

Principal Outs Gay Kids; ACLU Steps In With Demands

Daphne Beasley, principal of Hollis F. Price Middle College in Memphis, is under fire for outing at least one gay couple in her student body, according to the ACLU-backed couple and their parents.

In September of 2007, Beasley sought out couples of all kinds to monitor them for public displays of affection. She compiled a list of names, which included students Andrew and Nicholas (last names omitted), based on information she received from teachers and students; the list was clearly visible to anyone who visited the school office.

"Our first reaction was wow, this is unbelievable that a principal has gone this far," says ACLU attorney Christine Sun.

"The constitution protects all of us from the government intruding in our private lives when there isn't a reason to do that. This was morally and legally wrong."

One of those that saw this list was Andrew's mother, Andrea. "I couldn't believe it when I went to meet with the principal and that list was right there by her desk where anyone could see it," she said. "African American people face enough obstacles to succeeding in this world, and I want my son to have every opportunity he's worked so hard for. Our schools should be helping our children do well, not tearing them down for something like this."

One of the young men, Nicholas, an 11th grader who just made the Dean's List, spoke with Eyewitness News' Joyce Peterson.

"It was actually frightening," he said, "to see a list with my name on it where not just other teachers could see but students as well."

Nicholas says his teachers and other students treat him differently as a result of Principal Beasley's decision and that he and Andrew have both had to deal with verbal assaults. Nicholas was also not allowed to go on a trip to New Orleans to help rebuild homes because, as one of his teacher's explained, he would "embarrass" the school by engaging in gay affection.

"I really feel that my personal privacy was invaded," Nicholas says. "I mean, Principal Beasley called my mother and outed me to my mother!"

"This is a public high school that



Daphne Beasley, principal of Hollis F. Price Middle College.

runs on taxpayer dollars," said attorney Bruce Kramer. "As such, it is part of the government and must obey the Constitution in dealing with the students entrusted to its care each day."

Memphis City Schools responded Thurs., May 1, via school attorneys, with the following letter:

"Memphis City Schools is committed to providing its students with the best possible learning environment. Hollis F. Price Middle College is an accelerated high school, which is located on the historically black LeMoyne-Owen College campus. Eligible students may enroll in college classes in pursuit of completing the first two years of college while attending this high school.

"Because we have high school students on a college campus, we have to carefully monitor the activities of our students. We are at all times proactive in assuring that our students are provided a safe, nurturing and disciplined learning climate. Unfortunately, in fall 2007, we received numerous complaints from LeMoyne-Owen College faculty and staff that some of our student couples were involved in explicit sexual behavior in public view on the college campus.

"In light of this information from LeMoyne-Owen faculty and staff, the principal of Hollis F. Price made several general announcements to the student body that this behavior would not be tolerated. Regrettably, the improper behavior continued. Therefore, the principal

See **Students Outed** on p. 2

Another Year Without the Passage of Any Anti-GLBT Bills in Tennessee?

The Tennessee Equality Project (TEP) reported in October that Tennessee Attorney General Bob Cooper supports adoption by same-sex couples. There are no current laws in the state that specifically bar gay couples from adopting.

Now TEP President Chris Sanders is saying that Tennessee may get through another year without anti-gay legislation.

Says Sanders: "Our efforts received two major boosts. First, HRC provided TEP with strategic, financial and communications support that activated hundreds of HRC members in Tennessee who joined members of the statewide organizations in opposition to the bill. Based on numbers from HRC

and from TEP, members of the Senate Judiciary Committee alone received almost 3000 contacts on the bill. It worked. The bill was rolled several times before Sen. Stanley gave it a gentle end by referring it to a summer adoption study committee.

"Second, the bill's fiscal note of \$4.5 million in costs to the state during a tough budget year also helped slow it down. The legislative department charged with estimating the budget impact of every

bill noted that the health care and other general costs add up quickly for children who would be deprived of loving homes if the legislation were passed.

"While we can't be sure we're completely out of danger until the final gavel falls on the legislative session this month, things look good for another year without the passage of any anti-GLBT bills. A strong coalition came together to achieve that victory."



Pegasus Gives Back

April 13 proved to not be an unlucky day for the Memphis Child Advocacy Center.

The Mystic Krewe of Pegasus Memphis met at the MCAC for their monthly meeting and presented a check for \$12,578.62 — proceeds from their fundraising efforts and Mardi Gras Ball from this past year.

The Krewe has donated more than \$24,000.00 in the past three years to the CAC. This was the Krewe's third year for partnering

with the MCAC.

Associate Director Virginia Stallworth was on hand to receive the Krewe's check.

Pictured are: 1st row, Virginia Stallworth, Associate Director MCAC; King Pegasus the 5th Larry Tyger; Queen Pegasus the 5th Shari Walker. 2nd row: Stacey McKnight, Paulette Harness, Syreeta Bruster, Ed Rachels,

Shayne Rachels and Becky Rachels. 3rd row: Mike Divoky, Carmella Henderson and Steve Devore. Top row: Rodney Brown, Lee Goins, P.J. Newton and Terry Eason. Not pictures members included, Ben Barton, Mathew Bowlin, Byron Cole, Jeff Davidson, Larry Hamilton, Keila Sherrell and Bill Zachary.

Survey: Gays 'Ignorant' of Basic Rights

Few gay Americans understand their basic rights, according to an analysis of poll information.

Based on the responses of 768 gays, lesbians and bisexuals to a national poll given in November, the analysis found that most respondents could not correctly answer four questions regarding their state and federal rights.

"I think 'ignorant' is the right word, unfortunately," said Pat Egan, an assistant professor of poli-

tics at New York University who is gay and helped write the analysis.

The poll by City University of New York's Hunter College asked whether same-sex marriages were legal in the respondent's state, if the U.S. Constitution bans same-sex marriage, whether gays can serve openly in the U.S. military and if

there's a federal law barring the firing of workers based on their sexual orientation. (*Survey: Gays 'Ignorant' of Basic Rights*).

A majority of respondents flunked a four-question test on U.S. laws regarding LGBT issues. The Hunter College survey also showed the respondents' priorities for gay civil rights issues.

HRC Apologizes for 'Misspoken' Trans Comment

Last summer's anger over Mass. Congressman Barney Frank's plan to split a non-discrimination bill into two measures, one to protect gays, lesbians, and bisexuals and the other to protect transgendered workers, was only intensified when the Human Rights Campaign declined to condemn the plan, and encouraged congress to pass the GLB-only version with hopes of progress by degrees on the issue.

HRC Executive Director Joe Solmonese further alienated supporters of transgender equality when, at last year's Southern Comfort conference, he said that the organization would only support a version of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) that extended protections based on gender identity.

But Solmonese met with transgender leaders recently at the home of a HRC board member Charlie Frews in Atlanta. During that meeting, Solmonese apologized for having "misspoken" at the Southern Comfort conference, reported the *Washington Blade* on May 7.

Southern Comfort convenes yearly in Atlanta.

Jamie Roberts, a board member and attorney for the Juxtaposed Center for Transformation, who attended the meeting, was quoted in the *Blade* article as saying, "[Solmonese] did apologize for misspeaking at Southern Comfort."

Added Roberts, "But I think there was a lot of anger, disappointment and a lot of emotions for a lot of people" when the HRC indicated support for a version of ENDA that would only protect sexual minorities based on sexual orientation.

Frank's version of ENDA that included language specific to the

GLB community, but left transsexuals out in the cold, was approved by the House late last year; the Senate has yet to take up the measure, reported the *Blade*.

Solmonese issued a statement in which he said, "I believe this open line of communication allowed all of us to gain a greater understanding of each other's perspectives and underscored the fact that we share the common goal of equality for all members of our community."

Said HRC board member Charlie Frew, "He addressed that right off the bat. He said he understands and felt the pain."

Still, said Frew, "We all thought the bill would never be picked apart in committee. We always thought it would be inclusive."

JCT founder Tracee McDaniel struck a conciliatory tone, saying, "Basically Joe apologized for what was said at Southern Comfort."

Said McDaniel, "It takes a lot for someone to apologize. I personally can't speak for the whole community, but I accepted the apology although I think it needs to be done to the broader community."

In terms of the HRC's actions on behalf of the transgender community, the group has issued a guide for "Transgender Inclusion in the Workplace."

As for the second half of the ENDA bill, which should extend protections to transgendered workers, some skepticism remains. Said Roberts, "I'm just adopting a wait-and-see attitude to see how serious they are about including gender identity in the bill."

Students Outed

Continued from page 1

felt it appropriate to notify the parents of those children she knew to be involved romantically. This was done in an effort to gain the support of the parents in reinforcing the message that such behavior is in violation of Memphis City Schools' Student Code of Conduct. The principal did not list any information other than students' names on her personal call list, and she certainly did not specify the sexual orientation of any student. Additionally, the list was never posted publicly anywhere at the school.

"It is the position of Memphis City Schools that the principal did act in an appropriate manner in order to correct a serious issue at the school and that Memphis City Schools has not subjected either of these students to discriminatory treatment.

"In the coming days, we will submit a formal response to the ACLU. We look forward to working with them to amicably resolve this matter."

According to Nicholas' mother Nichole, the principal said that she didn't tolerate homosexuality in the school and repeatedly asked if she knew her son was gay. The honor student underwent further humiliation, in addition to verbal harassment, when taken out of the running for a class trip to New Orleans related to rebuilding efforts, as a risk to the school's image; Nicholas was told that there were fears he'd embarrass the school by engaging in "inappropriate behavior."

"This school has no business singling these boys out and taking away educational opportunities against them simply because they were dating," added Kramer.

The ACLU also claims that Nicholas and Andrew, were told they could not study together or walk together while on school grounds.

"We never bothered anyone or did anything at school that broke any of the rules," Nicholas, a junior, said. "Every day I feel like they're still punishing me, and I'm worried that this is going to hurt my chances to get into a good college."

Parents confronted the school board at its May 5 meeting.

District leaders have, thus far, defended Beasley's actions, saying she created the list to keep an eye on certain students because there have been serious problems with inappropriate public displays of affection at HFP this year.

That's not a good enough reason for Memphis parent Elizabeth Goodman who told the school board members: "Outing students as gay and lesbian does not create a positive environment for the students.

MCS has endangered every other gay and lesbian student and staff member."

Parent Michelle Bliss agrees, "Gay children often end up committing suicide. There is such a lack of acceptance," says Bliss, "at home and at school. And kids can be so cruel."

School Board Commissioner Kenneth Whalum, Jr, says he understands the concerns of these parents, but says the principal had to take action. "Some kids were engaged in sex acts in plain view on campus," says Whalum, "and that wasn't the first time."

Commissioner Whalum says the district's legal team told the school board that no policies or laws were broken by Principal Beasley or any other staff members at HFP.

"The principal's outing of these two students to their families, classmates, and teachers is unacceptable," said Hedy Weinberg, ACLU of Tennessee's executive director. "Its only purpose was to intimidate not only these students but all gay students at Hollis Price.

"Educators," Weinberg continued, "should be focused on educating their students and not on harassing them because of their sexual orientation or the people with whom they associate."

Since private talks with the Office of General Counsel failed, the ACLU has issued a letter to Memphis School Board officials demanding that Beasley be reprimanded, and that school policies be put in place to ensure a learning environment free of discrimination based on a student's actual or perceived sexual orientation.

Nicholas, who says getting an apology is the most important thing to him at this point, says a reprimand would be appropriate. But, he says, he doesn't want to see his principal lose her job because of this incident.

"Actually, I don't feel she should be fired," he says. "I just think she should go to some re-education classes on how to deal with other students of different sexual orientations. But other than that, no. Because she's an o.k. person. So I don't think she should be fired."

Also called for is an apology to every person on Beasley's list.

MCS had until May 9 to respond to the ACLU demands, but news reports on that day said negotiations were still in progress. As of May 14 neither a settlement nor a lawsuit had been announced.

Hollis F. Price Middle College High School opened in 2004 in a collaborative effort with LeMoyne Owen College. Students can earn a high school diploma and two years of college credit. About 150 students are enrolled in grades 9 through 12.

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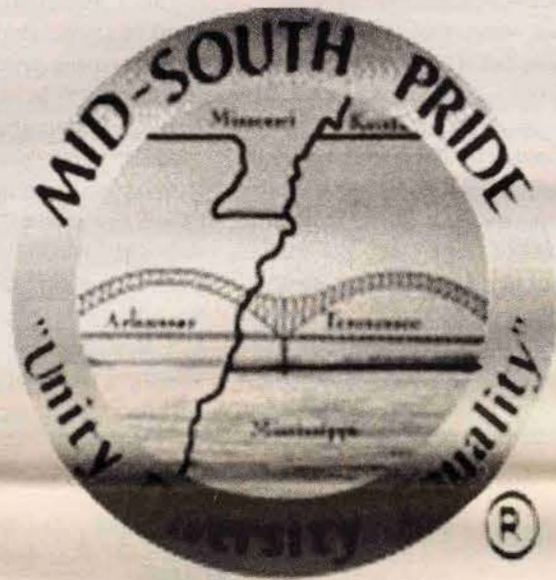
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Atlanta Pride Says HRC Not 'Inclusive' Enough; Rejects Sponsorship

The Atlanta Pride Committee has decided to decline a sponsorship from the Human Rights Campaign over the national gay political group's support for a version of the federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act that did not include "gender identity" as a protected category.

Atlanta Pride Executive Director Donna Narducci said \$5,000 from HRC was not worth jeopardizing the festival's outreach to transgender people. (File photo)

Atlanta Pride Executive Director Donna Narducci said the Pride Committee felt they had to turn down the \$5,000 sponsorship in order to make Georgia's transgender community feel welcome at the three-day Pride festival, slated for the Atlanta Civic Center over the July 4 weekend. HRC will still be allowed to participate in the festival's market and parade.

"We knew that it was almost a no-win situation," Narducci said. "Do you take the money, or do you not take the money? Do we need the money? Yes, we need the money. ... But do we need to take the money from an organization that is not inclusive... and what is that going to do the trans community here in Atlanta?"

The decision came after a series of conversations between Narducci and Pride's board of directors.

Pride is \$100,000 short of its \$350,000 sponsorship goal as it works to raise the almost \$800,000 necessary to put on the annual festival, Narducci said. But Pride leaders felt \$5,000 is not enough to justify taking money from an organization many Atlanta transgender activists feel betrayed them.

When HRC spokesperson Trevor Thomas was questioned directly about Pride's decision, HRC pointed out it has donated \$25,000 to Atlanta Pride since 2003 and issued the following statement:

"As in past years, the Human Rights Campaign is looking forward to a great Pride. We'll be on hand to speak with our members and supporters as well as the greater Atlanta community."

After years of covering just "sexual orientation," ENDA was introduced in the U.S. House last year with "gender identity" as well. But the category was dropped when the bill's main backer, openly gay U.S. Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.), said there were not enough votes to pass the broader measure. The U.S.

House approved ENDA with just sexual orientation in November 2007; the Senate hasn't voted.

HRC supports including gender identity in ENDA, but urged Congress members to vote in favor of Frank's sexual orientation-only bill as an incremental strategy. The move came as Pride organizers worked to make the Atlanta event even more transgender-inclusive.

This year will see an increased number of transgender musical acts, and transgender author and performance artist Scott Turner Schofield will serve as one of the grand marshals, Narducci said.

"ENDA is the deciding factor as to whether or not HRC is seen as inclusive, and right now, they are not seen as inclusive by a number of people," Narducci said.

The Pride Committee is holding HRC accountable for its decision not to include transgender protections, but the same rule does not seem to extend to other Pride sponsors. All Pride sponsors are required to score 85 percent or higher on the HRC Corporate Equality Index, which ranks companies based on their policies affecting lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender employees.

Major Atlanta Pride sponsors Delta, Home Depot and Verizon Wireless all score 85 percent or better, but they do not include gender identity in their non-discrimination policies, according to the index.

"I was not aware of that," Narducci said.

Narducci said that HRC only sponsors two other Pride celebrations in the country, New York City and San Francisco.

Mikayla Connell, a transgender member of the San Francisco Pride board, nominated HRC for the Pink Brick Award, which honors the organization or person who did the most damage to gay rights during the year. The HRC finished second to Fox talk show host Bill O'Reilly.

Atlanta Pride's decision leaked out at the HRC Dinner & Silent Auction on May 3, and transgender activists who have heard about it, like Sir Jessie McNulty, said they feel validated in Pride's position.

"I see it as standing in solidarity with the gender variant communities," McNulty said. "It's just not transgender — it includes sporty lesbian and effeminate gay guys as well. Without gender identity, we're all at risk."

History and Colors of the Rainbow Flag

The first Rainbow Flag was designed in 1978 by Gilbert Baker, a San Francisco artist, who created the flag in response to a local activist's call for the need of a community symbol.

Baker designed a flag with eight stripes: pink, red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet. According to Baker, those colors represented, respectively: sexuality, life, healing, sun, nature, art, harmony and spirit.

Baker dyed and sewed the material for the first flag himself — in the true spirit of Betsy Ross.

Baker soon approached San Francisco's Paramount Flag Company about mass producing and selling his "gay flag." Unfortunately, Baker had hand-dyed all the colors, and since the color "hot pink" was not commercially available, mass production of his eight-striped version became impossible. The flag was thus reduced to seven stripes.

In November 1978, San Francisco's gay community was stunned when the city's first openly gay supervisor, Harvey Milk, was assassinated. Wishing to demonstrate the gay community's strength and solidarity in the aftermath of this tragedy, the 1979 Pride Parade Committee decided to use Baker's flag.

The committee eliminated the indigo stripe so they could divide the colors evenly along the parade route — three colors on one side of the street and three on the other. Soon the six colors were incorporated into a six-striped version that became popularized and that, today, is recognized by the International Congress of Flag Makers."

The six-stripe rainbow, whether used on a flag or other symbols, is now an international GLBT Pride symbol. In 1994, the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion included a mile-long version of this

flag. An aerial photo by Mick Hicks (a copy of which hangs at MGLCC) shows the full length of this flag which was one mile long. It was immediately cut up into sections as it reached Central Park and distributed to many individuals and places.

This flag inspired Memphis Pride, Inc., officers to build the 100-foot flag which many Memphians cheered from 1997 to 2007.

In 1994, to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the original design, Gilbert constructed the Sea to Sea flag with eight stripes. It stretched a mile and a quarter and divided Key West down the middle with one end touching the Atlantic and the other the Gulf of Mexico. This flag also was divided among Prides and other organizations and has been touched to the important waters in America and Europe. A 100-foot section was given to Mid-South Pride last year by the artist and its sponsor, Absolut Vodka and appeared in the Pride Parade, at the Black Pride Picnic, and at the Prides of the Southeast Conference.

The colors of the Sea to Sea flag:

Pink — sexuality
Red — life
Orange — healing
Yellow — sun
Green — nature
Blue — art
Indigo — harmony
Violet — spirit

These are also the primary and secondary colors taught to every child and the six visible colors of the spectrum of light which any prism will produce.

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How Teens Can Celebrate Gay Pride

As adults, we might be a little jaded by the upcoming gay Pride season. We may go to a parade, have a beer or two, hang with some friends, and that's pretty much it. But it's important for teens, especially teens who are just realizing they are gay, to actively take pride in who they are. Here are some easy ways for them to do just that.

Definitely attend a gay Pride parade. The parade may seem like just a big party, but it is much more important than that. It is the one day when groups of gay people can celebrate who they are in a very public fashion. As such, it is extremely important, and it'll make you feel good, too.

So gather up some gay or gay-

friendly friends to cheer the groups as they walk by. Or even better, participate in the parade. Get together with a teen gay group that is taking part. Marching in a local gay pride parade is an exhilarating, amazing experience, and one every gay person should do at least once in life.

The Love That Dares Not Speak Its Name Got One in 1868

One hundred and forty years ago, on May 6, 1868, the word homosexuality was invented.

Before then, there were very few value-neutral words to describe people who experienced romantic or sexual attractions toward others of the same sex. Pejoratives such as “bugger,” “molly,” “sodomite” or “pederast” were common, words loaded with condemnation and shame. But as the budding science of sexology began to grow, and as same-sex loving defenders began to speak out about what same-sex love was all about, their first problem was with how to name it. “Abominable vice” wouldn’t do. A new word was desperately needed to describe their lives and feelings.

The love that dared not speak its name couldn’t. It didn’t have one.

The first to try to name this love was the German gay-rights advocate Karl Heinrich Ulrichs. In the 1860s, he described the *urning* as a “male-bodied person with a female psyche,” who is sexually attracted to men and not women. An *urningin* was a “female-bodied person with a male psyche,” and *urningthum* came to mean homosexuality itself. Ulrichs devised an entire system of classification based on different combinations of attractions and gender roles. Some of these words gained usage in English, although the less foreign-sounding sexual inversion and inverts to describe homosexuality and homosexuals respectively fell more naturally to English ears. But in a few short years, those words would become obsolete, replaced by the creation of an aspiring Hungarian writer.

Karl-Maria Kertbeny (or Károly Mária Kertbeny) was an Austrian-born Hungarian journalist, memoirist and human rights campaigner. Kertbeny reportedly became interested in homosexuality when a close friend committed suicide after being blackmailed by an extortionist. Kertbeny later said that this drove him to advocate for civil rights for gay people.

Kertbeny’s own sexuality remains unclear however. He described himself as “normally sexed,” but his diaries reportedly document his appreciation for the male form. When he moved to Berlin in 1868 at the age of 44, he was still unmarried. It was at around this time that Kertbeny coined the word *homosexualität* — “of the same sex” — from the Greek prefix homo- (same) and the Latin root sexualis (sex). His first known usage of this word is documented in a letter he wrote to Ulrichs on May 6, 1868.

Karl-Maria Kertbeny’s pamphlet

Homosexualität made its first known public appearance the following year, when Kertbeny anonymously published the pamphlet. This pamphlet advocated for the repeal of Prussia’s sodomy laws, saying that private consensual sex acts shouldn’t be subject



Karl-Maria Kertbeny

to criminal penalties.

Homosexualität gained usage as other German advocates began putting forth the idea that homosexuality was inborn, a “medical problem” which placed homosexuality as a form of pathology or illness. Today, of course, we recoil at the abuses which arose from this “homosexuality-as-pathology” mindset, but in the nineteenth century this “medical model” represented a significant improvement in attitudes to homosexuality. Before Ulrichs and Kertbeny, homosexuality was viewed as a mere wickedness or moral degeneracy to be severely punished — often by pillory or death.

But Kertbeny appeared to understand the dangers behind the “medical model.” He not only saw that the “innate” argument was potentially dangerous, but that it was also irrelevant. In that vein, his advocacy for gay civil liberties was remarkably modern:

“To prove innateness ... is a dangerous double-edged weapon. Let this riddle of nature be very interesting from the anthropological point of view. Legislation is not concerned whether this inclination is innate or not, legislation is only interested in the personal and social dangers associated with it ... Therefore we would not win anything by proving innateness beyond a shadow of doubt. Instead we should convince our opponents — with precisely the same legal notions used by them — that they do not have anything at all to do with this inclination, be it innate or intentional, since the state does not have the right to intervene in anything that occurs between two

consenting persons older than fourteen, which does not affect the public sphere, nor the rights of a third party.”

Kertbeny had another thoroughly modern idea about homosexuality, and this one is probably the most salient for understanding *homosexualität*’s triumph over *urning* and invert. The word *homosexual* doesn’t refer to any assumptions about gender roles or attributes.

But in writing about homosexuality, Kertbeny pointedly noted that homosexual men were not necessarily effeminate, citing several heroic historical figures as examples.

In 1880, Gustav Jäger used Kertbeny’s *homosexualität* in his book *Discovery of the Soul*. That book also included Kertbeny’s other useful word *heterosexualität*.

Then the German sex researcher Richard von Krafft-Ebing borrowed those terms for his highly influential 1886 *Psychopathia Sexualis*. Homosexuality appears to have entered the English language at about 1895, which is when Charles Gilbert Chaddock translated *Psychopathia Sexualis* into English. And when Sigmund Freud used it in his books and lectures, he propelled its use among psychologists and psychoanalysts as well as in popular culture.

But admiration for the new word wasn’t universal. English sexologist Havelock Ellis, whose 1897 work *Sexual Inversion* became one of the first widely published English texts to deal with homosexuality, hated its bastardization of Greek and Latin. “‘Homosexual’ is a barbarously hybrid word,” Ellis wrote in a footnote. “It is, however, convenient, and now widely used. ‘Homogenic’ has been suggested as a substitute.”

Homogenic never caught on, and Ellis ended up using the word *homosexual* himself more often in his text than the terminology found in his volume’s title. By the 1930s the terms *homosexual*, *heterosexual* and *bisexual* had almost completely erased *urning* and invert for describing an individual’s sexual orientation.

Kertbeny, however, didn’t live to see his *homosexualität* in widespread use. He died of a stroke in Budapest in 1882 at the age of 58, still unmarried.

In 2002, members of Budapest’s gay community placed a new tombstone over his rediscovered grave, where it is now customary to lay a wreath during Hungarian gay festivals.

Assisi Foundation Grant Helps Retire FFL Mortgage

April 30, 2008 was a historic day for Friends For Life Corporation, the Mid-South’s oldest and most comprehensive AIDS service organization. On this day, the agency received a check in the amount of \$125,000 from The Assisi Foundation of Memphis; the second installment of a total \$250,000 grant. The grant was applied toward retiring the mortgage from a 2005 loan secured to help fund renovations to the building.

The Assisi Foundation has a long history of supporting services to persons affected by HIV/AIDS in the Mid-South. The foundation has financially supported Friends For Life for many years and was instrumental in providing grants to help begin Aloysius Home, an agency that provided housing to persons living with HIV/AIDS, and which merged with Friends For Life in 1999.

The building at 43 N. Cleveland was donated to Friends For Life in 2002 by Bill Bruce and the late Ronney Snell to be used as the

agency headquarters. This gift allowed the agency to significantly expand its services and, for the first time in the agency’s 23 year history, to own its headquarters.

In addition to the financial assistance from the Assisi Foundation, many individuals in the community played a major role in providing funds to pay for necessary renovations. A capital campaign was conducted from 2003 to 2005 with over 100 individuals making pledges and payments ranging from \$25 to \$50,000.



The Friends for Life headquarters at 42 N. Cleveland was donated in 2002 by Bill Bruce and the late Ronney Snell. A loan for its renovation was retired after receiving a \$125,000 grant from the Assisi Foundation.

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May is National Masturbation Month

So shaming and negative are the messages from society regarding self-pleasure that many people have never come to grips, so to speak, with the importance of masturbation. D'oh! See — I bet some of you reading this right now just scoffed at “the importance” of self-pleasure, so let me elaborate, postulate and dis”dick”ulate.

Commentary by Jallen Rix

The natural ability to give sexual self-pleasure is a powerful activity for a healthy well-being. It heightens the senses, exercises celebrates life, strengthens self-esteem and just feels damn good! It can be your own personal way of making the person that you know best feel great. It's a pleasurable, not a radical, gesture of self-acceptance.

Now, some people feel guilty that the “knuckle shuffle” is a kind of cheating on one's partner. I say to thee, “Nay and quite the contrary.” In fact, there are a number of studies that show that the more attention a person devotes to the fine-tuning of “Rosi Palm and her five sisters, the more that person is comfortably equipped to give and receive pleasure when in the company of another. The better you understand and nurture what you've got, the more you'll be able to communicate that to someone else. It makes perfect sense. We've just been sold a bill o' goods and sexual misinformation about “buffing the shalaylee,” laddies!

There is other scientific evidence for the benefits of wigglin' your Willy. A few years back, you prob-

ably heard about a popular study released in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (April, 2004) that showed that those penis owners who regularly (even daily) spent time playing and

Indeed, chances are that most of us discovered the amazing pleasures our bodies could experience even before we had words to describe them. We weren't taught to explore, find and enjoy them. It

y. In fact, most children find great satisfaction in making their bodies feel good — that is, until they're scolded for doing it. We were probably taught to avoid and find shameful the innocent experience of giving our bodies — more specifically, our genitals — pleasure. So what are we waiting for? Batter up, and don't forget to swing those pompoms, too!

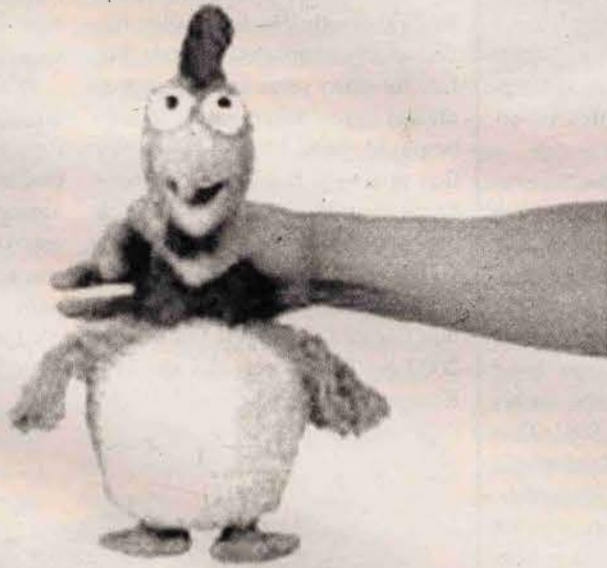
I must confess: I

am not the originator of all this clever sexual slang, but I am a connoisseur. Jonathan Greene's *Big Book of Filth* includes 6500 words and phrases for just about any kind of sexual act and it is from this tome I use this joy jelly jargon. Interestingly, his book devotes 23 pages (more than 690 names) to describe the act of male genital masturbation. However, there are only two pages (about 60 names) describing female genital masturbation.

Come on, you vaginarians! Not only has male domination neglected the sexual pleasures of women, we also haven't gotten creative using artful and poetic words (not to mention potty-mouth) to describe “fondling the fig!” Why, even the television show *Grey's Anatomy* has popularized the term, “Va-jay-jay.” So hit the dictionary and add your own two cents to the wilds of “harvesting the garden!”

cumming with their “pet snakes” had a lower probability of getting prostate cancer.” (See the results of a study elsewhere on this page.)

Who'd a thunk that the calendar gods would devote the whole month of May solely to the joys of self-pleasure? Well, unzip my britches and give my ballpoint pen a shake, it's Masturbation Month! If there are “pillars of wisdom upholding sexual health,” masturbation would be the strongest — or should I say the hardest?



Stonewall Dems Election

In an election delayed from March because of a conflict with Easter, the Stonewall Democrats have elected new leadership for the next year.

Elected at the Sun., Apr. 27 meeting were Mark Pearson as president and Anita Davidson as vice-president.

Rounding out the officers and

board were Herb Zeman as treasurer, Jeff Harwood as secretary and Jim Maynard as board member at-large.

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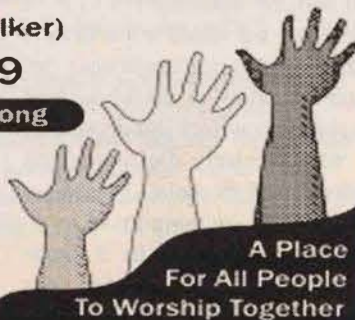
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Masturbation May Prevent Prostate Cancer

Researchers find that men who masturbate frequently are at a reduced risk of cancer.

According to *The Advocate*. Frequent masturbation may help men cut their risk of contracting prostate cancer, Australian researchers have found.

It is believed that carcinogens may build up in the prostate if men do not ejaculate regularly, BBC News reported on Apr. 21.

The researchers surveyed more than 1,000 men who had developed prostate cancer, and 1,250 men who had not. They found that men who had ejaculated the most between the ages of 20 and 50 were the least likely to get cancer. Men who ejaculated more than five times each week were a third less likely to develop prostate cancer.

Sexual intercourse may not have the same effect because of the higher risk of contracting a sexu-

ally transmitted disease, which could in turn raise the risk of cancer.

“Had we been able to remove ejaculations associated with sexual intercourse, there should have been an even stronger protective effect of ejaculations,” Graham Giles of the Cancer Council Victoria, who led the researchers, said in the article.

The prostate produces a fluid that is incorporated into ejaculation, which activates sperm and prevents them from sticking together. Studies on animals have shown that carcinogens like 3-methylchloranthrene can be harbored in the prostate. Frequent ejaculation encourages the cancer-inducing fluids to “flush out.”

MTV Networks Launches Video Hub for Gays

Execs at MTV Networks say the best way to distribute media over the Web is to “go an inch wide but a mile deep.”

Instead of one central Web destination, Viacom-owned MTV Networks is building hundreds of sites around its content. An example of that strategy can be found at Logo, the unit that serves the gay and lesbian community.

Logo launched a new video hub on Wednesday that Lisa Sherman, Logo's general manager, said will feature 3,000 ad-supported clips and be the largest central library of videos for the gay and lesbian audience.

“This is the kind of content that has only been available at art houses,” Sherman said. “But the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender) audience, can now check out content that has never been available to them nationally.”

Some of the full-episode shows that can be found at Logoonline.com are Big Gay Sketch, Noah's Arc, and Outlaugh Festival on Wisecrack. Documentaries include Elephant in the Room and The Two Cubas.

There are also short clips, news, and music.

Sherman said the site reflects Viacom's “super niche” strategy, which is about delivering content to very small markets in addition to the big ones.

Logo's digital cable channel launched three years ago and is now available in 32 million homes in 25 markets. It is soon to be available on Comcast's digital preferred tier.

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Joint Chiefs Chair Says Military Ready to Accept Gay Service Members

Speaking at West Point on Sun., May 4, Admiral Mike Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told graduating cadets that Congress, and not the military, is responsible for the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law banning openly lesbian, gay and bisexual Americans from military service. Admiral Mullen's answer came in response to a cadet's question asking what would happen if the next administration were supportive of legislation allowing gays to serve openly.

"Admiral Mullen is to be applauded for his willingness to take part in an open national conversation about this issue, and for his open-minded approach to working with Congress as they consider the future of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell,'" said Aubrey Sarvis, executive director for Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN).

"Admiral Mullen's remarks reflect an attitude shift among the military establishment which has historically discouraged public debate on allowing open lesbian and gay Americans to serve. As Admiral Mullen rightly points out, 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' is a federal law. Ultimately repeal must come from the people's representatives in Congress."

During his Senate confirmation hearing last year, Mullen told lawmakers that, "I really think it is for the American people to come forward, really through this body, to both debate that policy and make changes, if that's appropriate."

He went on to say that, "I'd love

to have Congress make its own decisions" with respect to considering repeal.

The Military Readiness Enhancement Act (H.R. 1246), a bill to lift the ban on open service, is now supported by 142 bi-partisan lawmakers in the House of Representatives. Congresswoman Susan Davis (D-CA), chair of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Military Personnel has announced her desire to hold a hearing this year on the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy.

"Poll after poll show that a majority of the American people, as well as military personnel, believe 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' is a counterproductive law which should be repealed. With the support and encouragement of Admiral Mullen, we hope the next Congress will act to repeal this inefficient and discriminatory law," said Sarvis.

For more information on "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," and Congressional legislation to repeal the law, visit <http://www.sldn.org/>.

Advance Health-Care Planning Class Set

Your Wishes, Your Choices, an advance health-care planning class will be presented by Ayla Heartson, and is one of the courses of Lavender University, the community education project of MGLCC.

No one wants to talk about "what if's," especially when it comes to medical emergencies. All too often, loved ones are put in the painful position of making life-or-death decisions, without really knowing if this is "what she would have wanted".

Most hospitals now ask if you have some directives in writing, because they don't want to make the "wrong" decision either. Advance health-care planning, such as designating one person to be your "agent," talking candidly about

what treatments you consider acceptable or not, can bring enormous peace-of-mind, even if your family and friends never have to face those heart-wrenching situations.

Your Wishes, Your Choices, an Advance Health-Care Planning course, will provide basic definitions, worksheets, legal forms and "talking points" for starting the conversation.

The free presentation will be made on Thurs., May 22 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the MGLCC, 892 S. Cooper.

"If Michelangelo had been straight, the Sistine Chapel would have been wallpapered."

— Robin Tyler

Barbara Walters: Why I Was Roy Cohn's Beard

In an interview promoting her new memoir, *Audition*, Barbara Walters tells the *San Francisco Chronicle* about her relationship with Roy Cohn, the most despised gay man in American history, explaining why she allowed Cohn to pose as her boyfriend.

Many of Walters' other friends were horrified that she would even talk to Cohn, but what Walters reveals for the first time in *Audition* is that Cohn somehow got a warrant for her father's arrest dismissed. He had failed to show up for a New York court date because the family was in Las Vegas at the time.

Cohn liked to hint that they were more than friends "because I was his claim to heterosexuality," Walters says. "He never said that he was gay, he never admitted to me that he had AIDS. He was a very complicated man. He died, alone, up to his ears in debt. He had been disbarred and he was hated. And I might have thought the same way, but he did something when my father was in trouble, [and] I never forgot that."

Loyalty, she says, means everything to her. "I still have many of the same friends I had when I was younger," she says.

Did Cohn have a secret "nice" side?

"I would not use the word nice," she laughs. "He was very smart. And funny. And, at the time, seemed to know everyone in New York. He was very friendly with the cardinal, he was very friendly with the most famous columnist in New York, Walter Winchell, he had a lot of extremely powerful friends."

Some background for those who somehow may not know who Roy Cohn was:

When he was 24, as assistant district attorney of Manhattan, Cohn's eviscerating questioning of nuclear scientists Ethel and Julius Rosenberg was widely credited with their espionage con-

victions. In his autobiography, Cohn claimed that the judge imposed the death penalty on the Rosenbergs on his recommendation. The actual guilt of the Rosenbergs (Ethel, in particular) remains a topic of great debate. Cohn's performance in the trial led FBI director J. Edgar Hoover to recommend him to Sen. Joseph McCarthy.

As McCarthy's chief counsel during the communist witch hunts of the 1950s, Cohn and his boss called hundreds of government employees to testify before a Senate subcommittee on accusations of communism, espionage and homosexuality. (That subcommittee continues to operate today as part of the Senate Committee On Homeland Security.) Thanks to Cohn's vicious interrogations, many of these gay people lost their jobs, homes, and families. This was all done with Cohn's purported lover G. David Schine, a handsome young lawyer, working at his side as an unpaid consultant. (Some historians say Cohn was merely infatuated with Schine and that they were not sexually involved.)

After Schine was drafted by the Army and was in danger of being sent to Korea, Cohn attempted to intervene and get Schine a safer assignment. He then accused the Army of holding Schine "hostage" unless Cohn ended his investigation of communist infiltration of the armed services. The hearings into Cohn's allegations backfired (with Senators snickering that Schine was a "fairy"), resulting in



Roy Cohn

Cohn's resignation and McCarthy's later censure by the Senate, effectively ending the witch hunts.

In his private practice over the next 30 years, during which he often defended mafia bosses, Cohn also lobbied strongly against homosexual rights, all while visiting gay clubs and chasing "muscle men." One of his last acts was to work against NYC's gay rights ordinance. Cohn's death from AIDS in 1986 was immortalized by playwright Tony Kushner in his Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning play, *Angels In America*. (Cohn was also a character in Kushner's lesser known play, *G. David Schine In Hell*.)

Previous to this revelation about his helping her father, Barbara Walters' devotion to Roy Cohn had been explained as gratitude for his role in the adoption of her daughter.

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Found on the internet. We wonder how many were produced and ultimately used.

Mid-South Pride's Rainbow Flag Ready for 30th Anniversary

On Sat., Apr. 19 the final stitches were sewn in the new Mid-South Pride 100-foot Rainbow Flag.

By Vincent Astor

Nearly every Saturday from February to April, dedicated volunteers have been creating a replica of the 1997 flag—with improvements.

The banner was designed by Mike Morgan and was built in four sections. It is made of dyed quilting cotton and cotton webbing reinforces the places where the sections are sewn together. This same webbing crosses the flag in the center of each section and frames the entire flag.

Grommets and handles for carrying are mounted through this webbing. The work was completed in the Fellowship Hall of First Congregational Church in Cooper-Young.

The first flag, inspired by the mile-long Stonewall 25 flag, was constructed by volunteers in time for the 1997 parade. Six sponsors and volunteers from the former Memphis Pride, Inc., constructed it at Holy Trinity UCC at its earlier location on Madison.

Bill Hanley, Chet Overstreet and Tommy Ross were the core committee behind its design and construction. It was simply but solidly constructed but after the first year it proved to be difficult to carry.

By the 1998 parade it had grommets and rope handles but

the sheer weight of the fabric put a lot of strain on the edges. This caused the flag to need constant repair.

When the wind billowed the flag it was a beautiful sight, captured in many photos, but that put even more strain on the fabric. It has been a speakers background, a picnic blanket, it has hung in Overton Square and at the Coliseum and has been carried in most of the Pride parades since its construction.

Though durable, fading and wear and tear began to be more obvious with each passing year.

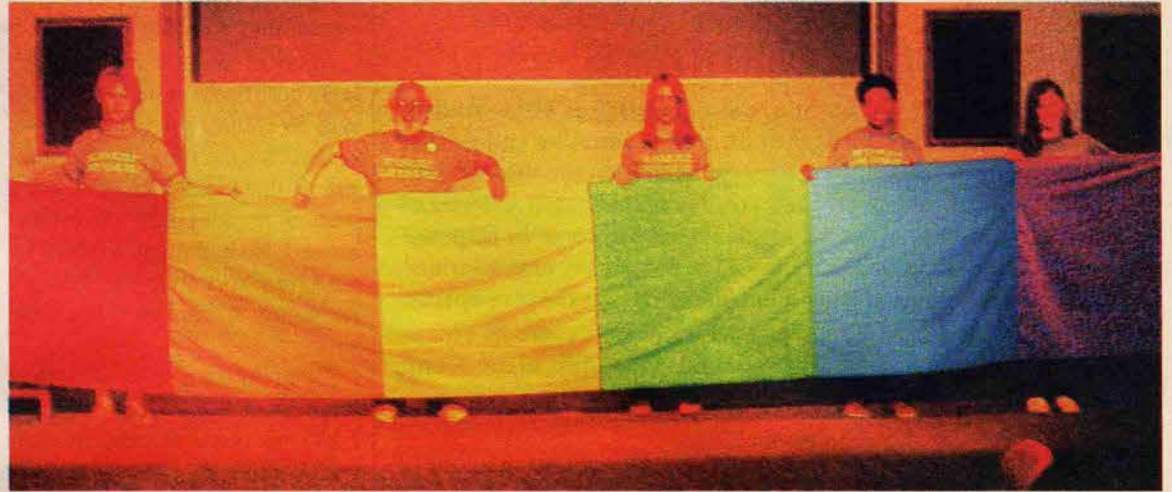
In 2007 the decision was made to replace the flag, while carefully preserving sections of it.

A small banner made with fabric from the flag will be presented to the archives of the MGLCC. Another memento banner travels with QBliss to Pride celebrations in numerous locations.

The unexpected death of founding president Gary Wilkerson, Mid-South Pride decided to dedicate the new flag to his memory. Three sponsors stepped forward to donate funds.

Major sponsors are Tennessee Equality Project (TEP) and Inz and Outz Cards and Gifts. The Grand Sponsor is the Nike TN GLBT and Friends Network.

Gary's mother, Elizabeth, set the final stitches in the new flag.



Rhodes Gay-Straight Alliance members with memento section of 100-foot Rainbow flag presented by Vincent Astor (class of '75) and Mid-South Pride. The section was presented after the Peterson Toscano show in April. Left to right: Mikkel Quam, Vincent Astor, Julia Draper, Erica Murrell and Tara Daniel.

Memento sections of the original flag were given to the three sponsors, MGLCC, the Straight Gay Alliance at Rhodes College, Holy Trinity UCC and First Congregational UCC.

Fifty feet of the 1997 flag has been preserved for use in other Pride events. The 100 feet of the 8-stripe Sea to Sea flag will again be carried in the Memphis parade and perhaps travel elsewhere.

The new Mid-South Pride flag will be unfolded at a short dedication ceremony at the start of this year's parade and follow the color guard.

The parade will take place on Flag Day, Sat., June 14. This year's theme

for the parade is *Many Cultures, One Community* so it is appropriate that the flag of GLBT culture will take center stage.

Flags representing states, countries and cultures of all descriptions will be appropriate trimmings for this year's event.

Designer Says Original Rainbow Flag is Unfinished

Gilbert Baker designed the 'rainbow flag' 30 years ago this June. The flag is, today, recognized almost everywhere as a symbol of gay pride.

By Gilbert Baker

Our movement is built on the shoulders of individuals who stand for freedom and equality. One at a time, in every town, in every country, people who live openly, truthfully. Each one of us is a drop of water in a wave of change for human rights and justice. Indeed we are a rainbow of hope, love, and liberation that wraps around the Earth.

Emily Dickenson said: "Flags are a brave sight, but no true eye ever went by one steadily."

In my view the rainbow flag is unfinished, as the movement it represents, an arc that begins well before me, its breadth far broader than all of our experiences put together, reaching the farthest corners of the world with a message of solidarity and a beacon of hope for those who follow in our footsteps.

In the beginning the Rainbow Flag was about liberation. It was about breaking free of an existence limited by fear and conformity, the right to express sexuality without shame or retaliation from those who legislate "morality".

All revolutions start with a word, and the word is no. No to injustice, no to discrimination, no to oppression, no to slavery,

no to violence, no to lives dictated by fear. Yes to love. The defiant colors in our flag have unfurled that idea for thirty years.

The Rainbow Flag lives because it represents us all in our diversity and beauty. It endures because it connects us to nature and transcends words to lift hearts, enlighten minds and inspire courage everywhere.

My life has been devoted to creating, expanding and evolving its use. In the vernacular of vexillographers, a true flag is torn from the soul of the people, millions of people worldwide united in an expression of love and pride.

The rainbow flag is an art action. When people fly the rainbow flag, put it on a bumper sticker, or t-shirt, or use any of its endless variations, they are saying something. Right out front they're saying this is who I am.

It is a direct visibility action gay people are doing everywhere, phenomenal in every sense. The rainbow is a connector, a global channel, it surfs the wind of change.

Flags are of the moment. The rainbow flag is a conscious thought, a brave and fearless action. It belongs to everyone. And that is what makes it wonderful.

A large advertisement for 'The Pumping Station Memphis'. The text 'The Pumping Station' is written in a large, bold, stylized font with a yellow outline. Below it, 'Memphis' is written in a smaller, similar font. At the bottom, the address '1382 poplar ave' and phone number '901.272.7600' are listed in a bold, yellow font. The background is dark with a subtle pattern.

Three Candles on the Cake for Inz & Outz

Three years ago on May 15, 2005, Darian Porter bought Inz and Outz from its original owner, Ray Steel.

Porter worked part-time at the store for a brief period before Steel decided to sell it. After seven years in business, Inz & Outz had established itself as Pride product headquarters for the Memphis area as well as the place to buy a card for any occasion.

Steel received offers from companies that wanted to change the whole approach to the business, but he preferred to sell to someone who would continue to take it in the same direction.

Porter decided to make an offer to buy him out and Steel accepted it.

Shortly after the purchase, Porter embarked on a major renovation of the store, modifying the layout and adding new display cases and racks.

During the past three years, he has greatly expanded the store's product lines. Additions include collectible Android watches, plus

many new clothing selections such as Ajax T-shirts, swimwear and the recently added Justus Boyz underwear.

Porter also increased the number and types of lube the store carries and features more and better brands videos. In fact, video rentals at Inz & Outz are now a huge part of the business.

Although he has cut back on the total number of cards the store carries, Inz & Outz now stocks more lines of gay cards than ever.

Porter and his store are very active in the Mid-South gay community, making many donations to organizations and events. Inz and Outz is one of the sponsors of Mid-South Pride, consistently assists Emerald Theatre Company with its productions, is a sponsor of the Brothers and Sisters Bowling League, and also sponsors two area softball teams. Porter said one of the teams recently thanks him by

donating the new sign that hangs in front of the store.

In keeping with Inz and Outz image as Pride headquarters and active involvement in the GLBT community, a section of the original 100-foot Pride parade flag is permanently on display at the store.

Porter is currently renting the empty store space next to his current area. "I'm hoping we can expand into this area in the near future," he said. "It will allow us to add even more products that appeal to the GLBT community."



Darian Porter, owner of Inz & Outz

Americans Hate to Read About Gay Penguins

A children's story about a family of penguins with two fathers once again tops the list of library books the American public objects to the most.

And Tango Makes Three, released in 2005 and co-written by Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell, was the most "challenged" book in U.S. public schools and libraries for the second straight year, according to the American Library Association.

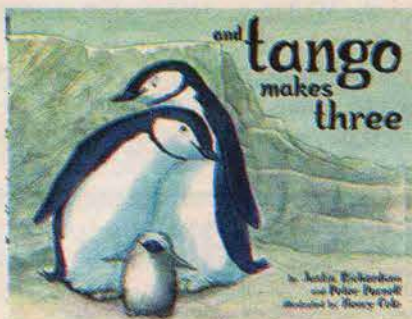
"The complaints are that young children will believe that homosexuality is a lifestyle that is acceptable. The people complaining, of course, don't agree with that," Judith Krug, director of the association's Office for Intellectual Freedom, said in an interview.

The ALA defines a "challenge" as a "formal, written complaint filed

with a library or school requesting that materials be removed because of content or appropriateness."

Other books on the top 10 list include Maya Angelou's memoir *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, in which the author writes of being raped as a young girl; Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, long attacked for alleged racism; and Philip Pullman's *The Golden Compass*, an anti-religious work in which a former nun says: "The Christian religion is a very powerful and convincing mistake."

Americans apparently can't stand to read about gay penguins.



Tomlin Regrets She Missed Chance to be Gay Pioneer


Gay actress Lily Tomlin regrets not 'coming out' 30 years ago, because she missed the chance to become the first openly-lesbian star.

Tomlin was offered the chance to come out of the closet in a *Time* magazine article in 1975, but she refused, and kept her sexuality a secret until after comedienne Ellen DeGeneres exposed her lesbian status in 1997.


The 68-year-old actress says, "In some ways I regret that I didn't do it." But she explains the real reason behind her decision not to give *Time* the gay scoop in the mid-1970s: "(I was) insulted that they thought I would do it just to get the cover."

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TBI Hate Crime Report Cause for Concern

The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation issued its annual hate crimes report that details a variety of bias motivated crimes including those based on sexual orientation.

By Chris Sanders
President and Chair, TEP

Law enforcement agencies are responsible for submitting hate crime data based on evidence that reveals a motivation of bias during the investigation. Lack of awareness of anti-GLBT bias may account for underreporting in this category.

The number of reported hate crimes based on sexual orientation decreased by 6.6 percent from 60 in 2006 to 56 in 2007. To understand the number we have to remember that in 2005 there were 21 hate crimes reported in this category. In other words, the almost three-fold increase from 2005 to 2006 is holding with a slight decline.

Examination of the report finds some troubling developments. Hate crimes against lesbians increased 18 percent from 11 incidents in 2006 to 13 in 2007. The number of hate crimes involving bisexual persons increased 100 percent from 2 in 2006 to 4 in 2007. An extraordinarily high number of victims of hate crimes based on sexual orientation are African American. Of the total 56, the number of Black victims was 23 (41 percent). We also learn that the victims tend to be young. 23 of the 56 were aged 24 or younger (41 percent). 9 of them

were 17 or younger (16 percent). 25 of the reported cases were in Memphis (44 percent).

The report does not consider hate crimes based on gender identity or expression. By erasing a community that faces incredible discrimination and violence, the state leaves one of its most vulnerable populations exposed to danger every day.

What accounts for the jump in hate crimes in 2006 and the slightly declining but comparable number in 2007? One answer may lie in public battle over the marriage discrimination amendment waged in 2006. Even though most people who voted for the discriminatory amendment would be appalled by hate crimes, it is hard to deny that the hateful discourse directed at the GLBT community in 2006 created a hostile climate.

The absence of that issue in 2007 may account for the small decline, but it appears that the effects are lingering. Another possible source of the high number is that more victims and more law enforcement officers are becoming aware of the increasingly visible GLBT community in Tennessee, which means that hate crimes are being reported with greater frequency.

A hate crimes law that includes both sexual orientation and gender identity is needed at the federal

level. And if it does not come at the federal level, then Tennessee should add gender identity to the existing hate crimes statute. Since a high percentage of the victims are young, stronger nondiscrimination and bullying laws are needed to protect students.

Despite the failure of the Matthew Shepard Act in 2007, the measure got further in Congress than ever before. There are reports that Sen. Carl Levin (D-MI) will reintroduce the bill this month. The Human Rights Campaign, the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, the Tennessee Transgender Political Coalition, and TEP all worked for passage of Shepard in 2007. If the measure is reintroduced, a broad coalition will work for its passage again this year.

In Nashville, the ACLU is working with a group of students called the Support Student Safety Coalition to fight discrimination in Metro Schools. The TEP Foundation received a \$40,000 grant from the Gill Foundation to put hate crimes advocates in every part of the state and work with district attorneys to increase awareness of bias related crimes.

TEPs Anti-Violence Project has provided a way for you to report hate crimes on its website and for victims to receive assistance. Go to www.tnep.org for more information.

New FFL Leader Appointed

From its inception as the Aid to End All AIDS Committee in 1985, Friends for Life has had only six executive directors. The latest is master's-level social worker Kim Daugherty formerly the agency's director of clinical services.

By Allen Cook

While Daugherty was director of clinical services at FFL only since last summer, her interest in AIDS and the agency goes back to her friend Peter Barrosse, one of the first people with AIDS (PWAs) served by the agency.

"My involvement with Friends for Life goes back to someone who was very dear to me... Peter Barrosse. I came to Memphis in about 1986 and in about 1987 or 1988 or so I helped Peter and some other people get their SSI (disability) benefits. I was a young social worker and had just come to Memphis. Peter and I would have lunch at the Squash Blossom and through him is how I got acquainted with Friends for Life."

Daugherty assumed her role officially May 1 after having served with former executive director Kim Moss as co-executive directors after the resignation of Dr. Ricci Hellman at the end of February.

"The thing that's good about that is there hasn't been a lot of change for the people who work here or come here, so it's been a seamless transition. The one thing that did was provide some stability."

As director of clinical services, Daugherty managed all of FFL's wellness activities — the Wellness University, the Positive Living Center, the primary and secondary prevention programs and testing. "I also managed the food pantry and all that that encompasses along



with case management."

She says she is currently evaluating the situation about how to reorganize because "I am not sure it's in the agency's best interest to hire my position totally. So there may be some reorganization and redistribution of some of those duties, but I am going to keep direct supervision of some of those.

"It is a big plate and there's a lot of stuff on that plate, but my experience tells me to make change slowly... be thoughtful about moving into that process."

Daugherty hopes to receive additional funding through Ryan White for outreach to the population recently released from prison.

"We asked for some additional funds for our Wellness University and our Minority AIDS Initiative and mental health counseling because I strongly believe that our clients would be well-served having mental health services here rather than across town," said Daugherty.

Her appointment marks the first permanent appointment of an executive director from within the ranks of FFL staff.

Gays Not Civil Rights Victims, Administrator Argues

A University of Toledo administrator is on paid leave because of an article she wrote for *Toledo Free Press* in April.

Crystal Dixon, UT's associate vice president of human resources, had responded to a column about the gay rights struggle, saying "As a Black woman ... I take great umbrage at the notion that those choosing the homosexual lifestyle are civil rights victims. I cannot wake up tomorrow and not be a Black woman. Daily thousands of homosexuals make a life decision to leave the gay lifestyle."

Equality Toledo, a local gay rights organization, is calling Dixon's comments outrageous.

"The problem for me is that this is somebody that is charge of a major department of a major institution," says Rob Salem, UT clinical law professor and board member of Equality Toledo. "She talks

about ... homosexuality being a choice. And those views are refuted by the American Medical Association, the American Psychological Association."

A UT spokesperson says Dixon is now on paid administrative leave and that it would be inappropriate to comment on an "ongoing personnel matter."

In the article, Dixon also addresses her religious beliefs, saying there are consequences for those who violate God's divine order.

Salem says he agrees with freedom of speech and religion but that Dixon, a top administrator, has crossed the line. Equality Toledo is urging people to call and write UT to express their opinions.

**WALK.
RUN.
FIGHT AIDS!**

Shelby Farms Chickasaw Trail
Saturday, July 26, 2008 at 8:00 am
Benefiting Friends For Life

For More Information: www.friendsforlifecorp.org

AIDS Walk/Run Planned

On Saturday, July 26, you can *Walk. Run. Fight AIDS* by participating in Friends For Life's first annual walk/run to raise money to support its many programs.

The event will begin at 8 a.m. at the Shelby Farms Chickasaw Trail, a certified 3.1 mile course, which begins and ends just above the Shelby Farms Visitor Center where the post race gathering and award ceremony will be held.

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

Bring your family and friends (no dogs, please) and help support Friends For Life.

Visit Friends For Life's website at www.friendsforlifecorp.org to complete the registration or at

www.racesonline.com.

Even if you are not able to participate in this event, you can still help raise funds for Friends For Life by creating a fundraising page to support the Walk/Run. Simply go to the Friends For Life website, click on the *Walk.Run.Fight AIDS* link and follow the simple instructions. This is a great and easy way for you to have a personalized page that you can email to your friends and family and have them support this important fundraising event.

WKNO Programs to Honor Gay Pride Month

On Monday nights in June WKNO has scheduled several programs in honor of Gay Pride Month.

Turning Point: Stories of Life and Change in the Church (Mon., June 2 at 9:30 p.m.) is a documentary about Presbyterians working to make the church more welcoming to gay and lesbian people and struggling with the denomination's current stance.

Anyone and Everyone (Mon., June 9 at 9:30 p.m.) tells the stories of families from Utah to North Carolina and Wyoming to New York, all connected by a common thread — a gay child.

Emile Norman: His Own Design (Mon., June 23 at 9 p.m.) is

a portrait of the self-taught California artist Emile Norman, who, at age 89, is still working with the same passion for life, art, nature and freedom that inspired him through seven decades of a changing art scene and of turbulent times for a gay man in America.

Additionally, WKNO is airing the classic movies *A Star is Born* (with Judy Garland and James Mason) on June 8 at 11 p.m. and *Some Like it Hot* (Jack Lemmon and Tony Curtis) on June 29 at 11 p.m.

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PFLAG Urges Washington U. to Reconsider Honorary Doctorate for Phyllis Schlafly

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) has joined calls by Washington University students and faculty, urging the school to reconsider its plans to honor controversial activist Phyllis Schlafly with an honorary doctorate at the school's May 16 commencement ceremonies in St. Louis.

Schlafly, founder of the conservative advocacy group The Eagle Forum, has been an outspoken opponent of equal rights measures for the women's and gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities.

In addition to her opposition to marriage equality for the GLBT community, Schlafly has also sought to block public school curriculums which present honest portrayals of GLBT people.

"Phyllis Schlafly has spent much of her life on a crusade to roll back opportunities for millions of people, including many of the students at Washington University," said Dr. Dean L. Rosen, president of PFLAG's St. Louis chapter.

"She has consistently opposed full equality for women and for gays and lesbians, and has pushed her anti-equality agenda in our schools and our statehouses. As parents and allies of GLBT young people, we are alarmed that Washington University would honor someone who has such a long track record of attacking our children."

In 2005, Schlafly, whose son is openly gay, wrote, in opposition to a proposed curriculum in Montgomery County, Md., public schools that, "Some teachers hang

pro-homosexual posters in their classrooms, discuss their lesbian lifestyle in class, and refer students to gay, lesbian and bisexual organizations, while not allowing posters celebrating traditional families." She has also opposed adoption rights for same-sex couples and allowing GLBT Americans to serve in the armed forces.

"Mrs. Schlafly has one of the longest track records opposing equal opportunity of any activist in America," said PFLAG Executive Director Jody M. Huckaby. "She would gladly embrace any measure to block progress for gay Americans, including her own son, and she would welcome a world where some students are considered less than others. That's unacceptable, and renders her unworthy of this honor. We encourage Washington University to find a more suitable person to applaud."

Students and faculty have not asked that Schlafly be disinvented as a speaker for the commencement, but only that she not receive the proposed degree.

A Facebook group of those united in opposition to honoring Schlafly now has more than 1,000 members, according to the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*.



Phyllis Schlafly

PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons, their families and friends through: support, to cope with an adverse society; education, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and advocacy, to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights. Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays provides opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity. For more information, visit www.pflag.org.

Smith College Students Protest the *Born Gay Hoax* Author

When Smith Republican Club members hung a banner advertising a speaking engagement at the college for Ryan Sorba, author of the *The Born Gay Hoax* they probably planned for a moderate turnout, and certainly expected that attendees would at least come in through the door.

But neither was the case. Videos and photos of protests sparked by Sorba's April 29 appearance at the college have been posted on Queertoday.com and Massresistance's website. Each of the videos show the room full to capacity with people chanting and cheering, drowning out Sorba's speech. At one point, the large arched windows at the rear of the hall can be seen to be opened and more protesters step into a room already crowded with students clapping, cheering, and chanting "We're here. We're queer. Get used to it!"

Students eventually surround the podium and, after some inaudible discussion with security and a very defeated looking Republican Club member, Sorba is escorted out of the room.

The next day Smith College president Carol Christ responded to the actions of students in this letter posted on the school's website:

"I write in response to the events of last evening, in which an invited speech by author Ryan Sorba was disrupted by loud protests and ultimately did not go forward.

"The event was planned and funded by the Smith Republicans, which, like every student organization, has the right to invite speakers of its choice. The decision to halt his presentation was made jointly by public safety, student affairs and the Republican club leadership... On a pragmatic level, after about 10 minutes the speaker could not be heard...

"While I understand the strong

feelings Mr. Sorba's writings elicit, I am disappointed that some members of our community chose not to uphold our own commitment to freedom of expression...

"When faced with the visit of a controversial speaker, our challenge as a community is to reaffirm our commitment to teaching and learning. Hearing the views of someone with whom you disagree affords the opportunity to sharpen one's own counter-arguments, displaying the weaknesses in their reasoning or evidence. Alternatively, we can boycott speakers whose views we find offensive."

Sorba had previously appeared at Framingham State College on Mar. 31 without incident.

Trip Down Pink Carpet a Long and Winding Road

Jeopardy answers: He once shared a jail cell with Robert Downey, Jr. He won an Emmy for playing a character with two first names... the last of which is his real first name. He a character actor who stands 4'11" and steals every scene he's in.

By Allen Cook

Correct question: Who is Leslie Jordan?

The first time I remember seeing Leslie Jordan, he was making a guest appearance on *Designing Women* as Reggie Mack Dawson, a swindler who took Suzanne Sugarbaker for everything she was worth and bought a circus. Later he was discovered hiding from Suzanne as a hotel bellman reminiscent of the Philip Morris spokesman of the 1950s.

In 1982, Leslie Jordan jumped off a Greyhound bus from the hills of Tennessee, said "hello" to Hollywood and has never looked back. With hundreds of television and film roles to his credit, he is probably best remembered for Kyle the hapless ex-con on *Murphy Brown*, Resplendent Man, entrepreneurial superhero on *Lois and Clark*; and as Mr. Beverly Leslie on the hit series, *Will & Grace*.

He has toured the country for years in the one-man show based on his life, *Like a Dog on Linoleum*, always to sold-out houses. He just finished a series for LOGO based on Del Shores' *Sordid Lives* where he reprised his role of Brother Boy — the drag queen who channeled Tammy Wynette.

Jordan will appear for a performance of *My Trip Down the Pink Carpet*, June 4 at the Rose Theatre at the University of Memphis. His book of the same name drops the day before.

Some of the funniest passages concern his seemingly endless crushes on his male (and mostly straight) co-stars.

"Dean Cain was stunning, and the sight of him strutting about in his Superman outfit was truly magnificent," Jordan gushes, recalling his cameo on *Lois and Clark*. "I showed up on the set determined not to 'petter-gaze,' or at least not to get caught at it."

He became obsessed with Billy Bob Thornton while filming *Hearts Afire* after co-star John Ritter hinted to him about the size of Thornton's manhood.

Ritter explained that he'd gone surfing with Thornton and later hit the showers. Ritter told Jordan the sight of Thornton's "rope" would cause him to "fall in love."

Jordan laments that he never got the chance: "There are probably a lot of things I'll go a lifetime without seeing — the Mona Lisa, the Taj Mahal, the pyramids. And I'll probably never see Billy Bob's wiener, either."

The actor stood a better chance of

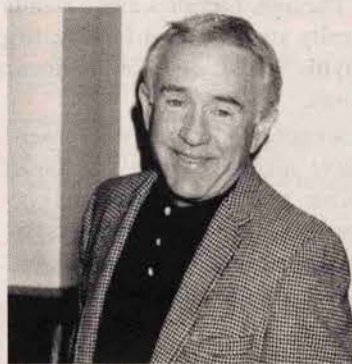
seeing the man parts of Robert Downey Jr. when they met in jail.

Jordan was there for DUI convictions. (He avoided getting beaten up by telling the burly Mexican inmates stories about George Lopez, his former co-star in *Ski Patrol*). For half a day, they shared a cell. Jordan later wrote Downey a letter asking him to befriend an outcast HIV-positive inmate.

Years later, the *Iron Man* star confessed, "That letter really meant a lot to me."

Asked about his greatest achievement, Jordan said, "I wrote this one man show called *Hysterical Blindness, and Other Southern Tragedies that have Plagued My Life Thus Far* about growing up gay in a Baptist church. I had a full Southern Baptist choir behind me of big fat Christian women in robes who became characters as I told my stories. I produced it myself and it ran at the Hudson Theatre in Los Angeles. It ran forever, then it went to New York and it ran Off-Broadway for seven months.

"I became toast of the town, then made probably the biggest mistake I've ever made. I was invited into every development office in town for every network. It would always begin the same way. There would be four or five guys sitting there in



Leslie Jordan

suits, this was in '93 long before *Ellen*, and they would say, 'Oh, we loved that play. Loved that mother character that had the hysterical blindness.'

"It was about my mom who had this weird psychosomatic illness when I was growing up. When she got upset, her eyes would snap shut. She couldn't open them. It's true.

"They would say, 'We love it, but we just don't think we could have our lead character as 'gay.' They asked me to pitch it to them where the lead character wasn't gay or where it wasn't an issue and I wouldn't do it.

"In retrospect I should have done what *Ellen* did which was get it on the air and when it gets in the top 10, I'm going to come out. Let America fall in love and then that will put a face on homophobia, but I didn't. I just said, 'F*ck em.'"

Star to Divorce Husband Beset by Gay Rumors

It was the beginning of the end for Star Jones on hit show *The View*. A wedding, complete with corporate sponsors and daily updates. America could no longer relate to the talk show regular, ABC spokespeople claimed, and so, she was out.

Now, so is the marriage, after three years together, Star Jones and Al Reynolds are going their separate ways.

"Several years ago I made an error in judgment by inviting the media into the most intimate area of my life," Jones said in a statement to *Entertainment Tonight*.

"A month ago I filed for divorce. The dissolution of a marriage is a difficult time in anyone's life that requires privacy with one's thoughts.

"I have committed myself to handling this situation with dignity and grace and look forward to emerging from this period as a stronger and wiser woman."

Rumors have circulated since Jones and Reynolds tied the knot that Reynolds is gay.

Gossip columnists have frequently made mention of Reynolds' ties to the gay community and former lov-



ers. Jones always dismissed the reports as rumor.

Jones' lavish 2004 Park Avenue wedding, which she touted on *The View* daily, going so far as to plug its sponsors, was one of the reasons her contract with the show was not renewed, co-executive producer Barbara Walters said at the time.

Gaze

Memphis GLBT Resources Directory

The Memphis GLBT Resources Directory is printed as a public service, and its listings are free. Agencies and businesses listed herein have not been charged. All phone numbers are area code 901 unless otherwise noted. To be listed, send an e-mail to info@gazememphis.com (* Indicates Gaze distribution points.)

ADULT BOOKSTORES

Airport Bookmart: 2214 Brooks Rd E., ☎ 345-0657.

Cherokee Adult Book Store*: 2947 Lamar, ☎ 744-7494.

Fantasy Warehouse ☎ 791-793 North White Station, ☎ 683-9649.

Getwell Book Mart: 1275 Getwell, ☎ 454-7765.

Paris Adult Entertainment Center: 2432 Summer ☎ 323-2665.

Tammy's # 2: 2220 East Brooks Rd, ☎ 396-9050.

Tammy's # 3: 1617 Getwell Rd, ☎ 744-4513.

Tammy's # 4: 5937 Summer Ave., ☎ 373-5760.

BARS / RESTAURANTS

901 Complex*: 136 Webster St., ☎ 522-8459

Backstreet*: 2018 Court Street, ☎ 276-5522.

Buns on the Run*: 2150 Elzey, ☎ 278-BUNS

Crossroads*: 1278 Jefferson, ☎ 272-8801.

Lorenz/Aftershock*: 1528 Madison, ☎ 274-8272

Mary's*: 405 N. Cleveland, ☎ 725-7334, www.mary'smemphis.com

Nocturnal*: 1588 Madison Ave., ☎ 726-1909

Metro Memphis*: 1349 Autumn, ☎ 274-8010.

One More*: 2117 Peabody, ☎ 278-MORE

Paragon Lounge*: 2865 Walnut Grove Rd., ☎ 320-0026

The Pumping Station*: 1382 Poplar, ☎ 272-7600.

The Jungle*: 1474 Madison, ☎ 278-0521

CARDS AND GIFTS

Inz & Outz*: 553 South Cooper, ☎ 728-6535.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Alliance: Leather/Levi club · Box 42174, Memphis 38174.

BGALA (Students for Bisexual, Gay & Lesbian Awareness): ☎ 729-3915.

Bluff City Sports Association: Box 41803, Memphis 38174-1803, ☎ 682-9928.

Brothers & Sisters Bowling League ☎ 465-4371 Richard Andrews.

Cotton Pickin' Squares: Gay/Lesbian Square Dance Club · Meets Thurs., Holy Trinity Community Church, 685 S. Highland ☎ 272-2116.

Friends For Life-HIV Resources: HIV/AIDS Service Organization · 43 N. Cleveland, Memphis 38104, ☎ 272-0855

Holy Trinity United Church of Christ*: Worship Service: Sun. 11 am & 7 pm; Bible study: Wed. 7 pm; 685 S. Highland, ☎ 320-9376.

Integrity Memphis: Meets the 3rd Tues., Healing Service/Eucharist, 6 pm; Dinner, 6:45 pm, \$4; Meeting 7:30 pm · c/o Calvary Episcopal Church, 102 N. 2nd, ☎ 525-6602.

Living Word Christian Church: Worship Service Sun. 9:30 am 1015 S Cooper, ☎ 485-0949.

Memphis Area Gay Youth (MAGY): PO Box 241852, Memphis, TN 38124, ☎ 335-MAGY for info; website: www.magyonline.org

Memphis Center for Reproductive Health: 1462 Poplar Ave, ☎ 274-3550.

Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center*: (MGLCC): 892 S. Cooper, Memphis 38104, ☎ 324-4297.

Mid-South Pride, Inc.: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, & Transgendered Pride Events · Mail: 111 S. Highland, Suite 322, Memphis 38111; Office: 685 S. Highland, 3rd Floor, Memphis 38111; ☎ 901-414-2197, Fax: 901-592-6635.

Website: www.midsouth-pride.org, E-mail: info@midsouthpride.org

Memphis TransGender Alliance: TV/TS support group · c/o Barbara Jean Jasen, Box 11052, Memphis, TN ☎ 38111-0052.

National Organization for Women (NOW): Box 40982, Memphis 38174, ☎ 578-3286 or e-mail at memphisnow@hotmail.com.

Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (P-FLAG): Box 172031, Memphis 38187-2031, ☎ 761-1444.

Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (P-FLAG): Jackson, TN 38305, ☎ 1-901-664-6614 for information, e-mail: burtren@aeneas.com

Tennessee Leather Tribe: Gay men's/women's leather org. 1568 Rolling Hills Dr., Memphis 38127-5409, ☎ 357-1921.

The Mid-Towners Bowling League ☎ 323-3111 - Linda Etherton, 342-4630 - James Bailey.

Tsarus: Leather-Levi club · Box 41082, Memphis 38174-1082.

U of M Students for Bisexual, Gay & Lesbian Awareness (BGALA): BGALA c/o Office of Greek Affairs Box 100, U of M 38152, ☎ 278-5825 email: bgala@cc.memphis.edu.

Univ. of Miss. Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Assoc.: GLBA, PO Box 3541, Univ., MS 38677, ☎ 662-234-1258 email: glba@olemiss.edu, website: www.olemiss.edu/orgs/glba.

WAC (Woman's Action Coalition): PO Box 1203, 3566 Walker, Memphis 38111 ☎ 678-3339.

Queer Notes

Political Commentary
by Jim Maynard

The Democratic presidential primary is finally over; Barack Obama has won! Hillary Clinton refuses to face the political reality and is still campaigning even though there is no possibility that she will catch up to Obama in delegates. Her only hope was to convince enough superdelegates that Obama was "unelectable" and try to stage a coup at the Democratic Convention in August. It isn't going to happen.

The superdelegates are lining up behind the frontrunner, Barack Obama. In the past month Obama has picked up over 20 super-delegates and is now ahead in pledged delegates and superdelegates. It's time for Hillary to put the Democratic Party ahead of her personal political ambitions and concede to Obama so the media will start to focus on the general election between Obama and John McCain.

Hillary has been doing a lot of the Republican Party's dirty work by waging a racist campaign to scare white voters away from Obama. The Clinton campaign dug up as much dirt as they could find on Obama and thought they could destroy Obama by attacking his former pastor, Rev. Jeremiah Wright. Wright's "black liberation theology" scared the bebbees out of white folks.

In addition to his fiery sermons condemning the United States for its history of racism, imperialism and terrorism, Wright sat down for a thoughtful, intelligent interview with Bill Moyers. Getting tired of the right-wing attacks on him, he then gave a brilliant speech to the NAACP, and then lashed out in a hell-raising speech to the National Press Club that was a little over the top. Obama was forced to disassociate himself from Wright.

Personally, I thought Jeremiah Wright was brilliant! No one else, especially respectable well-behaved politicians like Barack Obama, have had the cajones to question the "patriotism" of Vice-President Dick Cheney and the rest of the chickenhawks who led us into an illegal invasion, war and occupation of Iraq. I don't agree with all of Wright's religious beliefs, but I admire his "audacity" to speak truth to power, even if it was not politically correct to do so.

Politicians tell people what they want to hear; "prophets" tell people what they don't want to

hear. Another uppidity black preacher stood up to the political establishment, condemned an unjust war, and condemned white racism. He was called an anti-American Communist. He was murdered by racists in Memphis in 1968.

I'm disappointed that many white liberals, especially some feminist supporters of Hillary Clinton, went along with the racist attacks on Obama and his church. Keep in mind that Obama's church, the United Church of Christ, is the most liberal, gay-supportive mainstream Christian denomination. Even Jeremiah Wright supports LGBT equality and condemned homophobia and discrimination against LGBT people in his speech to the NAACP!

Obama was accused by supporters of Hillary Clinton of ignoring the gay press. Obama gave fewer interviews with the local "gay press" than Hillary Clinton, but he did several major interviews to gay publications, including *The Advocate*. More importantly, Obama often includes LGBT equality in his speeches, not just before gay audiences. I don't believe Hillary Clinton has ever mentioned gay people in any speech outside of speaking to gay groups! Even the *Washington Blade*, which endorsed Hillary Clinton, condemned her racist attacks on Obama and asked her to drop out of the race.

While the mainstream media focused on Rev. Wright, flag lapel pins and questioning Barack Obama's patriotism, John McCain avoided serious questions about his preacher problems — two of them! While Obama was being attacked for the views of his former pastor, John McCain was actively seeking the endorsements of radical right-wing preachers John Hagee and Rod Parsley.

John Hagee, a Texas megachurch preacher, is known for his anti-Catholicism and calling the Catholic Church the "Great Whore." He also claimed that hurricane Katrina was God's judgment on New Orleans for having a gay parade. John McCain condemned Hagee's anti-Catholic views, but has not yet condemned his anti-gay views. When asked whether seeking Hagee's endorsement was a mistake, McCain said "yes," but then said he was glad to get his endorsement!

Even worse than John Hagee is Rod Parsley. Parsley is an Ohio fundamentalist homophobic

preacher who rails against gays, feminism and abortion (comparing abortion providers to the Nazis!), and claims that the United States has a mission to "destroy Islam"! Imagine how the Muslim world will react to having a President whose "spiritual advisor" says that the United States will destroy Islam! (That should put a stop to terrorism!)

What Hagee and Parsley have in common is that they both helped elect George W. Bush, and John McCain will need their support to win the general election. Parsley alone organized a "holy army" of fundamentalist preachers to help Bush win Ohio. That is why John McCain is pandering to these radical anti-American preachers. Hopefully the media will devote as much attention to McCain's preachers as they did Obama's.

Grey's Anatomy featured a story highlighting the devastating effects of the military's anti-gay "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy prohibiting gays and lesbians from serving openly in the U.S. military. I missed the episode but hear there was a real man-on-man primetime kiss.

The U.S. military has "relaxed" its admission standards to allow convicted felons to join the military. The military can take felons, but not gay men and lesbians! More and more military leaders are coming out against the DADT policy, indicating the end of the policy is coming soon. Don't expect John McCain to end the policy, he enthusiastically supports the failed policy along with the rest of the anti-gay platform of the Republican Party!

This month marked the fifth anniversary of George W. Bush's "Mission Accomplished" fiasco. Since The Shrub announced that "major hostilities have ended and the U.S. and its allies have prevailed" in Iraq, over 4,000 American soldiers have been killed, tens of thousands injured, and hundreds of thousands of Iraqis have died. There is no end in sight to the U.S. occupation of Iraq, and John McCain says it may last 100 years.

George W. Bush is now the most unpopular president in modern U.S. history! According to a CNN/Opinion Research poll, 71 percent of the American people disapprove of George Bush's job performance. That's a higher disapproval than Richard Nixon in 1974 when he resigned. Gay Republicans, before you try to elect John McCain, remember than he

is running to continue the failed policies of George Bush. Did you learn anything from the last two elections?

Mildred Loving, a pioneering champion of equality and social justice, passed away on May 2. Mildred Loving and her husband Richard were the plaintiffs in the historic *Loving v. Virginia* Supreme Court case than overturned

laws prohibiting interracial marriages. Loving was not only a champion of racial justice, she also spoke out for the right of gays and lesbians to marry. The *Loving v. Virginia* case laid the foundation for marriage equality for gays and lesbians.

(For more queer news, politics and commentary, visit queernews.blogspot.com)

Anti-gay 'Day of Truth' Fails to Make its Mark in Schools

Gay rights groups across America have breathed a sigh of relief after the homophobic 'Day of Truth' failed to make an impact on American schools.

Gay news group, GoodasYou.org described that events failure:

"The so-called 'Day of Truth' went by with less than a whimper.

"While the pro-acceptance, anti-bullying 'Day of Silence' attracted considerable attention, there was barely a mention of the anti-gay endeavor on either mainstream or "pro-family" news sites, and none of the usual social conservative groups issued so much as a press release celebrating the event.

"In fact, a Google News search doesn't turn up even one DOT mention posted after Apr. 27."

The event came three days after the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) 'Day of Silence', which highlights the persecution that many LGBT students in America, and around the world, still regularly face daily.

The Alliance Defense Fund (ADF) established the "Day of Truth" to oppose the promotion of same-sex marriage legalization and to express their viewpoint on homosexuality from a conservative Christian perspective.

It is held annually following the "Day of Silence."

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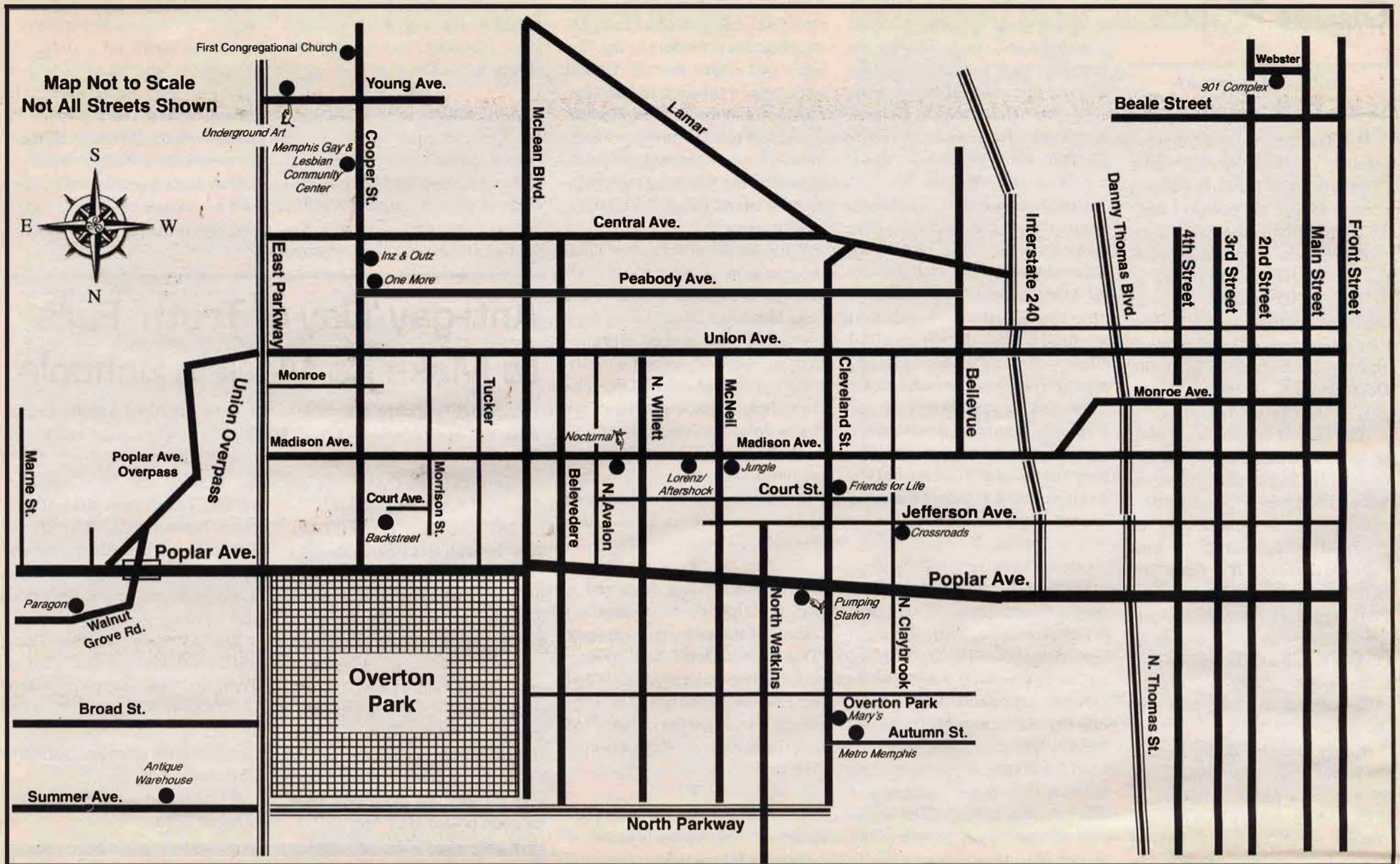
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TENNESSEE

TEP

EQUALITY PROJECT
Shelby County Committee

Monthly Meeting
May 14, 6:30 p.m.
Quetzel (668 Union)



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

May 18	May 19	May 20	May 21	May 22	May 23	May 24
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stonewall Democrats 2pm, MGLCC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feast For Friends, 6:30pm, St. John's Methodist Church 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women's Rugby Practice, 6:30pm, Audubon Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bash Back Group, 7pm, MGLCC • Hands on Memphis Volunteer Day, 6:30pm, MGLCC • Womyn's Potluck, 6pm, MGLCC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cotton Pickin' Squares, 7pm, Holy Trinity UCC • Gayme Night, MGLCC • Lavender University, 7pm, "Your Life, Your Choices" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q-Cafe, 7pm, MGLCC • Andrew Cruz Booksigning, MGLCC (call for time) May Music Night w/ Ginger & Bekah 	
May 25	May 26	May 27	May 28	May 29	May 30	May 31
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stonewall Democrats, 2pm, MGLCC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perpetual Transition, 7:30pm, MGLCC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May Music Night w/ Ginger & Bekah, Call for time, MGLCC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lavender University: The Politics of Being Transgendered, 7pm, MGLCC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cotton Pickin' Squares, 7pm, Holy Trinity UCC • PFLAG, 7 pm, Central Library, 3030 Poplar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q-Cafe: 7pm, MGLCC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poetry Reading with Skyy, 7pm, MGLCC
Jun 1	Jun 2	Jun 3	Jun 4	Jun 5	Jun 6	Jun 7
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MGLCC Board Meeting, 1pm, MGLCC • Miss Mid-South Pride, 9pm, Backstreet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feast For Friends, 6:30pm, St. John's Methodist Church 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eddie Izzard, 8pm, The Orpheum (Sold Out) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tennessee Equality Project monthly meeting, 6:30, Quetzal (668 Union) • Leslie Jordan, 8pm, Rose Theatre (UofM) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cotton Pickin' Squares, 7pm, Holy Trinity UCC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q-Cafe, 7pm, MGLCC • Gaze Ad Reservation. Deadline for Mid-April edition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MGLCC Cook-OUT, 2pm, MGLCC
Jun 8	Jun 9	Jun 10	Jun 11	Jun 12	Jun 13	Jun 14
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perpetual Transition, 7:30pm, MGLCC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid-June Gaze Production Deadline • For the Bible Tells Me So, Free Pride Movie Event, 7:30pm, First Congo, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Men's Potluck, 6pm, MGLCC • Pride Theatre Event: The Re-Education of Geo. W. Bush—No President Left Behind, 8pm, Circuit Playhouse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QBliss' Pride in the Cinema, 7pm and 9:15 pm, Studio on the Square • Cotton Pickin' Squares, 7pm, Holy Trinity UCC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid-June Gaze due out • Q-Cafe, 7pm, MGLCC • An Evening with Nancy Polikoff, 7pm, Holy Trinity • Bianca Paige, 11pm, Crossroads 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pride Parade, Line-up 3pm at First Congo • Pride Festival, Peabody Park • Bianca Paige, 11pm, Crossroads

Idle Thoughts and Random Musings

By Allen Cook

If you're like most Memphians and are a late ticket-buyer, you may be out of luck on one front at least.

Eddy Izzard's appearance at the Orpheum on June 3 has already sold out. Unless his shows are suffering from the Hannah Montana syndrome — anonymous ticket speculators buying up all the tickets in advance and then scalping them outside the venue — you're out in the cold.

On the other hand, tickets are still available for the June 4 appearance of Leslie Jordan at the U of M's Rose Theatre. Buy your tickets now!

His *Trip Down the Pink Carpet* promises to be a really fun evening.

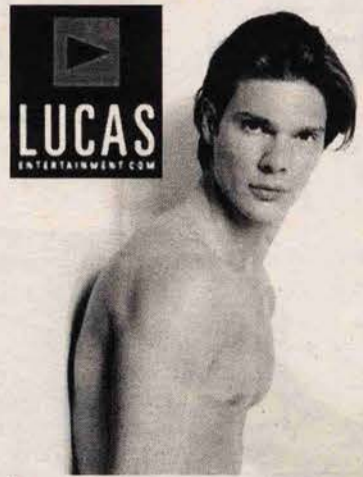
Janice Dickinson model Rodrigo De Carli is making a return to the place where he got his "entertainment" start: gay porn.

Evidently modeling hasn't worked out for De Carli, because according to a press release from Lucas Entertainment, Rodrigo is starring in a few of their summer flicks.

The Lucas films are titled: *Flat-iron F**kers* and *Pounding the*

Pavement.

I seriously doubt that Janice is going to let Rodrigo come back to her agency or back for the fourth season of her reality show "The Janice Dickinson Modeling Agency" on Oxygen.



Rodrigo De Carli

Speaking of TV, I got a notice the other day from Comcast saying they are adding a few stations and moving some others around.

Most notable is that the gay network LOGO is being added to its digital preferred line-up. Well, at least it won't be on a pay-per-view

or premium channel option.

Interestingly, they are moving Oxygen and WE to the same tier.

Spring also means romance for gay characters on TV. First Luke kissed Noah on *As The World Turns*, then two gay soldiers lip locked on *Grey's Anatomy*, and soon there will be an interracial gay kiss on ABC Family's college drama *Greek* (does that run just before the *700 Club*?).

One of the central cast members Calvin (Paul James) and his new love interest, Michael (Max Greenfield) will share an on-screen kiss in the May 26 episode, "A Tale of Two Parties."

June being Gay Pride Month has me thinking about today's life as a young gay person as compared to what it was like back in the day.

One thing that hasn't changed is that the worst thing you could be called in high school was a faggot or queer. It's hard for me to even conceive of coming out (or being outed) in high school and being subjected to those kind of remarks on a daily basis.

I think we can all empathize with Andrew and Nicholas, the two young men who were outed by an intolerant, or at best insensitive, principal who should have realized what might happen when some members of the student body found out about them. They've been thrust into a controversy they never wanted or deserved.

We should all salute Andrew and Nicholas during this Gay Pride and wish them all the best.

Gaze

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Gaze is published 12 times a year in print and on the Internet by Printers Ink and distributed in print primarily in the Memphis, Tenn. area.

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