

TRIANGLE JOURNAL

April 1, 2008

Vol: 3 Issue: 4

GLBT News for the Midsouth

GIVING BACK & TAKING CHARGE

Saluting the movers and shakers

Plus

- ▼ **Gay for Pay: Best GLBT workplaces in Memphis - p. 13**
- ▼ **Memphis nightlife snapshots - p. 20**

The heroes and sheroes among us

By James Cox and Len Piechowski

Little did we know, and hardly did we expect, what a profound experience this issue would be for us! When we decided back in December of last year that the April issue of *Triangle Journal* would recognize the contributions made by our leaders, we didn't exactly envision how it all would turn out.

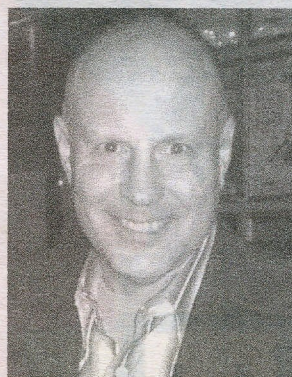
We first thought we could feature the twenty people who were making a difference in our community today. We then came to realize, as about the 35th person's name was placed on the table, that oh-so-many of us were doing exactly that. We knew we had to limit our selections to fit into our current 28 page format. So we decided to select only the people who were dramatically moving and shaking the community through exciting and vibrant ways. We figured that the past issues and future issues of *Triangle* have held and would hold ample opportunities for us to focus on the ongoing contributions that are being made in other more subtle ways. But for this month, we decided to select the movers and shakers, the people who are leaving an indelible footprint in the sand of the Midsouth GLBT community. Within the last few days, the board of directors of Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center has also begun to discuss the very likely prospect of holding a special awards reception in their honor in the months ahead. We'll keep you posted on the progress of those plans.

We began the selection process for our movers and shakers last month. Then entering stage right, a new person appeared on the scene. She showed up one Sunday afternoon at MGLCC to help us paint Benefactor Hall. As we got to know her, we fell in love with her. Her name is Heidi Park and she willingly, albeit with some trepidation, interviewed and wrote about the heroes and sheroes you will meet in these pages. Heidi is from St. Paul, Minn., and arrived in Memphis in July of last year. She came to our city to pursue graduate studies at the University of Memphis. Currently, she is in an MA, EdS program with a focus in school psychology, but has recently decided to change over to pursue a masters degree in journalism. As you read what she has written in the pages that follow, we're sure you'll agree with us when we say "what a great move!"

In addition to the people who are moving and shaking us, we also take a look at the employers in our area who are making a difference for us as well. Since we spend so much of our

lives in the workplace, we wanted to take an eye-opening look at how Memphis employers are treating us and how they are valuing the diverse contributions of the Memphis workforce. We take a hard look at these issues through the lens of the Human Rights Campaign, the vantage point of one of our politicians, and through the reflections of one of our straight allies.

Finally, we have some deeply important issues covered in our regular features in this issue. The election year campaigning is heating up and the race to unseat Congressman Steve Cohen (D-Tenn.) is underway. Our community needs to watch this one carefully. And we'll help you do just that.



Len Piechowski



James Cox

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.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Triangle Cover Story	3, 14,
<i>Movers and shakers</i>	15, 16
Triangle Politicos	4-5
<i>Candidates and American labor</i>	
<i>Dr. Richmond goes to Denver</i>	
<i>Nikki Tinker launches campaign</i>	
Triangle Midsouth	6
<i>Adoption ban would cost Tennessee</i>	
<i>Prime Timers in Memphis</i>	
Triangle Allies	7
<i>None of my business</i>	
Triangle Listens	9
<i>Letters to the editors</i>	
Triangle Health	9
<i>Meth abuse</i>	
Triangle Big Picture	10
<i>News briefs</i>	
Triangle Feature	11-13
<i>Work and pay</i>	
Triangle Lifestyles	16
<i>Day in the life of a lesbian soccer mom</i>	
Triangle MGLCC	18
<i>Bachelor and bachelorette Auction</i>	
Triangle Entertainment	20-22
<i>Nightlife and movie reviews</i>	
Triangle Sports	24
<i>Ten most intriguing gay athletes</i>	
Resources, Calendar, and Fun	25-28

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Heidi Park

Movers & Shakers

Triangle Journal recognizes 21 of the individuals who are proudly making a difference in the lives of people in the Midsouth GLBT community.

by Heidi Park

The individuals named to the first-ever *Triangle Journal* list of Movers and Shakers are people visibly making a difference in the Midsouth GLBT community, people who are giving back to the community in a variety of ways and taking charge. Not all of the selections, as voted on by the *Triangle Journal* editorial review committee, are gay or lesbian, but they are definitely committed to making Memphis and the surrounding communities a better place. A safer place. A more accepting place for all GLBT individuals.

This year we honor a group of people for the contributions they have made to the region and the promise their careers and community-minded paths hold for a better community. This year's group includes doctors, politicians, journalists, business owners and a host of others who prove that good works aren't products of gender and orientation, but of passion and commitment to doing the right thing.

Marty Acree

According to Marty's parents, the story goes that Marty came home from school one day and announced that he was going to be a doctor. He was in the second grade at the time. Despite the fits he would throw as a child when going to see his own doctor, he remained committed to his career choice from that day forward. He has always felt that he was just "meant" to be a doctor. He attended medical school at the University of Mississippi in Jackson, and returned to Memphis for residency in family medicine. Upon completion of the residency program, he joined a local practice, where he will celebrate his 20th year of service this summer.

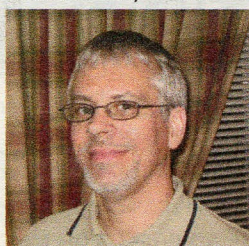
Along with a general family practice, Marty has also developed an extensive HIV practice in Memphis. It began with a patient whom Marty diagnosed with HIV. At the time, HIV care was minimally available, and the patient chose to stay with Marty. Marty made a commitment to this man that he would "learn whatever he could to stay abreast of HIV care." Now, close to 200 people affected by HIV receive Marty's care. For Marty, "nothing compares" to seeing the relief on a patient's face when concerns or questions that were difficult to bring up were addressed by Marty without the patient needing to verbalize them.

Marty most admires people who "are able to face whatever life throws at them—whether it is an identity issue, chronic illness, or even aging

itself—with dignity, grace and a large helping of humor." Marty considers himself lucky to have known a few such individuals. He is most proud of his 21-year relationship with his partner, Mac, and it is a source of much happiness for Marty.

Sean Alexander

With the untimely death of the president and co-founder of Mid-South Pride, Gary Wilkerson, Sean Alexander stepped forward to



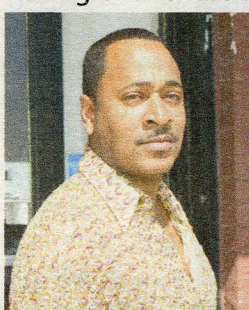
guide the members of the organization in carrying on its vision and mission. In Sean words, "We have to set our minds on the duties at hand. It was a group effort in the beginning, and it will continue to be a

group effort for years to come."

The annual pride celebration and gay pride parade are conducted with his guidance and under the direction of the organization. Recently, with the help of the members of Mid-South Pride, a new 100 foot rainbow flag was completed and plans continue to be formulated for its use in Pride 2008 and for decades to come.

Terryl Buckner

Memphis Black Pride is a celebration 15 years running that incorporates education about GLBT issues with parties, picnics and poetry reads, taking over entire hotels, if deemed necessary,



to get everybody out and celebrating together. Its founder is Terryl Buckner, owner of 901 Complex. At home, Terrell enjoys his quiet time, his family time, his fishing. He gives his energy to church, cooking for 50-200 homeless folk

at a time with "Bread of Life." He likes helping people, but he doesn't like telling people what he does. Terryl's mission is to work toward building a unified and proud healthy GLBT community, with a particular emphasis on winning back the younger generations.

He is saddened to see so many young black kids not taking care of themselves, not allowing themselves the liberating right to self-respect. There is a dearth of positive role models for young people, in general, but especially for young GLBT. Terryl hopes to work with more of the "old heads" and secure their help in changing a situation that

has kept the children of GLBT—its future—suffering far too long.

Terryl envisions that, eventually, Memphis Pride will be "one big Pride" that will bridge the gap between Black Pride and White Pride. Whereas Pride, in the past, has held separate celebrations for African American GLBT and Caucasian American GLBT, Terryl wants to see Pride grow to encompass everyone. Being a black gay man himself, Terryl recognizes the history of the African American struggle as running like an undercurrent through Black Pride. But, looking to tomorrow, he is encouraged by visions of black and white folk lifting each other up, embracing and celebrating each other and their GLBT identity.

This year, over Father's Day weekend, Memphis Black Pride will host "Pride in the Park." The whole city is invited to attend. "We need to learn more about each other"—that's the only way we can "get everybody to get along." The GLBT community "holds a big part in the world. We want the world to see it, but we need to breathe and work together."

Jeff Childress and Rick Johns

The Greater Memphis GLBT Chamber of Commerce, established by Jeff and Rick in 2006, is an affiliate chapter of the National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (NGLCC). The Memphis chamber's mission is "to advance the various interests of GLBT owned and friendly

businesses, professionals and consumers for the purpose of promoting economic growth and prosperity of its members." By investing in the economic sector of the GLBT community, founders and local business owners Jeff Childress and Rick Johns uphold a commitment to the success of the community. Together they strive to widen appreciation of the opportunities available in Memphis and promote projecting a

positive personal and business image to the community.

At present, the Greater Memphis GLBT Chamber of Commerce proudly supports 200 members at various levels of participation. Every third Wednesday, starting at 5:30 p.m.,

continued on p.14

With their jobs on the line this year, where do candidates stand on American labor?

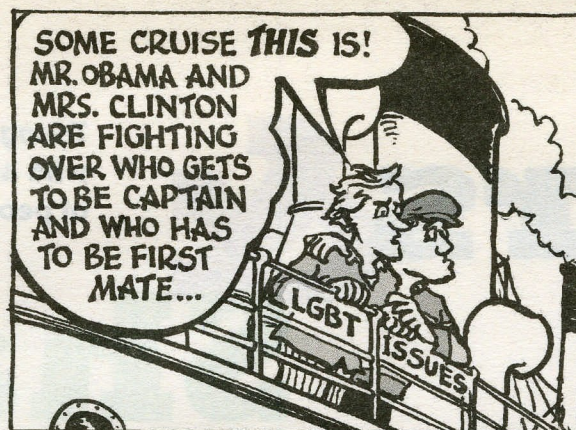
Commentary by
Will Batts



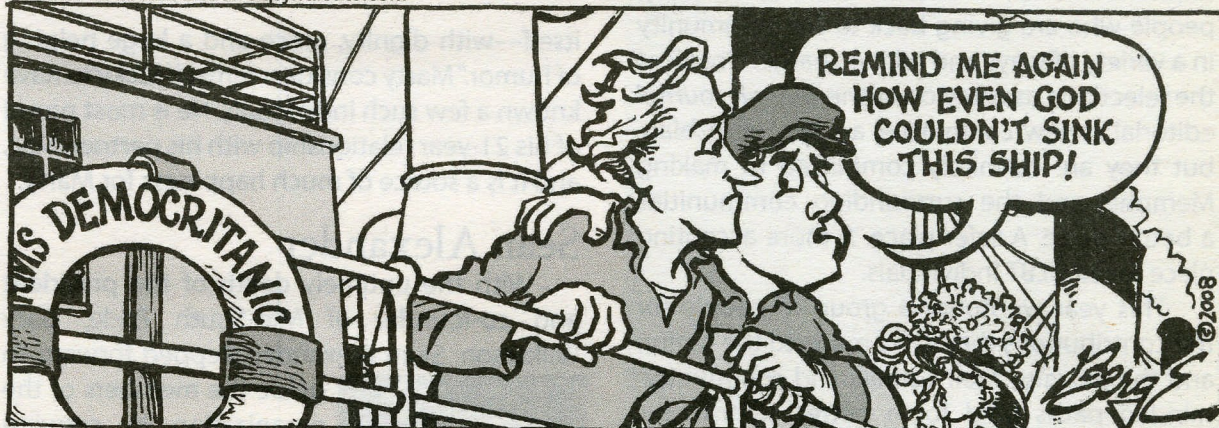
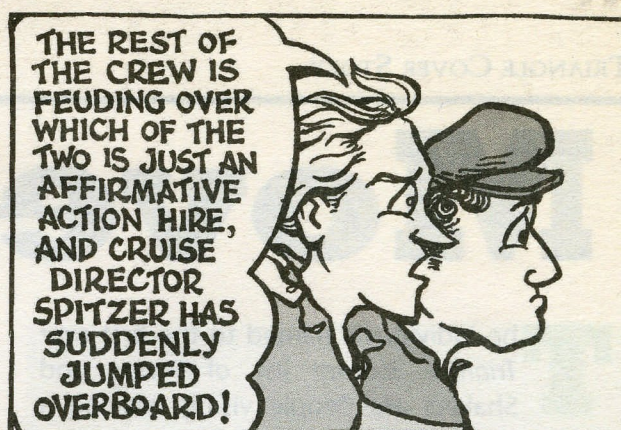
Unless you're one of the lucky Powerball winners or you've inherited the family's millions, you most likely work for a living. Most of us do. We toil at jobs we sometimes don't like, for bosses who make us crazy, often doing things we don't enjoy in exchange for the money we use to support ourselves and our loved ones. It's a tried-and-true relationship that rewards both sides. The company benefits from our work and we get paid. Both sides are necessary to prosper.

Some modern companies, though, struggle with the delicate balance between labor and owners, both sides claiming the other is being unfair, unrealistic or greedy. Other companies seem to have found a good mix between corporate profits and worker benefits. Successful companies adequately reward labor for their efforts while preserving stockholder investments. Trouble looms when profits are not balanced with equitable pay.

Throughout history, the powerful have used the labor of the powerless to create fortunes, build monuments or fight wars. Kings grew rich from the blood and sweat of serfs. Plantation owners prospered while returning little to their



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slaves. Sweatshop owners reap the benefits of work provided by their factory workers. Is it inevitable that those with wealth and power try to suck dry those who work to make them rich? Human nature seems to work against us on this battlefield.

We've had (at least) eight years of an administration that values profit over people. Current trends indicate that they value wealth more than people: capital gains taxes reduced below what workers pay; bailouts of brokerage firms but not homeowners; corporate incentives for oil companies who make record profits. These

decisions are not necessarily bad. The wheels of our economy must sometimes be greased in order to run smoothly. But tilting the balance of power toward the wealthy with no regard for the worker can be a dangerous trend.

We watch the tantalizing ups and downs of the stock market while ignoring the growing disparity between the salaries of

average citizens and those at the top of the heap. One detail – the ratio of CEO pay to worker pay – provides a good example.


According to the Institute for Policy Studies – United for a Fair Economy (2007), the average CEO in 1980 made 42 times what the average worker in that same company did. In 1990, the ratio had risen to 107 times. By the year 2000, the average CEO pay had reached a whopping 525 times what his/her laborers made! Some trend towards decency must have occurred because in 2006 the average had fallen to a still outrageous rate of 364 times worker pay.

Looking to history also helps predict what happens when the gap between the haves and the have-nots grows too wide: riots, rebellions, revolutions. Not a pretty forecast.

The issue of jobs is not just a GLBT issue. But we live in a community that prospers or declines on the backs of local businesses and industry. When we fight for equality and fairness, we must remember that the struggle takes many forms. What will it take to swing the pendulum in the other direction? Can we make the case that improving the standing of EVERY American will improve the standing of ALL Americans?

I have no illusion that a President can control our complex, sprawling economy. However, I do believe that the President can help remind us about what we claim to value: freedom, fairness, justice, equality. Every day we must be challenged to live up to our own ideals.

Here's the question for me: does the candidate value "work"? Does the candidate see the labor of individual Americans as an important asset to be respected, nurtured and protected? Or does the candidate see our work as simply a talking point or believe that labor is a tool to be used and then discarded when obsolete or used up? The prosperity of our country might depend on that answer.



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Dr. Richmond goes to Denver

How I became Tennessee's first transgender delegate

By Marisa Richmond, Ph.D.

In June 2007, after the Democratic National Committee issued guidelines to state party committees requiring participation from the GLBT community, I met with Gray Sasser, chairman of the Tennessee Democratic Party (TNDP), to discuss Tennessee's efforts. I encouraged the party not only to have significant numbers of GLBT delegates in 2008, but I also encouraged more active outreach to the GLBT community across the state. I followed up by speaking with individual members of the TNDP executive committee (TNDPEC) as well as to the full Davidson County Democratic Party executive committee about the same issue.

In September, I decided to run for delegate



personally since I have long held the philosophy that if you want something done, you had better be prepared to do it yourself. Even if I lost, I hoped to inspire others to step forward in the future. At the time, I was undecided on whom to support for president.

The filing deadline to run for delegate was January 29. I submitted my paperwork a week early. By that time, I had decided to support Sen. Hillary Clinton even though I felt all of the Democratic candidates were excellent.

For the Democratic Party, there are four categories of delegates based on how they are selected: superdelegates, pledged party leaders and elected officials (PLEO's), congressional district, and at-large. All of the delegates are considered equal. They each have the exact same vote although all superdelegates are officially uncommitted. Delegates in the other three categories are all pledged to a candidate. Tennessee has a total of 85 delegates, with 17 being superdelegates, 9 PLEO's, 44 delegates at the Congressional district level, and 15 at-large

delegates. They are supplemented by seven alternates from the Congressional Districts and 4 more alternates selected at-large.

The superdelegates are not faster than a speeding bullet, more powerful than a locomotive or able to leap tall buildings in a single bound. They are, however, the major figures in the Democratic Party from each state. Tennessee's superdelegates include former Vice President Al Gore, Gov. Phil Bredesen, Steve Cohen, John Tanner and the rest of Tennessee's Democratic congressmen, and other major movers and shakers in the Democratic Party such as Lois DeBerry, Jimmie Farris and Myron Lowery, all of Memphis.

The PLEO's who were selected by the TNDPEC included former Gov. Ned McWherter and State House Speaker Jimmy Naifeh.

At first, I ran for a Congressional District delegate in February, which was done in community caucuses. The first round at the county level took place on February 9, four days after the primary, with the second and final round two weeks later. I campaigned very hard both days, and sent e-mails introducing myself to all of the registered Clinton supporters from Davidson County, but I was not selected at the Congressional District level since my "support" had trouble making it out on a Saturday morning. I just did not have enough votes to get selected. On the evening of February 23, I attended a chili supper sponsored by the Wilson County Democratic Party. I used the opportunity to talk to congressmen Jim Cooper and Bart Gordon about the need for a fully inclusive ENDA, but I also met with two members of the TNDPEC since I knew they would be selecting the at-large Delegates on March 8. It turned out to be a good move.

All those who had filed to run at the congressional district level and were not selected were automatically eligible to run for an at-large seat. There were a total 15 at-large Delegate seats available, split nine votes for Clinton and six for Obama. In addition, there were four

continued on p. 19

Tinker launches campaign to unseat Tenn. Rep. Cohen

Candidate plans to follow will of 9th District

by Jonathan Cole

Democratic candidate Nikki Tinker officially opened her campaign headquarters in Whitehaven March 15 to launch her second attempt to win Tennessee's Ninth Congressional District seat. The event drew a crowd of 50 people that included her pastor, Dr. Frank Anthony Thomas of Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church, her mother Edith Tinker and 13-year-old Harrison Williams, Tinker's youngest campaign manager. Williams introduced the candidate who is running against incumbent Rep. Steve Cohen in the Democratic primary. Although too young to vote, Williams declared his support for Tinker because "she is a leader, a fighter and a believer in change."

Tinker shared her own personal and professional accomplishments with the crowd, touting her business and political experience. She is general counsel and vice president of labor relations for Northwest Airlink/Pinnacle Airlines and is licensed to practice law in Washington, Tennessee and Alabama. Her political experience includes more than four years' service as campaign manager to Harold Ford Jr., lobbying and an internship on Capitol Hill. Tinker credits her accomplishments to the tough love she experienced while raised by her mother and grandmother. Her family pushed her to succeed in school, church and the community.

After her presentation, *Triangle Journal* spoke with the candidate to ask about her legislative priorities. Tinker's first goal is to improve educational opportunities in her district. She recalled her community service

during the holiday season in which she supported distribution of food baskets and school supplies to needy families. She hopes that within 20 years, these same families will have educational opportunities that will allow them to advance beyond the need for such charity. Tinker supports additional funding for Head Start programs and expansion of student loan programs for college. She also supports requiring high school students to take upper level math and science courses instead of opting out for easier subjects. When asked about other legislative priorities, Tinker stated that she is currently touring the ninth district to listen to the needs of voters.

The candidate spoke about several issues of interest to *Triangle Journal* readers. When asked to describe her position on current hate-crimes legislation, she said "I can't imagine why anyone would commit crimes based on hatred for any reason."

Last summer, Rev. LaSimba Gray, Rev. Chester Berryhill and other pastors sharply criticized Rep. Steve Cohen for his support of hate-crimes legislation. The bill, which is currently stalled in the U.S. Senate, would have helped prosecute physical acts of violence because of the actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation or disability of that person. The bill would provide monetary grants and authorization for additional personnel from the Department of Justice to assist local and

continued on p. 7



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Proposal to limit adoptions could cost Tennessee more than \$7 million a year

By Jerry Jones

Out & About Newspaper

NASHVILLE (Tenn.) - Bills currently before Tennessee's House (HB3713) and Senate (SB3910) that would prohibit the adoption of a child by gay couples and heterosexual couples who are not married would cost the state more than \$7.3 million dollars a year should the bill become law.

The legislation, proposed by Sen. Paul Stanley (R-Germantown) and Rep. John Deberry (D-Memphis) is expected to be heard by lawmakers on the Senate Judiciary Committee and House Family Justice Subcommittee, though a timeframe on that process has not been released. The Fiscal Note on the bill indicates that the state would see annual increased state expenditures of \$4,548,500 and an increase in federal expenditures of \$2,838,700.

The state Department of Children's Services has shown that out of 1,225 annual adoptions, about one-third or 380 are made by cohabitating couples. On average, the delay in permanency will require an additional 180 days of state custody, explains the fiscal note written by James W. White, executive director of the Fiscal Review Committee for the Tennessee General Assembly. For each additional day, there will be an approximate increase of \$108 in expenditures per child. Such will increase expenditures by \$7,387,200 (380 cases X 180 days X \$108 per day).

Christopher Sanders, president of the Tennessee Equality Project, said the fiscal note was just one of three compelling reasons for lawmakers to vote against the legislation. "Legislators now have three compelling reasons to vote against this bill," Sanders said. "The stories of Tennessee families affected, the research that demonstrates gay and lesbian parents provide stable, loving homes, and now a financial cost that is simply too high for our state to bear during the budget crunch."

The fiscal note further clarifies the expenses: Of the \$7,387,200, seven percent (\$517,104) will be Title IV-E Federal funds; 49 percent (\$3,619,728) will be through TennCare; and \$3,250,368 in state funds. Of the TennCare funds, \$1,298,107 is state funds at a 35.862 percent match rate and \$2,321,621 is federal funds at a 64.138 percent match rate. The total increase in expenditures for additional days of children in custody is estimated at \$4,548,475 in state funds and \$2,838,725 in federal funds.

Mature men move into PrimeTimers

By Ian Keller

A group is organizing in the Midsouth that will aim to provide mature gay and bisexual men and their adult admirers with opportunities to enjoy social, educational and recreational activities in a supportive atmosphere.

The group will be called Greater Memphis Prime Timers, and will be a chapter of Prime Timers Worldwide. The original Prime Timers group was formed in 1987 by Woody Baldwin who wanted retired gay and bi-sexual men to enjoy activities not usually offered them in a youth-oriented society.

"One thing that is true with all Prime Timers is that they enjoy the opportunities and friendships that develop with other Prime Timers in this area and around the world," said Tom Bowman, organizer of the Memphis group. "Prime Timers come from all walks of life, every race and every social and economic level. They

involve themselves with their community. They are fathers and caregivers. They are businessmen and entrepreneurs. They are workers and the retired. Some are always on the go and some enjoy the quiet company of others at home."

Planned business meetings will be held once a month, but social activities will take place all during the month. The initial meeting will be held on Sunday, April 13, 2-5 p.m., at MGLCC for the purpose of officially establishing the organization here in Memphis. Also, officers for the new group will be elected.

Some of the social activities planned for this group include: camp outs, coffee groups, crafts, cruises, day excursions, dine outs, fitness, walking, resorts, historic tours, musical concerts, sports, theatre, volunteering, pot lucks, our own talent show, discussion groups and guest speakers.

If you wish to investigate this group further and/or become a part of it, please email the temporary coordinator Tom Bowman for additional information and membership forms at greatermemphisprimetimers@live.com. Additional information is also available at www.primetimersww.org.

Dialogue with African-American pastors delayed again

By Len Piechowski

The dialogue planned between members of the Memphis GLBT community and select pastors from the African-American community which was scheduled for March 13, has undergone yet another delay. According to Daniel Forrest, co-chair of MGLCC's Initiative: Fairness who is spearheading the event, the demands of busy clerical calendars have forced another rescheduling of the planned dialogue. This event is now tentatively planned for early April. Coverage of the dialogue, prompted by the use of the GLBT community as a wedge issue in a statewide election campaign, will be provided in the May issue of *Triangle Journal*.

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It's none of my business

Commentary by Elizabeth Flanders Pitts

Once upon a time (okay, it was 1997), a young man walked into the stockroom of the store I was managing and asked if he was in the right place for his scheduled interview. I had no idea that this man would soon become one of the best friends I'd ever had; he was just a guy in a leather coat showing up for an interview with my boss. And yeah, he was clearly gay. I thought nothing of it; hell, it was retail. It was more important to me to have a coworker who worked hard and did the job well; retail is not for the foolish, lazy or weak.

That particular job and I parted ways shortly thereafter, but not before I became good friends with this young man and learned a little about what his professional life was like. A few weeks after I left, he was informed by the store manager that he would need to stop talking about his dates, his friends and his personal life in general because it made some of the sales associates uncomfortable. If I remember correctly, his response was, "Well, you might as well go ahead and give me my own drinking fountain, then." It was a good-natured response to a troublesome situation: the mandate was obviously directed at him and not the 16-year-old giggling kids and evangelical mommies who served as the sales staff.

I was embarrassed, even though I no longer worked there. Who were these people who claimed to be uncomfortable with my friend's casual narrative about dates, decorating, roommates? Who doesn't want to include everyone in the kind of conversation about people that happens when the business slows down and someone makes a fresh pot of coffee? And why, if everyone thought personal lives should stay out of it, would everyone else still be welcome to discuss their kids, their grades and what the sermon was about at church last Sunday?

More than that, who wants to go to work, where we spend so much of our lives, and pretend that one's life outside of work is something that it's not? That's the case for another friend, who has taken me to innumerable wine tastings, art openings and office Christmas parties in order to hide his actual life behind the woman on his arm. I was happy to be taken somewhere, but always felt a bit guilty when faced with the inevitable question: *How long have you two been together?* to which I usually stammered *Oh, we've known each other quite a while now.* That momentary discomfort must be magnified many times over for him, there at the office 40 hours a week.

In casual polling of some straight friends (read: internet people and office mates), I've found a bit of a different attitude than these two examples might indicate. Most professional people to whom I spoke exhibited the opinion: none of my business. They didn't care what someone's life outside of work was like as long as it didn't negatively affect their work performance. The same held true for people's attitudes about parents of small children (don't take too many days off and don't constantly tell stories about poop) and heavy drinkers (don't come in to work still drunk and don't constantly tell stories that start with "Dude, I was so wasted..."). Personal life is personal life; don't let it get in the way of work.

Hard to put that into practice, though, under most circumstances. I've lost count of the number of times my office mates have hurt my feelings by talking about how horrid the divorce rate is and how single moms are ruining the economy and society in general. My feelings are not miraculously mended by their turning guiltily to me and saying, "Of course, we weren't talking about you, though." A flippant remark is never directed at someone we like, is it? We don't mean to step on toes or be insensitive when it comes to a coworker who comes in and does her job well. Same goes for glib remarks about people of different ethnicities, backgrounds, sexual orientation; we're never talking about the person in the trenches with us.

There are those times, those few and far between times, that the insensitive employer's mind is changed. I've seen it happen, that someone's personal life enters the conversation or affects job performance and the reality changes to accept the fact that it's not just an abstract concept bandied about by HR departments: none of my business as long as the work gets done well. It becomes clear that no matter what's going on in my personal life and yours, we still want to be in the trenches together for those eight hours a day.

Would that, at least in my office, I could hear more stories like those instead of endless stories about poop.

Tinker campaign *continued from p. 5*

state law enforcement agencies in hate crimes investigation. The pastors made the claim that the hate crimes bill would allow prosecution of speech criticizing homosexuality from the pulpit. On the other hand, supporters say the bill reaffirms the free speech protections outlined in the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

When asked if Cohen was treated unfairly for his position on the hate crimes bill, she said, "I do not want to talk about my opponent." When asked if she agreed with his critics, she repeated that she didn't want to comment. Cohen's predecessor, Harold Ford Jr., supported the same hate crimes bill when he represented the Ninth Congressional District.

When asked about another bill currently stalled in the U.S. Senate which would prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity (the Employment Non-Discrimination Act), she referred again to her current tour in the district. "If I hear that the Ninth District supports such a law, I will support it."

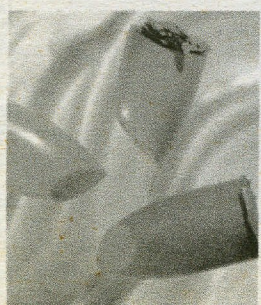
In a follow-up question, she was asked what she would do if the will of the majority of Ninth District voters opposed the rights of a minority in this instance. Should minority rights be subject to the will of the majority? "That's not what I said," she interjected. "It's not about what I believe; it's about what the Ninth District supports."

What about civil marriage for GLBT couples? Would she oppose the Federal Marriage Amendment should it reappear for a vote in Congress? In a likely reference to the 2006 vote on Amendment One to the Tennessee State Constitution, she stated "the Ninth District has already spoken on this issue. I do not support gay marriage."

Tinker did not respond by press time to questions about her position on civil unions.

After several questions about some of the high profile GLBT issues before the U.S. Congress, Tinker addressed one final issue: Why would a gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered person vote for her? "If you want change in education, the economy, job opportunities and crime, vote for me. We may not agree on everything, but we can agree on some things."

Whether Nikki Tinker can persuade GLBT voters in the Ninth District with this argument remains to be seen.



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Dear Editors,

After much searching, the MGLCC Board and I have concluded that a significant rainbow flag, long used at celebrations at MGLCC, is missing from the archives. It is a large banner with the stripes in a different order from the usual and an appliquéd pink triangle in the center. It is believed to have been borrowed for an offsite gathering perhaps having to do with one of the previous Gaymes events and inadvertently not returned. Anyone with knowledge of its whereabouts please get in touch with me or a board member of MGLCC. It was on loan to the archives and needs to be returned.

Vincent Astor
Memphis, Tennessee

Dear Editors,

Have just finished reading *Call Me By Your Name* by Andre Aciman - simply a most exquisitely crafted love story that one of your book reviewers would do well to share with your audience - just a suggestion.

Len, thoroughly enjoyed your comments on Dana Milbank's book. I found the book a most interesting and insightful read.

Sandy Bruce
Memphis, Tennessee

Dear Editors,

One of my long time friends in Memphis sent me a copy of the NEW *Triangle Journal*.

WOW! - What a change - the make up, the photos, the stories! You've done yourselves proud

Atlanta doesn't even have a publication as good as yours. Keep up the good work!

Bill Kendall
Atlanta, Georgia

Send your letters, comments, questions, suggestions and opinions to editors@tjmemphis.com. All responses must include a name, address, a daytime phone number, and an e-mail address if possible. Letters should be no longer than 250 words.

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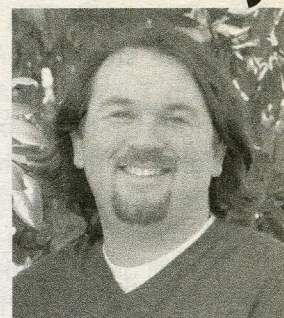
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Meth abuse soars among GLBT community

Everything you need to know about methamphetamines

By Curtis Petty, Pharm.D.



Before I became a pharmacist, if someone had asked me what I consider a drug of abuse to be, I would have automatically thought of narcotics. I now know that this is a very narrow view of drugs of abuse. Drugs of abuse, or illicit drugs, are divided into five major categories by the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA): narcotics, depressants, stimulants, hallucinogens and anabolic steroids. These agents are controlled by the DEA due to their high potential for abuse. Even though some of these drugs are prescribed by a physician, use of these drugs in a manner not recommended by your physician is considered drug abuse.

Along with their abuse potential, these agents have the ability to cause dependence which can manifest either as physical dependence or psychological dependence. Physical dependence is defined as the bodies need to continue to have the drug to prevent withdrawal symptoms. Psychological dependence is the mind's perceived need or craving for the drug which leads the individual to believe they can not survive without it. Physical dependence can disappear in a short period of time after stopping the drug but psychological dependence can last much longer and can lead to relapse. Addiction to these medications is a compulsive behavior which leads the user to continuously acquire and use the drug with disregard to the rest of their daily lives. It is estimated that approximately five million Americans suffer from some form of drug addiction.

Within the category of stimulants, methamphetamines have come to the forefront of importance within our society today as well as the gay community. In 2004, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) reported that 12 million persons, 12 years old and older, had used methamphetamines at least once in their lifetime. These types of drugs, known for their stimulant properties, have been used to treat several disorders as well used to keep soldiers alert in World War II.

Whether smoked, injected or taken orally, methamphetamines produce feelings of euphoria that lead to a decrease in inhibitions and an increase in libido which has led it to become a drug of choice among the club/rave culture within our community. In 2001, 15 percent of the gay men in San Francisco reported using methamphetamines during sexual intercourse. It also has been reported, from data collected from the Center for HIV/AIDS Education Studies and Training (CHEST) at New York University, that approximately 62 percent of gay or bisexual party/club drug users have used methamphetamines. The exact prevalence of the use of methamphetamines, as well as other drugs of abuse, in the GLBT community is not known. Researchers currently estimate the prevalence of drug abuse within the GLBT community to be equivalent to the heterosexual community. Long-term physical side effects of methamphetamines are decayed teeth, weight loss, skin lesions, stroke and cardiac arrest. Methamphetamines also have mental and behavioral side effects. These side effects are due to the drugs stimulatory effects and include paranoia, hallucinations, anxiety, and irritability as well as aggressiveness, violence, and isolation. Due to the stimulatory effects of this drug, addiction happens quickly and abstinence is difficult to obtain.

The use of methamphetamines as well as any other illicit drug is a public health issue. There has been an increase in the number of clandestine labs used to produce methamphetamines from 2000 to 2005 in almost every state. The purchase of pseudoephedrine, the starting product for the manufacture of methamphetamines, has been limited by the federal government to help curb this public health problem.

If you or someone you know suffers from an addiction to methamphetamines or other drugs, help can be found through Narcotics Anonymous at 901-276-5483 or www.na-wt.org or Alcoholics Anonymous at 901-454-1414 or www.memphis-aa.org.

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First Time Appointment

Gay couples win new rights in bill in Washington

Gay and lesbian couples were brought one step closer to same-sex marriage on Tuesday, March 4, 2008, when the Washington state legislature voted to extend 170 new rights to them. The Senate passed House Bill 3104, proposed by Rep. Jamie Pedersen, D-Seattle, by 29-20 along a mostly party-line vote.

The bill grants same-sex couples additional rights besides the rights initially granted by a domestic partnership law that went into effect in 2007. These new rights include the ability to share bank accounts, the right to hold common property and immunity from testifying against one's partner in court. Divorce rights, including child-custody provisions, were also granted.

The measure now goes to Gov. Chris Gregoire, who is expected to sign it into law.

Last year, the Democratic-controlled legislature passed Washington's first domestic partnership law, granting same-sex couples hospital visitation rights, the right of inheritance in the absence of a will and the right to make medical decisions if a partner was incapable of making the decision for themselves.

Some Republicans, including Sen. Dan Swecker of Rochester, said the bill whittled away at the institution of marriage, cited the deterioration of marriage between a man and a woman would lead to a rise in crime, juvenile delinquency and parents working long hours.

HIV-blocking monkey gene not new on the scene

In a report released on Feb. 29 in the scientific journal *PLoS Pathogens*, researchers at Harvard Medical School announced that they have isolated a gene in Asian monkeys that may have evolved as protection against a group of viruses that includes HIV. The TRIM5-CypA gene found in Asian macaques is a hybrid of two existing proteins, TRIM5 and CypA. This combination creates a single protein that blocks infections by certain viruses.

This is the second time a TRIM5-CypA hybrid gene has been identified in monkeys. The other hybrid, called TRIMCyp, was found in South American owl monkeys in 2004. But the Harvard researchers indicated in their publication that it's not likely that these two gene combinations arose from a single common ancestor because TRIM5-CypA wasn't found in a monkey closely related to the Asian macaques and TRIMCyp wasn't found in any other South American primate species.

The fact that adaptations involving TRIM5 and CypA occurred at least twice in primates suggests that this combination provided a strong evolutionary advantage, researchers said. It may be possible that the combination genes developed to prevent infection by prehistoric viruses related to modern HIV, they suggested. If this is true, it could mean that an AIDS-like epidemic is not unique to the current time, and such outbreaks may have afflicted the primate ancestors of humans.

Alianza Gay y Lésbica Contra la Difamación (GLAAD) anunció el lanzamiento de su nuevo anuncio televisivo de servicio publicitario presentado por la actriz mexicano-americana, Sara Ramirez para su campaña "Conviertete en Aliado y Amigo."

En el anuncio, la actriz, oriunda de Mazatlan y ganadora de Premio Tony, sugiere que los televidentes rechazan la discriminación contra los demás por orientación sexual o expresión de identidad. El nuevo anuncio televisivo se puede ver el siguiente enlace: www.livevideo.com/GLAAD.

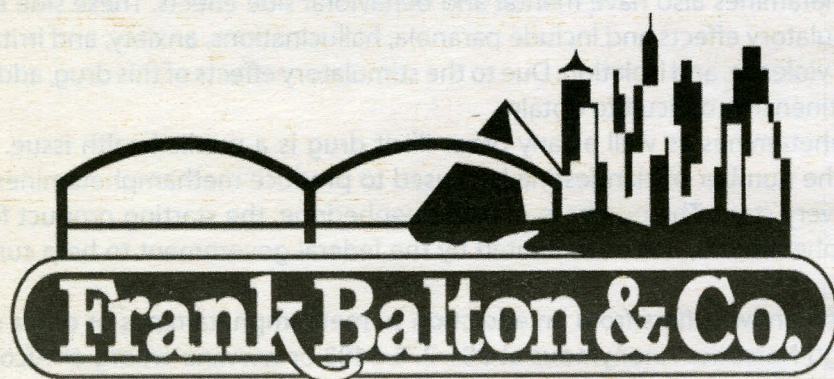


El partido Socialista de Jose Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, el cual apoya los derechos humanos y problemas que afectan a la comunidad LGBT, fue reelegido con una pequeña mayoría sobre el Partido Popular. Este último realizó una campaña para suprimir la Ley de igualdad del matrimonio en ese país.

Recientes encuestas muestran que el matrimonio entre parejas del mismo sexo están teniendo mayor aceptación. El mes pasado, el Instituto Opina dió a conocer los resultados de una encuesta en la que el 75% de los encuestados respondieron que están de acuerdo con la ley de igualdad del matrimonio y que ésta no debería de ser abolida. Solamente el 18% está a favor de abolir la ley.

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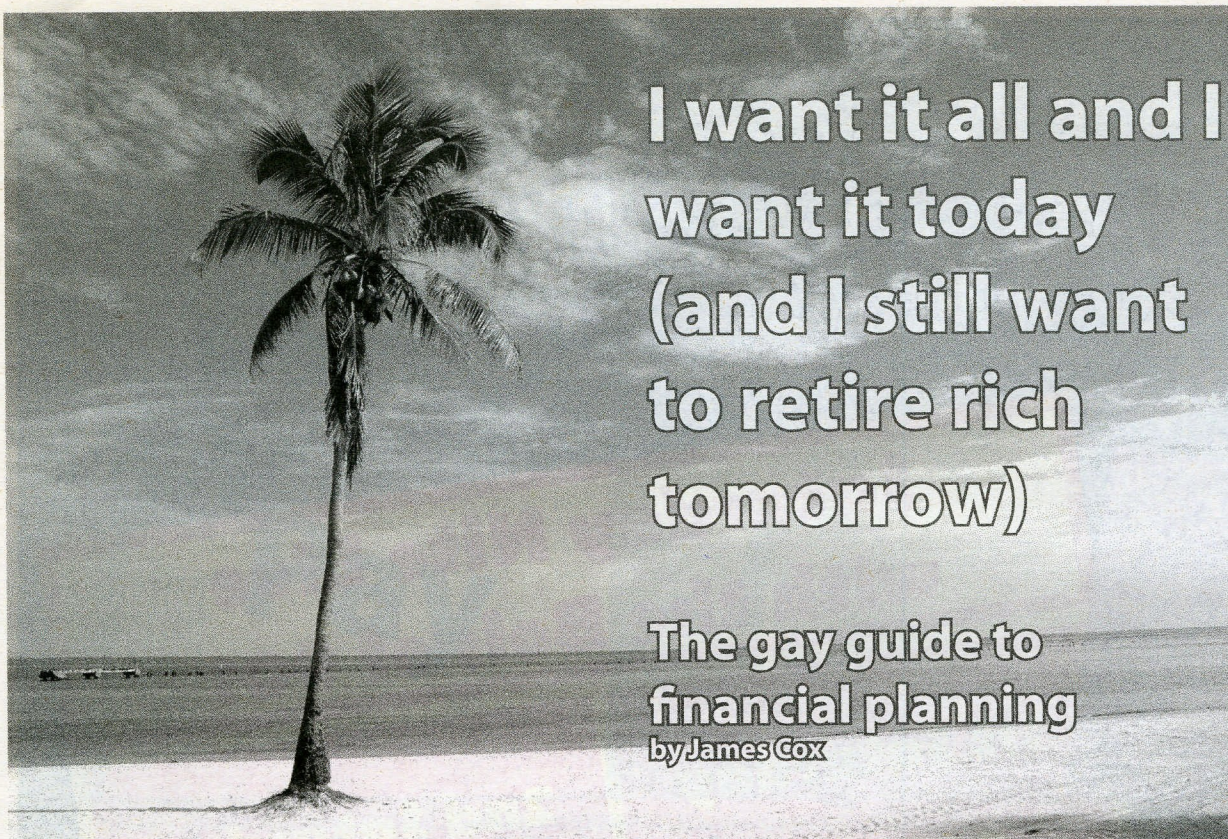
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I want it all and I want it today (and I still want to retire rich tomorrow)

The gay guide to financial planning by James Cox

As a kid, my mother constantly chided me that I couldn't have my cake and eat it too. The concept was lost on me. After all, what's the point of having cake if I couldn't eat it?

Unfortunately, in my college years, I adopted the same attitude about money. What's the point of having it if I can't spend it? Once I got my first credit card, I learned quickly how to spend money I didn't even have. In my mind, that's how the money game worked: spend the cash as fast as – if not faster than – I earned it.

It might be a stretch to say that being gay determined my spending habits, but for many young gay men and women living for now is all the living there is. Why think about tomorrow when there are clothes, cocktails and cars to buy today?

I was fresh out of college, working my first job at an it'sy-bitsy ad agency. One of the perks is that we had a financial planner at our disposal to help our small staff make do on our meager salaries, but when I took a critical look at my spending habits, I was embarrassed to show I wasn't a good manager of my money and that I definitely didn't have a plan beyond the end

of the week.

According to Ron Goldner, a financial advisor with Waddell and Reed Financial Advisors here in Memphis, I wasn't alone.

"I have found that gay men and women tend to condition themselves to not being concerned about what others think," Goldner says, "but when it comes to personal finances they are embarrassed about sharing information. This can leave them isolated when it comes to financial planning."

"In reality," Goldner adds, "a financial planner is exactly the person who can help sort through the spend-versus-save decisions and prepare people to make a financial plan they can live with."

"Nobody can do it alone," says Joel Mosby, a Shelter Insurance agent in Memphis. "The financial needs of the GLBT community don't differ dramatically from that of the straight

community – we too want to retire and take care of loved ones when we die. So while the needs aren't different, the execution of the plan often is."

Just navigating and understanding the multitude of financial options – IRAs, mutual funds, life insurance, annuities and the hundreds of other variables – is a complicated job for anyone, but when gay singles enter into a long-term relationship with cohabitation and combined checkbooks, the task doubles in complexity.

"The law isn't on the side of GLBT couples," Goldner says. "A married straight couple enjoys many tax benefits not available to gay partners. Therefore the GLBT couple requires a strategy to protect their assets and determine financial responsibility at the end of the relationship, whether it ends by death or separation."

Now that I'm older and hopefully wiser, I'm willing to sacrifice a morsel of Mom's cake so that I can enjoy it more tomorrow. Retirement in the Florida Keys is looking better and better. I just wish I had realized that 15 years ago.

Mosby agrees. He says everyone should have started financial planning yesterday. If that thought makes you panic a little, he says that means you're ready to take action. The first step toward retirement is learning how to manage money today.

"...it's not only about retirement; it's about the moment-to-moment financial decision-making."

"Adequate retirement savings is the result of a good financial plan," Goldner advises. "A good financial advisor will coach

you toward building a plan that efficiently deals with debt and puts you closer to attaining the assets needed for retirement. It's also done in a consultative approach without criticism or ridicule. However, it's not only about retirement; it's about the moment-to-moment financial decision-making."

I've heard it said that for every ten minutes I spend planning today, that's an hour I'll save tomorrow.

And I'm okay with that, because those are hours translated to days on the beach with a big slice of cake.

Why go looking for it when you can get it at home?

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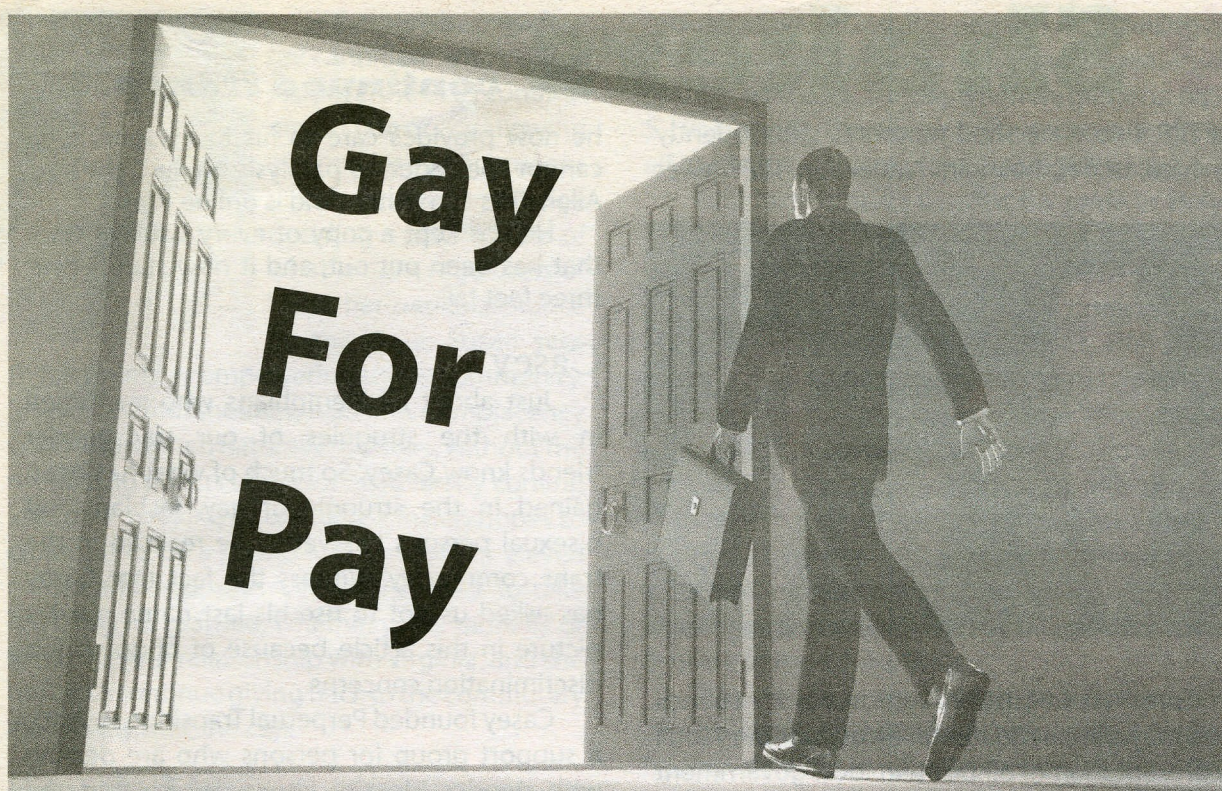
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Best places in the Midsouth to earn a paycheck

By James Cox

In a perfect world, sexuality wouldn't matter to our coworkers and our bosses, same-sex partners could be added to our employer-provided health insurance policy and our retirement benefits could be passed on to them without question.

But anyone who has ever played the pronoun-switching game, altered the truth about the weekend's activities or hoped that our partners don't need to visit the doctor without insurance knows the world isn't perfect.

For the Midsouth GLBT workforce, it's the old story of good and bad news. The bad news is that the Midsouth isn't an open-minded metropolis that draws the world's most progressive employers, and consequently, the diverse and talented workforce those employers seek.

The good news is that Memphis' location (the Memphis airport has been the world's largest cargo airport since 1991) makes it a thriving distribution hub. Combine that with a skilled workforce, abundant real estate and low operating costs, and Memphis doesn't look so bad to a company looking to make West Tennessee home.

Memphis is the home to AutoZone, FedEx and International Paper, all listed on the Fortune 500. While most people would agree having three companies employing thousands of people and pumping billions of dollars into the local economy is an asset, according to the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), these three companies have some gaps to close when it comes to GLBT-friendly policies.

Each year HRC publishes the Corporate Equality Index (CEI), an in-depth analysis of more 500 U.S. employers and their policies and practices relating to GLBT employees.

For the 2008 survey, International Paper scored the highest among the three Memphis-based companies, pulling a 70 for its written sexual orientation nondiscrimination policy, for

offering health insurance coverage to domestic partners and for requiring all employees to attend diversity training on sexual orientation and gender identity. However, it fell short of a perfect 100 for not including gender identity in its nondiscrimination policy and for not supporting GLBT causes with corporate giving or advertising.

The Memphis mega-employer known as FedEx didn't fare as well, scoring a 55 on the HRC index. The international shipper has been named by Fortune magazine as one of the best places to work, employing more than 200,000 people worldwide and more than 30,000 locally. However, its exclusion of gender identity from its nondiscrimination policy, exclusion of domestic partners from insurance coverage and requirement that only managers attend diversity training dropped its CEI score.

The company does, however, sponsor several "affinity" networks, according to company spokesperson Sally Davenport. One of those groups is the FedEx Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) and Friends Network.

"The network is supportive of LGBT employees by offering mentoring, education, information and experience sharing along with providing activities and events that promote the value of all employees," Davenport said.

At the bottom of the Bluff City list was AutoZone. The auto part retailer scored only a 25 with HRC because it does not offer benefits to employees' partners and does not have a written non-discrimination policy covering gender identity in its handbook. Also the company doesn't make training available on gender expression issues and doesn't participate in GLBT philanthropy.

Although it appears that the most recognized brands headquartered in Memphis may not have a 100 percent commitment to the GLBT community, all is not lost. Many other companies with locations, offices or facilities in the Midsouth score a perfect 100.

One of those is Nike. With the completion of a \$107 million distribution center in north Memphis, the city will become second-largest Nike home outside the athletic gear manufacturer's headquarters in Beaverton, Ore. The Memphis distribution center currently employs more than 1,000 people, and according to the Nike spokesperson, that's 1,000 people who are all treated equally.

"It is not just good for business, but it is also the right thing to do," said Daniel Forrest, co-chair of the Nike Tennessee GLBT Network in Memphis.

People looking to make a career switch might find it difficult to land a position with progressive companies like Nike, so many of us are forced to grow where we are planted for the time being. If you're finding that your workplace isn't supportive, you have a few courses of action.

First, check your company's nondiscrimination policy to see if discrimination based on sexual orientation and/or gender identity are spelled out. If it is and you feel you've been targeted, sit down with your human resources officer. But remember there is no federal protection for GLBT workers and few states offer safety nets for employees "let go" for their actual or perceived orientation.

Second, if your company has a GLBT affinity group, join. If it doesn't and there are other GLBT employees, put the wheels in motion and start one. At the least, informally connect with other GLBT employees.

Third, if you have the courage to be out at work, you can slowly begin to change attitudes. Find those people in your organization who are supportive, and share your story. Forrest said, "Many times our allies' voices and their supportive actions for LGBT issues carry more weight and provide greater insight to those that are uneducated about the LGBT community."

Out @ Work?

Midsouth companies and their HRC CEI scores

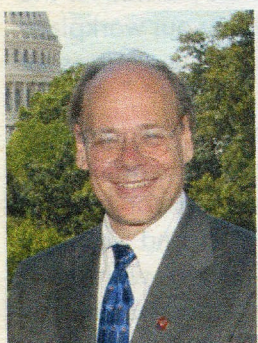
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Movers & Shakers continued from p. 3

the Chamber holds its regular "Cocktails and Networking" meeting at The Vault, 529 South Highland. At each of these meetings, Jeff and Rick strive to feature a GLBT or friendly business.

Steve Cohen

Congressman Steve Cohen is an alum of Vanderbilt University and the University of Memphis Law School. He is proud to have helped establish the Tennessee Lottery, bolster the Regional Medical Center and finance AutoZone Park. Plans to help the Med remedy its vast shortage of nurses with increased funding and to increase police presence to help fight crime



locally are top priorities on the current agenda.

Women's issues and the arts are two of Cohen's passions. He has been active with Planned Parenthood and is proud to be the first person to run a campaign ad in *Triangle Journal*. Later, other politicians followed suit, but in initiating the trend Congressman Cohen made a bold statement of his support for the GLBT community that attests to his steadfastness in being at the forefront of GLBT and related issues. Despite no support from the U.S. Senate or the President, he continues to stand up proudly for the Hate Crimes Bill and will bring it back next year, following the election of a Democratic president. In the area of healthcare, Cohen has supported Friends for Life, the establishment of Aloysius House and programs for HIV/AIDS. Urging the community not to vote for any bill that goes against GLBT values or diminishes their human rights, Cohen recognizes that GLBT individuals just want to be left alone and not receive discrimination for being GLBT.

Jonathan Cole & Tommy Simmons

In 2005, Initiative:Fairness (I:F) emerged from a collective of voices gathered at an MGLCC town hall meeting, venting the frustrations and trepidations felt in the results and aftermath of the '04 presidential election. Among these voices were Jonathan Cole and Tommy Simmons. Joining Katie Mesmer, Jonathan co-chaired IF for a time, and then, with Tommy, turned his efforts to the Tennessee Equality Project (TEP). Soon after the '06 election, the right for GLBT couples to enjoy the same recognition as heterosexual couples of a legal marriage was challenged with the Marriage Amendment. TEP became more vocal as a result of its work to defeat the Marriage Amendment, going door-to-door, engaging the media, and talking to people on the street. The self-esteem of the entire GLBT community increased, as TEP activists became more self-confident in knowing that they were doing the right thing.

In spring of 2007, Jonathan and Tommy were asked to co-chair the Shelby County chapter

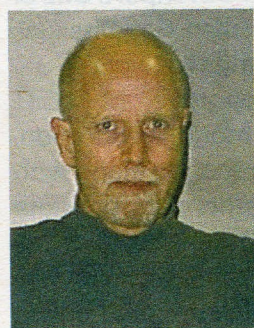
of TEP. Two watershed moments subsequently ensued, under their joint leadership. TEP's Meet



'n' Greet last August brought in 20 city council and mayoral candidates for an outstanding total representation of all but two local government officials and 100 total attendees. And, this past February, TEP took 30 of its members from Shelby County to lobby in Nashville for Advancing Equality Day on the Hill. It was a thrill for Tommy and Jonathan to see so many people becoming engaged in the process, and they hope to build on the momentum gathered from both events. It is their mission to build support in enacting fair-minded legislation in Memphis. At the top of their list is a nondiscrimination ordinance, which would prohibit employers from engaging in discriminatory practices on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity, as well as on racial, ethnic, physical ability or religious grounds.

Allen Cook

Allen founded *Triangle Journal* as *Triangle Journal News* during the interim before Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center (MGLCC) arose in 1989 from the dissolution of the Gay and Lesbian Coalition. He gave the paper to MGLCC in late 2005 when his partner had a stroke. Allen had always loved the name *Gaze* for a newspaper, so when he lost his job last summer, he and his lifelong partner John



started the *Gaze* we see today, naming it after the original.

Gaze maintains a local and national news focus, for two reasons: (1) Allen wants to put important current developments in GLBT news across the country at the fingertips of his readers, and (2) Allen has always just loved the news. He enjoys finding, researching and gathering up stories that other media have neglected to cover. To him, *Gaze* is "nothing major," but more like a "background part of the community." It is a media outlet for the GLBT community, such as those available in the larger community. Hence, just to survive in the marketplace for 25 years is a tremendous accomplishment in his eyes, particularly when the economy is "not so great" for advertising.

Though he was a party guy in his youth, Allen describes himself now as an "old, stay-at-home body." He came out at the age of 27, and

he now provides care to his lover, John, who cannot speak due to paralysis on his right side. Allen likes computers and is online a lot.

He has kept a copy of every issue of *Gaze* that has been put out, and it now stands over three feet tall.

Casey

Just about all Memphians who are tuned in with the struggles of our transgender friends know Casey. So much of what has been gained in the struggle of gay, lesbian, and bisexual persons has yet to be realized in the trans community. Witness the fact that Casey has asked us not to use his last name nor his picture in this article because of ongoing job discrimination concerns.

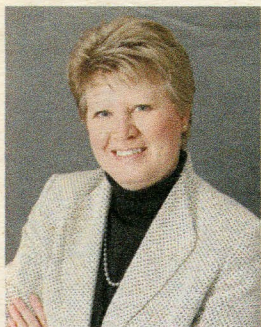
Casey founded Perpetual Transition in 2005, a support group for persons who are dealing with gender identity issues. He created the group because in his words, it's "necessary to have a transgender presence in the community, something concrete, which helps transgender persons realize that their lives don't have to be a *Crying Game*."

Today, two years after its creation, Perpetual Transition has 55 people on its Yahoo group, has served 30 different persons who have attended their semimonthly meetings in person (second and fourth Mondays at MGLCC at 7:30 p.m.), and has spearheaded the first two annual Transgender Days of Remembrance in 2007 and 2008. According to Casey, when he first came out he had no one to share with except a person who was 10 years his senior. He now has a very humble satisfaction in knowing that he has had a role in creating a group that is supporting others.

"It's amazing to see how scared people are when they first attend," he says. "They sit there pretty quietly. Then in a few weeks, they start with a peep, and then they get louder and louder and louder."

Susan Mackenzie

Susan can never tire of making a difference. Community activism has been a running current and passion throughout her life. She has served over 20 years in various levels of leadership for NOW, the National Organization for Women. But her desire to practice law started back in the ninth grade, when she started seeing injustices and wanting to right them. Committing to private practice was scary for her at first, but the ensuing freedoms she felt to be herself, to say and do what she liked, confirmed that she had made the right decision. Best of all, she was making a difference for many individuals in the community. Her proudest moments included an early case, in which she successfully reunited a gay Ice Capades skating couple in burial. Susan also proudly joined a coalition of attorneys that challenged the Tennessee Sodomy Statute and won, thereby making Tennessee one of the first three states to declare the statute to be unconstitutional.



Whether it is a presidential candidate who openly supports the GLBT community, a state or city allowing gay and lesbian marriages in its legislature or a judge deciding a case in favor of what is right regardless of his or her personal stance on the issue, Susan sees

these events as empowering to the community. She wishes that she knew how non-complacency could be inspired naturally in others, without the mobilizing effects of personal adversity coming into play. Looking to the future, Susan hopes to continue to be a part of the lives of her eleven nieces and nephews, she hopes never to take anything for granted, whether professionally or in her 16-year relationship with Virginia, and she hopes to continue giving back to the community in any way that she can.

Beverly Marrero

Beverly is a Democratic member of the state Senate representing District 30 in Shelby County. She was first elected as a state representative in the 103rd General Assembly after Rep. Carol Chumney resigned to take a seat on the



Memphis City Council. She was later elected state senator replacing Steve Cohen who was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. Beverly was one of only seven members of the House to vote against a measure to hold a referendum

advocating amending the Tennessee State Constitution to ban gay marriage.

She states, "As a Democrat, I am opposed to discrimination against my gay and lesbian friends and neighbors. I believe in the 'American Dream' and hope to keep opportunities available to everyone to strive for a better life in this land of opportunity. If we let the 'American Dream' die, who are we, and how are we different?"

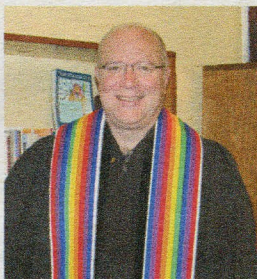
Beverly has recently been recognized by the Tennessee Equality Project for advancing and protecting the civil rights of GLBT Tennesseans.

Tim Meadows

Thirteen Easter Sundays ago, in the fifth year since Holy Trinity's birth at MGLCC, Tim Meadows first arrived for service at the old Tastee Bread factory. This first visit to Holy Trinity moved him to tears. Over the years, Tim has led the church as its third leader through a major paradigm shift then already underway. No longer just an alternative to the bar scene for GLBT Memphians, as it was in the beginning, Holy Trinity grew with Tim into its socially diverse yet spiritually unified form. Still proudly "the gay church" in town, Holy Trinity has discovered within itself its national voice as a model for the Christian Church of the future. Holy Trinity United Church of Christ is "a witness to Christian spirituality that takes seriously the

inclusive love of God. But perhaps most telling is that this congregation is so human, so real, and you can tell it each Sunday when we gather at 685 S. Highland St. There is no pretense here, and it is all out in the open, dancing in God's blessing."

Tim's words make evident his pride in Holy Trinity, and the reasons for his great love for the church are compelling to behold. But, the story of his personal journey and struggle reveal the magnitude of Tim's inner fortitude and the power of his faith. Threatened



with court, by the United Methodists, for being a "practicing homosexual," Tim turned in his credentials and left the church completely, feeling broken, betrayed, and angry.

"After marriage, two children, healing services, psychologists, and tearful fits of prayer, I finally figured out what is natural for me and faithful for me is to be a gay man who follows Jesus Christ. For me to deny those basic elements of my identity would be a form of idolatry which doubts God's design for me."

He is proud of his children, Parker and Jordan, and of Christopher Scheuer, his "gorgeous and loving" partner. I asked Tim to describe a perfect day. For him, this is it: "A day surrounded by people I love. A day of sharing, laughter, great music, good food and wine, and dancing into the night... like heaven... and finally, at 4 or 5 or 6 in the morning, falling asleep giggling, near each other, trusting in a new day."

Carmen Mills

Carmen grew up in north Mississippi and first heard about MAGY (Memphis Area Gay Youth) while attending college and working with victims of sexual assault. Established in 1995 to provide a safe space where GLBT youth



can be themselves, MAGY provides services for adolescents up to age 21. MAGY meets each Friday to provide a structured forum for socializing and for educational programming in areas such as budgeting, safe sex and other life skills. In addition to the MAGY biannual prom, the annual Pride Festival and Cooper

Young Festival are major events in which MAGY participates.

In 2003, Carmen joined MAGY to serve as an advisor to youth. All advisors are handpicked role models and also fulfill administrative capacities on the official board of directors, including marketing, and planning weekly activities. Some of the MAGY's long-term goals for the future include expanding services, specifically by adding a second weekly meeting, increasing the number of advisors and activities, and eventually adding a paid staff person. In the short-term, MAGY will finish renovating its meeting space, build its participant numbers and enjoy an exhilarating summer of camping, barbecuing and fun in the pool.

Carmen lives in Memphis with Rachel, her

partner of seven years, and their puppy, Grubber. President of the Memphis Women's Rugby Club and an auditor at Smith and Nephew, where she fights corporate fraud, Carmen loves being outdoorsy and lives for social justice. Every week, she enjoys seeing improvement and change among her MAGY members, as they develop their self-respect and as they come to realize that the adults around them are there to care about them.

Bianca Phillips

As a staff writer for *The Memphis Flyer*, Bianca has covered a range of local progressive and noteworthy happenings - over 400 to date, since her intern and "perma-tern" years from 2002 to 2004, when the *Flyer* hired her full-time. From commercial animal abuse accusations to stem-cell treatments for dogs, polluted fishing holes to the planned rebirth of recreation at Shelby Farms, Bianca will get the story that no one else could get, or that no one else wanted to get, just because "it's important to cover."

Most importantly to her as well as to the GLBT community, she is committed to keeping all of Memphis informed on gay issues. Bianca has the "GLBT Beat" of the Mid-South, and despite the occasional negative e-mail or phone call in response to her writing, she keeps her reporting objective and accurate. She is proud that Memphis Gay and



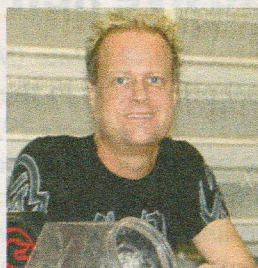
Lesbian Community Center is active in bringing people together to work toward broader acceptance and to provide education on GLBT issues to the community. She did not get to see Such unity of spirit growing up in small-town Arkansas, where no central gathering place was available for

GLBT. But, unity, she says, is something we all need, as a GLBT community.

Her compulsion to fight for her beliefs makes being a writer difficult, she says, because she would rather get out and do something. But Bianca Phillips writes on, knowing that by writing she will bring the issue to a larger audience, which through education may hence initiate action and change.

Darian Porter

Originally from South Florida, Darian celebrates his tenth year at Inz & Outz and his third year as its



owner. Located at Cooper and Peabody, in the heart of Midtown, Inz & Outz is the 18+ GLBT pride store that, as Darian puts it, offers "everything you need to survive as a gay person." The store proudly displays a wide array of gay pride

jewelry, t-shirts, stickers, music and video media, pet things, and adult toys.

Darian had been looking for a part-time job, when he first found Inz & Outz. When the owner

continued on p.17

A day in the life of a lesbian soccer mom

Traditional life not much different for a nontraditional Collierville family

by A.J. Northrop

Her day starts before the alarm clock buzzes at 6:00 a.m. After preparing bag lunches and breakfasts, clearing the dishes and sending everyone off, her day begins not unlike many "soccer moms" in Collierville. The endless household duties and errands keep her busy until mid-afternoon when she greets the school bus into her well-manicured neighborhood. It's then that she has a few moments to catch her breath before homework, baseball practice and last-minute prep before dinnertime. And while she blends into the lineup of pink sweat suits and blushed cheekbones, she stands proudly out.

Lynn (not her real name) is a middle-aged lesbian living the life of a stay-at-home soccer mom, the domestic goddess of the 21st century. After 20 years of working in corporate food service, a few relocations and two previous female relationships, she found herself in Nashville with a new partner and her two children. Lynn had a little apprehension about beginning a relationship with a mother of two young children, but the initial anxiety diminished into what has become a beautiful relationship. Her partner's company brought them to Memphis about a year ago. Lynn left her career and made the emotional move, making a home in Collierville. Known as an ultra-conservative suburb, Collierville seemed like a suitable choice for a traditional nuclear family, but Lynn and her partner had some concerns about what seemed to be an enclave of conservative family values. Ironically, the family was met with open arms. Lynn says, "There was little or no stigma; we were embraced by the community."

While their relationship is strong, it is not without its pressures and struggles. Her partner's ex-husband is slack in his responsibilities as a father; the children are becoming teenagers and simply finding time for each other creates a few bumps in the road.

"Commitment plays a huge role in our relationship," Lynn says referring to their promise to maintain a faithful relationship and to be active parents in their boys' lives. Raising their children to be responsible and fair is the focus of their daily life despite the lackluster thanks. "Being a soccer mom has its rewards, however, like good report cards, pats on the back, the little things." Lynn tries to balance every day with family life and her relationship with her partner.

"Our daily agendas aren't focused on gay or straight lifestyles, more on simply living." Lynn sides for gay marriage because of its "all inclusive" benefits. The same rights that she desires, much like many of us in relationships, are granted to married people by default. "It even comes down to the simple things, like gym memberships because some family memberships aren't offered to same-sex partners." Though many businesses and organizations recognize same-sex partnerships, many still



do not. Hospitals and most insurance companies have become gleaming examples of granting permissions to same sex partners. One solution to many but not all hurdles is by making one's partner a legal estate executor.

Her advice for same-sex partners raising children is to "establish a committed relationship, get as legal as possible, embrace change and include daily balance." The face of the American family has changed dramatically in the past few decades. And with the government's conservative family values growing more unsteady, the future seems brighter every day.

The 2000 census enumerated a little more than 100 million households; approximately half were married households. A strong 594,391 unmarried partners, same-sex households were counted, estimating 293,000 were led by females and 301,000 were led by males. Of this, 34.3 percent of female partner households reported at least one child under the age of 18 living with, while 22.3 percent of male partner households reported the same, both totaling 27 percent of the unmarried same-sex households.

Ninety-nine percent of all U.S. counties reported gay/lesbian family households. The state of Mississippi reported 41 percent of the nearly 2,000 same-sex households with children under the age of 18. This ranks Mississippi highest in child rearing. Other states include South Dakota (40 percent), Alaska (38 percent), South Carolina (36 percent) and Louisiana (35 percent).

The top five metropolitan cities with the highest reported rate of same-sex child rearing were San Antonio, Texas; Bergen-Passaic, NJ; Memphis, Tenn.; Houston, Texas; and Fort Worth, Texas. Undoubtedly, in the past eight years these numbers have been rapidly growing.

With growing attention to civil union versus marriage debate, it is clear that our community is no longer living in the shadows of the conservative nuclear family structure. The contemporary family is taking on a new look as vivid and diverse as the world we live in.

Murray State University approves sexual orientation inclusive non-discrimination policy

In its quarterly meeting, the Murray State (Murray, Kentucky) University Board of Regents approved the inclusion of sexual orientation in the overall university non-discrimination policy. The vote was carried by a 7-4 majority on February 29, 2008.

"I am very happy with the board's decision today," said Anthony Jones, Murray State student and Chair of MSU Alliance's Petition Committee. "To me, this action was the next step the Board should take in bringing its policies in-line with one another. Policies have already been put in place for the students and faculty individually, and this policy update today marks a move to further the consistency of MSU's policies, which include adding sexual orientation into the overall non-discrimination policy."

Due to the board's action, all public universities in Kentucky now include the language in their policies.

Murray State Alliance is a student organization which exists to support and to promote the specific needs and interests of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender students and faculty and their allies.

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Movers & Shakers *continued from p. 15*

sold the store to him seven years later, Darian embraced the opportunity to revitalize and build upon the store's potential. In a social climate where only stores with rainbows were considered to be gay pride stores, Darian promoted the idea that there is more to gayness than rainbows and eliminated them from his store. He would like to thank the Memphis GLBT for its support and extends his hope that "we can all work together as a community." He never tires of hearing how much his visitors really enjoy the store and are proud of having such a store in Memphis and supports building upon the common ground shared with other groups around town and outside of Memphis. Currently in the works are plans for store expansion into the space next door. Future goals include expanding the product line to include a broader selection of toys, clothing, and specialized product areas, as well as the establishment of additional store branches outside of Memphis.

Jeannie Richardson

A native Memphian, Jeannie progressed from working the polls for Democratic candidates in her early days to serving John Kerry as Delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 2004. In 2007 Jeannie joined the state House of Representatives and celebrated welcoming her first grandchild, Francis, to the family. Before she became known as a political figure, Jeannie served Memphis as a social worker and as director of a mental health center. Through HIV/AIDS and alcohol and drug treatment counseling programs and case management work, Jeannie worked to improve the quality of life for a large segment of the Memphis community, where mental health issues would often overlap with impoverishment.



Jeannie sees how poverty and all things subsequent particularly affect women, children, minorities, and other subgroups. GLBT issues, especially those concerning child custody and related services for children, continue to be important to Jeannie.

Last month, Rep. Jeannie Richardson and Sen. Beverly Marrero filed SB4052/HB3907, a bill that would allow transgender individuals to make changes to their birth certificates. Tennessee is currently the only state without such legislation. Spanning across gender and sexual identity, Jeannie's message to the community goes out to all who care for the wellbeing of others and who want to see Memphis grow. In short, Jeannie speaks to everyone with a heart for humanity: "People of good will need to hang together and keep on pressing for progressive legislation and the things that improve the quality of life for everybody."

Wendi C. Thomas

Wendi is a native Memphian and has felt unhappy living elsewhere. Memphis is a great news town, and that is exciting for a news junkie like Wendi. Wendi feels that it is an honor to have her

job as columnist for the *Commercial Appeal* and feels "blessed beyond belief" to receive checks in the mail for doing what she loves to do. She also feels a tremendous responsibility to serve as a voice for the underdog. Her heart and passion have always been for the "latest victims of persecution," which she says makes it easier for her to be a Grizzlies fan.

She appreciates the support shown to her by the GLBT community. As for the unsupportive comments she's received (and y'all know she's received plenty), she takes them as "testament to the power of the pen." Responses, whether



negative or positive, prove that people are reading and reacting to her writing. And that, she says, turns even the most hurtful statements and accusations into compliments in disguise.

For Wendi, the GLBT struggle for civil rights is mainly an issue of human rights, and she sees many parallels with the African American civil rights movement, including the Biblical fundamentalist interpretations, and the older generation's attitude against gays and African Americans. Wendi feels "very, very, very honored" to receive the distinction of a Mid-South Mover & Shaker; at the same time, she feels a little sad. In her own words, "it's like brushing your teeth regularly—you shouldn't get an award for doing something that you should be doing, anyway." Wendi encourages all supporters of the GLBT community, especially those like her who aren't gay, to be more vocal—to be in Holocaust-era terminology, "upstanders, not bystanders." It is her dream and her vision that one day it will be impossible to select a handful of individuals to feature because the list of candidates will include everyone.

Shane Trice

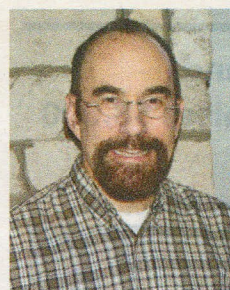
With his plans to develop a gay entertainment district well under way, Shane is one of the movers and shakers of Memphis nightlife. One of his three gay clubs providing venues for late night fun and frolic is Backstreet. Offering performances by the city's best female illusionists in the Cabaret, karaoke in the video lounge and dancing with the hottest music and state of the art laser system, the location has been a hot spot for people of all orientations for quite a few years.

Shane urges partiers to "eat, drink and have a Mary day" at Mary's Memphis. Food and drink are plenty, especially on Margarita Monday nights. Metro still provides the best beer bust around on Thursday nights and karaoke throughout the other days of the week.

Herb Zeman

Herb, the inventor of the Veinviewer, holds a Ph.D. in physics from Stanford University and a 30-year career in the medical physics and engineering field, including 15 years at UT as professor of radiology. In 2001, he began to focus his efforts on commercializing the Veinviewer via

Luminetx. A Memphian since his professorship in 1990, he sings second tenor with the Mem-



phis Men's Chorale and the Rhodes Master Singers, and the Cooper-Young neighborhood knows and loves Herb best as former landlord of MGLCC. It has been only one, albeit very full, year since Herb was elected to the Stonewall Democrats National Board of

Directors. But he has served the Memphis Chapter a number of years, working to achieve a critical mass involvement of the populace through movie screenings and online fundraising.

The Stonewall Democrats urge an increase of federal GLBT support by working on the Democratic Party and keeping it in line with GLBT values and ideals. According to Herb, the only way to make more lasting changes and support is to vote and help Democrats win a significant majority in government. With this year's Democratic ticket stirring anticipation and renewed hope all over America in the possibility and upcoming promise of change and progress, Stonewall has enjoyed seeing rising turnouts for the Democratic Primaries. Herb attributes the increased interest and participation in the election of our nation's leaders in government to the spreading feeling that individuals can influence government decisions for all. There is a long road ahead until the general elections in November, but Herb feels that the Democrats have a "real chance" at gaining back America.

Felipe Zuvichaux

Originally from El Paso, Felipe came to Memphis in 2004, on a work transfer from FedEx San



Francisco. Exposure to the LGBT community was, of course, everywhere in San Francisco. When Felipe arrived in Memphis, the air changed: "The Memphis atmosphere told me that I had to go back into the closet and assimilate to disbeliefs." But Felipe's con-

science refused to listen to the lack of humanity and awareness that he felt from others. In 2005, he became a team leader for MGLCC's Initiative: Fairness and founded MGLCC's Hispanic GLBT program, Adelante. By 2006, in collaboration with his coworkers at FedEx, Felipe had formed the LGBT & Friends Network at FedEx and now serves as chairperson. In addition, Felipe joined TEP, serving for the past three years as a team leader.

"Memphis' largest challenge is for LGBT people to unlock themselves from the apprehension of having that amiable one-on-one dialogue with those that have a different perspective. A bridge comes together when both sides engage. A LGBT person's largest asset is to be themselves and authentic. ... The world does not know us through our silence." Felipe enjoys spending time with his partner, Tommy Simmons, and their adopted dog, Yeva.

Sixth annual Bachelor and Bachelorette Auction raises \$8,000

By Autumn Falconer
Vice president, MGLCC board of directors

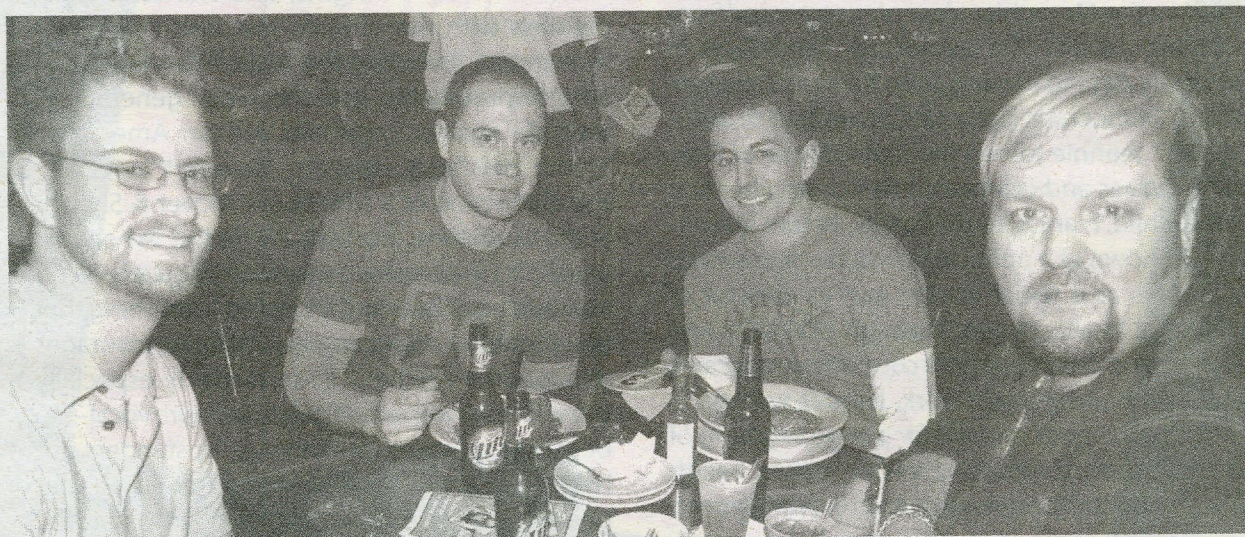
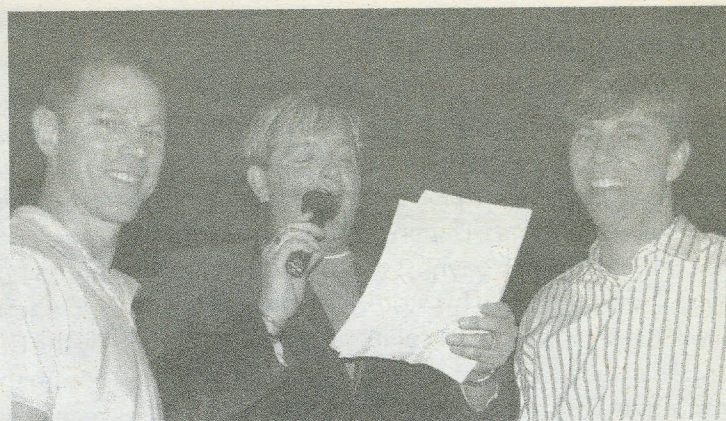
On Friday evening, March 14, Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center held its Sixth Annual Bachelor and Bachelorette Auction. Throughout the years, this event has proven to be one of the Center's biggest fundraisers, and this year was no exception. Proceeds totaled almost \$8,000.



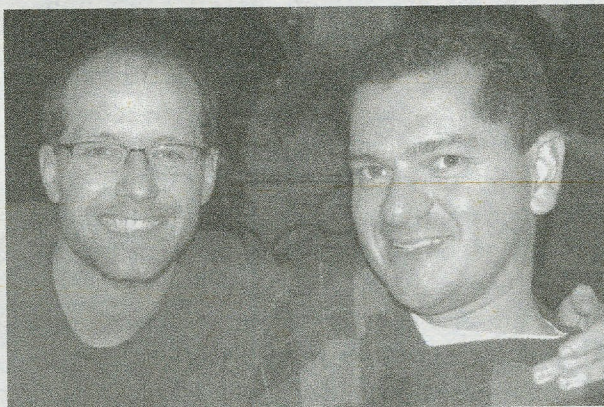
The Bachelor and Bachelorette Auction is a high energy event. It was very easy to keep the crowd excited because our bachelors and bachelorettes were up to the challenge. Throughout the night, many of the eligible dates plotted and planned on how to drive their bids up higher in order to provide a greater support for the programs of the center. It was this kind of spirit that made this event a huge success!

For this year's festivities, we decided to move downtown to Pat O'Briens on Beale Street because so many of our members have asked us to branch out of our "safety zone," Cooper-Young. And we look forward to taking some of our other events to different locations as well. We are currently looking to have an event somewhere in East Memphis. We hope that our members can help us with our search for a good location.

MGLCC would like to thank all the sponsors: Pat O'Brien's, Tennessee Equality Project, Integrity Memphis, Friends For Life, Lux, Taylor-Maid Cleaning and Steve Solomon. We'd also like to thank the donors to the silent auction items and everyone who helped in any way to make this event happen. We especially want to thank the handsome and beautiful bachelors and bachelorettes, Michael and Savannah who were our MCs, DJ Tracy and of course all of you who supported this event.



Upper left: Steve Solomon enjoys the ambiance before the Sixth Annual Bachelor and Bachelorette Auction at Pat O'Brien's on Beale Street. Upper right: Chris Balton, MC Michael Hoots and Chris Haskins raise a tidy sum to benefit the programs of MGLCC. Middle left: Sue Redfern and Tonya Shropshire provide some laughs at the festivities. Middle right: MCs Michael and Savannah. Above: Dustin Holden, Caleb Simmons, Mark Lambert and Steve Napier party on!



Lower left: Exquisitely beautiful Meredith and Jolyn liven up the auction. Center left: Curtis Bickers and Erick Vasquez celebrate the occasion. Center bottom: Zach Allen and Jeff Reynolds get ready to spend some money for a worthy cause. Below: Ella Hernandez provides a touch of class for any occasion.

Dr. Richmond *continued from p. 5*

alternates also to be chosen, split evenly between the two candidates. They were scheduled to be selected by the TNDPEC on March 8, but the meeting was postponed a week until March 15 due to inclement weather in the Nashville area.

In the interim, I contacted every member on the TNDPEC. I got the list from the party website. I had met at least eight members previously, so I sent those individuals personalized e-mails reminding them of our meetings. That also appears to have paid dividends since many responded positively. I did learn along the way that each campaign would present a slate to the TNDPEC. Each campaign had pledged to support the other slate. Unfortunately, we were unable to campaign directly to get on the slate and had to rely on advocates within the TNDPEC who were making the slate along with the campaign.

Personally, I am not enamored with the concept of making slates. When I was a graduate student in California, I ran for Alameda County Democratic Party Executive Committee. There, the members were elected at-large in the county, which includes the cities of Alameda, Berkeley and Oakland. There were two major political factions, and I went to endorsement meetings for both. It turns out they both had their slate of candidates already determined, so those interviews were actually a waste of time. I have not cared for slates ever since, but I also learned an important lesson from the experience. As Wernher Von Braun once said, "I learn more from my failures than I do from my successes." If you want to win, you have to deal with the power brokers until you become one yourself. This time, I had done enough leg work to get my name on the slate.

After sitting through two hours of nominations and votes for each position, I was finally elected to the very last spot of the 15 at-large positions available, but I was elected as an at-large delegate for Clinton. I am going to Denver.

A good friend of mine from Nashville was hoping for one of two GLBT slots, but as a white male, he lost out to two women: me and a lesbian from Cookeville, who was elected as an alternate and is pledged for Obama. She and I will constitute the GLBT caucus for Tennessee. I consider it an honor and privilege to represent all GLBT people from across Tennessee.

After the final delegates were all selected, we met on the House floor and picked our Delegation Officers; Gov. Bredesen was elected chair, and Lois DeBerry was elected vice chair. We also elected representatives to the Credentials, Platform and Rules Committees. I would have loved serving on platform since the transgender community intends to push for a plank insisting that Democrats support only a fully inclusive ENDA, but those slots had been predetermined by both the Clinton and Obama campaigns. I will lobby the Tennessee committee members instead. Of course, the big controversy heading to Denver will be the credentials fight over Florida and Michigan. I hope they are able to work out some compromise before we reach Denver, but as of this writing, it looks like we will really have to sort it out.

Tennessee appears to be one of the very first states to complete the delegate selection process. So when you are watching the news and they give the count of delegates for each candidate, you will actually know someone included in the Clinton count.

And when you are actually watching the convention this August, be sure to look for me in Denver.

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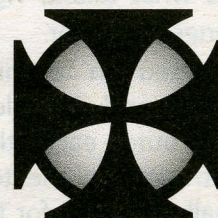
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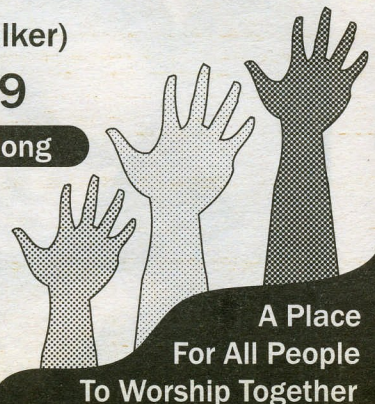
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Email them to editors@tjmemphis.com.

Competitions rock Memphis nightlife

By Ian Keller

February 29 was the date and Backstreet Memphis was the place for the Mr. Gay Mid-South 2008 competition. Four handsome, talented and very charming young men vied for the title that commands the attention of everyone who appreciates what talent, vigor and just plain old adorableness can offer.

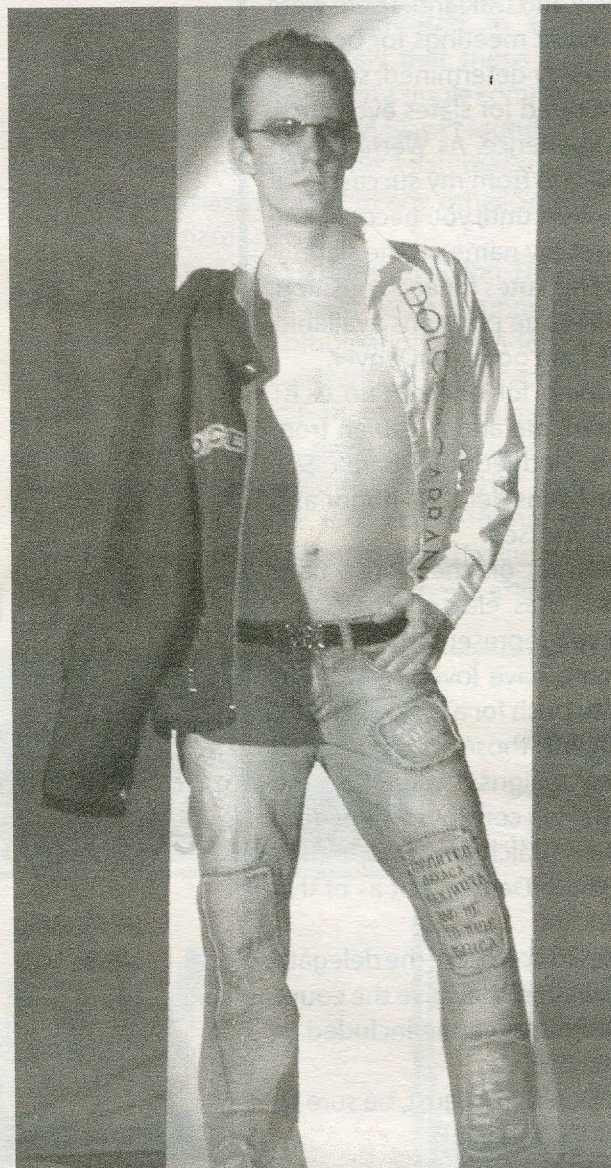
The contestants competed in evening attire, on-stage questioning and in talent competitions as they tried to outdo each other in a very good-natured struggle to the top. Carson Turner was eventually selected for the honor. In his talent competition, he performed a jazz dance number that swung the five-person panel of judges to his selection. Also on hand to add to the festivities was Ms. Gay Pride Portia Buchanan and the Buchanan Dancers, and a bevy of other beauties such as Nadia Simone, Chiwawa Rodriguez, Kiera Mason and Alexis Von Furstenberg.

On Friday, March 14, at Crossroads, L & T Entertainment presented an official preliminary to the Miss Gay America 2009 Pageant entitled Miss Mid America 2008: A Black and White Affair. On hand were many breathtaking "symbols of excellence" including Mikaila Kay, Miss Gay America 2008, and China Collins, Miss Mid America 2007. Selected for the title of Miss Mid America 2008 was Sasha Nicole of Kimmswick, Missouri.

Miss Gay America 2009 is scheduled for Oct. 8-12, 2008, at the Millenium Hotel in St. Louis. Visit www.missgayamerica.com or call 901-603-4838 for more information.

Check
us out
online.

www.tjmemphis.com



Top photo: Contestants strike a pose before the Mr. Gay Mid-South 2008 competition. From left to right they are Niko, Carson, Bobby and Christian.

Center left: Mr. Gay Mid-South 2008, Carson Turner.

Center right: Larry Tyger (left) and Terry Eason of L & T Entertainment, producers of the Miss Mid America Pageant.

Above right: Mikaila Kay, Miss Gay America 2008, performs during the pageant.

Right: Miss Mid America 2008, Sasha Nicole of Kimmswick, Missouri.



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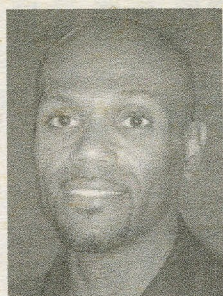
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Fat Girls

Being comfortable
being yourself

By Carl Smith



Although the title maybe be a little jarring, *Fat Girls*, a uniquely sweet and innocent comedy by filmmaker Ash Christian, shows that life offers way more than what meets the eye. To anyone



who has ever been the object of ridicule, the butt of every joke or deemed terminally uncool, this one's for us.

Fat Girls is the coming of age story about Rodney Miller (Ash Christian), a self-proclaimed "fat girl" and social outcast struggling to find himself and gain acceptance. Rodney, together

with his portly best friend, Sabrina Thomas (Ashley Fink), begins the long journey to self-discovery. Sabrina, my personal hero, is a quick-witted, no-holds-barred best friend who's quick to defend Rodney against the slings and arrows of all mean-spirited, angst-ridden adolescents. After the comical, untimely death of his father due to a heart attack in the midst of a tryst with a dominatrix that just happened to be a little person, Rodney's mother Judy (Deborah Theaker) is traumatized and transformed into a hyper-religious zealot. The hilarious outcome shows itself when all her prepared meals take on spiritual affiliations which is a laugh-out-loud running theme throughout the film. Her casual one-liners are sure-fire scene stealers on every turn. Holy hamburgers and angel hair pasta for everyone! Rodney, unfazed by his father's passing, has to fight back tears of laughter when Judy consoles him with her deadpan demeanor since he never got along with his father in the first place.

Joey (Joe Flaten), a blonde, British pretty-boy transfer student and Rodney's initial love interest, agrees to be Rodney's prom date just to stir up a little controversy among the inhabitants of this sleepy little Texas town. As a first date, Joey takes Rodney to a local gay bar where Rodney's hopes of love are soon dashed when Joey directs his attention to a former acquaintance. While at the bar, a Liza Minnelli impersonator's performance captures Rodney's attention. Rodney appears backstage to discover that the female impersonator is none other than his mentor, confidant and high school theatre teacher Mr. Cox (Jonathan Caouette). Later, feeling jilted by Joey, Rodney turns to Mr. Cox for comfort and guidance. The outcome is surprising, and you'll cheer for this lovable underdog while snippets of your own life play out on screen.

In the end, *Fat Girls* is not a state of being but a sincere state of mind. Come take the journey to find your inner "fat girl". A+

Fat Girls is now available at Inz & Outz Gifts & Cards, 553 S. Cooper St. in Memphis.

Outflix moves east

Ridgeway Four to host GLBT festival

By Mark Jones

The Outflix Film Festival has a new home. The annual film festival will be held at Malco's Ridgeway Four, September 5-11. Outflix starts the weekend after Labor Day.

During the last few months, there has been a growing amount of uncertainty over the future of Peabody Place Mall and Muvico Theaters. The Outflix committee and the board of directors of Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center recently decided that there was too great a risk to plan a multi-night film festival only to see the venue close, downsize or undergo construction.

By moving the festival to the Ridgeway Four, the community center meets a growing need to have a GLBT event in East Memphis. Ridgeway Four is conveniently located near the I-240 loop for people traveling from downtown and Midtown, as well as from Cordova, Germantown and Collierville. For the past couple of years, Outflix has held its closing night party and films at the Brooks Museum. This year, there will be a preview party at the Brooks in August. All seven nights in September will be at Ridgeway Four.

The Outflix Committee has been busy screening movies for the upcoming festival. One movie already booked for 2008 is the film "FreeHeld," which just won an Academy Award for best short documentary.

This spring the Ridgeway Four is being equipped with digital projection, which will allow Outflix to show movies on film, Beta tape and DVD. At past festivals, most movies have been screened using Beta tape or DVD. Outflix is still looking for individuals and businesses to sponsor the 2008 festival. If you are interested, please visit the website at www.outflixfestival.org.

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

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Fantasy Warehouse #4 (North)
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April 2, 2008 @ 6:30PM

Men's Potluck

April 4, 2008 @ 7PM

**Art Show featuring Dottie Sachritz
with music by**

Tamar Moten on Cello

April 12, 2008 from 10AM-2PM

GLBT Health Fair

April 16 @ 6:30PM

Womyn's Potluck

April 18, 2008 @ 6:30PM

Q-Cafe featuring Kim Richardson

April 23, 2008 @ 6:30PM

Hands on Memphis: Volunteer Event

April 24, 2008 @ 7PM

Gayme Night

Volunteer Opportunities

Memphis Gaymes Committee

Triangle Journal Committee

Bachelor & Bachelorette Auction Committee

OutFlix Committee

Building Committee

Marketing & Public Relations Committee

Finance Committee

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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.**

Coming out of the locker room

Ten of the most intriguing gay athletes in history

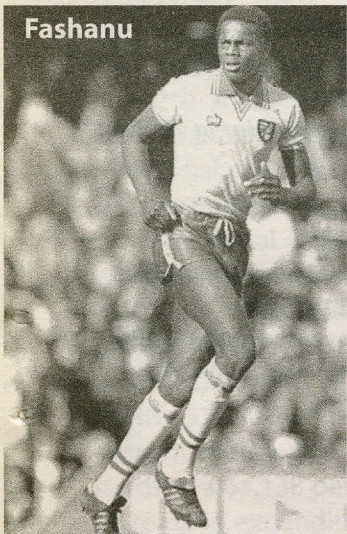
By Jamie Griffin

The competitive locker room has never been the safest place for the GLBT community, but fortunately there have been a number of professional athletes who have dared to come out of the closet. While many have faced scrutiny for not coming out while still pro and being a public role model, all had the courage to publicly announce their sexual orientation, paving the way for a number of talented gay athletes in professional sports and inspiring men and women around the globe.

Former NBA player **John Amaechi** was surprised by all of the support he received when he openly identified himself as gay back in 2007. "Ninety-five percent of the correspondence I've had has been overwhelmingly supportive and positive," he told ESPN. One from the remaining five percent came from another former NBA player, Tim Hardaway, who lashed out and said he hated "gay people." Hardaway would later apologize for the comment, but it wouldn't keep him from losing his job as an NBA analyst. Other gay athletes like tennis great Martina Navratilova and former NFL Esera Tuaolo applauded Amaechi for his decision to come out. Amaechi is scheduled to serve as the guest speaker during Gaymes 2008 here in Memphis later this year.

During his six years in the majors, **Billy Bean's** statistics were not amazing. He was probably better known for what he did off the baseball diamond than what he did on it. In 1999, Bean announced publicly that he was gay. His book, *Going the Other Way: Lessons from a Life In and Out of Major League Baseball*, became an Amazon best-seller. He has been given credit by several people for being their inspiration and providing them with the courage to come out also. He currently serves on the board of the Gay and Lesbian Athletics Foundation.

Justin Fashanu, an English soccer player, took his own life when he was accused of sexual assault of a 17-year-old while in the United States, although the charges were dropped because of lack of sufficient evidence. In his suicide note he wrote "I realize that I had already been presumed guilty. I do not want to give any more embarrassment to my friends and family...I hope the Jesus I love welcomes me, I will



at last find peace." What made Fashanu unique is that he not only came out on his own terms, but he came out during the height of his soccer career, despite being disowned by his brother.

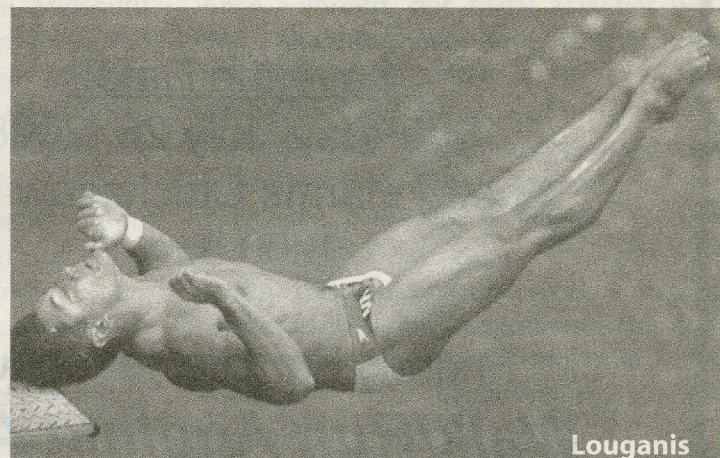
Who can ever forget one of the scariest moments in Olympic history when in 1988 at the games in Seoul, **Greg Louganis** hit his head on the diving board during a preliminary round and suffered a concussion, yet went on to win gold? Winner of a total of four gold medals and a silver one while competing in three Olympics, Louganis posed nude in Playgirl magazine but did not come out until 1994 and afterwards participated in the Gay Games as an announcer. Louganis, who served as guest speaker for the Memphis Gaymes back in 2006, is now an advocate for gay rights. Louganis has been living with HIV for more than two decades. His autobiography, *Breaking the Surface*, was made into a television movie. Louganis was played by Mario López.

Billie Jean King is one of the greatest tennis players ever. King may be best remembered for her role in the "Battle of the Sexes" when she defeated a male Wimbledon champion in 1973. King, born Billie Jean Moffitt, was married in 1965 to Lawrence King. They divorced in 1987. In 1981, she was "outed" when her ex-lover and former secretary, Marilyn Barnett, sued her for "galimony." Although King was disappointed that she was not allowed to come out of the closet on her own terms and dealt with stigma of being a gay athlete, she would later embrace her importance to the GLBT community and start the Women's Sports Foundation. Part of the organization's mission today is to help rid sports of homophobia and discrimination. King won 12 grand slam single's titles on the court.



Before Esera Tuaolo and Roy Simmons came out after retiring from the NFL, **David Kopay** had already laid the groundwork. Kopay was a running back in the league from 1964 to 1972. In his biography, *The David Kopay Story*, published in 1977, Kopay gave the world insight to the homophobia that existed, and perhaps still does, in the NFL. He recently pledged \$1 million to the Q Center at the University of Washington.

Eighteen is a significant number for **Martina Navratilova**. She was 18 when she had her first same-sex relationship. And she's also the winner of an amazing 18 single grand slam tennis titles.



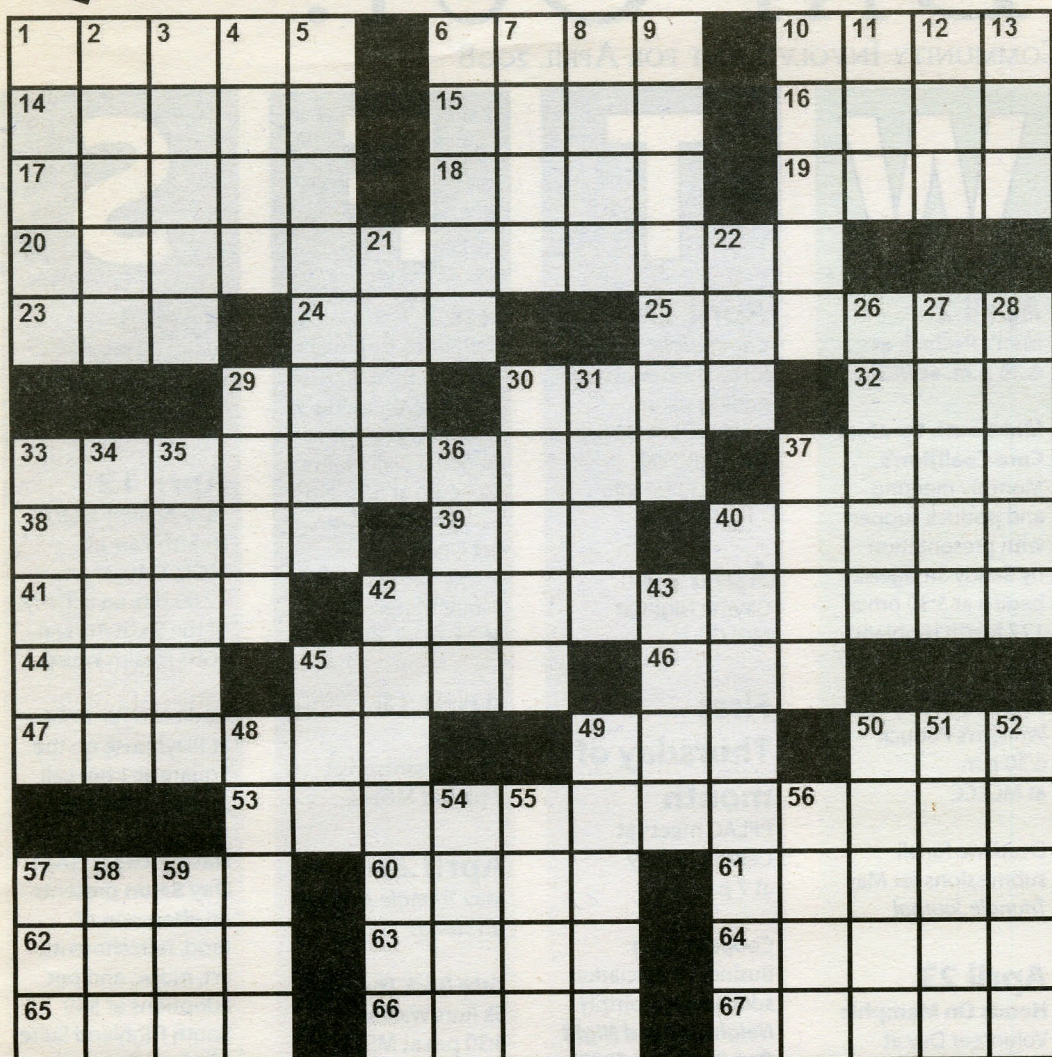
Born in the former Czechoslovakia, Navratilova was granted U.S. citizenship and, in 1981, came out publicly about her sexual orientation. Ironically, fellow gay tennis standout Billie Jean King says that Navratilova was not supportive of her when the public found out she was gay. Yet, according to her website, www.martina-navratilova.com/charities.shtml, Navratilova's grant making program, the Rainbow Endowment, has contributed close to two million dollars to HIV/AIDS and breast cancer research organizations. The fund has also helped fund more than 80 GLBT organizations.

WNBA star **Sheryl Swoopes** says she never intended to be intimate with another woman, but says she believes, "when you fall in love with somebody, you can't control that." The three-time Olympic gold medalist and three-time WNBA MVP was also the first woman to have a Nike shoe named after her. The "Air Swoopes" debuted in 1995. In an interview with ESPN, Swoopes said her decision to come out was based on her discomfort of hiding her feelings about her partner.

Bill Tilden, or Big Bill as he was known, was one of the most controversial athletes ever. Tilden, who did not hide his sexuality, is considered by many as the greatest tennis player before the open era of the sport. Tilden was the number one ranked player in men's tennis for nearly seven years. His dominance included seven U.S. championships and two Wimbledon titles. But Tilden was arrested twice for displaying inappropriate behavior to minors. He was shunned by the tennis world, and even inspired author Vladimir Nabokov to base a character in his book *Lolita* on him, as a washed up tennis player with a fetish for ball boys. Tilden passed away at the age of 60 in 1953.

The world lost a great athlete but an even greater advocate for gay rights when former Army physician **Dr. Tom Waddell** died of AIDS in 1987. Waddell, an openly gay Olympic decathlon participant in the '68 Olympics, founded Gay Games. His fight with AIDS was documented in the award winning film, *Common Threads: Stories from the Quilt*.

Q-Puzzle State of Gay Politics



Across

- 1 Loafer bottoms
- 6 Cole Porter's "Well, Did You ____"
- 10 Hairspray list
- 14 Member of sexual congress?
- 15 Warrior Princess
- 16 Put in a position?
- 17 Material for nice stones
- 18 At once, to Byron
- 19 Club for Sheehan
- 20 Lesbian California state senator
- 23 Madonna's pair
- 24 Dottermans of Antonia's Line
- 25 "My lips are ____"
- 29 Announcement from the cockpit
- 30 Welcome response after an S/M session
- 32 Land of singer S. O'Connor
- 33 Gay Vermont state senator
- 37 What there oughta be
- 38 Like phone sex
- 39 Short-order sandwich for porkers?
- 40 Like an ACT UP protester
- 41 Some falcon feathers
- 42 Gay Utah state senator
- 44 And, to Rohm
- 45 Matching notes for Rorem?
- 46 Bear market opposites
- 47 Like a splendid fruit?
- 49 Coll. of Phil Andros
- 50 Heather ____ Two Mommies
- 53 Lesbian New York Assembly member
- 57 Rupert Everett's Ready to ____
- 60 Cut
- 61 Streisand's Prince of Tides costar
- 62 It comes before sum
- 63 Staffer to 53-Across
- 64 Give a large bosom, e.g.
- 65 Supporter of Julia Morgan?
- 66 Not even once, to Whitman
- 67 Love objects

Down

- 1 Where to find Uranus
- 2 Instrument of the Phantom of the Opera
- 3 People in flaming pants?
- 4 Outside opening?
- 5 Like a pirate insignia
- 6 Digital-rectal and such
- 7 Caesar's post-orgasm cry?
- 8 A wink's partner
- 9 Sticks it out
- 10 Cups and such
- 11 Earhart's medium
- 12 Sign of a Broadway hit
- 13 Ann Heron's One Teenager in ____
- 21 Star quality
- 22 Cartoon squeal
- 26 Almost the color purple
- 27 Muse for Millay
- 28 Disney duck
- 29 Airline to the land of the cut
- 30 Home near polar bears, perhaps
- 31 Foreman of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force
- 33 Enjoy orally
- 34 New York state senator Tom
- 35 Movie about Kahlo
- 36 Nuts and bolts
- 37 They aren't straight
- 40 Bashed
- 42 Meat substitute
- 43 Top target
- 45 Murder, ____ Meowed
- 48 PC drive insert
- 49 Rock Hudson's Gun Fury, for one
- 50 Role of Caroline Rhea on Sabrina
- 51 Line of Rupert Everett
- 52 Orients a certain way
- 54 Garfield's whipping boy
- 55 Take a trolley that goes "Clang, clang, clang," e.g.
- 56 Without a date
- 57 Where to have cybersex
- 58 Preposition that goes either way
- 59 Khan's title

April Q-Scopes by Jack Fertig Recharge your batteries, Taurus!

Venus entering Aries provides a challenging spark to the profound re-evaluations of responsibility being raised by Pluto and Saturn. Be patient, take the long view, and rise to the challenge of seeing how your impulses can be harnessed to deep and necessary changes.

ARIES (March 20 - April 19): Venus is in your sign, and it's a great time for a makeover. Looking good professionally is more important than just looking gorgeous, so freshen up your work as well as your appearance. Looking good in lieu of accomplishment will fool no one.

TAURUS (April 20 - May 20): Allow yourself time to be alone. Recharge your batteries; take time to think about important issues, to organize hobbies or crafts, or to look more critically at some of your creative efforts. When you need fresh air, do some volunteer work.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 20): Throwing yourself into some community efforts will bring you to unanticipated challenges. You can overcome them, but will have to re-evaluate how you network with others, and how you support and use community structures.

CANCER (June 21 - July 22): Making useful connections may feel cynical. The truth is, you tend to be a little too romantic and shouldn't be shy about basing relationships on something practical. Focus your urge to edit on yourself; others rarely appreciate it.

LEO (July 23 - August 22): You're suddenly impatient to make your mark in a new territory. Stop and think. Rather than wasting this energy in some egoistic indulgence, you can apply your skills to present your most valued ideas and talents.

VIRGO (August 23 - September 22): Be bold and daring. Traits you've experienced as liabilities can prove very advantageous if you try playing with them - perhaps in dark, subversive ways. Erotic role play can unlock power where you thought you were weak.

LIBRA (September 23 - October 22): Nice people can argue nicely. Assert your points respectfully and hear your partner - or your opponent - out. Be open to new perspectives on cherished traditions. Some long-accepted history also needs a fresh look.

SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21): You're itching to make some much-needed innovations at work. As good as your ideas are, be sure to discuss any plans with colleagues, and not just for diplomacy's sake. You can learn from their ideas and improve upon your own improvements.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 - December 20): You could accomplish a great deal, earning fame and fortune. The creative impulse that should feed such progress is more likely to be a distraction. Harnessing that power productively is challenging. Don't give in to impulse. Structure and discipline are now your best bet.

CAPRICORN (December 21 - January 19): Suddenly focusing on what you value about your home and tribe, you can become very assertive and defensive. Try to take a longer view, asserting the value of your clan as part of a larger community or humanity, not distinct from it.

AQUARIUS (January 20 - February 18): To become even more comfortable with your deepest, most private feelings about sex and/or death, you need to challenge yourself to examine these most irrational mysteries with some logic. Find someone with whom you can discuss your secret feelings.

PISCES (February 19 - March 19): The fault is probably not with your partner and friends, but in what you imagine - wrongly - to be their chief assets. Try to see what they offer and what you offer to them in a new light, one that will improve all your relationships.

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 APRIL 2008

S

April 6
MGLCC Board Meeting. 1 p.m.

Take Action: Sixth Annual National GLBT Health Week sponsored by the National Coalition for LGBT Health begins

Every Sunday
Tea Dance at Metro at 4 p.m.

Pool Tournament at Pumping Station at 6 p.m.

After Park Set Sundays at Paragon at 9 p.m.

Drag Show at Backstreet at 11 p.m.

Country Sissy Bingo at Crossroads at 8 p.m.

M

Second & Fourth Mondays

Perpetual Transition. Transgender support group meets at 7:30 p.m. at MGLCC

Every Monday

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

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

April 1
Outflix 2008 Planning Meeting at 6:30 pm at MGLCC

April 15
Memphis Gaymes 2008 Planning Meeting at 6:00 pm at MGLCC

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.

W

April 2
Men's Potluck at 6:30 p.m. at MGLCC

Mid-South Comfort Care Coalition's Monthly meeting and potluck supper with presentation by Sandy Smegelsky begins at 5:30 pm at 177 North Highland

April 16
Womyn's Potluck 6:30 p.m. at MGLCC

Deadline for all submissions for May *Triangle Journal*

April 23
Hands On Memphis Volunteer Day at MGLCC at 6:30 p.m.

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

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

T

April 17
Candlelight Vigil to foster awareness of ending sexual violence at 5:30 pm at MSARC call 327-0233 for info

April 24
Gayme Night at MGLCC

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

Cooper Young Business Association sponsors a monthly **Neighborhood Night Out** ... call 276-7222 for info.

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

Karaoke at Paragon at 9 p.m.

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

F

April 4
40th anniversary of assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr Candle Light Vigil at National Civil Rights Museum at 5:30 pm

Art Opening: Dattie Sachritz with Tamar Moten on cello at 7 p.m. at MGLCC

April 18
Q-Cafe: Kim Richardson at 7 p.m. at MGLCC

April 25
May *Triangle Journal* on stands

Take Back The Night 5k Run/Walk at 6:30 pm at MSARC call 327-0233 for info

American Cancer Society's **Relay for Life** 6 pm to 6 am call 725-8621 for info

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

April 5
Women's Rugby Game at 1 p.m. at Tobey Park

April 12
Take Action: **GLBT Health Fair at MGLCC** 10:00 am - 2:00 pm, an activity of the Sixth Annual LGBT Health Week

Auditions for **1776** at Playhouse on the Square at 1 pm call 725-0776 for info

Have A Great HAIR Day Salon presents an afternoon of food, refreshments, art, music, and pet adoptions at 549 South Highland Suite 101 from 3pm to 6pm. Call 458-9101 for info.

Public Issues Forum on understanding and preventing child abuse at U of M Holiday Inn from 10 am - noon. Call 272-2020 for info.

April 19
Auditions for **Disney's High School Musical** at Playhouse on the Square at noon call 728-5631 for info

Memphis Farmers' Market opens at Central Station Pavilion 7 am

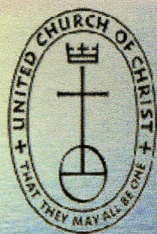
Every Saturday
Drag Show at Crossroads at 11 p.m.

Drag Show at Backstreet at midnight

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

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

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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@mgfcc.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.yahogroups.com
Cotton Pickin' Squares: Gay/Lesbian square dance club meets Thurs., 7pm 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@mgfcc.org; www.mgfcc.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):** 892S. Cooper St., (901) 278-6422 Web site: www.mgfcc.org
Memphis Stonewall Democrats: P.O. Box 42041, Memphis, TN 38174 -

www.memphisstonewalldemocrats.org
- mphsstonewalldem@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 - gjdrake@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) 278-2867Cafe 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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Watch L Word on Sunday's

Scheduled Events

**ROXANNE LEMMON BAND SAT APRIL 5 10 PM
CAROL PLUNK FRI APRIL 11 10 PM
ROXANNE LEMMON BAND SAT APRIL 12 10 PM
NMB ACOUSTIC SAT APRIL 19 9:30 PM**

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