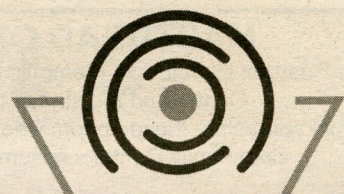


# Triangle Journal

VOLUME: 1 ISSUE: 10

NOVEMBER 2006

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE



MEMPHIS  
GAY AND LESBIAN  
COMMUNITY CENTER

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

## Luscious Crowned Miss Gay America 2007

by Rusty Collins

The crowning of Miss Gay America 2007 was held at the Cannon Center on Oct. 22.

The Miss Gay America system is a female impersonation pageantry system that celebrates thirty-five years of excellence. This female impersonation pageant has the reputation of being the most prestigious contest of this type. Contestants must be male, at least twenty-one years old, and cannot have been, or currently be on, any type of hormone. There must be absolutely no breast implants or cosmetic/body enhancing implants below the neck.

Silicone injections, excluding the face, are permitted before or during the contestant's reign. Each contestant has five categories to compete in: the male interview, solo talent, evening gown, on-stage interview, and talent; the talent segment equates to forty percent of the total score.

In order to advance to the final

competition, a contestant must win or be first alternate to one of the twenty-six regional or state preliminary competitions held across the country.

The Miss Gay America titleholder's job is to positively promote the Miss Gay America pageant system in a way that will uphold the status as a "symbol of excellence."

This is achieved through appearances at events throughout the year across the country, including at all state and regional pageant's final nights.

Miss Gay America also validates all scores at all the state and regional competitions. Once Miss Gay America is crowned, the pageantry system becomes a full-time job until the next MGA is crowned.

After three nights of preliminary competition, the field of forty-nine contestants was narrowed down to ten on stage at the Cannon Center. The top ten consisted of Miss Gay Georgia America Representative, Ginger Manchester;

Miss East Coast America, Coti Collins; Miss Western States America, Luscious; Miss Gay Louisiana America, Savanna Delorean; Miss Gay Missouri America, Victoria DePaula; Miss East Coast America first alternate, Chantel Reshae; Miss Mid America, Victoria Parker; Miss Gay DC America, Ashley Bannks; Miss Mid America first alternate, China Collins; and Miss Western States America first alternate, Alina Maletti.

The ten finalists proceeded to compete once again in evening gown, on-stage question, and talent. The talents ranged from songs from *Wicked* to Tina Turner and other fabulously entertaining performances. There were several standing ovations from the crowd after the talent performances.

While the scores were added, Miss Gay America 2006, Nicole DuBois, gave her farewell performance before passing the crown.

The court was truly a toss up and the crowd buzzed with anticipation and nervousness. Every participant worked hard and it



Crowned Miss Gay America 2007, Luscious will continue to uphold the pageant's status by being a "symbol of excellence."

was anyone's crown.

The Miss Gay America 2007 court is, China Collins, fourth alternate, Victoria DePaula, third alternate, Alina Maletti, second alternate, and Coti Collins, first alternate.

Luscious was crowned as the 2007 Miss Gay America.

As Luscious was being crowned, supporters and audience members cried in joy and

cheered in excitement.

After this event, L&T Entertainment, owners of the Miss Gay America Pageant System, could stand confidently behind their slogan, "Miss Gay America... Where the boys are boys... and female impersonation is an art."

Next year these contestants will be back and better than ever.

That will be a show that should not be missed.

## Shelby County Democrats Unanimously Oppose Amendment 1

by Jonathan Cole

On Thursday, Oct. 5, the Executive Committee of the Shelby County Democratic Party (SCDPEC) took positions on two referenda that will appear on the Nov. 7th ballot in Tennessee.

In the first of two resolutions, the SCDPEC resolved that "all Tennessee voters are hereby urged to oppose the attempt to write discrimination into the Tennessee Constitution through proposed Amendment 1 by voting "NO" against the adoption of Amendment 1."

If passed, Amendment 1 would add discriminatory language against same-sex marriage and civil unions to the Tennessee Constitution. The resolution argued that the Tennessee Constitution presently "contains no language discriminating against any group of Tennesseans or expressly denying equal treatment to any group of Tennesseans."

After the unanimous vote, committee member, Desi Franklin, declared that she "brought the

resolution to oppose Amendment No. 1 to the local party's executive committee because this amendment to our state constitution is not necessary—state law already prohibits same sex marriage—and it is wrong to write discrimination into our constitution."

With its vote on Amendment 1, the SCDPEC joined the National Democratic Party and the Davidson County Democratic Party in their opposition to anti-gay legislation and constitutional amendments. Matt Kuhn, Chair of the SCDPEC, proclaimed that, "The Shelby County Democratic Party is proud to endorse a resolution keeping discrimination out of the Tennessee Constitution. We urge all other county Democratic parties across the State to pass similar resolutions."

The vote on Amendment 1 occurred amid a large crowd of onlookers from the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center's Initiative: Fairness (I:F) and Memphis Stonewall Democrats.

Both organizations are active

supporters of the statewide Vote No on One Campaign.

I:F Co-Chair, Tommy Simmons, was elated to observe the unanimous decision. "I cannot underestimate the historical significance of this event to all LGBT citizens of Shelby County. Huge."

Fellow I:F Co-Chair, Jonathan Cole was surprised that "the resolution passed without any hint of opposition. This vote marks a

high point for the Vote No on One Campaign."

Franklin also introduced a resolution in support of another referendum on the ballot. Amendment 2 would allow the state legislature to implement a property tax relief program for seniors. Through its second resolution, the SCDPEC urged Tennesseans to vote yes on Amendment 2.

Franklin "sponsored the resolution to support Amendment No.

2 because the Democratic Party stands for the principle of a retirement with dignity." The Amendment 2 resolution also passed unanimously.

After both votes, Franklin concluded, "I'm proud that the largest county Democratic Party in Tennessee has shown leadership on both of these issues, which reflect our Democratic values."



MEMPHIS  
GAY AND LESBIAN  
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## Triangle Journal Contents



MEMPHIS  
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# Editor's Notes

## MASTHEAD OF HONOR

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## The Winter of Our Nation's Discontent

Even though I wrote an editorial a few months ago talking about the exciting things that the GLBT community is actively participating in and that Memphis is straying away from complacency and its former lack of action, there are still scary things happening.

I feel the energy when I walk into the community center. I connect with the vibes from co-workers. I think about the statements that friends and family make.

Our nation is in danger.

Granted, we're in danger from other countries, hence the stoplight layman's terms of defining the national security level by colors, but it's much deeper than that.

We're in danger of ourselves.

Being the history buff that I am, I come from the standpoint that history tends to repeat itself.

Grecians once ruled the known world under the leadership of Alexander the Great. Rome was guided by Julius Caesar. As much as the entire world hates to admit it, Hitler controlled Germany for one day too long. Babylonia was once a world-leader.

And each of these empires, whether mighty and just or despicable and outlandish, fell.

Worse than falling, each of these empires were crumbled with swift movements and tactic planning.

Its citizens were much like disgruntled employees griping about benefits, elderly people complaining about social security, and the impoverished growling with hunger.

Its citizens, while once happily led by a competent ruler whose decision-making skills were insurmountable through the guidance of advisors, became livid at the disability inflicted upon their leader—for he was no longer of the people and only of himself.

The ruler no longer empathized with the citizens' needs, for his

egotism and self-worth had risen explosively.

The people who had once provided the love and acceptance needed for a successful ruler to continue in his favorable position was no longer present.

He had forgotten the people and the people wanted to forget him.

Our nation is stirring in the winter of our discontent.

We are hungry for proper care and effective communication.

We desire a politician who is able to recognize his personal beliefs and separate them from the state in order so that he might effectually consider the needs his people.

We yearn for a day when our leaders themselves are no longer ruled by third parties who govern and donate their expenditures.

We dream about the day when we can confidently support a candidate or politician without having to consistently choose "a lesser of two evils."

Our nation is in danger of ourselves.

Water coolers at companies across the nation no longer eavesdrop on intellectual conversations about politics, debates, world events, or consciousness-raising. Rather, it overhears mindless chatter about reality television, numbing gossip, and sweet memories of days of old.

The thirsty flock doesn't want to talk about the present state of its country. They want to forget about the shameful decisions of its leaders, the perpetual legal trouble of the community politicians, the fear that they are being led by the unjust and morally detached.

Because our nation is scared of itself.

Our nation is scared of the power that they themselves provided to its lawmakers.

Our nation is scared of the ca-



pabilities that politicians have and the lack thereof for themselves.

Our nation is now the scarred woman of the 1900s who had no voice, no reason, no true home, and no security.

And our country now scrambles to protect itself from each other, itself, and the decision makers.

Thirsty for a new beginning, longing for greater exposure, desperate for change, our nation scurries to find shelter from the storm with a new leader.

A new leader with hope, reliability, understanding, and empathy.

If only our nation could hear us...

*Rebekah Hart is currently the editor of Triangle Journal. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Indiana State University. Her views and opinions do not necessarily reflect MGLCC, this paper, or anyone else except the author herself. She can be contacted at trianglejournal@aol.com.*

## Editorial Policy of Triangle Journal

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

## Triangle Journal

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 2

MARCH 2006



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- M. K. BANDHI -

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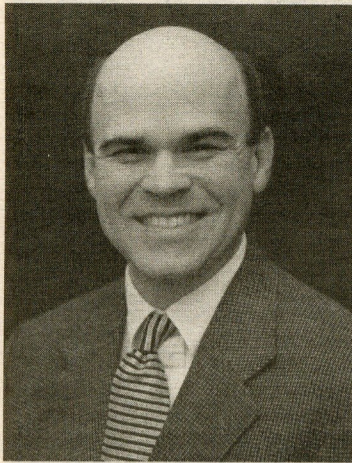
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11 PM

## Oppressed Must Voice Demands



By Will Batts

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. wrote the following words in 1963 as he sat in the Birmingham jail—arrested for leading protests against the injustices suffered by the African-American citizens at the hands of the local authorities and leading citizens.

*We know through painful experience that freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed.*

He was being criticized by a group of his colleagues—a group of 8 white clergymen who advocated a more cautious, less antagonistic approach. These cautious men implored Dr. King to wait, to be patient, to allow a more gradual process of change to occur. Dr. King countered by saying that patience most often worked to the benefit of those in power who were reluctant to change and to the detriment of those desperately waiting for things to improve.

He suggested that people of faith especially should recognize their true calling and work together for justice.

And, much like Dr. King advised these men, our community must come together to work towards our common goals. Our struggle is not the same as that of the African-Americans just as those of other minority and oppressed groups are not the same as ours. But what the GLBT community does have in common is the battle to be seen as deserving equal respect under the law.

We seek the same ability to make choices about our own lives as any in the straight community make about theirs: whom we live with, whom we love, how we conduct our financial affairs, how we raise our children.

These are not special rights; they are common rights allowed for the majority and denied for us.

So what do we do about it?

There are so many actions that organizations within our GLBT community do on a daily basis to effect change.

MGLCC works as a center for

groups within our community to improve our lives and our community. Mid-South Pride reminds the larger Memphis community of our joy of life and respect for who we are. Courageous groups at Nike and FedEx, as well as the Mid-South Lambda Professional Alliance and the burgeoning chapter of GLBT Chamber of Commerce work to educate their peers in the business world about how GLBT people live and work. Bluff City Sports Association seeks to educate by destroying the stereotype that GLBT people can't play sports.

These and all the other groups seek acceptance and equality in their own ways. Our struggle is to encourage these sometimes-disparate groups to act for change together.

And there will be time for that. But we have a pressing issue now.

We must come together as a community to make our voices heard. It is not enough to sit wringing our hands hoping that things will get better or that the efforts of others will save us.

It is not enough to wait patiently for someone else to fight our battles for us.

Dr. King in his letter also lamented the reluctance of people to speak out when it mattered.

*We will have to repent in this generation not merely for the hateful words and actions of the bad people but for the appalling silence of the good people.*

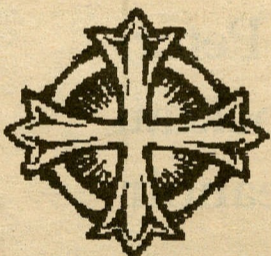
I believe there are many more good people in the world than there are bad. But if the good people do not speak up, do not vote, and do not protest injustice—then evil wins.

We cannot sit this election out. It is time to vote our consciences and encourage others to do the same. We need to make our voices heard.

It's time to act.  
It's time to vote.



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## Deeper Truths Evolve from Death of Friend

By Elizabeth Pitts

In the spring of 2001, my then-husband and I bought a house on Evelyn Avenue in Cooper-Young. Shortly thereafter, we started playing softball in the Bluff City Sports league, and not long after that, we met Steve Birkla.

Many of us have stories like this to tell:

*"One day I walked into [insert bar here] and shortly thereafter I met Steve Birkla."*

*"I moved into my apartment on Young Avenue and about a minute after that I met Steve Birkla."*

*"I joined thus-and-such group and at that meeting I met Steve Birkla."*

We all learned that it's hard not to meet Steve Birkla.

Not long after we met Steve, there was a pizza deliveryman who was murdered in Cooper-Young by the name of John Stambaugh.

I remember there was graffiti that happened almost overnight: on the bridges, the railroad overpasses, the empty Cooper-Young storefronts. The graffiti had a silhouette, obviously made by a stencil, and under it was inscribed, "If you knew our friend you would not have killed him."

This is what I think about more than anything when I think of Steve.

Steve drank himself to death... we all know this.

Our friend died for a reason we cannot discern; but we must all understand. The beast that drove him also killed him. The reason, in my opinion, that he had the courage to draw us all in is the reason he could not let go of the bottle of bourbon.

Let's consider this for a silent

moment.

That which gave him audacity gave him courage gave him sickness gave him death.

Oh, my God.

How many were the times that I couldn't face going home to my empty house on the days that my daughter was with her dad and I went to Steve's knowing that there would be kind and friendly faces?

How many times did I wish I could stay there where people thought I was pretty, people thought I was smart, people encouraged me to do what I needed to do to make myself and my daughter safe and happy?

How many times over the last month have I wished for the same place to go? Half-dialed that number thinking there was the refuge? Looked at the phone on a random Tuesday night wishing it would ring with "Scuba Steve1" showing in the ID window?

Too many, too many.

It will be a long time, I think, before I won't look for that number sometimes, won't drive past that house at 2000 Young thinking, "Scuba Steve."

Too many, before my daughter forgets why that house has significance to her three-year-old mind.

Tonight I was at a party. I looked at that bottle. Stared at it for too many seconds before I thought, "If you knew our friend... you would not have killed him."

God, I loved Steve Birkla—with all of his faults and fallacies and inconsistent stories. I loved the person he wanted me to be.

I loved the man we all knew he was deep inside.

I didn't tell you sooner, because I was afraid you wouldn't care.

## Tell us what you think!

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Triangle Journal reserves the right to edit submitted materials for content and length. Submissions will not be returned and not all submissions will be published.

# Cognitive Dissonance Perpetuates Inequality

By Jamie Griffin

Every summer for the past four years I've had the pleasure of directing and advising a great group of high school children from the Memphis metropolitan area during a week long camp. The goal of the camp is to provide the students with a chance to enrich their lives by experiencing the great melting pot this area has to offer.

Overall, the experience seems positive for everyone involved.

But what disappoints me every year is that at some point during the week, one white child from an economically disadvantaged family will refer to another white child from a similar background as "white-trash." Or a black student greets another black student by saying, "What's up, my nigga?"

What follows is me asking the group, while trying to remain

objective, why they act in this manner.

Why do they use terms to describe others like them that would not be acceptable if used by someone unlike them? And why is it okay when someone who shares similar economical or biological traits refers to them with words that would offend them if used by people not sharing those same traits?

I'm sure you're aware that this happens in the GLBT community as well. How many times have you heard a gay person call another gay person's actions "gay"?

Ever heard the phrase, "that's so gay," come from a person that's gay? Or a lesbian call another same-sex loving woman a "lesbo"?

But the moment a straight person says "gay" or "lesbo," all hell breaks loose.

This would also be true if a white person referred to a black person using the "n" word, although the black person may have been called one by another black person moments before and didn't think anything of it.

So why is it okay?

Here are some of the answers I've received.

**The Humor Theory:** It's funny when people who share common experiences make fun of themselves. So gay, Jew, spic, and bitch are all funny if used by people who are gay, Jewish, Hispanic, or women (respectively). Because, as we all know, you have to laugh to keep from crying.

**The Relationship Theory:** Hey, I can talk about my older sister's problems with acne because she's family and in return it's okay for her to talk about my weight problem. It's all about the relation-

ship you have with the person. If you're not familiar or comfortable with a person, you should be careful what you call them. Once you get to know them better, you begin to let down your guard.

**The Devaluation Theory:** Let me warn you, this one sounds like it has some merit to it. You see, accordingly, you take the word, use it, and then gradually the term loses its value. If members of the GLBT community continue to refer to other members of the community as fags (albeit in a comical way, see *Humor Theory*), it won't hurt as much when the straight person uses it. So theoretically speaking, by the year 2015, when a white person calls a black person the "n" word, it won't be a big deal because the word will have lost its value.

Although these are all interesting theories, I think I have a better one.

It's called the "I don't want to change the way I am" theory.

Studies in psychology suggest that it's easier to adopt defense mechanics to explain our behavior than it is to change them. In other words, instead of admitting that our behavior is destructive in nature and not in the best interest of the group we represent, we rationalize our actions. The psychological term for this process is called cognitive dissonance.

My suggestion?

We set the example by treating people the way we want to be treated. We refer to ourselves the way we want others to refer to us, and vice-versa. And when we do that, we show the rest of the world how much respect we have for one another and that anything else is unacceptable. We truly empower ourselves.

Now that's gay.

## Obama for President?

By Alix Hewlett

You could almost feel the enthusiasm several liberals shared when they heard the news that Illinois senator Barack Obama would consider running for office in the next presidential election. If he wins, it will be historic.

He would be the first African-American U.S. president.

But beyond that, Obama is smooth. He rocked the house a few years ago at the Democratic Convention. He demolished fellow African-American but ultra-conservative Republican, Alan Keyes, in the Illinois senate race.

And did I mention he was smooth?

He's the kind of guy whom you believe when you hear him speak. He's the type of personality that can bring people of all races, religions, ages, and sexual orientation together. He's passionate. He's educated.

I believe with all my might he could do a better job than George

Bush.

And he's... he's... anti-gay marriage?

The following are his words: I'm a Christian. And so, although I try not to have my religious beliefs dominate or determine my political views on this issue, I do believe that tradition, and my religious beliefs say that marriage is something sanctified between a man and a woman."

At the same time, he said would not let his religious beliefs dictate the way he approaches public policy.

Apparently, that is, until it comes to gay and lesbian marriages.

Is this a bad sign, given that it sounds like he's already talking out of both sides of his mouth?

In fairness, he did say he supports civil unions between same-sex couples and that he believes individual states should determine if marriage between GLBT couples are to be legalized.

"Giving them a set of basic

rights would allow them to experience their relationship and live their lives in a way that doesn't cause discrimination," he said.

Apparently gays and lesbians not being allowed to be married is not discrimination.

The reality is this; Obama may end up being the best option for the GLBT community in the next presidential election; the lesser of two evils.

But can and will the GLBT community get behind someone who doesn't support the very thing the community has been fighting so hard for these past few years?

Maybe I'm jumping the gun.

After all, he did say he was "considering" running for president.

But if he does, the GLBT community will have a lot of "considerations" to make.

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# Letters to the Editor



I had a wonderful time meeting Greg and would like to thank the MGLCC for such a great event. Thanks again for such a wonderful evening!

Sincerely,  
Miki Zulewski (pictured above with Louganis)

## No Need to Come Out at Workplace

I was frustrated with the article entitled "Coming Out in the Work Place" that was in the October issue of Triangle Journal.

Many people struggle with coming out of the closet. Regardless of whether or not an individual is coming out to family, long-time friends, or co-workers, the situation is different for each person.

While I understood the point that Ms. Hart was trying to make, I feel that she failed to realize how straining and stressful coming out can be. Yes, she tossed and turned for several nights, but

ultimately, she felt protected in the end.

It's not always easy for all people to simply jump out of the closet hairdryers ready. Even though my work speaks for itself and I consider myself a successful businessperson, I refuse to provide my co-workers or boss with "leverage" against me. I don't every introduction to be followed by a whispered, "Oh. So-and-so is gay by the way."

And I don't want to deal with the uncomfortable silence and countless apologies after someone slips and makes a comment

about gays and lesbians, like I'm the new captain of the squad and religiously invoke anger and wrath every time anything relates to gaiety.

I've come out plenty of times at various jobs and it's never been a problem with anyone.

But like Ms. Hart, my work speaks for itself and my play doesn't need to speak at all.

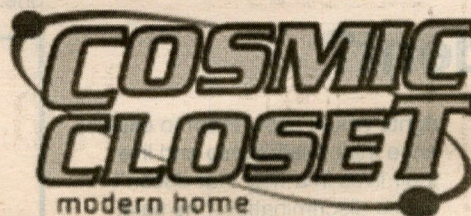
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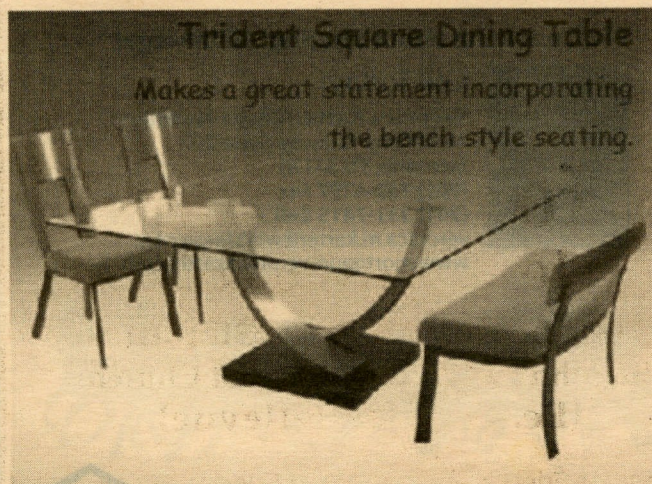
Family owned and operated, located on McLean Boulevard just behind Starbucks.



### Madison Ave Bar

This space-serving bar can be placed against the wall, and then opened up to create the focus of your next party! When closed, it can be used as a server or buffet. Built in storage racks will easily accommodate glassware and bottles.

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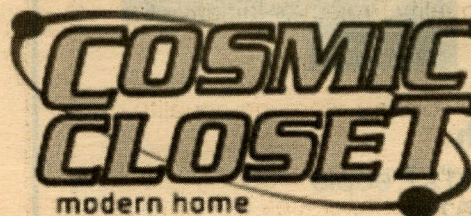


### Trident Square Dining Table

Makes a great statement incorporating the bench-style seating.

### Action Extension Dining Table

With leather legs & smoked chocolate glass, this dining room table extends to two different sizes. Italian made.



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## Friends for Life Dedicates Food Pantry



Friends For Life joyously announces the dedication of the Nancy Fletcher Food Pantry.

Nancy was an avid supporter of Friends For Life, volunteering with the Food Pantry, Feast For Friends, and many special events. Friends For Life could think of no better means to honor Nancy's memory and to commemorate the many ways in which she supported Friends For Life than to name the Food Pantry program in her honor.

Please join the Friends For Life Board of Directors at a special dedication ceremony for the Nancy Fletcher Food Pantry on Tuesday, Oct. 24 at 4:30 pm at Friends For Life, 43 N. Cleveland.

## No Hay Unión Entre los Hispanos

*Associated Press*

La efervescencia de movimientos como la más reciente marcha convocada por grupos a favor de los inmigrantes en Atlanta no son indicativo de que haya unión en la comunidad hispana, advirtió el analista político Juan del Águila.

"Aun persisten las diferencias de clase e ideología. Los que llegaron hace años piensan que no son inmigrantes y no se identifican con las nuevas generaciones," aseveró del Águila, profesor del Departamento de Ciencias Políticas de la Universidad Emory, en Atlanta.

Un puñado de manifestantes antiinmigrantes se apostaron en las inmediaciones de la marcha

con cartelones diversos.

Para Del Águila la más reciente marcha, al igual que la del 10 de abril, pueden ser interpretadas como el intento de una comunidad por reclamar sus derechos o como un desafío.

"Todo depende del enfoque que le den los medios de comunicación. Si hay énfasis en que se trata de un grupo que se quiere asimilar, se entiende que solo reclaman sus derechos políticos. Pero si no, puede parecer un desafío," aseguró Del Águila.

"El inmigrante debe asimilarse como trabajador, como ama de casa y como estudiante. Debe integrarse como ciudadano," expresó el analista cubano.

El tema de la inmigración está

en la mente de los votantes, aseguró del Águila, quien agregó que existe una preocupación en la sociedad porque percibe que hay personas que están en el estado sin documentos, pero a la vez sabe que hay una gran demanda de trabajadores en Georgia.

"Por otra parte también existe la tradición hospitalaria del sur y quieren mantener esa fama," indicó del Águila.

"Aunque a veces se destaca más el aspecto negativo, hay cierta sensatez para reconocer que se necesita la mano de obra y que se trata de inmigrantes que vienen a hacer lo mismo que otros inmigrantes hicieron antes: buscar trabajos estables," concluyó.



## Triangle Journal



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BY

*Tom Pitman*

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## 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/if](http://www.mglcc.org/if)).
1. Volunteer to canvas voters in your community and ask them to vote "No" on Amendment 1!



## Feast

### for Friends Mon., Nov. 6 & 20

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.

# Miss Gay Tennessee America Crowned

by Hunter Johnston

The Miss Gay Tennessee America Pageant was held Sept. 29 at the Madison Flame in Memphis. Six contestants competed for the title.

Also appearing at the pageant was the reigning Miss Gay Tennessee America 2006, Victoria Parker, and Miss Gay America 2006, Nicole DuBois.

Anastacia Beaverhousen, who had recently won Miss Gay Memphis America 2007 at Sessions, was crowned the new Miss Gay Tennessee America 2007.

First alternate was Miss Anita Cocktail, Miss River City America 2007.

Both women were also able to compete in the Miss Gay America pageant.



# Local

## Friends for Life Warning: Solicitor Imposter

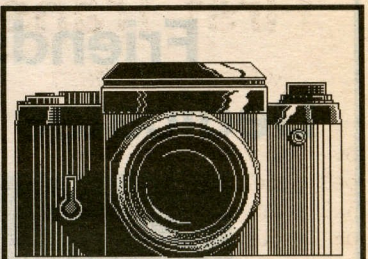
Some downtown panhandling is not being used for the purposes being advertised.

Friends For Life Corporation reports that people who work downtown have been approached by an individual who says that he is raising money on behalf of Friends For Life.

The mid-south's largest comprehensive service provider for people affected by HIV and AIDS, Friends For Life ensures that the corporation never utilizes individual sidewalk or street-based solicitations to raise funds for their non-profit organization.

Witnesses who have been approached by this man describe him as wearing a dark business suit; they say that he appears to be middle aged, is bald, and is African-American. Witnesses say that he even wears a name tag which seems to identify him as being associated with Friends For Life.

Friends For Life asks that community members contact the Memphis Police Department at 545-COPS if this man is witnessed at attempting to raise money for the agency.



Send pictures to:

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or e-mail to:  
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I believe  
when you embrace diversity,  
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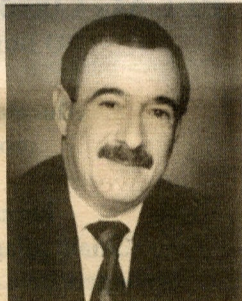


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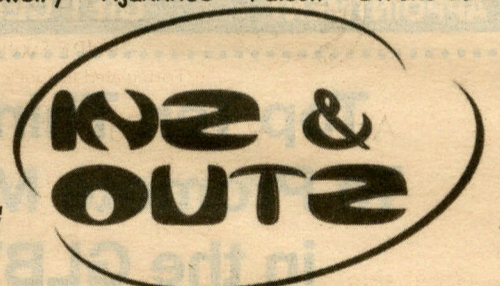
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## First Transgender Day of Remembrance to be Held in Memphis

by Casey Lanham

In the past decade alone, over 150 transgender people, or people perceived as transgender, have been brutally murdered simply because of who they were, according to Gwen Smith of Gender Education and Advocacy (gender.org).

Moreover, more than one anti-trans murder has been reported to the media every month since 1989 and numerous others have been disregarded and forgotten.

In February 2006, one such case occurred in south Memphis when Tiffany Berry, a 21 year-old trans-woman, was shot several times outside her apartment after stepping outside for fresh air.

During the investigation, the Memphis Police Department determined her death to be a robbery-homicide, though according to Berry's friends, nothing had been taken off her person, including her purse.

Neighbors also said that there was a history of harassment, with some incidents as recent as two weeks prior to her murder. The



police refused to comment on her transgender status, stating that her murder was not considered a hate crime.

Berry's unfortunate death is, in part, what set in motion the organization of the first Memphis Transgender Day of Remem-

brance (TDOR).

On Monday, Nov. 20, Memphis will finally join Nashville and Knoxville as major Tennessee cities observing TDOR.

The event will be held at the First Unitarian Church of Memphis (Church of the River) from 7

to 9:30 p.m. and will consist of a candlelight vigil and interfaith memorial service with a short reception to follow.

TDOR is a day set aside every November to commemorate transgender people who have died of anti-trans hate crimes.

The event began in 1999 as a memorial for Rita Hester, a young Boston trans-woman whose tragic death launched the Remembering Our Dead web project (rememberingourdead.org) and a San Francisco candlelight vigil. Since then, the event has spread to cities and towns all over the world.

TDOR serves a number of purposes, such as raising public awareness of anti-trans hate crimes and reminding people

that transgender people are their children, siblings, parents, lovers, friends, neighbors, and coworkers.

Most importantly, however, it gives trans allies an opportunity to support the trans community and stand in paying tribute to those who have suffered such untimely deaths, especially those in the trans community.

All organizations planning to participate in the service and/or reception should contact the organizer by Monday, Nov. 13.

For more information about the Memphis TDOR, contact Casey Lanham at [clanham@memphis.edu](mailto:clanham@memphis.edu) or call 901-378-5773.

### Have a question for Kent?

Send it to:  
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## Events

### WKNO to Hold 16th Annual Art and Antiques Auction

WKNO will hold its 16<sup>th</sup> annual Stanford Group Company Gallery 10, The WKNO Art and Antiques Auction live on WKNO/Channel 10 on Nov. 4-5 and Nov. 11-12 from 12 pm-11 pm.

More than 600 paintings, sculptures, photographs, jewelry,



antiques, and collectibles donated by well-known and up-and-coming artists, collectors, galleries, and antique shops will be auctioned off to the highest bidders.

Proceeds from the auction will benefit public broadcasting for the Mid-South.

Interested bidders may stop by the WKNO station, located on the University of Memphis South Campus at Park and Getwell, Monday through Friday from 9 am to 5 pm to view the items that are on display through out the station.

Bidders may also log on to [wkno.org](http://wkno.org) for more information on the auction and to view the items.

During the auction, interested bidders may come to the studio and bid in person, or they may call (901)325-6565 and bid through an auction volunteer.

Stanford Group Company (Member NASD/SIPC) is a member of the global Stanford Financial Group, a network of affiliated financial companies headed by Chairman and CEO R. Allen Stanford.

WKNO is a non-profit, private foundation serving the Mid-South for 50 years.

An important community resource, WKNO uses the power of non-commercial public broadcasting to provide the Mid-South with quality educational and cultural programs that inform, entertain, and inspire.

For more information, visit [wkno.org](http://wkno.org).

### Marriage Equality Matters

Vote "NO" on Tennessee's Marriage Amendment on Nov. 7, 2006

I:F

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### Volunteers Needed for GLBT Career Day

Alpha Chi Upsilon sorority is in the planning stages of developing a Career Day for the GLBT community. The goal of the event is to provide resources to the community regarding employment and career advancement.

Volunteers are needed for suggestions, opinions, and development planning.

Alpha Chi Upsilon is also seeking speakers who will provide information on how to create a successful resume, the dos and don'ts when interviewing for a job, dressing for success, and how to find the right career.

In addition, the sorority would

like to have company representatives accept applications for employment at the event; local universities and colleges are welcome to attend as well in order to provide information regarding educational advancement.

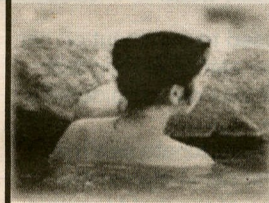
Tutors and volunteers are also needed for those requesting assistance with GED and ACT/SAT preparation, literacy, and computer software training.

For more information or questions regarding this event, or if you would like to volunteer, please contact April Blair at [alphachiupsilon@yahoo.com](mailto:alphachiupsilon@yahoo.com).

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Best Ribs \_\_\_\_\_

Best Dessert \_\_\_\_\_

Best Service \_\_\_\_\_

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Best Men's Clothing \_\_\_\_\_

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Best Hair Salon \_\_\_\_\_

Best Barber Shop \_\_\_\_\_

Best Day Spa \_\_\_\_\_

Best Fitness Club \_\_\_\_\_

Best Jewelry Store \_\_\_\_\_

Best Tattoo Parlor \_\_\_\_\_

Best Antique Store \_\_\_\_\_

Best Florist \_\_\_\_\_

Best Sporting Goods \_\_\_\_\_

Best Video \_\_\_\_\_

Best Car Dealership \_\_\_\_\_

Best Record Store \_\_\_\_\_

Best Glass Shop \_\_\_\_\_

Best Pride Paraphernalia \_\_\_\_\_

## Entertainment & Recreation

## Media

Best Museum \_\_\_\_\_

Best Art Gallery \_\_\_\_\_

Best Live Theater \_\_\_\_\_

Best Movie Theater \_\_\_\_\_

Best Sports Team \_\_\_\_\_

Best Art Museum \_\_\_\_\_

Best Local Artist \_\_\_\_\_

Best Local Gay Artist \_\_\_\_\_

Best Park \_\_\_\_\_

Best Place for a Picnic \_\_\_\_\_

Best Family Entertainment \_\_\_\_\_

Best Festival \_\_\_\_\_

Best Bowling \_\_\_\_\_

Best Radio Station \_\_\_\_\_

Best Television Station \_\_\_\_\_

Best Newspaper/Magazine \_\_\_\_\_

## Night Life

Best Live Music Venue \_\_\_\_\_

Best Local Band \_\_\_\_\_

Best Local Singer/Songwriter \_\_\_\_\_

Best Bar \_\_\_\_\_

Best Dance Club \_\_\_\_\_

Best After Hours Club \_\_\_\_\_

Best Beer Selection \_\_\_\_\_

Best Jukebox \_\_\_\_\_

Best Place to Play Pool \_\_\_\_\_

Best Place to Play Darts \_\_\_\_\_

Best Bar Service \_\_\_\_\_

Best Drag Show \_\_\_\_\_

Best Drag Queen \_\_\_\_\_

Best Drag King \_\_\_\_\_

Best Bartender \_\_\_\_\_

Best Cocktails \_\_\_\_\_

Best Casino \_\_\_\_\_

## Education

Best College/University \_\_\_\_\_

Best Library Branch \_\_\_\_\_

## Politics & Organizations

Best GLBT organization \_\_\_\_\_

Best GLBT friendly organization \_\_\_\_\_

Best Politician \_\_\_\_\_

Best Political Group \_\_\_\_\_

### TO VOTE FOR THE BEST OF GAY MEMPHIS 2006:

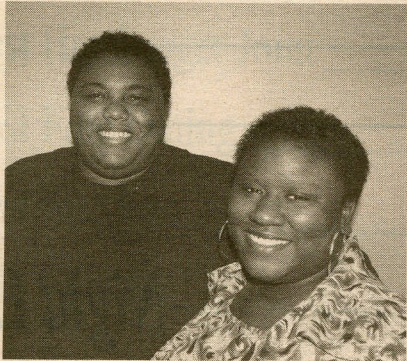
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Memphis, TN 38104

Votes Due by November 17

# VOTE "NO" ON AMENDMENT 1 ON NOV. 7



## FAITH LEADER OPPOSITION TO THE TENNESSEE MARRIAGE AMENDMENT

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 marriage. 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 therefore are 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,

Rabbi Aaron Rubenstein  
*Beth Shalom Synagogue*

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The Rev. George Yandell, Associate Rector  
*Calvary Episcopal Church*

The Rev. Cheryl Cornish, Pastor  
The Rev. Joseph R. Pfeiffer  
The Rev. Elaine L. Blanchard  
*First Congregational Church*

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

The Rev. TroyAnn Pouloupoulos  
*Galloway United Methodist Church*

The Rev. John H. Moloney, Rector  
The Rev. Joe T. Porter, Curate  
The Rev. Senter C. Crook, Associate Rector  
The Rev. Robin R. Hatzenbuehler, Curate  
*Grace-St. Luke's Episcopal Church*

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

The Rev. Stephen R. Montgomery, Pastor  
The Rev. Casey Thompson, Associate Pastor  
*Idlewild Presbyterian Church*

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

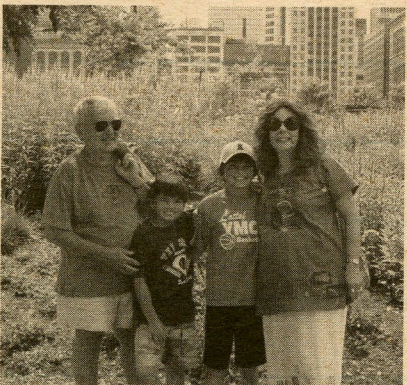
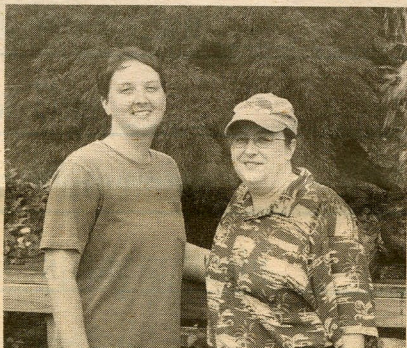
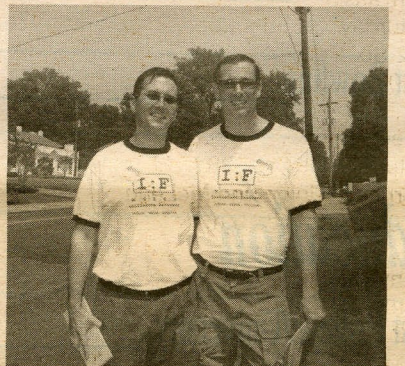
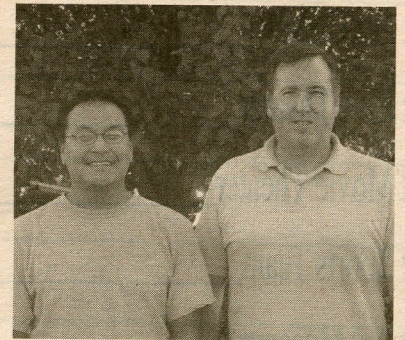
Robert Pugh, Presiding Clerk  
*Memphis Friends Meeting (Quaker)*

The Rev. Bill Neely, Minister  
*Neshoba Unitarian Universalist Church*

The Rev. John Gilmore, Pastor  
*Open Heart Community Church*

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

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# Politics

## Vote No on 1 Launches Radio Campaign

by Chris Sanders

Tennessee Equality Project's Vote No on 1 campaign is launching radio spots starting Monday, Oct. 23 that will run through election day (November 7) in the Knoxville, Memphis, Clarksville, and Nashville markets.

The advertisements are part of the effort to defeat proposed amendment one that defines marriages as being only the union of one man and one woman.

Vote No on 1 is working with Metro Networks to place traffic report sponsorships in these markets. Requiring no production cost, these spots run approximately ten seconds per sponsorship.

The spots will rotate among twenty-six stations in Nashville, sixteen stations in Memphis, four stations in Clarksville, and twenty stations in Knoxville. The campaign is exploring additional advertising options in other cities and the rural areas of Tennessee.

Tennessee Equality Project President Chris Sanders commented, "A statewide media campaign is a huge step forward for Tennessee's GLBT community and our allies. These radio spots will allow us to motivate our base and reach out to a new group of voters."

For more information on Tennessee Equality Project's Vote No on 1 campaign, go to [www.VoteNoOn1TN.com](http://www.VoteNoOn1TN.com).

## Poll Workers Editorializing to Early Voters on Amendment 1

by Tommy Simmons

Initiative: Fairness (I:F) and the Vote No on 1 Campaign have been alerted to several problems at early voting places with poll workers explaining Amendment 1.

In Shelby County, a voter was told that he should vote no on Amendment 1 if he wanted "two men or three women to be able to marry."

The Vote No on 1 Campaign is working with the Division of Elections and has been assured that all county poll workers are not to discuss Amendment 1 with voters.

According to the Saturday, Oct. 21 edition of the *Nashville Tennessean*, State Election Coordinator Brook Thompson sent an e-mail to all election officials statewide stating:

"The only thing you should ever tell a voter is that a yes vote is for amending the constitution and a no vote is against amending

the constitution. Do not try to tell them how to vote if they tell you what their position is. The ballot speaks for itself."

If a voter asks a poll worker (or any other election official) about Amendment One, the poll worker or official is not to editorialize or summarize it. They are simply to state that they cannot discuss it and the voter should read the amendment.

If voters experience anything different, please contact I:F at [if@mgfcc.org](mailto:if@mgfcc.org) with all details (voting location, Poll Worker name, Supervisor name, time of day, and exact quotes of what was said by all parties).

I:F will in turn alert the Vote No on 1 Campaign.

These concerns at the polls make it imperative that not only should community members vote, but vote early so that issues can be reported to the proper authorities as soon as and as early as possible in this early voting period.

Visit the I:F website to view the list of early voting locations

Also, remember to vote in the Tennessee Governor's race. Amendments to the Tennessee Constitution must receive 50 percent plus 1 of the votes cast in the Governor's race in order to become law.

## Vote No on 1 Volunteer Possibilities

Canvassing  
Saturday, October 28  
892 So. Cooper  
9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

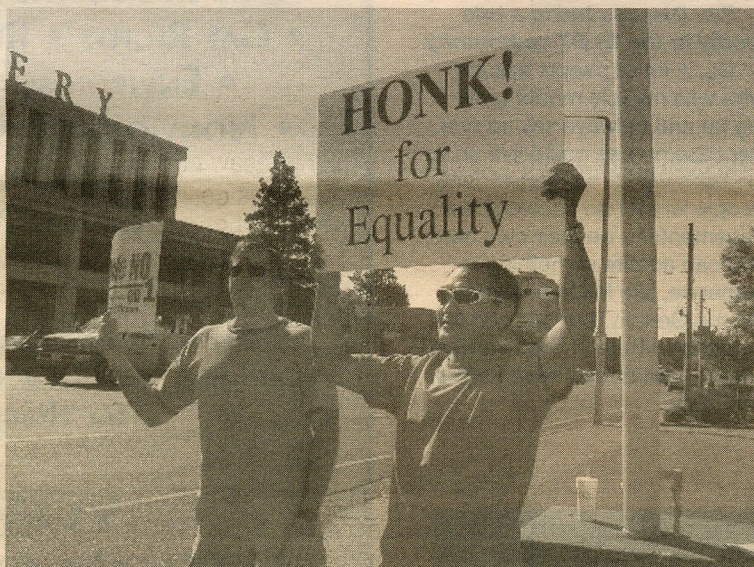
Street Visibility  
Saturday, October 28  
Corner of Union and McLean  
2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Canvassing  
Saturday, November 4  
892 So. Cooper  
9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Street Visibility  
Saturday, November 4  
Corner of Union and McLean  
2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Street Visibility  
Sunday, November 5  
Corner of Poplar and Highland  
2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Street Visibility  
Monday, November 6  
Corner of Poplar and Highland  
7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.  
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.



Partners Jeff Childers (left) and Thomas Joseph stand on the corner of Union and McLean holding Vote No on 1 signs and "Honk! for Equality" to passing motorists during lunch hour traffic. Street Visibility will continue on Union and McLean and Poplar and Highland until election day.

Street Visibility  
Tuesday, November 7  
Corner of Poplar and Highland  
7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.  
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Street Visibility  
Tuesday, November 7  
Corner of Union and McLean  
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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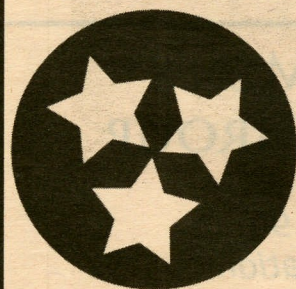
## Memphis Area Gay Youth

Peer support and discussion group

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

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# 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.*

# Gaymes 2006

## One-on-One with Greg Louganis

by Jamie Griffin

Olympic gold medal winner and best-selling author, Greg Louganis, was the featured speaker for the Gaymes closing ceremonies. Before gracing the audience with his presence, Louganis was interviewed by the Triangle Journal.

**TJ: You responded with a quick yes when asked to attend this year's Gaymes, why?**

GL: It was Esera Tuaolo (former NFL player and last year's Gaymes speaker) who called me and told me about the gay games in Memphis and I thought it was a great idea. Esera had such a wonderful time. He said, "I highly recommend it."

**TJ: For those of us who haven't seen you in some time, what's been going on with you?**

GL: I've just finished a film called *Water Colors*. It's about a young kid from a broken home and all he has is swimming. And sports are so important to him. He's dealing with his sexuality and drugs. It's a real complex story. I play the bastard coach that has to kick him off the team because he was caught cheating on a test. So I kind of push him over the edge into committing suicide. We hear about teen suicide amongst gay teens, but it's never shown. We read statistics, but it's important to share a story about how that happens. How the self-esteem is eroded because of peer pressure and not feeling like you fit in. The one thing this one kid had was swimming. When that was taken away he didn't feel like it had anything. It's a very poignant story.

**TJ: How was the experience?**



GL: It was great. It was so funny because I'd finish a scene being a real jerk to this kid. They would say "cut", I would turn to him and say "I'm sorry; I'm not really that mean." And he goes, "No, you've given me plenty to play off of." So it was good. The other film I did that I'm really proud of is called *Touch Me*. It's an HIV story from a woman's perspective. I played the boyfriend of her ex-boyfriend in college who gave her HIV. That was an incredible experience.

**TJ: Can we get your thoughts regarding Amendment 1?**

GL: Prop 1, it's so hateful. What straight people take for granted is their own rights to get married and reap tax benefits.

And also care for each other. We are not asking for special rights. It's not about special rights, it's about equal rights. We fall in love with who we fall in love with. Sexuality is not a choice, it's just who we are. If you fall in love with someone and you want to share your life with them, then you should be able to take care of each other. If I was involved with someone and I was incapacitated then I would want someone I love to look out for me. I know my remaining family members who would be next in line to kind of take over, and would not have my best interest in heart. So I've had to protect myself thru attorneys. I've had to make sure I'm protected from my own family. So that's a little disheartening.

**TJ: That's pretty tough isn't it?**

GL: It is difficult. You don't choose your family. I'm adopted. I even told my sister, "I'm thankful we're adopted from different families, so we're not connected genetically." (He laughs.)

**TJ: Discuss being a role model in the GLBT community.**

GL: A lot of people ask me who was my role model growing up and I always say no one. Because no one could live up to it. That's why I challenge young people when I do speaking engagements to be their own hero. You can admire something in someone, like Michael Jordan, Wayne Gretzky, but you can be better than them. I even want to see my (swimming) records broken, truly.

## Gaymes Nets \$10k for MGLCC

In addition to bringing out the best in the rainbow community, The Fourth Annual Memphis Gaymes turned out to be the largest fundraiser in the history of the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center.

"When all was said and done," says Len Piechowski, MGLCC President, "our expenses were just shy of \$15,000 and we expect our gross revenues to be in the area of \$25,000. That's the best we've done yet!"

The Fourth Annual Memphis Gaymes were presented by the MGLCC to honor National Coming Out Day, 2006. The featured guest this year was Olympic Gold Medalist Greg Louganis.

Sponsorships were numerous this year and included three levels of generosity.

Gold Medal Sponsors donated between \$1000 and \$3000 to support the endeavor. Silver Medal Sponsors contributed \$500 - \$999 and Bronze Medal Sponsors gave \$250-\$499.

Gold Medal Sponsors included Mark Jones, Nike Corporation, and Ozment, Copeland and Hays, Attorneys at Law.

Silver Medal Sponsors were Dr. Herbert Zeman, the Bluff City Sports Association, and the Blues Bash Softball tournament.

Donors at the Bronze level were Steve Solomon, Inz and Outz, and Dr. William Castle.

Other in kind donations were offered by Playhouse on the Square, Idlewild Presbyterian Church, and two anonymous donors.

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*IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, E-MAIL AMULLNS1@MEMPHIS.EDU*

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Participants in the 2006 Gaymes prepare to light the Gaymes torch outside of the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center, the host of the Gaymes event. Following the parade, each portion of the rainbow was held by an individual before the flame was lit to symbolize the unity of the community.

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

*For information contact Mike  
901-271-5477*



# Triangle Journal Congratulates the Winners of Gaymes 2006!



## Laser Tag

Gold - Eddie Parker  
Silver - Amanda Bramlett  
Bronze - Chris Liddell

## Putt-Putt Golf

Chris Balton - Gold  
Bill Williams - Silver  
Andy Monsue - Bronze

## Basketball

Morgan Adair - Gold  
Chris Balton - Silver  
Alicia Biffle - Bronze



## Softball

### C-Division

1st - Birmingham Quest Vipers  
2nd - Memphis Heat (Pumping Station)  
3rd - Memphis Misfits (Young Ave Deli)

### D-Division

1st - Nashville Shock  
2nd - Memphis Hobos (RP Tracks)  
3rd - Chicago Big Chicks Hot & Spicy

## Volleyball

### Gold

Bethany Stoehr  
Lyle Pierson  
Morgan Adair  
Sam Goff  
Reggie Johnson

### Silver

Dan Johnson  
Michelle Homer  
Sara Goff  
Curtis Petty  
Chris Haskins

### Bronze

Amy Page  
Krista Britton  
Janet Harris  
Alicia Biffle  
Chris Balton



## Pool

Jimmy Hyder - Gold  
Larry Griffin - Silver  
John Hackett - Bronze

## Bowling

### Non-League Division

Kent Hamson - Gold  
Chris Balton - Silver  
John Hackett - Bronze

## Scrabble

Greg Williams - Gold  
Angela Miller - Silver  
Ann Hackerman - Bronze

### League Division

Richard Luse - Gold  
Darian Porter - Silver  
Sylvia Edmonds - Bronze



## Darts

Wendy Preszler - Gold  
Kenny Vanderburg - Silver  
Eddie Parker - Bronze

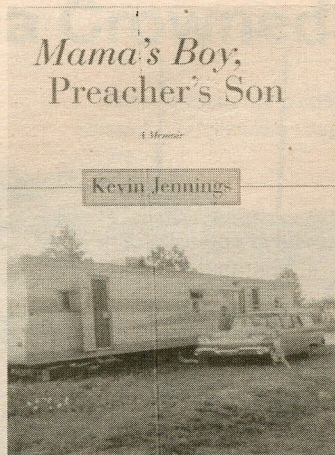
# Reviews

## GLBT Non-Fiction: Frightening and Inspiring

by Herb Zeman

In the past month, I've read two pieces of GLBT non-fiction. The first, *Kingdom Coming, The Rise of Christian Nationalism*, by Michelle Goldberg, was definitely frightening in the way it described the religious radicalism of the present government in Washington. The second, *Mama's Boy, Preacher's Son: A Memoir*, by Kevin Jennings, was definitely inspiring in the way it described the author's rise from a "white trash" childhood to become a popular high school teacher and the creator of the Gay Straight Alliance movement. I recommend both books wholeheartedly to the readers of the *Triangle Journal*.

Goldberg describes the dominionism prevalent in the Bush Administration. Dominionism is the doctrine that Christians have the God given right to rule non-



believers. I hadn't realized that George W. Bush had converted to evangelical fundamentalism and was carrying out the precepts of his new religion as President. Certainly I knew about the faith-based initiatives, the anti-science bias, the anti-gay bias, and the compulsive need to create war and division in the Near East, but

I somehow never realized that Bush considered himself a fundamentalist Christian.

Goldberg's description of the pervasive radical fundamentalism in Washington today sent chills down my spine.

Jennings started his life with a fundamentalist preacher for a father and a lifestyle of frequent moves from one trailer park to another as his father went from one congregation to another.

After his father's early death, his mother was a good influence; he was able to get a Harvard undergraduate degree and land positions in some high-class private high schools. At first he kept his sexual orientation secret at work.

Eventually, he came out to the whole school at an assembly and founded the first Gay Straight Alliance at his school with some students. He eventually left high school teaching and founded

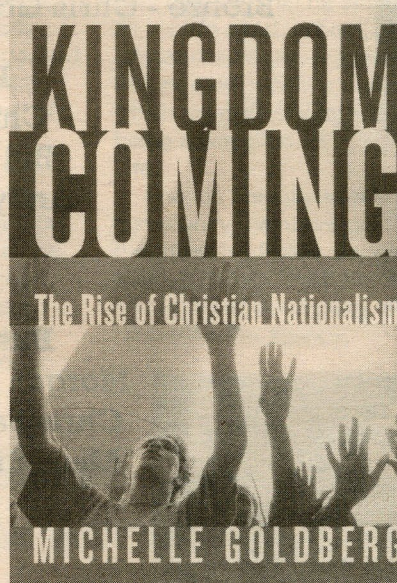
the national organization Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN), which works towards making schools safe for GLBT students.

Goldberg paints a scary pic-

ture of how horrible our present society has become, but Jennings shows how one man can make a difference even in difficult times.

Now, everyone will have a chance to make a difference this month by voting and causing a change in the direction the country is headed before it's too late.

Thanks to our gay "hero," Mr. Foley, the GLBT community may just succeed.



## Kathy Griffin is Gay Friendly ...Allegedly

by Jamie Griffin

The self-proclaimed queen of D-list comedy, Kathy Griffin, was in Memphis this past September at the Orpheum Theater.

At the beginning of her standup routine, she wanted to make sure she acknowledged "her gays" in attendance. And judging by the applause afterwards, there were plenty.

Her huge following from the GLBT community has been well documented.

But after her performance, I was left wondering why. Her streams of conscious rants about Hollywood celebrities are certainly entertaining. She jumps from one subject to another without completing her thought, then back to another, then back to the original topic again.

Several times during the show,

she asked the audience, "...now where was I?" It's easy to leave with the impression that she just walks onto the stage and just starts talking about whatever comes to mind.

She has great material with a dash here and there of references to gays. She joked that lesbian parents are hypersensitive about their children (which was funny), and that her personal assistant just one day decided to become a lesbian because it's now hip (also funny).

She also encouraged Clay Aiken, of *American Idol* fame, to come out of the closet.

But that was about the extent to her gay references.

Regarding gays, Griffin wasn't too complimentary, over the top, appalling, or overtly insensitive. So had I not known her reputation for having a large gay following, I would have never come to the

conclusion after her act.

But that's just one performance.

To be fair, I purchased her DVD, *Allegedly*, and it was even better than the performance in Memphis. She uses the term "allegedly" quite often during her show, particularly after revealing some very scandalous information about her favorite celebrity subjects.

She mocked Barbara Walters, Gwyneth Paltrow, & Eminem. She spent nearly ten minutes dissing good friend Brooke Shields' mother about her drinking problem. Part of her *Allegedly* routine deals with gays in the military. While providing comic relief for U.S. troops stationed in Iraq, Griffin says she knew she was in the presence of one of her gay fans when she heard a soldier's "gay inhale."

But again, it wasn't enough to leave you with the impression that

she has anymore insight on the GLBT community than the next comedian.

So I'm still wondering what the connection is.

But here it is.

According to a person writing on one of Griffin's website forums, it's not the amount of gay material she uses in her stand-ups that make her a hit with gay fans, it's her open and honest approach to comedy that's appreciated. Plus, it's what she does away from the stage.

Griffin has gone on record opposing bans on same-sex marriages. And she's helped raise millions of dollars for gay causes. The writer also adds that you always feel like Griffin is giving it to you "real and raw."

Real & Raw.

Sounds like a catchy title for her next DVD release.

Until it comes out, believe me, *Allegedly* will suffice.

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## Reviews

# Play Subaru's Real Life Video Game with the New WRX

by Casey Williams

Subaru has been GLBT-friendly since lesbians began buying Outbacks and Foresters in the northeast.

Looking for a broader appeal of all types?

Try the all-wheel-drive spun out performance model like the WRX STi, which is not your average muscle car. Forget about Camaro, Mustang, or Challenger. There is no V8 engine or growling rumble. In fact, the tires rarely squeal. So, how is it that a car based on an entry-level Japanese four-door became such an icon?

Video games! It was probably teenagers and twenty-somethings who first came to appreciate the Subaru WRX through rally car games. Even on screen, the benefits of all-wheel-drive and a turbocharged engine became apparent. Watch the SPEED channel and you are likely to see a WRX battling with the Mitsubishi Lancer Evo on what looks like some remote gravel cow path. Through



clever marketing over the last decade, Subaru has come to mean all-wheel-drive with benefits far beyond poor weather traction.

The most potent form of four-clawed nirvana comes as the WRX STi. Powered by a turbocharged and intercooled 2.5-litre four-cylinder engine that produces a back thumping 293 horsepower,

and connected to the wheels through a six-speed manual transmission, the car is brutally fast. Shifting through the gears, you quickly notice that the surging power doesn't let up—it just keeps coming and coming and coming.

A button-operated water spray increases the intercooler's efficiency during spirited driving for a slight boost in power. Fuel economy ratings of 18/24-MPG city/highway aren't bad for a car like this.

As you might guess, the all-wheel-drive system isn't like the ones you find in typical SUVs. Designed by Subaru Tecnica International (STI), the WRX system can be left in fully-automatic

mode that allows the car to shift power between the front and rear wheels depending on driving conditions. However, drivers can also manually adjust the front/rear bias by adjusting a roller knob in the center console (allows up to 50/50 split).

The affect is that the car accelerates without fanfare and settles into a controllable drift in tight corners. One always feels on top of things and never like the car is about to slide out of control—exactly what you want in a rally car.

A stiff four-wheel independent suspension system, big Brembo anti-lock disc brakes, quick steering, 17" BBS alloy wheels, and Bridgestone Potenza hard rubber tires also do their part.

While the body looks like a cheap fashion cliché with all of its wings and ground effects, most of the add-ons are a functional part of the car's performance. A large dual plane rear spoiler helps keep the car stable at high speed, a front chin spoiler does the same, and the side moldings improve airflow. Mounted on an aluminum hood to reduce weight, a big air scoop feeds the car's intercooler. High intensity discharge (HID) headlamps and fog lamps not only look good, but enlighten the night like a football stadium.

Blue suede seat inserts and carpeting are also flaming (enough to blind a bat), but are in keeping with the car's race-ready design. Putting the highlight on

performance and driving, the interior is simple and well organized. Aluminum alloy pedal covers, wrap-around racing seats, three-spoke leather-wrapped MOMO-style steering wheel, titanium shift knob, turbo boost gauge, and cruise control are all about function.

Power windows, power locks, CD audio system, automatic climate control, and cruise control are more for comfort. Safety is enhanced with dual front and front side airbags.

What initially looks like a boring Japanese sedan with wild wings is really an exotic piece of engineering and performance. If the WRX rides a little rough in everyday traffic and the back seat is uninhabitable by grown adults, well then, nobody ever called it a luxury car.

Ripping through the gears, feeling the turbo suck the car forward, and the unflappable poise of all-wheel-drive are best experienced behind the wheel and away from a joystick.

One drive and you'll not only giggle with delight, but will want one for yourself. You'll also feel good buying a car from people who treat you as valued customers.

A base price of \$32,995, and as tested for \$34,568, makes the WRX STi a bargain.

## Triangle Journal

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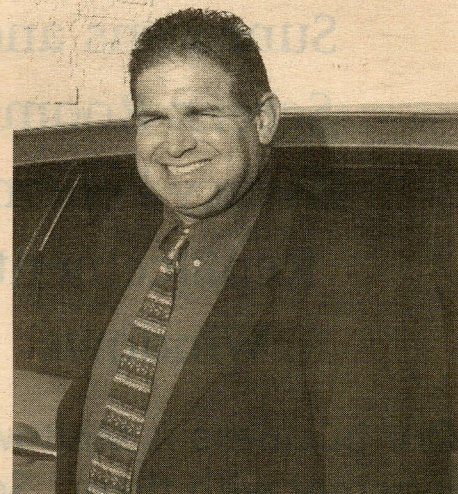
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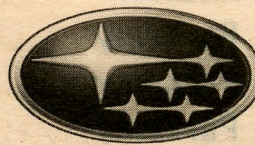
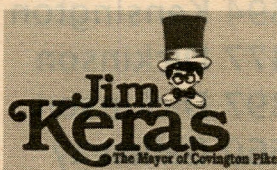
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## AIDS Advisory Group Takes Advocacy Role During Elections

by Mark Hubbard

The Tennessee Association of People With AIDS (TAPWA), a statewide advocacy group, took a step towards more active involvement in public policy last week by contacting all of the gubernatorial and U.S. congressional candidates in Tennessee.

"47 candidates in these races will be receiving a letter describing what we as representatives of the larger HIV-positive constituency feel is important," TAPWA chair Mark Hubbard said.

It is estimated that there will be 14,000 Tennesseans known to be living with HIV/AIDS by the end of 2006, and about 1,000 new cases are recorded here each year.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has estimated that at least 25% of HIV positive persons do not know their status, and are unwittingly the source of up to 70% of new infections.

"The candidates should know that there are more persons af-

ected than what is reflected in the numbers and that this issue affects not just individuals, but their families, friends, and life partners," Hubbard added.

The letters paint a picture of the epidemic in broad strokes. Gubernatorial candidates are made aware of the importance of maintaining funding for the essential care and services that allow those living with HIV/AIDS to remain as healthy and productive as possible.

Letters to the congressional candidates focus on federal policy and legislation including the Ryan White CARE Act, which has not yet been renewed.

TAPWA was originally formed to serve as an advisory group to the Tennessee Department of Health HIV/AIDS/STD section and that is still its primary activity. TAPWA delegates meet face to face three times a year in conjunction with the section's statewide meetings. "TAPWA is essential to both care and prevention of HIV/AIDS and gives people

living with HIV/AIDS throughout the state of Tennessee a voice" said Chuck Parr, one of its participants. "The first step in self-advocacy is being allowed to articulate one's thoughts, experiences, and needs," he continued.

TAPWA creates educational opportunities for its delegates and the larger community. It also provides a network of support and communication among and between persons living with HIV/AIDS, government, and agencies statewide.

Tennesseans living with HIV/AIDS can contact TAPWA by emailing wharridot@hotmail.com, or by calling 615-834-6875.

Want to share your news?

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

## Q & A with Dr. Castle, DDS

*Dr. Castle is a predominant member of the Memphis gay community and his dentistry practice is located in midtown. He is often asked questions regarding oral health and has answered questions for TJ.*

**Q: My employer offers a dental plan but the dentists I want to go to aren't on the list. Are the names on the list just suggestions?**

A: That sounds like what's called a Preferred Provider plan, and those names aren't just suggestions. In order to receive that plan's dental benefits you must choose a participating dentist from the list.

**Q: What other kind of plans are there?**

A: Well, there's what's called a capitation plan, for instance.

With that type of plan you also have a list to choose from, but once you choose, you are assigned to the office of your choice, so choose well.

**Q: I don't really understand my benefits. Sometimes I pay,**

**sometimes I don't. How is it coverage if I'm paying?**

A: Very few dental plans have full coverage. They agree to pay a certain portion for each dental procedure. The rest is the patient's responsibility. Usually, you also have a deductible.

**Q: At the end of the year, when my benefits expire, does the money I haven't used carry over into the next calendar year?**

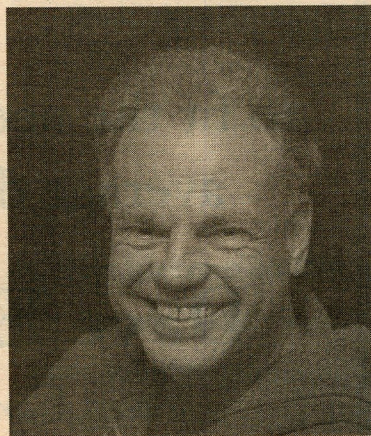
A: Unfortunately, no. Renewing means just that, and at the start of the new year you'll be paying your deductible again, so if you have any work left to do toward the end of the year, or haven't had your teeth cleaned, and you have benefits you haven't used, you might consider scheduling the work.

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

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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	



# Out & About

## REGULAR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

### SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICES

- First Unitarian Church of Memphis (AKA Church of the River) - 292 Virginia Ave. W. 38101 - Minister, Burton D. Carley - Services 11am - 526-8631
- Open Heart Community of Faith - Bible Study & Worship Celebration - North End of First Congregational (1000 South Cooper) - (901) 323-3514 - 9am
- Holy Trinity Community Church - Sunday School and Holy Worship Service & Children's Church - (901) 320-9376 - office@holytrinitymemphis.org - 9:45am and 11am
- First Congregational Church - Sunday School, Café Congo, and Worship Service - (901) 278-6786 - 9:30am, 10am, and 10:30am
- Prescott Church - Sunday School & Worship Service - (901) 327-8479 - 9:30am & 10:45am
- Living Word Christian Church - Morning and Evening - (901) 452-6272 - 10am and 6pm

### WEDNESDAY CHURCH SERVICES

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

### SUNDAYS

- Tea Dance - Metro - 4pm
- Brothers & Sisters Bowling League - Winchester Bowl - (901) 722-5236 or MemphisGayBowling@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

- 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

Larry Timmerman

Bill Johns

## Antique Warehouse Mall

2563 Summer Avenue

Memphis, TN 38112

(901)323-0600

AUNTIQMEM@AOL.COM

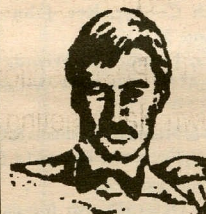
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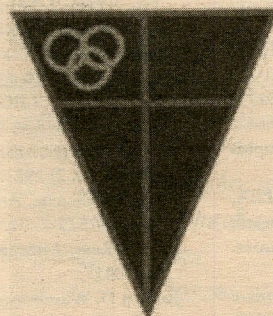
Mon. - Sat.

8 a.m. - 12 Midnight

Closed Sundays and Holidays

## Triangle Journal

KNOWN MORE FOR WHO WE INCLUDE.



HOLY TRINITY  
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sundays at 11 A.M.

685 S. Highland St.

Memphis, TN 38111

901.320.9376

www.holytrinitymemphis.org

# Community Calendar November 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Men's Potluck Dinner 6:30pm	2	3 Art Opening and Reception 7pm: Memphis College of Art Student Work	4 I:F Canvassing 9:30am – 2pm  I:F Street Vis- ibility at Union and McLean 2pm  WKNO Art and Antiques Auction noon to 11pm
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
I:F Street Vis- ibility at Poplar and Highland 2pm  WKNO Art and Antiques Auction noon to 11pm	I:F Street Vis- ibility at Poplar and Highland 7am – 9am and 4pm – 7pm  BCSA 6pm  Perpetual Tran- sition 6:30pm  OutFlix Plan- ning 7pm	<b>Election Day</b>  I:F Street Vis- ibility at Poplar and Highland 7am – 9am and 4pm – 7pm Union and McLean at 10am – 4pm  Election Day Party 7pm			Q-Café Coffee House presents Skinny White Chick	The Haven presents Spirited <i>Let the Chil'ren</i> Come Book signing and Inter-cultural event from 1 – 4 pm at MGLCC  WKNO Art and Antiques Auction noon to 11pm
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Adelante pres- ents Spanish-Eng- lish Conversation 2:30pm  Lambda Profes- sionals 2:30pm  WKNO Art and Antiques Auction noon to 11pm		I:F Post Election Town Hall Meeting 7pm	Blues Suede Bears Board meet- ing 7pm  Womyn's Pot- luck Dinner		Q-Café Coffee House presents Tracy Rice  NOW 7pm	Alphas Monthly Mixer 1pm – 5pm  Lambda Profes- sionals 2:30pm  Monthly Potluck and Birthday Party 6pm
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
MGLCC Board Meeting 3pm	Transgender Day of Remem- brance at Church of the River 7pm			Thanksgiving Holiday Celebration at MGLCC Noon – 4pm	Q-Café Coffee House presents Boy and Girl	Betas Movie Matinee
26	27	28	29	30		
		Member Ap- preciation Dinner 6:30pm				

**WILLIAM CASTLE, DDS**  
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