

TRIANGLE JOURNAL

January 1, 2008

Vol: 3 Issue: 1

GLBT News for the Midsouth

Make a date with change

New Year's Resolutions

- 1) Register to Vote!
- 2) Volunteer more!
- 3) Lose 10 pounds!

Vote in

31 DECEMBER

Party @ Liz + Jean's!

HAPPY 2008!

Reminder:
sign-up for
Advancing
Equality in
Feb.

Back to Work
to Mary

Find out
where
Candidates
Stand on
issues

Get Update on
Dialogue with
African
Pastors

I-F begins dialogue with pastors - p.3

Also...

Rep. Cohen on the Hate Crimes Act - p.7

A new attitude for '08 - p.10

Memphis remembers on World AIDS Day - p.13

Another year, another hope

by James Cox and Len Piechowski

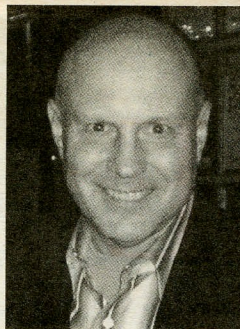
In the cosmic scheme of things, the arrival of a new year is not really that spectacular, but human beings have an emotional attachment to the exact moment the clock strikes midnight on December 31, as if all the wrongs of the previous year can be righted in a single second. Who doesn't like a clean slate?

Each of the 365 days before us is filled with the possibility that maybe, *just maybe*, this year will be better than the last. Perhaps we will be richer, happier, more successful, more popular, more peaceful. Maybe things will change.

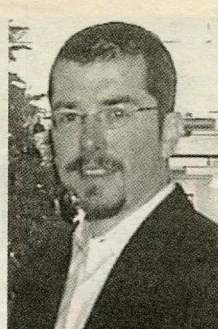
2008 could be the year that things undeniably, irreversibly change for the GLBT community as a whole. Maybe "don't ask-don't tell" will crumble. There's a chance we can get a workplace nondiscrimination act that doesn't leave anyone out. Perhaps we will stop dying at the hands of people who hate us. Maybe we will elect an openly gay president. (Ok, so all that might be overly optimistic this year, but the point is who knows what 2008 has in store?)

Here at *Triangle Journal*, we decided we needed a change too. For the past several months, TJ readers have been telling us what they wanted to see in their community newspaper. We have taken many of your suggestions, and we hope you will keep the cards and letters coming to let us know what can make the TJ better.

Change starts at home. It is our hope in 2008 that *Triangle Journal* will be a substantial blend of news and personal insight with a



Len Piechowski



James Cox

decidedly more local perspective. In the months to come, you will see more of the diverse Midsouth GLBT names and faces that are living, working, playing in and impacting our community every single day.

We will remain a proud publication of Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center, but we are now published with a volunteer staff. None of the editors, staff or consultants will profit by revenues from the ads you see in these pages. So, when our advertisers support us financially, they are supporting the programs of our community center, and playing a part in creating a better future for the rainbow community.

Gandhi told us that we must be the change we wish to see in the world. There is no better time to change than right now.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Pictures and articles for the next *Triangle Journal* are due:
January 23, 2008

E-mail: trianglejournal@aol.com

Mail: Triangle Journal
892 South Cooper Street
Memphis, TN 38104

Be sure to include your name, location and contact information.

TRIANGLE JOURNAL

GLBT News for the Midsouth

892 South Cooper Street
Memphis, Tennessee 38104
Phone (901) 857-8523
E-mail: trianglejournal@aol.com

Triangle Journal assumes no liability for claims made by advertisers. Appearance in this publication is not to be construed as an indication of sexual orientation, preference or identity unless specifically stated. We welcome materials submitted by readers, but reserve the right to edit or reject such materials. *Triangle Journal* is published 12 times a year by Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center and distributed throughout the Mid-South.

Founders

Allen Cook and John Stilwell

Co-Editors

James Cox and Len Piechowski

Layout

Gary D. Cook

Editorial Review Board

Will Batts, Jamie Griffin, Alan Herbers, Herb Zeman

Triangle Journalists

Will Batts, Jonathan Cole, Andrew Stricklin, A.J. Northrop, Charlie Weatherall, David Mabury, Susana Rodas, Mark Jones, Jamie Griffin, Carl Smith, Andy Cruz, Elizabeth Pitts, Ian Keller

Staff Photographer

Herb Zeman

Office Facilities

Holy Trinity Community Church

National Advertising Representative

RIVENDELL MEDIA
212-242-6863

Advertising Information

billing contact: treasurer@mgfcc.org

Table of Contents

Triangle Cover Story	3
Triangle Politics	4-5
<i>Don't ask, don't tell</i>	
<i>Tenn.'s adoption policy</i>	
Triangle Midsouth	6-7
<i>Memphis gets Ryan White money</i>	
<i>TEP's Lobbying 101</i>	
Triangle Big Picture	8
<i>Dubai rape</i>	
Triangle Allies	8
<i>ENDA & the end of silence</i>	
Triangle Lifestyles	10-11
<i>Be a better queer in '08</i>	
<i>Keep your fitness resolutions</i>	
Triangle Arts	14-15
<i>Pissarro at the Brooks</i>	
<i>RENT comes to Memphis</i>	
Triangle Sports	16
<i>John Amaechi at 2008 Gaymes</i>	
Triangle Entertainment	20-21
<i>Book Review</i>	
<i>Horoscopes</i>	
<i>Crossword Puzzle</i>	
Community Resources & Calendar	22-23

Editorial Policy of *Triangle Journal*

The editorial goal of *Triangle Journal*, the News Magazine of 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 is dedicated to correcting erroneous information. Please email corrections to trianglejournal@aol.com.

Bring the Triangle Journal home!

A one-year subscription to the
Triangle Journal is just \$20.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Mail this form and check to: 892 South Cooper, Memphis, Tennessee, 38104

Defying role as pawns in "holy" war, community builders engage the politics of hate and division

by Len Piechowski

A hero of epic proportions amongst his flock, Rev. Dr. LaSimba Gray is praised for his tenacious dedication to biblical teaching. In other circles, however, he is chided for hypocrisy and for master-minding a poorly-played, thinly-veiled game of political chess. A game that uses the GLBT community as pawns.



Rev. Dr. LaSimba Gray (photo courtesy of Jackson Baker and the Memphis Flyer)

In recent months, he and a few of his ministerial associates have spearheaded a hair-on-fire initiative to mobilize members of the African-American ministerial community. He has been criticized by some members of the community for using a motivation *du jour*, fear, to cause angst over a supposed loss of religious freedom. If the Matthew Shepard Hate Crimes Act was passed by Congress, so his message went, African American pastors would lose their freedom to preach against homosexuality from the pulpit. Almost immediately, there was a widespread panic among many religious people in the Memphis community.

When the dust settled, and when many noticed that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s family and the NAACP backed the legislation, some people began to question his initiative and later abandoned it. Then the flood gates opened. Reporters in the mainstream press suggested that Gray was simply using this issue to attack the candidacy of US Representative Steve Cohen in his bid for reelection. Cohen has been on the side of progressive politics and anti-bigotry for quite some time and has staunchly supported the Matthew Shepard Act. Gray is on record stating that only a black person (the candidate he is endorsing, Niki Tinker, is African American)

can adequately represent his concerns and the concerns of his community. He has publicly noted that Representative Cohen is both white and Jewish.

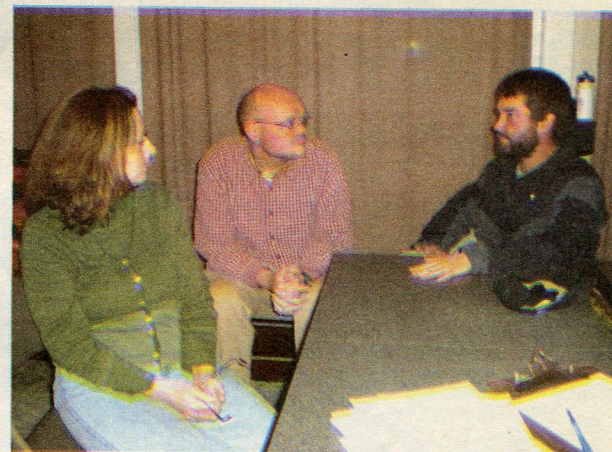
For awhile it all seemed like it would all quiet down. The Hate Crimes Act was passed by both houses and looked like it was heading for final ratification. But it never quite made it. (See a related story on page 7 of this issue of Triangle Journal). The Matthew Shepard Act, which was to be an amendment to the Department of Defense Authorization bill, was removed from the final version of the bill early in December. This announcement was made after House Leadership determined that there were not enough votes for passage of the bill if it included the hate crimes provision. So Gray and his partners on the national scene may have actually won the battle, at least for now. It looks like we'll be starting over again. And as supporters start the battle again, so will the religious right. However, there are many in our community who feel that this time we might be a bit more prepared and not get caught with our pants down.

If Laura Flesher and Daniel Forrest succeed, we will indeed be a bit more prepared! Flesher and Forrest are currently co-chairs of Initiative: Fairness, the social action arm of Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center. They've asked Mid-South Peace and Justice Center to moderate a meeting of the minds with several members of the African American ministerial community on January 10, 2008. Those to be invited will be a small group of African-American ministers. Several of them do not embrace a literal interpretation of the bible and who are troubled by Gray's opinions. They're being invited to a dialogue session, a meeting of the minds to discuss alternatives. Jacob Flowers is the Executive Director of the Mid-South Peace and Justice Center (MSPJC), a thriving organization dedicated to working for the human rights of all people, gays included. Flowers is a proud and

outspoken heterosexual ally. Ironically, Rev. Gray was a member in good standing of the Board of Advisors of the MSPJC. Until at least, Flowers and the other board members heard his rhetoric regarding the hate crimes bill. Rev. Gray is now a former member of their Board of Advisors.

According to Flowers, the MSPJC is no longer "... interested in putting out fires. We are about building community." He feels that by facilitating a meeting of the members of the rainbow community together with pastors who are much more inclined to follow the spirit rather than the letter of the Judeo-Christian Scriptures, they can assertively do just that. Just what do they expect will happen? According to Forrest, "That will be up to the group of people who assemble that day. We would certainly love to see this initiative blossom into an alternative voice that speaks loudly on our behalf."

The initiative spawned by Initiative: Fairness, started with annoyance at Gray. But it certainly



Laura Flesher (left) and Daniel Forrest, chairs of MGLCC's Initiative: Fairness, meet with Jacob Flowers, executive director of Mid-South Peace and Justice Center, to plan for January's meeting with community African-American pastors.


does not seem to be aimed at him. "The hope of building community and the need to assertively enact hate crimes legislation will not include a voice of hatred aimed at Rev. Gray" says Flesher. "There are just too many other things we need to get done."

The meeting will be by invitation only and will be facilitated by a professional mediator. According to Flowers, "One of the possible group facilitators for the event has

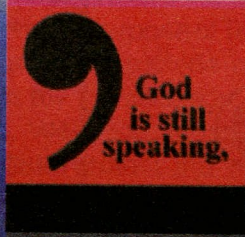
Continued on page 18

No matter who you are or where you are in life's journey you are Welcome here.

Known More For Who We Include !



**HOLY TRINITY
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



HOLY TRINITY COMMUNITY CHURCH
A Welcoming Congregation of The United Church of Christ
A CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY FOUNDED 1990 BY GAY AND LESBIAN PEOPLE IN MEMPHIS THAT IS OPEN TO ALL

Sunday Worship at 11 a.m.
685 S. Highland St.
Memphis, TN 38111
901.320.9376
www.holytrinitymemphis.org

Don't ask, don't tell: A new resolution

Commentary by Will Batts

Last November 30 marked the 14th anniversary of the US military policy (dubbed "Don't Ask, Don't Tell") that prohibits gays and lesbians from serving openly in the armed forces of this country. Men and women in every branch of the military now serve honorably and with distinction, but are forced to remain secretive about whom they love and about who they really are. Living under such a strain is not healthy for any individual. A military policy that forces people to deceive their own is not healthy for our country.

The policy itself does not describe any inherent flaw in the gay or lesbian person. (Some might try to claim it's implied, but it's not stated) Rather, it implicates those around him or her as not being able to serve effectively with the shocking revelation that the person who's been working next to them on the flight deck loves someone of the same sex.

"The presence in the armed forces of persons who demonstrate a propensity or intent to engage in homosexual acts would create an unacceptable risk to the high standards of morale, good order and discipline, and unit cohesion that are the essence of military capability."

10 USC Sec. 654, (a)(15)

This statement is suggestive of some inherent flaw in military personnel. Shouldn't "the best



and the brightest" be able to rise above their own internal conflict when the safety of the country is at stake? Admitting that you cannot put the needs of your country and our military above your own personal beliefs seems more an admission of weakness rather than a sign of strength. Enacting a policy to remove the one who is different because some can't be trusted to do their jobs reveals a weakness not only in the military but in the larger culture as well.

When one believes that there is only one right way to act or to be, as many fundamentalists believe, it becomes difficult to accept that others can and must choose their own way. Everything is described in black and white terms: good or evil, right or wrong, friend or foe. Distinctions like these have been used by humans for centuries to justify torture, slavery, and even extermination. Such a limited perspective is anathema to a democratic society.

We pride ourselves on being an open and free society, but we often find ourselves lagging behind other countries whose policies reflect more tolerance. Many of the countries we consider allies (Great Britain, Israel, and at least 22 others) have successful policies allowing

12,000 people from the service (some during a time of war, some critical Arabic translators) because they love differently is most certainly a failure to uphold freedom.

Neither the Democrats nor the Republicans can claim the high road when discussing this issue. While none of the Republican presidential candidates has advocated repeal, all of the Democratic candidates have stated their opposition to the current law. However, let's not forget it was Bill Clinton who signed the policy into law, even though he stated support for removing a ban while campaigning in 1992. Our challenge is to move our opponents to change while compelling our supporters to keep the promises they make.

Some effort has been made since to overturn the law, but opposition has been strong. Using unsubstantiated claims of decaying military standards, supporters have helped maintain the policy. A recent letter by 28 retired admirals and generals, however, called for the repeal of the policy. Also, former Joint Chiefs chairman, General Shalikashvili, who served in that position when the policy was enacted, has also called for the law's repeal. Perhaps the decision makers will begin to listen to those who know best about our military's ability to evolve.

I'll suggest a New Year's resolution for our military: Don't Ask, Do Tell.

Don't Ask – it's no one's business whom a person loves so quit asking unless it involves YOU personally

Do Tell – tell every person that his service to our country or her ability to do the job is what you value above all else.

This will be the first in a series of essays examining issues of interest to the GLBT community and how those issues are playing out in the 2008 presidential campaign.

• FUDGE • NIOXIN • PAUL MITCHELL • RUSK • SEBASTIAN •

DABBLES
HAIR COMPANY

"Do give us a ring, darling!"

Dare to be Different!

MON 9-6 • TUE-FRI 9-7 • SAT 9-5

• 19 N. COOPER • 725-0521 • MEMPHIS, TN •

TOTAL HAIR & NAIL CARE

WALK-INS WELCOME

Frank Balton & Co.

Electric Signs

SIX GENERATION FAMILY BUSINESS

Contact Chris Balton for all your sign needs

901.388-1212 chris@fbalton.com

gays and lesbians to serve openly and honestly. If we are to be the role model we proclaim to be, we must examine without fear the ways in which we fail to live up to our own ideals and work to make ourselves better. Discharging

Where Do the Candidates
Stand on
"Don't Ask, Don't Tell"?

AGAINST DADT

Biden: "...turning away patriotic Americans who volunteer to serve solely because of their sexual orientation is wrong."

Clinton: "When I am President, I will bring this strength and experience to bear to end this outdated and outmoded policy."

Dodd: "I believe the time to put an end to the military's 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' policy has come - a change I called for some time ago."

Edwards: "Don't Ask, Don't Tell' did not become wrong. It was always wrong."

Gravel: "...strongly opposes the military's 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' legislation on the grounds that it is unconstitutional."

Kucinich: "We should ensure that all men and women who wish to serve in the armed forces are allowed to do so by repealing 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell.'"

Obama: "...rather than embracing leadership and principle, we embraced Don't Ask, Don't Tell -- a policy that is antithetical to the values of honor and integrity that our military holds most dear."

Richardson: "Homosexuality is not immoral, asking someone to hide their identity and devaluing their sacrifice is."

IN FAVOR OF DADT

Giuliani: "This is not the time to deal with disruptive issues like this."

Huckabee: "I don't think that I would [change the policy]."

Hunter: Silent support in June 2007 debate

McCain: "It is working, my friends. The policy is working."

Paul: "I think the current policy is a decent policy."

Romney: "It's been the policy now in the military for, what, 10, 15 years? And it seems to be working."

Thompson: Silent support, June 6, 2007 Presidential debate

Children of Tennessee Deserve unbiased adoption policy

Commentary by Jonathan Cole

Social conservatives are once again rallying to demonize GLBT Tennesseans - this time by politicizing adoption in our state.

On Oct. 10, 2007, Tennessee State Attorney General Robert Cooper, Jr. issued an opinion requested by a Wilson County Circuit Court judge on the subject of adoption. Cooper wrote that "assuming the adoption is found to be in the best interest of the child, there is no prohibition in Tennessee adoption statutes against adoption by a same-sex couple."

Conservative state legislators attacked this opinion within 24 hours of its release. Rep. Chris Clem (R-Lookout Mountain) of the Tennessee General Assembly responded: "I don't think the AG's opinion clears it up at all. I think it would be better for the law to give a little more direction than that."

Rep. Glen Casada (R-College Grove) also declared that "children should only be adopted by a man and a woman. That's what we've built our society upon is a man and a woman raising the next generation. And it works."

Conservative legislators tried to limit adoption rights for same-sex couples in 2005. Clem sponsored a bill in the House of Representatives supported by a group of Republicans and one Democrat that sought to prohibit same-sex adoption. Opponents defeated the bill in an 11-9 vote in the House Children and Family Affairs Committee. Considering the above statements, it appears that Clem, Casada and others will reintroduce a bill in the next legislative session targeting gay and lesbian couples who want to adopt children in need of a family.

By now, most of us have learned to expect this kind of election year politicking. Social conservatives used a marriage amendment on the 2006 ballot to drive conservative voters to the polls. In the 2008 election, conservatives will seek to use same-sex couple adoption as a social wedge issue to mobilize voters against progressive candidates running for state office.

Social conservatives want voters to think their adoption bill will protect children from a manufactured menace. Adoption opponents often cite biased research produced by conservative think tanks and religious organizations that claims negative outcomes for children raised by gay or lesbian parents.

The fact is that thousands of gay and lesbian couples, like their straight counterparts, provide loving, nurturing homes to children that need stable families all over the country.

Did you know that the 2000 U.S. Census found same-sex couples raising children in 96 percent of all counties nationwide in the United States? The highest percentages of same-sex couples raising children live in the South.

Social conservatives ignore the researched positions of relevant child welfare and professional organizations that support parenting and adoption by gay or lesbian couples. They ignore the reality of same-sex couples raising children in our region. Adoption opponents also ignore critical parts of the Attorney General's opinion with regard to children:

"The primary purpose of Tennessee's adoption law is to provide means and procedures for the adoption of children and adults. While the adoptive process is intended to protect the rights of all persons affected, the adoption must be in the best interest of the child. Indeed, the legislature has specifically stated that, when the best interests of a child and an adult are in conflict, the conflict must be resolved in favor of the child."

Children in our state deserve an adoption policy free from the

Continued on page 18

These child welfare and professional organizations officially support parenting and adoption by gay or lesbian couples:

American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Bar Association
American Medical Association
American Psychoanalytic Association
American Psychological Association
Child Welfare League of America
National Adoption Center
National Association of Social Workers
North American Council on Adoptable Children

Searching for Your
Dream Home?
- 377-1057

Glenn Moore
Realty.com

21 Years
Memphis
Experience!
REALTOR® MLS

Search Memphis Area Listings NOW

Memphis area gets \$5 million to fight HIV/AIDS

by A.J. Northrop

Shelby County and the surrounding counties have received more than \$5 million dollars to combat the HIV/AIDS epidemic right here in our backyard. However, local volunteers are needed to help determine where the monies should be spent for the greatest impact.

Funding awarded to the Memphis Transitional Grant Area (TGA) is \$3,585,906. In addition, 56 areas competed for supplemental funds based on demonstration of unmet need for services among eligible individuals, and other criteria such as HIV/AIDS prevalence. The Memphis TGA was awarded an additional \$1,432,797 to provide the critical extra help needed to fill the gaps in meeting priorities. The funds have just been released and are currently being managed by an interim council determined by the Shelby County Health Department until a permanent Planning Council is set. On December 10, 2007, the health department announced that nominations are being accepted for the Memphis TGA Ryan White Planning Council.

This council is a federally mandated community group appointed by the mayor of Shelby County to plan the organization and delivery of Part A services to HIV/AIDS services. The goal of the planning council is, through need assessment, planning, and allocation of funding, to create seamless care that addresses the unmet needs of the HIV/AIDS population in the area. There are legislatively required positions that must be filled on the council. Representatives of the specific categories will be given consideration for membership. Some of those categories include health care providers, including federally qualified health centers, representatives of community based organizations serving affected populations and

Volunteers are needed to help determine where the monies should be spent for the greatest impact

AIDS service organizations, and people living with HIV/AIDS.

Last December, Congress enacted the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act of 2006, changing how previous Ryan White funding can be used. This new law ensures that federal HIV/AIDS programs have the flexibility to respond to the ever-changing epidemic. This updated law has an emphasis of providing life-saving and life-supporting services for people living with HIV/AIDS across the United States. The law consists of five parts, each representing

a specific need: Part A funds for cities; Part B provides funding at the state level; Part C funds early intervention services; Part D is for programs targeting women, infants and youth; and Part F for special projects of national significance. The Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act provides some level of care to more than 500,000 persons living with HIV/AIDS and thousands of HIV/AIDS organizations annually, in addition to funding qualifying local and state medical care providers, support services, provider training, and technical support.

Part A funds meet the emergency health needs of persons living with HIV/AIDS not met by any other health care programs. These "city" funds are divided into two eligibility groups, Eligible Metropolitan Areas (EMAs) and Transitional Grant Areas (TGAs). EMAs are described as having a cumulative total of more than 2,000 AIDS cases during the most recent five year period in a population of 50,000 and greater. TGAs must have at least 1,000, but no

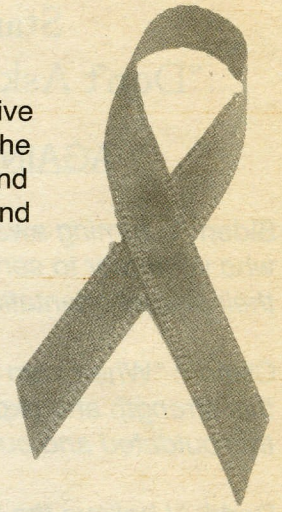
more than 1,999 cumulative AIDS cases during the most recent five years and a population of 50,000 and greater.

The Memphis TGA funding serves a multi-county, interstate region including Shelby County, TN, as well as Tipton and Fayette counties, Crittenden County, AR, and Desoto, Marshall, Tate, and Tunica counties in Mississippi.

One third of the total Planning Council membership MUST include individuals who are living with HIV/AIDS and are not employees, board members, or volunteers of Part A service providers. Legislation requires that the total Planning Council reflect racial and gender demographics, as well as the geographic statistics of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the area.

Special efforts are being made to include representatives from rural Tennessee, East Arkansas, and Northern Mississippi counties which complete the Memphis TGA.

Anyone interested being on the Memphis TGA Ryan White Part A Planning Council should contact Dorcas Young, Planning Council Coordinator at 901-544-7623 or email: dyoung@co.shelby.tn.us. A short application must be completed and returned no later than Friday, January 11, 2008 by 4:30PM to : Ryan White Part A Program Office, Memphis/Shelby County Health Department 814 Jefferson Ave., 5th Floor, Memphis, Tenn., 38105. Applications can also be faxed to 901-544-7599.



LIVING WORD CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Sundays: 9:30am

1015 S. Cooper (at Walker)

901-485-0949

A Powerful Place to belong

Special Workshops on the first and third Thursdays at 7:00pm, see website for details.

www.livingwordchristianchurch.net

A Place For All People To Worship Together

Passionately

Promoting Healthy Lifestyles

inbalance
FITNESS

www.inbalancefitness.com | 794 South Cooper | 272-2205

TEP offers "Lobbying 101" in anticipation of Advancing Equality Day

The Tennessee Equality Project (TEP) is not taking chances when the General Assembly reconvenes in January. The Tennessee anti-gay industry has already announced that they plan to have legislation introduced that would restrict our adoption rights and leave even more children waiting for a loving home.

TEP's "Lobbying 101" training sessions offered throughout the state will prepare fair-minded citizens to fight back. Learning how to speak about equality issues with your legislators is not difficult. When lawmakers can put a face with an issue, it changes their minds. Your commitment to tell those in power why equality matters to you can help stop bad bills. Even if adoption isn't the most important issue to you, by getting to know your senator and representative, you will help facilitate fair legislation for GLBT citizens.

TEP will offer "Lobbying 101" in Memphis on Saturday, Jan. 26, 2007, from 1-3 P.M. at the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center (892 South Cooper Street). MGLCC's Initiative: Fairness will host this event, and Nike TN GLBT and Friends Network will provide refreshments.

Rep. Mike Kernell (D-93) of Memphis has accepted an invitation to speak. Other General Assembly members from Shelby County may also attend. Dr. Marisa Richmond from Nashville will facilitate the training. If expected participation exceeds the capacity of the community center, an alternative training site will be announced. If inclement weather occurs in Memphis on Jan. 26, the training will be held on Sunday, Jan. 27.

"Lobbying 101" training will prepare you for TEP's Fourth Annual Advancing Equality Day on the Hill in Nashville on Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2007. TEP tracks all legislation in the General Assembly that affects GLBT citizens in our state and develops talking points you can share with your elected representatives. Advancing Equality Day is your opportunity to witness state government at work and advocate for fair legislation with your elected representatives.

Shelby County sends more legislators to the General Assembly than any other county in the state. The Shelby County Committee of TEP has set a challenging goal to send 50 people from our area to Legislative Plaza in Nashville on Advancing Equality Day. Will you help make an impact? It's worth a day off from work. Mark your calendar today so you can make a difference for you and your loved ones.

Sign up for "Lobbying 101" or Advancing Equality Day or receive more information by contacting the Shelby County Committee of TEP at shelbycounty@tnequalityproject.com or by visiting www.tnep.org.

Members of the Shelby County Committee of TEP contributed to this story.

TENNESSEE
TEP =
EQUALITY PROJECT
Shelby County Committee

Matthew Shepard hate crimes act fails in Congress "It needs to become law," says Rep. Cohen

By David Mabury

The Matthew Shepard Hate Crimes Prevention Act, which would have extended federal hate-crimes protection to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender victims, died in Congress Dec. 6 after it was removed from a Defense Department spending bill to which it had been attached.

However, supporters point out that both the House and Senate passed earlier versions of the Matthew Shepard Act despite the last-minute setback, and vow to reintroduce it. "It's a very important bill that the House passed, and I was hoping it would become law. It needs to become law," said U.S. Rep. Steve Cohen (D-TN) in a phone interview with the *Triangle Journal*.

The Matthew Shepard Act first passed the House of Representatives in May 2007. It then moved to the Senate, where it passed on a 60-to-39 vote in September 2007 as an amendment to the Department of Defense Authorization bill.

Senators Ted Kennedy (D-MA) and Gordon Smith (R-OR) attached the Act to the Defense bill in an attempt to short-circuit President Bush's threat to veto a hate crimes bill. By adding the Act to the Defense bill, Bush would have been forced to veto the entire piece of legislation - both hate crimes and programs for the war in Iraq - in order to reject the Matthew Shepard Act.

A House-Senate conference committee then met to work out the differences between the House and Senate versions of the bill. On Dec. 6 the committee chose to drop the Matthew Shepard Act from the final version of the bill. The hate crimes veto threat issued by the White House and organized opposition by House Republicans cost significant numbers of votes on the right. Iraq-related provisions, which many progressive Democrats opposed, cost votes on the left. Other Democrats, many of whom voted for the hate crimes bill in May, did not want to test the President's veto threat and risk a delay in increased pay for military personnel. All of this resulted in insufficient votes to secure passage

of the bill with the hate crimes provision.

"I certainly was going to vote for it, no question about it," said Cohen of the possibility of a House vote on the Defense bill with the Matthew Shepard Act attached. "I'm part of the Out of Iraq group, and I still would have voted for it."

Rep. Cohen called it a "hail-Mary pass" by Senate supporters to attach the Matthew Shepard Act to the Defense bill. He urged his Democratic colleagues in the Senate to push back harder when Republicans threatened bill-killing filibusters on progressive issues like the Act. "The Senate is a problem. One [senator] can kill a bill ... and the Democrats haven't been zealously pushing the Republicans on these cloture votes." According to Senate procedures, a cloture vote prevents filibusters by placing a time limit on debate, which allows the Senate to continue its business. Since the Democrats gained a slim majority in the last senatorial elections, Republicans routinely use filibuster threats to kill progressive legislation that they could not otherwise vote down, according to Cohen.

Continued on page 18



Steve Solomon
Office : 901.278.4380
Residence : 901.454.1931
54 S. Cooper • Memphis, Tn
38104

Serving our Community for 18 years!
Please call me when you are ready to sell or to purchase a home. I want to be your real estate connection.



Taylor-Maid Cleaning

Welcome Home to Clean!

Residential and Commercial
Free Estimates

Phone: (901) 274-2148
Fax: (901) 274-6152
bbrown@taylormaidcleaning.com



We Want Your Help!

Send your pictures to:
Triangle Journal
892 South Cooper Street
Memphis, TN 38104
or
e-mail them to:
trianglejournal@aol.com

A boy who cried "rape": a story of outrage, bravery, and justice

by Ian Keller

Early in December, a court in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates sentenced two men for 15 years for the abduction and sexual assault of a 15-year-old French Swiss boy. For the last five months, international newswires and bloggers have been abuzz with the story that these two men, one of whom is reportedly HIV-positive, took the youth into the desert and repeatedly raped him at knife point.

According to these reports, last July 14, Alexandré Robert, a youth living in Dubai with his hotel-manager father, was offered a ride home by an Emirati acquaintance from a beach club, where he was with a French friend. In the car were two local men.

After the incident, the youth testified alone with authorities in a three-hour session. He stated that he was placed in the middle backseat, while the men drove the teenagers into the desert. There, according to the boy, is where the local men took turns raping him at knifepoint in the dark. Alexandré also testified that his friend was ordered to wait outside the car. The other boy later told police he was not attacked. Alexandré also stated that when finally releasing the traumatized boys, the local men threatened to attack his family if he dared report them to the police.

This testimony was neither recorded nor translated, according to Véronique Robert, Alexandré's mother, citing accounts from Alexandré and his father. This testimony has been hailed in the blogosphere as nothing short of astonishing bravery, as the newswires have reported that the reaction of officials at the local police station was a "blame-the-victim" accusation of consensual sex. Homosexuality is against the law in the UAE and is punishable by one year in jail. A male victim of male rape is deemed a homosexual and is punished as such. But French diplomats in Dubai quickly offered the boy diplomatic protection.

The police doctor who examined Alexandré declared that there was no physical signs of rape, and suggested that Alexandré was instead concealing his homosexuality. The French consulate attorney, however, presented dramatically different results. After he persuaded Dubai police to take a new statement from Alexandré, police arrested and then charged two men within hours, thanks to the license plate Alexandré had glimpsed in the near-dark, and Alexandré's ability to identify them in a police lineup.

Jodie Foster sale del clóset?

por Susana Rodas

La actriz de 44 años recibió en días pasados el reconocimiento "Sherry Lansing" al Liderazgo durante un desayuno organizado por la revista "Hollywood Reporter". En su discurso de aceptación la actriz agradeció a la productora de cine Cydney Bernard (la cual se rumora es su pareja desde hace 14 años) el haber estado con ella en los buenos y malos momentos, "en lo podrido y en lo bendecido" y se refirió a ella como su baluarte y fuente de inspiración. Ambas se conocieron durante el rodaje de *Sommersby* en 1993. Aunque durante años se ha escuchado sobre su relación, es la primera ocasión que Jodie hace referencia a Cidney públicamente, al frente del escenario y por su nombre lo cual le da mayor relevancia a este hecho. Ambas tienen dos hijos, Charles, de nueve, y Kit de seis años. Los niños son hijos biológicos de Jodie, a quienes concibió mediante inseminación artificial.

ENDA and the end of silence

Commentary by Elizabeth Pitts

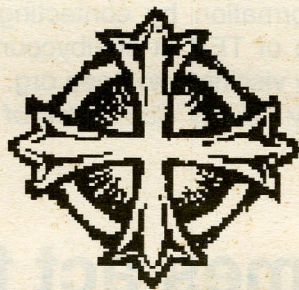


I begin this column an apologist. I clearly cannot speak for all heterosexuals everywhere, but I wonder sometimes who is speaking for me. Surely it can't be a large group of elderly white guys who have effective marketing staffs. Nor a disembodied voice heard on talk radio by virtue of possessing enough skill to dial a telephone. And I would hate to think it were a 'talking head' on cable news, there because she can yell the loudest in the allotted time. And yet it would seem that all of those people believe they can speak for me, a straight working single mom who keeps her mouth shut these days.

I used to be one of those people who sought to engage in debate, one of those uppity women who argued an opposing viewpoint for fun, but somewhere along the line that became a saddening pastime. Recently I find myself less willing to argue, less willing to engage in conversation that might invite controversy or animosity, simply because the likelihood of my words being heard and accepted is slim. Opinions on issues are altered less often than opinions on personalities and people, and grudges are often inevitable. We keep to our beliefs because we think we should or we have to: the dominoes remain standing, and acceptance is a long time coming.

See, but this is how it starts; this is how apologists are made. An opinion is expressed. Mine is different. I assume my argument, no matter

Continued on page 19



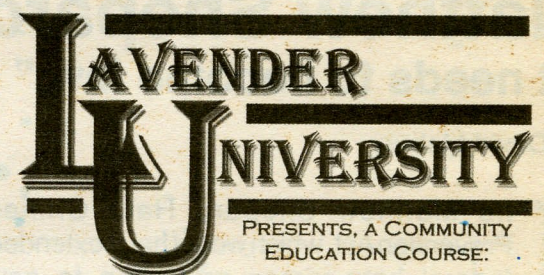
As other denominations
tell you, "No,"
we continue to proclaim
a joyous "YES!"

First Congregational UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*An Open and Affirming Church
celebrating the image of God in every person
and the sacred value of every human life*

Come and visit us in our new location
in the Cooper-Young neighborhood!
1000 South Cooper

Worship Sundays at 10:30 Classes at 9:30 a.m.
www.firstcongo.com 278-6786



Absolutely Free

**"Then & Now"
Memphis Heritage:
Giving our Past a Future**

GUEST SPEAKER:
JUNE WEST OF MEMPHIS HERITAGE

**Tuesday, January 22, 2007
7:00 PM**



MGLCC
892 So. Cooper
Memphis, TN 38104

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
901.278.6422

WILLIAM CASTLE, DDS
79 NORTH COOPER
(901)685-5008

PUT A SMILE ON YOUR FACE

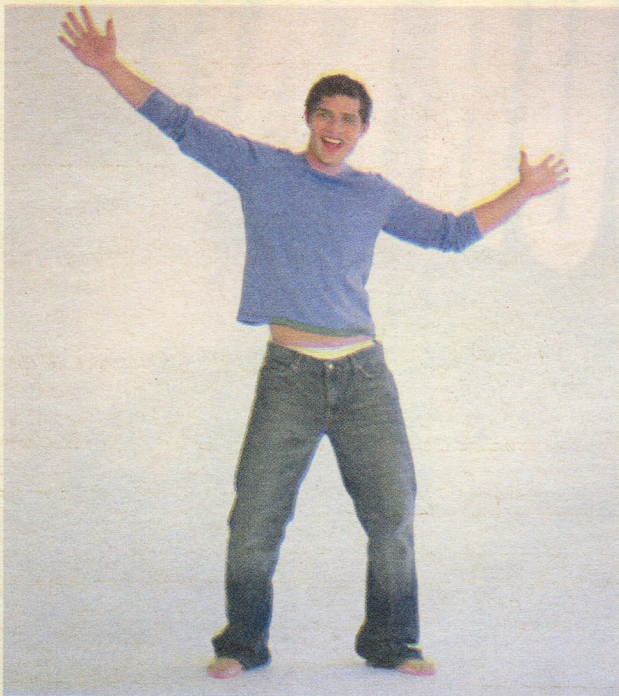
ask about free whitening for new patients

A new year. A new attitude.

Eight easy steps to being a better queer in 2008

by James Cox

In case you haven't made any New Year's resolutions, or if you're looking to add to your list, consider these last-minute additions to help you be the best GLBT you can be in the coming year.



1 Get a status check. There's no excuse for not knowing your HIV status. What you don't know *can* hurt you and someone you love (even if it is just for the night). There are plenty of places in the Mid-South for free and confidential screenings. Friends For Life uses the OraQuick test and you'll know your status within 20 minutes. Visit their website at www.friendsforlifecorp.org for more information.

2 Kick butt. Yes, most of us practically came of age in smoke-filled bars and clubs, but gay men in particular have a higher risk of lung cancer. Thirty-six percent of LGBT Americans smoke, compared to 25 percent of all adults. Not only are you putting your lungs through the ringer, but also your heart, your liver, your skin, and your mouth. Heaven knows you aren't getting any younger; it's time to kick the habit. Talk to your doctor about quitting or call the American Cancer Society at 1-800-ACS-2345.

3 Don't be selfish. There are hundreds of reasons to volunteer, mostly because you can help someone less fortunate than yourself. Don't forget that you can also build job skills, uncover a hidden talent, make new friends, or you could meet the love of your life just in time for Valentine's Day. No matter your interest, there's a group in Memphis that needs your help. Like to read? Be a tutor to an adult learning to read with the Memphis Literacy Council. Like animals? Be a volunteer dog walker with the Memphis Humane Society. Not sure what you'd like to do? Check out www.volunteermemphis.org.

What is your New Year's resolution?

Stop eating fried foods. Stop eating foods that contain high fructose corn syrup. -- Matt Fraser



I think I'd like to pick just one and be able to stick to it, but what is the one? Is it something I'm giving up or something I'm bringing more of into my life? What do I want to improve about myself? I want to stay more often connected with my higher divine nature of compassion and keep that as my guiding force in all things. Cheesy but true. -- Jenesther



Reconnect with old friends. Learn something new. Quit smoking. Enjoy life more. -- Lenny Bullard

A few things on my list might include becoming more healthy through traditional medical practices as well as investigating a few less traditional options, continuing my journey towards inner peace, reclaiming my long-dormant spirituality, and carving out more dedicated time with my son. Alternatively, I might go to Greece! I've always wanted to explore the islands! -- Charlie Weatherall

Give yourself a break

Fitness resolutions not always made to be broken

by James Cox

Since the time you were old enough to step on a scale or look in a mirror, you've been making fitness-related New Year's resolutions. Exercise more. Eat less. Quit smoking. Fit in the jeans you wore in high school (if acid wash ever comes back in style).

Five days later, you've broken most of those promises. The only exercise you're getting is beating yourself up because you can't even remember what your resolutions were.

Before you completely give up, Jonathan Ellis, a personal trainer in Memphis, says cut yourself some slack when you fall off the wagon.

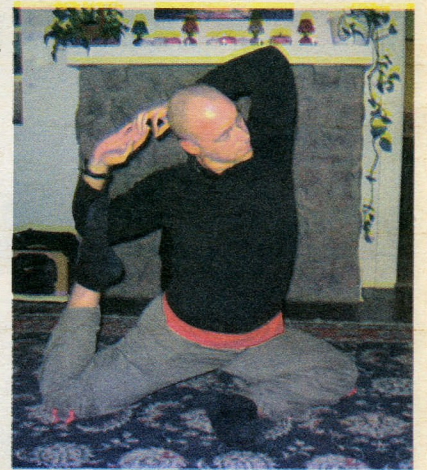
"It's not a bad thing to make New Year's resolutions, but you can also continuously set yourself up to fail," advises Ellis, a NIKE Fitness athlete recognized as one of the premier fitness instructors, trainers and educators in the world today. "Be realistic and forgiving. The best resolution is to accept your limitations and start from there."

For example, by promising to give up smoking and lose weight, you may be on the road to disappointment. Since quitting smoking can cause you to gain weight, be realistic and promise to give up the cigarettes and maintain your weight until July 1.

He says that as you write your resolutions, remember these things:

- Be kind; don't set yourself up for failure by creating multiple resolutions that involve too much self-denial.
- Keep your goals manageable and realistic.
- The best resolutions leave one day of the week to enjoy being human and not living by any rules or expectations you have created.

Ellis reminds us that the first resolution should be to "resolve not to give up on yourself, and to love yourself, even when you don't like your behavior."



Fitness instructor Jonathan Ellis says yoga is a great way to bring the body and mind into harmony - something that might be helpful in keeping your 2008 resolutions.

Articles in *Triangle Journal* marked as commentary are solely the opinion of the author. Commentaries are not intended to represent the opinions of the entire editorial staff of the *Triangle Journal*, the Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center, or any of its affiliates. Letters to the editor and commentaries are welcomed, but the editorial review board of *Triangle Journal* reserves the right to edit or refuse any submitted materials.

Eight easy steps continued from previous page

4 Fight for your right to be gay. You don't have to be a wave a rainbow flag or carry a picket sign to be a gay rights activist. Just the fact that you're here and you're queer should be a no-brainer reason to get involved. It can be as simple as understanding the issues, sending an email, signing a petition or writing a check. Civil rights of the LGBT community are on the chopping block every single day. Check out the Tennessee Equality Project (www.tnep.org) to find out more.

5 Don't forget the T in GLBT. But you can forget the obvious jokes about alphabet soup. T stands for transgender, and the GLBs owe it to themselves and the rest of our community to first try to grasp the ever-evolving vocabulary and to learn what they can about transgender issues.

6 No more drama. That doesn't mean turning off *Desperate Housewives*. That means quit the whining, the gossiping, the grudge-carrying. As a society, all of us carry around some baggage, but the LGBT community has a lot to learn about forgiveness and gratitude. You won't shed negativity overnight, but learning to forgive others and having an attitude of gratitude will certainly lighten your emotional load.

7 It is easy to be green. You don't have to be a full-on granola-eating tree hugger to save the planet. Screw in compact fluorescent light bulbs to save energy. You can stop getting so much junk mail (therefore, saving landfill space and trees) by going to www.dmaconsumers.org to remove your name from mailing lists. Turn off lights and the television when you aren't using them. Put a birdfeeder in the backyard. Turn off the water while brushing your teeth.

8 Cast your ballot. In case you haven't noticed the constant barrage of Hillary, Barack, Fred, Rudy and others, 2008 is an election year. Vote Democrat. Vote Republican. Vote Green Party if that's what makes you happy. Do yourself a favor, decide what's important to you, and know where you stand on the important issues – the war in Iraq, terrorism, immigration, healthcare, civil rights, the environment. It's impossible to think there will be a candidate this year that believes exactly the same as you, but find one that you think will do the most good for you and America. And mark your calendar to vote on November 4.

**Bring the Mid-South GLBT community
to your business with an ad in Triangle Journal.
Call (901) 857-8523 for rates and more information.**

**SUSAN
MACKENZIE**
ATTORNEY AT LAW · MEDIATOR

- Criminal Defense
- Family Law
- Wills / Power of Attorney
- Personal Injury

**PROTECTING OUR FAMILIES
AND RELATIONSHIPS
FOR OVER 18 YEARS**

266 SOUTH FRONT STREET, SUITE 206 MEMPHIS, TN 38103 (901) 527-1316

Not certified as a Civil Trial Specialist by the Tennessee Commission
on Continuing Legal Education and Specialization.

**Providing Quality Massages
Since 1987**

abodywisecompany
(901) 377-7701

*New and existing customers receive
their 1st massage appointment
in 2007 at 1987 prices!
Future discounts available.*

In/Out Calls

ALL NEW IN 2008, A UNIQUE AND INTIMATE LOUNGE SETTING.

Quetzal
AFTER DARK

Come take part in two **unique** events,
and experience our definition of the
nightlife.

**Saturday, January 12th & January 26th
@10PM 21+**

The **lounge** will feature a full bar exclusively serving **premium** cocktails
with music spun live by DJ**42** in the jet-set house
style of San Francisco, Milan, and Sydney.

*Quetzal is located at 668 Union Ave, and is in close proximity to Victorian Village and Downtown,
so your evening can last as long as you can.*

these special events are by invitation only, request yours by sending an email to quetzalmem@quetzal.org

KARAOKE

**FREE
WIFI**

Mon, Tues and Wed @ 10 PM

NO COVER

Happy Hour

Daily Until 10 PM

**Voted Best Beer Bust
Every Thursday Night.**

METRO

www.metromemphisclub.com

MEMPHIS 1349 Autumn 901-274-8010

**Mary's
Memphis**

Eat, Drink, Play

Have A Mary Day!

Now Open 7 Days A Week

4 PM until 3 AM

Kitchen Open Late

405 N Cleveland

901-725-7334

www.marysmemphis.com





From GRID to Gridlock: Memphis' Twentieth Annual World AIDS Day Underlines the Ongoing Lament

by Len Piechowski

I can still remember the sickening feeling in the pit of my stomach as I watched the evening news one evening in June of 1981. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention had just announced that a bizarre series of illnesses and deaths was occurring in the gay communities of several American cities. The disease would come to be dubbed the Gay Related Immune Deficiency (GRID) and then later changed to AIDS when its pathogenic cause and its equal-opportunity-targets became more clearly understood.

The faces of AIDS have changed throughout



Sean Alexander and Mark Jones reflect during the Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center's World AIDS Day Commemoration on December 1.

these years. What hasn't changed is the denial surrounding it and the isolation of the persons living with the illness. It still paralyzes members of society by exposing ideologies incapable of dealing with reality and believers' unwillingness to see beyond them. Furthermore, while other diseases bring out the loving support present in the family unit and from loved ones, this horror relegates many sufferers to the fringe of society. If not already marginalized before infection, some people living with HIV/AIDS suddenly find themselves isolated due to their illness. Something else that hasn't changed is the lack of governmental response for the gay and same gender loving men who are still disproportionately getting infected. Following the money, many AIDS service agencies feel they have no choice but to rely upon government funds to keep their services afloat. And such funding will only include limited

outreach and services in our community.

Despite the heartbreaking inequities, we in the Memphis rainbow community once again put our best foot forward this year! We were there at Rhodes College as Friends For Life joined Rhodes College students in *Rhodes Wears Red* to provide prevention information and testing. We were in the Medplex lobby for the HIV Awareness Festival showcasing vendors and HIV service organizations. We were at the Family Services day-long *Best Get Tested* seminar with a focus on testing, strategies, the impact of substance abuse, and awareness of high risk behaviors for becoming infected. We were at the press conference and student program at Central High School. And of course, by the thousands, we reverently passed the World AIDS Day Markers Project once again this year as it speckled the grounds of First Baptist Church and Greater Lewis Street Missionary Baptist Church at Poplar and Parkway.

In the state of Tennessee, from 1983 to 2005, close to 20,000 persons were reported to have been infected with HIV. About 6,500 of them are no longer with us with the remainder living with the daily emotional, spiritual, and physical agonies. Vincent Glover, manager of the infectious disease division of the Memphis and Shelby County Health Department, says that the distress is compounded because "...of the estimated 1 million people in the United States living with HIV, one-fourth of them do not know they are HIV-infected. The only way to know if you have HIV is to get tested. If you do not know if you are infected with HIV, you could be spreading it to others. If you are HIV-positive, you must take steps to prevent passing your HIV infection to another person."

None of us in the
gay community
could ever have expected
that this could go
on for so long.

"Take steps to prevent passing your HIV." Hmm. None of us in the gay community could have ever expected that this could go on for so long. No one could have ever predicted the need to wear protection every time we made love for 25 years! No one could have ever predicted

that we would have those painful second thoughts when taking our lover's word for so many years. No one of us could have ever predicted the unspeakable grief over the human loss. No one could ever have foreseen how tired we would all become of it and the open revolt against it known as "barebacking." No matter where you come down on this issue, many of us refuse to be victimized by fear any longer, and because of this revolt we are still getting infected. Dejectedly, those of us who are exhausted from going to all of those funerals don't exactly know where to turn next.

Oh sure there has been good news! At least, we're not dropping dead like we used to. We now have the anti-retrovirals as well as the protease, integrase, and fusion inhibitors. They really are miracles, aren't they? But they are miracles hard earned because our community ACTed UP and demanded attention when most everyone else was gridlocked in ideology. We don't seem to see much of that kind of heroic activism anymore. I don't know; maybe nowadays we're just too tired to act up. But, fortunately, some of our AIDS heroes and sheroes are still around. We might have to look hard to find them, but they're still around. They're the ones working outside of the limelight and without the funding. Maybe more of them will be highlighted at the twenty-first annual occasion. They deserve it. They're the ones working to prevent a second wave of devastation in the gay community, a community who still has that sickening feeling in the pit of its stomach.

The feeling that just won't go away.



Pissarro makes way for Warhol at Brooks

by Ian Keller

When my friend Andy and I entered the current exhibition at the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art a few Sundays ago, I couldn't help but remember a comment by one of the Memphis Rainbow Community's favorite people, Lady Astor. In her inimitable fashion, when offered an opportunity to attend an art exhibition, she responded "Not today, I don't think I can handle yet another Impressionist."

I think even Lady A would enjoy what we saw at *Pissarro: Creating the Impressionist Landscape*. Impressionist Camille Pissarro, was a close friend of the more famous others of the stylistic movement, Cezanne and Monet. He is renown for having his work grace many of the salons of 19th century France. In addition, he and his contemporaries flouted custom by sidestepping the strict juries who decided upon inclusion at the salons by creating an independent forum for Impressionists. He was the only artist whose work was included in all eight independent Impressionist exhibits.

Pissarro and the Impressionists did not simply paint what was seen, but what was actually their impression of that which was seen. Their sunlit landscapes, middle-class people at leisure and mothers with children capture a personally nuanced experience of reality. Most Impressionists used changing effects of light with short brushstrokes. Using dabs of color and quick brushstrokes, many painted scenes were created to be filled with light and

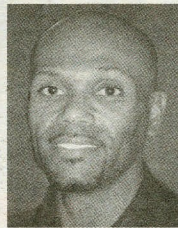
atmosphere *en plein air*. In this, Pissarro is like the others, but unlike many of the others, he sometimes departs from the brush stroke to use strokes of the paint knife to work with more weighty dabs. The result is often a deep and moody experience of the French landscape.

Beyond doubt, one of the most breathtaking paintings in this exhibit is *Effect of Snow at l'Hermitage, Pontoise*. Using varying colors to capture a melting snowfall on a hill, I swear that if you stepped into the landscape, you would hear the dripping of the snow from the trees and from the edifice of l'Hermitage. Not as much to my liking were his landscapes of London and the English countryside. These scenes appear dull and bland

Singing, dancing but some body parts can't be choreographed

Naked Boys Singing on DVD

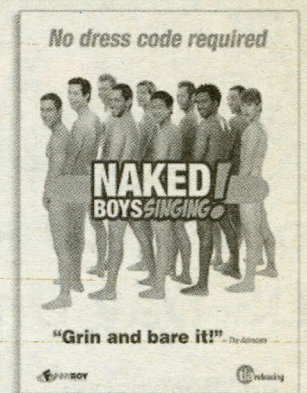
by Carl Smith



Ok, show of hands. How many of you have ever been to a play or musical and you found yourself thinking 'I wonder what they (the performers) look like naked?' Well, wonder no more! *Naked Boys Singing*, a musical revue by Robert Schrock, brings you 10 sensational, young, multi-talented guys who present wonderful musical performances in the buff.

It's fantastically shocking and titillating for about a minute and a half, and after the opening number, 'Gratuitous Nudity', you'll settle in as your naked curiosity is satisfied. The depth and talent of these performers will take you beyond the obvious visual pleasure of gorgeous, hot bodies. The nudity is brilliantly used as a natural vehicle cleverly woven into the plot of each performance. Most of the tunes are cute and perky, while others are poignant and thoughtful. Everyone will find a number or two where you'll swear a snippet of your life was recreated on stage. 'Fight The Urge', a locker room melody where boys desperately fight to suppress all things natural in unnatural ways is one of my personal favorites. 'Muscle Addiction', another art imitating life performance exposes the endless pursuit of the 'perfect' physique and the gym ballet that goes along it.

Not just your average, run of the mill chorus line, *Naked Boys Singing* is a lot more than one singular sensation! Please turn off your cell phone, unless you want to become part of the show! This is the perfect entertainment for your next cocktail party, boys' night out, or a great addition for your movie collection. *Naked Boys Singing* is now available for you at Inz & Outz Gifts & Cards, 553 S. Cooper St. in Memphis, (901) 728-6535.



A+

(not unlike British cuisine) when compared to the brilliance with which Pissarro paints France.

Pissarro: Creating the Impressionist Landscape is presented by Morgan Keegan and Regions Morgan Keegan Trust. The exhibition sponsors are The Arthur F. and Alice E. Adams Charitable Foundation; Bass, Berry and Sims, PLC; and Clear

will feature a range of highly individual artistic responses to the enormous economic, social, and cultural changes now taking place throughout Africa. Organized by Okwui Enwezor, one of the world's foremost curators of contemporary art, the exhibition will present more than 200 photographs by 35 artists from a dozen African countries.

...I swear that if you stepped into the landscape, you would hear the dripping of the snow from the trees...

From June 13 through Sept. 7, 2008, Memphis Brooks Museum of Art will present *The Prints of Andy Warhol: From A to B and Back Again*. This exhibition is being organized by The Andy Warhol Museum of Pittsburgh, one of four Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh. In one of the most successful art careers of the 20th century, Warhol used mass-produced images while

Channel Outdoor. Additional support is offered by The Doris and Hubert Kiersky Charitable Remainder Trust and New Tech Graphics. It's a must-see and you need to hurry! This exhibit will close on January 6. Fortunately, other must-sees are on the way!

From March 1 through May 25, 2008, the museum presents *Snap Judgments: New Positions in Contemporary African Photography* which will be sponsored by The First Tennessee Bravo Series. *Snap Judgments* is the first major American exhibition in over a decade to examine current photographic works from Africa. Encompassing the African continent, from the Muslim cultures of the north to the sub-Saharan south, *Snap Judgments*

legitimizing the commercial silkscreen process in creating his prints and paintings. His subjects included Marilyn Monroe, electric chairs, Mao Tse-Tung, Campbell's Soup cans, flowers, Jackie Kennedy, cows, Coca-Cola and Liz Taylor. This exhibit will survey 63 screen prints and 5 paintings from Warhol's best-known series.

Memphis Brooks Museum of Art is open Tuesdays through Sundays but is closed on Mondays, New Year's Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. It is located within Overton Park in Midtown Memphis.

Rent Ode, Make the Minutes Count

by Charlie Weatherall

RENT, Jonathan Larson's Tony award-winning Broadway musical, made a brief stop in Memphis over Thanksgiving weekend. For one weekend only, The Orpheum Memphis hosted this intriguing musical, reminding everyone who attended that family is much broader than blood relatives.

Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center (MGLCC) and The Orpheum partnered together to offer MGLCC Night at RENT on the Saturday evening after Thanksgiving. Approximately 75 people from the GLBT community enjoyed the evening performance.

The story of RENT has something to offer almost everyone. Themes running throughout the show include: relationships of all types, drug use, disease, homelessness, political activism, love lost, love found, and even the pain of losing one's pet. In weaving the show's multiple story lines together, Larson conveys his message about the importance of nurturing a true sense of community.

MGLCC Night at RENT included a meet and greet with the cast after the show. While getting to know the cast, it became apparent that not only does the show revolve around the characters' community, but that the cast has also created its own community. Cast members are as diverse as the characters they play, yet they have developed into a true family. Their love for one another, their support of each other, and their celebration of each other's diversity came shining through during our chat session.

The cast challenged those in attendance and the overall Memphis community, to promote tolerance and to support diversity. According to the ode, *Seasons of Love*, there are 525,600 minutes this year. As they travel throughout the United States on tour, they work hard to ask how their audiences will choose to use those minutes and how they will measure the success of their lives.

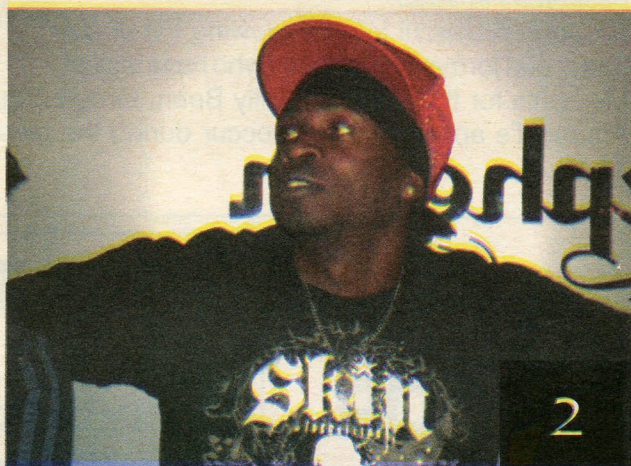


Photo 1: MGLCC President Charlie Weatherall (left) and Jed Resnick who played Mark Cohen
Photo 2: Aswad, RENT swing cast member
Photo 3: James Cox (left), Cain Mann and Steve Napier
Photo 4: Charlie Weatherall and Christina Sajous, swing cast member
Photo 5: Andy Eiskamp (left) and Shane Wilbourne
Photo 6: Theatregoers who purchased their RENT tickets through MGLCC enjoyed a meet-and-greet with the cast after the Saturday night performance.

Media just as guilty as Lakers coach

Commentary by Jamie R. Griffin

The words just rolled off Lakers' coach Phil Jackson's tongue as if it was no big deal. Any observer would just assume it was ignorance, not arrogance that would allow Jackson to describe his team's poor defensive performance one game night in San Antonio as a "Brokeback Mountain game, because there's so much penetration and kick outs." Then you realize that, Jackson, Mr. Zen himself, is one of the most intelligent players/coaches to ever step foot into the NBA, so the lack of knowledge excuse won't work in this case. Why not just plead insensitive and get it over it?

You know Phil, this is the 21st century. In addition to the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD), members of both the mainstream and GLBT media were there to remind him of that fact. Yet, some of the reporters interviewing him that night didn't get the message. Judging by their reaction you would have thought they were at a comedy show instead of a post game interview session. And if you haven't had the opportunity to see and or hear it, you can easily find it on youtube.com.

See Phil, he was reprimanded by the NBA and apologized (although I question the sincerity of it) to any one he may have offended, and did it on national television. But how about those reporters who laughed at the comment? You think their supervisors called them into a private meeting and lectured them? I don't think so either. There's a serious double standard here. The very same institution (the media) that criticized Jackson for his comments was making light of it the moment he said it. Bringing true meaning to the cliché, "actions speak louder than words." My mother would say the reporters were instigating. And when I was a child, when my siblings would get into a fight and I didn't break it up or I said something to encourage it, oh I would be in just as much trouble as they were.

And don't think for a moment I'm taking up for Phil, because I actually think he got off easy. But compared to what happened to the reporters you could hear laughing after Jackson's comments, he got life without parole while they got the security guard armed with a flashlight and wearing house shoes.

And now, the man in the middle, John A-meeeeeee-cheeeeeeee!

by Mark Jones

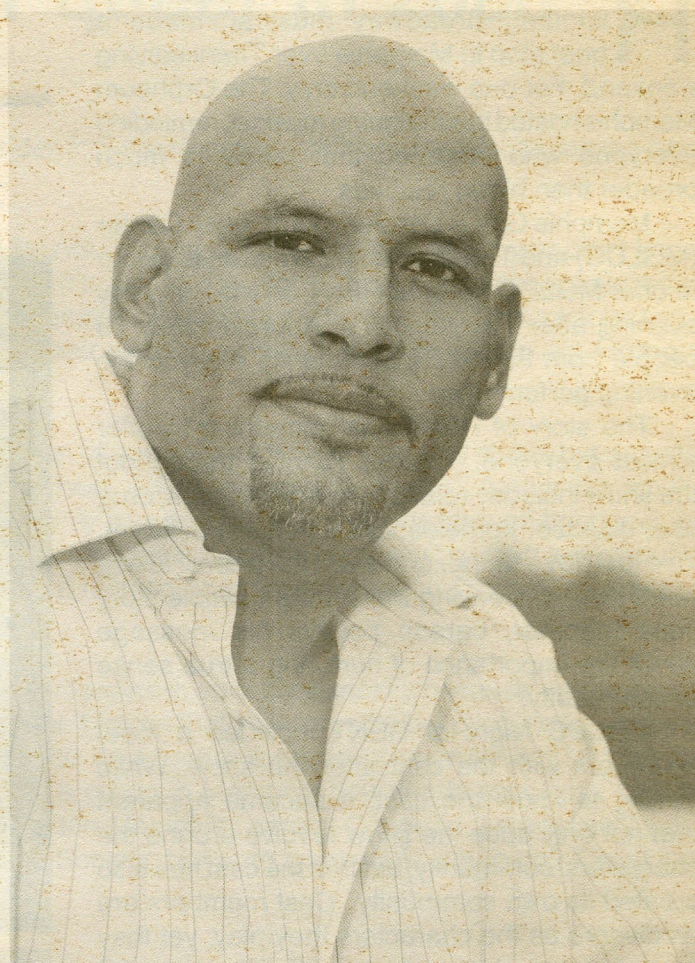


John Amaechi will be guest of honor for the 2008 Memphis Gaymes, which will be held during National Coming Out week in October. The event is presented by Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center.

Amaechi made headlines in early 2007 as the first NBA basketball player to talk openly about being gay. Since coming out, Amaechi has appeared on Oprah and ESPN talking about his life as a closeted gay man playing basketball in the NBA. He has also written a book about his experience entitled, *Man in the Middle*.

Amaechi was raised in England and moved to the United States during his teens to play basketball for St. Johns Jesuit High School in Toledo, Ohio. He started his college career at Vanderbilt University but later transferred to Penn State. In 1995, the six-foot-ten center/power forward signed with the Cleveland Cavaliers and played with the team during the 95-96 season. Amaechi spent five years as an NBA player, playing for Cleveland, Orlando and Utah. He also played a couple of seasons in Europe. He retired from professional basketball in 2003.

John Amaechi joins a growing list of out and proud former pro athletes who have visited Memphis for the Gaymes. Billy Bean, Greg Louganis and Esera Tuaolo participated in past years. Amaechi's appearance will occur during the closing weekend celebrations scheduled for October 11-12.



FRIENDS FOR
Life

Free HIV Testing at
Friends For Life
Please call 901-272-0855

Thank You!

Friends For Life expresses heartfelt gratitude to everyone who made this year's APATT a huge success. To all the many volunteers who planned the event, everyone who hosted parties, attended parties as well as the finale costume party and made generous donations... FFL and the 2,000 persons affected by HIV/AIDS we serve say...

Thank You!

www.friendsforlifecorp.org

RESTAURANTS

Barbeque	Tops
Breakfast	Barksdale Restaurant
Brunch	Square Foods
Chef	Chef Andrea Change (Peabody's Dux)
Chinese	Pei Wei
Coffee Shop	Otherlands
Deli	Young Avenue Deli
Dessert	Cheesecake Corner
Fine Dining	Circa
Greek	Sean's Café
Hamburger Joint	Huey's
Indian	Golden India
Italian	Fino's
Japanese/Sushi	Sekisui Pacific Rim
Lunch	Cupboard
Mediterranean	Casablanca Café
Mexican	Molly's La Casita
Pizza	Memphis Pizza Café
Ribs	Central BBQ
Romantic Restaurant	Le Chardonnay
Seafood	Red Lobster
Restaurant Service	Houston's
Steak	Outback
Thai	Bhan Thai
Vegan	Square Foods
Vegetarian	Square Foods
Vietnamese	Pho-Vietnam
Wine List	Le Chardonnay

GOODS & SERVICES

Antique Store	Midtown Galleria
Bank	1 st Tennessee
Barber Shop	Midtown Barber
Bookstore (New)	Border's
Bookstore (Used)	Burke's
Car Dealership	Wolfchase Honda
Day Spa	Gould's
Department Store	Dillard's
Fitness Club	French Riviera Spa
Florist	Pugh's
Gift Shop	Inz & Outz
Grocery Store	Kroger
Hair Salon	Gould's
Jewelry	Las Savell
Liquor Store	Arthur's Wine & Liquor
Men's Clothing	Brooks Brothers
Pride Paraphernalia	Inz & Outz
Record Store	Goner Records
Shoe Store	Aldo Shoes

Mall	(Tie) Wolfchase Oak Court
Sporting Goods	(Tie) Outdoors Inc. Dick's, Sports Authority
Tattoo Parlor	Midtown Tattoo
Video	Black Lodge Video
Women's Clothing	Ann Taylor

ENTERTAINMENT & RECREATION

Art Gallery	Dixon Gallery & Gardens
Art Museum	Memphis Brooks Museum of Art
Bowling	Jillian's
Family Entertainment	Putt Putt Golf & Games
Festival	Mid-South Pride Parade
Live Theater	Emerald Theatre Company
Local Artist	David Mah
Local Gay Artist	David Mah
Movie Theater	Studio On The Square
Museum	(Tie) Pink Palace Brooks Museum of Art
Park	Overton Park
Place For A Picnic	Overton Park
Sports Team	Memphis Grizzlies

EDUCATION

College/University	(Tie) Christian Brothers University Rhodes University
Library	Central Library

POLITICS & ORGANIZATIONS

GLBT Organization	FedEx LGBT Friends Network
GLBT Friendly Organization	Mid-South Peace & Justice Center
Politician	Rep. Steve Cohen
Political Group	Tennessee Equality Project

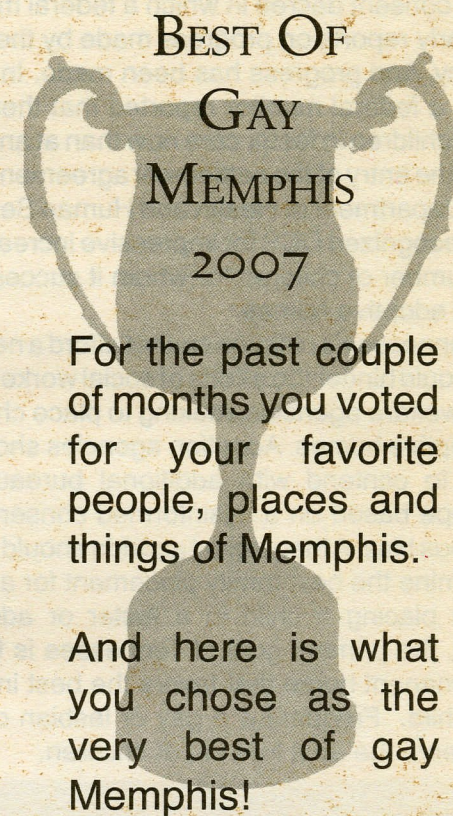
MEDIA

Newspaper/Magazine	Triangle Journal
Radio Station	FM 91.1
Television Station	WKNO

NIGHT LIFE

After Hours Club	(TIE) 901/Allusion Molly Fontaine Lounge
Bar	Molly Fontaine Lounge (TIE) Molly Fontaine Lounge
Bar Service	One More
Beer Selection	Flying Saucer
Casino	Grand
Cocktails	Molly Fontaine's
Dance Club	Lorenz/Aftershock
Drag King	Taco

Drag Queen	Porsh Buccann
Drag Show	901/Allusion
Music Venue	Hi Tone
Local Singer/ Songwriter	Di Anne Price
Place To Play Darts	(Tie) Vault One More
Place To Play Pool	(Tie) Jillian's Vault



Adoption commentary

continued from page 5

theological agenda of religious conservatives. Additionally, the state of Tennessee needs as many resources as it can marshal when meeting the needs of its abused and neglected children.

Tennessee has not always had a good track record in providing permanency for neglected and abused children in the custody of the Department of Children's Services (DCS). In 2000, Children's Rights, a national watchdog organization advocating on behalf of abused and neglected children in the U.S., sued the State of Tennessee in a landmark case, *Brian A. v. Sundquist*. Among its many claims, the lawsuit alleged that children experienced extended stays in state custody with little effort being made by DCS to provide needed reunification services or develop appropriate adoptive homes for them.

Since the lawsuit was filed, DCS entered into a consent decree in which a federal monitor regularly reports on progress made by the state agency. And progress has been made. In Sept. 2007, a federal monitor reported that there are fewer children in foster care now than at any time since the entry of the settlement agreement. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services also recognized DCS for impressive increases in the number of children for whom it successfully found adoptive homes.

Tennessee's children cannot afford a new law that would hinder the efforts of social workers and child welfare agencies seeking to place children in adoptive homes. Adoption agencies shouldn't have to contend with additional bureaucratic red tape based on a misinformed conservative religious bias. A theological agenda should never determine the best family placement for a child. When placing a child in a foster or adoptive home, the primary goal of Tennessee is to find a permanent home that favors the best interest of a child. Frequently, a gay or lesbian couple can serve the best interest of children.

Look what's coming to
Triangle Journal in February.

ROMANTIC ENTANGLEMENTS

Triangle Journal is looking for GLBT couples to profile, no matter if you've been together for 10 days or 10 years. Tell us how you met and what keeps you together.

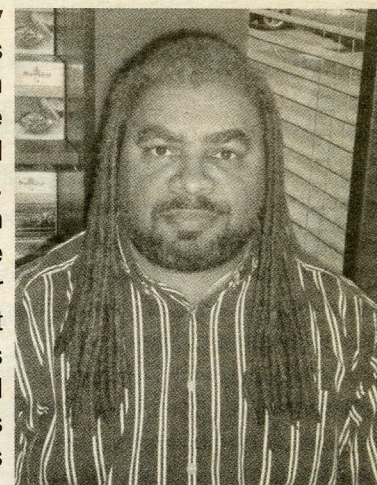
Send your story and a photograph to trianglejournal@aol.com along with your name and phone number. The deadline is January 23.

Also in the February issue:
A look at same-sex marriage
Valentine's Day gift guide
Bachelor & Bachelorette Auction Preview

Community builders

continued from page 3

experience mediating in the Arab-Israeli Conflict." With tongue firmly planted in cheek, he continues "I think she will do just fine with this project." One of the ministers who has already accepted the invitation to the event is Rev. John Gilmore (pictured right). Gilmore is the Community Spiritual Leader of Open Heart Spiritual Center on Broad Avenue. His community of faith is numbered at about 50 members. They are affiliated with the United Centers for Spiritual Living, a branch of the Global New Thought Churches. Not only is he planning to be present, but he's actively recruiting other ministers to join him. Another heterosexual ally, Gilmore expresses frustration over the bully pulpit Gray is given by his followers and the media and wishes to join forces with others to offer an alternative perspective. Gilmore is concerned about any rhetoric that distances people. In response to Rev. Gray's public references to Cohen's skin color and religious beliefs, he states "If you talk about inclusiveness, it has to work both ways."



Rev. Gilmore also wants the community to focus upon members of African American Congregations. He believes they are much more tolerant. "We must empower the people in our congregations. The laity do not have a problem with [being gay]. In fact you'll even hear them say, some of our children are gay, some of our grandchildren are gay, and well heck, some of us are gay too." Gilmore believes that if those supportive congregation members can be empowered to withdraw financial and political support from the pastors who are coming down on the wrong side of hatred, that would change things quickly.

Rev. LaSimba Gray was twice contacted by phone and once contacted by email to provide his perspective on these issues. The email bounced back and the two phone voice mail messages were not acknowledged.

Editor's Note: *In the interest of full disclosure, Len Piechowski serves on the Board of Advisors of the Mid-South Peace and Justice Center.*

Matthew Shepard Act

continued from page 7

The House "is here" on adding sexual orientation to hate-crimes law, said Cohen, but "the Senate needs to be stronger."

Cohen also pointed to a larger issue than Republican filibusters in the Senate. "The biggest problem is the President vowed to veto it," he said. "We need a Democratic president. As long as there's a Republican president and the threat of a veto then it won't pass."

Supporters plan to reintroduce the Matthew Shepard Act as a freestanding bill to avoid entanglement with defense issues. "We are not giving up on efforts to find another legislative vehicle, in the second half of this Congress, to move the Matthew Shepard Act," said Joe Solmonese, President of the Human Rights Campaign, in a prepared statement.

"TEP is disappointed with this setback," said Tommy Simmons, co-chair of the Shelby County Committee of the Tennessee Equality Project (TEP), a statewide civil rights group. "We believe that an inclusive hate crimes bill is needed to protect all people of Tennessee and the country."

The Matthew Shepard Act (officially the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2007) would expand the 1969 federal hate crimes law to include crimes motivated by a victim's actual or perceived gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability. The bill would also:

- Remove the current requirement that the victim be engaging in a federally-protected activity, like voting or going to school;
- Give federal authorities greater leeway to pursue hate crimes investigations that state or local authorities fail to act on;
- Provide \$10 million in funding for 2008 and 2009 to help state and local agencies pay for investigating and prosecuting hate crimes;
- Require the FBI to track statistics on hate crimes against transgender people (statistics for the other groups are already tracked).

The Act is supported by 31 state attorneys general and over 210 national law enforcement, professional, education, civil rights, religious, and civic organizations, including the NAACP.

The Act was named for Matthew Shepard, a 23-year-old Wyoming gay man who was tortured and murdered in an apparent hate-motivated crime in 1998.

**You got
something to say?
Say it to the TJ.**

Triangle Journal is always looking for original, well-written content that the Mid-South GLBT community wants to read. Send us your original news articles, press releases, commentaries, and entertainment reviews. We reserve the right to edit or reject submissions.

Email it to trianglejournal@aol.com.

ENDA commentary

continued from page 8

how well-reasoned and succinct, will fall on deaf ears, so I say nothing. In doing so, I perpetuate the idea that I, and by extension All People Like Me, believe what the other person does. Time passes, and I realize that I am synecdoche for a belief system I don't even have. I now expend way too much energy protesting that I'm Not Like That. I'm not anywhere close to sharing the viewpoint that the polls assign my demographic. Instead of speaking, though, I've let the statistical average speak for me.

In the face of such polarity, so many issues where one is expected to have a black-and-white opinion, those of us who fall into the grey are not allowing ourselves to be counted. For example, I don't care whether or not my coworkers are married or in relationships or sleeping around or attend church regularly; that's not my business.

What is my business is whether or not they're making my job harder or less successful, and that has absolutely nothing to do with the company they keep when they're not at work, much less if a coworker is gay. This is the same argument straight people make all the time: "I don't have a problem with it." "It's not my business." This is not blatant discrimination; it's apathy. It's a passive-aggressive response that ensures no one has to step on toes or disagree or hold a grudge.

What a non-committal load of claptrap.

There's no excuse for acting like this. For keeping my mouth shut when people I care about are being hurt. I can't imagine what it would be like to keep my personal life completely away from work, much less go so far as to concoct a story based on an employer's expectations. How far removed would I have to be from my coworkers

...I don't care whether or not my coworkers are married or in relationships or sleeping around or attend church regularly; that's not my business.

What is my business is whether or not they're making my job harder or less successful...

and clients that they either wouldn't care about my life, or wouldn't sense that I wasn't being real? People I love dearly have to do exactly this, and have done so for so long that they don't know how else to act. How can my response be nothing more than "it's none of my business?"

As of November 7 of last year,

ENDA is moving forward without gender identity inclusion. That may make it easier to pass, but I'm not thrilled about it. I believe that employment discrimination for sexual orientation may be more difficult to prove than discrimination against women was (and in some cases, continues to be). Relying upon ENDA's language to protect gender identity under the umbrella of sexual orientation is a risky endeavor even assuming a judge doesn't have a narrow interpretation of the language. I

understand the argument that passing ENDA as it is now might facilitate expansion of the law to include gender identity later. I want to see legislation passed as badly as you do. However, I also believe pushing through a law that leaves some people behind is a disservice. As much a disservice as my silence on the topic has been to the community I care about.

I began this column as an apologist. I end this column as an activist. I can no longer keep my mouth shut to preserve the placid atmosphere of polite conversation. I'm choosing to believe that since I've kept my mouth shut this long, the people making the decisions just don't know that there are millions like me who are tired of being spoken for. And if they wonder what business, exactly, I have expressing an opinion on a law that seemingly doesn't apply to me, I'll just have to say: I got tired of it being none of my business.

Free & Confidential HIV Testing

Call Friends For Life
272-0855

Bringing in the New Year by building a better future for our community in the Mid-South...

Here's how you can help...Join one of our committees...Just stop by...Welcome Home!

Memphis Gaymes Committee

With OUToberfest behind us, it's now time to focus on next year's celebration of National Coming Out Day! The planning for the 2008 Memphis Gaymes is underway and volunteers are always a welcome asset to this committee. It's a big occasion with multiple events spread out over an entire week, so you can imagine how much work there is for THIS committee! Help us out, will you?

Triangle Journal Committee

Are you creative? An inspired writer? Someone who enjoys driving? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then the Triangle Journal team needs YOUR help! Come assist us with the various aspects of newspaper publication, including writing articles, layout design, and newspaper distribution.

Bachelor & Bachelor Auction Committee

Be a part of one of our most exciting annual fundraisers! Volunteer to help organize this year's Bachelor & Bachelorette Auction!

OutFlix Committee

Volunteer your time and talents to support the on-going events of our GLBT film festival!

Building Committee

Feel the need to roll up your sleeves and do some work? Our building committee always needs volunteers to help out around the house. There's always something to be done, from yard work to painting, building fences to watering the plants! We need your help!

Additional volunteer opportunities include staffing the center and working with our Initiative: Fairness, Marketing, Public Relations, and Finance Committees!
So, come HOME, Mid-South... we love seeing you around!

Join us for these upcoming events...

- * Jan 2 - Men's Potluck - 6:30 PM
- * Jan 11 - Q Cafe featuring Boy & Girl - 7:00 PM
- * Jan 16 - Womyn's Potluck - 6:30 PM
- * Jan 18 - Q Cafe featuring Valerie June - 7:00 PM
- * Jan 22 - Lavender University presents "Then and Now, Memphis Heritage" - 7:00 PM at the MGLCC
- * Jan 24 - LGBT History Documentary Series sponsored by 'LGBT & Friends Network of FedEx - 6:30 PM at the MGLCC
- * Jan 26 - TEP's Lobbying 101- 1:00 PM at the MGLCC



892 Cooper | Memphis, TN 38104
901.278.6422

Mon-Fri | 6p-9p Sat & Sun | 2p-6p
info@mgicc.org | www.mgicc.org

Our Mission Statement:

It is the mission of the Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center to create a better future for our Community in the Mid-South. We will endeavor to offer an array of diverse GLBT services by utilizing the talents, energy and resources among us.

Dark comedy *Baby Makes Seven* at TheatreWorks

In Paula Vogel's *And Baby Makes Seven*, Ruth, Peter, and Anna are having a baby. Ruth and Anna are lovers and Peter is gay, but all three want a child. This unusual family, however, already has three children. Cecil is a solemn perfectionist, Henry is a manic, pouting tease, and Orphan has problems interacting socially because he was raised by wild dogs. All three boys are disturbed by the idea of another sibling. Unfortunately, conventional advice won't help because the children are not real.

In the privacy of their house, Ruth pretends to be Henry and Orphan while Anna slips into the persona of Cecil. As Orphan, Ruth snarls, bites, crouches, and whines in broken, stuttering words. In this imaginary world, only Peter remains an adult, Uncle Peter. The three children usurp Anna and Ruth until the two women are struggling to control their creations. The three boys begin to gain an independence of thought and desire, separate from Anna and Ruth's sane selves until Anna and Ruth decide the three must die.

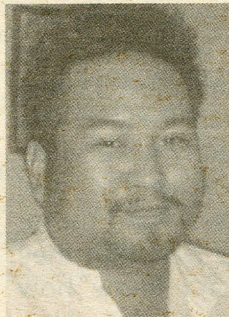
And Baby Makes Seven is a remarkably clever black comedy that examines the sense of innocence and optimism that rises from dark subject matter. Hilariously startling and brilliantly funny, Paula Vogel redefines the meaning of family and the boundaries between illusion and reality, power and subjection, friendship and love, female and male.

Directed by Kyle Hatley (*Romeo and Juliet*, Germantown Community Theatre), *And Baby Makes Seven* boasts a powerful cast with Sheana Tobey, Greg Prigel and Erin McGhee.

Baby runs at TheatreWorks January 4-27, Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm and Sun. at 2pm. The preview performance is Thurs., Jan. 3 at 8pm and the "pay what you can" performance is Thurs., January 10 at 8pm. For more information or to make reservations, please call 901-726-4656 or visit our website at www.playhouseonthesquare.org.

A lie for the truth Book review: *A Push and a Shove*

by Andrew Cruz



An honest re-examination of childhood and adolescence is often hard to find. The positive and often negative accounts of one's developing sexuality, and the memories of others are often too sugar-coated to be of any truth. One may pretend as though one's parents — who create babies, and at one time, one's self, through some form of heterosexual union — were to blame for feeling shameful,

shamed, and stripped naked in public for desiring classmates of the same sex. There are also terms like "coming out" and "sexual orientation" to politely mask the growing, undulating, and often convoluted energy that is pure and carnal desire.

Christopher Kelly's *A Push and a Shove* (Alyson) is a candid appraisal—lies included—of what many of us have experienced: the aching, idolatrous physical attraction for one whom we might actually care not for, perhaps even hate, and how this kind of attraction can remain powerful for years if not quenched or at least answered. As the narrator Ben Reilly puts it, "Crushes are born out of proximity and a certain hothouse intensity. ... Crushes are born, too, out of envy." As the story unfolds, the roles reverse. The narrator's high school tormentor and hottest crush, Terrence O'Connell, becomes the bullied. Ben, the former bullied, resorts to lying, even to the reader, to obtain what he wants: Terrence and the reader's sympathy.

The story is told through a series of flashbacks, and focuses mostly on the narrator's childhood beginning, his stint as a high school teacher, and his dating spree with Terrence, his high-school-bully-turned-friend, and by some estimations, boyfriend, who in seventh grade at the lunchroom table said, "I always catch [Ben] staring at me, looking over at me in English, like he's trying to check me out. ... I think he wants to suck my dick."

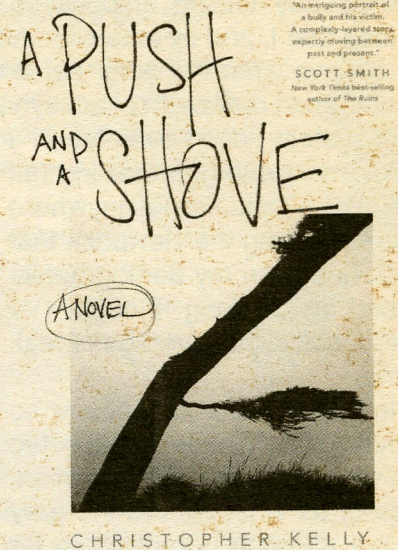
Ben loses himself in homosexual fantasies and in his father's porn collection, "tucked inside this issue of *Swank* were pages from a completely different magazine—tucked inside the way you would slip a bookmark inside a book, or the way a teenage girl might place dried flowers inside her diary to commemorate the day of her first kiss."

There are a few more of these interesting similes, comparing sexual activities of gay men to innocent activities of females, or of courtship in general. I've never been fond of these similes. I've always valued male homosexuality as male *and* carnal, and not worthy of comparison to femininity at non-sexual and friendly play. However, I have chalked it up to literary drag.

Terrence's bullying stops one day during PhysEd, when Ben stares at Terrence while he is changing in the locker room. Terrence follows Ben home, only to find the pictures in the shoe box, get an erection, tear apart the pictures in Ben's face, and shove Ben down the stairs. Ben has a scar behind his ear for life, and can never forget, or forgive Terrence, tracking him down years later after inventing a story to quit his teaching.

While Terrence's relationship with his girlfriend wanes, Ben and Terrence begin seeing each other, at which point I genuinely cared what happened for Ben—for me the mark of a successful story. Ben becomes obsessive-compulsive after each date, waiting for Terrence's call-back, rewinding and replaying the messages on his machine, and dodging calls from his concerned brother Danny, and his former co-worker Meredith, for, as Ben puts it, "I can't run the risk of [Terrence] getting a busy signal."

Sometimes, the dialogue between Ben and Terrence is often too conciliatory to be realistic, or else the characters have been through too much therapy. As the dating progresses, I found myself happy, elated, angry, or just plain annoyed with Ben, as he morphs into every man and woman I've dated myself, as he tries to finagle Terrence into just one romp of love-making, and as the novel ends with a trip several weeks later to Vail, Colorado, when Terrence tells Ben that he has engaged in gay sex before. All after refusing Ben for never having tried gay sex before. A push over a mountainside, a coma, a confession of a lie, and another lie later, and the reader is left wondering whether the fifth section of the epilogue regarding Terrence's marriage in Massachusetts to his male lover is indeed a lie itself, a guilty plea for sympathy from one who has destroyed his years long crush.



DVD/VIDEO RENTALS AND SALES, PREVIEW BOOTHS AND VIDEO ARCADES

Fantasy Warehouse #1 (East)
791 N. White Station Rd. - 683.9649

Executive South (South)
1847 E. Brooks Rd. - 345-0825
(Mini-Theatre)

Fantasy Warehouse #4 (North)
2532 N. Watkins - 358-8642



Most major credit cards and checks accepted at Fantasy Warehouse #1 and #4 only



OPEN 6 DAYS
Mon.—Sat.
8 a.m. — 12 Midnight
Closed Sundays and Holidays

Q-Puzzle

"Spare Particle" Answers on p. 23

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20				21							22			
23				24							25			26
27			28				29	30	31			32		
			33		34	35					36			
	37	38									39			
40					41									
42				43							44	45	46	47
48			49				50	51				52		
	53				54	55	56					57		
58					59							60		
61					62							63		
64					65							66		

January Q-Scopes by Jack Fertig

Hobnob, Pisces!

Just as the sun spends a month of every year in each sign, Jupiter, in his 12-year cycle, spends about a full year in each sign. Fresh into Capricorn, he will help to build up organizations and bureaucracy. The coming year will be a big one for the mature look, leather, and bondage. This week's horoscope will be valid through the year!

ARIES (March 20 - April 19): Socialize with important folks. Those doors are wide open to you. Looking respectable and conservative will help you get ahead. Even in the most buttoned-up crowd, people know the power of appearance.

TAURUS (April 20 - May 20): If you have unfinished school business or want to go for a degree, sign up for those classes! Otherwise, delve into ancient philosophies or go traveling to historical, even archaeological places on your own initiative.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 20): Not that you need the help, but your sexual magnetism is charging up. Trying to look young will not help. Maturity, experience, and authority all work in your favor. If you've been wanting to explore leather and kink, this is the time for it!

CANCER (June 21 - July 22): Look toward formalizing an existing relationship or refining your criteria for one. Not only can you afford to be picky, but holding out for what you really want in your partnership will help you get it.

LEO (July 23 - August 22): Any skin growths or bone or joint inflammations should be checked quickly, but in general your health should be good. Luck at work should improve. Look forward to promotions and be willing to take a risk to get them.

VIRGO (August 23 - September 22): Some people think creativity is about mad inspiration. You know it's about hard work. Your hard work can pay off big - probably more in terms of personal growth, but there could be money, too!

LIBRA (September 23 - October 22): Researching your roots, taking time with older relatives, or spending time with community elders will give you a better sense not only of your background and foundations, but also of where you're going.

SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21): Your mind needs stimulation and novelty, and you're a bit more loquacious than usual. Be careful with that! Developing new skills, perhaps learning a new language, will open doors and help keep you focused and out of trouble.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 - December 20): This should be a very lucky year for you for

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>Across</p> <p>1 Targets of a masher?</p> <p>5 Weapon of Caesar's day</p> <p>10 "Island of Lost Souls" director Kenton</p> <p>14 Cowboy actor Jack</p> <p>15 Poet Lorde</p> <p>16 "The Lion King" sound</p> <p>17 "Boys on the ____"</p> <p>18 Bodies of soldiers</p> <p>19 Actress Chase</p> <p>20 Ball in a porno film?</p> <p>23 Threesome for Caligula</p> <p>24 Sixth notes in "Do-Re-Mi"</p> <p>25 Concern of those who examine stones</p> <p>27 Spokes of Dykes on Bikes, e.g.</p> <p>29 Sweet opening?</p> <p>32 Constellation over Rio</p> <p>33 "Claudine at School" author</p> <p>36 Went down (on)</p> <p>37 Dildo, e.g.?</p> <p>40 Privy to</p> <p>41 As a bottom limit</p> <p>42 U-turn from SSE</p> <p>43 Nuts</p> <p>44 Aladdin's find, and others</p> <p>48 Nash's prize</p> <p>50 Howard of a comic threesome</p> <p>52 China's Sun ____-sen</p> <p>53 Ice cream treat at Jamaica Plain?</p> <p>58 "Uh-oh!" to Lord Byron</p> <p>59 Julianne of "Far from Heaven"</p> <p>60 "Femme's Guide to the Universe" author Rednour</p> <p>61 Belle's companion</p> <p>62 Faith in music</p> <p>63 "Six Feet Under" character of Peter Krause</p> <p>64 The A of ILGA</p> <p>65 Spencer-Devlin swings with these</p> <p>66 Spread it on your muffin</p> | <p>Down</p> <p>1 Response of privates</p> <p>2 Cher's portrayer in "Clueless"</p> <p>3 Capital of Lorca's country</p> <p>4 Barrie buccaneer</p> <p>5 Sweaty place</p> <p>6 Kicks the ball instead of going for it</p> <p>7 Warhol pal ____ Sedgwick</p> <p>8 They're performing, in "Fame"</p> <p>9 Silence for Bernstein</p> <p>10 Lucci's Kane in "All My Children"</p> <p>11 Type of vote, for Barney Frank</p> <p>12 Place for Ohio ferries</p> <p>13 Bill written by Alice Paul</p> <p>21 George, who was Mary Ann</p> <p>22 "____ Were a Rich Man"</p> <p>26 Skin decoration</p> <p>28 Click it to go to PlanetOut</p> <p>29 Sneak around Barbra's mansion</p> <p>30 Verb of Verlaine</p> <p>31 Physical opening?</p> <p>34 Neeson of "Kinsey"</p> <p>35 Prefix meaning "outer"</p> <p>36 ____ fool (screw around)</p> <p>37 Dignifies</p> <p>38 Dinghies of seamen, e.g.</p> <p>39 Lesbos and Man</p> <p>40 P-town's Crowne Pointe, e.g.</p> <p>43 A. Earhart concern</p> <p>45 Chaplain Judge of the NYFD</p> <p>46 Target of Nick Malgieri</p> <p>47 Family room feature</p> <p>49 City of Hirschfeld's land</p> <p>50 Bugs of the underworld</p> <p>51 Begins, on Broadway</p> <p>54 Potent head?</p> <p>55 Jordanian queen</p> <p>56 Game played astride the well-hung</p> <p>57 "There ____ there there" (Gertrude Stein)</p> <p>58 Org. for Evan Wolfson's peers</p> |
|--|---|

money - investments, lottery tickets, new businesses - but, it's also "easy come, easy go." A conservative attitude and long-range perspective will prove most profitable. Consult an astrologer with your full birth chart before taking any big chances!

CAPRICORN (December 21 - January 19): You're in for a spell of good luck. Just be yourself and you're sure to get ahead. There's no point in being shy. Go for any opportunity that feels right. Further education and travel can serve you especially well.

AQUARIUS (January 20 - February 18): Blessings will come to you in disguise. If life gets hard, the troubles can easily be made into a springboard to tremendous luck. Volunteer work with venerable charities will prove advantageous in the meantime.

PISCES (February 19 - March 19): Social opportunities will open up for you more easily if you "work the system" and follow conservative, conventional methods. Hobnob with "important people," but what's "important" is subjective. Of course, those who don't look or think like you can be important, too!

Jack Fertig is a professional astrologer practicing in San Francisco since 1977. He can be reached for consultations at 415-864-8302, through his website at www.starjack.com, and by email at Qscopes@qsyndicate.com.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

January 2008

Tuesday, January 1
New Year's Day

Wednesday, January 2
Men's Potluck – 6:30 PM - MGLCC

Sunday, January 6
MGLCC Board Meeting – 1:00 PM

Monday, January 7
Nike TN GLBTF Volunteer Night @ MGLCC
Initiative: Fairness – 6:00 PM – MGLCC

Tuesday, January 8
Mid-South Comfort Care Coalition
Trezvant Manor, 177 N. Highland, Memphis.
A potluck supper begins at 5:30 p.m. and this month's featured speaker, Diane K. Polly, MS, JD, will give a presentation from 6-7:30 p.m. entitled *Everything You Always Wanted to Know about End-of-Life Nutrition*.

Friday, January 11
Q-Café: Boy & Girl – 7:00 PM - MGLCC

Monday, January 14
Nike TN GLBTF Volunteer Night @ MGLCC

Perpetual Transition – 7:30 PM - MGLCC

Tuesday, January 15
Outflix Committee Meeting – 6:30 PM – MGLCC

Monthly Meeting - Shelby County Committee of TEP
- Second Wednesday of each month -- 6:30 p.m. at Quetzal (668 Union)

Wednesday, January 16
Womyn's Potluck – 6:30 PM - MGLCC

Friday, January 18
Q-Café: Valerie June – 7:00 PM - MGLCC

Monday, January 21
Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Nike TN GLBTF Volunteer Night @ MGLCC

MGLCC Finance Committee – 6:30 PM

Tuesday, January 22
Lavender University presents "Memphis: Then & Now" by Memphis Heritage – 7:00 PM - MGLCC

Thursday, January 24
GLBT History Documentary Series sponsored by FedEx GLBT & Friends Network – 6:30 PM - MGLCC

Saturday, January 26
TEP's Lobbying 101 – 1:00 PM - MGLCC

Sunday, January 27
Stonewall Democrats – 2:00 PM - MGLCC

Monday, January 28
Nike TN GLBTF Volunteer Night @ MGLCC

Perpetual Transition – 7:30 PM – MGLCC

Regular Activities

Sunday Church Services
First Unitarian Church of Memphis (Church of the River)
292 Virginia W., Memphis, 38101
Phone: 526-8631
Services: 11 a.m.

Open Heart Community of Faith
1000 S. Cooper, Memphis, 38104
Phone: 323-3514
Bible Study & Worship Celebration: 9 a.m.

Holy Trinity United Church of Christ
685 S. Highland St, Memphis, 38111
Services: 9:45 & 11:00 a.m.

First Congregational Church
1000 S. Cooper, Memphis, 38104
Phone: 278-6786
Services: 9:30, 10:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Prescott Church
961 Getwell Rd., Memphis, 38111
Phone: 327-8479
Services: 9:30 & 10:45 a.m.

The People of Galloway Church
1015 S Cooper, Memphis, 38104
Services: 10:45 a.m.

Living Word Christian Church
1015 S. Cooper, Memphis, 38104
Services: 9:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday Church Services
Taize
First Congregational Church
Phone: 278-6786

Holy Trinity United Church of Christ
685 S. Highland St, Memphis, 38111
Fellowship & Bible Study: 6:00 & 7:00 p.m.

Living Word Christian Church
1015 S. Cooper, Memphis, 38104
Services: 7:00 p.m.

Open Heart Community of Faith
1000 S. Cooper, Memphis, 38104
"A Course in Miracles" Study Group – 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAYS

Tea Dance – Metro – 4:00 p.m.
Pool Tournament – Pumping Station – 6:00 p.m.
After Park Set Sundays – Paragon – 9:00 p.m.
Drag Show – Backstreet – 11 p.m.
Country Sissy Bingo – Crossroads – 8:00 p.m.

MONDAYS

Monday Night at the Movies sponsored by Holy Trinity UCC – Bartlett Cinema 10 – 6:45 p.m. – www.holytrinitymemphis.org
Pool Tournament – The Jungle – 7:30 p.m.
Dart Tournament – One More & Pumping Station – 8:00 p.m.
Karaoke – Metro – 10:00 p.m.

TUESDAYS

Women's Rugby Practice – Audubon Park – 6:30 p.m.
Phoenix AA – Open AA group – Grace-St. Luke's Church, 1790 Peabody – 8:00 p.m.
The Caring Group – Relaxation and destressing by subtle energy practices – Holy Trinity UCC – 7:00 p.m.
Lesbians with Breast Cancer – YWCA, 766 S. Highland – 7:00 p.m.
Singles Dart Tournament – Crossroads – 7:45 p.m.
Pool Tournament – One More – 8:30 p.m.
Karaoke – Metro – 10:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAYS

Frontrunners 3-mile Run – Overton Park Pavilion – 6:00 p.m.
Dart Tournament – The Jungle – 7:30 p.m.
Lights Out/Party in the Dark – Metro
Galloway Church Book Club – Otherlands – 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAYS

Cotton Pickin' Squares – Holy Trinity UCC – 7:30 p.m.
Karaoke – Paragon – 9:00 p.m.
Karaoke – Allusions Entertainment Center – 9:30-11:30 p.m.
Amateur Drag Show – Metro – 11:30 p.m.
Barbara Blue with Nat Kerr – Crossroads – 10:00 p.m.

FRIDAYS

First Congo Films – First Congregational Church – 7:00 & 9:00 p.m.
Seriously Sober – Holy Trinity UCC – 8:00 p.m.
Karaoke – One More – 8:00 p.m.
Drag Show – Crossroads – 11:00 p.m.
Ladies Night – Allusions Entertainment Center – 10:00 p.m.
Late Night Beer Bust – Pumping Station – 10:00 p.m.
Drag Show – Backstreet – Midnight

SATURDAYS

Drag Show – Allusions Entertainment Center – 10:30 p.m. & 12:15 a.m.
Drag Show – Crossroads – 11:00 p.m.

Y	A	M	S		S	P	E	A	R		E	R	L	E	
E	L	A	M		A	U	D	R	E		R	O	A	R	
S	I	D	E		U	N	I	T	S		I	L	K	A	
S	C	R	E	E	N	T	E	S	T	I	C	L	E		
I	I	I		L	A	S				F	A	C	E	T	
R	A	D	I	I			S	E	M	I		A	R	A	
				C	O	L	E	T	T	E		A	L	I	T
	E	R	O	T	I	C	A	R	T	I	C	L	E		
I	N	O	N		A	T	L	E	A	S	T				
N	N	W		A	M	O	K			L	A	M	P	S	
N	O	B	E	L				M	O	E		Y	A	T	
	B	O	S	T	O	N	P	O	P	S	I	C	L	E	
A	L	A	S		M	O	O	R	E		S	H	A	R	
B	E	T	E		N	O	L	A	N		N	A	T	E	
A	S	S	N		I	R	O	N	S		O	L	E	O	

Mary's Memphis

Eat, Drink, Play

and Have a Mary Day

Margarita Monday \$2 Margaritas until 10 PM

Visit www.marysmemphis.com

for all specials and events.

FRIDAYS

**\$1 Longnecks Any Brand
Until Midnight**

**Karaoke in the Video Lounge
Show in the Cabaret @ Midnight
Dance Floor Open til 6 AM**

***Get Ready for
Backstreet Memphis 2008
Once again we'll amaze you.
Coming Soon..***

**BACKSTREET
MEMPHIS**