

Triangle Journal

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JULY 2006



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

Queer Action Coalition Protests at Love in Action

by Rebekah Hart

The area surrounding Love in Action (LIA) was spotted with various posters, signs, and people on Monday, June 5 as Queer Action Coalition (QAC) members and members of the Memphis GLBT community protested outside its religious doors.

Lance Carroll, a former participant of Love in Action, traveled to Memphis from Missouri with several friends in order to attend the protest.

Morgan Fox, founder of QAC, stated that "Our purpose was to go and say a big 'WE SUPPORT YOU,' and 'WE LOVE YOU FOR WHO YOU ARE.'"

When QAC protested the religious ex-gay location site, Carroll was inside

and told QAC that he felt supported while inside knowing that QAC was outside demonstrating.

Fox feels that "that's beautiful [...] that we were able to reach him."

Love in Action moved to Memphis from California in 1994 and the teen program Refuge was launched in 2002. According to the Love in Action Website, "There is no such creation as a 'gay' or 'homosexual' person. There is only homosexual attraction and behavior; accordingly, there can be no change from a sexual identity that never existed in the first place."

Refuge, a program which was originally designed on a voluntary basis for teens, has redesigned itself with the ability for parents to force their

minor children into attending the 2 to 8 week camp.

John Evans, an original founder of LIA, is now an openly gay preacher residing in California who denounces the practices, teachings, and beliefs of Love in Action.

QAC continues to maintain a blog, fightinghomophobia.blogspot.com, as a means of allowing people across the nation to contact the organization.

Fox says that, "Just one year since the QAC blog was started, we've had nearly 40,000 visits. During the protest last year, there were days when we were getting nearly 2,000 hits a day."

And the popularity of QAC doesn't stop with their blog space.

From last year's protest to this year's protest, QAC has received thousands of emails from all around the world in support of the protests at Love in Action.

With the opportunity to sit down with John Smid, director of LIA since 1990, Fox was able "to let him know that our demonstrations were not to say that we thought he or LIA were evil. We [QAC] strive not to demonize anyone. That has been important since day one," the young activist stated.

Following last year's protest, QAC was featured in *The New York Times*, and stories were aired regarding the issues of cleansing the rainbow community on Good Morning America and CNN.

A work-in-progress documentary entitled *What Does Love in Action Look Like: The Preface*, has been screened



Part of Queer Action Coalition's mission in protesting is to let people know that they're loved for who they are. "The only way for us to accomplish anything was to remain without hearts and speak from the very love we stood up for," says Morgan Fox, founder of Queer Action Coalition.

at the University of Memphis as well as the Indie Memphis Film Festival where it was awarded the Ron Tibbet Excellence in Filmmaking.

The documentary, which Fox hopes to find more funding for, touches on issues from growing up queer in the south to various forms of religious intolerance.

The successes of QAC and its stances on Love in Action have been fruitful, according to Fox, because QAC "portrays images and messages of love and acceptance" rather than saying that LIA is wrong. Instead, QAC approaches the issue for loving people

for who they are.

Fox believes that it is this statement and approach that makes it difficult for organizations and the religious right to attack the organization's stance.

"We knew for sure that the only way for us to accomplish anything was to remain with our hearts and speak from the very love we stood up for."

Love in Action has graduated over 250 people from the 9-month program The Source and over 100 from Refuge. Workshops include topics on child development, gender roles, and personal sexuality.



Protesters fill the streets at Love in Action.

Accused Murderer's Arraignment Rescheduled

by K. Cole Bradley

Accused murderer D'Andre Blake appeared for his arraignment in criminal Court Division 16 on June 23.

Blake was accused of transgender victim Tiffany Berry's Feb. 15 murder, which police suspect was not a hate crime but instead a robbery. Various sources have claimed, however, that none of Berry's personal belongings or purse were stolen.

Blake was arrested on May 8 and indicted three days later but released on \$20,000 bond.

Although Blake appeared in court, he was not arraigned due to lack of an attorney. The Honorable Fred Axley, presiding judge, granted Blake an extension until August 24,

at which time he is to have secured a lawyer or be appointed one by the court.

Blake is still out on bail.

A victims and witness services employee, who wished to remain anonymous, confirmed that she has been working with Berry's mother, who she stated is, "Still taking it pretty hard."

The anonymous source also stated that Blake was originally in the juvenile system.

Upon inquiring with the court clerk's office it was confirmed that Blake is a "bind over," meaning that Blake entered the system from another court or jurisdiction.

Judge Axley, after granting the extension, spoke briefly to Blake who afterward left the courtroom in silence.



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Editor's Notes

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Memphis Complacency? Puh-lease...

A few months ago, *Triangle Journal* ran an editorial entitled "What Ever Happened to Apathy?" in which the author, the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center's president, Len Piechowski, argued that the Memphis rainbow community was losing its complacency.

When the article was printed in the April edition, I couldn't have agreed more.

Except that now when I read it, I almost laugh.

You see, in just a few short months, the Memphis GLBT community has proven itself once more as a progressive neighborhood by refusing to patronize locations that deny equality, reaching out to those who need help, expressing the desire to learn more about communicating with the world at large, fighting against the upcoming federal marriage amendment, and continuing to show its rainbow blood.

When I first moved to Memphis, the first thing I did was Google the words, "Memphis," "gay," and "lesbian." Many of you might know what popped up first.

The Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center.

I quickly got in contact with someone who could give me directions to the location and showed up early on a Tuesday evening.

What I expected was to see a building full of fellow GLBT community members, but instead, what I got was three volunteers and a short tour of the building. Needless to say, I was heavily disappointed but continued frequenting the center while volunteering a few times a month.

Then I disappeared in early November.

Unfortunately, I gave up hope in the Memphis community. I was disgusted with the lack of unity, petrified at the political state of Shelby county, and frustrated with the inability of GLBT Memphians to muster the courage to show themselves, because in the three short months that I was active, I continued to meet the same people perpetually.

Then, in February, things started changing.

My partner and I attended a viewing of the documentary film *Tying the Knot* that was sponsored by Initiative:Fairness (I:F) and the

Memphis chapter of Integrity, Inc. We expected a small crowd of about twenty to thirty people, but when we arrived a mere ten minutes late, we entered a room filled to capacity. I believe we got the last two chairs, and after our entrance, the event was standing room only.

Shortly thereafter, I decided to travel to Nashville with a group of Memphians in order to attend Tennessee Equality Project's Equality Day on the Hill.

What I expected, again, was a room full of Nashville residents speckled with various representing towns like Memphis.

Instead, the Memphis crowd was the largest represented city.

The community center became populated heavily once more. More local organizations began advertising their events. FedEx created a safe-haven for its GLBT employees. More people frequented both the rainbow nightlife and rainbow events. The usual three or four people attending every event and running every organization became inimical.

When Piechowski wrote his article, I didn't think it could get any better.

Then June came around...

TK Buchanan and Janine Heiner were refused a family membership at the YMCA in East Memphis. While members of the GLBT community have differing opinions regarding the matter, the fact remains that equality and justice are **not** present in Memphis YMCA chapters.

In response, Initiative:Fairness launched a postcard campaign. With already drafted letters, community members can simply fill out their return address, sign their name, and I:F will mail out the plead for equality.

Furthermore, several events for the 2006 Gaymes were scheduled to be held at the downtown YMCA. Since the events at the East Memphis branch, planners for the fourth annual Gaymes are determined to stand their ground and choose another venue.

A few weekends ago I attended a top surgery benefit party at David Mah Studio. Instead of seeing the same familiar faces, I was introduced to an onslaught of new faces, with only a handful being recognizable



ones. It was incredible to see local artists, musicians, and friends volunteer their time, money, and passion into supporting someone else's dream.

At the beginning of the month, Alex Shoor, the Southeastern media manager for the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation was in town in order to hold a media spokesperson training seminar. Organizers feared low attendance and were shocked when the capacity reached over 45 when only 30 had RSVP'd. The potential our community has with forcing the Memphis mainstream media to recognize us is monumental. And the people in attendance knew it was long overdue.

Consider the dreadful, despicable, frightening federal marriage amendment.

In the event that the amendment passes, it will do nothing but take away rights that GLBT persons already lack. How does Memphis and the state of Tennessee respond?

With house parties, a massive amount of phone calls to state and district representatives, and continuous canvassing. The Memphis community has kept the heat alive by refusing to stop its discussion and negative benefits.

And who can forget pride? With the Memphis Area Gay Youth chanting down Cooper St., refusing to go unnoticed, and being the loudest and most spirited walking group in the parade, what older generation rainbow community member will think that pride will die?

Certainly not I.

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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.

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Letter to the Editor

A Few Good Lesbians

In the June edition of the *Triangle Journal* an editorial was printed entitled "Where are the Lesbians?" In it, a picture was painted of a bleak present and even bleaker future for all of lesbian kind. And while I agree with a lot of the sentiments expressed, to a somewhat lesser degree, I do have a bone to pick.

First and foremost, I would like to discuss the "age factor." I agree that some lesbians have a tendency to fall for a new love very quickly. Ok, I admit that Warp Speed would be a good description from time to time. But it seems to be a condition of youth and inexperience, not sexuality. Take a trip down memory lane to the good 'ole days of high school. The average life expectancy of any relationship, gay, straight, or otherwise, was about as long as it took to digest cafeteria food—I'm guessing about one week.

Flash-forward to a person's twenties and not a lot has changed. I have a heterosexual friend who wears through "great loves" like lesbians wear through bootlegged copies of *Desert Hearts*.

I'm not saying that lesbians don't commit too early and too often. I'm saying that it's not an exclusive affliction. We do tend to confuse infatuation with actual love, but I don't think it's because of a lack of self-worth or a simple desire for a couch buddy for that all day Xena

marathon on Oxygen Network. I think it's a simple lack of life lessons. With age, most lesbians seem to grow out of the "U-haul Phase."

Long-term, healthy, committed relationships are abundant in our over-thirty lesbian community. Perhaps it's simply that they are less visible because they are on the golf courses in Cordova or sitting in church instead of binge drinking at the Flame or marching down Cooper in the sweltering June sun.

Secondly, a lot was said in the editorial about the lack of lesbian representation in the media and if this is, perhaps, the root of our self-deprecating behavior.

Personally, I'm glad not to be represented by the media. Pop culture today consists of "Who Wants to Marry My Single, Lonely Father" or endless self-help shows that teach people how to dress better (i.e. exactly like everyone else).

And let's not forget the countless late night dating shows where people have approximately two minutes to choose a spouse and win a million dollars, which, incidentally, they will be fighting for in divorce court before the show even airs.

I'm glad we aren't represented in these three ring circuses. Picture it: "Who Wants to Buy a Labrador Puppy with my Lonely Dyke Mom" or "What Not to Wear...While Playing Softball." We would be the laugh-

ing stock of heterosexual America, much like we laugh at them. And yes, gay men have more representation in Mod culture, but more is not always better.

For years the only "gay" men on television filled roles of comic relief or poor pathetic souls dying of the "gay disease". Now we have Will and Jack and *Queer as Folk*, which, while still being occasionally stereotypical, do give gay men more visibility.

However, that does not necessarily translate into real life. Gay men still face discrimination, violence, and disrespect. Dare I say, they face that hatred more that we under-represented ladies. Furthermore, gay men are often times still portrayed as non-committal, drug using, sex addicts, i.e. the above mentioned *Queer as Folk*.

The grass is not always greener on the other side of the small and silver screens.

On the same vein, pornography most certainly does objectify lesbians. But it also objectifies heterosexual women, gay men, and occasionally straight men, depending on what you are looking for. That's one of the major appeals of pornography: to fantasize about things you will never get to do in real life.

I don't think that lesbian pornography makes heterosexual men think that lesbianism is a phase. I'm pretty sure that's their own egos telling them that they, being better than any woman, can give a lesbian what she needs.

In addition, it is socially acceptable for a straight man to say he has lesbian fantasies. It is not socially acceptable for those men to admit that they also, more than likely, have had a fantasy or two about their

college roommate or fishing buddy. Lesbians are not the only people oppressed by the patriarchy; even straight men are trapped in that cycle. And please let's not forget that there are plenty of wonderful, intelligent straight boys out there who recognize our relationships as valid, loving expressions of sexuality exactly like their own.

Lastly, we have more people "batting for our team" than just Ellen and Portia. Lily Thomlin, Sanadra Bernhard, Margaret Cho, Martina Navratilova, Sheryl Swoopes, Billy Jean King, Rosie Jones, Missy Giove, Marlene Dietrich, Alice B. Toklas, Gertrude Stein, Chastity Bono, Elvira Kurt, Melissa Etheridge and Tammy Lynn Michaels, k.d.lang, Ani DiFranco, Emily and Amy of the Indigo Girls, Me'Shell NdegeOcello, and Rebecca Walker have all been out as lesbian or bisexual for years.

Pop culture aside, what about our history? Every woman who has ever been to college owes a big "Thanks for it" to our community. A lesbian or lesbian couple founded almost every woman's college during times when no one else would even consider educating women.

Ruth Ellis lived openly as a lesbian woman of color nearly all of her hundred years until her death in 2001.

Sappho, Eleanor Roosevelt, Susan B. Anthony, Jane Addams, Margaret Mead and the vast majority of the key suffragettes were known to have been of lavender persuasion.

Tammy Baldwin is the first "out" lesbian Congresswoman.

U.S. Army Colonel Margaret Cammemeyer took on the entire US Military to demand her rights.

And no one can say that Audre Lourde was not an example of strength, courage, and self-love.

Who cares if Angelina got "taken to the dark side" by Brad? We have much better role models who don't have an unhealthy obsession with cutlery and blood play. Not to mention, she's been married how many times? She's not exactly the best team leader for the healthy relationship squad.

So if it looks like we have no positive role models for love and self-respect, do not turn on the television. The TV is not a good place for anyone to find self worth.

Pick up a book. I recommend *To Believe in Women: What Lesbians Have Done for American History*. Or cruise the net—the historical sites, not the porn. Or talk to an older lesbian with a few more experiences under her tool-belt.

All in all, we're not doing that badly. Although I have seen my share of pointless relationships, I've also seen my share of wonderful working relationships. And although we don't have a ton of role models in pop culture, we do have a few. And we make up the slack in actual historical contributions.

I would agree with the previous editorial in saying, "pass the popcorn." Pass it so we can all pile up on the couch and watch the future of healthy, happy lesbians everywhere

And a couple of Xena reruns. And one more thing. Rosie O. started a cruise line for GLBT families and I think that's great.

K. "Cole" Bradley
Memphis

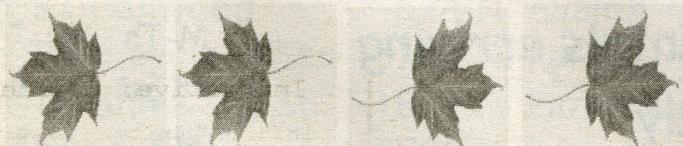


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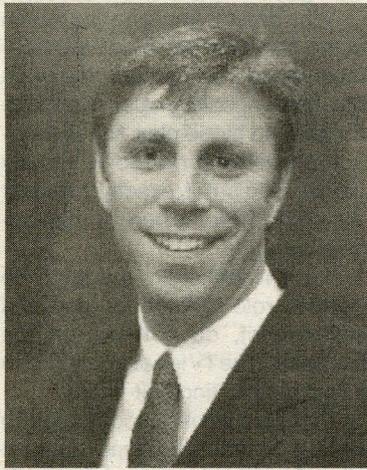
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As a Gay Athlete, Hearing "You're Out" Can Be a Good Thing



Editorial by Chris Haskins

There are several defining moments in every gay person's life. What that defining moment is for each of us is only something we can answer only from within our hearts.

What I did not know before my "life defining" changes is how everything that I experienced in life, up to that point, would play a major role in who I am today.

Some of these things, though to most, may not be all that incredible, but to others, may make a difference. Some may just find it interesting to read. Whatever it may

be, I hope it helps in finding a way to understand what it means to be "involved."

When I was growing up, masculinity was always important in being an athlete. You were to show neither fear nor weakness and instead display how you were better than everyone around you, regardless if it was a team or individual sport. It was that drive, along with demanding family expectations, that taught me to give my best effort in everything I did, not just sports.

It is a brilliant concept, one of which did not always yield the best results. This premise being set, here is, hopefully, the good part of the story.

I suppose it may be possible to come out twice. Once to yourself and once to your family.

However, at the unexpected announcement one Christmas morning by my mother, I found out that apparently my family had already come to the conclusion before I did. I will spare you the details of the "Christmas Breakfast from Hell," but suffice it to say, it was the kick-off of my gay career.

Although I had been in the lifestyle for several years (since I was 3-years-old), it was as though I had

no clue what it meant.

I had never been active in the community.

I thought gay life was the bar. I never took time to realize what was actually around me.

I discovered that there was a community center, which led me to find out about the local gay softball league. I went out to the softball fields and looked around.

I guess all the previous concepts I had about gay athletes just went out the door. These guys, in drag or otherwise, were really good. I introduced myself to some of the people and mentioned playing on a team.

The guys stopped what they were doing and introduced me to several of the coaches and players. They were excited about a new person coming to play.

They really wanted to get me on a team.

I soon found my team and started practicing right away.

Twelve years later, I am still playing. I also have made so many friends around the United States.

The wonderful thing about the softball league was that I found other interest groups to get involved with that were not sports related.

I became involved in business groups, town hall meetings, and a Saturday morning breakfast club. I discovered a network of people who owned their own businesses. I found out that I could buy my birthday cards, go to the doctor, go to the dentist, get my taxes done, and have my yard serviced by gay people.

All this brings me to my point. I mentioned how competitive I was trained to be in sports, to be the best that I could be, an achievement that I am proud to say that I have failed at.

You see, sports trained me to be the best that I can be as a person. I think that the opportunity of being in a gay sports organization taught me that masculinity is perception.

I can be exactly who I am, and trust me, those of you who know me, laugh when the words masculine and Chris Haskins end up in the same sentence in reference to each other. Something I have come to realize is that masculinity does not define my manhood.

My heart, convictions, and passion for life define me.

It just so happens that something that I am good at is softball. It is not one's talents that make the individual special—that's a bonus. Instead, it's what one does with those talents that make you special.

Sports is a platform to teach the upcoming generation of GLBT Americans how to be on the same team and function as one voice. I am proud to say that through sports, I have come to realize things in this wonderful community that I may have discovered much too late in life.

I cannot imagine how much different my life would have been.

You see, our one voice is the one that will change our future. We certainly have heroes in sports that have made a difference in the national gay community, such as Billy Bean, Esera Tuaolo, and Greg

Louganis.

But while these are important role models, Memphis needs to find its own heroes.

I volunteered to be this paper's sports writer. A task that I have not found to be easy. Sports is a daily event, and we are a monthly publication. All the updates on local sports will already be known by the time you read what I have written. Most importantly, my goal is now to write on how gay sports in Memphis will affect our community and the city of Memphis as a whole.

Those of you who are interested in helping make a change and who want to share your sporting groups with the Memphis GLBT community, let me know. If interested in getting involved or have the desire to tell Memphis about your organization, email me at Haskins@fbalton.com.

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Diversity for the Right Reason

by Jamie Griffen

Diversity (n.) The state or quality of being diverse (different). variety.

So your company or organization believes in diversity. And the last time you checked, your staff included not just one African-American, gay male, white female, Hispanic, Asian or other minority, but lots of them.

You should be happy, right? Not only have you met your quota, but you've exceeded it. Hey, the more diverse the better, right?

Not necessarily on both counts. Diversity is important, but oftentimes we fail to understand how we benefit from it. Unfortunately, when we think diversity, we think what a person looks like or what he or she represents.

I believe that true diversity is diversity in thought.

When people can gather together, regardless of what they look like, challenge each others beliefs and value systems, or force someone to consider a differing idea or opinion, then true diversity can exist.

Consider a work place where everyone looks different but they all come to the same conclusion. Their "collective minds" are actually the equivalent of one person's will.

Who benefits from that? Only the person who doesn't want to be challenged mentally.

The bad news? That's a significant number of our business and political leaders.

At a GOP convention, former Secretary of State Colin Powell mentioned, to the dismay of his own political party, that he was pro-choice. Fighting a chorus of boos, Powell then stated he thought that the party was big enough to have dissenting views. Well put, Colin!

Why would we expect anything else?

You mean the more than 300 million people in the United States don't agree on how we came into existence, the best means of balancing the budget, and whether capital punishment is appropriate for someone found guilty of murder?

Even organizations with specified goals and objectives, like the NAACP or MAGY, tussle with conflicting ideas internally. And it's not because people don't have the same goals in mind, but because members don't necessarily agree on how to achieve those goals.

It just so happens that people with different backgrounds, cultures, and experiences often bring that to the table. Organizations understanding that concept will profit in the long run.

Now don't you agree that that's what diversity is all about?

Maybe not.

And that's the point.

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MySpace Craze is Perfect Addition to GLBT Community



Editorial by Jeff Curbo

When I first came out, I had just moved to Memphis. At 22 years of age, about the only place that I knew of to meet significant numbers of gay 20-somethings was "the club."

Lucky for me, I love to dance and am confident and outgoing enough to feel comfortable going to a gay dance club by myself.

However, others are not. But what other options do we have in Memphis? Church? Work? Local GLBT organizations?

I personally didn't have much success at these outlets, but myspace.com might be the next best social outlet for the queers in Memphis to "the club" on a Satur-

day night.

Whether your intentions are as innocent as making new friends or as scandalous as a random hookup, MySpace has several benefits that a night at the club does not.

First, it's free. There's no cover charge and you can still dance to the thumpathumpa of Deborah Cox and Madonna by adding music to your profile or browsing the music section.

Second, it's non-threatening. Say you send someone a message on MySpace and s/he doesn't respond, you can always rationalize that your message was lost in the black hole of the Internet.

Third, you can find out more about someone in two minutes on MySpace than in four hours on a dance floor. Looking at someone's basic profile can give a lot of general information about the person, but reading the comments left by other users or perusing blog entries might be as enlightening as reading someone's diary.

The concept of socializing via the Internet is not anything new. Friendster, Gay.com and many others have realized a certain level of popularity, but none like MySpace. According to Wikipedia, as of May 2006, MySpace was the fifth most popular website in the world. Why

has MySpace surpassed the success of so many others? My guess is the combination of a user's ability to customize his/her profile with pictures, backgrounds, songs, videos, etc. and the aura of virtuousness surrounding MySpace.

It can be used just as easily for hooking up as it can for making a best friend. For many, Gay.com is the equivalent of the tree house at the Pumping Station, and Friendster is so sterile and conforming you would feel more like an individual by joining the military. One use that I find particularly intriguing is the utilization of MySpace as a research tool.

A quick browse through the profiles of a few local individuals shares more gossip than the E! Network gives about Brad and Angelina.

From whom's sleeping with whom to hates who hates whom, MySpace is an endless source of information and pictures about everyone from your boss to the cute boy who waited on you at Chili's. The scary part is how MySpace is more frequently being used for researching professional or personal business items.

For instance, imagine it's time to apply for colleges. A quick browse of MySpace can give you a lot of information about the ideals and personalities of the student body of

a selected school, plus you'll already have an idea of what social circle you want to infiltrate before ever stepping foot on campus.

Better yet, let's imagine you're a hiring manager at a company; ever imagine looking up perspective candidates on MySpace to see if you know any of his/her friends or simply to see the inner workings of his/her mind?

Despite these less than innocent uses, MySpace has also helped many enjoy the dating life they never thought possible. From my observational standpoint, these relationships typically progress something like this. First, one user sends a brief and innocent introductory message. Assuming the recipient is interested, s/he responds. After exchanging a few MySpace messages, things evolve to instant messenger or the phone, then to coffee, then maybe dinner and yada yada yada.

The possibility of finding dates through MySpace makes maintaining a stylish and up-to-date profile imperative. Here's a few things to remember when editing your profile.

1. Don't put so many pictures, songs and videos on your profile that a user consumes all the bandwidth in Memphis trying to view your page.

2. Don't approve every friend request. You may like to feel that you have 4,729 friends, but really, you're just a MySpace whore.

3. Update your profile frequently. Something as simple as rotating between default profile pictures will cause half of Memphis to revisit your page. Remember, no publicity is bad publicity.

4. Make sure your profile reflects your true personality. No one likes to discover a frumpy backwoods boy hiding behind a chic Manhattan-esque profile.

5. Give and you shall receive. A surefire way to get friends to leave comments on your profile is to initiate the exchange. Don't be stingy with comments, but don't saturate the market either; you want the comments you leave to maintain value.

Although MySpace is revolutionizing the gay social scene, the Internet is no replacement for personal interaction.

At some point, you need to meet your Internet boyfriend, and preferably before scheduling the moving truck. Nothing can substitute for one-on-one, in-person interaction.

I mean, kissing your computer monitor isn't that much fun.

At least, that's what I've been told.

The Finishing Touch

Midtown Remodeling by Ralph Black

901-336-3637

Garages and Decks

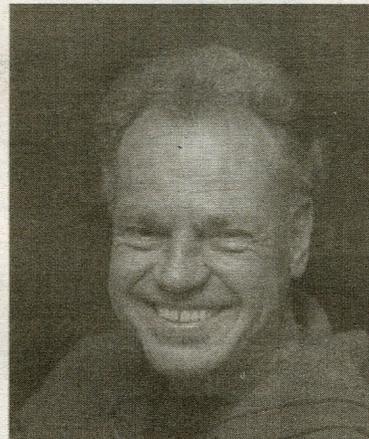
Sunrooms and

Screen Rooms

Privacy Fencing

Replacement

Windows



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Restoration

Our business is Midtown. We understand historic homes and the problem-solving process inherent with them. See for yourself at one of our finished projects near you:

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2075 Hallwood	923 N. Idlewild	890 Kensington	454 N. McNeil	1553 Vance
2081 Hallwood	674 N. Avalon	894 Kensington	503 Stonewall	1607 Vance
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	

Politics

Marriage Equality Begins with YOU!

by Jonathan Cole

On Nov. 7, 2006, Tennessee voters will go to the polls and decide whether to add an amendment to the State Constitution that would permanently ban marriage for gay and lesbian couples in our state. Current Tennessee law already prevents recognition of civil unions or marriage between same-sex couples.

This historic referendum represents the first time Tennesseans will be asked to add discrimination against an entire community to the State Constitution.

The anti-gay industry in this country enjoyed success in the 2004 election year in pushing anti-family and anti-gay amendments in several states. Each of these amendments and the recent Federal Marriage Amendment considered by the U.S. Senate represents a desperate attempt to distract voters from issues of real concern to the country (e.g., healthcare, education, and the Iraq War).

While many states have voted in favor of marriage amendments, the tide is beginning to turn.

From August 2004 to March 2006, the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press found in

a national poll that the number of Americans who approved of legal marriage of gays and lesbians increased from 29% to 39%. For the same time period, the number of Americans who opposed legal recognition of same-sex marriage decreased from 60% to 51%.

In other words, only half of Americans oppose same-sex marriage.

After several states have passed anti-gay marriage amendments, what can be done to increase support for marriage equality in our state? There is hope from an unlikely place—Cincinnati, Ohio.

Wait a minute . . .

Wasn't Cincinnati once known for racial strife and for being the center of the anti-abortion movement? Didn't the city of Cincinnati shut down a photography exhibition by Robert Mapplethorpe? Didn't Ohio's electoral votes tip the 2004 presidential election in favor of George W. Bush?

It turns out that conservative Cincinnati was the only place that took a stand for human rights in 2004 by approving the only pro-gay ballot initiative in the entire nation that year.

The history of this little noticed miracle began in the early 1990s. In 1991, the Cincinnati City Council

strengthened the anti-discrimination language in its Equal Employment Opportunity policy by approving a Human Rights Ordinance that added sexual orientation as a protected class.

In 1993, a group calling itself "Equal Rights Not Special Rights" placed a measure called Issue 3 on the ballot in Cincinnati. Issue 3 prohibited the city from enforcing the protections guaranteed by the Human Rights Ordinance when it came to gay men, lesbians and bisexuals. Issue 3 was approved with 62% of the vote.

Fast forward to 2002.

A group called Citizens to Restore Fairness (CRF) organized a grass roots campaign to overturn Issue 3. The campaign called upon business leaders, the faith community and elected officials to support a new ballot initiative to repeal Issue 3. CRF identified supportive voters through canvassing, public events and coalition building in their community. CRF also engaged undecided voters with direct mail, press events, phone banking and television ads. While each piece of the campaign was important, the critical factor in CRF's success was door-to-door canvassing of voters in the community. Through CRF's

efforts, Issue 3 was overturned by a 54% margin.

Cincinnati was also the only community in the country that opposed a marriage amendment in 2004.

I am persuaded by CRF's efforts that if Memphis and Shelby County is to have any hope of increasing support for marriage equality, the gay community and its allies must engage in a similar grass roots campaign.

We must engage business leaders, religious organizations, and elected officials.

We must build supportive coalitions among gay and non-gay members of our community.

And most importantly, we must ask our community to vote against the marriage amendment by knocking on their doors.

CRF learned the lesson that no media effort can equal the impact that going door-to-door, engaging one voter at a time, and having clear and honest conversations with people can have.

Why? Because issues alone do not move people to act.

People move people. We must be willing to put a human face on this issue. We must come out to our community as gay or supportive of the gay community. By training a vol-

unteer force with a positive message of inclusion, fairness and justice, I am persuaded that we can influence voters in Memphis and Shelby County to vote against the marriage amendment in November.

The Vote No On One Campaign of the Tennessee Equality Project and MGLCC's Initiative: Fairness is currently organizing a campaign to try what I've just described.

I challenge each of us to think deeply about what our freedom means to us and decide to commit ourselves to action. Your help is needed to engage voters in our community.

This is crunch time and no one can afford to sit this out. There is no guarantee that the amendment will be defeated, but I can guarantee you that we can move the margin in our favor.

In the month of June, the Tennessee Equality Project piloted a canvassing effort in East Nashville with great success.

Now it's our turn to test the waters in Memphis and Shelby County.

If you'd like to volunteer your time in a voter canvassing effort, contact Jonathan Cole at JonathanTN@juno.com or 901-374-9484.

What is the most pressing issue facing the Memphis GLBT community at this time?



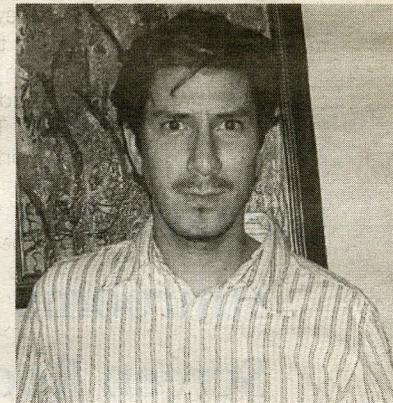
Andrew Stricklin, Jonesboro, AR

"The lack of organization that the majority of the community has in regards to volunteering. There are so many different organizations that people can play and active role in. we are only as strong as our collective efforts."



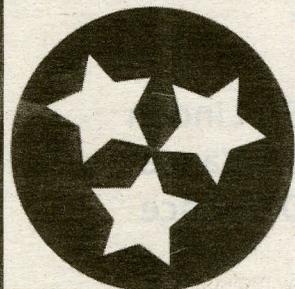
Sean Alexander, Cordova

"The YMCA debacle."



Felipe Zuvichaux, Cordova

"The LGBT community needs to increase awareness and better understanding of itself by engaging with all people, not just LGBT people."



Vote NO on 1

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.

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

Stonewall Democrats National Convention Proves Educational

by Herb Zeman

300 gay activists representing some of the 90 chapters of the National Stonewall Democrats congregated in Pittsburgh, June 2-4, for a National Convention. Although many of those in attendance were from Pennsylvania, there were plenty from other parts of the country, including California, Colorado, North Dakota and Tennessee.

The evening began with a welcome reception at the Cavanaugh-Graham Mansion, a beautiful house owned by a young gay couple.

In the middle of the event were the speeches. Especially noteworthy were two gay-friendly democrats running for Congress.

Angie Paccione is running to unseat Mariland Musgrave. Musgrave is the congresswoman from Colorado who has been pushing the Marriage Amendment. Captain Patrick Murphy, who fought in Iraq, is running in the eighth district in the Philadelphia area. Both of these congressional candidates were inspiring speakers and genuine allies of the gay community.

Saturday's sessions were in the Engineering Auditorium of the University of Pittsburgh. The highlight of the morning session was the speech by Howard Dean, the Chairman of the Democratic National Committee. Howard Dean said that he wanted to "work side by side"

with the GLBT community to fight discrimination and wrest control of Congress from the Republicans. Mr. Dean said the rainbow community's priorities should include unseating U.S. Republican Senator Rick Santorum from Pennsylvania, whom he called, "one of the most mean-spirited and corrupt politicians in Washington."

Dean continued by stating that the Stonewall Democrats have made the Democratic Party "stronger, more inclusive, more courageous, more tenacious." He asked for GLBT help in reclaiming the House and Senate from Republicans, saying that GOP has masked its failures by dividing America with attacks on gays, immigrants and other minority groups.

He cited the support President Bush and GOP congressional leaders have given to a constitutional amendment that would prevent states from recognizing same-sex marriages. "The Constitution was written to guarantee basic rights to all Americans, not deny them to some," said Dean, who as Vermont governor, signed a landmark bill providing gay couples nearly all of the benefits of marriage.

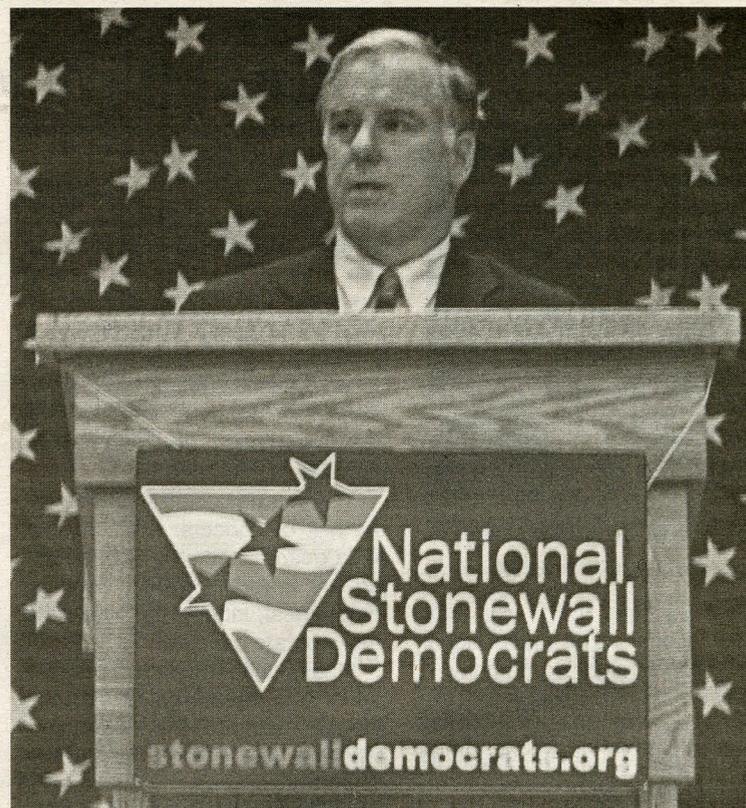
The GOP touts "family values," he said, while Democrats "value all families."

"We are the party of small government and personal liberty," he said. Mr. Dean also faulted President

Bush and congressional Republicans for issues ranging from the "Iraq mess" to the soaring cost of gasoline.

Following these speeches, various Grassroots Training Groups were taking place. Two of the sessions were fundraising training. In these training groups, participants learned the difference between a field event and a fundraising event, as well as various ways in which to carry out an organization's visions and goals while involving as many community members as possible. In the second session, they were able to listen to Cheryl Ann Welsh discuss major donors to organizations and their importance, as well as how to properly approach the request for political donations.

Sunday was the National Stonewall Democrats Membership Meeting at the Pittsburgh Union Project and Congresswoman Julia Carson from Indiana and Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell were the two speakers. Carson is a fascinating woman who has been a strong supporter of gay rights. Rendell informed those in attendance about his career and doing the right thing to stand up for our community. He shared stories of working together with the Stonewall Democrat groups in his state and how the GLBT community have helped him win in many of his elections throughout his career.



Pictured above is the Democratic National Convention's Chairman, Howard Dean. Below is Congresswoman Julia Carson from Indiana.



Message from Vote NO On 1



by Randy Tarkington

We have released to the press the results of a poll done recently by Zogby International. Before its widespread release, I wanted to share the results with you.

Overall, we are very encouraged by the results. Already, 33% of voters say they will vote No on Amendment 1 in November. In addition, another 6% say they are undecided. This puts us right in line with the poll done by our opponents who found 59% support for the Amendment.

We know that 4 in 10 voters in Tennessee are planning to vote NO on 1 or seriously considering that vote. It's not even July yet so we have 5 months to make our winning argument that voters should cast a vote for fairness, for equality, and against discrimination.

Even more promising is that almost 6 in 10 voters said they were concerned about changing the Constitution and they believed that gays and lesbians should have the same rights as all other Americans.

The voters in Tennessee told us they believe in fairness. They told us they believe in the message we are spreading which is for fairness and against discrimination.

This poll reminds us how important our work is to talk to as many of our neighbors, colleagues, friends, and families as possible. These numbers confirm that when we take the time to do that, great things happen.

We need your help. This poll shows we can win in November. We need the messengers and we need the means to get our message out.

Go now to www.voteNOon1tn.com and sign up to volunteer. Make a contribution to the campaign or sign up to host a house party. If you have a partner, download your story and help show the faces of real gay and lesbian families. Put together a team and agree to be responsible for a neighborhood to canvas between now and November. There is much to be done and we need an army of volunteers to get it all done.

We need to open Vote No on 1 Campaign headquarters so we have a place for volunteers to come to make phone calls or help get out the vote. Make a donation now so we can be in that office as soon as possible.

Working together, we can win in November. Don't wait. Get involved now.

Randy Tarkington is the campaign manager for Vote NO on 1.

**Help Tennessee
Vote No ON 1!**

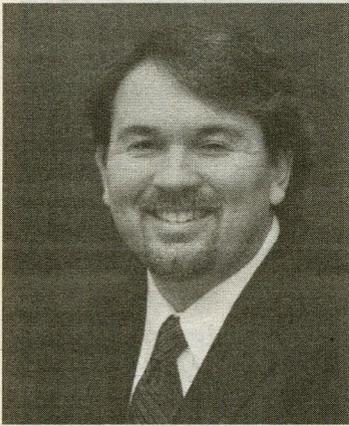
Contact MGLCC's
Initiative: Fairness or visit
voteNOon1.org
to get involved!

Top Ten Things You Can Do To Promote Marriage Equality in the GLBT Community

by Jonathan Cole

10. Come out to everyone! It's harder to discriminate against someone you know.
9. Have a wedding ceremony and invite everyone you know!
8. Let everyone know you're married! Put up wedding pictures in your office. Use words like *husband*, *wife* and *spouse*.
7. Join an organization that promotes marriage equality (like Tennessee Equality Project or MGLCC's Initiative: Fairness).
6. Donate generously. Help out the organizations fighting for marriage equality.
5. Throw a house party to raise funds for Tennessee Equality Project or Initiative Fairness.
4. Write letters to the editor.
3. Write your elected officials and ask them to publicly support marriage equality or oppose the marriage amendment.
2. Ask your clergy or pastor to oppose the marriage amendment by signing the faith leader opposition statement found elsewhere in this newspaper (see www.mglcc.org/ifa).
1. Volunteer to canvas voters in your community and ask them to vote "No" on Amendment 1!

Want to Quit Smoking? Here's How!



by Curtis Petty

Smoking rates in the gay community appear to be much higher than in the straight community. A review article published in 2001 in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine found that smoking rates ranged from 20-30% higher among gay youth and up to 22% higher among gay adults than in the general population. Three questions then come to mind: Why do we smoke more? Why is it important to quit? How can we quit? In answer to the first question, the article attributes three reasons for the increased incidence of smoking in our community: (1) Smoking is higher among groups that experience high levels of stress. (2) Socialization typically occurs in places where smoking is prevalent, i.e. bars. (3) Behaviors associated with smoking, such as alcohol and

drug use, may be higher among our community.

As to the second, we all know that there are numerous health benefits associated with quitting. The first of these is decreasing the risk of cardiovascular disease, which includes high blood pressure, stroke and heart attack. Cardiovascular disease is one of the leading causes of death in this country. Quitting smoking can help reduce your risk.

The second benefit is decreasing the risk of cancers. Cancers that have been associated with smoking are bladder, breast, cervical, esophageal, kidney, lip, liver, lung and prostate cancers.

Finally, quitting can decrease the risk of lung disease which includes allergies, asthma, bronchitis, emphysema and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). So, the benefits of quitting smoking are many.

How does a person quit when they are ready? The first thing to do is talk with your doctor about what is the best way for you to quit. Smoking cessation can include, but is not limited to, behavioral therapy and drug therapy.

Let's focus on the drug therapy. Drug therapy to stop smoking can be broken down into two categories: prescription and non-prescription. Prescription therapies used for smoking cessation include bupro-

pion (Zyban®, Wellbutrin XL® or Wellbutrin SR), Chantix® (varenicline), nicotine nasal spray and nicotine inhalers. Bupropion is typically used as an antidepressant, but has been shown to help patients stop smoking. Typical adverse effects associated with this medication include insomnia and dry mouth. Patients who are currently taking bupropion in any form should not start a second dose of the drug for smoking cessation.

Chantix® (varenicline) is the newest drug in the fight to help people stop smoking. This drug is novel in that it actually makes the body think that it is getting nicotine when it really is not. The typical nicotine withdrawal symptoms seen with other drug therapies are not seen with Chantix®. Common side effects of Chantix® include nausea, vomiting, changes in dreaming and constipation.

Nicotine inhalers and nasal sprays are also effective therapies for smoking cessation but are not used as much as the other therapies since they are not typically covered by insurance. These medications are tapered over time and the patient should not smoke while using them.

The non-prescription therapies, typically referred to as nicotine replacement therapy (NRT), are among the most commonly used therapies due to their availability

to the public. Nicotine replacement therapies are patches, gums and lozenges. With each one of these therapies, the starting dose is dependent on the number of cigarettes the patient smokes on a daily basis and should be tapered over a time. The patient should not smoke while on these medications.

With the high incidence of smoking and all of the risks associated with smoking, smoking cessation is very important to our community. Each patient should consult with their doctor or pharmacist before starting any of the therapies discussed in this article.

For more information about each

of these therapies, visit www.fda.gov and click on the link entitled "Drugs." To find out more information on smoking rates in the GLBT community, smoking cessation, and support to stop smoking, visit www.gaysmokeout.net.

Curtis Petty currently serves as a member of the Memphis Gaymes committee for MGLCC. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry and a Doctor of Pharmacy degree. The information/views provided in this article do not reflect the views of the community center, this paper, or anyone else except the author himself.

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Q & A with William N. Castle, DDS

Q: What kind of effect does drug use have on your teeth?

A: It depends on what kind of drug you're talking about. One of the most destructive is crystal meth, which results in what people commonly refer to as "meth-mouth," a condition characterized by the rotting, cracking, erosion, and eventual loss of teeth. Most drugs effect the teeth at least inadvertently over an extended period of time, if only because of the negligence typically involved in prolonged abuse.

Q: You're telling me pot is bad for my teeth?

A: Only if you consider gum disease bad.

Q: What about cigarettes?

A: After you calculate the price of a carton, figure in the increased

costs of gum disease treatment. It isn't just that smokers are at a higher risk for gum disease. The disease is also more likely to persist after treatment, and healing time is greatly increased. Research shows that smokers lose more teeth than non-smokers. Smokers are more likely to experience tooth and bone loss, gum recession, and oral cancer. That's saying nothing about the effects on your lungs, of course.

Q: What can you tell me about oral cancer?

A: Oral cancer is the largest group of those cancers which fall into the head and neck cancer category. Common names for it include: mouth cancer, tongue cancer, and throat cancer. Each year in the US, approximately 30,000 people are

newly diagnosed with oral cancer. In the United States alone, one person dies every hour of every day from oral cancer. Diagnosed early, oral cancers have an 80-90% cure rate.

Unfortunately, most are discovered in the late stages, which accounts for the high mortality rate. Patients who survive a first experience with the disease have up to a 20 times higher risk of developing a second cancer, a heightened risk factor which can persist 5 to 10 years after the original occurrence, making regular check-ups a necessary precaution.

Q: What are some of the signs?

A: Oral cancer tends to go undetected in its early stages. It can be painless, with few signs of physical change. That said, some of the signs are: irritation, tenderness, burning or a sore that will not heal; development of a lump, or a leathery, wrinkled or bumpy patch inside your mouth; color changes to your oral soft tissues (gray, red or white spots or patches), rather than a healthy pink color; difficulty chewing, swallowing, speaking or moving the jaw or tongue; any change in the way your teeth fit together.

Q: How do I find out whether or not I have it?

A: Make a dental appointment.

Memphis Area Gay Youth

Peer support and discussion group

Call 335-MAGY

website: www.magyonline.org

Advertising space donated as a public service of Triangle Journal

FRIENDS FOR



Feast for Friends

Mon., July 2 & 16

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

Planning Team Solidifies 2006 Gaymes Line Up

by Ian Keller

The members of the inter-organizational planning team for the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center's Annual Memphis Gaymes have announced the line-up for the Fourth Annual Memphis Gaymes competitions.

The annual competition is a Memphis celebration of National Coming Out Day and has become popular during recent years.

This year, Olympic gold medalist, Greg Louganis, will be the special guest.

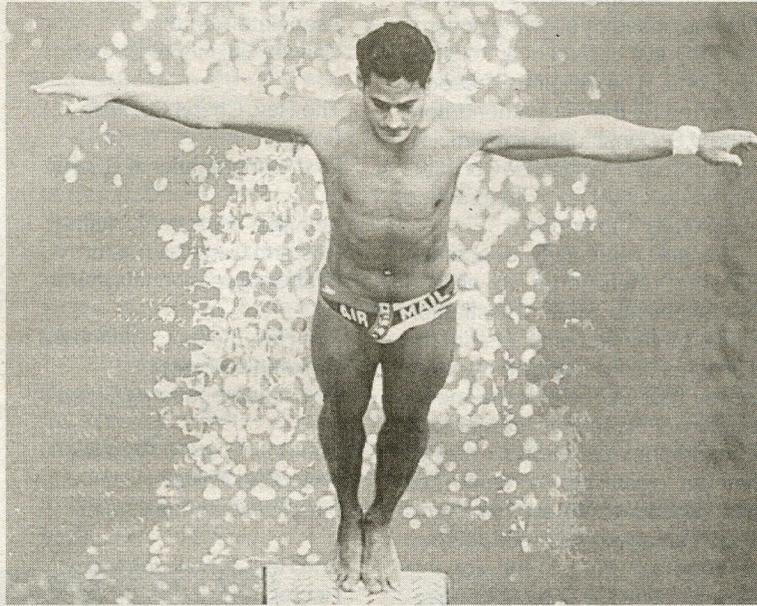
The week long competitions will begin with the Parade of Athletes and Lighting of the Olympic Flame on Sunday afternoon, October 1.

The first of the eleven competitions will be the bowling competition later that day at Winchester Lanes.

Pool and darts competitions are planned for RP Billiards on Highland on Monday evening, October 2. The very popular laser tag and putt-putt competitions will be on Tuesday, October 3 at Putt-Putt on Summer Avenue. MGLCC will host the Scrabble competition on Wednesday, October 4.

The volleyball and basketball competitions (October 5 and October 6 respectively) were planned for the downtown YMCA. However, due to recent actions of YMCA management, the planning team is examining alternative locations.

The running competition will be conducted with the Memphis Runners Race occurring early on Saturday morning, October 7. The Blues Bash Softball Tournament will



Greg Louganis is a four time gold-medal diving champion. He is openly gay and has lived with HIV/AIDS for 20 years. Memphians will welcome him back to our city in October for the Fourth Annual Memphis Gaymes.

be played again this year at Kennedy Fields on October 7 and 8.

Dr. Marty Acree and Mr. Mac Gardner will again host an evening reception for the Gaymes special guest star this year.

Mr. Louganis will greet guests beginning at 8 p.m. and will address the community later in the evening on Saturday, October 7.

Closing ceremonies and a reception with the awarding of gold, silver, and bronze medals by Greg Louganis will be on Sunday evening, October 8, at Playhouse on the Square.

The planning team is composed of members of MGLCC, Mid-South

Pride, Nike, and the Bluff City Sports Association. As times and more information are finalized in the weeks ahead, the community center website, www.mglcc.org, will be regularly updated. Alternatively, more information can also be received by calling 901-857-8523.

Memphis Softball Rocks in Memorial Day Tournament

by Chris Haskins

Two of Memphis' softball teams represented the Bluff City Sports Association in the Northstar Classic Softball Tournament over Memorial Day Weekend.

The tournament was held at the Twin Cities in Minnesota. Proceeds from the tournament went to Pediatric Aids Research and Support. The two teams representing Memphis were the Memphis Hobos and the Memphis Misfits.

Both teams consisted of various players around the league and other surrounding cities.

The Hobos played in the D Division along with 10 other teams while the Misfits played in the C Competitive Division with 9 other teams and two additions from the B Division (one division above them).

On the first day of competition, each team played three qualifying games. At the end of the qualifying round the Hobos were 2-1 while the Misfits finished 3-0.

Later in the day, the Hobos were awarded with seed 4 for the championship round. They played the fifth seed of the tournament, and after a hard fought game, the Hobos lost.

The other Memphis representative, the Misfits, were awarded the second seed for the championship round and won their next two games, one of which was against the B Division's Minneapolis Mess, to ensure them at least third place.

The next morning, the Memphis teams were at it again.

The Hobos played the second game of the double elimination tournament but came up short in the last inning, losing 6-5 on a game winning hit from their opponent.

The Hobos finished fifth in the tournament.

The Misfits played their first game on Sunday against the top seeded D.C. Nitro and lost. This forced a win-or-go-home game against a team that they had beaten previously, and the Misfits won.

Next up was the D.C. Nitro again for the tournament championship. Unfortunately, the Misfits lost their game 5-4, however, all was not lost.

The Misfits came home with a second place trophy.

Setting aside wins and losses, the two teams from Memphis went to Minneapolis and played some great softball.



Triangle Journal

WHAT YOUR NEWS LOOKS LIKE



"Gay" Slur Leads to Sensitivity Training for Manager

Associated Press

CHICAGO - Ozzie Guillen was fined and ordered to attend sensitivity training as commissioner Bud Selig punished the outspoken Chicago White Sox manager for using a slur during a tirade against a sports columnist.

In a separate penalty, Guillen was suspended for one game, punishment for reliever David Riske intentionally hitting St. Louis' Chris Duncan with a pitch Tuesday night. Riske drew a three-game suspension, but appealed.

Guillen went into a profanity-laced tirade against Chicago Sun-Times columnist Jay Mariotti and called him a number of names, including a derogatory term that is often used to describe someone's sexual orientation.

"Ozzie Guillen used language that is offensive and completely unacceptable," Selig said in a statement. "Baseball is a social institution

with responsibility to set appropriate tone and example. Conduct or language that reflects otherwise will not be tolerated. The use of slurs embarrasses the individual, the club and the game."

Guillen met with reporters before leaving U.S. Cellular Field to serve his suspension, saying as he did July 21 that he used the wrong word. He said he agreed with Selig's punishment. He also vowed not to let up on Mariotti.

"The commissioner did what he had to do," Guillen said. "They don't agree with what I say. Me either. I agree with what I say about Jay. ... I'm not going to change. One thing I'm going to make clear is I apologize to the community, but to Jay, no chance. This thing is on and on for good."

Major League Baseball asked the White Sox to set up the sensitivity training and spokesman Scott Reifert said the team would do so, using its employee assistance program, with specifics to be determined.

Guillen said he wasn't sure what sensitivity training would entail, but would abide by the ruling.

"What class? What is it? Mr. Selig said I have to do something about this," Guillen said. "It was not good for me and baseball to be involved in this."

Guillen said team chairman Jerry Reinsdorf "reprimanded me as a friend."

"Jerry is behind Major League Baseball about this decision to fine me. I respect that. It's good for baseball because I put Bud Selig in a spot he's not supposed to be. It's done and hopefully we will learn from this and move on."

Mariotti recently was critical of Guillen's handling of rookie pitcher Sean Tracey, who could be seen distraught in the dugout last week in Texas after Guillen became angry when the White Sox didn't retaliate for catcher A.J. Pierzynski twice being hit with pitches. Tracey was later demoted to the minors.

Riske was suspended three

games by the commissioner's office for intentionally throwing at Duncan, and Guillen got a one-game ban. He and Riske were each fined an undisclosed amount by Bob Watson, vice president of on-field operations for Major League Baseball.

Both were ejected in the seventh inning of Chicago's 20-6 victory July 20 after the right-hander hit Duncan with a pitch.

The benches had been warned in the bottom of the sixth after St. Louis pitcher Sidney Ponson plunked two White Sox batters with the bases loaded.

Chris Duncan was sent to the minors July 22. His father, Cardinals pitching coach Dave Duncan, called Guillen a liar during a radio interview.

Guillen and the pitching coach did talk on the field July 21.

"I was upset. I'm still upset. I don't like liars," Duncan said before Thursday night's game.

Guillen, who led the White Sox to their first World Series title in

88 years last season, has gotten into trouble several times with his comments.

In spring training this year, he apologized to Alex Rodriguez for comments he made in a Sports Illustrated article in which he criticized the Yankees' star for waffling on his choice of countries for the World Baseball Classic.

In his first season, Guillen called umpire Hunter Wendelstedt a liar. Later in the season, Guillen sarcastically referred to Buck Showalter of the Rangers as the best manager in the history of baseball and the guy who invented the game - all after Showalter questioned Guillen's knowledge of the rules.

Guillen also went off on a profanity-filled tirade last season against former teammate and fellow Venezuelan Magglio Ordonez, who left the White Sox and joined the Detroit Tigers.

Faith Leader Opposition to the Tennessee Marriage Amendment

Submitted by
Jonathan Cole

A growing number of clergy from many faith traditions in our community have pledged their opposition to the Tennessee Marriage Amendment by signing the following statement. Their leadership and commitment continues an American tradition of religious leaders supporting social justice issues. Be sure to thank these leaders for supporting the rainbow community and ask your clergy to do the same. For information about signing this statement, visit www.mglcc.org/lif.

As leaders representing many of the diverse religious perspectives in Shelby County, we urge our fellow citizens to vote against the Tennessee Marriage Amendment on November 7, 2006. Although we have differing opinions on rights for same-sex couples, we believe the Tennessee Marriage Amendment reflects a fundamental disregard for individual civil rights and ignores differences among our state's many religious traditions. It should be rejected.

Few decisions by religious institutions are more central than who can take part in important religious rituals or services, including mar-

riage. Fortunately, the U.S. Constitution bars any court or legislature from requiring any religious institution or person to perform marriage ceremonies for anyone. Indeed, the U.S. Constitution protects houses of worship in their freedom to limit marriages on whatever theological grounds they choose. The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution already protects religious organizations from governmental interference in such matters, and constitutional definitions of marriage are therefore unnecessary.

Regardless of judicial and legislative decisions defining the legal rights of gay couples, religious marriage will justly remain the prerogative of individual faith traditions in accordance with their doctrinal beliefs. And this is as it should be. It is not the task of our state government, elected representatives, or voters to enshrine in our laws the religious point of view of any one faith. Rather, our state should dedicate itself to protecting the rights of all citizens and all faiths.

For more than 200 years, the Constitution of the State of Tennessee has included no provision on marriage, the matter being left to state statutes and the teachings of various religious groups. Our

state's founders included Article I, Section 3 of the state constitution precisely because they foresaw the dangers posed by allowing government to have control over religious decisions. The religious freedom protected by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and Article I, Section 3 of the Tennessee Constitution has allowed religious practice and pluralism to flourish.

We are particularly concerned that the referendum to amend the Tennessee State Constitution would, for the first time, restrict the civil rights of thousands of Tennesseans. That concern alone merits rejection of the Tennessee Marriage Amendment. We strongly believe that the electorate in Tennessee must continue to protect the nation's fundamental religious freedoms and continue to protect our nation's bedrock principle of respecting religious pluralism. Tennessee voters should soundly reject any attempt to enshrine in the state constitution a particular religious viewpoint on a matter of such fundamental religious importance.

Signed,

The Rev. Andrew J. Macbeth
Rector

Calvary Episcopal Church

The Rev. George Yandell
Associate Rector
Calvary Episcopal Church

The Rev. Cheryl Cornish
Pastor
First Congregational Church

The Rev. Joseph R. Pfeiffer
Pastoral Care Counselor
First Congregational Church

The Rev. Elaine L. Blanchard
Children's Minister
First Congregational Church

The Rev. Ellen D. Roberds
Associate Pastor
First Presbyterian Church

The Rev. John H. Moloney
Rector
Grace-St. Luke's Episcopal Church

The Rev. Joe T. Porter
Curate for Outreach and
Pastoral Care Ministry
Grace-St. Luke's Episcopal Church

The Rev. Senter C. Crook
Associate Rector

Grace-St. Luke's Episcopal Church

The Rev. Robin R. Hatzembuehler
Curate
Grace-St. Luke's Episcopal Church

The Rev. Timothy M. Meadows
Pastor
Holy Trinity Community Church

The Rev. Casey Thompson
Associate Pastor
Idlewild Presbyterian Church

The Rev. J. Kyle Dearen
Pastor
Living Word Christian Church

Robert Pugh
Presiding Cleric
Memphis Friends Meeting
(Quaker)

The Rev. John Gilmore
Pastor
Open Heart Community Church

The Rev. C.L. Freeman
Minister
Unity Church of Memphis

Just Ask, Don't be Shy!



Advice from Kent Usry

I have a male friend and we're close. He recently told me that he's bisexual. I don't have a problem with this, however, it's difficult for me to comprehend. How can he be sexually attracted to both females and males? I think he's gay and just using the term "bisexual" to keep from admitting he's gay. — *Wondering Where the Fence Is, Midtown*

Great topic, and thanks for posing this question, as many in our GLBT community struggle with bisexuality, meaning there is confusion with this sexual orientation.

First of all, you seem to be contradicting yourself in your query. On one hand, you say you have no problem with your friend's bisexual-

ity. Yet you also say you "think he's gay" and not being honest with his own sexual orientation. Be that as it may, you are not living his life, in his shoes. You need to stop worrying how someone else identifies her/himself. Instead, why not let it go and continue to enjoy the friendship you two have?

When we're speaking of sexual orientation, I view this in terms of a continuum or spectrum, if you will, where some are more—or less—attracted to those of their own or opposite gender. For example, I have found in my work that not all men who identify themselves as "gay" have the same levels of attraction toward other males. Many straight folk like to surround themselves with gay/lesbian people. And many gay folk choose to befriend more straight people than gay or lesbian.

Is there anything wrong with that, or is it weird?

No.

Just because we may not understand someone else's preferences doesn't make it strange or "not right." How often have you heard, "She acts lesbian, but she's married to a man?" or "He acts gay, but he says he's straight"?

The one who asks these kinds of questions may simply be inquisitive and internally exploring her/his own sexual identity. But when these types of questions become curiosity, it can (not always) turn into maliciousness or an excuse to

exclude her/himself from those folk he or she may not understand. I think we all know what happened to the cat with too much curiosity!

Our society tends to be quick at placing individuals in a box, labeling them with terms such as "lesbian," "straight," "homeless," "home owner," "employed," "flaming queen," "butch," and other various brands.

When we box people in with labels, we lose sight of their individuality and diversity along with all the unique gifts they can bring to their own community and ours. How life-giving it would be if we allowed others to choose their own label and come to terms with their own sexual orientation in their time. This would open the doors to deeper relationships with others, more communication, understanding, and acceptance of others, thus offering us the opportunity to celebrate diversity in all its forms.

Your friend identifies himself as bisexual. He has chosen that self-identification. Stop trying to "figure him out."

Try to stay out of your friend's head and not make assumptions about his sexuality, or others for that matter.

Enjoy your friendship; communicate with him your own difficulties in comprehending his bisexuality and listen to him.

Who knows... this may even deepen your relationship with him

and open a window for you to grow even more tolerant of others, no matter how they identify themselves.

Kent Usry has worked in the mental health field for 15 years. He is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in the states of TN and MS with a Masters of Science in Social Work from the University of Tennessee-Memphis. He lives in Midtown. This column does not substitute for therapy, treatment, or a doctor's visit.



Alex Shoor, Southeastern Regional Media Manager for the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, held a spokesperson training at the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center on Thursday, July 1. Over fifty people were in attendance and Shoor was able to demonstrate and teach the audience as to how to effectively and efficiently speak with mainstream media about issues regarding the GLBT community.

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Chest Fest 2006 Raises Money for Top Surgery

by Autumn Falconer

A week after Pride, many of us celebrated "Tranny Pride," if you will. An event for Cristofir Bradley was held at David Mah Studio on June 17th. The event was to raise money to help Cristofir with his top surgery and was a complete success, raising \$2,500.

Cristofir now knows the true meaning of friendship and what our community can achieve when we all pull together to make something great happen, and many community leaders were impressed with the way the GLBT community supported Cristofir.

I enjoyed helping others in planning the event so much that I want to work on having Chest Fest every year! Details are still in the works, but I want to choose someone in the Trans community each year and hold a similar benefit for their surgery expenses."

Many people helped with this event, from local artist and musicians to many of Cristofir's friends.

Cristofir's doctor is Beverly Fisher, located in Baltimore, Maryland. The initial surgery cost \$6800 but once travel, time off, and previous doctor visits for blood work, etc. are included, it will cost a total of \$10,000.

"Normal" recovery time for this surgery is about a month with an office job. Since Cristofir is a carpenter, his expected recovery time will be approximately two months.

Cristofir could only say, "Thanks for the many that made this event what it was."

Donating artists included Keith Rash, Karen Capps, Ky & Bonnie Mettlier, Mike Vinson, Carol Robinson, Meg Zachary, Wess Loudenslager, Nedeljko Antonovic, K. Cole, Erin Kay, Rohbi Yow, and Mollie Jaye Riggs.

Local musicians who provided musical entertainment throughout the evening included Valerie June, Cale(b) Le Fevre, and DJ's Patrick and Court.

Special thanks are in order for Alyssa Ruggiero for providing food, Amber O'Daniels and Socket for serving as hosts for the evening, and to Meg, Mollie, Erin, Cole, Sexy Lexi, and Cori for extra help.

A plethora of thanks to David Mah's Studio for providing space for the event, TJ O'Neil for the food provided and bartending services and also to Rohbi Yow for making the event happen. Rohbi was a huge help to Cristofir and the event would not have happened without him!

If you have any other questions about the transgender community, feel free to email Cristofir at Cristofir@gmail.com.

Coming soon, Cristofir swimming shirtless!



Pictured above are various members of the Memphis community who attended Chest Fest 2006 at David Mah's studio in Midtown. The event was coordinated by several volunteers to raise money for Cristofir Bradley's upcoming top surgery. The event raised \$2,500 dollars.



MGLCC hosted the Transgender Awareness Forum, Part II on Wednesday evening, June 14. The focus was top surgery. Panelists, and members of the audience, spoke on the various surgeries that can be performed in order to physically change one's gender. While some members of the transgender community desire surgery, the panelists made clear that not all want surgery performed. Cristofir Bradley, a panelist who will have top surgery performed in the near future, said that the moment he's anticipating the most is "swimming without a shirt."



Members of the MGLCC walking group carry banners that read "P-R-I-D-E" in rainbow colors. The walking group won second place. MGLCC also offered their location on Cooper St. as a place for members of the community to watch the parade and listen to DJ RJ.



Tsarus Man of the Year

Joey Brown (above, left) received the Tsarus Man of the Year award for 2006. Tsarus gives the award annually for community service. Brown is very active in the Friends for Life food pantry. Guest speakers at the event included last year's recipient Daryl Clark and Gina Fortner from Friends for Life. \$500 in proceeds were collected from the event and donated to the Friends for Life food pantry. Pictured to the right of Brown is David Seay, secretary/treasurer of Tsarus.

Information and photo provided by Vincent Astor

MGLCC Non-Profit Status Reinstated

by Alix Hewlett

As reported in the May issue of *Triangle Journal*, the board of directors of the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center (MGLCC) recently learned that their 501(c)(3) status had been temporarily suspended by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

The board became aware of this suspension when a generous benefactor, while donating \$1,000 to the community center, discovered that the MGLCC was not listed on the IRS approved listing of tax exempt organizations.

Despite an immediate inquiry of the IRS by the officers of the community center, the exact reasons for the suspension were not provided by the IRS. Instead, the IRS representative hypothesized that the suspension was due to a need for updated contact information.

The board immediately supplied the requested information to the IRS and was informed in early June that that IRS had lifted the suspension.

The MGLCC is a 501(c)(3) organization in good standing with the IRS that organizes numerous events throughout the year and is

open every day of the year except for holidays.

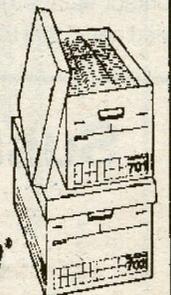
The community center is able to remain open to the Memphis community with the financial support of its benefactors and donors.

Will Batts, treasurer for MGLCC stated, "Since our status was simply suspended and not revoked, we were confident in maintaining our position as a qualified non-profit. It was a situation we were aware of and work[ed] to correct, but did not affect the day-to-day operation of the community center."

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Prepare Your Estate Plans to Provide Properly for Your Pet

by Rob Blizard, Outreach Director,
The Humane Society of the United States

Because pets usually have shorter life spans than their human caregivers, you may have anticipated your animal friend's passing. But what if you are the one who becomes ill or incapacitated, or dies first? As a responsible pet owner, you provide your pet with food and water, shelter, veterinary care, and love. To ensure that your beloved pet will continue to receive care should something unexpected happen to you, it's critical to plan ahead.

Members of the GLBT community may want to focus on this issue with extra emphasis, since pets are classified as property. Problems could arise when one partner passes away.

Without any written document to back a claim to a companion animal, a surviving partner may not be able to maintain ownership of the pet should the deceased partner's next of kin wish to take possession of the animal. However, estate planning documents can rid a gay or lesbian couple's fear of such an occurrence taking place.

Make sure you learn what steps you can take to plan and provide for your pet's future without you.

In the confusion that accompanies a person's unexpected illness, accident, or death, pets may be overlooked. In some cases, pets are discovered in the person's home days after the tragedy. To prevent this from happening to your pet, take these simple precautions:

(1) Find at least two responsible friends or relatives who agree to serve as temporary emergency caregivers in the event that something unexpected happens to you. Provide them with keys to your home; feeding and care instructions; the name of your veterinarian; and information about the permanent care provisions you have made for your pet.

(2) Make sure your neighbors, friends, and relatives know how many pets you have and the names and contact numbers of the individuals who have agreed to serve as emergency caregivers. Emergency caregivers should also know how to contact each other. Carry a wallet "alert card" that lists the names and

phone numbers of your emergency pet caregivers.

Post removable "in case of emergency" notices on your doors or windows specifying how many and what types of pets you have. These notices will alert emergency-response personnel during a fire or other home emergency. Don't use stickers; hard-to-remove stickers are often left behind by former residents, so firefighters may assume that the sticker is outdated or, worse, they may risk their lives trying to find a pet no longer in the house.

Affix to the inside of your front and back doors a removable notice listing emergency contact names and phone numbers. Because pets need care daily and will need immediate attention should you die or become incapacitated, the importance of making these informal arrangements for temporary care giving cannot be overemphasized.

The best way to make sure your wishes are fulfilled is by making formal arrangements that specifically cover the care of your pet. It's not enough that long ago your friend verbally promised to take in your animal or even that you've decided to leave money to your friend for that purpose. Work with an attorney to draw up a special will, trust, or other document to provide for the care and ownership of your pet, as well as the funds necessary to care for her.

First, when choosing a permanent caregiver, decide whether you want all your pets to go to one person, or whether different pets should go to different people. If possible, keep pets who have bonded with one another together. When selecting caregivers, consider partners, adult children, parents, brothers, sisters, and friends who have met your pet and have successfully cared for pets themselves. Also name alternate caregivers in case your first choice becomes unable or unwilling to take your pet. Be sure to discuss your expectations with potential caregivers so they understand the large responsibility of caring for your pet. Remember, the new owner will have full discretion over the animal's care—including

veterinary treatment and euthanasia—so make sure you choose a person you trust implicitly and who will do what is in the best interest of your pet. Stay in touch with the designated caregivers and alternates. Over time, people's circumstances and priorities change, and you want to make sure that the arrangements you have made continue to hold from the designated caregivers' vantage points. If all else fails, it is also possible to direct your executor or personal representative, in your will, to place the animal with another individual or family (that is, in a non-institutionalized setting). Finding a satisfactory new home can take several weeks of searching, so again, it is important to line up temporary care.

You also have to know and trust your executor and provide useful, but not unrealistically confining, instructions in your will. You should also authorize your executor to expend funds from your estate for the temporary care of your pet as well as for the costs of looking for a new home and transporting the animal to it. The will should also grant broad discretion to your executor in making decisions about the animal and in expending estate funds on the animal's behalf.

Before making formal arrangements to provide for the long-term care of your pet, seek help from professionals who can guide you in preparing legal documents that can protect your interests and those of your pet. However, you must keep in mind the critical importance of making advance personal arrangements to ensure that your pet is cared for immediately if you die or become incapacitated. The formalities of a will or trust may not take over for some time.

Although your lawyer will help you decide what type of document best suits your needs, you should be aware of some drawbacks to wills. For example, a will takes effect only upon your death, and it will not be probated and formally recognized by a court for days or even weeks. What's more, if legal disputes arise, the final settlement of your property may be prolonged. Even determining the rightful new owner of your pet can get delayed. In other words, it may take a long time before your instructions regarding your pet's long-term care can be carried out.

This doesn't necessarily mean that you should not include a pro-

vision in your will that provides for your pet. It just means that you should explore creating additional documents that compensate for the will's limitations.

Unlike a will, a trust can provide for your pet immediately and can apply not only if you die, but also if you become ill or incapacitated. That's because you determine when your trust becomes effective. When you create a trust for your pet, you set aside money to be used for his care and you specify a trustee to control the funds.

A trust created separately from your will carries certain benefits. The trust can be written to exclude certain assets from the probate process so that funds are more readily available to care for your pet. Additionally, it can be structured to provide for your pet even during a lengthy disability.

There are many types of wills and trusts; determining which is best for you and your pet depends on your situation and needs. It's important to seek the advice of an attorney who both understands your desire to provide for your pet and can help you create a will and/or trust that best provides for him.

You and your attorney also need to make sure that a trust for the benefit of one or more specific animals is valid and enforceable in your state; Tennessee currently offers honorary pet trusts but Mississippi and Arkansas have not passed legislation that implements this approach.

Even if your state law recognizes the validity of such trusts, keep in mind that tying up a substantial amount of money or property in a trust for an animal's benefit may prove to be controversial from the point of view of a relative or other

heir. Moreover, trusts are legal entities that are relatively expensive to administer and maintain, all of which underscores the need for careful planning and legal advice.

After you and your lawyer create a will, a trust, or both, leave copies with the person you've chosen to be executor of your estate as well as with the pet's designated caregiver so that he or she can look after your pet immediately. (The executor and caregiver may or may not be the same person.) Make sure the caregiver also has copies of your pet's veterinary records and information about her behavior traits and dietary preferences.

The Humane Society of the United States offers a free kit, "Providing for Your Pet's Future Without You," complete with a six-page fact sheet, wallet alert cards, emergency decals for windows and doors, and caregiver information forms. For the full kit, please visit www.hsus.org/petsinwills, call 301-548-7789, or write to rblizard@hsus.org or Rob Blizard, The HSUS, 2100 L Street NW, Washington, DC 20037.

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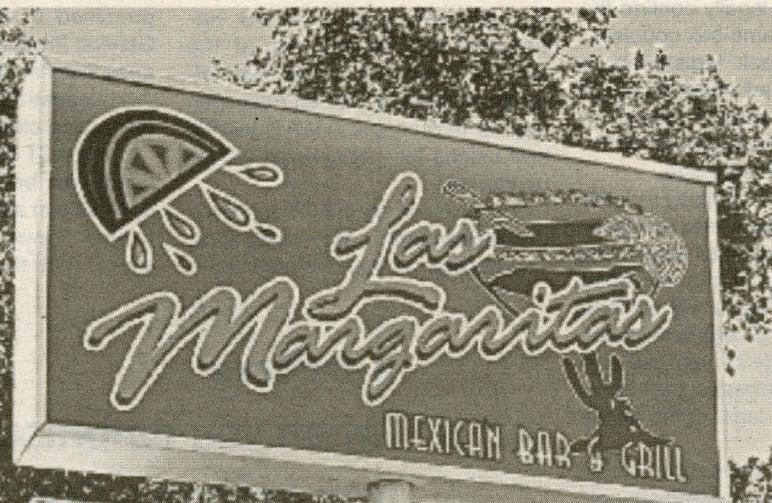



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Legal Rights of Marriage Granted in Iceland

Associated Press

On the 2nd of June, Icelandic parliamentarians approved several laws aiming to improve the legal status of gays and lesbians in Iceland.

Most importantly, changes to the statutes on confirmed cohabitation from 1996 now grant full rights to adoption and assisted pregnancies. Confirmed cohabitation now grants the full legal rights of marriage.

Same-sex cohabitants also gain the right to register their cohabitation with the authorities without full confirmation or marriage, a right which opposite-sex couples have enjoyed for many years already.

Though quite advanced on gay and lesbian rights, Iceland had lagged a bit behind in recent years. The country has now stepped back among the leading nations to guarantee marriage and family rights to gays and lesbians.

The new laws went into effect on Christopher Street Day, June 27, and celebrations occurred in Reykjavik.

Samtokin, the National Organization of Lesbians and Gay Men in Iceland, was founded in 1978, at a time when prejudice and discrimination forced many gays and lesbians to immigrate abroad. The success of the new organization was nothing short of remarkable. In just a few years, it managed to set up an extensive dialog, the media came out in support gay rights and fighting prejudice became a family issue among the Icelanders where family connections are still strong in a population of only 300,000.

The first milestone victory on the legal front came in 1996 with the passing of laws on confirmed cohabitation, but even so, gays and lesbians were still barred from adopting or seeking assisted pregnancies in Iceland's free public hospitals. Adoption and assisted pregnancies amendments in 2000 permitted stepchild-adoption for those in confirmed cohabitation, a move intended to strengthen the legal rights of such children.

These restrictions have now been removed altogether, granting full and free adoption rights to same-sex couples in confirmed cohabitation. Furthermore, lesbian couples in confirmed cohabitation have the right to assisted pregnancies within the public health system.

Also, under the new law, couples that do not want to take the full step to confirm cohabitation can now nonetheless register cohabitation with the authorities as opposite-sex couples have done for years, an important step in Iceland as it involves the right to seek common taxation.

As far as family law is concerned, all discrimination against gays and lesbians has now been removed in Iceland.

Struggling with the Church of Iceland, both civil officials and ministers of churches and religious movements have the authority to join people in legal marriage, as is also the case in other Nordic countries, however, only

civil officials can legally confirm the cohabitation of same-sex couples.

Gays now seek legislation to change this but parliament could not agree, mostly because of opposition from the Lutheran state church which is itself divided on the issue.

This does not in any way limit the legal rights of same-sex couples, but the right to have their union confirmed by their church is important to many. The struggle will not end until churches and religious groups have the authority to join gay and lesbian couples, blessing their union and granting full legal rights at the same time.

International polls now show that more people in Iceland support gay and lesbian rights than in other countries, except Sweden and the Netherlands. Gay bashing is a thing of the past, the children of gays and lesbians enjoy full social security, and workplace harassment has become rare.

On the second weekend of August each year, gays and lesbians take to the streets in Reykjavik in a Gay Pride Parade which draws 40,000 people, a full third of the entire population of the Icelandic capital showing their support for human rights and equality for all.

Civil Unions Overturned in Australia

Danny McCoy
Associated Press

Gay news organizations nationwide are lashing out at the announcement by government officials in Australia that an Australian Capital Territory (ACT) law legalizing civil unions for gay couples will be overturned.

Local assembly in ACT approved the bill last month to allow civil unions. The original bill was watered down

because it allowed gay marriage.

But days later the federal government vowed to overturn the law, then promised to reconsider. Attorney General Philip Ruddock said the bill goes against the Federal Marriage Act because its wording defines civil unions too closely to marriage.

"The ACT civil relationships ordinance has been disallowed," Ruddock said in a statement, according to Pink News UK. That means, in effect, that the legislative amend-

ments introduced to establish a civil arrangement for same-sex parties and others in the ACT will no longer be law."

ACT Attorney-General Simon Corbell, who had attempted to rush the bill through law, told the Australian *Daily Telegraph*, "This is a homophobic decision, it is arrogant and undemocratic."

The law was invalidated throughout Australia effective midnight, Tuesday.

I believe
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you embrace God.



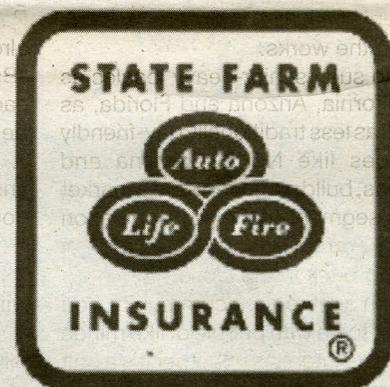
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Gay Specialized Housing Grows

by Lisa Leff
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO—Like other gay men in their golden years, Jack Norris and Seymour Sirota had heard the horror stories.

An elderly lesbian couple is housed on separate floors of a nursing home and kept from seeing each other. A gay, retired college professor feels compelled to keep his sexual orientation a secret after his roommate at an assisted-living facility asks to be transferred.

"I thought, 'We are not going to be in that situation,'" the 67-year-old Norris says crisply. "This is not going to happen to us in our final days."

That's how the two New Yorkers, partners for 14 years, landed at RainbowVision, a just-completed senior community in Santa Fe. From the private dining room named after Truman Capote to the cabaret where '60s teen icon Lesley "It's My Party" Gore appeared this weekend, everything about the 146-unit retirement village was designed with the comfort of graying gays and lesbians in mind.

As the generation of gay men and lesbians who came out in the 1960s and '70s reaches retirement age, about a dozen specialized senior developments across the country are either up and running or in the works.

In such senior-heavy locales as California, Arizona and Florida, as well as less traditionally gay-friendly places like North Carolina and Texas, builders have found a market in a segment of the gay population that worries getting old will mean going back in the closet.

"In a retirement community, you want to be with people of like minds and like interests, whether it's a golf community or a religious community," said Bonnie McGowan, who is spearheading Birds of a Feather, a second gay-senior complex in

Pecos. "Until I feel safe walking down the street holding a woman's hand ... and not feel like I'm going to offend even one person, there is a need for this."

Besides personal safety, specialists in gay-aging issues offer other reasons why the so-called Stonewall Generation, named for the 1969 New York riots that marked the beginning of the modern gay movement, needs and craves places of its own to retire.

Among them are the years of stigma and isolation many gays who are over 50 experienced that may have left them estranged from their families, financially insecure and childless.

"There is a real sense of disenfranchisement and also a sense of independence, of 'I don't want to be dependent on family; I want to be dependent on community,'" said Judy Dlugacz, founder of the San Francisco-based lesbian travel company Olivia Cruises and Resorts.

Olivia is currently scouting land in the Palm Springs area for what Dlugacz hopes will be the first of several high-end resort communities geared toward mature lesbians who are looking either for a vacation home or a place to retire.

Joy Silver, developer of RainbowVision, also plans to expand to Palm Springs, a desert community already popular with gay tourists. "Back in the day, we could identify each other because the only place to be gay was a gay bar," said Silver.

"Now, we have more options, and we may be more out, but it's still going to be hard to find friends or partners," she said. "It doesn't help to live in a gay-friendly community without any other gay people."

Along with second chances -- Silver is planning to throw a prom party "for those of us who didn't go to senior prom with the person we wanted to" -- RainbowVision was designed to foster a sense of

immediate belonging.

The fitness center was named after lesbian tennis pioneer Billie Jean King, for example, while services for those requiring ongoing medical care reflect lessons learned from the AIDS crisis. The 26 rented assisted-living units comprise a section of the complex called The Castro, after the San Francisco neighborhood that has long been a center of gay culture.

"Just as we have set the trends in music and fashion, (gays and lesbians) will be setting trends for the redefinition of family and community," Silver said.

Steven David, a postdoctoral psychology fellow at the University of California, Los Angeles who counsels and researches older gay men, said the concept of gay-senior housing gets mixed reviews from his clients. He has spoken to some who think living in a gay environment sounds fun and others who think it sounds awful, "just like some straight people like retirement communities and some don't."

Meanwhile, some in his field oppose the idea of separate communities for gay seniors, which also have taken off in Canada and parts of Europe, as voluntary self-segregation. "There has been an argument of, 'Should we be creating these places in the first place or forcing society to accept us?'" he said. For his part, Jack Norris says that battle can wait for the next generation.

He spent years in a job where he had to silently endure anti-gay jokes. Sirota, who is 80, did not tell his family he was gay until the two men got together.

Norris said even talking publicly about their new life at Rainbow Vision felt like a revolutionary act.

"Seymour was worried maybe we would be getting too much exposure," he said. "But then I said, 'We need to be like Rosa Parks. We can't sit in the back of the bus.'"

Churches Providing Same-Sex Ceremonies

Associated Press

OMAHA—The United Methodist bishop for Nebraska has approved a congregation's policy aimed at accommodating same-sex couples who want blessing ceremonies without breaking church rules that ban such ceremonies from Methodist congregations.

Bishop Ann Sherer approved a policy before it was adopted May 7 by First United Methodist Church of Omaha.

Under the policy, same-sex couples will be referred to non-Methodist clergy who will perform union ceremonies or to lay members who could conduct such ceremonies outside church. The couple will then be invited to a worship service at First United. The policy avoids United Methodist Church rules that forbid union services in its churches or conducted by its clergy.

Sherer said Methodist congregations elsewhere are doing the same. "I am grateful for their faithfulness to the laws of the church and I'm also grateful they want to reach out," she said.

The Rev. Chad Anglemeyer of First United said his congregation wants gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons to have as full access as possible. First United is the only Nebraska congregation in the Reconciling Ministries Network,

which advocates gay equality among Methodists.

Meanwhile, delegates to the annual Minnesota state convention of the United Methodist Church on Thursday approved resolutions favoring ordination of gay clergy and performance of same-sex marriages.

Their votes on the two issues will constitute recommendations to the denomination's General Convention, which meets in 2008.

"We are asking the general church to be more inclusive of gay, lesbian persons in the church's life," said the Rev. Bruce Robbins of Hennepin Avenue United Methodist.

Robbins said members of the Minneapolis church where he is a minister support ordaining gay clergy, and its congregation has sought to welcome gays to the church since 1992.

"The issue for many people comes down to 'What does the Bible say?'" Robbins said during a break at the four-day conference at the St. Cloud Civic Center.

The vote was 496-223 in favor of the petition calling for equal access to the Methodist church "regardless of sexual orientation."

The resolution "to remove prohibition of United Methodist clergy from celebrating homosexual unions" passed on a 394-320 vote.

Pentagon Lists Homosexuality as Disorder

By Lolita C. Baldor
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A Pentagon document classifies homosexuality as a mental disorder, decades after mental health experts abandoned that position.

The document outlines retirement or other discharge policies for service members with physical disabilities, and in a section on defects lists homosexuality alongside mental retardation and personality disorders.

Critics said the reference underscores the Pentagon's failing policies on gays, and adds to a culture that has created uncertainty and insecurity around the treatment of homosexual service members, leading to anti-gay harassment.

Pentagon spokesman Lt. Col.

Jeremy M. Martin said the policy document is under review.

The Pentagon has a "don't ask, don't tell" policy that prohibits the military from inquiring about the sex lives of service members but requires discharges of those who openly acknowledge being gay.

The Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military, at the University of California at Santa Barbara, uncovered the document and pointed to it as further proof that the military deserves failing grades for its treatment of gays.

Nathaniel Frank, senior research fellow at the center, said, "The policy reflects the department's continued misunderstanding of homosexuality and makes it more difficult for gays and lesbians to access mental health services."

The document, called a Defense

Department Instruction, was condemned by medical professionals, members of Congress and other experts, including the American Psychiatric Association.

"It is disappointing that certain Department of Defense instructions include homosexuality as a 'mental disorder' more than 30 years after the mental health community recognized that such a classification was a mistake," said Rep. Marty Meehan, D-Mass.

Congress members noted that other Pentagon regulations dealing with mental health do not include homosexuality on any lists of psychological disorders. And in a letter to Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld on Monday, nine lawmakers asked for a full review of all documents and policies to ensure they reflect that same standard.

Events

Beta Phi Omega Seeking Professionals

The ladies of the Beta Epsilon Chapter of Beta Phi Omega Sorority, Inc. are currently seeking people of all educational backgrounds to volunteer for their "Beta Babies" program.

With this program, Beta Phi Omega will provide tutoring in various subjects, including the ACT/SAT, college prep, job training, and much more to high school students as well as first and second year college students.

Beta Phi Omega is hoping to

implement Beta Babies in early September and will conduct tutoring and/or job training sessions once or twice monthly throughout the school year.

The Beta Epsilon chapter is looking forward to starting the program and dedicating their chapter to the education of Memphis youth.

If interested in participating, contact the Beta Epsilon chapter president Natasha Burnett-Holmes at nholmes_002@yahoo.com.

Saturday, July 1
MGLCC 2p-5p

The Ladies of the BE Chapter will be holding open interviews with young ladies who are interested in learning more about the organization. All interests are asked to bring a picture that will be kept and to make a copy of their driver's license. Interests must complete the online application prior to Saturday interviews. The application can be found at www.betaphiomega.net. Contact

Kimberly Terrell at kterrel_006@yahoo.com for more details.

Other activities include:

Saturday, July 8

Car Wash at Holy Trinity Community Church, 685 S. Highland.

Saturday, July 22

MGLCC 2-5 p.m.

Domestic Violence Seminar with Psychologist Sharon Horne

If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic violence of any kind, please attend this work-

shop and find out how you can help or be helped. Open to all.

Saturday, July 29, 2006

MGLCC 2-5 p.m.

Interest Meeting/Potluck

For more information contact Kimberly Terrell at kterrel_006@yahoo.com or Natasha Burnett-Holmes at nholmes_002@yahoo.com. Dress is professional. Please be sure to bring a dish.

July Farmers Market Schedule

The Memphis Farmers Market is open every Saturday through October 28, 2006 from 7:00 am to 1:00 pm, rain or shine. The Market is located at the Pavilion at Central Station at the intersection of Front St. and GE Patterson in the South Main District. Highlights for July are as follows:

July 1 American as Apple Pie:
An Independence Day Celebration
Fireworks Safety Day
July 8 Watermelon Day

Heart Health
July 15 Tomato "Tomato"
UV Safety
July 22 Calling all Cobblers
Diabetes Awareness
July 29 Southern Chef Competition
National Minority Donor Awareness
Additional market information can be found on the website which is www.memphisfarmersmarket.com.

Outflix Film Festival August 4-10

The Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center's Outflix Film Festival is schedule to kick off August 4 at the David Mah Studio and the community center.

Screenings of the six films will be shown from August 5 though August 10.

While the committee for Outflix hasn't released the official schedule, the committee has ensured that this year's films will appeal to a broader audience by including documentaries dealing with transgender issues, drug addiction and coming out. Also included are comedies and thought-provoking dramas and films from around the world.

Outflix films will be shown at

Muvico Peabody Place in Downtown Memphis and the Brooks Art Museum auditorium.

Tickets cost \$5 per feature block and \$8 dollars for each night. Closing night tickets are \$10. Festival passes are \$40 per person.

For more information, check out Outflix's website at www.outflixfestival.org.

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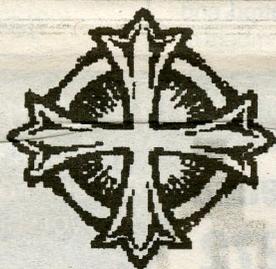
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Barack Rocks in Must-Read Novel

by Len Piechowski

I used to hear a lot of confessions. Now would you hear mine? I confess that I don't pray on a regular basis anymore. I pretty much gave up on it a while back. No backsliding here. I just rarely saw a return on my investment. Nevertheless, a lot has been written lately about physiological and psychological studies that support evidence that we have been "hard-wired" for god.

It may very well be that the need to touch the transcendent is part of the core of our being. That rings true to me because when faced with a challenge, or when standing face to face with greatness, I feel a strong need to reestablish contact with the divine. During those times, I find myself wanting to drop to my knees to touch transcendence.

The last time I recall actually praying was while watching television back in 2004. The program was the keynote address of the 2004 Democratic Convention and the speaker was someone of whom I had never heard before that night. A man the named Barack Obama. (Barack means "Blessed" in Swahili.) He made a powerful impression on me that night.

And in the last few weeks, I finally took the time to read his book.

Dreams From My Father spans Obama's life as a son of a black African man and a white American woman. In it, he insightfully describes to me, a son of a white Polish and Slovak couple, how he successfully worked through his

youthful resentment and antagonism against white people. His story is told through a recounting of the major stages of his life: his birth in Hawaii, his youth in Kansas, his adult life and career on the south side of Chicago, and his visit to Kenya, the land of his father.

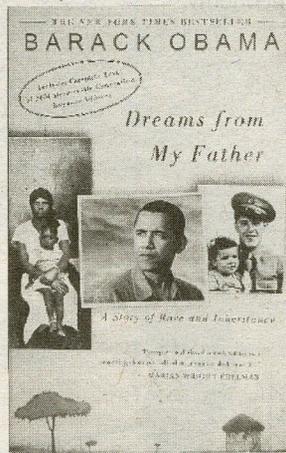
In detailing his visit to Kenya, the pain of a father hardly known is detailed and reconciled in his heart. And during his time in Chicago, his admiration for Harold Washington, the first black mayor of Chicago shines forth. Washington was perhaps a father figure for Barack and the exultation that was a part of that experience and the depths of despair that came in the wake of Washington's death is moving and heart-breaking.

The book is replete with insight and depth of experience. Obama's treatment of the philosophy (and his belief in the insufficiency) of Black Nationalism is profound.

It made me want to reread Malcolm X's autobiography. So much had I forgotten! So much is this experience so unlike mine! Yet, so much does it move me!

With Karl Rove now freed from impending indictment, our nation will doubtless be focused on the politics of division once again. As we ponder the loss of all integrity and commitment to principle-centered leadership in American politics today, the words of Obama's keynote address remind me of why we cannot despair.

These words must be trumpeted, now more than ever: "The pundits



like to slice-and-dice our country into Red States and Blue States; Red States for Republicans, Blue States for Democrats. But I've got news for them, too. We worship an awesome God in the Blue States, and we don't like federal agents poking around in our libraries in the Red States. We coach little league in the Blue States, and yes, we've got some gay friends in the Red States... we are one people all pledging allegiance to the stars and stripes, all of us defending the United States of America."

Lastly, if you're wondering about my prayer back in 2004, it was something like "Blessings on the Blessed. May he be my President one day."

Dreams From My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance was written by Barack Obama and published by Three Rivers Press in New York City in 1995 and then again in 2004. It is 453 pages in length.

The World of MySpace

by Autumn Falconer

Admit it!

You're hooked on myspace just like everyone else! It's sad but true. But so am I!

My morning routine consists of the following: getting to work, turning on the computer, checking my email, and then jumping right onto myspace. It's so easy wasting time surfing through MySpace.

The only thing that bothers me is the "Sorry, unexpected error" message that seems to pop up at least once daily.

How did everyone get wrapped up in this cyber-world? And what does it really offer?

Personally, I am one who connects better via email or text messaging. Phone conversations are annoying, and the only reason I call someone is to get information like where to meet. Phone calls are for the basics, and catching up is when emails come into play.

But the world of MySpace is great for that same reason. I can jump onto a friend's page, do my catching up, then move on to the next friend. It's the perfect way to stay connected in this busy life without needing a lot of time to do so.

MySpace has also been a place to find great music. Surfing through the pages of MySpace, I've come across some incredibly talented people. While MySpace is great for me to find new music, it's also a great way for these people to be heard and to get their talent recognized.

But MySpace can also cause problems. They can start rumors about people being fired because of the things that their employer may have found on their blog. And personally, it has caused some family feuds because I use myspace as a punching bag to let all of my problems out on the cyber pages.

And dating? I know some people who open accounts with MySpace in the hopes of finding someone to

make their life complete.

But my question is, can MySpace connect people in this way? Is myspace bringing people together in successful relationships, or is it just like the clubs—a big let down?

So next time you're on myspace, question your reasons for being there.

Then question whether you're getting what you expected from it. Have to run. MySpace is calling. Happy surfing!

Amy Steinberg is Synonymous with Inspiration

by Autumn Falconer

What do I do for inspiration? Lately, I set my iPod-Home to wake me up each morning. How does this inspire me, you might ask?

Well, the song set to wake me up is "Exactly" by Amy Steinberg. She has just released a new CD entitled *Must be the Moon* and this song is definitely my favorite! Truth is, I hate mornings! But this song pulls me out of that morning funk and puts a smile on my face!

The entire CD is full of songs that will lift you up and make you look around at what life has given you...

"Exactly" reminds listeners that they're exactly where they're suppose to be. This moment in your life is, as it should be. You can fight it, or you can choose to learn from it and live it while embracing it! It also makes you aware that we are all connected to each other and to the world around us.

"Stare" is song that takes you through some of the difficulties Amy has experienced in her life. Ignorance, indifference, hatred, and insecurity are all things members of

the GLBT community have experienced and to which we can relate.

"Wide Sky Life" makes you aware that what you think you want may not be what you really need or really wanted. In life, you must allow yourself to grow and become who you are meant to be.

Amy is from Florida and travels through the US sharing her brilliant talent with everyone in which she comes in contact. If you have every seen her live, you fall in love.

You breathe in her lyrics and energy and long for her return.

Amy plans to return to Memphis this September. Until then, check out her profile and songs on MySpace @ <http://www.myspace.com/amysteinberg>.

Read, seen, or heard something you want to share?

Send it to us!

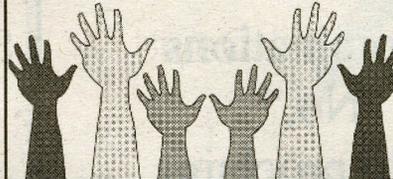
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Chevy Avalanche Swings Two Ways

by Casey Williams

It's good to be versatile. Some might think it's confusing, but General Motors shocked the auto market when they rolled out the Chevy Avalanche several years ago.

The truck combined the comfortable five-passenger cabin of an SUV with the open bed utility of a pickup truck. Uniquely, the big bruiser was equipped with a "midgate" that allowed the rear wall of the cab to fold down and cargo to be carried from tailgate to the front seats. With lockable tonneau panels, the entire cargo area was water tight and locked.

For 2007, the Avalanche is even easier.

Chevrolet general manager Ed Peppersaid, "Avalanche is a vehicle without peers, selling more than 379,500 units from its spring 2001 launch through December 2005. Avalanche's flexibility, from its SUV comfort and ingenious Midgate to its new family of flex-fuel capable engines, delivers a truly unique combination of cargo and passenger options."

Similar to last year's model, Avalanche will be available in LS, LT, and LTZ trim levels with 2WD and 4WD available. The Z71 off-road package will come later this year.

Base models are equipped with GM's innovative 5.3-litre V8 engine with variable displacement.

To save fuel, the engine can switch from eight- to four-cylinder modes depending on driver de-

mands. When the driver needs it, 320 horsepower and 340 lb.-ft. of torque are idling by. When the driver doesn't need it, like when cruising on the Interstate, the engine cuts back to four cylinders and sips gasoline—or corn-derived E85 Ethanol.

Later this year, a muscled 355-HP 6.0-litre V8 will be available. Properly equipped, Avalanche can tow up to 8,000 lbs. Fuel economy ratings for our test model were a big truck 15/21-MPG city/highway.

Hey, big guys get thirsty when they work hard.

Like the similar Chevrolet Tahoe, GMC Yukon, and Cadillac Escalade, the Avalanche's styling is completely new. Gone is the blocky K-Mart dash design of previous models. New ones are controlled from a cabin upholstered in available leather and paneled in woodgrain and aluminum trim. What used to be cheap Fisher Price plastic is now as good as in most Cadillacs.

Automatic climate control, in-dash navigation, heated seats, a Bose audio system, side curtain airbags, power adjustable pedals, rear view camera system, XM Satellite Radio, and rear seat entertainment system are all available. You'll swear Xzibit already pimped this ride.

Exterior styling is smoother and less rugged than before. The ugly plastic fender extensions and over-wrought bumpers have been recycled into a body color aero theme. Engineers and designers worked together to reduce the

truck's drag coefficient in a bid to hush wind noise and to improve fuel economy.

You'll definitely recognize the new truck as an Avalanche, but you'll be much more willing to drive it to the club or valet park it at a trendy restaurant.

Driving the new Avalanche is like a whole new world.

Precision is the key to how the steering and shocks can be described. Unlike competitors, General Motors' trucks seem smoother, quieter, and smaller than their dimensions and capability would suggest. Maneuvering the Avalanche through a tight downtown-parking garage was easy and I never felt overwhelmed. On the highway, the truck loafs along with no effort and always giving passengers an excellent view of the world below them. Bumps and grooves never flutter the truck's suspension – it just glides over the rough stuff with poise.

General Motors took a big risk when it redesigned its full-size SUVs and trucks during a period of high fuel prices. However, these trucks offer so much comfort, refinement, style, and capabilities that I believe owners are going to love them anyway.

Chevrolet has engineered impressive technology like variable displacement and E85-capability to make the Avalanche as earth-friendly as possible.

One drive will leave you completely impressed.

With an a base price of \$32,295



The 2007 Chevy Avalanche "swings both ways" and sells for 32K.

for our LT 2WD model, and an as-tested price of \$40,424, competition includes the Honda Ridgeline, Dodge Dakota Quad Cab, Ford F-150 Super Crew, and Nissan Titan Crew Cab.

But none blur the boundary between truck and SUV as effectively as the Chevy Avalanche!

Please send questions or comments about this review to Casey Williams at CRWAUTO@aol.com.

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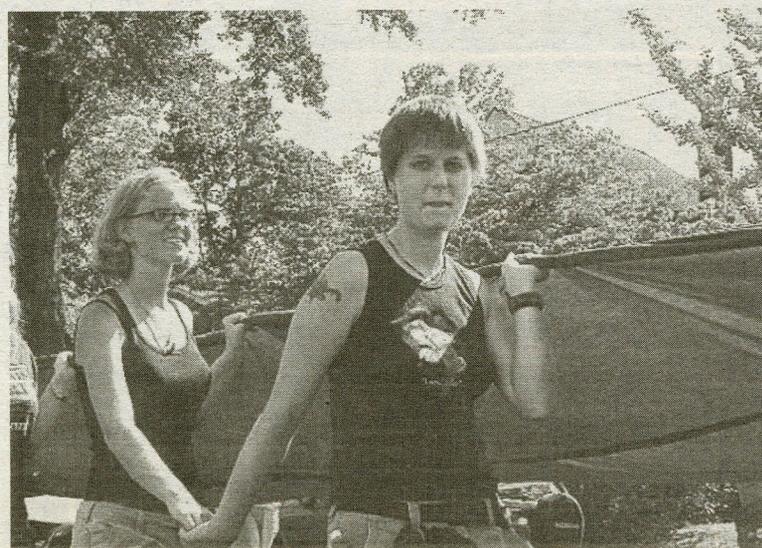
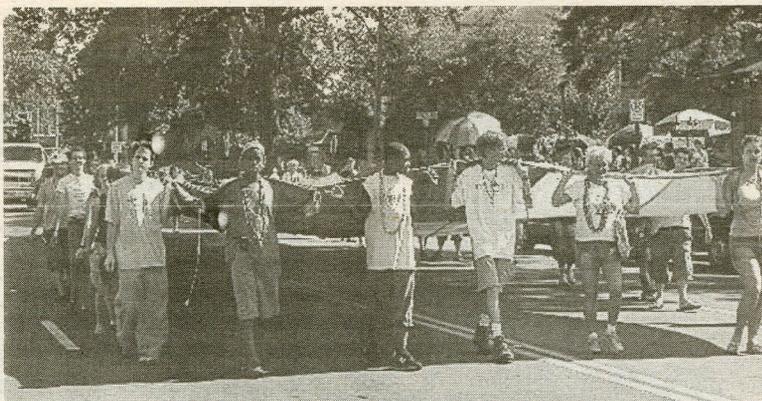
festival

This year at Muvico at Peabody Place and the Brooks Art Museum Auditorium!

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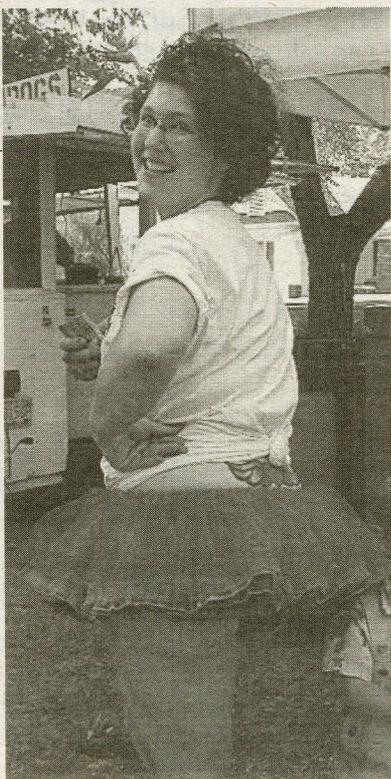
small town gay bar



From top to bottom left: Community members carry the 100 ft. pride flag; Memphis Area Gay Youth; members of Holy Trinity; Memphis Blues Women's Rugby; A lesbian couple holds hands while carrying the pride flag.

From top to bottom middle: Backstreet; Newlyweds Heidi and Erin Williams-Cranford help start off the parade; Edie Love sports a tutu.

From top to bottom right: Len Piechowski, Anthony Hardaway, and Sean Alexander celebrate Black Pride; Congress candidate Steve Cohen speaking to those in attendance at Peabody Park following the Pride Parade.



PRIDE



2006 Mid South Pride Parade Winners

Best Walking Group

- 1st: Prescott Church
- 2nd: MGLCC
- Honorable Mention: MAGY

Best Rolling Group

- 1st: Memphis Blues Women's Rugby Team
- 2nd: Backstreet
- Honorable Mention: Tsarus, Cotton Pickin' Squares

Best Use of Theme

- 1st: Mystic Krewe of Pegasus
- 2nd: P-FLAG
- Honorable Mention: Holy Trinity Community Church

Best of Show: Just for Us Memphis

Judges: Mystic Krewe of Aphrodite

Out & About

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

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CARPET CARE / CLEANING SERVICES
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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@mglcc.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.
Beta Epsilon Chapter of Beta Phi Omega Sorority, Inc. Community Service Organization catering to Feminine Lesbian, Bisexual, and Heterosexual women Contact: President Natasha Burnett Holmes at 901-949-6889 or betaepsilonchapter@yahoo.com; www.betaphiomega.net
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

Mid-South Community Resources

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@holytrinitymemphis.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@mglcc.org. Web site: www.mglcc.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.mglcc.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 Jasen, Box 11052, Memphis, TN 38111-0052.

Mystic Krewe of Memphis United: 41 S. Century, Memphis, 38111. www.geocities.com/mardigras-memphis

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.

Tsaros: 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, neilg@utm.edu 587-7301.

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

COUNSELING SERVICES

Eric Cassius, L.P.C., C.H.T.: Hypnotherapy, In-

dividual, Group, Adolescent, Couples & Family Counseling. Sliding scale fee available. 685-5491 for appointment.

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 901-517-1737.

J. Kent Usry, LCSW, CCBT, MAC: 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.

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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, Group 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@mglcc.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: breakbeatkid69@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.

Full Spectrum Painting: 901-643-2814

Girls Work: Incudes: House Doctors, Intimate Occasions, Lunch to Go, Basket Grams & 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@holyltrinitymemphis.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@holyltrinitymemphis.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 Coffeehouse 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

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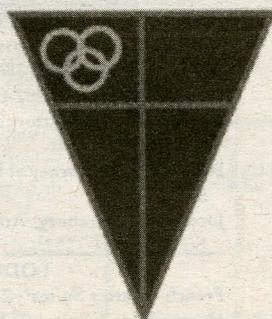
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Community Calendar July 2006

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
* Taking place at the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center						1 * Beta Phi Epsilon Interest Interviews 2-5pm
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		Fourth of July Picnic 3-6pm	*Men's Potluck 6:30pm		*Q-Café Coffee House: Boy and Girl 7pm	Beta Phi Epsilon Car Wash at Holy Trinity
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
MGLCC Board of Directors 3pm Lambda Professionals 2:30pm	*Perpetual Transition 6:30-7:30pm				*Q-Café Coffee House: Vincent and Jeff with Show Tunes and Sing-Along 7:30 pm	Lambda Professionals 2:30pm Monthly Potluck and Birthday Party 6pm
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
MGLCC Annual Meeting and General Elections 3pm	*Blue Suede Bears Business Meeting 7pm		*Women's Monthly Potluck 6:30pm		*Q-Café Coffee House: International night 7pm	* Beta Phi Epsilon Domestic Violence Seminar with Dr. Sharon Horne
23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28	29
	*Perpetual Transition 6:30-7:30pm on 7/24	MGLCC Volunteer Appreciation Dinner 6:30pm			*Q-Café Coffee House: Boy and Girl 7pm	* Beta Phi Epsilon Interest Meeting and Potluck 2-5pm

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