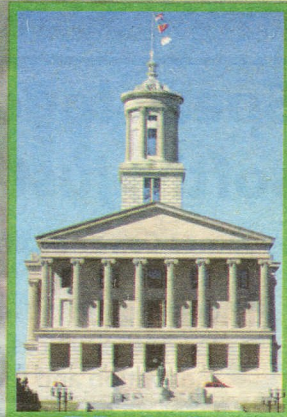


TRIANGLE JOURNAL

March 1, 2008

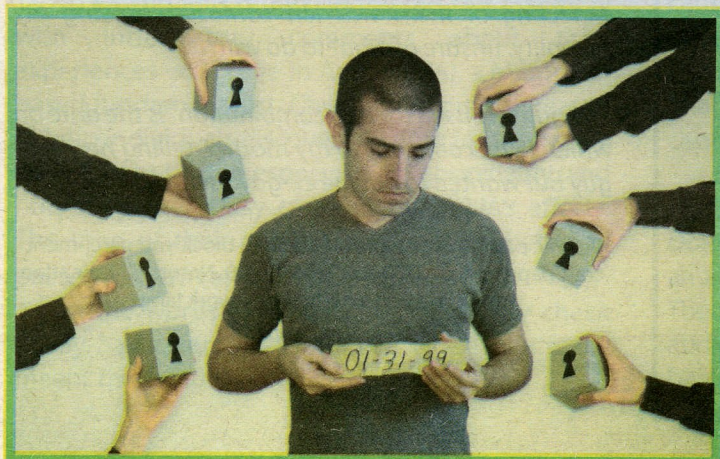
Vol: 3 Issue: 3

GLBT News for the Midsouth



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Equality on the
Hill - p. 5**

“CHANGE” AT WHAT PRICE ?



Inside

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- ▼ **Living positively in the Midsouth - p. 14**

Speak loudly, speak softly, just speak up

by James Cox and Len Piechowski

Some of our friends don't have to dig very deeply to find their voices. All they need is the slightest motivation and they're all fired up and ready to go. Before you know it they're shouting loudly about injustice and bigotry. We're grateful for those folks because they are often the first to raise the battle cry, ring the bells, rally the troops and lead the charge for the rest of us.

There are also those in our community who are not born activists. They may not speak loudly or wave their picket signs, but they have their own ways of exerting their strength that are every bit as potent as the actions of the men and women with the megaphones. Maybe they write checks. Maybe they exist to balance their more vocal counterparts. Or their mission may be simply to share a story about their personal journey that makes everyone else shut up, pay attention and become emboldened.

In our article about the "ex-gay weekend," one of the protestors discusses a teenage girl with a look of desperation on her face on her way into the conference. When he asks her about her story, she opens up and touches his soul. We think it will touch yours as well.

In the March *Triangle Journal*, we hope you find your own inspiration to speak up as what you will see in the pages this month are a multitude of ways the members of our community find and use their individual voices. Whether it is quietly carrying a sign at a conference, creating a deeply personal and moving work of art, attempting to have a heart-to-



Len Piechowski



James Cox

heart with a state lawmaker, or talking about what it's like to live with the stigma of HIV in the conservative South, everyone has a story. What's yours? We think the time has come to speak up.

EDITORIAL POLICY OF TRIANGLE JOURNAL

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

Triangle Journal is published 12 times a year by a volunteer staff. None of the editors, staff or consultants will profit by revenues from the ads you see in these pages. 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.

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Letters to the editor and commentaries are welcomed, but the editorial review committee reserves the right to edit or refuse any submitted materials.

Triangle Journal will correct erroneous information. Please email corrections to editors@tjmemphis.com.

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ON OUR COVER

CENTER

Focus on the Family came to Memphis on a healing mission with their Love Won Out Seminar on Saturday, February 23. While they were ministering to us, we were out on the sidewalks outside of Central Church trying to provide an alternative perspective for the people who attended.

UPPER RIGHT

An impressive group of activists from Memphis stormed the Tennessee State Capital Building for Advancing Equality Day on February 19.

LOWER LEFT

Artwork on display at Ex-Gay Survivor Art Exhibit At MGLCC on Weekend of February 22 - 24, 2008

Commentary by Daniel Gonzales, Artist
When I was growing up, being gay was never presented as a valid way to live my life. I found myself needing to unlock my sexuality which was a totally different type than what the world was offering and expecting of me. I was left confused, holding my sexuality, unsure of what to do with it.

The number used for the "combination" is the date on which I first came out to my mother, telling her I was gay but wanted to pursue ex-gay therapy.

Acrylic paint and Sharpie on wooden block and parchment craft paper. Nikon D70, 1/20 f8 ISO 400. Natural illumination supplemented with halogen work lamps.

Pride won out in our community

By Len Piechowski



Left: A demonstrator impacted by reparative therapy greets Love Won Out participants at Central Church in Collierville on Saturday, February 23.

Midsouth community rallies to provide alternative message to Focus on the Family's healing mission

On one of the most memorable weekends in recent Memphis GLBT history, the power of pride was realized through a community celebration entitled *Deconstructing the Ex-Gay Myth, a Weekend of Action and Art* on February 22-24, 2008. While Rev. James Dobson's Focus on the Family conducted their Love Won Out (LWO) seminar at Central Church in Collierville on February 23, many community members who call themselves "survivors" of reparative therapies advocated by Focus were gathering to embrace their sexual identity.

The weekend opened with a media conference at Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center (MGLCC) at noon on Friday. "Ex-gay" survivors, Peterson Toscano, Brandon Tidwell, Jim Burroway, Jacob Wilson and others addressed the assembly with introductory comments about their experiences with Love in Action (LIA), a Memphis-based fundamentalist Christian ministry created to help individuals discover freedom from sexually addictive behavior, especially homosexuality, and how they eventually came to reject LIA's efforts. The tone of their comments vacillated between pained restraint and candid scorn.

In the words of Wilson, "... when my check finally had cleared, I found out what they really meant by *change*."

On hand for the media event were Ben Fractenberg, southeastern regional media field strategist at Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) and Sean Kaminsky with a staff of media specialists from My Entertainment, who are producing a television program for LOGO television network entitled *Be Real*.

The media conference concluded with the opening of an art exhibit coordinated by ex-gay survivor Christine Bakke that featured the pieces of numerous other survivors. Jason Ingram's works *Jonah, Broken, Freedom, and A House of Prayer for All People*, was described as a striking blend of "Impressionism and Picasso." Pieces by Barbara Leavitt, the divorced wife of an ex-gay survivor, expressed the pain of a heterosexual women caught in the games played by those of us who have been conflicted by religiosity and self-hatred. Daniel Gonzales' work done in acrylic paint and Sharpie markers on wood block and parchment captures the angst of his coming out.

On Friday evening, Peterson Toscano performed the final rendition of his one-man play *Doin' Time in the Homo No Mo Halfway House* to an audience that filled the house at Media Co-op Theatre at First Congregational Church. Even the audience members who had seen the performance before took delight in the addition of several new

characters to the story line since the last Memphis performance.

Protesters took to the sidewalks on Saturday morning at Central Church to display positive alternative messages for the attendees of Love One Out. The protesters reported that the LWO participants greeted them with a combination of smiles and confused looks. The Central Church parking lot was packed with cars displaying, not only Tennessee license plates, but plates from Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi and Alabama.

"I was pained by the deep look of desperation in the eyes of many of the seminar attendees," Brandon Tidwell commented, saying he couldn't help but think back a few years to remember those feelings in himself.

"At one point," said Tidwell, "a car pulled up filled with people who appeared to be a family. A young girl got out, maybe about 15 or 16 years old, and ran up to us [the protesters]. At first, we didn't know what was on her mind, but she didn't seem to be hostile to us. Finally, I asked her what her story was and she said 'I'm so glad you're here. My parents are making me come to this and I don't want to be here. I'm so glad to see you. Thank you.'"

At one point several ex-gay survivors entered Central Church and presented startled attendees with their "collages" which were artistic expressions of their stories of how they came to reject reparative therapies and how they have come to be both "Christian and gay."

Later in the day, about 20 ex-gay survivors and several other members of the community gathered at MGLCC for a time of sharing called the "Beyond Ex-Gay Mid-South Regional Gathering." They also attended a special preview of a Morgan Fox Film entitled *This Is What Love in Action Looks Like* at 8:00 that evening at Media Co-op. The film was made a few years back here in Memphis as the GLBT community reacted to the attempts of Love in Action to run a summer youth camp for teens. The weekend events concluded with the fifth anniversary party of MGLCC's presence in the historic Cooper-Young district in Memphis, and the debut of Toscano's *Transfiguration: Transgressing Gender in the Bible* at Holy Trinity United Church of Christ on Highland Avenue.

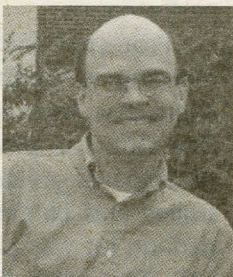
Many tired members of the Memphis rainbow community expressed deep satisfaction with their weekend efforts to display pride in ourselves and to provide alternative perspectives on the destructive religiosity embraced by many. In the words of one of the placards held by the demonstrators, "a zebra can't change its stripes." With steadfast determination, the community revealed that it should not be asked to.

Am I my brother's healthcare provider?

Solutions to US healthcare crisis don't come easily

Commentary by Will Batts

Universal healthcare. We hear the phrase every day from one candidate or another. Although different candidates have sometimes conflicting ideas about the best solutions, ensuring that every American has access to competent, affordable healthcare is a major issue facing our country. For some, it's an immediate crisis.



Everyday we see news stories about spiraling insurance premiums, hospitals in debt, uninsured workers, bankruptcies caused by catastrophic illness and patients dying from lack of access to emergency care. What does this say about the future of a country that has such problems? And can we find workable solutions that all sides will support?

Unfortunately, there's not enough space here to discuss the intricacies of single-payer structures, market-driven competition or preventive versus curative healthcare approaches. Rather, let's



examine a fundamental question behind the issue: Should it be a national priority to ensure the health of every citizen?

A few years ago I worked for what was then the largest for-profit hospital chain in the country. One day, a colleague of mine and I were discussing the financial realities of healthcare. I was troubled by her conclusion that "Healthcare is not a right. It's a privilege that must be paid for." Now, as then, I have trouble accepting that we can treat people's health as a commodity to be bought and sold.

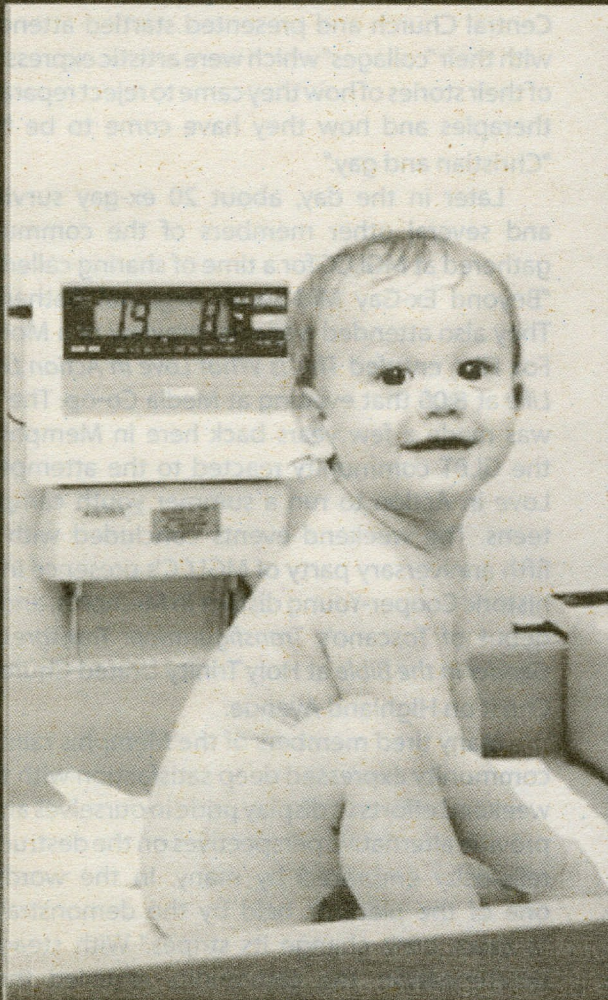
However, I also understand the reality of our capitalistic society. We're all trying to find the best way to survive, to make a living, to preserve our share of the pie. We live in a world of finite resources. Because we feel protective of our own share of these resources, we sometimes make judgments about whether we should be responsible for others. We ask questions such as "Should I have to help pay for a person who smoked for 40 years and then developed lung cancer?" "Why do I have to assist someone who refused to wear a seatbelt and then gets injured in an accident?"

Questions like these, though, lead us down a path of doling out care based on some moral judgment: "Should I help the HIV-positive person who gets infected from a drug needle?" "Should I help the alcoholic?" "Should I help the aging diabetic who weighs 500 lbs because they can't stop eating?"

Where's the acceptable line? And do I want some other person deciding whether I need medical care based on his own moral code? It's a frightening proposition we already encounter. Some decry the future of "rationed healthcare" not wanting to admit that we already ration healthcare: to the wealthy, to the younger, to the better-employed. Those who can afford it get the best care. Those who can't are left to fend for themselves. In the end, is this reality just "every man for himself" and "survival of the fittest" or is there some higher calling that compels us to help our neighbor?

I believe the answer to the underlying question is yes, ensuring the health of our citizenry must be a top priority. Beyond the basic moral dictum to help our neighbors in need, one can appeal to a more selfish side. Imagine a society where thousands upon thousands cannot get adequate medical care. What happens to a society when a majority of its citizens suffer one type of serious illness or another? Simple self-preservation should be enough to engage people in the decision that we need some solution to help everyone find good care.

Any solution will require sacrifice from every group: insurance companies, healthcare providers, employers and even us, the consumers. Finding a way through the maze of issues will require an extraordinary leader. He or she will need the mind of an accountant and the soul of a philanthropist. I sure hope that person comes along.



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Memphians journey to advance equality on Capitol Hill



More than 25 Memphis GLBT representatives and straight allies attended the annual Advancing Equality Day in February. Memphis delegates met with lawmakers on a variety of issues that affect the GLBT community. The delegation was one of the largest ever from the Midsouth.

Advancing Equality Day (AED), organized by the Tennessee Equality Project (TEP), occurred on February 19. *Triangle Journal* interviewed local organizers and co-chairs of the Shelby County Committee of TEP, Tommy Simmons and Jonathan Cole, about the planning involved and outcomes of the fourth annual event.

What was the purpose of AE Day?

The purpose of AED was to lobby legislators in person about several bills affecting GLBT citizens. Through lobbying, GLBT constituents remind legislators that they must be accountable to all of their constituents. The most effective way to advocate change is let those elected to serve know, face-to-face, how legislation affects their constituents' lives.

Can you give some insight about the planning involved?

TEP recruited citizen lobbyists and conducted Lobbying 101 training in each corner of the state to prepare people to come Nashville to discuss legislation affecting GLBT citizens. The Public Policy Committee of TEP reviewed each bill introduced this year for any potential impact on GLBT citizens.

What turnout was expected? Was it realized?

We expected 30. We think 27 came. We were fortunate to bring a diverse Shelby County delegation to Nashville that included gay, lesbian, and straight allies; adoptive gay parents, straight parents of gay children and gay parents; and psychologists, social workers, clergy, and business men and women. In 2006 and 2007, we sent a delegation from Shelby County of approximately 10 citizens. There is always room for improvement, but we were pleased with this year's turnout. It

was the largest from any county in the state.

Which representatives and senators were involved?

The Shelby County delegation met with 10 legislators from Shelby County: two senators and eight representatives. Those were: Senator Beverly Marrero (D30); Senator Paul Stanley (R31); Representative Brian Kelsey (R83); Representative Larry Turner (D85); Representative John DeBerry (D90); Representative G. A. Hardaway (D92); Representative Curry Todd (R95); Representative Steve McManus (R96); Representative Jim Coley (R97); Representative Ulysses Jones, Jr. (D98)

What were the major issues being discussed this year?

Sen. Paul Stanley and Rep. John DeBerry introduced legislation (SB3910/HB3713) that would prohibit "any individual who is cohabitating in a sexual relationship outside of a marriage that is valid under the constitution and laws of this state from adopting a minor." The entire Shelby County delegation of TEP met separately with Stanley and DeBerry to express objections to the bill. The delegation learned from Stanley that the bill was originally authored by David Fowler of the Family Action Council of Tennessee, a radical anti-gay group. Stanley admitted to relying on Fowler to write the bill without first consulting the State Department of Children's Services about the potential impact of the bill.

DeBerry appreciated the concerns of his GLBT constituents and expressed that his primary intent was to safeguard the security of vulnerable children in the state. He promised to prevent any existing

rights being taken away from GLBT citizens in the final wording of the bill if it progresses. To their credit, both Stanley and DeBerry listened to the concerns of their Shelby County constituents. When asked to pull the bill in the Senate, Stanley stated that he would consider it.

Rep. Stacey Campfield (R18) of Knoxville introduced HB2997 which would prohibit "the teaching of or furnishing of materials on human sexuality other than heterosexuality in public school grades K-8." Campfield introduced the bill in the House K-12 Subcommittee on the same day that TEP was on Capitol Hill. Rep. Ulysses Jones (D98) of Memphis asked Campfield to justify the need for the bill. Campfield

explained that he had received complaints from two parents of discussions of homosexuality in two schools in his area of the state. When asked for specific details, Campfield was unable to verify the names of the schools. Rep. Jones accused Campfield of using the legislation as a part of his re-election campaign. The committee voted by voice to refer the bill to the state Department of Education to examine the bill — a sure defeat for the bill since the Department of Education testified there was no need for the bill.

TEP joined the Tennessee Transgender Political Coalition in lobbying the General Assembly to support two similar bills (SB3932/HB3805 & SB4052/HB3907) that would allow Tennesseans to change their gender on birth certificates. Tennessee is the only state with a law that prevents changing gender on birth certificates.

Continued on page 19



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TEP Foundation receives \$40,000 hate crimes grant from philanthropic partnership

By Chris Sanders

The Tennessee Equality Project Foundation announced early last month the receipt of a two-year grant of \$40,000 from the Tides Foundation. The grant was initially recommended by the State Equality Fund. The Tides Foundation is a philanthropic partnership that includes the Evelyn and Walter Haas Jr. Fund, the Gill Foundation and other anonymous donors. The purpose of the grant is for the TEP Foundation to increase the awareness and usage of the Tennessee hate crimes laws that already include sexual orientation but not gender identity.

According to project director Shawn Stewart, Ph.D., "we look forward to affecting hate crimes and the way they are prosecuted in Tennessee for

TENNESSEE
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EQUALITY PROJECT

the next few years. It is one thing to have fought hard to be included in the laws and another for those laws to be enforced. Tennessee needs to take the next step of making the state safe from hate for everyone, including members of the transgender community who still aren't protected. This is a challenging task and the TEP Foundation is excited to be at the forefront of the issue. We look forward to working with our partners like the Tennessee Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence who have been making a difference and fighting the fight for many years now."

Randy Cox, president of the TEP Foundation states, "This grant not only helps the Tennessee Equality Project Foundation with our mission to educate, but affords us the opportunity to implement a strategy around a law that is already in place. We will now be able to raise awareness and educate law enforcement and district attorneys that hate crimes are happening in Tennessee and there is something they can do. I am also very pleased that national organizations are taking notice of Tennessee and are funding our activities."

For further information on the project and to find out how to volunteer, please contact Shawn Stewart at drstewhccs@yahoo.com. To report a hate crime, go to www.tnep.org/html/hatecrimereport.php.

The Tennessee Equality Project Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization incorporated in Tennessee to educate the public about gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender issues. Its board and funding are distinct from the Tennessee Equality Project.



TOP: Memphis delegates Caitlan Flesher (seated left), Mark Jones and Jonathan Cole meet with District 90 Rep. John Deberry, one of the sponsors of the bill that would impact adoption by unmarried partners. BOTTOM: Will Batts and his partner Curtis Petty discuss the proposed adoption bill with District 31 Sen. Paul Stanley. Batts' father, William Batts, and Daniel Forrest, co-chair of MGLCC's Initiative:Fairness, sit in the background.

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POSE Conference showcases Memphis

By Vincent Astor

Mid-South Pride hosted the Prides of the Southeast (POSE), a conference under the umbrella of InterPride, the weekend of February 15-16 at the Hilton in East Memphis. Thirty-nine delegates from various Pride organizations in the southeast met to network and attend workshops which provided information and ideas for creating and maintaining Pride celebrations in the represented areas.

Friday night was the initial gathering of delegates highlighted by a display of the Memphis section of the Sea to Sea flag and a showing of *Eli Parker is Getting Married?*, attended by writer and producer Mark Jones.

All day Saturday a variety of workshops were offered ranging from annual giving to conservation and display of artifacts. Volunteers and youth-involvement were also discussed and presentations were made by the organizations having future conferences. The evening began with a reception with Di Ann Price at the piano (with participants singing along, naturally) and ended, officially, with entertainment by Carol Plunk. Then, delegates visited entertainment locations from Beale to Marshall to Poplar. Breakfast and the final business meeting ended the weekend. Memphis began a new tradition by providing a memento section of the Memphis Pride 100-foot flag and asking conference participants to sign it.

The "baton" on which the section was then rolled was passed to the Mobile, Ala., Pride organization which will host in 2009.

Featured speakers included Phyllis Tickle (*Christianity and Gender - What In the World Is Going On?*), Russell Olivera Jr., founder of QBliss (*Getting Media, GLBTI Media & How To Deal With Media*). National Sponsors included ID Lube (Westridge Laboratories) Casswood Insurance Agency and QBliss; local sponsors included Nike, Inz and Outz Cards and Gifts, Crossroads, G&K Hosting, Backstreet, Mary's and Metro.

InterPride exists to promote GLBT Pride on an international level, to increase networking and communication among Pride organizations, to encourage diverse communities to hold and attend Pride events and to act as a source of education. Eleven states comprise the southeast region of InterPride in the U.S.



Dialogue with African-American pastors reset for March 13

By Ian Keller

After a delay caused by cluttered ministerial calendars, several pastors are now prepared to engage in a dialogue on March 13, 2008, with members of the rainbow community, according to representatives of Initiative:Fairness, the social action arm of Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center. As was reported in the January and February issues of *Triangle Journal*, the dialogue will attempt to find a common ground between the rainbow community and some of the more progressive Memphis ministers. Daniel Forrest, co-chair of MGLCC's I:F, hopes to explore the use of that common ground as a launching pad for future community building initiatives. The Mid-South Peace and Justice Center is helping to coordinate the effort with I:F.

The genesis of this dialogue is quite remarkable. In 2007, hate crimes legislation, entitled the Matthew Shepard Act, was introduced into Congress. This legislation would have situated violence based on intolerance of gay people within the legislative umbrella of other hate crimes legislation. One prominent member of the Memphis African-American ministerial community, Rev. Dr. LaSimba Gray, was soundly criticized by some reporters in the mainstream press, by some members of the Memphis GLBT community, and by some members of the African-American community when he launched a campaign against its passage. The criticism accused Gray of launching a thinly veiled political initiative under the guise of religious liberty. Many members of the GLBT community were incensed by his claim that passing this hate crime legislation would inhibit preaching against homosexuality from the pulpit. This claim has been refuted by the NAACP, members of the distinguished family of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and by a thorough reading of the proposed legislation.

The legislation later failed in Congress.

Some reporters in the mainstream press suggested that Dr. Gray's motivation was to help favorably position the candidate of his preference, Nikki Tinker, in the upcoming 2008 elections. She is a political rival of U.S. Representative Steve Cohen of Tennessee.

Since the failed legislation is expected to be reintroduced to Congress, the members of I:F hope to solidify an alternative ministerial voice in the community that will provide insights and interpretations they feel are more constructive.

Sewing rainbows

By Ian Keller



Worker bee Miki Zulewski joins the rainbow sewing bee to create a new 100-foot Pride flag.

Remember how you felt when you first saw the 100-foot rainbow flag during the 1997 Memphis Pride parade? Over the next decade, the flag inevitably became tattered and torn, but thanks to a talented group of volunteers, armed with needle and thread, the next generation will have a 100-foot flag to celebrate Pride for years to come.

On each Saturday in February, members of the board of Mid-South Pride and other dedicated members of the community were stitching, and stitching, and stitching in an effort they called the Rainbow Sewing Bee. In their hive at the Fellowship Hall of First Congregational Church, numerous worker bees were guided by Mike Morgan of Mr. Hyde Fashion who designed and coordinated the building of the flag. Queen Bee Vincent Astor was there beaming, "The original 100-foot flag was meant to last a year or two. No one ever expected it to last as long as

it did. This replica is being built with improvements, so this one will last 20 or 25 years!"

Just what are these improvements? According to Astor, the grommets and the handles have been incorporated directly into the design this time around rather than added after the fact. The thread used is the same color of the stripe of the rainbow into which it is being sewn instead of the white threading used in the original. Webbing is also being sewn directly into the fabric every fifteen feet to strengthen and to sturdy the flag for transport by the 50 or so people required to carry it. Given this attention to detail, it is ready for use well into the 2030s.

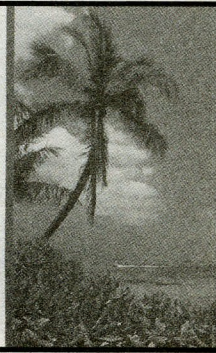
For the sentimental among us, the original is not going away, however. It is being portioned into souvenir sections for posterity. One section will be carried in Pride parades of the future while another will be framed and placed in the Vincent Astor Community Archives. Many of the generous funders of our community will be given a memorial section as well.

The construction of the flag was financed by the Nike Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Friends Network, Inz & Outz, and by the members of the Tennessee Equality Project (TEP). It was built in memory of Gary D. Wilkerson, president of Mid-South Pride from 2004 - 2007.

Bob Loos, MS, LPC-MHSP
Licensed Professional Counselor

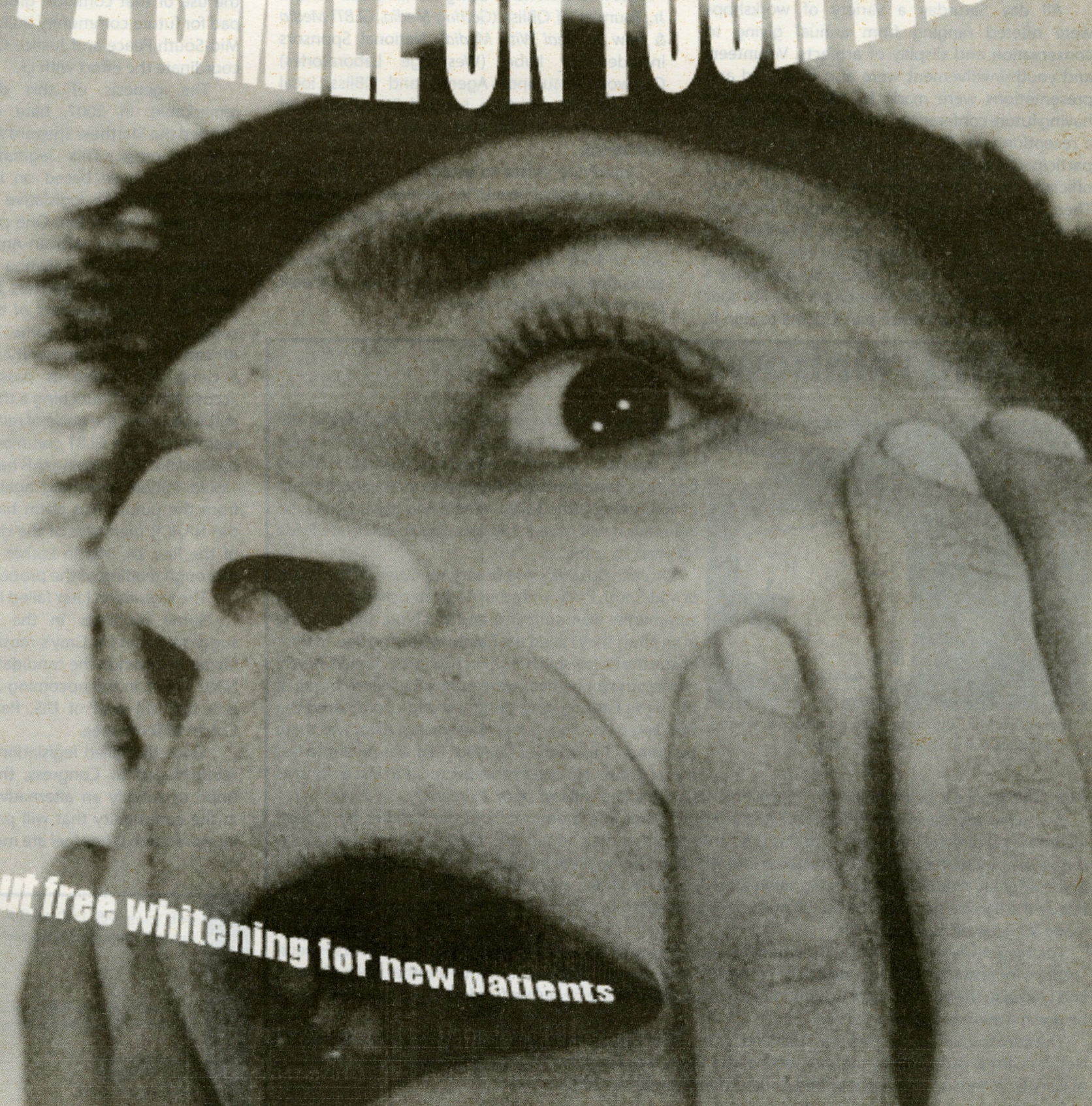
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MGLCC celebrates five years in Cooper-Young

By Jamie R. Griffin

In a modest building located at 892 S. Cooper, away from all the Love Won Out activities that came through Memphis during the weekend of February 22-24, sits the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center. That same weekend MGLCC, which has been in existence for 19 years, celebrated five years in the building located in the heart of Midtown. Nearly 50 people attended the function, including Tennessee State Sen. Reginald Tate and Rep. Barbara Cooper.

Here's what some of the attendees said MGLCC on South Cooper has meant to them:

"It's reliable.... a physical location that has set hours and is available every day of the week. It's a place you can go to get to know someone. I've enjoyed using the (public) computer and it's always nice to see the (MGLCC) volunteers." -Jeffrey Laper, Midtown

"It's a safe place. You know you're not going to be harassed for being who you are there," -Edie Love, University Of Memphis district

"It's been like a meeting place. A place for the Stonewall Democrats to meet." -Mark Pearson, Midtown

"It's comfort in a profession and world where I can't always be all of myself." -Robhi Yow, Evergreen Historic District

"When I first started coming out, it was a refuge. It developed to more than that over the years. It's a loose association of family." -Michael Meyer, Raleigh

"It's comforting to have a physical place where anyone in the gay community can call home. It's the place where the larger community looks to for the gay voice. Until the MGLCC [opened on S. Cooper] you had to go to bars to make good friends." -Jonathan Cole, East Memphis

"It's a real haven where people can be themselves. I love the outreach, to not just gays, but all people. The MGLCC has a role in making Memphis a more accepting place." -Courtney Davis-McDonnell, Midtown

"It's meant a safe place I can go to be me and be happy. When I come here I don't have to be quiet. I have people here I can talk to about anything. It makes me feel like a regular everyday person. Comfortable." -Terrence Jones, Holly Springs, Miss.

"It's the home of the community, the centerpiece. It's a safe place. It's warm and inviting. As the chair for Mid-South Pride, we're a blessed community to have (a community center) for so long." -Sean Alexander, Cordova

"Thank God it's the cornerstone of the community. Without it there would be a lot of people without a place to turn." -Carl Smith, Southeast Memphis

MGLCC and MAGY trained for expanded youth programs

By Andrew Cruz

Seven members of Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center (MGLCC) and Memphis Area Gay Youth (MAGY) met in early February for volunteer training and planning moderated by Lara Crutsinger-Perry, health program director of the National Youth Advocacy Coalition (www.nyacyouth.org). Known often by its acronym, NYAC, this agency, according to its website, is "a social justice organization that advocates for and with young people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning (LGBTQ) in an effort to end discrimination against these youth and to ensure their physical and emotional well being." NYAC is based out of Washington, D.C. Present for the meeting were Will Batts, treasurer of MGLCC; Len Piechowski, then member-at-large of MGLCC; Rohbi Yow; Eric Sirignano, secretary of MGLCC; Carmen Mills and Mary Parks, adult advisers with MAGY; and Andrew Cruz.



Mary Parks (left) adviser with Memphis Area Gay Youth (MAGY); Laura Crutsinger-Perry, health program director for National Youth Advocacy Coalition; and Carmen Mills, also a MAGY advisor

Crutsinger-Perry engaged MGLCC and MAGY participants at a workshop hosted at the center to prepare for the expanded services to be funded by a grant from the Community Foundation of Greater Memphis. She invited the participants to share their lives growing up as gay, to review guidelines for the operations of gay youth programs and to review what would be a full and complete facility that addresses the needs and concerns of GLBT youth. Participants were eager and posed several questions and ideas.

Batts and Piechowski shared their experiences growing up Catholic and coming to terms with being gay. Mills brought up the possibility that some parents may have problems with their children attending a GLBT youth group, and discussed the idea of permission slips versus keeping the youth programs in the center. Yow pointed out issues that may arise, such as maintaining a tobacco-free environment and ensuring punctuality to youth programs. Crutsinger-Perry discussed the high rate of smoking among GLBT youth, and stressed the strategy of getting the youth involved in politics as a constructive activity.

The template of guidelines for GLBT youth groups includes regulations and punitive measures regarding alcohol and drug use by counselors and youth, as well as procedures to implement when sexual abuse is suspected or reported. Proper volunteer screening was stressed by Mills. Yow emphasized proper staffing numbers. The participants agreed that the center should eventually provide housing for at-risk youth: a transitional house that would serve as a safe haven for GLBT youth who are homeless and in danger. The "dream facility" would provide food and refreshments, a library, entertainment, smiling and responsible adult counselors, comfortable seating for socialization, be clean and safe, and have plenty of smiling and understanding people.

It was a "very successful day getting basic ideas together on how to structure the MGLCC youth program and to augment existing MAGY services," said Piechowski. He added that Crutsinger-Perry plans to return in the future and to send additional staff to the center to provide additional training two to three more times in the near future.

After the training session for members of the MGLCC, Crutsinger-Perry held an extended training session for the present adult advisors of MAGY. Len Piechowski and Carmen Mills have been discussing ways to utilize the grant funds from the Community Foundation to improve youth programs at both MGLCC and at MAGY.

The youth program will begin during the upcoming summer months at MGLCC, and plans to meet from 3-6 p.m. at the center during the weekdays of the school year. The program "will have one daily activity that will last about an hour, and consist of structured input: perhaps book discussions, discussion of gay and lesbian heroes and sheroes and training on how to be a human rights advocate. Of course food, refreshments and opportunities for socialization will also be provided," said Piechowski. Other activities may also include a gay youth book club to be moderated by John McElhiny and Andrew Cruz.

The Community Foundation is a philanthropic organization which has awarded MGLCC a \$14,000 grant to start the after-school program for at-risk GLBT youth. Since MGLCC currently holds \$25,000 in the Benefactor Fund with the Community Foundation, the balance of a capital campaign fund which raised \$72,000 to purchase the Center's current building, they were one of the many local agencies invited to apply for this grant. Only 14 agencies were eventually selected to receive funding. The grant from the Community Foundation is its first to a GLBT organization.

NY Appellate court: Same-sex out-of-state marriages must be recognized

In a ruling on February 1, 2008, a state appellate court in Rochester, NY, decreed that valid same-sex marriages performed in areas of the country and of the world that solemnize such unions must be legally recognized in New York. Attorneys involved on both sides of the debate indicated that this ruling had applicability for public and private employers in the state.

This ruling, according to legal experts, was the first of its kind by an appellate division court, and would make the recognition of valid out-of-state gay marriages mandatory throughout the state. A decision to appeal has not yet been made by the county attorney for Rochester.

The New York Civil Liberties Union represented Patricia Martinez who prevailed in the appellate court decision. She successfully argued that her constitutional and civil rights had been violated when Martinez's employer, Monroe Community College, denied benefits for her spouse.

Minister calls Cohen a Jesus-hater

A flyer circulated throughout the Midsouth in mid-February by Murfreesboro minister Rev. Robert Poindexter announced "Memphis Congressman Steve Cohen and the JEWS HATE Jesus." The flyer purported that community members should "see to it that one and ONLY one black Christian faces this opponent of Christ and Christianity in the 2008 election." The reference is to Nikki Tinker, Rep. Steve Cohen's chief rival in the upcoming 2008 election. Rep. Cohen, who is Jewish, received a copy of the flyer in the mail. As reported by the *Memphis Commercial Appeal*, Tinker initially declined to comment on the flyer, but later issued a denouncement.

No love in the afternoon

Daytime history was made on August 17, 2007, when two male characters on the soap opera "As the World Turns" kissed on screen. Gay and straight fans cheered as actors Van Hansis (Luke Snyder) and Jake Silbermann (Noah Mayer) broke one of the last taboos of daytime TV. The kiss has since attracted over a million views on Youtube.

In October 2007, the duo kissed again. Fans assumed that there would be more kisses and perhaps a love scene in the near future. Sadly, this was not to be the case. Since October, every time Luke and Noah have started to kiss; they are interrupted by a phone call, knock at the door, or someone else coming into the room. (Also, Luke was paralyzed from the waist down for a couple of months after Noah's father tried to kill him) On the Christmas episode, just as Luke and Noah were about to kiss again, the camera panned upward and the scene ended not on a gay kiss but on mistletoe. Fans were outraged and called CBS in protest. Some fans, wanting to do something different, started a KISS CAMPAIGN. In chat forums and on line message boards, fans of Luke and Noah were encouraged to send Hershey's Kisses to executives at CBS.

Hoping for a better Valentines Day, fans were once again let down. Every other couple featured on the show that day kissed, but not Luke and Noah - they hugged. Happy fans have turned to angry fans on a mission. They want to see Noah and Luke kiss again.

In addition to the "kiss campaign," fans have started to contact newspapers and magazines in hopes that major press will write about the non-kissing. So far, the *LA Times*, *New York Daily News* and Internet Movie Database (imdb.com), to name a few, have written about the fans' frustrations.



Former NBA basketball player John Amaechi talks about being a closeted gay man in professional sports at the HRC Nashville Equality Dinner. Amaechi was the keynote speaker at the event that took place Feb. 16.

Amaechi is also slated to be the guest of honor for the 2008 Memphis Gaymes in October presented by MGLCC. Photo by Herb Zeman



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Microsoft leader leaves \$65M for gay rights, HIV/AIDS groups

Gift marks single largest bequest to GLBT causes

A high school friend of Microsoft Corp. founders Bill Gates and Paul Allen and one of the first five people to work at the software giant, Ric Weiland, has left \$65 million to gay rights and HIV/AIDS organizations.

The bequests were announced Sunday, Feb. 24, by the Pride Foundation of Seattle, where Weiland was a board member for several years. The foundation called it the largest single bequest ever given to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender causes.

Gates and Allen hired Weiland in 1975, the year they founded Microsoft. He worked as a project leader for the Microsoft Works word processing and spreadsheet software, and was a lead programmer and developer for the company's BASIC and COBOL systems, two of the first personal computing interfaces. He left Microsoft in 1988.

During his lifetime, Weiland donated millions to various organizations - from gay rights groups to environmental and education organizations - before he committed suicide in 2006 after a long battle with depression.

Most of his estate - about \$160 million - was left to various charities and Stanford University, his undergraduate alma mater.

In the latest bequest, the Pride Foundation said Weiland's estate had established a fund at the foundation that would give \$46 million over the next eight years to 10 national gay rights and HIV/AIDS groups, including Lambda Legal; the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force; Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, and amFAR, the Foundation for AIDS Research.

His estate also bequeathed \$19 million directly to the Pride Foundation for scholarships and grants supporting the GLBT community in the Pacific Northwest.

Lesbian divorce case goes before NY court

In what is believed to be a groundbreaking ruling, a New York City judge says that the ruling by the state's highest court that found there is no constitutional right for same-sex marriage does not apply to divorce.

The ruling by Supreme Court Justice Laura Drager allows a Manhattan woman to sue for divorce from her same-sex partner. The couple was married in 2004 in Canada.

Drager ruled "that out-of-state same-sex marriages are properly recognized under our law," and therefore "Beth R." can proceed with her case against "Donna M."

R is seeking the divorce and joint custody of M's two children. Because the children are minors the women are identified only by letters.

M had been seeking to have the divorce quashed on the grounds that New York State does not recognize same-sex marriage.

The judge's ruling stated that New York does not recognize an out-of-state marriage in only two instances: if it is specifically prohibited by the legislature or is "abhorrent to New York public policy."

The ruling noted that the legislature has not specifically outlawed out-of-state same-sex marriages, and that "the abhorrence exception is so narrow that it has been applied only to marriages involving polygamy or incest."

The case will likely be decided by the New York Court of Appeals, the state's highest court, in light of an appeal of a similar ruling this month by an appeals court in Rochester. (see related story on p. 10)

Gamma Mu Foundation announces scholarship for gay men

The Gamma Mu Foundation is offering scholarships to qualified candidates of up to \$2,500. Candidates must be gay men who are legal residents of the United States and preferably from a rural area planning to continue their formal education in any area, be it academic, vocational, technical or the arts during the 2008-2009 academic year.

The scholarship may be used to defray tuition, room and board, or other college-related costs at an accredited college, university or trade school. The scholarship is intended for use by the student during the fall 2008 and/or spring 2009 term. For more information, contact Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center at (901) 278-6422.

Important HIV fusion pathway discovered

New treatments may be on horizon

In early February, Dr. Anthony Fauci, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease, reported that his research team identified a protein receptor on the membrane of human immune cells that HIV utilizes for fusion and infection. This receptor, integrin- $\alpha 4\beta 7$, has long been known for its ability to direct immune cells into the lymph nodes found in the intestinal area. Fauci and his team just discovered that this receptor also binds with HIV.

According to one of Fauci's researchers, Dr. Warner C. Greene, this "...shed[s] new light on why the virus preferentially grows in the gut." Several other receptor sites such as CD4 (identified in 1984) and CCR5 and CXCR4 (both identified in 1996) have provided opportunities for new classes of drugs to block fusion of the HIV with human T-cells.

Scientists have sought to identify receptors because they offer targets for the development of new classes of drugs.

For example, the Food and Drug Administration last year approved a treatment for AIDS, a drug called Selzentry or maraviroc manufactured by Pfizer. The drug works by blocking CCR5.

Fauci indicated that a number of experimental drugs that block integrin- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ are already being tested for treatment of a variety of autoimmune disorders. He is now calling for studies on their potential for the treatment of AIDS.

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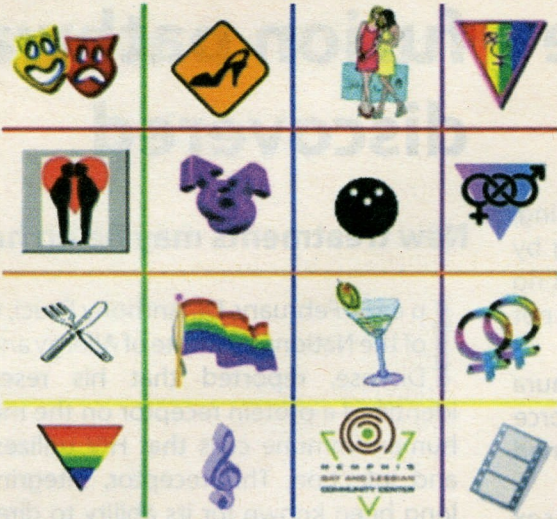
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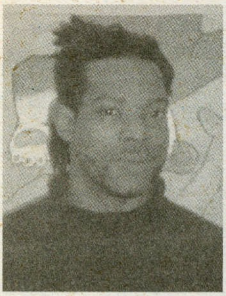
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I can love men; but I can't put love into action?

Commentary by CJ Anderson



February was an awesome month that was filled with opportunities for education, awareness and self discovery. One of the activities spanned an entire weekend and was called *Deconstructing the Ex-Gay Myth* (see related story on p. 3).

Brandon Tidwell was one of the speakers during the weekend and a former client of Love in Action (LIA), a self-proclaimed authority that strives to rescue people from homosexuality. According to its website, this agency draws its inspiration from "inerrant scripture." This perceived error-free cornerstone is layered and fortified with the belief "in the power of Jesus Christ to find freedom from any behavior, mindset, attitude, belief, or compulsion contrary to what the Bible prescribes for the believer."

After speaking with Brandon, I felt the need to offer some insight into Love in Action and also some of his personal reflections concerning his experience with Love in Action and the Love Won Out Weekend 2008 which also occurred on the same weekend as *Deconstructing the Ex-Gay Myth*.

Already having made complex decisions about my own personal relationship with Christ and seeking a better, broader and even still closer relationship, this talk with Brandon and the subsequent knowledge surrounding our talk was sure to be interesting. I was immediately put at ease as I met this young man in his twenties. Well at least, I thought he was in his twenties. I later

found out that Brandon was 31 years old. He is originally from Dallas, Texas, and currently working on the social responsibility teams of one of our staple employers here in the Memphis area. He is an educated professional with degrees from two "fine Baptist institutions" of higher education.



Former Love In Action "ex-gay" Brandon Tidwell

"Being gay as an identity, or being attracted to members of the same sex, was in and of itself not wrong," claims Brandon, speaking of one of his first insights after his stint at Love in Action.

This was good news to Brandon as well as to his family. After all, he grew up in church and had even realized there was some type of ministry for him to help spread the message of Christianity. LIA was a last resort after being made to feel like he

needed to "be fixed" to embrace this ministry.

Love in Action International began after Chief Founder Frank Worthen embraced fundamentalist Christianity at age 43 after years of "struggling" with homosexuality. John Evans and Kent Philpott are also recognized as founders of the ex-gay Christian ministry. Much of LIA's acclaim came from its report that purported to show participants had managed to abstain from gay sex or become totally heterosexual. Evans later denounced the project citing its destruction of people's lives after a friend of his committed suicide in an act of desperation regarding his inability to become "ex-gay."

LIA claims to have over 34 years of research, experience and success. Yet Brandon noted some issues within the program's structure that demand attention.

"What has always concerned me," explains Brandon, "[is that] they have people unlicensed to practice what they practice. So, basically the treatments prescribed to some clients of the program are administered by untrained employees who lack the professional credentials to be operating in such capacities."

After his experience at LIA and his rejection of their ministry, he has some strong opinions about this ministerial approach. Despite his strong opinions, Brandon does not consider Love in Action to be the enemy. But he feels that they do help to perpetuate some of the negative stigma society has about our community. LIA exists only because of these negative perceptions of gay people.

So he believes we must continue to build relationships with people and enlighten each other on our varied human experiences as we all have an innate desire for acceptance and happiness.

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Posi+ive attitude

Living with HIV in the Midsouth means living without fear

by James Cox

Bennie Anderson starts each day with a challenge: the morning dose of his HIV regimen, a handful of pills with names like Prezista, Norvir, Epivir, Intelence and Isentress.

"My biggest challenge has always been taking that many pills in the morning," the 40-year old pharmacy tech says. "At night is fine, but going to work after taking all those pills can bother you sometimes."

Bennie has been living with HIV for the past 12 years, and AIDS for the past six. One might think that taking his meds would be the least of his worries, but he says he doesn't live in fear anymore.

"I had to get past that and live."

According to AIDS service organization Friends For Life, there are more than 5,600 other men and women with HIV/AIDS in the Memphis area. While Bennie acknowledges that he contracted HIV through unprotected sex, most are unsure how and when they came in contact with the virus.

Here in the Mid-South, old beliefs die hard. Many people untouched by HIV still cling to the myths that popped up not long after the disease's discovery in the early 1980s. For example, many people still believe that HIV can be spread by casual contact.

"We used to go over to my aunt's house after church on Sundays," Bennie said. "She always had the table set really nice. After she found out about my HIV, she set a paper plate and plastic fork in my place for me to use."

Unfortunately, the discrimination isn't confined to the greater community. Even though the GLBT community jumped to the frontline in the early days of the epidemic, today it can be a vastly different story.

"As an HIV-positive man, have I been scorned, dumped, rejected and cursed by the GLBT community?"

...Absolutely."

"As an HIV-positive man, have I been scorned, dumped, rejected and cursed by the GLBT community?" said David, who asked that his real name be withheld. "Absolutely. And those very folks who cast those stones, when asked their status or the date of their latest test, most cannot provide an answer. I don't get that and perhaps I never will."

He describes the words he has heard from others in the

GLBT community as "harsh, hateful and mean-spirited," but he says he understands that those people are projecting their anger, fear and resentment toward him and his disease.

"I know that I am strong enough to overcome their words," David said. "But what about those infected that don't have that strength, or are not at the point of being a warrior? Why does there need to be such hate toward those with this disease from our own community?"

David, an arts administrator in his mid-40s, was diagnosed in 2000, and said the most challenging part of living with HIV has been dating. And the biggest looming question in the dating cat-and-mouse game is when to disclose. Share too early and the other person could bolt. Share too late and the other person could feel betrayed. David adopted a personal policy to share early in the conversation, and is now comfortable letting the chips fall where they may – an attitude that didn't develop overnight. Nine months ago, David began a new relationship. When he did disclose his status, David's HIV-negative partner was very supportive and said the news changed nothing.

In the years since their diagnoses, Bennie and David have worked hard to accept life with HIV. David sees himself as a warrior in the daily battle against the virus, and acknowledges the role HIV has taken in shaping the powerful, positive person he is today.

When the crisis emerged, people with HIV could expect to develop AIDS within a decade, and then only lived 1-2 years on average after being diagnosed with AIDS. Today, now that effective HIV treatments are available – at least to people who can afford them, have good insurance or can qualify for government-sponsored treatment programs that haven't been cut – people with HIV can expect to live longer than

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Having unprotected sex can change your life - forever

Commentary by Joe Girouard
Prevention for Positives Specialist
Friends For Life

A proposal was recently published in the *Bulletin of Swiss Medicine* which offered a remarkable perspective on HIV-positive individuals having unprotected sex with those not infected with HIV. The proposal states that an individual who is on antiretroviral therapy *and* whose therapy is effective *and* who has been followed closely by a doctor *and* whose viral load is 40 copies or less per ml. for at least six months *and* who has no sexually transmitted infections, can have unprotected sex with an uninfected individual (assuming the partner's informed consent) without risk of transmission of the virus.

With all of these "and" stipulations, I wouldn't suggest that anyone should gamble with it!

This proposal was based on data regarding vaginal, not anal sex. However, please do not take the Swiss proposal into consideration if you are a woman having sex with a man or a man having sex with a woman. There is a scary rising rate of HIV infection within the heterosexual population. Because of the way that a woman's body is made up, transmission is easier from a man to a woman, than a woman to a man. There are also men who have sex on the "down-low." A man on the down-low is a man having a sexual encounter with another man, even though he is living his sexual life with a woman the rest of the time. Men, beware that it can happen to you too if you are having any unprotected act with a woman who is infected.

Even though there is a lower rate of infection within the lesbian population, lesbians should still take this information seriously. There are also some women who are living life on the down-low. Also remember, if you are a woman having sexual encounters with only women, there are still sexual transmitted infections that can haunt you too.

Men having sex with men are still the number one group becoming infected with HIV. It is so important, especially as a man having sex with a man, to always protect yourself and your partner. The second highest group for HIV infection is the 'unknown' group of individuals - people who simply don't know how they were infected.

Individuals who have HIV should also protect themselves and their partners. Getting a different strain of HIV than the one(s) with which you are already infected increases the possibility that medications will not be as effective. Keep in your mind that any tiny amount of semen, vaginal fluid, breast milk or blood that gets on or in anyone else is a risk for HIV infection.

There are so many strains of the HIV that are out there! Each strain of the virus reacts differently to various medications. An individual having more strains of the virus is risking the effectiveness of the medication. If you are living with HIV and are

Continued on page 19

Depression: not just the winter blahs

By Curtis Petty, Pharm.D



It's winter and I feel the usual blahs right before the first blooms of spring. Ever seen those commercials on television with that list of symptoms of depression? Like many, some days I could answer "yes" to the required number to be considered depressed. Many of us with these symptoms wonder "Do I need to take medication?" For most of us, medication is not needed because our problem is typically due to the winter blues.

However, for those patients who do need medication, the following questions should be

answered before starting any regimen: 1) What is the right medication for me? 2) What side effects should I expect? 3) If I feel better, do I just stop taking the medication? and 4) How quickly should I start to feel better?

Depression affects approximately 19 million American adults. The prevalence of depression in the GLBT community is considered to be much higher than the general population due to the greater number of psychosocial issues that we experience in our daily lives such as discrimination and the lack of support. Depression (or depressive illness) falls under the category of mood disorders which can then be further sub-divided into depressive disorders and bipolar disorders.

Depressive disorders include major depressive disorder (MDD) and dysthymia. When we say we are feeling unhappy or down, this is considered dysthymia. Dysthymia can be chronic but these symptoms do not usually disable us nor do they prevent us from feeling satisfaction with our lives. MDD, on the other hand, is defined by healthcare professionals as persistent feelings of hopelessness, ideas of death and suicide and an inability to find satisfaction in life. Multiple biological and/or psychosocial factors can contribute to the development of MDD. These factors can include biochemical imbalances, drug and alcohol abuse, early or recent significant loss and prior history of abuse.

Management and treatment of MDD is accomplished through one or more interventions: crisis/suicide prevention, medication, psychotherapy and family involvement. Medication therapy in conjunction with psychotherapy provides the greatest opportunity for a sustained response. Current and past medications target the following neurotransmitters: serotonin, norepinephrine and dopamine. The following classes of medications are used to treat MDD: selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRI's), selective serotonin/norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors (SNRI's), tricyclic antidepressants (TCA's) and atypical antidepressants.

Each class of antidepressants requires 2 to 6 weeks of a therapeutic dose level before a clinical response can be seen. Choosing a specific class is dependent on the side effects associated with that class and ease of administration (e.g. once a day versus twice a day). SSRI's include Prozac® (fluoxetine), Paxil® (paroxetine), Celexa® (citalopram), Lexapro® (escitalopram) and Zoloft® (sertraline). This class of drugs has the advantages of ease of dosing and lowest toxicity associated with overdose. Common side effects of this class include gastrointestinal upset, sexual dysfunction and alterations in energy levels.

SNRI's include Effexor® (venlafaxine) and Cymbalta® (duloxetine). SNRI's and SSRI's have similar side effect profiles except that SNRI's are associated with increases of blood pressure. SNRI's also show benefits with patients that have pain or fatigue syndromes associated with their depression.

Drugs such as Wellbutrin® (bupropion), Desyrel® (trazodone), Remeron® (mirtazapine) and Serzone® (nefazodone) belong to the class known as atypical antidepressants. Atypical antidepressants display a low toxicity associated with overdose and have an advantage over SSRI's due to their low incidence of sexual dysfunction and gastrointestinal upset. Bupropion has been associated with an increased risk of seizures at higher doses which is especially important with patients who suffer from seizures.

TCA's have the highest incidence of side effects, the least ease of dose titration and the highest toxicity associated with overdose. Common TCA's are Elavil® (amitriptyline), Pamelor® (nortriptyline) and Anafranil® (clomipramine). Of all the classes, TCA's are the lowest in cost. This class has the most significant side effect profile which includes sedation, constipation, sexual dysfunction and weight gain.

Weight gain is also associated with SSRI's but the weight gain associated with TCA's is more significant. Patients with abnormal heart rates should be cautioned in taking TCA's due to their increasing the patient's risk for these abnormalities especially with overdose. With each of these classes, the patient should consult their physician or pharmacist before discontinuing the medication. Doses should be tapered to prevent side effects and possible relapse of depressive symptoms.

If the winter blahs seem to be interfering with your normal every day activities or lasting longer than expected, it would be wise to consult your physician about some of these medical approaches to putting the spring back in your step.

Gay and bisexual men at higher risk of anal cancer

by James Cox

It almost sounds like the punchline to a crude and offensive gay joke. However, anal cancer isn't much of a laughing matter.

Although it is relatively rare in the general population, published studies have shown that men who have anal sex are almost 30 times more likely to have anal cancer. Researchers from institutions like University of California – San Francisco, Harvard University and Stanford have found that HIV-positive men are at an even higher risk.

The exact cause of anal cancer is not known, but most anal cancers seem to be linked to infection with HPV (human papilloma virus). A sexually transmitted disease, HPV affects up to 50 percent of the sexually active men and women in this country, and can lead to cervical cancer in women. One sign of infection is genital warts, but most people infected with HPV do not have genital warts.

For years, women have been diagnosed with HPV on the basis of abnormal Pap test, the primary cancer-screening tool for cervical cancer or pre-cancerous changes in the cervix. But it has been only in the past several years that such a test has been developed to detect pre-cancerous changes in men.

Unlike with other sexually transmitted diseases, condoms do not stop the spread of HPV. So your best bet against HPV is early detection. A digital rectal exam (DRE) will find some cases of anal cancer. The American Cancer Society suggests that men have a DRE at age 50 to check for prostate cancer, or earlier if there is a family history.

In addition to getting a DRE, men with a history of anal intercourse, and especially HIV-positive men, may consider an anal Pap, in which the anal lining is swabbed and the cells that come off on the swab are examined under a microscope for the presence of HPV and anal cancer.

A vaccine for HPV in men may be on the horizon. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently approved an HPV vaccine, Gardasil, for use in girls and women, ages 9-26. The vaccine is given through a series of shots over a six-month period. Studies are currently underway to test its effectiveness in men.

You Oughta Be in Pictures!

Send your original pictures of events and activities around the Midsouth to:

Triangle Journal
892 South Cooper Street
Memphis, TN 38104

or
e-mail them to:
editors@tjmemphis.com

Wellness University students progress

Ten Wellness University students moved closer to their goal of a 'Degree in Wellness' while one student graduated from the program at a recent commencement ceremony held at Friends For Life. Fifty-six people attended the ceremony.

The Wellness University is a comprehensive educational program that helps persons living with HIV/AIDS gain skills necessary to manage the disease while increasing their daily living skills such as literacy, budgeting, cooking and communication. Classes to teach the students about HIV/AIDS and how to maintain adherence with strict medication regimens are taught by a licensed pharmacist provided by Walgreens.

Students earn credits by attending classes taught by professionals from the community as well as by attending their medical and supportive service appointments with various collaborating organizations. As credits are accumulated, the students move from freshman to sophomore, etc. until they accrue 400 points at which time they graduate from the program. Upon graduation, students are then able to become a part of the Leadership Development class which requires the students to provide volunteer hours in the community and allows them to assist in teaching some of the regular Wellness University classes as well as providing them with ongoing educational opportunities.



Twenty-seven community organizations including St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, the Hope and Healing Center and the Medplex participate in the program by providing various services that earn students additional credits. The Wellness University received an award of excellence from the City of Memphis in 2005 with the City noting the innovative nature of the program along with the measurable successes the program achieves with its students.

The program is financially supported by the United Way of the Mid-South, the City of Memphis, the Until There's a Cure Foundation, Gilead Science, the Women's Foundation for a Greater Memphis and the First Tennessee Foundation.

Friends For Life teams with Memphis Area Legal Services

Persons affected by HIV/AIDS often experience a number of legal issues that can be stressful to manage without appropriate assistance. Friends For Life (FFL) and Memphis Area Legal Services (MALS) have maintained a collaborative relationship for several years in which a representative of Memphis Area Legal Services comes to Friends For Life twice per month to discuss legal issues with persons infected and/or affected by HIV/AIDS.

The service is free, but an appointment is required. To schedule an appointment to meet with the MALS representative, please call Windy Nicholson, FFL's Wellness University Coordinator at 272-0855 ext. 237.

A free legal clinic will be sponsored by the Memphis Area Legal Services on Saturday, April 12, from 12:00 noon to 4:30 p.m. The clinic will be conducted at First Congregational Church at 1000 S. Cooper and will deal with issues such as advance directives, employment law issues and Social Security disability.

This clinic is not specifically designed for persons living with HIV/AIDS, but the information presented will be appropriate for all persons.

Remember your friends and family
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AIDS MEMORIAL

The Friends For Life AIDS Memorial is a place where people who have lost their battle with AIDS can be recognized, remembered, mourned or honored by their friends and family.

To add a Memorial, go to the Friends For Life web site at
www.friendsforlifecorp.org/memorial.htm



Hellman resigns as Friends For Life executive director

Dr. Ricci Hellman, executive director of Friends For Life Corporation, has announced her resignation from the top role of the Mid-South's oldest and most comprehensive AIDS service organization.

"I have enjoyed working with Friends For Life and believe that I leave the agency better situated financially and organizationally. My choice to resign my position is based on personal reasons. I look forward to new opportunities in life. I know that Friends For Life will remain an exemplary community-based AIDS service organization", Dr. Hellman states.

Ben Duke, chair of Friends For Life's Board of Directors says, "Ricci will be missed; her leadership helped strengthen Friends For Life in many ways, particularly the agency's financial stability. We certainly wish her the best in her future endeavors."


Dr. Hellman's resignation took effect February 29, 2008. Serving as co-interim Executive Directors until the Board of Directors secures a permanent replacement for Dr. Hellman will be Mr. Kim Moss, MS, and Ms. Kim Daugherty, CMSW.

Moss is the former director of the agency and has remained employed with the agency as grant writer since his departure in 2006 from the executive director role. Ms. Daugherty is the agency's director of clinical services and has over 20 years experience with health, government and nonprofit services.




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Deconstructing the Ex-Gay Myth: A Weekend of Art and Action

Upper left: Christine Bakke, coordinator of the ex-gay survivor art exhibit, explains the work of Barbara Leavitt, wife of ex-gay survivor.

Center left: Ryan Elliott takes his stand outside Central Church.

Center bottom: The demonstrators provide alternative messages to the participants at Focus on the Family's Love Won Out Conference.

Upper right: Carol Jones talks with Sean Kaminsky of My Entertainment who is producing "Be Real" for LOGO.

Lower right: Kristi Estes works a culinary wonder for the opening of the ex-gay survivor art exhibit.



Was Frankenstein's monster gay?

Film expert to discuss queer subtext

by Mark Jones

Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center will present a screening of the 1935 classic horror movie *Bride of Frankenstein* starring Boris Karloff as the monster. After the movie, classic film expert Heidi Kenaga will speak on the topic "James Whale's *Frankenstein* Dyad as Queer Texts."

Heidi Kenaga earned a Ph.D. in communications-film history) from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She has taught media and communication courses at UW-Madison, Clemson University and the University of Memphis. She trained as a specialist in films made between 1915 to 1935, with a focus on the representation of race, ethnicity and gender in the traditional genre film.

The movie starts at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 18. MGLCC is located at 892 South Cooper.

Photos from MGLCC's Fifth Anniversary at 892 S. Cooper Party. Clockwise from top: Brendan O'Hara reunites with Autumn Falconer; Board member Jamie Griffin welcomes Rep. Barbara Cooper; Trevor Rawls celebrates with S.J. Tucker aka Skinny White Chick; Vincent Astor (left) and Michael Meyer enjoy food prepared by caterer Brittany Culpepper; Sen. Reggie Tate (left) discusses the upcoming elections with Stonewall Democrat Mark Pearson; and Mark Jones (left) and Will Batts hang the sign to "welcome home" visitors to MGLCC.

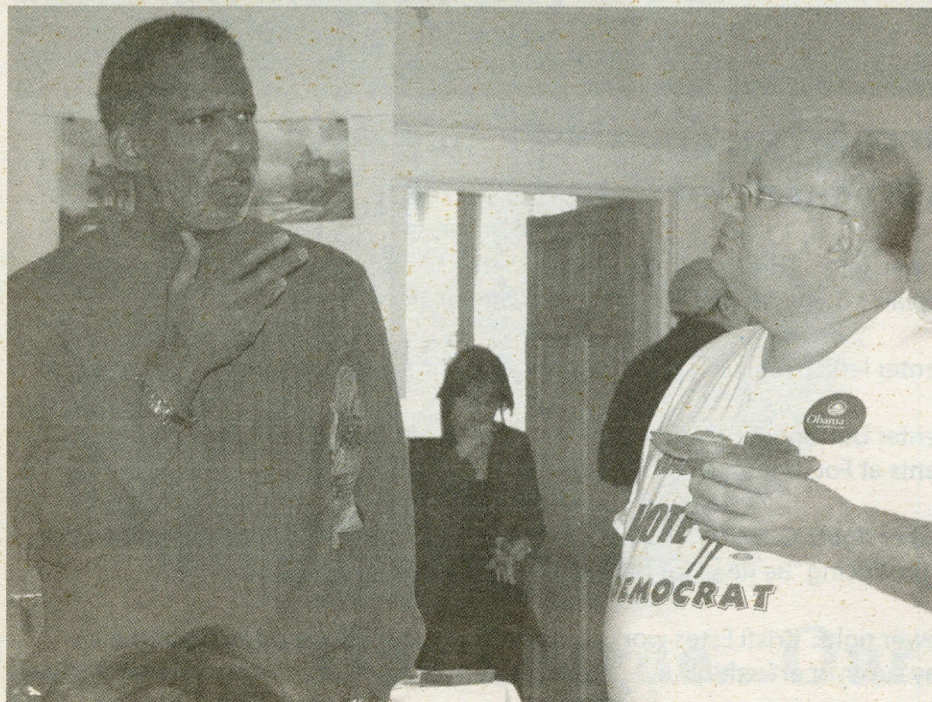
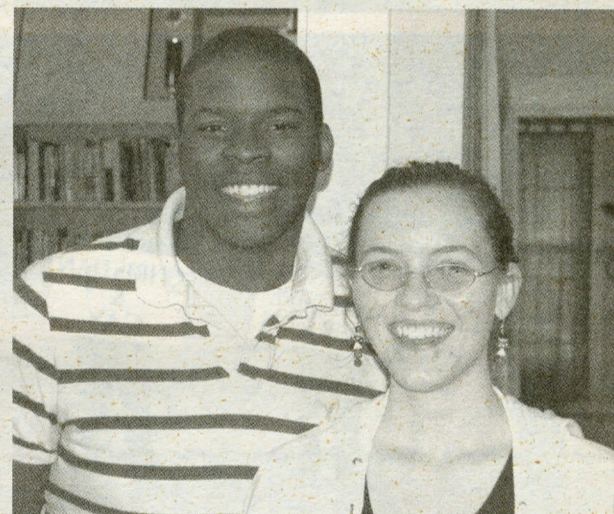
Weatherall resigns presidency of MGLCC

By Len Piechowski

Charlie Weatherall submitted his resignation from the office of president of Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center. The board of directors announced his resignation on Thursday, February 21, 2008, with the following statement:

With sadness and profound appreciation for his work on behalf of Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center, the board of directors has accepted the resignation of Charlie Weatherall from the office of President. Charlie's resignation was motivated by personal reasons. Following the provisions of the MGLCC By-Laws, the board met February 20, 2008, in executive session and appointed Len Piechowski as President pro tem. Pending approval of a community vote at a meeting still to be announced, Len will fulfill the responsibilities of the office until general elections are held in July. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you, Charlie!

During the last one and a half years, Charlie has worked diligently and successfully to provide the leadership and the fundraising acumen that has continued to lead MGLCC forward toward its 20 year vision for the Memphis GLBT community.



Memphis delegates go to Capitol Hill (continued from p. 5)

Did the responses from legislators surprise/encourage/discourage you?

All legislators were attentive and curious. Some were openly supportive. Others, while polite, were either non-committal or unaccommodating. Overall, we sense that, even with our most reticent legislators, negative opinions regarding GLBT issues are, if not changing, at least softening.

What lessons did you learn about the process?

Be flexible when making appointments with officials. Schedule changes are inevitable in the fast-paced world of a legislator. Be prepared for your meeting by bringing simple, yet fact-filled talking points. Even more effective than talking points, however, are your real stories illustrating how the discussed legislation affects you and your family. Such stories trump a fact-laden presentation almost every time.

What's next?

TEP will continue to monitor the progress of the adoption bill and the birth certificate bills. Each member of the delegation plans to write follow-up letters to their lawmakers to thank them for their time and to remind them of their constituent's concerns. Those who were not able to participate in Advancing Equality Day are encouraged to

Posi+ive attitude (continued from p. 14)

science believed possible.

Even with this great news, where is the cautionary tale? Are the days of safe sex really over now that it seems that HIV can be successfully physically and emotionally managed? Experts say no way.

As people with HIV live longer, we may start to see long-term effects of HIV infection that we haven't seen before. The treatments that are effective today may begin to lose their impact as new drug-resistant strains of HIV surface. In 2005, New York City health officials were put on high alert after learning of a man infected with a drug-resistant strain of HIV that progressed to AIDS within months instead of years. The discovery indicated that there could be a new variant of the virus spreading among gay and bisexual men who use crystal meth.

And even though today's meds seem to be working, individuals can react differently to the

contact their senator and representative about the above legislation by calling 1-800-449-8366 or sending a personal letter to the following address: Tennessee General Assembly, Nashville, TN 37243.

Cole added: "Shelby County's strong participation made TEP's impact much stronger because two Shelby County lawmakers sponsored the anti-GLBT adoption bill. Our voices must continue to grow in number and prominence to promote equality in state legislation. I was honored to be among the outstanding Shelby County delegation. Each of them presented a valuable perspective to the legislators we met. I am particularly proud of the intelligent and heartfelt views shared in our meeting with Sen. Stanley."

Simmons said: "Supportive elected officials, whether in the Tennessee General Assembly or Shelby County Commission or Memphis City Council, can and do advance sensible legislation and negate unfair ones, sometimes with great political risk. We owe them much. However, there are no openly GLBT elected officials in any of these offices. The talent is in place and the desire real for change in Shelby County. There is no better time than now for us to act locally to elect out GLBT citizens to public office."

treatment. What works in one person may fail in another, and untreated HIV infection remains fatal.

"I've even had guys ask me to infect them," David said. "When I ask why, they feel as sexually active young adults, they will eventually get the disease. So why not get it purposefully, cross that detail off the list, and then have sex without the worry of contracting the disease. I feel they have not thought of the stigma of the greater community, rather just the sexual aspect of the moment."

To those who haven't been infected, Bennie says to stop taking risks. To those who are infected, he says take control of the virus and don't let it control you.

"Knowledge is power, and education is critical," David said. "And so is attitude, which I feel is the very reason I am living a healthy, vibrant, courageous, empowered and fulfilling life."

Unprotected sex can change your life (continued from p. 14)

taking HIV medications, it is extremely important to be adherent. Taking the medication as directed by your physician is a key to live by. Not skipping any doses of the medicine and taking it at the same time every day helps to keep the virus from changing and becoming resistant to certain medicines.

The infection rates of HIV and sexually transmitted infections around the Midsouth have been rising at alarming rates. The Midsouth ranked number one in the United States for individuals infected with gonorrhea and chlamydia. The Mid-South ranked number two in the United States for individuals infected with primary and secondary syphilis. An individual with a STD having unprotected sex is even more susceptible to HIV infection.

Remember, ANY unprotected activity that ANYONE engages in, is risky. Yes, this does include oral sex. Keep your blood, vaginal fluid, semen, and breast milk to yourself! Even sharing these fluids on someone else's skin is risky. Microscopic cuts or openings in the skin are welcoming entrances for HIV. Once an individual is infected with HIV, that individual will have HIV for the rest of their lives. There is also no dormant period of HIV.

Midsouth HIV/AIDS Impact Summit planned for Mar. 27-28

The Midsouth Coalition on HIV/AIDS is planning the Midsouth HIV/AIDS Impact Summit for Thursday and Friday, Mar. 27-28.

The summit is designed to bring together Midsouth residents to brainstorm ways to work together more effectively to care for those living with the virus and prevent additional infections throughout the region.

The two-day program is open to anyone living with HIV/AIDS, as well as anyone with interest or experience in HIV/AIDS care, prevention or advocacy.

It is free to attend. However, individuals are asked to RSVP if they plan to attend because available seating is limited.

For more information, contact Orisha Bowers of the Midsouth Coalition on HIV/AIDS at (901) 433-4332, or by email at orisha.henry-bowers@uwmidouth.org.

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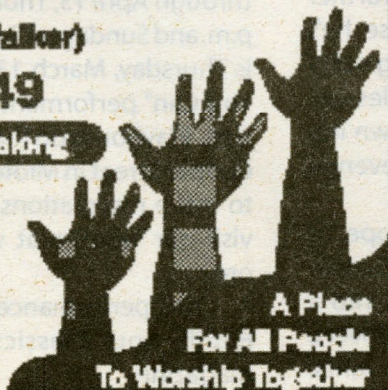
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Got something to say? Say it to the TJ.

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Email them to editors@tjmemphis.com.

Dear Editors:

Your coverage of the coronation of Herenton and his City Council was soft-serve mush.

Are you aware that Herenton won re-election by stating explicitly that he was a Black mayor for Black Memphis only? Even the Memphis Flyer referred to Herenton as a major obstacle in race relations in Memphis.

As for the United Methodist clergyperson Frank McRae, I want to remind you that I had to resign my ordination in his "inclusive" United Methodist Church because in their eyes I am a filthy and diseased faggot, unfit for ordination and undesirable as a member of their sacred community.

Herenton, McRae and many other Memphis leaders are at best guilty of malicious neglect against GLBT people. By the way, Herenton is the reason I will never vote for Obama for President. I know in my heart Obama will talk equality and racial harmony but only until he achieves power. Then he will be a Black President for Black Americans only. I'll vote McCain before I'll vote Obama.

And this is the reason I no longer believe in the Biblical notion of Social Justice. There is no Social Justice, only power and revenge. See Herenton and his easy re-election as proof.

Howard Wiggins
Memphis, Tenn.

Triangle Journal gladly encourages reader response. Send mail to *Triangle Journal*, 892 S. Cooper Street, Memphis, Tenn. 38104. All responses must include a name, address, a daytime phone number, and an e-mail address if possible. Printed letters will include only the reader's name and city. Letters should be no longer than 250 words.

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Trailer Park divas and drama roll into Circuit Playhouse Feb. 29 through Mar. 30

Everything is sunny and sweet at Armadillo Acres, north Florida's most exclusive manufactured housing community. But all hell is about to break loose on their side of the tracks.

Betty, Lin and Pickles are dishing out all the gossip on their neighbors, the Garstecki's, when a hurricane comes tearing through the corrugated metal walls of their off-balanced lives. "Hurricane" Pippi - a stripper on the run from her crazy marker-sniffing boyfriend - causes quite the commotion when she blows into town and befriends Norbert Garstecki, the toll collector, subsequently damaging the fragile heart of Norbert's agoraphobic housewife, Jeannie. Norbert is forced to choose between the woman he's been devoted to since high school, and the hottest thing to hit Armadillo Acres since pink flamingos. But it only gets messier when the aforementioned marker-sniffing, gun-toting, road-killing boyfriend Duke shows up and threatens to put an end to everyone on the lot.

Sparkling like aluminum siding, this campy, caustic musical fable is ripe with adultery, dancing, murderous intentions, Costco and the Ice Capades. Complete with a trashy Greek chorus of trailer park divas, and hailed as *King of the Hill* set to music, *The Great American Trailer Park Musical* is "...a wheel-spinning, mud-splattering good time of a show... the theatrical equivalent of a bag of Doritos. You can't get enough," according to Talkin' Broadway.

The Great American Trailer Park Musical, with music and lyrics by David Nehls and book

by Betsy Kelsois, is directed by resident company member and PR director, Courtney Oliver (*The Glory of Living*) and stars resident company members Cheyenne Nelson as the agoraphobic and Sheana Tobey as her stripper rival, with Memphis favorite, Kent Fleshman as



the man in the middle. The show also features the talents of Jennifer Henry, Tara Lawton and Liz Cascio as their neighbors, with comedic appearance by associate company member Kevin Todd Murphy as the marker-sniffing ex-boyfriend.

The Great American Trailer Park Musical runs at The Circuit Playhouse February 29 through March 30, Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. The "Pay What You Can" performance is Thursday, March 6 at 8 p.m.. The Circuit Playhouse is located at 1705 Poplar Avenue in Midtown. For more information or to make reservations, please call 901-726-4656 or visit their website at www.playhouseonthesquare.org.

This performance is sponsored by Friends of United Housing, KIX 106 and *Jabberblabber* magazine

Mischief and revenge mark adaptation of Moliere's Scapin at POTS Mar. 14-Apr. 13

The crafty Scapin, servant to the household of Geronte, jumps into the story as he first promises to help in the affairs of his neighbor's son, Octave, then to aid in those of his own charge, Leander.

Both young men have fallen in love with unlikely, and penniless beauties, and both need money to help solve their dilemmas. Scapin knows a good ruse will always win the day and he drafts Sylvestre, Octave's servant, into his schemes. Convincing Sylvestre he's a wonderful actor, Scapin has him play characters who will deceive the family patriarchs into parting with large sums of money. Once the money is obtained, however, Scapin pushes further in order to exact a little revenge on those he's served. Thinking Geronte has said something nasty about him, Scapin sets out to teach him a lesson. The roguish words, however, are Scapin's own lies and stories finally coming back to him, his revenge backfires and he must flee.

Balancing on a delicately taut tightrope of mischief and revenge, the crafty servant Scapin weaves vaudeville and *commedia dell' arte* into a seamless and uproarious fable of scheming lovers, mistaken identities and clownish greedy servants. Remaining true to Moliere's classic farcical tale

from the 17th century, this fresh and side-splitting adaptation adds a late 20th century spin to the language and hilarious non-stop action.

Scapin is directed by associate director Dave Landis (*Take Me Out; Frozen; Rabbit Hole*) and stars resident company member Greg Prigel as Scapin, with a cast of some of Memphis's best actors, including resident company members Michael Gravois and Keith Patrick McCoy, associate company members Amber Snyder, Brian C. Gray, Eric Duhon and Andrew Y. Moore, as well as local talents Matt Reed, Ann Marie Gideon, Maya Robinson and Jim Short.

Scapin runs at Playhouse on the Square March 14 through April 13, Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. The preview performance is Thursday, March 13 at 8 p.m. and the "Pay What You Can" performance is Thursday, March 20 at 8 p.m. Playhouse on the Square is located at 51 South Cooper Street in Midtown. For more information or to make reservations, please call 901-726-4656 or visit our website at www.playhouseonthesquare.org.

This performance is sponsored by Dr. Thomas Ratliff, Soul Classics 103.5 and *Jabberblabber* magazine

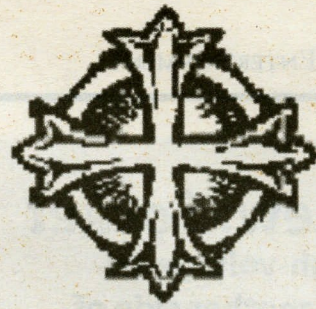


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WORKING CLASS

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We're also looking for the 20 people in the Midsouth who are making a difference in the GLBT community.

Know someone?

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Send your story to editors@tjmemphis.com along with your name and phone number by March 15.

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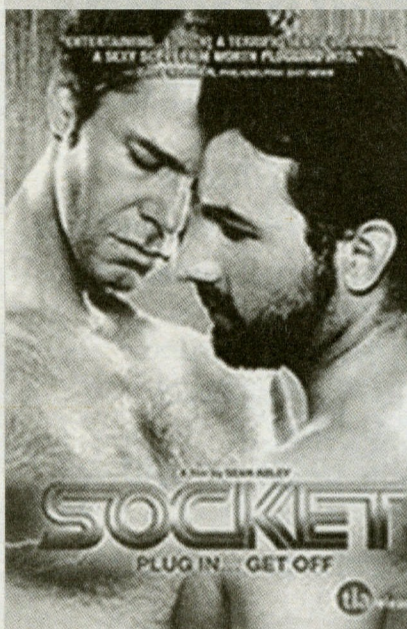
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DVD Review: *Socket* Sean Abley's high-voltage sci-fi thriller shows another side of addiction

by Carl Smith

On a dark, stormy night, misfortune befalls a young, aspiring and very arrogant young surgeon. Dr. Bill Matthews (Derek Long) has been struck by lightning and is rushed to the hospital where he's a physician on staff. Other than the obvious horror of such a traumatic event, he appears cosmetically unscathed without any noticeable side effects. Or so it seems.



His attending physician, a young, attractive and overly attentive intern, Craig Murphy (Matthew Montgomery) takes more than just a passing interest in Bill's recovery. Later, Craig confides in Bill about his own experience

of being a human lightning rod during a trip with friends to Bear Mountain. In an attempt to get closer to Bill, Craig offers Bill an opportunity to join an underground support group of sorts for those who share this same twist of fate. Cautious at first, Bill's nagging curiosity leads him to a dark, loft apartment where he's invited to join an eclectic group led by Craig. As members begin to share their stories, it sounds like a typical 12-step support group. Unlike drugs, alcohol, food, or sex, you'll be surprised when this group's shocking and unlikely drug of choice is revealed.

In the beginning, Bill finds his new relationship with Craig and his new addiction strangely exciting and seemingly harmless. However, as with all addictions, normality takes a backseat to irrational urges, and Bill spends the rest of his time chasing that first and ultimate high with unsettling results. Craving more satisfaction, Bill sinks to lower depths and develops an insatiable appetite for his new drug while searching for his next "perfect" fix that only humans can provide.

Credited as the first gay sci-fi thriller, *Socket's* director Sean Abley's clever use of an unconventional vice shows the similarities among all addictions where unfortunately enough is never enough. Plug in! I rate this one an entertaining B+ for its kitschy appeal.

Homo Politicus: It's not what you think This homo is Latin, not Greek, but what does "Potomac Man" really offer our community?

By Len Piechowski

I've been fascinated with etymology ever since grade school. That's why it's a bit humbling for me to admit that it wasn't until my college years that I discovered that the now-out-of-fashion-and-often-denounced English word homosexual was derived from the Greek word homo (the same.) This fascinating tidbit was news to me because I used to think that I was a homo in the sense of Homo Sapiens. That homo, of course, is Latin for man (gender inclusive). Since I liked men, it seemed logical to assume I was a Latin homo. As I learned I wasn't, I found myself knee-deep in my first real experience with Greek. And I really enjoyed it. But that's a topic for another article.

Homo Politicus (literally man of the state) is transliterated by the national political reporter for the Washington Post and publicitywhore Dana Milbank as Potomac Man. And since it is Latin, it etymologically doesn't have much to do with gay people, unless of course, you happen to be a gay activist who is interested in what happens inside the D.C. beltway. And happily, there seem to be more and more of us lately.

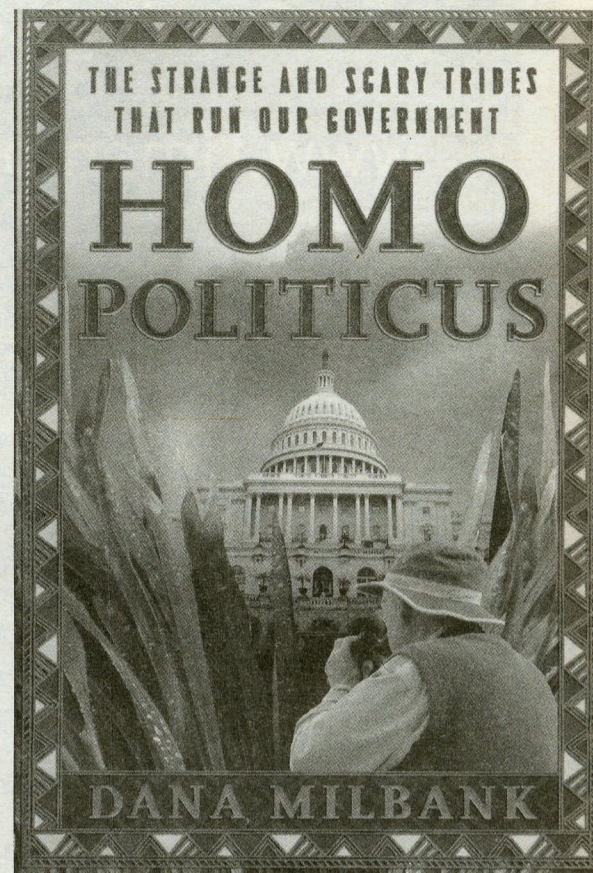


Author Dana Milbank

And yes, I said publicity whore. I wasn't being mean. It's a label in which Milbank seems to delight. It even appears on his book jacket. If you watch MSNBC's *Countdown with Keith Olbermann*, you'll probably recognize Milbank as the extremely clever political pundit who frequently evokes a belly laugh from his listeners as he comments on the shenanigans of "Potomac Man." He's the same guy who once delivered a straight-faced holiday commentary while wearing a Santa Claus hat and showed up in drag at an upscale Washington Halloween party last year.

In this work, Milbank employs a faux sociological examination of tribalism as a literary device to render understandable the non-understandable behaviors of a tribe who inhabit the area of the world situated on the banks of the Potomac River.

If you still consider yourself a homo (either derivation) that has been following all-things-Washington for awhile, you'll not find anything new here. It's a simple (and a bit disappointing for those of us who expected more) rehashing of the astonishing behaviors and personalities we have seen of late: Larry "wide stance" Craig, Mark "take it out and measure it" Foley, Donald "things we do not know we don't know" Rumsfeld and George W. "I'm a uniter, not a divider, ... or is that the decider?" Bush.



Now, if the excitement of the 2008 political season is grabbing you by the testes politici for the tempus primum, you'll probably get a real kick out of Milbank's book. While a veteran politico will want to pass on it, Washingtonian neonates who pick it up will get a few good laughs and some eyebrow-raising insight on why politicians do some of the weird things they do.

But here's a word of warning: If you've recently discontinued your Prozac or your tri-cyclics, you should probably steer clear of *Homo Politicus*. Milbank never addresses the last seven years of despicable tragedies that have resulted from the tribal behaviors he illuminates. So, along with a few belly laughs from savoring each lighthearted chapter of this book, you'll likely be left with a frighteningly depressing aftertaste.

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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.

Super Bowl was super for gays also

Dispelling the myth of gay men and sports

By Jamie R. Griffin

Unlike 97.5 million other Americans on February 3, Curtis Petty wasn't watching the New York Giants keep the New England Patriots from making history in Super Bowl XLII. And although some would just assume that Petty, a gay male, was just not interested in the game, that assumption would be far from true.

"I had to work," explains Petty, a self-proclaimed huge sports fan, who works at LeBonheur Children's Medical Center. "Everyone else decided to take a vacation day on Super Bowl Sunday." Petty, who didn't get to see the Giants keep the Pats from finishing the NFL season an unprecedented 19-0, is baffled by the stereotype that gay men don't watch or participate in sports.

"I think it's stupid," he says. "If you look at gay men as a whole, a large portion prefer to stay in shape."

In their book, *The Outsports Revolution*, authors Jim Buzinski and Cyd Zeigler, Jr. discuss this fallacy: "There is a myth out there that gay men do not care about sports (many lesbians, on the other hand, are allegedly born with the sports gene instilled in them). Although there are some truths in every stereotype, gay men can be just as fanatical about sports as their straight brethren."

Petty is the perfect example of the position held by Buzinski and Zeigler. Petty has been bowling (his favorite sport) since the age of 10. Along the way, he played baseball and football in middle school, played tennis and racquetball in college and is currently a member of a softball league and bowling league. Last year Petty attended Regions Morgan Keegan Championships and Cellular South Cup at the Racquet Club of Memphis and watched the eventual women's singles champion, Venus Williams play. His love of tennis should come as no surprise after Petty reveals that tennis hall-of-famer John McEnroe was his role model growing up.

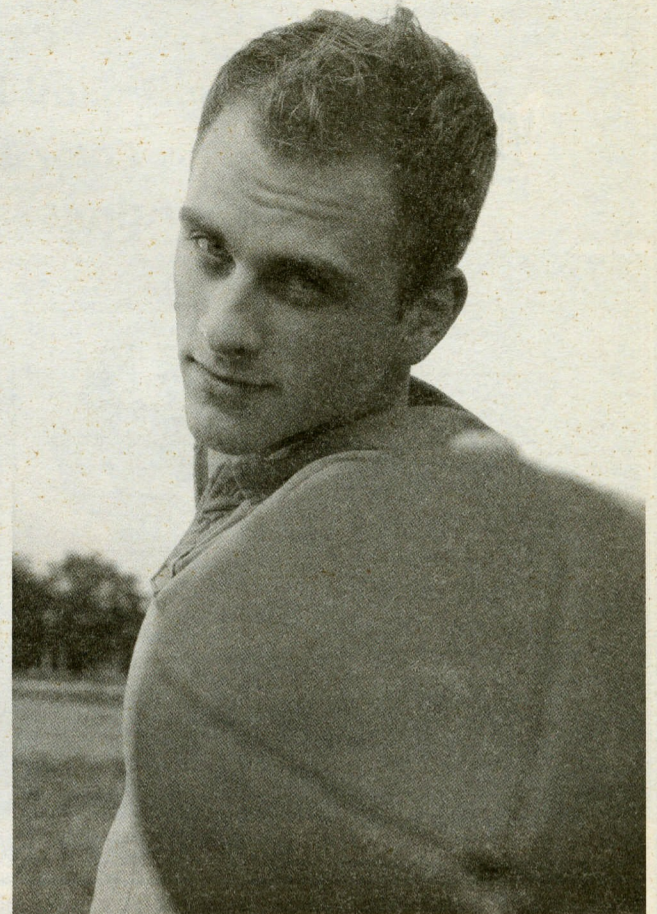
"I know it sounds bad," he admits, "with the way McEnroe was always yelling at judges."

Equally as vocal has been Helen J. Carroll, sports director for the National Center for Gay & Lesbian Rights.

"Change is happening," she says of the world's changing attitude toward gays and sports. She adds that athletes like former NBA player (and guest star of the 2008 Memphis Gaymes) John Amaechi and WNBA player Sheryl Swoopes coming out within the past few years helps tear down stereotypes. But there is still plenty of room for improvement. According to About.com's Ramone Johnson, the major sports leagues have "a long way to go as far as encouraging a more inclusive atmosphere for their gay players and fans, but the dedication of their followers remains the same." So much that there are several fan clubs and web sites for gay fans of professional sports:

- The Nine Toughest Gay Guys In America
- The Gay Games
- Gay Outdoors
- Gaysports.com
- Outsports.com

Meanwhile, Petty plans a bit of a change himself. "Next year," he says, "I'm definitely requesting Super Bowl day off."



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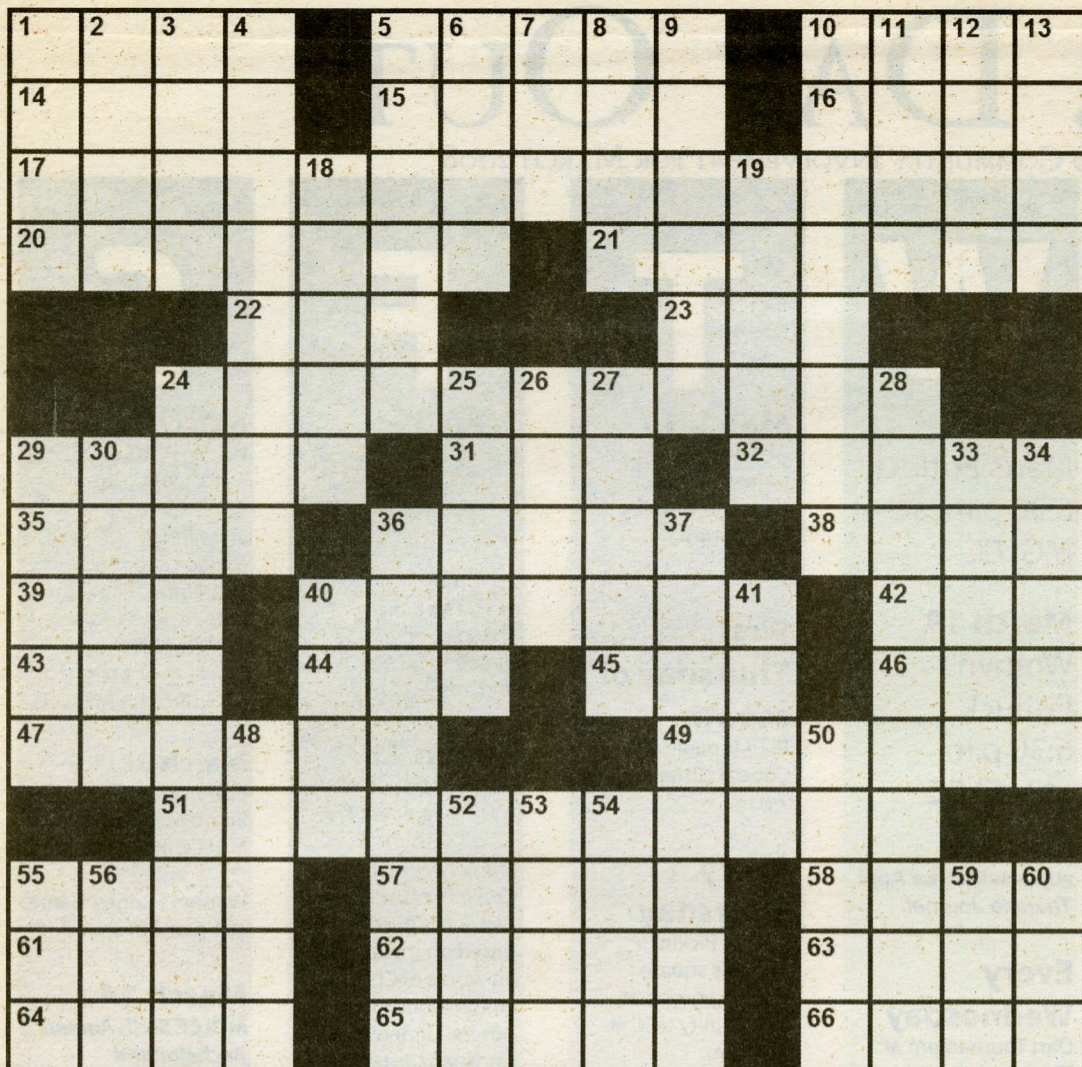
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Q-Puzzle

"Master Baitz"

Answers on p. 27

Across

- 1 Load
- 5 *Fried Green Tomatoes* author
- 10 Gay nightlife district of London
- 14 Letters over Mary's son
- 15 Island Records, to Etheridge
- 16 What you do at the other end
- 17 Jon Robin Baitz play-turned-film, with "The"
- 20 "I'm being straight with you!"
- 21 Meat treaters
- 22 Article written by Rohm
- 23 Photographer Corinne
- 24 With 40-Across, Jon Robin Baitz TV show
- 29 Middle name in California politics
- 31 Went down on
- 32 Napped leather
- 35 *Boys Don't Cry* character
- 36 NFL source of young tight ends
- 38 Sound from Sneaky Pie
- 39 Tongue ending
- 40 See 24-Across
- 42 Leopold or Loeb
- 43 S.F. clock setting
- 44 Rilke's I
- 45 Carnival locale
- 46 Fruit eater
- 47 Much ado about nothing
- 49 They slip over heads
- 51 Jon Robin Baitz screenplay
- 55 *The Unicorn* author Murdoch
- 57 Witherspoon of *Walk the Line*
- 58 Judy Garland's "___"! Went the Strings of My Heart"
- 61 Grace, or will to be diplomatic
- 62 Shoreline opening
- 63 *East of Eden* director Kazan
- 64 Makes tats
- 65 Sites for dates
- 66 Make-or-break date

Down

- 1 Emphatic affirmative, to Frida
- 2 Oddly shaped testicle?
- 3 Crystal balls, e.g.
- 4 With 6-Down, *Desperate Housewives* locale
- 5 Play the raging queen
- 6 See 4-Down
- 7 *Ellen* network
- 8 Jagger has a pair of them
- 9 Rubs it in
- 10 Fail to perform?
- 11 Photographer Catherine
- 12 *Cabaret's* "Mein ___"
- 13 Wallet wad
- 18 Smallest nonmonogamous groups
- 19 They bother bitches
- 24 Penile grievance?
- 25 Like rough trade
- 26 Coup target, to Cocteau
- 27 Send, as to a specialist
- 28 Game in which two could beat your ace
- 29 Alpha, to the circumcized
- 30 Wonder Woman weapon
- 33 Hit the first shot, for Sheehan
- 34 Sea eagles
- 36 Rimbaud portrayer in *Total Eclipse*
- 37 Cracker Jack prizes
- 40 Farm erection
- 41 Shakespeare's "anon" updated
- 48 Pains in the rear
- 50 Came out slowly
- 52 Glinda portrayer in *The Wiz*
- 53 Phallic swimmers
- 54 Voyeur's confession?
- 55 "Is ___?" (Last Supper question)
- 56 Turned tail
- 59 Long of *If These Walls Could Talk 2*
- 60 Like the "fruit loop" section of a city

March Q-Scopes by Jack Fertig

Be conservative with money, Gemini!

As Mars enters Cancer, productive efforts are easily clouded by moods and misunderstandings. While he opposes Pluto, frustrations can gain exaggerated importance. You may feel like you need an oar to propel your craft forward, but what you may really need is a shovel to dig to the root of existing challenges.

ARIES (March 20 - April 19): Yours is the sign of the lone wolf, but you are now aiming for the role of head of the household. The responsibilities and obligations really don't suit you. Try for the position of "elder statesperson" or dowager instead.

TAURUS (April 20 - May 20): Little domestic arguments can explode way too easily. Are you just being stubborn? How important are those details, anyway? Your arguments may be more aesthetic than logical, but they should still be explainable in a calm, friendly manner.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 20): Be very careful and conservative with your money. Household and property investments or any renegotiation of debt should be checked out very thoroughly. Sexual urges may take an emotional cost, challenging you to think more about your deeper needs.

CANCER (June 21 - July 22): Acting on impulse can transform your relationship, and probably not for the better. Channel that energy into thinking ahead and talking about what you want, what your partner wants, and how you can deepen your connection.

LEO (July 23 - August 22): Worrying about your health or work only makes problems - real or imagined - worse. Take positive steps, and check out anything that bears watching. Remember the difference between focus and obsession, and stick to the task at hand.

VIRGO (August 23 - September 22): Your political aims are coming from somewhere deep in your gut, which is fine. But sensible strategy should come from your brilliant-but-now-vacating brain. Artistic, creative expressions will give you the outlet you need.

LIBRA (September 23 - October 22): Courtesy is usually your strongest conviction. Now other deep beliefs provoke you to speak up against authority. Think carefully about mouthing off to the police or your boss. If you want to raise hell, find a public demonstration that suits your politics.

SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21): Your urge for arguments seems to be coming out of nowhere. Try to focus that energy toward digging into topics that interest you. Take up a good challenge to keep your mind busy and your mouth out of trouble!

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 - December 20): Your sexual appetite is surging, but so is your deeper desire for commitment. One is so much more easily satisfied than the other that you might find any effort frustrating. Try seeing the glass as half full.

CAPRICORN (December 21 - January 19): Is your partner being too aggressive, or are you just being stubborn? You can do something about the latter. Fights come easily, but so does passion. You really need a struggle. Be nice, and you could get a good one!

AQUARIUS (January 20 - February 18): Wanting too much can be a great spur to action, but acting impulsively on excessive desire is a sure path to accidents and illness. Meditate, think ahead, and confide in a friend with a cooler head before acting.

PISCES (February 19 - March 19): Acting on your playful urges will have far-reaching ramifications. Focus those desires responsibly and creatively. Infuriating people is not a mark of success per se, but be bold enough to risk pissing off the right people for the right reasons.

Jack Fertig, a professional astrologer since 1977, is a founding member of the Association for Astrological Networking. He can be reached for consultations at 415-864-8302, through his website at www.starjack.com, and by e-mail at Qscopes@qsyndicate.com.

DAY IN. DAY OUT.

TRIANGLE JOURNAL GUIDE TO COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT FOR MARCH 2008

S

March 2
MGLCC Board Meeting. 1 p.m.

Hymns Impromptu: featuring trumpeter Ryan Anthony and pianist Gary Beard at Lindenwood Christian Church, 2400 Union Ave., at 4:00 p.m.

March 9
Daylight Savings Time Begins

March 16
Palm Sunday

March 23
Easter Sunday

Stonewall Democrats hosts annual meeting/elections at MGLCC at 2 p.m.

M

March 3
NIKE TN GLBTF Network Volunteer Night at MGLCC. 6-9 p.m.

March 10
NIKE TN GLBTF Network Volunteer Night at MGLCC. 6-9 p.m.

National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

I:F Meeting. 6 p.m. at MGLCC

MGLCC Finance Committee Meeting. 6:30 p.m. at MGLCC

March 17
NIKE TN GLBTF Network Volunteer Night at MGLCC. 6-9 p.m.

March 24
NIKE TN GLBTF Network Volunteer Night at MGLCC. 6-9 p.m.

March 31
NIKE TN GLBTF Network Volunteer Night at MGLCC. at 6-9pm

Second & Fourth Mondays
Perpetual Transition. Transgender support group meets 7:30 p.m. at MGLCC

Every Monday
Monday Night at the Movies sponsored by Holy Trinity UCC at Bartlett Cinema 10 at 6:45 p.m.

Pool Tournament at The Jungle at 7:30 p.m.

Dart Tournaments at One More & Pumping Station at 8 p.m.

Karaoke at Metro at 10:00 p.m.

T

March 4
MidSouth Comfort Care Coalition at 5:30 p.m. at 177 North Highland

March 18
Heidi Kenaga speaks at MGLCC on James Whale's *Frankenstein* Dyad as Queer texts at 6:30 p.m.

Every Tuesday
Women's Rugby Practice at Audubon Park at 6:30 p.m.

Phoenix AA (Open AA group) Grace-St. Luke's Church, 1790 Peabody at 8 p.m.

The Caring Group: Relaxation and destressing by subtle energy practices at Holy Trinity UCC at 7 p.m.

Lesbians with Breast Cancer support group at YWCA, 766 S. Highland at 7 p.m.

Singles Dart Tournament at Crossroads 7:45 p.m.

Pool Tournament at One More at 8:30 p.m.

Karaoke at Metro at 10 p.m.

W

March 5
Men's Potluck 6:30 p.m. at MGLCC

March 19
Womyn's Potluck 6:30 p.m. at MGLCC

Deadline for submissions for April *Triangle Journal*

Every Wednesday
Dart Tournament at The Jungle at 7:30 p.m.

Lights Out/Party in the Dark at Metro

Galloway Church Book Club at Otherlands at 7:30 p.m.

Second & Fourth Wednesdays
Bash Back. Community organizing to fight oppression at MGLCC at 7:00 p.m.

T

March 13
GLBT Community representatives dialogue with African-American Pastors

First Thursday of month
PFLAG meets at Central Library at 7 p.m.

Every Thursday
Cotton Pickin' Squares square dancing group at Holy Trinity UCC at 7:30 p.m.

Karaoke at Paragon at 9 p.m.

Amateur Drag Show at Metro at 11:30 p.m.

Barbara Blue with Nat Kerr at Crossroads at 10 p.m.

F

March 7
Q-Cafe: Dattie Sachritz with Tamar Moten on cello at 7 p.m. at MGLCC

March 19
Triangle Journal deadline for articles and ads

March 21
National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

The Service of the Cross: The Last Seven Words of Christ - music based on the last seven words of Christ by Lindenwood choir and others. Lindenwood Christian Church at 5:30 p.m.

March 28
Q-Cafe: Valerie June at 7 p.m. at MGLCC

Concert: Mass in B Minor by J.S. Bach. Three Rhodes College choirs and Memphis Symphony Orchestra at Immaculate Conception Cathedral, 1695 Central at 7:30 pm

April *Triangle Journal* on stands

Every Friday
First Congo Films at First Congregational Church at 7 & 9 p.m.

Seriously Sober at Holy Trinity UCC at 8:00 p.m.

Karaoke at One More at 8 p.m.

Drag Show at Crossroads at 11 p.m.

Late Night Beer Bust at Pumping Station at 10 p.m.

Drag Show at Backstreet at midnight

S

March 1
Women's Rugby Game at 1 p.m. at Tobey Park

Snap Judgments: New Position in Contemporary African Photography opens today at Memphis Brooks Museum of Art and runs through May 25.

March 8
Community Shares Board Meeting at MGLCC at 9 a.m.

Women's Rugby Game at 1 p.m. at Tobey Park

March 14
MGLCC Sixth Annual Bachelor and Bachelorette Auction 7 pm at Pat O'Brien's on Beale Street

Every Saturday
Drag Show at Crossroads at 11 p.m.

Drag Show at Backstreet at midnight

Every Third Saturday
Mirror Image Transgender Support Group at Holy Trinity UCC at 7 pm.

Coming next month!
April 5
Women's Rugby Game at 1 p.m. at Tobey Park

What are you doing day in & day out?

Send the *Triangle Journal* your calendar items by the 15th of each month for inclusion in Day In Day Out.

editors@tjmemphis.com

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

▼Indicates Triangle Journal distribution points.
Updated 01.08

ADULT BOOKSTORES

▼ **Fantasy Warehouse #1:** 791-793 N. White Station ☐ (901) 683-9649

BARS

- ▼ **901 Complex:** 136 Webster St., (901) 357-8383
- ▼ **Backstreet Memphis:** 2018 Court St., (901) 276-5522
- ▼ **Crossroads:** 1278 Jefferson Ave., (901) 272-8801
- ▼ **Lorenz/AfterShock:** 1528 Madison Ave., (901) 274-8272
- ▼ **Metro Memphis:** 1349 Autumn, (901) 274-8010
- ▼ **Nocturnal:** 1588 Madison
- ▼ **One More:** 2117 Peabody, (901) 278-6673
- ▼ **Paragon:** 2865 Walnut Grove, (901) 320-0026
- ▼ **Pumping Station:** 1382 Poplar Ave., (901) 272-7600
- ▼ **The Jungle:** 1474 Madison Ave., (901) 278-0521
- ▼ **Vault,** 529 S. Highland

BOOKS

- ▼ **Borders:** 6685 Poplar Pike
- ▼ **Burke's:** 936 South Cooper
- ▼ **Davis-Kidd:** 387 Perkins Extended
- ▼ **Memphis Public Library** 3030 Poplar

COMMUNITY GROUPS

- Adelante:** Support group for GLBT and questioning Hispanic community Contact: adelante@mglcc.org
- Blue Suede Bears of Memphis, Inc.:** 41 S. Morrison - www.bluesuedebeards.com
- Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere (COLAGE) Memphis:** - colagememphis@yahoo.com - colagememphis.yahoogroups.com
- Cotton Pickin' Squares:** Gay/Lesbian square dance club meets Thurs., 7 pm Holy Trinity, 685 S. Highland, (901) 272-2116
4F: Leather/Levi group, 698 Pope Dr., Bartlett 38112
- ▼ **Friends For Life:** HIV/AIDS service organization - 43 N. Cleveland, (901) 272-0855 - www.friendsforlifecorp.org
- Initiative:Fairness** (political committee of the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center) : IF@mglcc.org; www.mglcc.org/IF
- Memphis Area Gay Youth (MAGY):** PO Box 241852, Memphis, TN 38124 - (901) 335-MAGY - www.magyonline.org
- Memphis Center for Reproductive Health:** 1462 Poplar Ave. - (901) 274-3550
- ▼ **Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center (MGLCC):** 892 S. Cooper St., (901) 278-6422 Web site: www.mglcc.org
- Memphis Stonewall Democrats:** P.O. Box 42041, Memphis, TN 38174 - www.memphisstonewalldemocrats.org - mpsstonewalldem@yahoo.com - (901) 327-2677
- Mid-South Equality:** www.geocities.com/

midsouth_equality

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

Mid-South Pride, Inc.: Mail to 111 S. Highland Ave., Suite 322, Memphis, TN 38111 - 685 S. Highland, 3rd Floor - (901) 414-2197 - Fax: (901) 592-6635 - info@midsouthpride.org - www.midsouthpride.org

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

Mystic Krewe of Memphis United: 41 S. Century

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

Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG): Memphis, TN - (901) 755-1076 - www.pflagmemphis.org - gidrake@aol.com

Parents, Families, & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG): Jackson, TN 38305 - (901) 664-6614 - burtren@aeneas.com

PFLAG Oxford/North Mississippi: Meets the third Thursday of every month. Johnson Commons room 203 (Isom Center) 7 p.m. - (662) 816-2142 - PO Box 2142 Oxford, MS - www.geocities.com/pflag_oxfordnorthms

Perpetual Transition: A support and social group for transgender people of all varieties and non-trans allies. - clanham@memphis.edu. - www.groups.yahoo.com/group/perpetualtransition

Pink Pistols: memphis@pinkpistols.org

Shelby County Committee of Tennessee Equality Project: shelbycounty@tnequalityproject.com

Stonewall Tigers: University of Memphis, c/o Stonewall Tigers, 2522 Campus Postal Station, Memphis, TN 38152-2521 - stonewalltigers@yahoo.com

Tennessee Leather Tribe: Gay men's/women's leather org. 1568 Rolling Hills Dr., Memphis, TN - (901) 357-1921

Univ. of Miss. Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Association: GLBA, PO Box 3541, Univ, MS 38677 - (662) 915-7049 - glba@olemiss.edu - www.olemiss.edu/orgs/glba

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

COUNSELING SERVICES

- Counseling Referral Service:** MGLCC's Confidential Counseling Referral Service - (901) 347-8701
- ▼ **Kent D. Fisher, LPC, MAC:** Experiential Healing Center, 1713 Lockett Pl. - (901) 372-0710. EMDR, group, individual, couples & family therapy

FOOD, RESTAURANTS, AND COFFEE

- ▼ **Bogie's Delicatessen:** 2098 La Salle Pl. - (901) 272-0022
- ▼ **Buns on the Run:** 2150 Elzey Ave. ☐ (901) 278-2867 Cafe Ole: 959 South Cooper
- ▼ **India Palace:** 1720 Poplar
- ▼ **Java Cabana:** 210 Young
- ▼ **Molly's:** 2006 Madison
- ▼ **Otherlands:** 641 South Cooper
- ▼ **Pie in the Sky:** 2158 Young Avenue
- ▼ **Square Foods:** 937 South Cooper
- ▼ **Wild Oats:** 522 Poplar

HELP & INFORMATION LINES

- Gay & Lesbian Helpline:** 1-888-340-GLBT (Mon.-Fri., 5-10pm, Sat.-Sun., 4-9pm)
- Gay & Lesbian Youth Hotline:** 1-800-347-TEEN Mon.-Fri. 5-9 pm (Pacific) Web site: youthtalkline.org
- LINC:** (901) 415-2700 ☐ A community informational agency providing information on shelters and senior services
- ▼ **Memphis Sexual Assault Resource Center:** (901) 272-2020
- Narcotics Anonymous: (901) 276-LIVE.
- Peer Listening:** Youth-staffed GLBT youth hotline - 1-800-399-PEER - Mon.-Fri. 5-10 pm (Eastern)
- Suicide & Crisis Intervention:** (901) 274-7477

MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES

- ▼ **Dabbles:** 19 North Cooper
- ▼ **Inz and Outz:** 553 South Cooper (901) 728-6535
- ▼ **The Studio:** 629 South Cooper
- ▼ **Paggios Hair Salon:** (901) 274-3944
- ▼ **Video, Movies, and More:** 3125 Poplar

SPIRITUALITY

- American Gay Atheists (AGA) Memphis:** Box 41371, Memphis, TN 38174-1371
- ▼ **First Congregational Church:** Worship Service: Sun. 10:30 am • 1000 S. Cooper St. ☐ (901) 278-6786
- First Presbyterian Church:** Sun. School, 9:30 am; Coffee & fellowship, 10:30 am; Worship, 11 am • 166 Poplar Ave. - (901) 525-5619
- Galloway Church:** www.gallowaychurch.com
- ▼ **Holy Trinity United Church of Christ:** Worship Service: Sun. 11 am; Bible study: Wed. 7 pm - 685 S. Highland - (901) 320-9376 - office@holyltrinitymemphis.org
- Integrity Memphis:** Meets the 3rd Tues., Healing Service/Eucharist, 6pm; Dinner, 6:30pm; Meeting 7:30pm - c/o Calvary Episcopal Church, 102 N. 2nd - (901) 525-6602
- Living Word Christian Church:** Worship Service Sun. 9:30 am • 1015 S. Cooper - (901) 485-0949 - www.livingwordchristianchurch.net
- Memphis Friends (Quakers):** Sunday 11:00am - 917 S. Cooper - (901) 274-1500 - memphisfriends.org

Memphis Gay & Lesbian Atheists & Humanists: (901) 327-2677 - memphisgalah@yahoo.com

Neshoba Unitarian Universalist Church: (901) 266-2626

Open Heart Spiritual Center: 2489 Broad


Unity Church of Memphis: 2570 Kirby Rd. Memphis, TN 38119

SPORTS AND FITNESS


- ▼ **Bluff City Sports Association:** www.bluffcitysports.net
- ▼ **French Riviera Spa:** 3486 Poplar

THEATER

- ▼ **Circuit Playhouse:** 1705 Poplar
- ▼ **Playhouse on the Square:** 51 South Cooper
- ▼ **TheatreWorks** 2085 Monroe



Triangle Journal
Community Resource listings are free of charge to nonprofit organizations to promote their services, community clubs and organizations, spiritual and/or religious groups, churches and *Triangle Journal* distribution points. To advertise your business or for-profit service in the Community Resource listing, the cost is just \$5 a month or \$50 a year.



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