachers are

saying about the non-discrimination ordinance that would protect gays and lesbians from discrimination in the workplace at Shelby County Government jobs, I realize that they don't represent my God. They don't represent so many other Christians who have love and compassion. They don't represent my Christian friends or family, who love me for who I am. They don't represent other churches and synagogues in the community, who would welcome me as I am into their church. They do not represent the Christian faith, or Christ Himself. Christ would never say such horrible, mean, hurtful things. He would never call me filthy or disgusting. He would never try to hurt me. He would welcome me into his company, and He would show nothing but love towards me.

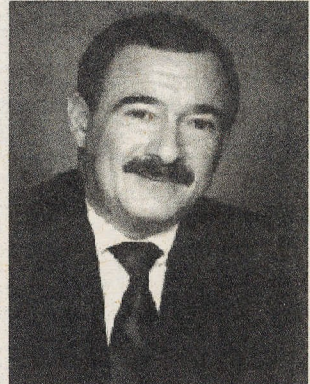
There is no need to pray for me and my homosexuality. God and I have taken care of all of that, thanks. Pray for me to be the best person I can be. Pray that I can raise the money to serve more people at my wonderful organization. Pray that I inspire others to serve their community through volunteering and charitable donations. Pray that I can mentor young gays and lesbians and provide them with strength and courage to be who they want to be and understand that they are loved in God's eyes despite what these people say. Pray that you and I can live together as equals and share the wonderful sensation that God's love provides. I'll see you all in Heaven.



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— **MASSAGE** —

BY

Tom Pitman

NATIONALLY CERTIFIED MASSAGE THERAPIST

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BY APPOINTMENT

IN/OUT CALLS
GIFT CERTIFICATES

DAY IN. DAY OUT.

TRIANGLE JOURNAL GUIDE TO COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT FOR JULY 2009

S

July 12

MGLCC Board of Directors meeting at 1:30 pm

July 26

MGLCC Annual Membership Meeting and General Elections with reception honoring County Commissioner Steve Mulroy - 4 pm

M

Every

Monday

Women's Rugby Club practice 6:30 pm at Tobey Fields

Showtune Mondays at Dish at 7 pm

Second & Fourth Mondays

Perpetual Transition - transgender support group meets at 7:30 pm at MGLCC

T

July 14

National Equality March planning meeting at MGLCC at 6:30 pm

July 28

MGLCC Women's Committee meeting at MGLCC at 6 pm

Every Tues

Phoenix AA (Open AA group) Grace-St. Luke's Church, 1790 Peabody at 8 pm

The Caring Group: Relaxation and destressing by subtle energy practices at Holy Trinity UCC at 7 pm

Lesbians with Breast Cancer support group at YWCA, 766 S. Highland at 7 pm

Singles Dart Tournament at Crossroads 7:45 pm

W

July 1

Men's Potluck at 6:30 pm at MGLCC

July 15

Women's Potluck 6:30 pm at MGLCC

Every Wednesday
Free HIV testing at MGLCC 6-9 pm

Every Second Wednesday
TEP meeting at Quetzal at 6:30 pm

T

July 2

PFLAG meets at Central Library at 7 pm

CYBA sponsors a monthly **Neighborhood Night Out**. Call 276-7222 for info

July 9

Outflix planning meeting at MGLCC at 6:30 pm

Every Thursday
Women's Rugby practice 6:30 pm at Tobey Fields
Cotton Pickin' Squares at Prescott Church at 7 pm
Karaoke at Dru's Place at 9 pm

F

July 10

MGLCC Arts and Performance Series presents Side Street Steppers at MGLCC at 7 pm

Every Friday

Karaoke at Dru's Place at 9 pm
First Congo Films at First Congregational Church at 7 & 9 pm

Seriously Sober at Holy Trinity UCC at 8:00 pm

Drag Show at Crossroads at 11 pm

Late Night Beer Bust at Pumping Station at 10 pm

Drag Show at Backstreet midnight

S

July 4

Independence Day

Queer as Youth at MGLCC 7-9 pm

July 11

Queer As Youth at MGLCC 7-9 pm

July 18

Queer As Youth at MGLCC 7-9 pm

The Golden Age of Hollywood Outflix Benefit at the Pumping Station at 9 pm

July 25

MGLCC Arts and Performance Series presents an exhibit by Monty Shane at MGLCC at 7 pm

Please see our online calendar at www.mglcc.org for changes and additions.

Please send your events and activities to editors@tjmemphis.com for monthly publication in *Day In Day Out*

National Equality March monthly planning meeting

The Monthly Midsouth area planning meeting for those attending the National Equality March (October 11, 2009) in Washington, DC. will be held on Tuesday July 14 at 6:30pm at MGLCC. For more information, contact Tommy Simmons at thomas.simmons@yahoo.com or see www.nationalequalitymarch.com or National Equality March on Facebook and NtlEqMarch on Twitter.

You're invited to celebrate

The Golden Age of Hollywood

at a party benefiting MGLCC's Outflix

hosted by The Pumping Station ~ 1382 Poplar ~ Saturday, July 18 ~ 9 pm until ...

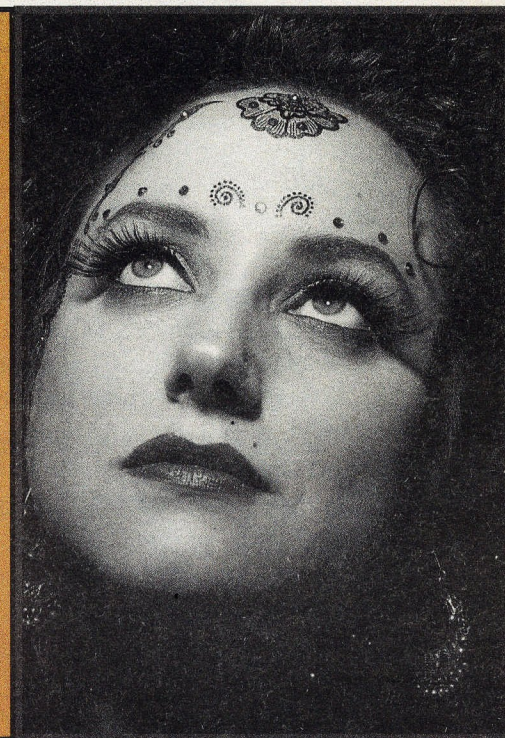
Music! Games! Even a special drink for the occasion!

We'll have classic movie footage ... and who knows?

A famous movie star might be in the crowd!

So don your best Hollywood look from the past and come have some fun supporting

MGLCC's Outflix 2009



COMMUNITY RESOURCES

▼ Indicates Triangle Journal distribution points.

Please let us know if your contact information changes so that we can keep our community updated with accurate information.

Thanks!

editors@tjmemphis.com

BARS

- ▼ **901 Complex:** 136 Webster St., (901) 522-8457
- ▼ **Backstreet Memphis:** 2018 Court St., (901) 276-5522
- ▼ **Crossroads:** 1278 Jefferson Ave., (901) 272-8801
- ▼ **Dru's Place:** 1474 Madison Ave., (901) 275-8082
- ▼ **Lorenz/AfterShock:** 1528 Madison Ave., (901) 274-8272
- ▼ **Metro Memphis:** 1349 Autumn, (901) 274-8010
- ▼ **Pumping Station:** 1382 Poplar Ave., (901) 272-7600
- ▼ **Vault,** 529 S. Highland, 525-6203

BOOKS

- ▼ **Borders:** 6685 Poplar Pike
- ▼ **Burke's:** 936 South Cooper
- ▼ **Davis-Kidd:** 387 Perkins Extended
- ▼ **Memphis Public Library** 3030 Poplar

COMMUNITY GROUPS

- Blue Suede Bears of Memphis, Inc.:** 41 S. Morrison - www.bluesuedebeers.com
- Cotton Pickin' Squares:** Gay/Lesbian square dance club meets Thurs., 7 pm Prescott Church - 961 Getwell
- 4F:** Leather/Levi group, 698 Pope Dr., Bartlett 38112
- FedEx:** LGBT & Friends Network at FedEx: lgbt@fedex.com or Intranet Keyword: LGBT
- Initiative:Fairness** (political committee of MGLCC: IF@mgfcc.org; www.mglcc.org/IF)
- Memphis Area Gay Youth (MAGY):** PO Box 241852, Memphis, TN 38124 - (901) 335-MAGY - www.magyonline.org
- ▼ **Memphis Center for Independent Living** - 726-6404
- ▼ **Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center (MGLCC):** 892 S. Cooper St., (901) 278-6422 Web site: www.mglcc.org
- Memphis Stonewall Democrats:** P.O. Box 42242, Memphis, TN 38104 www.memphisstonewalldemocrats.org mpshstonewalldem@yahoo.com

Mid-South Equality: www.geocities.com/midsouth_equality

Mid-South Pride, Inc.: Mail to 111 S. Highland Ave., Suite 322, Memphis, TN 38111 - 685 S. Highland, 3rd Floor - (901) 414-2197 - Fax: (901) 592-6635 - info@midsouthpride.org - www.midsouthpride.org

Nike TN GLBT Network: Daniel. forrest@nike.com office: 901.547.8217

Olive Branch Gay & Lesbian Christians Fellowship: meeting: first Tuesday 7 PM - discussion and fellowship location: Holy Cross - 8230 Highway 178 - Olive Branch MS 38654 - (662) 895-5029 on the web at <http://www.meetup.com/The-Olive-Branch-Gay-Lesbian-Christians-Fellowship/> admin@holycrossolivebranch.org

Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG) Memphis, TN - (901) 268-2511- pflagmemphis@pflagmemphis.org

Parents, Families, & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG): Jackson, TN 38305 - (901) 664-6614 - burtren@aeneas.com

PFLAG Oxford/North Mississippi: Meets the third Thursday of every month. Johnson Commons room 203 (Isom Center) 7 p.m. - (662) 816-2142 - PO Box 2142 Oxford, MS - www.geocities.com/pflag_oxfordnorthms

Perpetual Transition: A support and social group for transgender people of all varieties and non-trans allies. - clanham@memphis.edu - www.groups.yahoo.com/group/perpetualtransition

Shelby County Committee of Tennessee Equality Project: shelbycounty@tnequalityproject.com

Stonewall Tigers: University of Memphis, c/o Stonewall Tigers, 2522 Campus Postal Station, Memphis, TN 38152-2521 - stonewalltigers@yahoo.com

Tennessee Equality Project works for the equality of LGBT persons through the establishment of fair and equitable laws. Meets every second Wednesday at 6:30 pm at Quetzal.

Tennessee Leather Tribe: Gay men's/women's leather org. 1568 Rolling Hills Dr., Memphis, TN - (901) 357-1921

Univ. of Miss. Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Association: GLBA, PO Box 3541, Univ., MS 38677 - (662) 915-7049 - glba@olemiss.edu - www.olemiss.edu/orgs/glba

Tennessee Transgender Political Coalition TTPC P.O. Box 92335 Nashville, TN 37209 <http://ttgpac.com> TTGPAC@aol.com (615)293-6199 (615)353-1834 fax

UT-Martin ALLIES: Campus and community. Alternate Weds. 5 p.m. Info 131F Humanities Bldg., Martin, TN 38238 - neilg@utm.edu

COUNSELING SERVICES

Counseling Referral Service: MGLCC's Confidential Counseling Referral Service - (901) 347-8701

▼ **Kent D. Fisher, LPC, MAC:** Experiential Healing Center, 1713 Lockett Pl. - (901) 372-0710. EMDR, group, individual, couples & family therapy

Bob Loos, MS, LPC-MHSP: Individual, couples, & family therapy for anxiety, depression, relationships sexual identity issues: (901) 581-9898

FOOD, RESTAURANTS, AND COFFEE

- ▼ **Bluff City Coffee Shop:** 505 S. Main
- ▼ **Bogie's Delicatessen:** 2098 La Salle Pl. - (901) 272-0022
- ▼ **Cafe Eclectic:** 603 N. McLean
- ▼ **Cafe Ole:** 959 South Cooper 274-1504
- ▼ **High Point Coffee:** 9077 Poplar Ave.
- ▼ **High Point Coffee:** 1680 Union Ave.
- ▼ **India Palace:** 1720 Poplar
- ▼ **Java Cabana:** 210 Young
- ▼ **Molly's:** 2006 Madison
- ▼ **Otherlands:** 641 South Cooper
- ▼ **Pie in the Sky:** 2158 Young Avenue
- ▼ **Quetzal:** 668 Union Ave.
- ▼ **Sean's Cafe/Smooth Moves:** 1651 Union
- ▼ **Sweet:** 938 S. Cooper.
- ▼ **Wild Oats:** 522 Poplar

HEALTH SERVICES

- American Cancer Society:** 1-800-227-2345 - 24 hour hotline
- Community HIV Network** - 2400 Poplar, Suite 500: 287-4750.
- ▼ **Friends For Life:** HIV/AIDS service organization - 43 N. Cleveland, (901) 272-0855 - www.friendsforlifecorp.org
- Memphis Center for Reproductive Health:** 1462 Poplar Ave. - (901) 274-3550
- PhoenixAA Group:** Every Tuesday evening at Grace St. Luke's Church at 8pm.
- Planned Parenthood Greater Memphis Region:** 1407 Union-Suite 300 - Memphis, TN 38104 - phone: (901)725-1717 web: www.ppgmr.org
- Seriously Sober:** AA meeting at Holy Trinity United Church of Christ 685 South Highland every Friday evening at 8 pm.

HELP & INFORMATION LINES

- Gay & Lesbian Helpline:** 1-888-340-GLBT (Mon.-Fri., 5-10pm, Sat.-Sun., 4-9pm)
- Gay & Lesbian Youth Hotline:** 1-800-347-TEEN Mon.-Fri. 5-9 pm (Pacific) Web site: youthtalkline.org
- LINC:** (901) 415-2700 A community informational agency providing information on shelters and senior services
- ▼ **Memphis Sexual Assault Resource Center:** (901) 272-2020
- Mid-South Spay and Neuter Services** 854 Goodman St. www.spaymemphis.com or 901-324-3202 (affordable prices).
- Narcotics Anonymous:** (901) 276-LIVE.
- Peer Listening:** Youth-staffed GLBT youth hotline - 1-800-399-PEER - Mon.-Fri. 5-10 pm (Eastern)
- Suicide & Crisis Intervention:** (901) 274-7477
- Trevor Project** - National 24/7 hotline for suicidal or questioning teens: 886-488-7386.
- Lambda Legal:** 404-897-1880

MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES

- ▼ **Dabbles:** 19 North Cooper
- ▼ **Hi Gorgeous:** 1475 Madison
- ▼ **Inz and Outz:** 553 South Cooper (901) 728-6535
- ▼ **The Studio:** 629 South Cooper
- ▼ **Paggios Hair Salon:** (901) 274-3944
- ▼ **Tear It Up:** 895 S. Cooper
- ▼ **Movies and More:** 3129 Poplar, 323-3251
- Underground Art** 2287 Young Ave.

SPIRITUALITY

- Balmoral Presbyterian** 6413 Quince Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 11:00 am 767-7510 or www.balmoralpc.com
- ▼ **First Congregational Church:** Worship Service: Sun. 10:30 am • 1000 S. Cooper St. (901) 278-6786
- First Presbyterian Church:** Sun. School 9:30 am; Coffee & fellowship, 10:30 am; Worship, 11 am • 166 Poplar Ave. - (901) 525-5619
- Holy Cross Episcopal Church:** Worship services: Sunday 10 AM - discussion at 9 AM Small groups - 8230 Highway 178 - Olive Branch MS 38654 - (662) 895-5029 on the web at www.HolyCrossOB.org admin@holycrossolivebranch.org
- ▼ **Holy Trinity United Church of Christ:** Worship Service: Sun. 11 am; Bible study: Wed. 7 pm - 685 S. Highland - (901) 320-9376 - office@holyltrinitymemphis.org
- Integrity Memphis:** Meets the 3rd Tues., Worship, 6:30 pm; Dinner, 7:00 pm; Meeting 7:30pm - c/o Calvary Episcopal Church, 102 N. 2nd - (901) 525-6602
- Living Word Christian Church:** Worship Service Sun. 9:30 am • 1015 S. Cooper - (901) 485-0949 - www.livingwordchristianchurch.net
- Memphis Friends (Quakers):** Sunday 11:00am - 3387 Walnut Grove - (901) 324-3500 - memphisfriends.org
- Memphis Gay & Lesbian Atheists & Humanists:** (901) 327-2677 - memphisgalah@yahoo.com
- ▼ **Neshoba Unitarian Universalist Church:** (901) 266-2626
- ▼ **Open Heart Spiritual Center:** 2489 Broad
- ▼ **Prescott Church:** 961 Getwell, 327-8479, www.prescottchurchmemphis.org
- Unity Church of Memphis:** 2570 Kirby Rd. Memphis, TN 38119

SPORTS AND FITNESS

- Bluff City Sports Association:** www.bluffcitysports.net
- ▼ **French Riviera Spa:** 3486 Poplar

THEATER

- ▼ **Circuit Playhouse:** 1705 Poplar
- ▼ **Playhouse on the Square:** 51 South Cooper
- ▼ **TheatreWorks** 2085 Monroe

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