

# Triangle Journal

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JUNE 2006



"WITHOUT A JOURNAL, A NEWSPAPER OF SOME KIND, YOU CANNOT UNITE A COMMUNITY."  
- M. K. GANDHI -

## YMCA Prohibits Lesbian Couple from Family Membership

by *Alix Hewlett*

Every year, TK Buchanan and Jeanine Heiner take a family vacation to the beach. As their daughter got older, however, one of their primary concerns became proper water safety for two year-old Trudy.

When the Nuber East Memphis YMCA publicized for swimming lessons, the family decided it was the perfect opportunity for Trudy to start.

Calling ahead to ensure there was still room for enrollment, they learned that five slots were still available.

Packing the family in the car, the three traveled to their local YMCA branch in order to obtain a Family Membership and register Trudy for the toddler swimming lessons.

The only problem, however, was that their family membership was denied simply because they can't file joint income taxes.

In the eyes of the YMCA, this makes them something "other than" a family.

2 year-old Trudy is the one now

suffering from what mainstream society and the local YMCA chapters define as a "family."

"There is no way that we're going to pay for swimming lessons at the Y when they don't respect our family. And Trudy can't learn to swim now."

Though options for swimming lessons will expand as Trudy gets older, Trudy's mothers were hoping that she would become aquatically acquainted and safe in preparation for this year's beach trip.

The YMCA controversy has proven emotionally tolling on the family.

"We were hoping that Trudy would at least make it to elementary school before she experienced discrimination. And around 8 or 9 years old, we would be able to intellectually prepare her to articulate to her friends of what her family consists. Instead, she only made it to 2 and a half years old," mother TK Buchanan stated to *Triangle Journal*.

News of the Nuber East Memphis YMCA's stance and definition of a family quickly spread through

the Memphis community by a blog entry.

Then emails about the incident circulated, spreading the story through word of mouth to news spots on local television stations, an editorial column by Wendi Thomas in the *Commercial Appeal*, and local gay news publications.

Unfortunately, negative feedback from the community hasn't changed the Y's stance on the matter.

Instead, all YMCA Memphis branches were legally advised to adhere to similar standards, thereby revoking several family memberships of gay and lesbian couples.

Although the YMCA held an Executive Committee Meeting May 18, it was clear that they had no intentions of changing their requirements for a "family."

"They've had a conciliatory tone from the beginning. But we want a solution and we want to work with them," Buchanan stated.

For more stories and information related to the YMCA incident, see page 3.



Pictured above are TK Buchanan and Jeanine Heiner with daughter Trudy. The family was denied a Family Membership package because the two cannot file joint income taxes. Filing taxes in this manner can only be done by those who are "legally" married.

## FedEx Creates Gay and Lesbian Alliance for Employees

by *Rebekah Hart*

Sally Davenport of FedEx's Media Relations department confirmed on Wednesday, May 24 that a gay and lesbian employee resource group was created as part of the company's infrastructure.

"Yes, we have approved in a recent move at a meeting to create a gay and lesbian alliance," stated Davenport.

MGLCC President Len Piechowski voiced his excitement to *Triangle Journal*.

"We should make no mistake about this. This is monumental! There were many, many years of negative responses from upper management to these requests by gay and lesbian FedEx employees. I'm so proud of FedEx and its employees for recognizing the important contributions of our community to their success."

Once considered a homophobic company, FedEx was reported as providing one million dollars to the Republican Party in 2005 as well as

refusing to offer domestic partner benefits to its employees.

The company has also had several lawsuits filed due to lack of protection for GLBT employees as well as company discrimination against workers.

Piechowski became rather comical while discussing this important juncture in the FedEx corporation.

"I think that this Memphis-based organization has shown that the world does not come to an end, the second coming doesn't occur, and that tsunamis don't rise up out of the mighty Mississippi when a mid-south based corporation recognizes the contribution of its gay and lesbian work force."

While many other large corporations such as Apple Computers Inc., Nike Inc., Levi Strauss & Co., and SC Johnson & Son Inc., are already GLBT-friendly, it's hoped that other companies will soon take precautions in protecting their employees, especially those in the mid-south, a region considered "conservative" by

GLBT community standards.

"I think more gay people will feel less intimidated in the FedEx workplace and will feel more comfortable about being themselves," Piechowski stated.

Memphis serves as headquarters for the FedEx corporation and is located on Winchester and Hacks Cross.



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# Editor's Notes

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The Board of Directors of Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center and the staff of the Triangle Journal appreciate these donors who have helped underwrite the Community Center's assumption of the paper.

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## Editorial Policy of Triangle Journal

The editorial goal of *Triangle Journal*, the Newspaper of the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center, is to display proudly the contributions of the rainbow community in Memphis and the Mid-south. We are committed to providing information on issues of interest to our community on both the local and national levels.

## Triangle Journal

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— M. E. GARDNER

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## Where are the Lesbians?

You start dating someone, and it feels so right.

The conversation is perfect. The kisses are so amazing you can taste them. She sends shivers to the crown of your head.

And all you want to do is take things slow—but we're in love within minutes.

Lesbians want so badly to fall in love that no matter how hard we try to take things slowly, we start naming our artificially inseminated children moments after our first kiss.

What I can't seem to figure out is why we drown ourselves in a love that we know won't work from the first moment we begin to converse.

It's almost as if lesbians want so desperately to be understood and loved that we in turn force ourselves to muck our way through a pointless relationship that will inevitably curdle into unrequited love.

At what point in time did lesbians begin to feel so... unloved?

Homosexual males seem to have slipped into modern culture without as much as a head nod.

The straightest Republican Christian males in America are now discussing *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy* at church services as though the show is their adulterous relationship. Women and men alike have lost pounds laughing at the hilarious escapades of Jack and Will.

But where do lesbians fit into mod culture?

Sure, we have Rosie O'Donnell—the prime example of a celebrity who eased her way out of the public eye's proverbial closet once she managed a successful career.

But now that she's nearly a national laughing stock, at times even we're ashamed to claim her as part of the family.

All I can say is thank the shaman gods above that we have our lovely

dancing Dory, Ellen Degeneres, and her ever-so-beautiful partner, Portia Di Rossi.

Just to clarify and make sure that we're all on the same page, let me sum up the pop culture lesbians that are batting for our team—and attempting to prove that lesbians are just as "normal" as gay men.

We were inches away from permanently having Angelina Jolie as our lead-off hitter, but lost her to Brad Pitt.

We have the tumultuous Rosie O'Donnell, a woman who divides our nation like the Presidential campaigns.

And then there's Ellen. How much longer can she hold the lesbian world on her shoulders attempting to shy lesbianism into pop culture?

But it's not just celebrity pop culture that has America red-faced and embarrassed about lesbianism.

Inexorably (and forgive me for sounding like a steel-toed boot wearing lesbian feminist for saying this), we can once more thank men for our subservient birth into the pop culture world.

Lesbianism has, and remains to be, looked upon as a phase.

Something not taken as seriously as gay men—and only because of the ever-present, all-inclusive lesbian pornography to which straight men flock.

Ask any straight man what their fantasy is, and no matter how the situation varies, it always involves two women. Even though we've left behind all need for straight men, they still feel the need to subject us.

In turn, we become objectified once more as a sexual object, thereby allowing them to feel better about the fact that lesbian women just don't need them.

So... Is the need to feel loved by another woman so intense, so strong, so desired that our innate reaction is to cling?

To never let go for fear that we



might possibly have to face a world void of single, successful lesbian women in pop culture?

To run into our next relationship like a deer caught in headlights because we simply want someone to understand us?

Will we stop feeling ignored when pop culture embraces us with loving arms?

Or will lesbianism always be under the patriarchal American foot that has become the nation's media?

All I can say is "pass the popcorn."

It's going to be a bumpy ride, ladies...

*Rebekah Hart is currently the editor of Triangle Journal. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Indiana State University. Her views and opinions do not necessarily reflect MGLCC, this paper, or anyone else except the author herself. She can be contact at [rhart@mgfcc.org](mailto:rhart@mgfcc.org)*

## Tell us what you think!

Send a Letter to the Editor!

E-mail to [tj@mgfcc.org](mailto:tj@mgfcc.org) and be sure to include your name, location and contact information.

## : ATTENTION :

The Annual MGLCC Membership Meeting and General Election for members of the Board of Directors will be held on Sunday, July 23, 2006 at 6:00 pm at MGLCC.

Anyone wishing to declare their candidacy for a position on the Board of Directors should do so in writing no later than June 30, 2006.

This letter of intent may be sent to:

MGLCC Nominating Committee

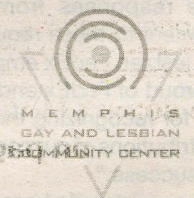
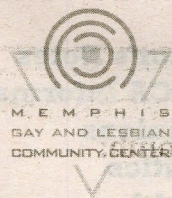
c/o Len Piechowski

892 S. Cooper St.

Memphis, TN 38104

or to

[mgfcc@midssouth.rr.com](mailto:mgfcc@midssouth.rr.com)



## Revoked Acceptance: YMCA Pulls Family Membership from Memphians

by Charlie Weatherall

It finally happened... I had a moment when I thought, "This is good!" Unfortunately, it was fleeting.

I went with my partner to join the Mason YMCA.

I was looking for a place that both myself and my teenage son could enjoy, and the fact that my partner already had a YMCA membership made for some tasty icing on the cake.

We could all (myself, my partner, his children and my son) go to the YMCA, enjoy the pool and maybe get ourselves into decent shape along the way.

I discussed and explored the various options for joining the YMCA and decided on a family plan for the two of us.

My partner was with me, so he took me on a tour of the facility.

I guess it became apparent that we were not just pals because our YMCA staff member asked us if we were "together" upon our return to the front desk. Immediately suspicious, I replied that we certainly rode there together.

The YMCA staffer didn't stop there and told us that if we were "together" (still, he could not bring himself to actually say anything more) that my son and I could simply be added to my partner's existing family membership.

I was a little confused and really suspicious, which is sad in and of itself.

So I questioned him further and he said that the YMCA was very open to "all kinds" of families.

That's how he put it and I was impressed.

It wasn't a trick.

I was actually being encouraged to be myself, out in the open, along with all of the other families belonging to the YMCA!

There you have it—the moment. Acceptance.

A feeling of normalcy.

I smiled all the way through my treadmill experience and almost

drowned myself in the pool. You see, it's hard to smile and hold one's breath under water!

More than anything else in my life, I've wanted to have a normal, loving family. 2.5 kids, dogs and white picket fences are just a few of my favorite things.

This desire led me to marry the most wonderful woman I've ever known, and stay married for over 9 years.

I had the family life that I knew was right for me.

Unfortunately, that particular family life was based on a lie that, over time, filled me with guilt and shame.

Then I spent 10 years looking to insert a man into my picture-perfect family life. It's an old, tired cliché, but it actually happened after my 40<sup>th</sup> birthday.

I realized that I had a perfect family life and I had it as a single man.

The quest was over. Whew! Naturally, along came my partner.

He has two children and apparently likes my picket fences!

We've developed a relationship that is completely family-oriented and I dare anyone to find anything that is not "family" about us.

This is the second time I've made that dare in a public forum.

Two weeks after joining the YMCA, a completely separate controversy erupted when another same-sex couple was denied a family membership at a YMCA branch.

The media became interested. *The Commercial Appeal* ran an article and ABC Channel 24 aired a segment covering the incident.

When I heard this story, I contacted the couple who had been discriminated against to tell them that my experience with the YMCA was just the opposite. Little did I know that my experience was about to be completely reversed.

Just after the newspaper article, about two weeks after our extremely

positive and wonderful experience with the YMCA, we received the news that I did not qualify to be part of my partner's family membership.

My son and I were to be removed from my partner's family membership plan.

I must assume that, after the media attention, the corporate YMCA executives asked each branch to carefully review all of their family memberships.

Even though a YMCA employee initially offered us a family plan, corporate reversed that offer.

My moment of acceptance and normalcy was over.

My optimism and hope for fairness were diminished, all by a silly little letter from the YMCA.

I appeared on News Channel 5 and told our story. That's where I first dared the entire Mid-South to find something not "family" about our relationship.

The corporate YMCA officials would not be interviewed on air but stated something to the effect that they are comfortable with their current policy.

It's sad to think that any organization could be comfortable with a policy that discriminates against so many wonderful parents and children in the Mid-South. I urge the YMCA to think progressively, move outside of their box, and change their policy, thereby exemplifying their mission of putting Christian principles, in this case love and tolerance, into practice.

As for us, we still have our family, even if we don't fit into the YMCA's definition. I'm proud to be exactly who I am and I know I have the support and acceptance of a loving family.

My optimism for the future may have been diminished, but it's not gone.

We'll make a better future for our children, no matter what their lifestyle may involve, and we'll do it right here in the Mid-South!

## Where Do We Go From Here?

by TJ Staff

Though the act of prohibiting a gay or lesbian family from purchasing a Family Membership is blatantly discriminatory, the YMCA's act is legal.

Because the Y is a private and religious institution whose beliefs and background are steeped in Christian morals and ideals, they are legally protected in turning down any membership, with reason.

The most interesting and ironic piece of information comes into play now: when integration and the Civil Rights Movement began increasing equal rights awareness, the National Headquarters in Chicago mandated in 1967 that all local branches become integrated.

Why?

Because headquarters knew that local Southern chapters wouldn't integrate.

Although YMCA national offices allow local branches to choose their own regulations, standards, and procedures for operating, branches across the United States include GLBT families in the Family Membership packages, and some branches even offer GLBT-specified events.

Various locations offer support programs for people during the "coming out" process.

New York City branches offer camps to children of gays and lesbians.

Other branches across the nation are specifically targeted to the gay and lesbian community.

And when community members in Indiana and Kentucky demanded their locations become GLBT inclusive, the YMCA chapters listened and became GLBT-friendly.

So where does the Memphis GLBT community start?

Because local chapters of the Y wouldn't listen to the Buchanan-Heiner case, the Human Rights Campaign and Initiative:Fairness are currently collaborating with TK Buchanan and her partner in creating a package to present to the YMCA National Headquarters.

In it will carry a plea that they mandate an all-inclusive, non-discrimination ordinance to all branches of the YMCA that would allow gay and lesbian families to obtain family memberships.

On a local level, GLBT Memphis community leaders insist that Memphians continue fighting for equality at local Ys.

"We don't want to picket or boycott, but it's looking more and more like it'll happen," stated Buchanan.

Rather than picket the Nuber East Memphis YMCA on Quince, however, the picket will occur at a rather strategic location: the Downtown Y.

Unofficially, it is believed that several of the Downtown Y members are gays and lesbians. Furthermore, the executive director of this location is openly gay, and nearly all of its employees are reportedly members of the GLBT community as well.

The Downtown Memphis YMCA is the most expensive Y facility in the Mid-South and has the highest overhead.

Many GLBT community leaders have insinuated that if the Memphis rainbow community boycotts the Downtown YMCA, it is likely to shut down quickly.

TK Buchanan continues to fight for her family.

"Ultimately, society will progress towards equality."

## What you can do...

As members of the community, we can ensure that our voices are heard and our requests be granted by communicating with YMCA officials and expressing our dissatisfaction and disapproval.

Below are e-mail addresses of people to contact.

**Keith Johnson, President and CEO**  
keithjohnson@ymcamemphis.org

**Rorie Trammel, SVP, Development & Community Relations**  
rtrammel@ymcamemphis.org

**Dorrie Thomas, Vice President, Human Resources**  
dthomas@ymcamemphis.org

**Will Albritton, Executive Director East Memphis YMCA**  
walbritton@ymcamemphis.org

**Dani Platz, Membership Director East Memphis YMCA**  
dplatz@ymcamemphis.org

The staff of *Triangle Journal*, including members of the Board of Directors at the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center, made several attempts to contact various representatives of the YMCA for a formal statement concerning the situation with TK Buchanan and her partner Jeanine Heiner.

As of Tuesday, May 23, we were only able to receive a response from Keith Johnson, President and CEO.

*Our board is aware of the concerns of the community. We base our pricing policy on the IRS guidelines and we are comfortable with that. Membership was not refused. It was a pricing policy.* - Keith Johnson, President and CEO.

See some of the community members' response to the YMCA's actions on page 7 with this month's Question of the Month:

Will you continue to patronize the YMCA in light of recent events?

## Lesbian Dating vs. "The Other World"

by *Alix Hewlett*

Lesbians refuse to compare their relationships to heterosexual ones. We claim that there are too many differences, whether it be sex, communication, living styles, or the pure legality of marriage and simplicity of childbearing with which straight people are blessed.

But the simple fact is that no matter how desperately we'd like to think things are, our relationships have a lot more in common than we'd like to admit.

In fact, lesbian love is exactly like straight love—the worse the relationship is, the happier we are. Even though our inner desires are to have perfection, we run away without looking back when we finally find it.

Sure, it might be easier to find someone to date when you're straight, but we both have problems and drama.

Lesbians are constantly com-

plaining about the fact that within their metropolitan area, everyone's already slept with everyone else, but so do straight people!

On *Dawson's Creek*, Katie Holmes' character ensured that when she slept with Dawson, she was essentially sleeping with every other character on the show—except for the gay one.

Both of us complain about the same things.

In the straight world, women feel unsatisfied with intercourse, and to this day, still look to Anne Koedt's "Myth of the Vaginal Orgasm" as their personal sex heroine.

The men complain that it doesn't happen often enough, the women because they know nothing will be any different.

The only difference between the straight people and us is that we actually have a name for the epidemic.

Lesbian Bed Death.

Generally speaking, we romp

in the sheets like rabbits having the best sex of our lives for a few months, and then all passion for one another becomes null and void. Non-existent.

It's like buying a car—you've yearned for it so long but then realize you have to make the monthly payments—and dread the day.

Sadly enough, even random hook-ups are similar in nature. Your only objective was to get laid, but you talk to the girl for longer than fifteen minutes, have no-strings-attached sex, and then have a psychopathic stalker on your hands.

Was the sex so good that it was actually worth the hours of filling out the paperwork for a restraining order?

And what about age?

If you walk into a straight bar, I guarantee that you won't find a couple over the age of forty slamming down shots.

You might find a single male over the age of forty, but he's looking for

his next sexcapade.

All of the older straight couples are catching a movie, going out to dinner, and prepping their yacht for the weekend vacation full of golf and liquor on the rocks.

Walk in to a lesbian bar and the only couple over forty you'll find are the ones who own the joint. All the rest of the lesbian couples are at home cooking a cute little Italian meal together praying that this is the night that their Lesbian Bed Death ends.

Why should they want to go out and face the knee-deep lesbian drama that's festering at the bars?

Both of our dating worlds have intense jealousy issues.

Once we've reached a certain point and the honesty, freedom, and openness has worn off, we immediately question every action, every phone call, every friendship.

Things have gotten too comfortable, too fast, too soon, and it's impossible for our relationship be

that lax.

God forbid things be normal for longer than a few years.

The truth is that no one tells us is *why* one in four marriages/partnerships end in divorce: we get bored.

We live in a world where transactions take place over the Internet, things are mailed to us overnight, and you can have whatever you want whenever you want it.

With relationships, we're just too ashamed to say that we want variety.

I think our Founding Fathers were on the right track when they wrote, "all men are created equal."

They just forgot to add the disclaimer: All relationships are created equal.

The dating game, sad but true, doesn't differ from straight to gay.

But don't tell the straight people—we don't want them to start getting the idea that, God help us all, we're actually similar in nature.

## Like Caged Animals

by *Jaxon Thorn*

What comes to mind when you move to a new home or city?

Climate? Schools? Neighborhoods? Your rights?

Well I'd hope you'd put into consideration your rights.

But doesn't that just really bite?

Heterosexuals just have it much easier when it comes to everything.

Unlike heterosexuals, my partner and I have to look at cities or states that have the best political climate for us, a lesbian couple.

Looking at Tennessee, the state screams homophobia.

Just like every state, when it comes right down to it.

We have no civil rights or any legal protection. Not even for hate crimes. That's just a bunch of bollocks.

At the start of my search for states I want to live in, I have to look at the corporation I work for and where I could possibly be transferred.

To be honest, perusing the 8-page list of cities to which I can be relocated is the easiest part of the process.

After highlighting cities my partner and I are interested in, we then spent countless hours deciding which place would give us the most freedom and ease of being a lesbian couple.

Right now we're looking at the west coast and Canada.

California gives my partner and I what we want legally. We'd have domestic partnership rights, including the fact that our state taxes can be filed jointly. (After which, I think we'd travel back to Memphis just

for the sole purpose of getting a Family Membership at the YMCA to mock them...)

In California I'd also have the opportunity to legally adopt our daughter and be able to proudly say, without explanation, that Jessica really does have two legal mommies.

In addition to these wonderful rights we so desperately crave for now, we'd also have anti-discrimination laws on which we could depend.

While many other states have some of these, not all of them are included. Washington state is a close second, but Seattle just isn't appealing to either of us.

To be quite frank, it's hard being gay in America.

Let me rephrase that.

It's hard being gay anywhere.

The GLBT community has to look at things a bit closer than we would if we were straight.

If my partner and I were straight, we wouldn't have to Google Hicksville, Ohio to make sure we wouldn't get stoned to death upon hanging our rainbow flag in the kitchen window.

At some point in my life, I don't want to have to do this anymore.

At some point, I don't want to feel like a caged animal at the circus watching the rest of the animals parade through the circus tent.

Instead, I'm fed small portions of food through bars, silently planning my escape to the "normal" side of the fence.

I'm normal, too.

And I deserve the exact same rights, if not more.

But for now, my partner and I will have to rely on Google.

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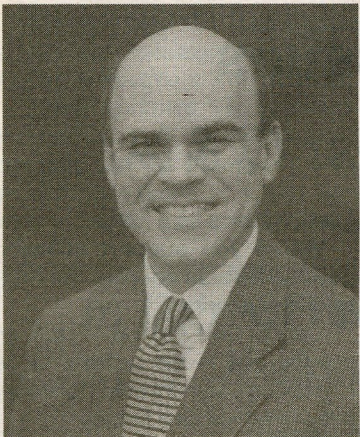
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# Silence is Not a Reasonable Response



## Editorial by Will Batts

In recent weeks, we've watched the furor over the clouded issue of whether the government has the right to gather information about our telephoning habits, or perhaps even listen in on the content, without a warrant.

Since the government will not reveal more than the latest media report forces them to, even to Senate leaders who have oversight responsibilities mandated by the Constitution, we must again rely on our own assessment of the government's trustworthiness.

Of late, such trust would seem misplaced.

Some say "I haven't done anything wrong, so why should I be worried?"

Examined in a vacuum, this might seem a reasonable response, however, when such actions indicate a pattern of secretive behavior, we must look beyond our own concerns, our own issues, and our own lives. We each must be wary of attempts to curtail any citizen's civil liberties whether or not we are the ones being directly affected.

America is more than just a place. It's more than just people and buildings and culture. It's an experiment in self-rule and self-determination.

From the moment of our founding, we have been a country and a society based on ideals of liberty and responsibility. Obviously, we don't always live up to those ideals; but they are the consciously chosen principles of the land.

Our founders declared their belief that we have some rights that are not granted, but inherent.

The system of government they devised was intended to protect those rights, as well others that were clearly spelled out.

One of those rights is that the government is not allowed to search or take our property without a good reason and/or court order.

In fact, the 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment states:

*The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against*

*unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.*

Seems pretty clear that our Founders believed that our personal freedom took precedence unless the state has a compelling reason to set aside that right.

Even then, the Judiciary, a co-equal branch to the Executive, must give its assent.

The Founders understood that having one person, one group, or one branch of government with too much power would surely lead to abuses, as it has throughout history.

Our society then finds itself with many difficult choices: how to remain safe while protecting civil liberties; how to protect religious freedoms without imposing them on everyone; and how to respect the will of the majority while protecting the choices of the minority.

As a gay man living in a politically conservative district in a religiously conservative state, I think often about the tenuousness of my ability to live as I choose and with whom I choose.

Right now, both our state and

federal legislatures are formulating amendments that would declare my marriage to be of no significance.

Any heterosexual couple married for 9 minutes has more rights, choices and privileges than my partner and I have being married for 9 years.

In November, our neighbors and friends will decide whether my partner and I will be seen as equal in the eyes of the state as our straight married friends.

Early indications point to my inevitable disappointment.

Setting up one group of people as more deserving of power and privilege than another conflicts with our ideals.

Denying someone due process in the name of "fighting terrorism" does damage to our principled foundation. Erosion of any of the rights expositied by our founders can lead to loss of all of them.

When one person is denied free expression or the right to worship as they choose, we all move one step closer to losing all rights and choices.

This is not Germany in the 1930s.

We're not living under a dictatorship. Using such hyperbolic language merely clouds the very real, very important issues at hand.

But in order to prevent such a

thing from happening here, we must continue to fight against not only the loss of our own individual rights, but those of others as well.

Martin Niemoller was an early supporter of the Nazis who later began to speak out publicly against their tyranny. Because of this, he spent time in several concentration camps.

But he regretted not speaking out earlier when others were being persecuted.

*First they came for the communists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a communist; Then they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a socialist; Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a trade unionist; Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—because I was not a Jew; Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak out for me.*

Most people of good faith live between the extremes of forced morality and "anything goes."

Now it's time for this "silent majority" to find its voice.

Silence is not an option.

## Summer Sell-A-Bration

Join Friends For Life as they sell-a-brate summer with a street carnival and massive rummage sale!



Saturday, June 24  
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

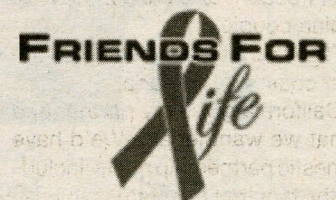
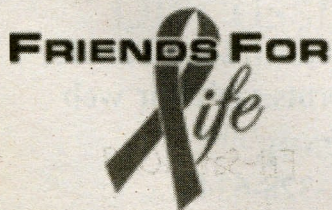
43 N. Cleveland  
(Court Avenue between Cleveland and Claybrook)



Donate your furniture, art, small appliances, jewelry, clothes, toys, and handbags!

Donations can be dropped off at Friends for Life at 43 N Cleveland during normal office hours

For more information, visit [www.friendsforlifecorp.org](http://www.friendsforlifecorp.org) or call Rachel at 901-272-0855 x213



## Candidates Answer Questions about GLBT Issues

### Steve Mulroy Q & A

Steve Mulroy is running for the seat of County Commission District 5.

**Do you support equal civil rights for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people?** Yes

**Will you oppose discrimination against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people?** Yes

**Will you support policies and laws to prohibit discrimination against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people in employment and housing?** Yes

**Would you support legislation to allow "civil unions" to provide gay and lesbian couples most or all of the legal benefits of marriage?** Yes

**Would you support policies to provide "domestic partnership" benefits to gay and lesbian couples?** "Domestic partnerships" could include but not be limited to gay and lesbian couples.

**Would you support allowing**

**gay and lesbian couples the right to civil marriage?** No. I would favor civil unions or domestic partnerships giving such couples the same rights as married persons. Whether we in fact call it "marriage" is at that point merely symbolic. I believe this state is not prepared for that symbolic step and aggressively seeking the state sanction of "marriage" would be counterproductive in that it would only antagonize traditional members of the public.

**Would you oppose efforts to restrict the right of qualified gay and lesbian couples to adopt children or be foster parents?** Yes.

**Will you support and defend the separation of church and state?** Yes.

Steve Mulroy is running for the seat of County Commission District 5. Questions for Mulroy should be emailed to [steve@mulroy4dist5.com](mailto:steve@mulroy4dist5.com)

### Mischelle Alexander-Best Q & A

Mischelle Alexander-Best is running for re-election of the General Sessions Criminal Court, Division XI.

**Do you support equal civil rights for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people?**

Cannot take a stand or state an opinion due to me being a judge and taking a stand would violate my rules of ethics as a judge. However, I do deal with these issues when they arise in the courtroom.

**Will you oppose discrimination against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people?**

Cannot take a stand or state an opinion due to me being a judge and taking a stand would violate my rules of ethics as a judge.

**Will you support policies and laws to prohibit discrimination**

**against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people in employment and housing?**

Cannot take a stand or state an opinion due to me being a judge and taking a stand would violate my rules of ethics as a judge.

**Will you support legislation to allow "civil unions" to provide gay and lesbian couples most or all of the legal benefits of marriage?**

Cannot take a stand or state an opinion due to me being a judge and taking a stand would violate my rules of ethics as a judge.

**Would you support policies to provide "domestic partnership" benefits to gay and lesbian couples?**

Cannot take a stand or state an opinion due to me being a judge and taking a stand would violate my

rules of ethics as a judge.

**Would you support allowing gay and lesbian couples the right to civil marriage?**

Cannot take a stand or state an opinion due to me being a judge and taking a stand would violate my rules of ethics as a judge.

**Would you oppose efforts to restrict the right of qualified gay and lesbian couples to adopt children or be foster parents?**

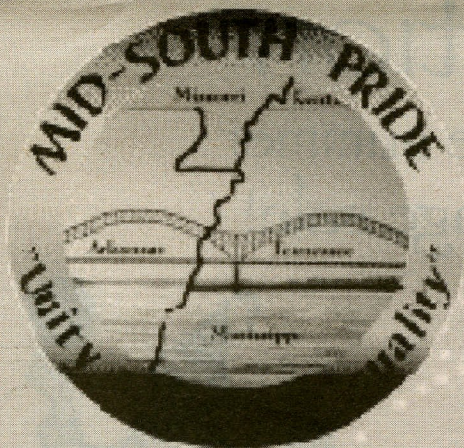
Cannot take a stand or state an opinion due to me being a judge and taking a stand would violate my rules of ethics as a judge.

**Will you support and defend the separation of church and state?**

Cannot take a stand or state an opinion due to me being a judge and taking a stand would violate my rules of ethics as a judge.

#### EDITOR'S NOTE

*Triangle Journal* does not publicly support either candidate or his/her political platform. The publication simply wishes to inform the community of his/her stance regarding GLBT issues.



## PRIDE!





### A Bridge To Equality

Mid-South Pride Celebrates the return of The Annual Pride Festival!

Come join us for a day of celebration to Show Our Pride and help others understand so we can cross the Bridge To Equality.

Entertainment Stage MC:  
Nicole Dubois  
Miss Gay America  
2006



-  Children's Play Area
-  Entertainment Stage
-  Westridge Laboratories Gift Basket Raffle
-  Beer Garden

Other Entertainers include:



Mike Rickard      Shawn Thomas      David Brookings      Victoria Parker      Sweet T

2006 Pride Parade  
Line up at 3:00 PM  
Parade step off at 4:00 PM

2006 Pride Festival  
will be at Peabody Park  
Festivities start  
immediately after the  
parade enters the park  
and will end at 9:30 PM

**Pride Picnic Sunday  
June 11 in Peabody  
Park at 2 PM**  
Food will be provided.  
All donations go to  
support Mid-South  
Pride

Parade and Festival booth registrations are available up to day of event.

For more information and to download Parade and Festival Registration Forms visit our website: [www.midsouthpride.org](http://www.midsouthpride.org)  
Call for more information: 901-328-6349

# Tennessee Legislators Pass House Amendment 3 on SB 1528

Monday, May 8 marked a tragic day as Tennessee legislators passed House Amendment 3 on SB1528. The amendment, filed by Republican Bill Dunn of Knoxville, removed the term "sexual orientation" from protecting patrons of Watts Bar Marina in its non-discrimination

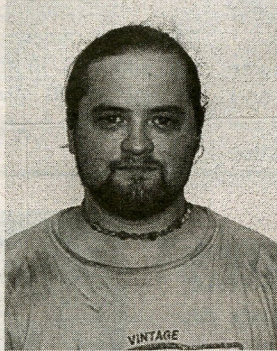
clause. Dunn and Glen Casada (R-College Grove) both argued to the Senate that including the term "sexual orientation" would provide shelter to "all types of deviants like pedophiles and bigamists." Seven legislators, Kathryn Bow-

ers, Charlotte Burks, Steve Cohen, Ward Crutchfield, Thelma Harper, Joe Haynes, and Jim Kyle, voted against the amendment. Representatives from the Tennessee Equality Project (TEP) are disappointed by the outcome, but remain encouraged in the fact that

the GLBT community is gaining support from senators. In 2004, TEP claimed 4 supporters, while the year before boasted a mere 2.

For information on how to contact your representatives and making your voice heard, visit [tnep.org](http://tnep.org) or MGLCC's I:F at [mgfcc.org/if](http://mgfcc.org/if)

## In light of recent events, would you consider opening a membership at YMCA? If already a member, will you continue to patronize their facilities?



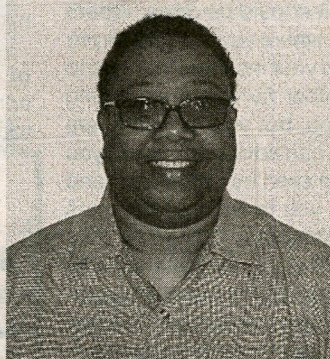
Daniel Slover, Germantown

"I've never had a membership at the Y and I wouldn't open one now. It seems they're being too judgmental in the consideration of what defines a family."



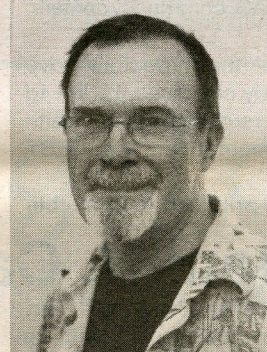
Belinda Lee, Downtown Memphis

"If I were a member I would finish my membership and not renew it. I don't condone that behavior and I wouldn't recommend their facilities to anyone else."



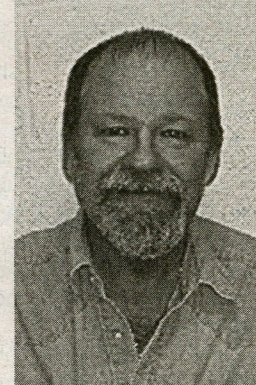
Melinda Iroabuchi, East Memphis

"I recently inquired about a membership to see what their reaction would be. They seemed positive and pleasant, but I would only open a membership as a single parent. I know how the south is and I won't push or flaunt my sexuality in their face."



Bob Loos, Cordova

"I'll continue, but I will participate in any future efforts to resolve the current issue with the Y Metro Board of Memphis."



Art Womble, Millington

"I don't have a membership and I would consider it now just as much as I have before. It seems to me tha the women's problem with the YMCA is monetary. They didn't say they couldn't join. Just not as a family."

### DAVID MABURY Information Architect/Strategist

Web strategy, usability, and content

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[david@mabury.com](mailto:david@mabury.com)

### HIV + GAY MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP

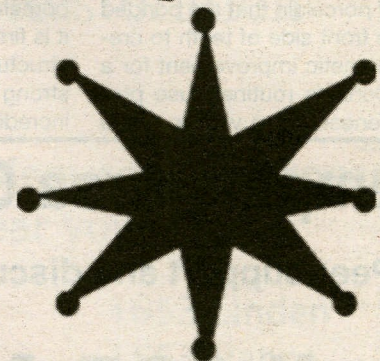
Mondays 7:30 - 9 p.m.  
Mid-Town Location

For information contact Mike at 271-5477

## Paggios Salon

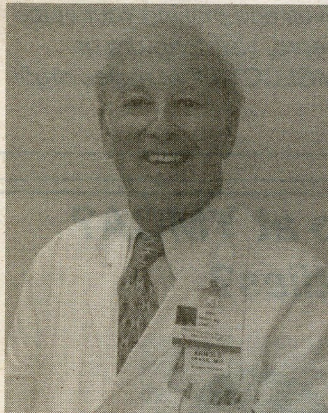
1684 Poplar  
Memphis, TN 38104  
901-274-3944

(across from Joe's Liquor)



**20% off your next visit!**  
must bring coupon for discount

## Ways to Improve Your Healthcare



by Arnold Drake  
MD, FACP

In the March 2 issue of the prestigious *New England Journal of Medicine* a gay physician, H.J. Makadon, wrote one of the lead editorials. He bemoaned the fact that his personal health care experience was disappointing and he chastised the medical profession for less than optimal care of gays and lesbians.

He cited the "Healthy People 2010" project of the Health and Human Services Dept which in 2000 "identified lesbian and gay Americans as one of six U.S. Population groups affected by health disparities."

Based on his knowledge and experience, Dr. Makadon made three suggestions for the medical profession.

The first was to increase the medical profession's awareness of the core health issues for gay men and lesbian women (sexually transmitted diseases, methamphetamine abuse, HIV prevention, changing high risk behavior).

His second suggestion was that physicians learn to help their patients face the confusion and questions about "coming out" to themselves and others.

If the primary care physician feels uncomfortable or inadequate, s/he should be ready to refer the patient to appropriate counseling.

He argued that physicians are already asked to evaluate domestic abuse and other family problems and that "coming out" is no different. All that is required is asking the right questions and being open and non-judgmental.

Makadon's final step was for physicians to make their practices more GLBT friendly, such as having doctors ask the name of the child's parents, not the name of the mother and father. He also believed that doctors should be aware of GLBT services available in the community, such as PFLAG, community centers, and MAGY.

Now that these doctors have been properly chastised, I'd like to offer my own suggestions for health care improvement in the GLBT community.

**YOU are primarily responsible**

**for your health.** You are the only one responsible for how you eat, whether you exercise, what you smoke, whether or not you engage in high risk sex, abuse drugs, etc. You might find people or agencies willing to help or guide you but you and you alone are responsible.

**Enter into a relationship with a primary care physician.** You may have to look around and you may not be successful the first or second time, but it should be done. Where you work, where you live, the physician list on your insurance plan, and a lot of other factors are working against you, but your primary care physician can advise you when you need to be seen by a specialist and can point you to helpful resources in the community.

**Nurture your relationship with your primary care physician.** Many physicians are open to learning new things and many younger physicians have been exposed to open gays and lesbians already. No one can be an expert in all aspects of gay and lesbian medical problems, but give your doctor a chance to learn. Be a resource for your doctor. It was only recently that I learned what being a "top" or "bottom" meant!

**Be honest with your doctor.** If you are gay, tell your doctor. If you have a partner, tell him/her. If you have engaged in high risk or destructive behavior, discuss it. If you disagree with your doctor's

recommendations, tell him/her. If you want to know about other options, tell him/her.

Most medical decisions are based on incomplete knowledge: your doctor is the best one to evaluate scientific controversy. Don't hold back on information because you fear you will upset the doctor or expensive or painful testing might be ordered. If you find that your doctor cannot handle your honesty, find another doctor. But you may have caused him/her to think about some new things. The next patient might do better.

**Appoint a health care power of attorney.** Everyone, gay and non-gay, should do this. There are too many questions that could arise

while you are incapacitated: a living will just does not help that much.

**Be willing to volunteer if there is research on GLBT health available.** We do not have good scientific data on GLBT health issues because many patients are in the closet and institutions have never been open to scientific study. If you have an opportunity to advance knowledge, please consider it. You may be a volunteer patient or you may help find suitable research subjects.

Following these few simple rules should help you improve your health and your experiences with the health care industry. In addition, you can do your part to improve the lives of GLBT people everywhere!

## Q & A with William N. Castle, DDS

**Q: What's the difference between a crown and a filling?**

Crowns are a type of dental restoration which, when cemented into place, fully cup over the portion of a tooth that lies at, and above, the gum line. Fillings are dental restorations that fill in or cover over just a portion of a tooth. Since dental crowns encase the entire visible aspect of a tooth, a dental crown, in effect, becomes the tooth's new outer surface.

**A: What about the difference between a crown and a veneer?**

Porcelain veneers are wafer-thin shells of porcelain that are bonded onto the front side of teeth to create a cosmetic improvement for a tooth. Dentists routinely use porcelain veneers as a way to make

cosmetic changes for teeth that are discolored, worn, chipped, or misaligned.

**Q: That sounds kind of temporary.**

The porcelain veneer technique is an offshoot of the basic science of cosmetic dental bonding. Dentists have had materials available to them for decades that are capable of creating a tenacious bond with tooth enamel. Porcelain veneer technique utilizes the bonding capability of these materials to securely attach a thin shell of porcelain (the porcelain veneer) to a tooth. Although porcelain is inherently brittle, when it is firmly bonded to a sturdy substructure (a tooth) it becomes very strong and durable. Porcelain is incredibly stain resistant.

**A: Veneers and crowns sound interchangeable.**

Well, sometimes, but both options are open to the patient. It depends on the condition of the tooth being treated. If the tooth were in bad enough condition, it would need a crown. A veneer is more typically used to bridge gaps, improve the look of a tooth or smile, and is performed on teeth in otherwise good health. If unhappy with the look of some teeth, I recommend looking into veneers.

*Dr. Castle practices general dentistry in midtown. To schedule an appointment, call 685-5008. Send your questions to castlew@bellsouth.com*

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*Life*

**Feast for Friends**

**Mon., June 5 & 19**

**6 p.m., Dinner at 6:30 p.m.**  
**St. John's United Methodist Church**  
**(Peabody & Bellevue)**

Feast for Friends is a service of Friends For life for the HIV -infected and affected community including people living with HIV or AIDS, their friends, caregivers, family and friends. While the dinner is free, those who are able are requested to make a donation to offset expenses.

Advertising space donated as a public service of Triangle Journal

**Memphis Area Gay Youth**

Peer support and discussion group

**Call 335-MAGY**

website: [www.magyonline.org](http://www.magyonline.org)

Advertising space donated as a public service of Triangle Journal

Submission for articles and ads for July 2006 is June 22:

Submissions by e-mail: [tj@mgfcc.org](mailto:tj@mgfcc.org)

or mail:  
Triangle Journal  
c/o Rebekah Hart  
892 S. Cooper St.  
Memphis, TN 38104





Left: Members of the Triangle Journal Headliners softball team peer through the fence in anticipation of what will happen next on the softball field.



Right: A Triangle Journal softball fielder waits to see if her competitor will hit the ball to her.

## Rugby Team Looking for Players

Do you want to wear funky tie-dyed socks? Ever wonder what you'd do with those old rugby shorts? Remember those little soccer shoes packed away in the closet? Break out the old gear, because it's time to strut your stuff.

Coach Sheri stated "Practice is at Maniax Field on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6pm - 8pm (Central between Hollywood and

E. Parkway on the south side). Wear your running shoes for the fitness training. We will switch to rugby boots afterwards."

Come one, come all! Clear your schedules and mark your calendars because there will be rugby this summer for everyone interested.

If anyone has a conflict with practice days, whether it's night class or work, please inform the

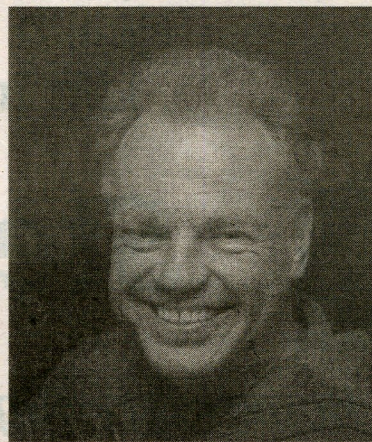
coach. Sheri would like to have at least one of the two nights with as many players as possible. If this is short notice and you can't get away this week, that's okay...you won't miss your chance. There will be other Tues and Thurs practices. So, come on out and see what the fuss is all about.

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909 University St.	1262 N. Parkway	477 Dickinson	302 E. Stratmore	
915 University St.	1651 N. Parkway	397 Dickinson	1523 Eastmoreland	
904 Sheridan	1766 N. Parkway	1660 Galloway	1630 Linden	

## Local Greek Organization Supports GLBT Vision

by TJ Staff

Beta Phi Omega Sorority, Inc. is a national lesbian Greek organization that caters to feminine lesbians. Five young women who shared a vision of serving the LGBT community while providing an alternative to traditionally heterosexual Greek organizations created the organization on June 27, 2000 in Tallahassee, FL.

That vision is being carried on by over fifty members in eight chapters located in cities nationwide including Memphis.

The Beta Epsilon Chapter, located in Memphis, was established in 2003 and is comprised of two young women who work hard to make the organization a household name in the LGBT community: President Natasha Burnett-Holmes and new member and Director of Recruitment Kimberly Terrell.

These ladies participate in a wide range of volunteer projects on both local and national levels, including volunteering for the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center, the March of Dimes, Friends for Life, Breast Cancer Awareness, and many more. Beta Phi Omega Sorority, Inc. also has its own signature philanthropy project called "Operation: Pretty in Pink" in which they collect gently worn clothing to distribute to low-income families.

The Beta Epsilon Chapter also hosts a number of educational workshops on various subjects such as HIV/AIDS Awareness and Domestic Violence. In addition, the ladies host special events such as April's book signing at MGLCC with author Laurinda Brown, whom they have made an Honorary Member.

They work hand in hand with other local gay organizations such as Adelante!, MGLCC's Hispanic voice, and Mid-South Pride, with whom they are working to help plan this year's Pride festival. In May, the BE Chapter became the 13th Alliance to local political action group Initiative:Fairness.

The ladies say that although they have been out of touch for a while, they have re-emerged stronger and better than ever. When asked about their small membership, the ladies say that it is "quality, not quantity" that they are looking for in future members.

In addition to the various volunteer projects, workshops, and special events, the Beta Epsilon Chapter will soon implement a variety of programs that will benefit both LGBT and heterosexual youth. One of these programs, called "Beta Babies," involves tutoring for high school and college students with trained professionals. This program will also include career training with employees from the Tennessee Department of Employment Security. The Beta Epsilon Chapter is currently seeking professionals from all occupations to assist in properly

implementing this program. Contact President Natasha Burnett-Holmes at nholmes@betaphiomega.net for more info.

If interested in attending the Beta Epsilon chapter's special events, fundraising parties, and workshops, visit the national website for a complete calendar of events or visit [www.mglcc.org](http://www.mglcc.org).

*Triangle Journal* posed a series of questions in hopes of informing the community about the organization on a more personal level.

**TJ: Why did you choose to join Beta Phi Omega Sorority, Inc. as opposed to a traditional Greek or other lesbian organization?**

**NBH:** I chose this organization because I wanted to be apart of a positive network of women who wanted to make positive changes in this community.

**TJ: What is your protocol when dealing with women who express interest?**

**KT:** After we have received an online application, which can be found on our website, we email and call the applicant, and set up phone and face-to-face meetings. We also invite them to our various events and informational meetings which are also potluck dinners. If the young lady is truly interested,

she will continue to come to our special and volunteer events. We begin to get to know the applicant as much as she will let us and try to form a bond with her. We are trying to spend more time getting to know the young lady on a personal level rather than hounding and rushing her to join. When we feel certain that she would be an outstanding candidate for membership, we start the pledging process.

**TJ: Natasha, being that you have just become the new President of the Beta Epsilon Chapter, what do you plan to do differently?**

**NBH:** First of all, I would like to increase our visibility in the community with more volunteer work and more educational workshops and special events for the community. We have been lying dormant for a long time and the time is long past due for the BE chapter to get back out into the community and get to the business of making a real difference. Also, I have and will continue to be a motivator for my members and let them know that they have a voice that will always be heard. I also believe in leading by example, so I expect the same commitment from myself as I do from current and future members.

**SH: How do you feel about the progression of the chapter so far?**

**NBH:** As far as volunteer work, workshops, and special events, I think we're doing a great job. We allowed the community to forget about us, so I am happy now with the amount of work that we have been doing in the community. But on the flip side of that, I have been disappointed by the lack of community support. We have had some people come out and support us, but I feel it could be a lot better. However, we will not let that deter us from our main goals. We just have to keep working within the community. Van Gogh said, 'Great things are not done by IMPULSE, but by a SERIES of small things brought together.' I think that quote perfectly describes this chapter.

**TJ: Where do you see the Beta Epsilon Chapter in five years?**

**KT:** In five years, I see the BE Chapter emerging as a strong and respected organization with many accomplishments under its belt.

**TJ: What do you want people to know about the Beta Epsilon Chapter?**

**NBH:** First, I want everyone, especially interested women, to know that this is a serious organization.

We are not just a group of women getting together to throw parties and socialize; we do that and a lot more. We are a community service organization, which means that we work for the community. A majority of our events are free and open to the public unless otherwise stated. We actually do all of the volunteer work for the organizations previously mentioned and there is a lot more in store for this community via the BE Chapter. We ask that people not judge us by our past, but join us in reaching our future goals by coming out and supporting the positive things that we are doing.

**TJ: What do you look for in future members?**

**KT:** Three things: Loyalty, dedication, and reliability.

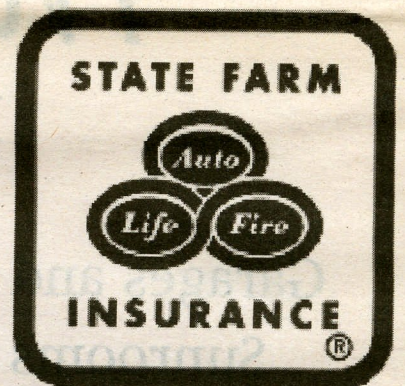
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# A Union of Spirits, Erin and Heidi Cranford-Williams Wed

by Ian Keller

A gentle spring breeze floated through an expansive back yard in Love, Mississippi on Saturday evening, May 13, 2006. As the evening progressed, so did the joy-filled spirits of the family and friends of newly married Erin and Heidi Cranford-Williams.

The former Heidi Rene Williams and Erin Leigh Cagle pledged their love for each other for "all time and eternity" in a beautiful outdoor ceremony at the home of Heidi's mother and stepfather. Merging the last names of their father and stepfather respectively, Heidi and Erin began their new life as vowed companions.

The ceremony was brief, solemn, and tear-filled. The bridal couple took turns telling each other of their love and admiration, then professed traditional wedding vows assisted by the officiate, Len Piechowski.

Maid of honor to Erin was Jennifer Sanders and maid of honor to Heidi was Tanya Morgan.

Special guests of the bridal couple, Dori Robertson, Lisa Wright King, and Mary Catherine Nichols, offered readings to commemorate the solemnity of the occasion.

Close friends of the bridal couple, Kristy Holloway Nichols and Noel Troxell, performed vocal solos.

Ms. Nichols sang "Strange Fire" and Mr. Troxell performed "Free in

You." Both pieces were originally recorded by the Indigo Girls.

Mr. Troxell and his husband Doug flew in from Ontario, Canada for the occasion. Shortly after the exchange of vows, a fireworks display lit up the evening sky and began the joy filled wedding reception.

Parents of Heidi Cranford-Williams are Janice Marie Thirkhield Spindler and David Scott Spindler and Bill Everette Williams and Debbie Hunter Williams.

Parents of Erin Cranford-Williams are Leigh Anne Cranford and Wallace Davis Cranford.

The newlyweds honeymoon was in Greece.



Newlyweds Erin and Heidi Cranford-Williams are all smiles as they walk down the aisle following their wedding ceremony. The two were assisted with traditional wedding vows by Len Piechowski, right.

## Coming Out Bible Style

Anonymous TJ Reader

I've told my mother two things in the past five years that have made her burst into tears and lose pride in me. The first was at the ripe age of eighteen during my first few months at college when I called home to tell her I was joining a sorority.

The second time came about a year ago when I told her I was a lesbian.

While coming out of the closet is never easy for anyone, it proved an indestructible, utopian-like concept to me.

Since journeying my way out of the closet, I've experienced little difficulty. My friends, sorority sisters, and former colleagues have been incredibly accepting, and I've never once regretted opening the closet door and emerging fully robed in the open persona of a lesbian.

But when coming out comes that easy, you know there's a catch somewhere.

And there is—my entire family. Raised in a conservative Church of Christ home, I spent nearly all my life facing the realization that I would go to hell for my innate attraction to women.

Instead of living life to its fullest, I lived a life full of preparation for hell.

I prayed every night asking, begging, pleading God to extract my "psychological malady" so that I could marry a man, have 2.5 children, own a house with a white-picket fence, and have a Mercedes parked in the driveway.

I prayed for the perfect life and happiness—for my parents' sake, not mine.

As my middle and high school years came and passed, I questioned the religion and God that seemed to guide and direct my parents' lives.

I grew up listening to sermons about eternal damnation, hearing gossip escape from my mother's mouth, and witnessed the most hypocritical, hate-filled comments come from the mouths of so-called "human beings" that considered themselves upright, God-loving Christians.

Homosexuals were not real people.

They were distortions of reality. A manifestation of the original sin. We were the personal and primary workers for Satan himself.

And somehow, I continued to live my life happily and successfully, but of course, not without a completely jaded perception of religion.

Once I decided that I absolutely needed to tell my mother, my best friend, my confidant, that I was a lesbian, every conversation suddenly became awkward, jilted, and stiff.

Finally, in the empty, pitch-black parking lot of a bank, I cried out, "I'm not the way you want me to be, mom. I like women. I don't like boys."

My mother stopped filling out her deposit slip, and with a calm, serene expression, she hugged me.

She then commenced to tell me that she'd had an idea for about three years, but didn't know how to bring up the topic.

We sat in silence for nearly an hour before she asked if we could talk about it in a week or two. She needed time to think, figure out the questions she needed answers to, and worst of all, that there were some things, some deep-seeded family secrets that she needed to tell me but didn't know how.

Although my heart raced and my blood pressure rose at the thought of what she might say, I was elated and overjoyed.

My mother was going to speak to me again!

The conversation that followed concerning my secret sexuality led to my mother's confession of being a lesbian for eight years.

Wait. Let me repeat that...

My mother, the Republican-voting, Bible-thumping, homosexual-hating, submissive-to-her-husband, Christian woman was a lesbian for eight years.

After choking, vomiting, and nearly requesting that my mother perform CPR, I asked her what changed.

Her answer?  
"Nothing changed. I married your father because I knew he was a man

who could care for me, love me, and make me the happiest I could possibly be with a man. I turned to Christ for strength and guidance, and even though it's been a difficult struggle, I've overcome my personal demons. I still find women that catch my eye, but I couldn't even bare the thought of never speaking to my parents, siblings, or grandparents ever again simply because I find other women beautiful. I could be happier with a woman, but I still have my family."

Eventually, my mother and I agreed that it was best I keep my sexual preference silent within the confines of my Super Jesus extended family. In addition, I decided that even though it would be difficult to not confide in my mother and ask her for advice in my relationships, it was paramount that I let her adjust.

All in all, I've realized that regardless of my mother's religion and personal relationship choices, I still love her. And she still loves me. No matter whom I lie down beside at night.

I might never have perfect white Christmases with my parents and my partner by my side, but only time will tell. My mother has all the time and all the love in the world to adjust, ask questions, and find the pride and love for her daughter that I know is still there.

Things will be difficult for us, but I smile every time my mother hugs me. Because deep down, I know she's proud of me for refusing to compromise my own happiness because of what the rest of our family believes.

Want to share your coming out story?

Send it to us!

Send articles to:  
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info@mid-southpride.org 901-328-6349  
<http://www.MidSouthPride.org>

## Mid-South Pride 2006: A Bridge to Equality

Mid-South Pride is excited to announce GLBT Pride week 2006 for Memphis and the Mid-South. The week will celebrate the diversity of Memphis and the Mid-South, and will take help everyone to show that PRIDE is a Bridge To Equality.

Pride week 2006 promises to be an exciting for everyone in the community. From the man of the year awards to the annual Pride Picnic the community will be able to showcase the PRIDE that we all have in our community.

Saturday, June 10 will be the annual GLBT Pride Parade in the Cooper Young area of Memphis, TN. MSP will be reversing the parade this year to accommodate the return of the Pride Festival to be held at Peabody Park.

Pride Parade 2006 will line up in the main parking lot of First Congregational Church at S. Cooper & Walker. Line up will begin at 3:00 p.m. with Parade step-off at 4:00 p.m.

The parade will proceed down S. Cooper to Peabody Park to join the Pride Festival. Registration for the parade will be available until 3:30 PM on parade day.

Judges for this years parade are the women of Aphrodite and the

main viewing area will be at MGLCC at 892 S. Cooper.

The MGLCC will feature an open house, and a DJ will be playing music and providing information on each group in the parade.

Saturday, June 10 will also feature the return of the annual Pride Festival, to be held in Peabody Park located at the corner of S. Cooper and Higby. The festival grounds will open at 1:00 p.m. for vendors and organizations to check in and setup their booths.

The official start time for the festival is 4:30 p.m., however, there will be music in the park starting at 3 p.m.

MSP will be presenting entertainment from the Festival Stage, hosted by Miss Gay America 2006, Nicole DuBois.

Providing entertainment will be Victoria Parker - Miss Mid-America, Shawn Thomas, Mike Rickard, David Brookings, Sweet T, and the Grand Dude and Grand Diva winners from the MSP Drag Olympics.

Information booths, the performance stage, food vendors, and a beer garden will highlight this year's festival.

Registration forms for booth space are available on the MSP web

site or by calling Mid-South Pride, and available on the day of event at Peabody Park.

Sunday, June 11 will be the annual Pride Picnic at Peabody Park. The picnic will begin at 2:00 p.m. and will feature food, fun, and a relaxing afternoon with friends and family. Bring your blanket, lawn chair and frisbee to enjoy an afternoon of food and music in Peabody Park.

Food will be provided at the picnic and all donations will go to support Mid-South Pride. There will be entertainment and the opportunity to showcase your talents with Karaoke.

The annual picnic is a wonderful way to celebrate our Pride and to show that PRIDE is a Bridge To Equality.

Mid-South Pride is currently seeking individuals, groups, clubs, or organizations that would like to help carry the 100 foot rainbow flag in this years Pride Parade.

MSP needs 40 plus volunteers to lift and carry the flag down S. Cooper as part of Pride Parade 2006.

Please contact Mid-South Pride if you would like to participate in the grand opportunity to be a part of Pride 2006.

## Participants Wanted for Gay Experience Study

Researchers from PRISMresearch.org at the University of Kentucky and University of Memphis are looking for participants for a new online survey about experiences related to the debate over the recognition of civil marriage rights for same-sex couples.

This is a study of the attitudes and experiences of gay, lesbian, bisexual, same-gender loving, and same-sex partnered persons regarding the debate over recognition of civil marriage for same-sex couples. Ellen D.B. Riggle, Ph.D., and Sharon Scales Rostosky, Ph.D., at the University of Kentucky, and Sharon Horne, Ph.D., at the University of Memphis, are conducting the research.

The purpose of this study is to document attitudes and experiences at several points in time in all states.

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## Mid-South Pride 10K Challenge

Mid-South Pride will be holding GLBT Pride 2006 Saturday and Sunday, June 10th and 11th. This years pride events include the annual Pride Parade, Pride Picnic, and the return of the Annual Pride Festival.

Mid-South Pride has established a goal of raising \$10,000 to cover costs associated with producing the annual Pride Events.

MSP is often asked the question, "What does MSP have to pay for when it comes to producing pride events?"

The answer to that question is not easy as there are many costs associated with the operation of an organization such as MSP.

Items directly associated with pride events are permits with the city, police services, parking permits, and required insurance to cover the events, just to mention a few.

How do they pay the cost? MSP looks to the community to

help cover the cost associated with producing pride events.

This year MSP would like to issue a challenge to the community of raising 10K by June 10.

Mid-South Pride is asking for 1,000 members of the community to donate \$10 each to the MSP 10K challenge.

The challenge has not ended and there is still time to make your contribution to the 10K drive.

Be a part of showing your PRIDE.

Be a part of the Bridge To Equality.

Members of the community that would like to take the 10K Challenge may make their donation in two ways. Donations can be at [www.midsouthpride.org](http://www.midsouthpride.org) and clicking on SUPPORT.

Or, donations can be made check or money order to Mid-South Pride at Mid-South Pride, 10K 111 S. Highland Suite 322, Memphis, TN 38111.

## Details Sparse in Murder Case

On February 15, 2006, Ray Anthony Berry, a 21 year-old Memphian and preoperative transsexual known as Tiffany Berry, died of gun shot wounds inflicted by her attacker.

In the weeks that followed, Memphis Police arrested and obtained a confession from 18 year-old D'André Blake.

In a second interview granted to Len Piechowski who is the City Mayor's liaison to the GLBT community, Lieutenant Joe Scott stated that Blake was "held to the state" on March 8, 2006.

This action brought Blake before a Grand Jury who indicted him for the murder of Ms. Berry.

Blake was later released on \$20,000 bond.

Lt. Scott is the primary homicide officer assigned to the case.

After speaking with representatives at the Public Information Office of the State Attorney General, *Triangle Journal* has learned that Blake is scheduled to be arraigned in Division 10 of Criminal Court on June 23, 2006.

Want to share your news?

Email news to  
[tj@mglcc.org](mailto:tj@mglcc.org)

## Outflix Film Festival at Peabody Place

This year's Outflix Film Festival is making some difficult decisions. But these "hard" decisions certainly aren't what one would typically expect.

As the festival grows, the issue becomes which films *won't* be screened.

With limited time slots, the committee must select the best of the films submitted.

Some good films might not make the cut.

Because of the quality and number of entries received for this year's film festival, the committee has decided to expand to 6 nights as compared to last year's 4.

The planning committee has been focused on including films that will appeal to a wider audi-

ence. Documentaries dealing with transgender issues, drug addiction and coming out will be paired with fun comedies, thought-provoking dramas and films from around the world.

The film festival will begin with a kick off party on Aug 4, followed by films screening from August 5 through the 10.

In addition to showing more films and lasting two extra nights, the film committee gave the GLBT community another surprise.

This year, the annual film festival will be held at Muvico Peabody Place in Downtown Memphis.

The committee hasn't released the lineup or the official schedule yet, but be sure to keep reading *Triangle Journal* for more updates.

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## Luz Verde a Enmienda contra Bodas Gay

Associated Press

Una comisión senatorial aprobó una enmienda constitucional que prohíbe el matrimonio de las parejas homosexuales, tras una sesión a gritos que concluyó cuando un legislador demócrata abandonó la sala y el presidente republicano del grupo le dijo: "Mejor sin tí".

"No necesito que me dé lecciones. No es usted más protector de la Constitución que lo soy yo", le amonestó el presidente de la Comisión Judicial, el republicano Arlen Specter, al senador demócrata Russ Feingold, quien le había expresado su oposición a la enmienda, su afinidad por la Constitución y su intención de abandonar la sala.

"Si desea irse, bien. Mejor sin tí", concluyó Specter.

"También he disfrutado de su perorata, señor presidente", le respondió Feingold, que considera postularse a la Casa Blanca en el 2008. "Hasta luego".

La comisión votó por 10-8 conforme a las líneas partidistas enviar la enmienda constitucional --que prohibirá a los estados reconocer el matrimonio de las parejas homosexuales-- al pleno del Senado, donde tiene pocas posibilidades de ser aprobada.

Los demócratas se quejaron que el debate de la enmienda es una maniobra política que tiene como fin apelar a la base conservadora del Partido Republicano en este año de elecciones legislativas.

Sin embargo, no todos los que votaron "sí" respaldan la enmienda. Specter dijo que "se opone totalmente" a ella, aunque cree que merece ser debatida en el Senado.

"El matrimonio en Estados Unidos consistirá únicamente en la unión de un hombre y una mujer", establece la enmienda, que debe ser aprobada por dos tercios del Congreso y tres cuartos de los estados.

El líder de la mayoría en el Senado, el republicano Bill Frist, estableció que la propuesta sobre la enmienda se lleve a votación por el pleno del Senado el 5 de junio.

El tema ha desatado un debate político y cultural sobre qué constituye un matrimonio y los derechos legales de las parejas homosexuales.

Previamente esta semana, Georgia anunció que apelará la decisión de una jueza que echó abajo su prohibición, aprobada por los votantes, del matrimonio homosexual.

El gobernador Sonny Perdue indicó que convocará una sesión legislativa especial si el Tribunal Supremo estatal no llega a una decisión sobre el asunto en un breve período de tiempo.

La enmienda de Georgia que prohíbe el matrimonio homosexual fue aprobada por el 76 por ciento de los electores del estado en noviembre del 2004. Sin embargo, el martes la jueza superior del condado Fulton, Constance C. Russell, decidió que la medida violaba las leyes.

## U.K. Gay Muslim Appeals Assault Conviction

Associated Press

A 28-year-old gay Muslim imprisoned on a grievous bodily harm charge has launched an appeal, claiming he was wrongly convicted.

The man, identified by London media as Mohamed S., received an eight-year jail sentence in 2002 after he was subjected to a pre-dawn homophobic hate attack at his east London home.

Mohamed, who trained as an imam, says he was framed by the men who attacked him, according to the Web site This is Local London.

New evidence suggests Mohamed was the victim, not the perpetrator, and the Criminal Cases Review Commission has accepted his case for review, said Peter Tatchell of the British gay rights group OutRage, which is helping Mohamed's case.

"Mohamed appears to have been subjected to a vicious homophobic hate attack by five Asian men who had been previously threatening to

kill him and his male partner, Junda," Tatchell said.

After Mohamed's conviction, Junda, two cousins and a family friend were murdered.

He has asked for his full name to be withheld because he fears further violence against his family.

Tatchell has visited Mohamed several times in prison and has corresponded with him since April 2005.

"Mohamed says the men burst into his home in east London on June 30, 2002 at 3 a.m., armed with a knife and sticks," Tatchell said. "In court, the men claimed they had been invited to a party at Mohamed's house and accused him of attacking them. Mohamed has always maintained his innocence."

At the trial, however, Mohamed did not disclose his sexuality or the homophobic nature of the attacks and threats that preceded them, Tatchell told U.K.GayNews.com, partly because of the stigma Islam holds toward gays and partly because his English is poor.

"Mohamed is the victim of a grave miscarriage of justice. The criminal justice system has failed him. It is scandalous that he was convicted," Tatchell said.



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# National Gay/Bisexual Men's Retreat Scheduled for October in Nashville

Associated Press

Details for the fifth annual Dick Dialogues gay and bisexual men's weekend were announced.

The retreat will return to Natchez Trace State Park,

Friday through Sunday, October 20th through 22nd. The weekend of dialogue, learning, and fun includes large

and small group discussions, movies, games, outdoor activities, and Saturday night's pajama party featuring a "kNOw talent show."

All activities are optional and included in a single registration fee that also covers meals and lodging for the weekend.

Founder and event coordinator Jim Hawk originally conceived the idea of a retreat where participants could "kick back, relax, and enjoy time with the guys."

He recruited a planning committee of local volunteers and activists who always seemed to be busy raising funds, attending meetings, and giving their time to the

community. The goal was to promote both recreation and meaningful conversation in a casual

setting.

Each year a diverse group from across the state has attended the event.

Barry, a veteran participant from

Nashville, commented, "42 hours surviving in the woods alone with 40-50 other gay men with cabins, electricity, hairdryer plug-ins and no-talent shows is something that all gay and bisexual men should do once a year."

"I've attended all four of the events," Nashvillian Gary added, "and they just keep getting better. The weekend is a wonderful opportunity to do what the slogan suggests: 'kick back, relax, and have fun.' I enjoy getting to know new people and making new friends. The dialogues are interesting, challenging, powerful, and often life changing."

"Each year we tweak our format and plan opportunities based on input from those who attend as well as interests we hear voiced in the larger community," commented committee member Mark Hubbard.

"For example, the last two years have added sessions exploring non-

sexual touch and intimacy."

Floyd from Memphis shared his thoughts about the weekend. "It's not what you think. I didn't have sex at all during the weekend. It was more like after sex. Everyone was so kind to each other, giving hugs freely and compliments abundantly. The whole experience was affirming and nurturing. It was a 'safe place' of acceptance that was hard to leave."

Hosts for this year's event include Michael Brice, Jim Hawk, Mark Hubbard, James E.M. James, Jr., Charles

Jones, Wade Jones, Lloyd Lewis, Steven Shelton, Phil Michal Thomas, "Sister Right!" and "Crazy Bear."

Registration begins June 1, 2006, and the deadline is Friday, October 13.

The fee is \$130 if received before Monday, September 8 and \$160 thereafter. Planners expect to reach the capacity of 70 persons this year.

Additional information can be obtained by visiting [www.dickdialogues.org](http://www.dickdialogues.org) or emailing [info@dickdialogues.org](mailto:info@dickdialogues.org), or calling (615) 242-2654.

# Laura Bush Advises in Political Strategies

Associated Press

Perhaps the most influential person in the president's life is calling on Republicans to leave the issue of gay marriage and a proposed amendment to the constitution out of political strategies for the coming year. That person is Laura Bush.

According to the Associated Press, the first lady told *Fox News Sunday* that while she's certain the American people want a debate on the issue of gay marriage, she doesn't think "it should be used as a campaign tool, obviously."

"It requires a lot of sensitivity to just talk about the issue - a lot of sensitivity," she said.

A decision that would define marriage as being between a man and a woman is up for debate in the Senate early next month, Majority Leader Bill Frist said on CNN's *Late Edition*. Frist is in support of an amendment to the constitution.

So is President Bush, as he's indicated publicly several times, but Vice President Dick Cheney, whose daughter Mary Cheney is openly gay, does not.

Mary has recently written a book, *Now It's My Turn*, in which she acknowledges that she almost quit working on the Bush-Cheney campaign in 2004 because of Bush's position on gay marriage.

Cheney, who has long been out as a lesbian and worked toward pro-gay legislation and worked for Coors as a gay and lesbian consultant, has been the target of criticism from both Republicans and gay rights activists for having a vague stand on gay issues.

Reporters questioned her Sunday about reports that White House political adviser Karl Rove and other Republicans want to use the issue to mobilize conservatives for the midterm election.

Cheney said she hoped "no one would think about trying to amend the Constitution as a political strategy."

"What I can say is look, amending the Constitution with this amendment, this piece of legislation... It is writing discrimination into the Constitution, and, as I say, it is fundamentally wrong."

# California Senate Approves Teaching Gay and Lesbian History in Schools

Associated Press

The California Senate voted this past week to add the historical contributions of gays and lesbians to history curriculum in California schools, moving the ball to the state assembly.

Saying that more role models could help alleviate the social estrangement and high suicide rates of gay and lesbian students, backers of the bill now need it approved by the state Assembly and Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

The first of its kind nationwide, gay rights advocates are saying that if the bill passes, it could once again make California a pioneer when it comes to gay rights.

Last year, California's Legislature became the first to authorize gay marriage, but Schwarzenegger vetoed the measure. Schwarzenegger has not yet taken a public position

on the textbook bill, the *Los Angeles Times* reported.

California makes up more than half of the nation's textbook market, making it a trendsetter for other states when it comes to education. The *Times* reported that many publishers put out a specific edition of books for the state that other states can also use.

Textbooks meeting the bill's requirements would not be incorporated into California classrooms until 2012. Social science courses would then include "an age-appropriate study" of the "role and contributions" that LGBT people have made to the "economic, political and social development" of the United States.

The LGBT community would join African Americans, women, American Indians, Hispanics, Asians and other ethnic groups that California textbooks are required by law to

include in history curriculum.


"Even though we passed an anti-harassment bill seven years ago, it's still pretty obvious that there's a hostile environment for kids who are gay or lesbian - or even thought to be gay or lesbian," Sen. Sheila Kuehl, the bill's author and one of six openly gay legislators, told the *LA Times*.

"Part of that stems from the fact that nobody reads about any positive examples."

According to reports, subjects might include the 1978 assassination of San Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk.

Textbooks would also specify the sexual orientation of such well-known Americans as authors Walt Whitman, Langston Hughes, Tennessee Williams, James Baldwin and Willa Cather.

Conservative groups decried the Senate's action.



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**Triangle Journal**  
VOLUME 1 ISSUE 2  
MARCH 2006

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# Events

## WKNO Celebrates Pride Month

WKNO will help celebrate Pride Month by showing various GLBT-related documentaries and films throughout June.

### Frontline "The Age of AIDS"

On the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first diagnosed case of AIDS, *Frontline* presents the definitive chronicle of one of the worst pandemics the world has ever known. After more than two decades of denial, stigma, policy battles, scientific research, heated debates and global education, HIV/AIDS continues to spread unabated throughout much of the world, particularly in developing nations. Through interviews with AIDS researchers, world leaders, activists and patients, *Frontline* investigates the science, the politics, and the human cost of this fateful disease and asks, "What are the lessons of the past and what must be done to stop AIDS?" Tuesday, May 30 and Wednesday May 31 at 8 p.m.

### Ending AIDS: The Search for a Vaccine

This is the story of one of the greatest scientific and technological challenges ever—the search for an AIDS vaccine and of the people and organizations that are rising to meet it. While exploring some of the deepest mysteries facing science today, *Ending AIDS* shows how the quest for a vaccine is also being shaped by social, political and economic forces, such as competing bureaucratic

priorities and business incentives, the ability of governmental and non-governmental institutions to speed or slow development and testing of promising vaccines, and the heated ethical debates over where and how vaccine trials should be conducted. Friday, June 2 at 9:00 p.m.

### Independent Lens: Pink Scare

In 1960, a renowned Smith College professor suddenly became the target of a witch-hunt. His career, and the careers of other gay professors, was instantly destroyed when a controversial police raid uncovered homoerotic magazines in their homes. *The Great Pink Scare* explores the fierce clash that continues today between an individual's right to privacy and concerns for national security. Tuesday, June 6 at 9:00 p.m.

### Eli Parker Is Getting Married?

On the morning of his wedding, Eli Parker finds himself naked in the middle of a cotton field and handcuffed to his equally naked best man, Ronnie, who chooses this particular moment to break the news to Eli that he's gay.

Having played notorious wedding day pranks on all of his college buddies, it appears Eli is finally getting a taste of his own medicine. A note from the groomsmen tells Eli and best man Ronnie that their clothes and the key are on the opposite side of the farm and they've only

got a few hours until the wedding. When some escaped convicts and a hunting accident are reported on the farm, the groomsmen think their joke has gone horribly awry. They struggle to find out what's going on while holding a bewildered bride and an angry family at bay.

Set on a farm in northern Mississippi, *Eli Parker Is Getting Married?* is a Southern screwball comedy where a young man's attempt to come out meets a world of college pranks, mistaken identities, and wedding day hi-jinks.

Saturday, June 10 at 10:00 p.m.

### The Power of Harmony

The need for family, faith, acceptance, and self-acceptance extends to all humans, and no less to the gay men and women who struggle for these fundamental liberties in an often intolerant world. *The Power of Harmony* takes an intimate look at these struggles and the issues surrounding them through the personal experiences of men who find inspiration and courage in a gay men's chorale that manages to thrive in the heart of the Bible Belt. This film carries inspiration not only to gay audiences, but also to anyone who has struggles for self-enlightenment or who seeks to understand shared human experiences.

Sunday, June 11 at 9:00 p.m.

## "Chest Fest 2006" at David Mah Studio

by Robin Yow

Guess what?! Sex and gender are not the same things. Gender is very fluid, where as sex is often static. Because of this, one's birth sex may not be the same as one's gender. What I'm talking about are people who identify as transgender, an umbrella term for individuals whose gender does not match their birth sex, the way our society says it should.

This is a somewhat foreign concept to much of our society, but is more prevalent than people realize. Transgender people may take hormones or have surgery as a way to change their physical appearance in order to align their body with their mind. However, others trans people may not choose to have surgery or take hormones at all.

This is the case of a native Memphian named Cristofir Bradley. Cristofir was born with a female body and began identifying and living full time as a boy five years ago.

Once he realized he was trans, he quickly adopted the male pronoun, changed his name, and began taking testosterone. The testosterone has significantly assisted in the alignment of Cristofir's body and gender identity by changing his secondary sex characteristics, such as deepening his voice, allowing him to grow facial and body hair, as well as redistributing his muscle mass to that of a biological male's body.

Cristofir has decided to have chest surgery performed to remove his breasts and to complete his transition from female to male. Gender confirmation surgery is difficult to have done for many reasons.

It's difficult to find a surgeon

willing to perform the operation, the cost of the procedure is high, and traveling to the surgeon results in loss of work for an extended length of time, all resulting in many trans deciding not to have gender reassignment surgery performed.

Because of the high cost of his chest surgery, Cristofir has organized a benefit at a local art gallery to help him pay for it.

Cristofir is calling the benefit "Chest Fest" and will be at David Mah Studio (888 S. Cooper), next to the MGLCC on June 17.

Doors open at 7:00 p.m. with the silent art auction beginning at 8:00 p.m.

The auction will include paintings, drawings, photographs and sculptures donated by local community members. Live music from local guitarists, singer/songwriters, and dj's will also be provided. A suggested donation at the door of \$10 to \$25 will include an open bar, gourmet food, and T.J.'s famous sprouted hummus.

Also, on June 14 at 7:00 p.m. at MGLCC, Cristofir and Suzie Crashcourse will speak at MGLCC's Transgender Awareness Forum, Part 2.

Come learn about different types of transgender surgery options. Attendants will also be able to donate money to Cristofir's surgery fund at this forum.

Cristofir is a feminist on testosterone. He likes to read, eat health food, organize and clean things, and get outraged about the state of the world.

He's also a carpenter who is excited about swimming shirtless in public.

## MGLCC "State of the Center" Address

On Sunday, July 23 at 3 p.m., the annual meeting of the membership of the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center (MGLCC) will be held in order to review the annual "State of the Center" address given by the President.

The membership meeting will also serve as a general election for members of the board of directors.

If interested in running for an officer of member-at-large position on the board, please contact

Len Piechowski at [mglcclen@midsouth.rr.com](mailto:mglcclen@midsouth.rr.com) or by phone at 901.857.8523.

The deadline for inquiry onto the board of directors is Friday, June 30.

The board appointed nominating committee will review applications in early June; a slate of candidates will be published by July 10.

The community is cordially invited to reserve this date and time on their calendars in order to attend.

## GLAAD Holding Media Workshop



Southeastern Media Manager for the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation Alex Shoor will facilitate the Media Spokesperson Training at the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center June 1.

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) will be holding a Media Spokesperson workshop at the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center on Thursday, June 1 from 6 to 9:30 p.m.

Alex Shoor, Southeastern Media Manager, will facilitate the workshop in order to prepare the Memphis GLBT community for media coverage.

Though the workshop has been planned for some time, several issues pertaining to the committee will be of particular importance.

"The overall purpose and benefit to the community is to familiarize the leadership in the Memphis rainbow community with techniques and methods that have proven effective in dealing with the media as they cover our issues," stated Len Piechowski.

While Piechowski believes that there has been a great deal of positive press coverage over the past several years, he believes there are still strides to be made and challenges to overcome.

"We desperately need to learn

effective principles in helping the media cover our concerns realistically, accurately, and fairly," he clarified to Triangle Journal.

Two issues concerning the Memphis GLBT community that will be tackled include the current YMCA controversy as well as the upcoming marriage amendment legislation.

Though Shoor's duties do not include providing solutions for these problems, he will, however, offer his advice and guidance in how to properly present them to the media.

Piechowski feels that tackling these issues as a community in conjunction with suitable media coverage is vital for success.

"As we get closer to this monumental vote on the marriage amendment, the issues of fairness and equality will get unparalleled exposure. Our opponents are well-prepared. And we will be as well," Piechowski commented.

The Media Spokesperson Training workshop is limited to 30 persons, and only 2 slots remain.

With such an overwhelming and positive response to the event, it's apparent that GLBT leaders realize the crucial importance of the opportunity GLAAD is providing to the Memphis rainbow community.

For more information or to guarantee a seat at the workshop, contact Len Piechowski at 901-857-8523.

**Have an upcoming event?**

**Tell us about it!**

**Email [tj@mglcc.org](mailto:tj@mglcc.org)**



# Tsarus Man of the Year

by Vincent Astor

Tsarus is proud to announce that the annual Man of the Year banquet will be held Tuesday, June 6 at 7 p.m. at First Congregational Church, 1000 S. Cooper St. Dinner will be served in Fellowship Hall.

Man of the Year is an officially recognized Pride activity this year and the recipient will be invited to ride in the Pride Parade with Tsarus members.

The nominees for this year's award are Cheryl Cornish, Pastor of First Congregational Church and Board of Directors for Mid-South Pride; Len Piechowski, President of the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center; and Joey Brown for dedicated volunteer work with various groups, organizations and individuals.

The identity of the honoree is a carefully guarded secret and is not revealed outside the membership until the beginning of the banquet.

Tsarus members prepare and serve the meal which contains several courses.

All proceeds from ticket sales are donated to a charity of the recipient's choice; the cost of the event is carried entirely by the club.

Tsarus, Memphis, founded in 1977, is one of the oldest gay organizations in Tennessee. It is also Memphis oldest Levi/Leather club.

Next year, Tsarus will celebrate 30 years of brotherhood in the Memphis area. It holds the annual AIDA run (a gathering of leather-lifestyle men and women) at an outdoor run site in West Tennessee each May and has always had a strong presence at Pride events, benefit shows and in the HIV/AIDS community as volunteers.

Active members of Tsarus are ineligible for Man of the Year, but former and honorary members have been recipients in the past.

Over 20 years ago, in 1985, members of Tsarus presented the first Man of the Year award to Allen Cook and John Stilwell, who both recently retired after a long career as editors of first Gaze newspaper and then *Triangle Journal News*.

Recent recipients have been Butch Valentine in 2001, Nancy Fletcher in 2002, Dr. Herb Zeman in 2003, Bette "BJ" Hefner in 2004 and Darryl Clark in 2005.

Tsarus exists to foster brotherhood among its members and to promote the Levi/Leather lifestyle within the larger GLBT community through acceptance of others and education regarding the leather lifestyle.

Tickets for the event are available from Tsarus members or at the Pumping Station.

# Film Premieres at Studio on the Square

*Fraternity Massacre At Hell Island* will premier on June 29 at Studio on the Square. Show times are 7 and 9 pm.

*Fraternity Massacre At Hell Island* is a B-rated horror movie where Jack Jones, a pledge in the Zeta Alpha Rho fraternity, must battle both homophobia and a killer clown during the fraternity's hell night at the Haunted River Park Island.

As Jack and the other pledges start their hell night on the island, the brothers of the fraternity come back to the island with the purpose of scaring the pledges.

Unknown to the pledges and the brothers, someone is dressed as an

evil clown.

One by one, the fraternity members are killed.

Several people at Felix University have a grudge against Zeta Alpha Rho, but now someone is taking things too far.

As blood flows and the body count gets higher, Jack must find his boyfriend and warn the others that they must escape Hell Island before the clown kills them all.

Actors include Tyler Farrell, Billie Worley, Kaleo Quenzer, Jonathan Lewis, and Sandy Kozik.

Tickets go on sale June 7 at Burke's Bookstore on Poplar.

# Welcome Back Farmer's Market!

Saturday, May 13 marked the much-awaited opening of Farmer's Market.

The produce store is located at the Pavilion at the intersection of Front St. and GE Patterson in the South Main District and is open rain or shine from 7 am to 1 pm every Saturday until October 28.

The Farmers Market features locally grown produce and handmade goods with an emphasis on small regional growers and purveyors.

Each Saturday has a specific theme that incorporates health

expos, demonstrations, and family-friendly activities.

Additional market information can be found at [memphisfarmers-market.com](http://memphisfarmers-market.com)

Events occurring in June are as follows: June 3, Veggie Awareness Day and National Cancer Survivor Weekend; June 10, Downtown Restaurant Celebration and National Men's Health Week; June 17, Do It Yourself for Dad and Home Safety Month; June 24, Blues & Blueberries and National HIV Testing.

# Friends for Life Summer Sell-A-Bration

Friends For Life will be holding a Summer Sell-A-Bration.

Festivities for the June 24 event include a street carnival and massive rummage sale from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Friends for Life is currently collecting items for the event. Requested donations include furniture, art, small appliances, jewelry, clothes, toys, and handbags.

Donations for the June Summer

Sell-A-Bration can be dropped off at Friends for Life at 43 N Cleveland Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 11 to 1 or by appointment until June 14.

For more information, contact Rachel Methvin at [rachel.methvin@friendsforlifecorp.org](mailto:rachel.methvin@friendsforlifecorp.org) or visit the Friends For Life website at [www.friendsforlifecorp.org](http://www.friendsforlifecorp.org).



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# WKNO Celebrates 50 Years

WKNO-TV proudly celebrates 50 years on the air thanks to Channel 10 viewers.

The station will kick-off the anniversary celebration with an Open House Event on Sunday, June 25 from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. on the grounds of the WKNO studio, located on the South Campus of The University of Memphis at Park and Getwell.

The event is free and open to the public and will feature Allen Hamilton (Mr. Be of the 1960s WKNO children's show *All Aboard with Mr. Be*), Rosanna Quinn Kendall (host of the late 1960s music education show *The Playground*), Earl Fuller (Professor Shylock Bones from the 1970s science education show *Scientific Bureau of Investigation*) and our very own Mr. Chuck.

On that day, WKNO will broadcast four of its most popular *Memphis Memoirs* programs: *Kennedy Hospital - The City That Cared*, *Remember When, All Aboard* and *When TV Came to Town*. During this marathon of programs, WKNO

will air live segments from the Open House Event.

Current children's show characters Arthur, Jay Jay the Jet Plane, and Caillou will also be on the scene.

The event will also feature music, games, station tours, a WKNO history exhibit, cake and ice cream, and much more.

Businessman and civic leader Julian Bondurant, who became the founding chairman of WKNO, led a community group that raised the funds and community support to put the station on the air on June 25, 1956. Bondurant's dream was to use the power of television to enhance education in the classroom and enlighten the community with cultural television programming.

WKNO also owes a lot to The Junior League of Memphis, who provided the single largest monetary donation to help WKNO get started.

For more information about WKNO's Open House and other anniversary events, visit [wkno.org](http://wkno.org).

# Triangle Journal

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## Mark Bingham, A Hero Cubed

by Len Piechowski

Mark Bingham almost missed his date with destiny on the morning of September 11, 2001.

By all accounts, he was a late sleeper and usually pushed the limits of deadlines and appointments. That morning, he and his friend who drove him to the airport were running late. Yet, by what must have been a mad dash through Newark International, he managed to make his plane just after the final boarding call.

The flight was United 93.

Its total flight time would be 75 minutes.

And its ultimate, yet unknown, destination was a rolling field in Somerset County, Pennsylvania.

I clearly remember seeing Alice Hoglan, Mark's mother, on television during the days that followed. She was articulate, dignified and poised; a striking person in her own right.

She was proudly proclaiming her certainty that her son was, in part, responsible for foiling what would have been even more unspeakable tragedy.

I was riveted as I heard her describe her phone conversation with Mark during the flight.

And then I was profoundly touched to hear her say, "Mark was a great man, a gregarious man, a proudly gay man."

One of the first soldiers in America's war against terrorism was gay.

*Hero of Flight 93—A Man Who Fought Back on September 11* is a chronicle of the brief life of Mark Bingham.

Written by Jon Barrett, the senior news editor for *The Advocate*, the book repeatedly addresses how Bingham's legacy should be positioned.

Mark was gay. Mark was an American patriot. Does that make him a gay American hero? Or does that make him an American hero who happened to be gay?

Barrett treats these two factors of Mark's life quite brilliantly.

We get to know that as a gay man, Mark was out, yet not militant. His geography permitted him to live without fear of job loss or physical and emotional bashing. He lived his life as many gay people do, without fanfare and without protest.

Like so many of us, he was a partier who seemed to resist commitment, and although he had many friends, he was apparently not very good at intimate relationships. The relationships he had lasted only a few years and he was always the one who called them quits.

As an American, he, like so many others, was pretty much an apolitical business man who roared the boom and the bust of the dot-com revolution. In a rare political

exception he eventually managed to muster a great deal of support for John McCain, who later spoke at his memorial service. He was, by many accounts, not a very diligent business manager. He was an American just like so many of the rest of us, a bit shallow in his patriotism, remarkable in his athleticism, and oh-so-humanly flawed.

Let's now shift gears and take a moment to think back to our young school days. As we do, let's remember learning in math class that a quantity raised to the second power was a factor multiplied by itself twice, or "squared."

In squaring Mark Bingham, Barrett portrays two factors of Mark's life, his sexual orientation and his American citizenry, to be quite unremarkable. Barrett displays him as a fairly typical kind of guy, a commoner among other common people.

Yet in that very portrayal, we find the soil of incipient greatness.

Shifting gears again, let's also think back to a time a bit later in math class. Perhaps we can also remember learning that a quantity can also be raised to a third power. A factor "cubed" goes one step farther than the simpler square. A quantity cubed is multiplied by itself three times.

If Barrett can square Bingham, I would now like to cube him.

He's a gay hero. He's an American hero. And now he's become

my hero.

The fact that Mark has become my hero may only be important to me, I suppose. But for me, it is the most important factor about him. The book is filled with photos, and one of them grabbed my attention.

This photo was taken at Southern Decadence in New Orleans on Labor Day weekend of 2001, just two months before Mark's death. It grabbed my attention because I too was at Southern Decadence that year. And there is something eerily familiar about that photo. I just might have met Mark that weekend.

I might have talked with him. I might have had a drink with him, but I'm not sure. Maybe it's just wishful thinking.

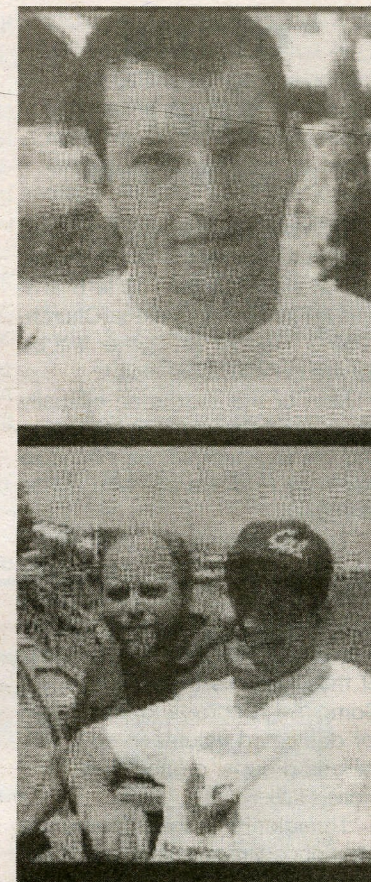
My mind might be making me believe that I touched incipient greatness that weekend. I was able to get to know Mark quite intimately through Barrett's work and as I completed the final page of the book's 176 pages, I realized that this man was just like me in my commonality.

And I was awed by the very sobering fact that, in this case at least, commonality needed only 75 minutes to change to heroism.

I think I'll always remain humbled, amazed, and inspired by the last one and one quarter hours of this man's life.

And I would like to think I once met him.

This man is my hero. And this book is worth your time. *Hero of*



*Flight 93—A Man Who Fought Back on September 11*, written by Jon Barrett, was published by Advocate Books in 2001.

Above are various pictures of Bingham, review columnist Len Piechowski's "hero cubed."

## The Last Time I Wore a Dress Opens Readers' Eyes

by Autumn Falconer

In mid-April I was given the opportunity to meet Dylan Scholinski.

Dylan was a part of the Tranny Roadshow and read from his book, *The Last Time I Wore a Dress*.

A piece of what was read follows:

*Even now, it's always the same question: Why don't you act more like a girl? Makeup, dresses, a little swing in my walk is what people mean. The millennium is upon us and this is the level of discussion.*

*The only thing I can say is, I tried.*

In this book you are given a piece of Dylan's life story when he lived 3 years in mental institutions.

From the age of 15 until his 18 birthday, Dylan lived in mental institutions to correct his "disorder."

Dylan went to every length to "fit in" where he had been placed to live.

He began learning the traits of other disorders to escape the disorder that he himself had been branded with, being an "inappropriate female."

Towards the end of the novel, Dylan talks about the day in college when he picked up *The Diagnostic*

and *Statistical Manual of Disorders:*

*In college, I selected the thick volume of The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders from the library shelf. The book rested heavy in my hand. I didn't flip to "zoophilia" the way we had at Michael Reese. I paged through to "Gender Identity Disorder." I had to sit down.*

From the fourth edition of DSM, the current edition in use:

*Girls with Gender Identity Disorder display intense negative reactions to parental expectations or attempts to have them wear dresses or other feminine attire. Some may refuse to attend school or social events where such clothes may be required. They prefer boys' clothing and short hair, are often misidentified by strangers as boys, and may ask to be called a boys' name. Their fantasy heroes are most often powerful male figures, such as Batman or Superman. These girls prefer boys as playmates, with whom they share interests in contact sports, rough-and-tumble play, and traditional boyhood games. They show little interest in dolls or any form of feminine dress up or role-play activity. A girl with this disorder may occasionally refuse to urinate in a sitting position. She may claim that she has or will grow a penis and may not want breasts or to menstruate. She*

*may assert that she will grow up to be a man. Such girls typically reveal marked cross-gender identification in role-play, dreams, and fantasies.*

Dylan writes, "The words are ludicrous, but not if it's you they're talking about, not if it's you they are locking up. Not ludicrous at all for those who continue to be diagnosed as mentally ill."

I add this because it caught my eyes.

Many of the traits given to girls with Gender Identity Disorder describe me.

According to the textbook, I have this disorder.

This made me realize how easy it is to lump many young women into this category and how easy it is to put someone away for being different in their own special way.

How lucky many of us are for not having to pay this price for our differences.

Dylan has taken his experiences in the mental hospitals and out of it, created some amazing art in addition to his book.

I recommend reading *The Last Time I Wore a Dress* to anyone who has felt out of place or misunderstood. I very much enjoyed this book and it will be one I read again!

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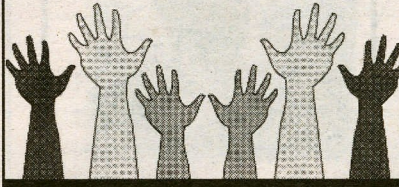
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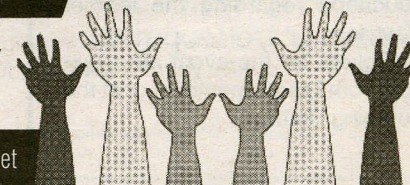
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# Rockin' the Ryman in Toyota's Lovable Yaris

by Casey Williams

What do the British pop duo Erasure, the Grand Ole Opry, and Toyota's lovable new Yaris have in common? Nothing, unless they all end up in the same place. When my partner heard Erasure was scheduled to play Nashville's Ryman Auditorium, ancestral home of the Opry, it was too much to resist. When the Toyota Yaris arrived, it was the making of an incredible road trip.

For years, the Yaris has been one of Europe's most popular cars. Now available as a 2007 model, it replaces the Echo in America. It's hard to resist the Yaris' little pug nose, flared headlamps, and fastly raked windshield that are almost as lovable as lead singer Andy Bell's timeless face. Both the four-door sedan and three-door hatchback project a shape that is aerodynamically consistent with Toyota's current design language. The car looks like it was carved from one block of colored molded plastic and into forms as smooth as a NASCAR racer.

That's where the NASCAR comparisons begin and end. Although the little car high-tailed it across the southlands like a weekend race caravan, its 1.5-litre 106-horsepower four-cylinder engine won't impress many people with its wishful performance (Yaris sedans are available with a four-speed automatic transmission or five-speed manual; hatchbacks only churn automatically). Even so, I had no problem maintaining 80-90 mph through the hills of central Tennessee and achieved fuel economy ratings of 34/39-MPG city/hwy while doing it. A 400-mile round-trip drive from Memphis cost only 25 bucks!

Differing from earlier albums of techno pop, Erasure's current tour is

filled with remakes of their popular songs, but with honest and original acoustic vibes.

Andy Bell wore cow pants, danced around the stage to a ho-down beat, and licked the stage to get a taste of all who stood there before him. "Tastes like strawberries," he said.

Vince Clarke, who normally twiddles away on his synthesizer, sat quietly with guitar in hand. Typical theatrics aside (imagine Erasure with a steel guitar), the music was simple, but modern.

Like the Yaris, the car's "tall cabin" interior offers plenty of space for four; a large trunk keeps them well-luggaged. Comfortable blue suede patterned seats with organically-contoured foam looked and felt great. Most dash and door panels were made from hard plastic, but the look was less K-Mart and more Target.

Cubbies in the doors and alongside the center console provided convenient space for CD cases, iPods, cell phones, and magazines. Door pockets were custom-formed to hold a soda bottle, and there is also an iPod connection jack in the passenger side console cubby. Neat cupholders open from either side of the dashboard while a third one reveals itself at the trailing edge of the center armrest.

The rear seat armrest has one more and will even hold a child's juice box. Nothing about the Yaris' interior is expensive, but all of it is well made and nicely tailored.

On the highway and around town, nothing squeaked or rattled—much unlike the creaking wooden floor of the auditorium, which when pounded hard, sounded as if the upper *Confederate Gallery* could go the way of Robert E. Lee and Jefferson Davis. The car's progressive electric power steering system was nicely weighted on the highway, but

was as light as a '59 Cadillac's in the Starbucks drive-through.

The only time I felt uncomfortable in the car was upon entering a fast Interstate curve at 85 mph in storming rain. I had serious doubts about the car's little tires' ability to hang on, but they pushed hard to overcome my stupidity. Anti-lock brakes stood by to save my bum in case things got out of control.

For what is an ultra entry-level subcompact car, the Yaris is a refined piece of design and machinery that seems much more expensive than its price would suggest. Stereo speakers could use an upgrade, but the CD player worked well. Fold-down rear seats, a comfortable dead pedal for the driver, and flat rear floor made the car much more comfortable and usable than I expected. Driving six hours on the Interstate was a joy and the fuel sippage was divine.

Erasure began its multi-city U.S. tour on May 6 in Nashville; I suspect the Yaris' invasion will be longer lasting. Erasure's audience was a homocentric mix of 1980s club kids, their parents, straight rednecks, bears, queens, country cowboys, soccer moms, and questioning twenty-somethings.

Which about describes the target market for the Yaris. It is a car for almost everyone who appreciates high-quality, reasonable performance, surprising comfort, and legendary durability in a compact package.

With a base price of \$12,550 for the sedan and \$15,685 as tested, competition includes the Chevy Aveo, Hyundai Accent, Kia Rio, and Nissan Versa.

There is, of course, no competition for Andy Bell.

Send questions or comments about this review to Casey Williams at [CRWAuto@aol.com](mailto:CRWAuto@aol.com).



Review columnist Casey Williams fell in the love with the Toyota Yaris on a recent trip to Nashville.

## Smiles Stack up to Product at Makeda's

by Jami Griffen

Makeda's Homemade Cookies has the formula down.

And I'm not talking about the ingredients of their tasty signature butter cookies.

Or the chef tops the bakers wear.

Nope, not even the décor of the restaurant or the way their sweet chocolate chip and macadamia nut cookies retain their softness and moisture.

What they do better than anything else is greet you with a smile.

Their greetings are always accompanied by a genuine, heartfelt, warm and friendly smile.

Every time, regardless of who's behind the counter. The friendliness of Makeda's makes customers feel like a close family member who has been away for some time, only to return and be welcomed back to the flock.

It's as if somehow, your presence means something more than just the money you're willing to exchange for their baked goods.

Oh, and the name?

Makeda Hill, the owner's niece, died of leukemia before celebrating her seventh birthday.

Owner Maurice Hill says every batch is inspired by Makeda, which could help explain the heavenly taste.

"What's going on is almost unbelievable," says Hill. "My wife says each cookie is anointed. We feel like she (Makeda) sends the customers in."

And the smile?

"Well that's just us," Hill laughs. "We have to keep smiling. Without our customers, we're lost. And we appreciate every one of them."

Makeda's Homemade Cookies has two Memphis locations at 2370 Airways Boulevard and 5729 Raleigh LaGrange in Memphis.

## How Does Mary Cheney's Garden Grow? With Lots of Manure...

by Len Piechowski

I tried to be impartial. I really did.

But Mary Cheney's *Now It's My Turn—A Daughter's Chronicle of Political Life* failed to give me what my hope-against-hope was longing for.

I wasn't hoping to get any definitive answers out of her for the rainbow community's quintessential challenges. Nor was I hoping for any "aha" moment regarding Mary's sturm und drang. I wasn't even looking to get a personal glimpse of her private life with her partner, Heather Poe.

It's probably a good thing I wasn't because I didn't get any of those.

All I wanted was to find the missing piece to the puzzle. Namely, how the openly gay daughter of the most powerfully ideological Vice-President of the United States deals with what has to be her schizoid life and environment. Alas, I didn't get

that either.

Instead, I was made to ingest a steady pabulum of: What wonderful parents Dick and Lynne Cheney are. How loving Dick and Lynne were when Mary came out. How inspired Mary was when the future Veep flew to Wyoming "where he and mom still owned a house" just to register to vote there, (a Twelfth Amendment technicality permitting him to join forces with the other Texan). Rationalization after rationalization of extremist views.

Oh, the pulse pounding insight is relentless!

Almost unbelievably, toward the end of her book Cheney actually begins to tackle some weightier matters. And in so doing, she shows us that we'll be sorry if we let Mary take her "turn" in fulfilling our insatiable craving for vibrant gay and lesbian leadership.

She paints some beautiful colors over some really misplaced values.

For example, she describes her decision to remain involved in a campaign that champions the Federal Marriage Amendment because of her loyalty to her father.

What a misplaced priority of loyalty over justice!

She also describes her successful appeal to her father to protect a gay man in Bush's staff who fears for his job when the President's anti-gay rhetoric heats up.

She no doubt believes this is an act of charity, but is this not the very cronyism this administration is famous for?

Hello, Mary? What about standing up and working for the systemic change that would make this man's plight non-existent? The whole thing is appalling. As Mary took her turn, so did my stomach.

Okay, I can hear you right about now. You're asking why I spent the money on this fertilizer?

Well, after some severe self-buttkicking I can only offer the following

explanation.

I get really tired of seeing people on the radical right criticize concepts without studying them, picket plays without seeing them, burn books without reading them.

And I realize that it had been quite a while since I've read something not in line with my views.

Does that help you understand? I know, I know. I'm not sure it convinces me either.

Maybe it was just a moment of weakness and curiosity.

So, if you must repeat my mistake, instead of buying *Now It's My Turn—A Daughter's Chronicle of Political Life* (Threshold Editions, 2006) please check it out from the library. Or please feel free to take my copy. I was just going to burn it anyway.

But whatever you do, don't do what I did and make the Cheney's a bit richer by buying a copy of it.



Review columnist Len Piechowski practically begs readers to steal his copy of Mary Cheney's *Now It's My Turn*. Find out for yourself if it's "just that bad" and join the list of readers borrowing his copy!

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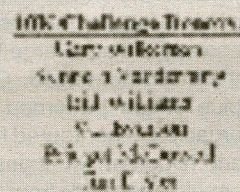
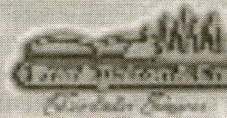
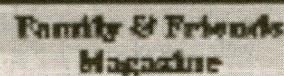
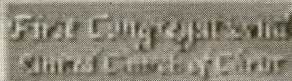
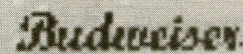
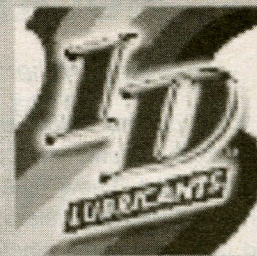
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 **Vote NO**  
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Marriage Equality Matters

A law denying marriage rights to same-sex couples already exists in Tennessee. A Tennessee "Marriage" Amendment is not necessary.

A Tennessee "Marriage" Amendment would write discrimination into the Tennessee Constitution. This discrimination includes:

Remember: Voting "No" will not make gay marriage legal in Tennessee, but it will keep discrimination out of the Tennessee Constitution.



**SIX GENERATION FAMILY BUSINESS**

Contact Chris Balton for all your sign needs

901.388-1212    [chris@fbalton.com](mailto:chris@fbalton.com)

The Gay Memphis Resources Directory is printed as a public service, and its listings are free. Agencies and businesses listed herein have requested to be listed, but have not been charged. All phone numbers are area code 901 unless otherwise noted.

(\* Indicates Triangle Journal distribution points.)

## ADULT BOOKSTORES

**Airport Bookmart:** 2214 Brooks Rd E. 345-0657.  
**Cherokee Adult Book Store:** 2947 Lamar 744-7494.  
**Fantasy Warehouse I\*:** 791-793 North White Station 683-9649  
**Executive South\*:** 1847 E. Brooks Rd. 345-0825  
**Fantasy Warehouse #4\*:** 2532 N. Watkins - 358-8642  
**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

**Allusions Entertainment Center\*:** 3204 N Thomas St. 357-8383  
**Backstreet\*:** 2018 Court Street 276-5522.  
**Bogie's Delicatessen:** 2098 La Salle Place 272-0022.  
**Buns on the Run\*:** 2150 Elzey Ave. 38104 278-2867  
**Dish:** 948 S. Cooper 276-0002  
**J-Wags\*:** 1268 Madison 725-1909.  
**Lorenz/AfterShock\*:** 1528 Madison 274-8272.  
**Madison Flame\*:** 1588 Madison 278-0569  
**Metro Memphis\*:** 1349 Autumn 274-8010.  
**One More\*:** 2117 Peabody 278-MORE (6673).  
**Overstuffed Deli & Caterers:** 3003 Airways Blvd. #701 396-1969, 3727 South Mendenhall 362-2989, 7716 Poplar Ave., Germantown 757-1212.  
**Paragon Lounge\*:** 2865 Walnut Grove 320-0026  
**P & H Cafe\*:** 1532 Madison Ave. 274-9794.  
**Pumping Station\*:** 1382 Poplar Ave. 272-7600.  
**Sessions\*:** 1278 Jefferson Ave. 276-1882  
**The Jungle\*:** 1474 Madison 278-0521

## CARDS & GIFTS

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

## CARPET CARE / CLEANING SERVICES

**BJ's Cleaning Service:** 726-4211.  
**King's Kleaning Service:** Home or Office 283-1089  
**King's DogSitting Service:** 283-1089  
**Lee's Carpet Care:** Commercial or Residential, 24-hr. service, free estimates 327-6165.

## COMMUNITY GROUPS

**Adelante:** support group for GLBT and questioning Hispanic community Contact: adelante@mgfcc.org  
**Alliance:** Leather/levi club • Box 42174, Memphis 38174.  
**American Gay Atheists (AGA) Memphis:** Box 41371, Memphis 38174-1371.  
**Aphrodite:** 3430 Summer Ave, Memphis 38122.  
**Stonewall Tigers:** University of Memphis, c/o Stonewall Tigers, 2522 Campus Postal Station, Memphis, TN 38152-2521, e-mail: stonewalltigers@yahoo.com  
**Bluff City Sports Association:** Box 41074, Memphis 38174, web site: www.bluffcitysports.net.  
**Brothers & Sisters Bowling League:** 465-4371 - Richard Andrews.  
**Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere (COLAGE) Memphis:** email - colagememphis@yahoo.com website - colagememphis@yahoo.com  
**Cotton Pickin' Squares:** Gay/Lesbian Square Dance Club Meets Thurs., 7 pm Holy Trinity • 685 S. Highland, Memphis 38104 272-2116.  
**Equality Tennessee:** P.O. Box 330965, Nashville, TN 37203, www.equalitytennessee.org.  
**4F:** Leather/Levi group • 698 Pope Dr., Bartlett 38112.  
**First Congregational Church:** Worship Service: Sun. 9:30 & 10:00 am, Wed. 6 pm • 1000 South Cooper 278-6786.  
**First Presbyterian Church:** Sun. School, 9:30 am; Coffee & fellowship, 10:30 am; Worship, 11 am • 166 Poplar 525-5619.  
**Friends For Life—HIV Resources:** HIV/AIDS Service Organization • 1384 Madison, Memphis 38104 272-0855 or 278-AIDS, www.FriendsForLifeCorp.com.  
**Galloway Church:** www.gallowaychurch.com  
**Holy Trinity Community Church\*:** Worship Service: Sun. 9 & 11 am; Bible study: Wed. 7 pm; 685 S. Highland, Memphis 38111 320-9376, e-mail: office@holyltrinitymemphis.org.  
**Integrity Memphis:** Meets the 3rd Tues., Healing Service/Eucharist, 6pm; Dinner, 6:30pm; Meeting 7:30pm • c/o Calvary Episcopal Church, 102 N. 2nd

525-6602.

**Initiative:Fairness** (Political Committee of the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center). Contact at IF@mgfcc.org. Web site: www.mgfcc.org/IF

**Jackson Lambda Support Group:** Memphis Lambda Center 901-427-1500 for information.

**Living Word Christian Church:** Worship Service Sun. 10 am & 6pm, Wed. 7 pm • 2489 Broad Ave 452-6272

**Memphis Area Gay Youth (MAGY):** PO Box 241852, Memphis, TN 38124 335-MAGY. Website: www.magyonline.org

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

**Memphis Gay & Lesbian Atheists & Humanists (GALAH):** www.geocities.com/memphisgalah 327-2677.

**Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center (MGLCC):** 892 S Cooper, Memphis 38104 278-4297. Website: www.mgccc.org

**Memphis Lesbian & Gay Coalition for Justice (MLGCJ):** 111 S. Highland, Suite 305, Memphis, TN 38111 262-2702, e-mail: mlgcj@yahoo.com, www.mlgcj.org

**Memphis Stonewall Democrats:** www.memphisstonewalldemocrats.org, 327-2677

**Mid-South Gay and Lesbian Republicans (MGLR):** groups.yahoo.com/group/MidsouthGLR/

**Mid-South Lambda Professional Alliance (MLPA):** Contact at groups.yahoo.com/group/midsouthlpa

**Mid-South Pride:** Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, & Transgendered Pride Events • 111 S. Highland, Suite 261 328-6349, website: www.midsouthpride.org.

**Mirror Image:** TV/TS support group • c/o Barbara Jean Jansen, Box 11052, Memphis, TN 38111-0052.

**Mystic Krewe of Memphis United:** 41 S. Century, Memphis, 38111. www.geocities.com/mardigrasmemphis

**Mystic Krewe of Pegasus Memphis:** a social charitable organization. 7626 Shelby Woods Cove, Memphis, TN 38125

**Neshoba Unitarian Universalist Church:** 266-2626

**Open Heart Community of Faith:** North end of First Congregational Church, 1000 South Cooper, Rev. John Gilmore 323-3514.

**Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG):** 761-1444 Website: www.pflagmemphis.org

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

**Pink Pistols:** e-mail: memphis@pinkpistols.org.

**Stonewall Mission Church:** A Progressive Christian Church • Sun. Service 6:30 p.m., meets at the Center, 103 Berry Rd., Nashville, TN 37204 (615) 269-3480.

**Tennessee Leather Tribe:** Gay men's/women's leather org. 1568 Rolling Hills Dr., Memphis, TN 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.

**Unity Church of Memphis:** 2570 Kirby Rd. Memphis 38119

**Univ. of Miss. Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Assoc.:** GLBA, PO Box 3541, Univ. MS 38677 662-915-7049, email: glba@olemiss.edu, website: http://www.olemiss.edu/orgs/glba.

**UT-Martin ALLIES:** Campus and community. Alternate Weds. 5 p.m. Info 131F Humanities Bldg., Martin 38238, neil@utm.edu 587-7301.

**Woman's Action Coalition:** PO Box 1203, 3566 Walker, Memphis 38111 678-3339.

## COUNSELING SERVICES

**Alive Memphis!** A Holistic Healing Center, www.alivememphis.com, Individual & Couples Therapy, EMDR, Radiant Heart Therapy. 372-2991, Susan Taranto; 372-2593, Carol Schlicksup.  
**Eric Cassius, L.P.C., C.H.T.:** Hypnotherapy, Individual, Group, Adolescent, Couples & Family Counseling. Sliding scale fee available. 685-5491 for appointment.

ment.

**Joel Chapman, PhD:** 1000 S. Cooper 844-4357.  
**Kent D. Fisher, LPC, MAC:** Experiential Healing Center, 1713 Lockett Place 372-0710. EMDR, group, individual, couples & family therapy.

**Gary Gardia, M.Ed., LCSW:** Midtown location; grief, loss; Lesbian, Gay & transgender; individuals, couples 527-1098.

**Anne S. Gillis, MS:** Individual, couple & family counseling, rebirthing 761-3435.

**Patricia Goshorn, M.Ed.:** Licensed Psychological Counselor • Simmons, Kelman & Assoc., 3960 Knight Arnold Rd, Ste 316 369-6050.

**Cliff Heegel, PhD:** Licensed Psychologist • Centerpoint, 5180 Park Ave. Ste 150 767-1066.

**Sheridan Lambe, LCSW:** Individual & Couple Counseling, 761-9178.

**Rhonda Manning Hidaji, LCSW:** Individual & Couples. Goal-Oriented Gestalt & Integrative Psychotherapy, Sliding Fee Scale, Germantown/Cordova area 757-7706.

**Joseph Robert Pfeiffer, LCSW:** 578-9107.

**M. Todd Puckett, MS, LPC:** Personal Enhancement Coaching. • 5050 Poplar Ave., Suite 2400 844-6228.

**J. Kent Usry, M.Div., MAC, LCSW:** Counseling Individuals, Couples, Children, & Families. Specialties: Trauma, Addictions, Grief & Sexuality. Sliding Fee Scale. 491-8632.

**Kathryn T. Vullo, PhD:** Licensed Clinical Psychologist, LLC • 8590 Farmington Blvd., Ste. 3, G'twn, 670 Colonial Rd., Ste. 1, Mphs. 848-6666, www.inter-personalnet.com.

## DENTAL SERVICES

**William N. Castle, D.D.S.:** Dentist • 79 North Cooper 685-5008.

## FINANCIAL SERVICES

**Ronnie Bingham, CPA:** Taxes, accounting, estate planning 753-1413.  
**Donald Morgan Book-keeping and Tax Service:** 458-0152.

**Karen B. Shea:** Financial Consultant, Smith Barney Inc., 1661 International Dr., Ste. 200 818-4134, 800-227-4146, fax: 818-4233.

**Sarah A. Washington:** Investment Advisor 466-3588, website: www.lpl.com/sarah.washington, e-mail: sarah.washington@lpl.com.

## FLORISTS

**Botanica:** 3092 Poplar, 458-1929.  
**Park East Florist:** 6005 Park 761-2980.

## GRAPHICS/PHOTOGRAPHY

**ABC/A2Z:** Digital Photography/Videography. By Appointment 377-7701.

**Graffiti Graphics:** 1985 Madison #7 278-5002.  
**It's Done!** Typing, word processing/printing service-resumes, thesis, manuscripts, etc. 795-4308.

**RK Photo:** Black & white photography, processing & printing services. Full color post card advertising. Call 452-2766 or e-mail: bttag69a@prodigy.com.  
**See-S:** Portraits & photography 327-3760.

## HELP & INFORMATION LINES

**Affirmation:** (708) 733-9590.  
**Gay & Lesbian Helpline:** 1-888-340-GLBT (Mon.-Fri., 5-10pm, Sat.-Sun., 4-9pm).

**Gay & Lesbian Hotline:** 1-800-285-7431 (24 hr. help & information for Lesbians, Gays, transvestites & transsexuals).

**Gay & Lesbian Youth Hotline:** 1-800-347-TEEN (Thu.-Sun., 7pm-11:45pm).

**Gay & Lesbian Switchboard:** 278-4297 • 24-hrs. LINC: ☎ 415-2700.

**Memphis Sexual Assault Resource Center:** 272-2020

**Narcotics Anonymous:** 276-LIVE.  
**Peer Listening:** Youth-staffed GLBT youth hotline (Mon.-Fri., 3-9pm) 1-800-399-PEER.

**Suicide & Crisis Intervention:** 274-7477.  
**Transvestite-Transsexual National Hotline:** (617) 899-2212 (8-2am, Mon.-Sat.).

## LEGAL SERVICES

**Wayne C. Gullede, Attorney at Law:** 1014 S. Crockett Rd., Senatobia, MS 38668 (662) 562-5949, (662) 292-0823 or (662) 292-0046.

**Susan Mackenzie, Attorney at Law:** 266 So. Front St., Ste. 206 527-7701.  
**Robert Ross, Attorney at Law:** 100 N. Main, Ste 3310 525-0417.  
**Jocelyn D. Wurzburg, Attorney at Law:** 5118 Park, Ste 232. 684-1332.

## LODGING

**French Quarter Suites\*:** 2144 Madison 523-8912.  
**Hampton Inn & Suites:** 962 S. Shady Grove, Memphis Sales-Events Coordinator: E. Ryan Dougherty 762-0056.

## MASSAGE SERVICES

**ABC A Bodywise Company Guesthouse:** Relaxing therapeutic, full-body massage/sports massage. By appointment. 377-7701.

**Mike Warkentin, LMT:** By appt. 218-0669. Inbalance Fitness, 794 S. Cooper

**Stephen Pair:** Sports, therapeutic, relaxing, Swedish massage 277-1705, stephenpair@aol.com

**Tom Pitman:** Swedish/Deep tissue - Hot stone massage 761-7977. e-mail: tompitmanmemphis@yahoo.com

## MEDIA

**Family & Friends:** Free monthly magazine • Box 771948, Memphis 38177-1948, 682-2669, Fax: 685-2234, email: FamilyMag@aol.com,

**Triangle Journal:** Free monthly newspaper published by Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center • 892 S. Cooper St, Memphis 38111-0485 827-7277 email: tj@mgfcc.org

## MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES

**Antique Warehouse\*:** 2563 Summer 323-0600.  
**Balnea Blue Hair Salon:** 2111 Madison 726-0090.

**Bereavement Express:** A unique way to express your sympathy to family, friends, co-workers, clients. 578-9107; www.LandscapesPublishing.com

**Christian Funeral Directors:** 2615 Overton Crossing 358-0062

**Dabbles Hair Co.:** 19 N. Cooper 725-0521.  
**DJ Services:** breakbeatid69@hotmail.com.

**DiversityBuilder:** Free Professional Gay Referrals, Box 3614, Brentwood, TN 37024 615-794-5047, email: info@diversitybuilder.com, www.diversity-builder.com

**Doing Business In Memphis:** A Sales Leads Directory www.memphisbusiness.com.

**Girls Work:** Incudes: House Doctors, Intimate Occasions, Lunch to Go, BasketGrams & Everyday Services 276-1935, email: grlswrk@hotmail.com, http://www.webspawner.com/users/girlswork/index.html.

**Bob Hughes, EdD:** Yoga, relaxation & meditation classes 682-0855.

**Love Song Greeting Cards:** Specializing in greeting cards for lovers only • P.O. Box 676, Horn Lake, MS 38637-2165.

**McPherson Appliance Clinic:** Sales, service & repair, Heating & A/C. • 1447 National, 327-6887, 327-7395.

**Memphis Paranormal Investigation Team:** http://hometown.aol.com/paranormal38111/ghost.html.

**Midtown Galleries & Auction, Inc.:** Antiques, Art, Painted & Unusual Furnishings • 2228 Central 725-0049.

**Midtown House Cleaning Service:** 15yr. exp., ref., onsite est., • 274-0281 evenings or weekends.

**Mr. Scruff's Pet Care:** Pet sitting 725-9216.  
**Paggios for Hair Salon:** 274-3944.

**Pet Care Unlimited:** Pet sitting and/or house sitting by competent, caring couple 726-6198.

**Professional Pest Management:** 327-8400  
**Silva Piano Studio:** Private piano instruction, beginner to highly advanced 278-1384

**TNT Painting:** Tom Rowe & Trent Gatewood 503-8376 or 649-3270.

**Tom Webb Ins.:** Insuring in the Gay and -Lesbian Community, 4646 Poplar 682-2170.

**Vantek:** Internet Services • Box 11187, Memphis 38111-0187 ☎ 324-4999, e-mail: vtadmin@vantek.net.

**www.TheFunStartsNow.com:** Professional magicians, live animals, clowns, balloon artists, face painter, DJs, pony rides & illusionists—fund raisers 358-7258-Nicholas Toombs.

## REAL ESTATE SERVICES

**Russell Armstrong, Developer, Looney Developments:** 194 Looney Ave. 525-3044.

**Brian Clanton, The Carter Group:** 1908 Exeter, Ste. 2, Germantown 753-7222, 458-3852.

**Joanna Johnson, Realtor, Clay Johnson Realty:** 757-B West Poplar Ave. 853-0237.  
**Glenn Moore, Broker, Owner, Woodland Realty:** 377-1057.  
**Steve Solomon, Broker, Sowell & Company:** 54 S. Cooper 278-4380.  
**Randy Wilder, Affiliate Broker, Sowell & Company:** 54 S. Cooper 278-4380.

## TRAVEL

**Great American Cruises, Inc.:** Cruise Travel Agency, Sherman Perkins, 52 N. Second 525-5302.  
**Travel Customized by Jean Morris:** Member International Gay & Lesbian Travel Association 465-2936.



# Out & About

## REGULAR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

### SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICES

- Open Heart Community of Faith - Bible Study & Worship Celebration - North End of First Congregational (1000 South Cooper) - (901) 323-3514 - 9am
- Holy Trinity Community Church - Sunday School and Holy Worship Service & Children's Church - (901) 320-9376 - office@holytrinitymemphis.org - 9:45am and 11am
- First Congregational Church - Sunday School, Café Congo, and Worship Service - (901) 278-6786 - 9:30am, 10am, and 10:30am
- Prescott Church - Sunday School & Worship Service - (901) 327-8479 - 9:30am & 10:45am
- Living Word Christian Church - Morning and Evening - (901) 452-6272 - 10am and 6pm

### WEDNESDAY CHURCH SERVICES

- Taizé - First Congregational Church - (901) 278-6786
- Holy Trinity Community Church - Fellowship Supper and Bible Study - (901) 320-9376 - office@holytrinitymemphis.org - 6pm & 7pm
- Living Word Christian Church - Worship Service - (901) 452-6272 - 7pm
- Open Heart Community of Faith - "A Course in Miracles" - Study Group - North End of First Congregational (1000 South Cooper) - (901) 323-3514 - 7:30pm

### SUNDAYS

- Tea Dance - Metro - 4pm
- Brothers & Sisters Bowling League - Winchester Bowl - (901) 722-5236 or MemphisGayBowlin@aol.com - 6pm
- Pool Tournament - Pumping Station - 6pm
- Bingo - Sessions - 8:30 m
- After Park Set Sundays - Paragon - 9pm
- Karaoke Smack Down - J-Wag's - 9pm-2am
- Drag Show - Backstreet - 11pm
- Drag Show - Sessions - Midnight

### MONDAYS

- Monday Night at the Movies - Sponsored by Holy Trinity Community Church - Bartlett Cinema 10 - 6:45pm - Details at www.HolyTrinityMemphis.org
- Pool Tournament - The Jungle - 7:30pm
- Dart Tournaments - One More, Pumping Station - 8pm
- Karaoke Night - Metro - 10pm
- Manic Monday Happy Hour - Sessions 3 - 6pm

### TUESDAYS

- Women's Rugby Practice - Audubon Park - 6:30pm
- Phoenix AA - Open AA group - Grace-St. Luke's Church, 1790 Peabody - 8pm
- The Caring Group - Relaxation and de-stressing by subtle energy practices - Holy Trinity Community Church - (901) 320-9376 - 7pm
- Lesbians with Breast Cancer - Support Group - YWCA (766 South Highland) - 7pm
- Singles Dart Tournament - Crossroads - 7:45pm
- Pool Tournament - One More - 8:30pm
- Karaoke Night - Metro - 10pm
- Karaoke Night - J-Wag's - 11pm
- Brewsky Tuesday with Beer and a Movie @ 7 - Sessions

### WEDNESDAYS

- Frontrunners 3-mile run, Overton Park Pavilion, 6pm
- Dart Tournament - The Jungle - 7:30pm
- Lights Out - Come Party in the Dark - Metro
- Karaoke - Madison Flame 7p.m. - 3am
- Bulls Eye Darts w/Mitch - Sessions 8pm

### THURSDAYS

- Thursday Night at the Gaiety - GLBT Film Series, MGLCC, 7 p.m.
- Movie Night, Sessions, 8 p.m.
- Cotton Pickin' Squares - Holy Trinity Community Church - (901) 438-2427 - 7:30pm
- Dart Tournament - J-Wag's - 8pm
- Karaoke - Paragon - 9pm
- Karaoke Night - Allusions Entertainment Center - 9:30-11:30pm
- Amateur Show - Metro - 11:30pm
- Trivia - Sessions 8pm

### FRIDAYS

- First Congo Films - First Congregational Church - (901) 278-6786 - 7pm & 9pm
- MGLCC Coffeeshop Nights - Community Center - (901) 278-4297 - 7pm
- Seriously Sober - Holy Trinity Community Church - (901) 320-9376 - 8pm
- Karaoke - One More - 8pm
- Pool Tournament - Crossroads - 8pm
- Ladies Night - Allusions Entertainment Center - 10pm
- Late Nite Beer Bust - Pumping Station - 10pm
- Drag Show - Backstreet - Midnight
- Dance with DJ RJ - Madison Flame
- Belles of the Ball - Sessions 10 pm

### SATURDAYS

- Frontrunners 2-mile run, The Pier parking lot (Union and Riverside), 9am
- Women's Rugby Practice, Harbortown Greenbelt  
Park on Mud Island - 9am
- Live and Let Live on Cooper St. - MGLCC - 278- 4297 - 7 pm
- Pool Tournament - J-Wag's - 10pm
- Karaoke- Sessions 8:30 p.m.
- Drag Show - Allusions Entertainment Center 10:30pm & 12:15pm
- Dance with DJ RJ - Madison Flame
- Belles of the Ball - Sessions 10 pm

Larry Timmerman

Bill Johns

## Antique Warehouse Mall

2563 Summer Avenue  
Memphis, TN 38112  
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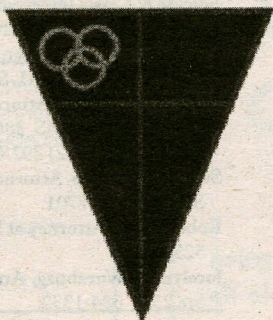


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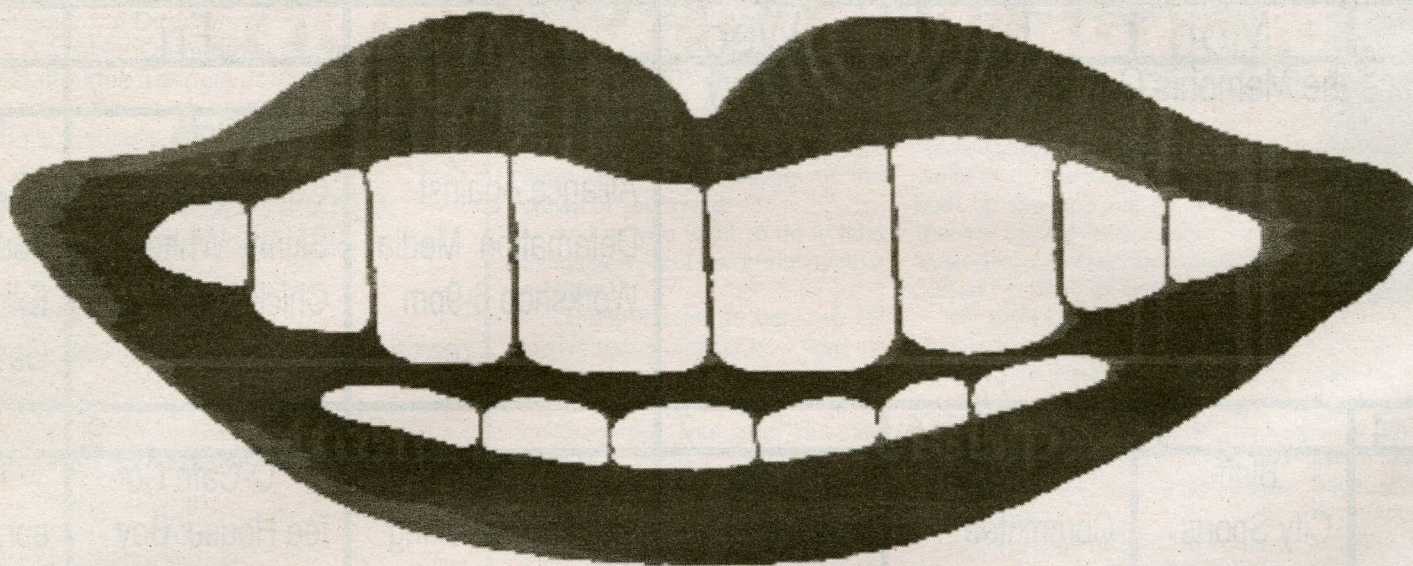
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# Community Calendar June 2006

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
* Taking place the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center				1	2	3
				*Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation Media Workshop 6-9pm	*Q-Café Coffee House: Skinny White Chick 7pm	*Ars Spiritas IV (The Art of Pride Fourth Annual Art Exhibition honoring Gay Pride 2006)
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
*MGLCC Board of Directors 3pm	*Bluff City Sports Assoc. and Blues Bash Planning Meetings at 6pm	*Finance Committee 6:30pm  Tsarus Man of the Year - First Congo 7pm	*Men's Potluck 6:30pm	*MGLCC's Thursday Evening at the Gaiety presents Borstal Boy 7pm	*Q-Café Coffee House: Boy and Girl 7pm	MGLCC celebrates Mid-South Pride Weekend with the annual Pride Parade and Celebration at Peabody Park
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
MGLCC celebrates Mid-South Pride Weekend at the Pride Picnic in Peabody Park	*Perpetual Transition 6:30-7:30pm		*Transgender Awareness Forum 7pm	*MGLCC's Thursday Evening at the Gaiety presents Get Real 7pm	*Q-Café Coffee House: International Night 7pm	MGLCC celebrates Black Pride Weekend  Chest Fest 2006 - David Mah Studio 7pm
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
MGLCC celebrates Black Pride Weekend	*Blue Suede Bears Business Meeting 7pm		*Women's Monthly Potluck 6:30pm	*MGLCC's Thursday Evening at the Gaiety presents Clara's Summer 7pm	*Q-Café Coffee House: Boy and Girl 7pm	Friends for Life Rummage Sell - 43 N. Cleveland 10am-6pm
25	26	27	28	29	30	
	*Perpetual Transition 6:30-7:30pm			*MGLCC's Thursday Evening at the Gaiety presents Nico and Dani 7pm  Fraternity Masacre Premiere - Studio on the Square 7pm, 9pm	*Q-Café Coffee House: Game Night 7pm	

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