

TRIANGLE JOURNAL



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Vol: 3 Issue: 6

GLBT News for the Midsouth

Diversity

in the eye of the beholder

*Are we closing our eyes
to who we really are?*

Inside

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E pluribus unum ...

To be one community,
stop looking the other way

by Len Piechowski and James Cox

We learned during civics class that the Latin phrase stamped on our quarters and dimes, *e pluribus unum*, means "out of many, one," signifying the unification of the American colonies into one nation.

Nowadays it is sometimes used to describe the diversity of cultures producing one United States. Clearly a goal, *e pluribus unum* is not yet a reality. Witness the backlash codified in monkey T-shirts, telephone hate rhetoric against campaign workers and the general stupidity resurfacing in the recent weeks over the potential of a president with an African-American heritage.

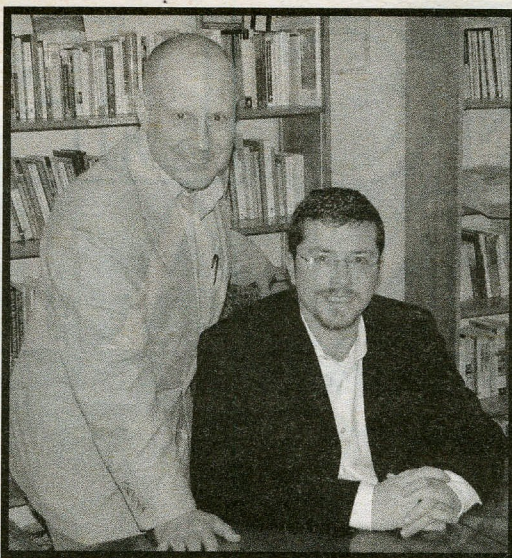
Under the leadership of Mid-South Pride, Memphis celebrates Pride 2008 this month with a much snazzier translation of *e pluribus unum*: many cultures, one community. The GLBT community of Memphis is, in many ways, a microcosm of the larger region in which we live. As recently as two decades ago, we Memphians pretty much thought of ourselves in black and white. Literally. We were black Memphians and white Memphians. And then, without first having successfully resolved the deep-seated issues rooted in that division, we suddenly went Technicolor! We started to see peoples of other cultures added to the citizenry. Additional new challenges were then piled on top of unresolved diversity issues.

Certainly Mid-South Pride cannot be asking us to celebrate a reality. We think they are challenging us to strive for a very worthy goal. But one that will not come easily.

Another worthy goal? Preventing ourselves from thinking that many cultures, one community refers only to the GLBT community racial make-up.

For all of the "pride" we celebrate during June, the GLBT community is generally deathly afraid of anything or anyone that is different from us. And when we're afraid, we call each other names. We look away. Or we simply feign ignorance, mouths agape.

Some of us believe anyone older than we are is a "troll." Anyone younger, a "twink." Some gay men turn up their noses at lesbians, and vice versa. The leather tribe at the Pumping Station expresses disdain for the young 3 a.m. crowd at Backstreet, and some members of that crowd would never be caught dead talking to a "bear." Some of us believe "bisexual" is just another word for "noncommittal" or "closeted." There are those who believe that only drag queens should wear dresses (and even then they should get tips for it), and we will never, ever understand "transgender" or "intersex."



For all of our yelling, marching and rainbow-flag-waving, we as a GLBT community do not respect our own diversity. In one moment, we cry out so desperately to the "Bible-thumping breeders" for acceptance. A half-second later, we will smother the voices of those who do not look, act, think or believe the same as we do. At the very least, we look away.

In this issue, we'll look back in time to the struggles of our senior gays and lesbians when working toward full acceptance. Also, we'll present some of the divisions and challenges that we must address as we work for that same goal today. You'll read of GLBs without the Ts. You'll read about a group sorting out differences and trying to find common ground. And you'll read of the unique cultural struggles of three important persons within our community.

It's possible that our forefathers failed Latin. Maybe what they meant to say - perhaps should have said - was "from one springs many."

Embracing our diversity doesn't trickle down. Instead it starts with one person, one small speck in this world, saying, "The ignorance stops here."

And maybe then, the GLBT community, as well as the entire community, will have something to be proud of.

EDITORIAL POLICY OF TRIANGLE JOURNAL

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

Triangle Journal is published 12 times a year by a volunteer staff. None of the editors, staff or consultants will profit by revenues from the ads you see in these pages. When our advertisers support us financially, they are supporting the programs of our community center, and playing a part in creating a better future for the rainbow community.

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

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

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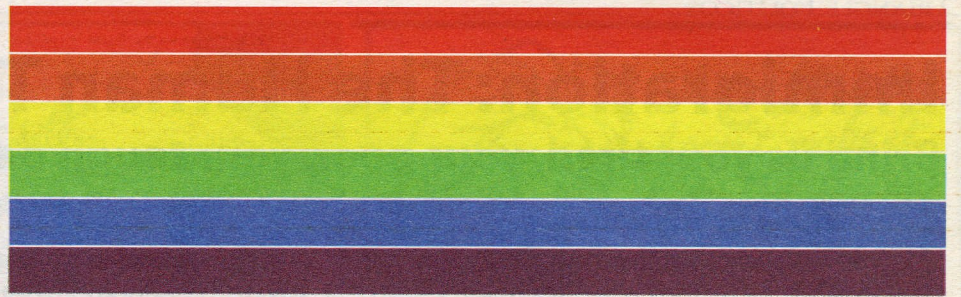
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The melting pot at the end of the rainbow

by Len Piechowski & James Cox



From time to time, the GLBT community likes to call itself "the rainbow community," an obvious reference to the six-colored flag that we proudly wave, pin to our lapels or adhere to our rear bumpers. Although each color of the rainbow flag is intended to represent a concept -- red represents life; yellow is the light and hope of the sun; orange symbolizes healing; green stands for nature; blue signifies serenity; violet is spirituality -- you need only to look around to see a rainbow of colors reflected in the faces of our community.

Here in the Midsouth, it wasn't so long ago that white male faces dominated, relegating those of a different race to separate water fountains and segregated schools. And even today, if some people had their way, members of the "rainbow community" here in the Bible Belt of America would be assigned their own water fountains as well.

Being black and gay or Hispanic and lesbian in the conservative South could be seen as a minority double whammy. Prejudice still runs deep here in a city that figures so centrally in the battle for civil rights, but three members of the GLBT community from very diverse backgrounds who call Memphis home say the situation is changing, albeit very slowly.

In many cultures, homosexuality is still one of the ultimate unthinkable. Being gay isn't considered just a sin; it's dishonorable.



When Susana Rodas moved to Memphis three years ago, she found a growing Hispanic GLBT community.

Susana Rodas, who grew up in Chihuahua, Mexico, and moved to Memphis three years ago, "In the Mexican culture, [homosexuality] is still taboo. I just spoke to my sister about this and she feels there's rejection, fear and discrimination due to ignorance in

the matter and also due to our strong religious beliefs or roots. Nowadays, we are seeing big changes but there's a lot to do."

Terrence Jones, who prefers to identify himself as an American, also found reason for concern in his cultural assessment. "Some people in the African-American culture consider us broken, misguided, even ignorant."

Bruce Bui arrived in United States from Vietnam with his family when he was eight years old. Bui says, "I can't truly and honestly define in detail an attitude that Vietnam has towards

homosexuality. But I can comment that being a first-generation, I am grateful for my parents who, knowingly or not, gave me the opportunity to embrace the freedom, struggle and courage to be a truer person than I would have been if I had not grown up in America."

For Rodas, coming out to her family was a complex sequence of events that continues to unfold today.

"They heard it from my brother who is gay as well some years ago, but we never talked about it until recently. We were avoiding the subject until it was unbearable for me. My mother and sister are worried about me facing discrimination or not being able to be happy for being perceived as 'different.' My mother feels guilty about it; she thinks that she could have done something different, that somehow she is responsible for it. Overall, I feel their support so that's what matters."

When reflecting on coming-out, Jones says, "I never told my family because we don't 'relate' on that level. They 'know' but I never 'told' them. I think this may be quite common in my ethnic community."

Bui told his parents and brother and sister that he was gay when he was in high-school.

"My parents' reaction to my coming out was not unlike many other parents. I suppose me saying so, acknowledging vocally, was very tough for them ... they had other challenges in understanding the opportunities that are

possible here in the United States, I would assume that me living my life as an openly gay man was another idea that they needed time to be accustomed to."

As with the predominant culture of the Midsouth for many years, some members of the GLBT community here feel that white males are still leading the charge, rising to leadership positions and leading the equality conversation.

"The local gay community is where I first experienced true racism. It hurt my feelings for awhile when people turned their backs to me when I offered a simple greeting, but I know where I live and have better things to do than to suffer from the ignorance. We are a divided community that wants to be accepted in the eyes of others without being able to accept each other," Jones said. "Nevertheless, I disagree with the idea that the GLBT community is dominated by the gay white male. I'm glad that the men

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Immigration: The Human Toll

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Commentary by Will Batts

Last month, in my home town of Chattanooga, a raid took place at a poultry plant, one of the city's largest employers. The U.S. Department of Immigration detained dozens of men and women suspected of being in this country illegally. It's becoming a more common sight and one to which many have become desensitized. Just another news story about people being rounded up and "processed." A disturbing image.

This story, however, featured an even more distressing visual. The Feds, in an apparently honest attempt to consider the psychological impact, had representatives from child services on hand when the detainees' children returned from school. Imagine a kid's reaction having just stepped off the bus and finding that her parents had been taken from their workplace and were not at home to greet her. Imagine the terror and anxiety in both the children and the parents not knowing what was happening to their loved ones. What would your reaction be?

Perhaps the children have become accustomed to living in fear. Maybe the parents are used to being constantly worried about being "found out." Though we may not share the same experiences, those in our community who live in the closet can relate to that fear of exposure. Hiding, however unpleasant, becomes a part of life.

Our country is struggling mightily with the issue of immigration, both legal and otherwise. As with most important issues, the loudest voices are at the extreme; those who'd grant citizenship to all with no questions asked versus those who say to deport anyone not here legally. Neither is a very realistic or practical proposal.

As with most arguments, both sides have points that must be considered. After 9/11, our country has become much more skittish. Perhaps the most lasting and pervasive fear comes from the revelation that the hijackers lived and worked freely among us. We found no tell-tale mark or revealing characteristic to identify the evil lurking in their hearts. Though the hijackers, ironically, entered the U.S. legally, our country suddenly felt exposed and vulnerable by having such open borders. Much like we all lock our doors at night to keep unwanted people out of our houses, some feel the best way to protect ourselves is to lock our country's doors.

But we're not like most countries. Our society aspires to be open, free and welcoming to all types of people and cultures. How do we protect ourselves while realizing and celebrating our multicultural strength? Security is a high priority, but what if the price of that security is the sacrifice of the very principles we aspire to live by: equality, freedom, due process and a respect for human dignity. To paraphrase a Christian principle: What profiteth a country if it gains the whole world and yet loses its soul?

The victor among the remaining presidential candidates will have this issue squarely in front of them on day one. He or she and the upcoming Congress must address this issue and find a solution that reflects our need to be safe and our need to be humane. Lack of leadership on this issue by our current administration is bringing us ever closer to crisis. It's time for them to lead and to make some tough decisions.

And what about those children affected by the raid in Chattanooga? To add more stress to an already stressful time, the city schools were in the midst of standardized testing. Officials felt that it would be good for the children to return to the safety and comfort of their schools the next day while the fate of their parents was being decided. Brings a whole new meaning to "No Child Left Behind."



Politics 101: A Triangle Series Everyone loves a party!

by Andrew Stricklin

After you have gotten a taste of being a political activist, then comes the next step in getting more involved in politics. Join a party!

Join your local and state party: Politics is not strictly about campaigns. Things must go on for the party after the balloons are popped and the confetti swept. The local committee is the entity responsible for political activity outside campaigns, whether it is education, fundraising or candidate recruitment and development.

The local party structure is usually focused within counties. The number of slots available for your given precinct are based on a number of different criteria. Your local political committee can provide you with more information on how things are done in your area and if there are any openings for your precinct on the committee. You can find out who your local leadership is through the state party, your county's election commission or even our buddy, Google.

Once you join the committee, you have a few options. You can serve as a member or you can step up and become part of the leadership. Sometimes you will have to put some time in before getting elected to leadership. It just depends on the needs of the committee.

From the local level, the party moves up usually to the congressional district. At this level, another committee will help facilitate larger activities and events that will encompass more than just your area. This committee will pull resources from different counties in your district and will help facilitate communication between the many local leadership teams.

Then there is the state committee. It will vary among parties how this body is constituted, but the primary focus of the state committee is to oversee how things are done. This body adopts state party rules, which govern the local and congressional committees.

Join an affiliated organization: If you want to start out smaller, you can join an affiliated organization. These organizations are still political organizations but are focused to specific segments of society. Check with your local party to see what is available in your area. If there is not one that fits you, you can always start a new organization.

Become a candidate: One complaint heard today is there aren't any good candidates. Change that! You do not have to run for governor your first time out. Start small on your local school board, city council or county governing body. You can even start with a position in your church or favorite civic organization.

You do not have to make it a life-long career; serve a few years and then step aside for others to follow. But always remember, there is nothing wrong with being a career politician; just do not expect to please everyone. If we ever have an elected official that can accomplish that, they will be impressive!

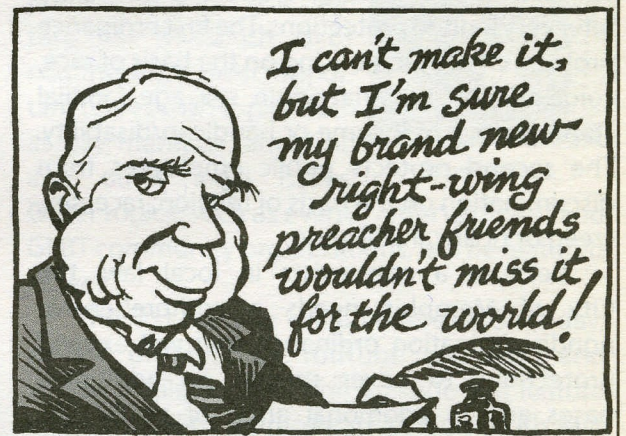
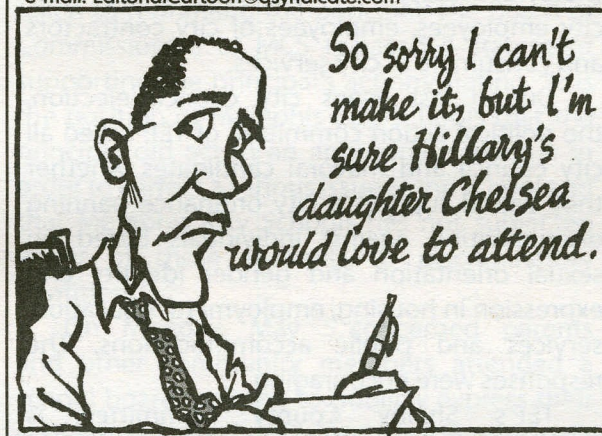
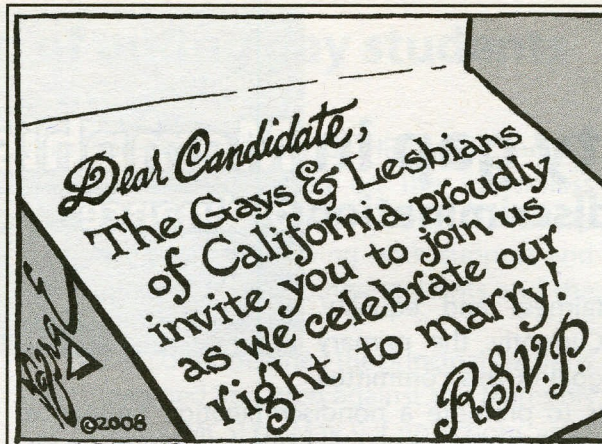
Is there truly unity in the GLBT community?

Commentary by Marisa Richmond, Ph.D.

In a month when communities across the country are celebrating Pride, the notion of a true GLBT community is questioned. Is there really a GLBT community or is it just a myth?

To understand the reasons why some segments of the GLBT community question the commitment to diversity, we must go back to the origins of Pride. It is generally accepted that Pride commemorates the Stonewall Riots in Greenwich Village in June 1969. According to a brochure I picked up on a visit several years ago, "a group of drag queens and other patrons of the bar fought back against police harassment and made history by saying 'no' to intolerance and 'yes' to empowerment." In other words, members of the transgender community, their friends and supporters, sparked those riots. Despite this, many around the country have tried to claim that the transgender community is a latecomer to the fight for equal rights. How can the group which started the fight for equality be a latecomer to that same movement?

Historian Susan Stryker argues in her film, *Screaming Queens*, the riot at San Francisco's Compton's Cafeteria in 1966, as well as another riot at Dewey's Lunch Counter in Philadelphia in 1965, have been overlooked because of the identities of the rioters. She points out that the majority were African-American, Asian and Latino transgender sex workers. Just as the role of African-American and Latino cowboys were removed from early histories of the west in a process now called "whitewashing," the same thing has been done to the drag queens and transsexuals from Dewey's, Compton's and Stonewall because they did not fit the middle class nature. By pretending that transgender people were not involved in the early fight for



equal rights, some have argued that they have not earned the right to be included today

So what has been the result of this history rewrite to remove the role of those courageous individuals who stood up first? Time and time again, transgender people have been declared expendable. At the federal level, when the Employment Non Discrimination Act (ENDA) was introduced, transgender people were already lobbying to include "gender identity" to the bill. Attorney Phyllis Frye testified in 1994 on the necessity for adding such language to ENDA. Staffers from Human Rights Campaign (HRC) told Congressional staffers not to call upon her. This is what led Phyllis to organize the very first Transgender Lobby Day in March 1995. HRC finally agreed to support fully inclusive legislation in 2004. Less than a year after that vote, in 2005, that same group reneged on its support and endorsed two bills that left out "gender identity." The first was hate crimes legislation and the second a federal employees non-discrimination bill. While 39 national groups co-signed a letter supporting a fully inclusive hate crimes bill that year, HRC refused to do so.

In 2007, that same group again stepped down from the fight for equal rights when it refused to stand with nearly 400 GLBT groups, representing millions of people, in supporting only fully inclusive nondiscrimination legislation.

This lack of acceptance of diversity within the GLBT community has also extended to the state level. Right here in Tennessee, the Hate Crimes Penalty Enhancement Act passed in 2000 without gender identity and transgender people were discouraged from testifying on the bill. Ironically, Minnesota had passed a fully inclusive non-discrimination law as early as 1993, a full year before ENDA was introduced. Since its inception in 2003, the Tennessee Transgender Political Coalition has been a lone voice repeatedly calling for gender identity to be added to the hate crimes statute.

Local battles have also been ongoing across the country, and this continues to be the case even in Tennessee. When GLB advocates pushed for a non-discrimination ordinance in Nashville in 2003, the transgender community was excluded from the planning and writing of

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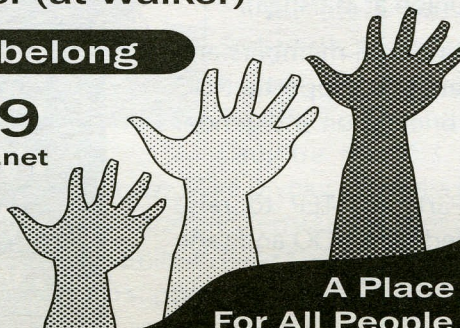
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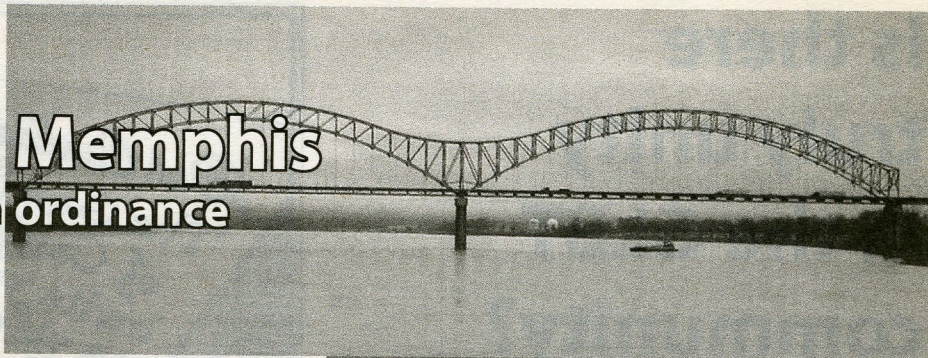
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Bridging the equality gap in Memphis

TEP working for citywide nondiscrimination ordinance

by Jonathan Cole



The City of Memphis currently does not have a comprehensive nondiscrimination ordinance to protect all citizens against discriminatory treatment. Instead, Memphis has two ordinances relating to discrimination that offer very limited protections. The first ordinance protects citizens in housing on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, familial status, source of income or handicap/disability. The second protects public employees from discrimination on the basis of religion, race, sex, creed or political affiliation.

Because a gap exists in local law, the City of Memphis needs a comprehensive nondiscrimination ordinance that will expand protections to cover people on additional bases and in additional areas of public life. Fully protective legislation would prohibit discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations and education on the basis of age, race, color, creed, religion, national origin, ancestry, disability, marital status, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation or physical characteristics.

A comprehensive nondiscrimination ordinance would protect people where the state and federal laws fall short. Tennessee state law currently prohibits discrimination in employment, housing, finance, and public accommodations on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, sex, age or national origin. Federal civil rights laws protect people from discrimination in public accommodations, housing, and employment on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin and disability. Currently, no federal or Tennessee state laws protect lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender people from discrimination. A comprehensive nondiscrimination ordinance in Memphis is necessary in order to fill in the gaps where federal and state laws fall short.

By passing a comprehensive nondiscrimination ordinance, Memphis would join the growing list of nearly two hundred municipalities and twenty states that currently protect their citizens from harmful discrimination. More and more cities, counties and states are passing comprehensive nondiscrimination laws to protect their citizens' civil rights. Many Southern cities, including Atlanta, New Orleans, Austin and Dallas, as well as peer cities, such as Louisville and Indianapolis, already offer protections to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. Memphis should be the next city to join their ranks.

The Tennessee Equality Project (TEP) began working toward this goal last year. TEP established the Shelby County Committee to focus on local initiatives supporting GLBT

fairness and equality. Currently, the primary goal of this committee is to promote a nondiscrimination ordinance (NDO) for the City of Memphis that would protect city employees, employees of city contractors and consumers of city services.

During last year's city council election, the political action committee of TEP asked all city council and mayoral candidates whether they would support a city ordinance banning discrimination against individuals based on sexual orientation and gender identity and expression in housing, employment, education, services and public accommodations. The responses were encouraging.

TEP's Shelby County Committee is committed to developing strong relationships with elected officials. During last year's election season, TEP held the first event of its kind – a Meet & Greet with candidates running for local office. Over one hundred people attended this event including candidates representing nearly every city council position. The committee is currently engaged in discussion with city council members about the details for a NDO for Memphis.

TEP will not be able to accomplish this important task without community involvement. Consider taking at least one of the following actions to promote a fully comprehensive NDO for Memphis:

1. Walk with TEP in the 2008 Mid-South Pride Parade on June 14 at 4 PM. What better way is there to let elected leaders know that you support fairness and equality?
2. Tell TEP about any unfair treatment you experienced with the City of Memphis as a GLBT citizen or employee. You can report discrimination on TEP's website at www.tnep.org or at the TEP booth during the Mid-South Pride Festival on June 14.
3. Volunteer your time with TEP to help build community support for the NDO. The Shelby County Committee meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM at Quetzal (664 Union at Marshall).
4. Write to your City Council members and the Mayor to tell them you support a NDO that includes sexual orientation and gender identity protection.
5. Host a House Party for TEP to raise awareness of the need for a NDO and raise funds to support the initiative.

Non-municipal employers have already corrected equality gaps in the workplace. Memphis employers that already prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation include:

- AT&T*
- AutoZone
- Best Buy*
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- Smith & Nephew
- Southwest Tennessee Community College*
- SunTrust Banks*
- Target
- United Parcel Service*
- University of Memphis*
- Verizon
- Walgreens*
- Wal-Mart

**also include gender identity*

Memphis principal accused of outing gay students

by Natasha Burnett-Holmes

In the wake of accusations that Daphne Beasley, the principal of Hollis F. Price Middle College High School, outed two of her gay students, concerned GLBT community members and parents met at Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center to show support and find out what could be done in conjunction with the American Civil Liberties Union's (ACLU) legal action.

In September 2007, Principal Beasley, in response to complaints about excessive PDA (public displays of affection) among students, reportedly ordered her staff to make a list of all the heterosexual and homosexual couples within the 100-plus student body. She is accused of publicly posting the list in her office where students and faculty could see it, which effectively outed the two gay students. According to reports, after confronting two other students in the computer lab, the principal was informed of the teens' sexual orientation. The young men claim that afterwards she interrogated them in her office and then called their parents. Reportedly, Beasley did not call to complain about the students' PDA, but to inform the parents of their sexuality.

The outed students claim that as a result of her actions, they have been subjected to death threats and discrimination by both students and faculty. One of the students told of losing an opportunity to go on a class trip to New Orleans because of his sexuality even after he submitted a stellar essay and received several recommendations from both high school and college professors.

In May 2008, after the principal refused to apologize to the parents, the story went public, causing widespread debate not only throughout the city, but nationally as well. Comments

from parents, students of HFP and teachers alike have been posted on the Eyewitness News Everywhere website in the "Speak up Memphis" section, showing both support and condemnation for the outed students and the principal.

The ACLU condemned the principal's actions and threatened litigation against the Memphis City Schools (MCS) by May 9 if no actions were taken to reprimand the principal. The Board of Commissioners of MCS released a statement supporting the principal's actions stating, "It is the position of Memphis City Schools that the principal did act in an appropriate manner in order to correct a serious issue at the school and that Memphis City Schools has not subjected either of these students to discriminatory treatment."

On Monday, May 5, concerned parents and other community members attended a school board meeting to publicly express their concern to the school board for the principal's actions and the system's handling of the issue. The complaint filed by the ACLU demands the following: an apology to the two outed students, reprimanding the principal, putting new policies in place to prevent it from happening again, and awarding money to the two students for their suffering.

A statement from the Memphis City Schools attorney said, "We take all allegations of invasion of privacy and discrimination seriously. At this time, we have not completed our internal investigation of this matter. Once we have completed our investigation, we will submit a formal response to the ACLU."

As of this printing, no resolution of this issue has been reported.

OUTlook debuts this month

Locally produced web series to feature global issues

A local GLBT show will make its debut this month. "The OUTlook," created by Natasha Burnett-Holmes, will feature the Midsouth GLBT community's most important issues with topics such as gay marriage, adoption and other legal issues.



Burnett-Holmes

Other topics, such as events, entertainment and GLBT community organizations, will be featured as well.

The first episode will premiere on Saturday, June 7, on MySpace, YouTube, and Veho, and will be available 24-7. The episode will feature interviews with representatives from both Mid South Pride and Black Pride in anticipation of Pride month. Subsequent episodes will feature Memphis' newest lesbian organizations and local author Skyy.

For more information, contact Natasha at www.myspace.com/theoutlookmemphis or theoutlookmemphis@yahoo.com.

Initiative: Fairness begins weekly dialogue with African-American pastors

by Ian Keller

Although the premier meetings between members of the GLBT community and representatives of the African-American clergy of Memphis have started modestly, current trends seem to indicate a steady growth.

Three persons participated at the first meeting on May 13. At the second meeting a week later, there were five individuals. Will Batts, one of the participants at all three sessions, states "Our talks are aimed at finding common ground from which to build relationships between our communities." Len Piechowski hopes that the ongoing dialogue will "... provide an alternative and much more constructive voice to the opinions prompted by 2008 right wing political campaigns and publicly expressed by some African-American pastors."

Rev. John Gilmore of Open Heart Spiritual Center is very energized by the dialogue and hopes the group can soon conduct a larger public conference. He hopes to invite supportive and affirming clergy and their church members to engage in presentations and discussions with the GLBT community. "We must destroy destructive labels," he says, "and recognize the dignity that is present in all people."

Pegasus Gives Back



April 13 was a lucky day for the Memphis Child Advocacy Center. The Mystic Krewe of Pegasus Memphis met at the MCAC for their monthly meeting and presented a check for \$12,578.62, proceeds from their fundraising efforts and Mardi Gras Ball from this past year. The Krewe has donated more than \$24,000.00 in the past three years to the MCAC. This was the Krewe's third year for partnering with the MCAC. Associate Director Virginia Stallworth was on hand to receive the check.

Pictured are: First row, Virginia Stallworth, Associate Director MCAC; King Pegasus IV, Larry Tyger; Queen Pegasus IV Shari Walker. Second row: Stacey McKnight, Paulette Harness, Syreeta Bruster, Ed

Rachels, Shayne Rachels and Becky Rachels. Third row: Mike Divoky, Carmella Henderson and Steve Devore. Top row: Rodney Brown, Lee Goins, P.J. Newton and Terry Eason. Not pictured: Ben Barton, Mathew Bowlin, Byron Cole, Jeff Davidson, Larry Hamilton, Keila Sherrell and Bill Zachary.

Pegasus Memphis is a group of volunteers who support and promote charitable programs under the motto, "unity and diversity for charity."

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A swing and a miss

by Elizabeth Flanders Pitts

News Flash: I'll miss the Pride parade this year. Since my daughter and I relocated to a Very Small Town, I miss out on a lot of activities to which I'd grown accustomed in my ten years of living in Memphis. Many who are still in the neighborhood might assert that the thing I miss most has got to be drinking a gimlet on the patio at Side Street, but they'd be incorrect; I think the things about which I wax nostalgic most often are the ones I associate with Bluff City Sports Association.

I played softball with BCSA for several years. I get asked a lot these days how a straight lady got so involved with "gay softball" and it's a long story: some friends talked my husband and me into playing, we made new friends while doing so, and became so addicted that my husband and I continued to play even after the divorce was final. I served on the executive board after I got pregnant, as a way to stay involved without trying to run bases with an extra fifty pounds out front (I did, however, get a team jersey that year with "1.5" as my player number). There were celebrations and dramas and big victories and small ones; days behind the plate when I couldn't stop smiling at how much fun I was having and days in the infield when it was so hot I saw stars.

After my daughter was born, I continued to participate because I couldn't imagine not doing so. I've never worn the same jersey two years in a row, and I loved getting new people involved in the organization. My child has lived nigh on five years now watching her mommy play softball, of course, but she's also watched her mommy's friends participate in an activity where victories were celebrated and team members shared something important. On or off the field, she's seen people get along and work together and celebrate.

She didn't just learn this from the sidelines. She also attended the Pride parade with me twice and rode in her little red wagon while I walked with the BCSA teams behind our banner. Oh, it was a long trip up Cooper Street pulling her (and the cooler, and towels, and crackers), but it was delightful to see her with little rainbow flags in her chubby hands and butterfly wings on her back, waving at everyone along the parade route. Slicked up with sunscreen and anticipating the water park afterward, she waved to crowds on either side of the street – secure in the knowledge that everyone was as pleased to see her as she was pleased to see them.

Anyone who knows Scout knows that this is not a reaction unique to the Pride parade; she has labored under the idea that everyone on Earth is as enamored with her as she is them. Of course, anyone who knows Scout is in love with her anyway, so it works out nicely. She is unaware that anyone might dislike someone else, that there might be hate in the world, that not everyone lives in such a state of bliss. I'm fine with her residing in this perfect bubble of an idea; there's plenty of time for her to learn about unfair things later. But I love that right now she is almost five and has no clue that the Pride parade was anything other than an event where people waved flags and shouted and clapped just for fun. Scout doesn't know that there's anything about those friends that anyone thinks is different, nor should she. She's just excited about everyone showing up with her.

I recently started playing softball in my new town; I'd been looking for a team and one of my board members invited me to play in her church league. If you know me, you know that I'm a one-trick pony: I can only catch, and I'm not much of a hitter. The only thing to recommend my softball "skills" is enthusiasm and a willingness to get hit in the face. I'll admit it right now: I was a little nervous going into the first practice. I wanted to play, but would a church-league team accept me? I don't know the rules of coed softball; BCSA hadn't changed up the ball sizes in years, and we'd never expected anyone to alternate genders in the lineup. Would they give me a hard time about being way too excited about a game? Are Methodists the type to make me sign something condemning what they perceive to be sinful behavior and lock me in a creepy motel room for deprogramming?

Turns out: no, no, and no. They're perfectly nice people. I had a little explaining to do when I couldn't remember to switch out the balls (ladies hit a smaller softball in some coed leagues, for those of you who don't know) and I've fielded the questions about "Didn't you play coed ball in Memphis?" answering with the frankness that comes from having participated so long in a league I loved, albeit one that had slightly different rules. I don't spend a lot of time before and after practice socializing with my teammates, and there are a lot of high-school kids on the team, but it's not really that different.

Okay, that's a lie. It's really different. It's painfully different. I am not accustomed to softball players who don't enjoy a cold beer after practice or a game, and I can't get used to how some of the high-schoolers are dreadfully lazy and think it's cute to be helpless. The church-league people are nice, and they function as a team, but I miss BCSA softball, where motivated people worked toward a goal that was loftier than merely winning a game. The Bluff City Sports Association players had more to be proud of than just skills; one look at my daughter's glee at riding in the Pride parade with her softball friends showed everyone who cared to notice that BCSA was about more than winning games. It's about feeling less different. It's about how there's no difference at all, and Scout's there in the parade to prove it.

As I said, I'll miss the Pride Parade this year.



The Heat and the Southern Mafia tangle in one of the first Bluff City Sports Association's softball games of 2008. Games are played each Sunday in Willow Park.

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Un poco de historia sobre el Día del Orgullo Gay

por Erick Vásquez

La primera marcha del orgullo gay ocurrió en la ciudad de Nueva York a finales de Junio de 1969. El incidente comenzó cuando gran parte de la población de la villa Greenwich, de mayoría homosexual, se confrontó contra los policías que constante y violentamente efectuaban redadas en el bar gay Stonewall Inn. Desde entonces este evento que originó el día del orgullo gay se conoce simplemente como Stonewall.

El enfrentamiento duró más de cinco días e incluyó a más de 2000 manifestantes, incluyendo homosexuales, lesbianas, travestis, transexuales y heterosexuales simpatizantes con la protesta. El cuerpo de policía encargado de parar la revuelta tan solo contaba con 400 unidades. Fue durante este amotinamiento que los manifestantes comenzaron a gritar su lema de protesta: "Poder Gay". Además, un grupo de travestis formaron una línea al frente de los policías y cantaban:

*Somos las chicas de Stonewall
Llevamos nuestro cabello en rizos
No usamos calzones
Mostramos nuestro pelo púbico
Vestimos nuestros overalls
Por arriba de nuestras mariconas rodillas*

El año siguiente se organizó una marcha conmemorativa desde la villa Greenwich hasta el Central Park de Nueva York. Con los años, esta marcha se extendió a las ciudades de Los Angeles y San Francisco en California y al resto de las grandes ciudades norteamericanas en lo que llegó a conocerse como la marcha del orgullo gay o día del orgullo gay.

En las casi cuatro décadas de historia, esta marcha se ha extendido a muchísimas ciudades alrededor del mundo, incluyendo la mayor parte de las ciudades europeas, Israel, Japón, Nueva Zelandia y Australia; y a países menos liberales como Turquía, Polonia, Líbano, Serbia, Suráfrica, Estonia y Rumanía.

Sao Paulo, Brasil tiene la marcha más grande de la historia gay con 3.5 millones de personas marchando sobre la famosa avenida Paulista en 2007. Otras ciudades en Latinoamérica que incluyen una marcha gay son: ciudad de México, Guadalajara, Tijuana, Puerto Vallarta, y Monterrey, en México; Buenos Aires y Rosario en Argentina; Santiago y Valparaíso en Chile; San Juan, Puerto Rico; Caracas, Venezuela y Lima, Perú entre muchas.

En 2005 el día del orgullo gay en Madrid tuvo una doble celebración al haberse aprobado pocos días antes el matrimonio gay en España. En 2007 Madrid volvió a tener un doble festejo al coincidir el día del orgullo gay con el "EuroPride", otro importante evento gay de Europa.

See English translation on page 16.

California strikes down ban on gay marriage

The California Supreme Court ruled on May 15 that Prop 22, the voter approved initiative used to block same-sex marriage, is unconstitutional. The court also said that California's domestic partnership law is not a good enough substitute for marriage.

The ruling clears the way for gay and lesbian couples to marry once the ruling is officially published by the court. Once that is done same-sex couples in California will be able to obtain civil marriage licenses.

The ruling said that churches and other religious institutions will not have to recognize or perform ceremonies for these civil marriages.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger (R) said that he accepts the ruling of the court.

"Also, as I have said in the past, I will not support an amendment to the constitution that would overturn this state Supreme Court ruling," he said in a statement.

The case dates back to 2004 when San Francisco mayor Gavin Newsom began issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples. Some 8,000 couples exchanged vows before the state Supreme Court ruled Newsom had acted illegally.

The California ruling sets the stage for a battle over a proposed constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage that is likely to appear on the November ballot.

A coalition of conservative groups, under the banner 'Protect Marriage', has submitted more than the required 694,354 signatures to qualify. The signatures are being verified.

Joint Chiefs Chair: Military "ready" to accept repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell

For quite some time, U.S. troops have supported repealing the military's "Don't Ask Don't Tell" (DADT) policy. A December 2006 Zogby International poll of service members who had served in Iraq or Afghanistan found 73 percent of those polled were "comfortable with lesbians and gays." A 2004 University of Pennsylvania Annenberg Election Survey found that 50 percent of junior enlisted service members believed gays and lesbians should be allowed to serve openly in the military. The number of junior enlisted service members holding that view in 1992 was only 16 percent.

On May 4, Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Adm. Mike Mullen told graduating cadets at the U.S. Military Academy that the military was ready to accept gay service members if Congress repeals DADT. A cadet asked about the law and what would happen if someone took office who wants to change it. "It's a law, and we follow it," Mullen said. "Should the law change, the military will carry that out too We are a military that is under the control of our civilian elected leaders," he continued. "It has served us well since we've been founded. That is a special characteristic of our country and I would never do anything to jeopardize that."

Mullen's statement is distinctly different from the military leadership's traditional approach. In a widely reported public statement of March 2007, then-Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Peter Pace called homosexuality "immoral" and stated that he supported DADT because "we should not condone immoral acts." At the time, Defense Secretary Robert Gates declined to condemn Pace's remarks.

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A father maligned

Commentary by "Casey"

Thomas Beatie shocked the world in early April by appearing on *Oprah* as "the first pregnant man." This was certainly no Junior! People watched in awe as he received an ultrasound on national TV. Predictably, this unique and incredible story went international, becoming the watercooler discussion for weeks. However, Thomas Beatie's pregnancy is not unique. He is not the world's first pregnant man.

Many transsexual men (FTM) have given birth to their own children, both pre- and post-transition. No one knows exactly when men began to become pregnant after physically transitioning, but anecdotally, it isn't news in the trans community. I have personally met several men who have done just what Thomas Beatie is doing. In fact, he isn't even the first pregnant man to be covered in the media. Ten years ago, Matt Rice went off testosterone to have a baby. "Family Values," an article about Rice, his partner Patrick Califia-Rice, and their son Blake, appeared on June 20, 2000, in the *The Village Voice*. Ultimately, whether he is the first pregnant man doesn't matter because Thomas Beatie is now the Christine Jorgensen of our time. He is the first pregnant man that has received extensive media coverage. For a number of reasons, this story has grown exponentially. Being on *Oprah* merely ensures that Thomas Beatie will be remembered instead of being casually forgotten in the limbo of the 24 hour news cycle.

The limelight has caused Beatie to be the butt of jokes, and he has received an extremely harsh response from the media. Pundits, anchors, comedians and bloggers have called Beatie a freak, a pervert, a bearded lady, a hairy woman, a raving lunatic, a misguided woman, he-she, s/he, hermaphrodite, tranny, thing, it, sick, stupid, ugly and disgusting. Some have wished him pain and death. Bill Schulz of Fox's *Red Eye* even said of the baby: "That little Ewok that she's about to crap out might even have a third eye." People have claimed that the baby will be confused, abnormal and set up for a life of hardship for being born into the Beatie

family. All of this has been said live on-air.

Thomas Beatie is fully within his rights as a human being and as a man to bear his own child. In fact, he said it best: "It's not a male or female desire to have a child. It's a human need. I'm a person and I have the right to have a biological child." It is very revealing that both mainstream and gay media have missed the point of Beatie's original article in *The Advocate*, which was that he and his wife Nancy have encountered a great deal of discrimination and difficulty accessing reproductive health care and technology. Instead, the media became so caught up in Beatie's transsexuality, the ogling and invasive curiosity about his body, and the "novelty" that people lost sight of what really mattered: that the Beaties have been treated unfairly and maliciously. The focus of the story shifted from the discrimination to "I wonder what's really in his pants." Once again, a transsexual person has been reduced to nothing more than a body part, his identity made directly dependent upon his genitals. He has effectively become a thing, an object, a perpetual enigma. The notion that biology is not destiny should not end with trans people. One of the main reasons that people are scared is because the idea of a man having a baby is generally thought to be an impossibility and unnatural. It is important to keep in mind that all new medical technologies, especially those around sexuality, arouse fear because they are powerful, they challenge our basic presumptions around biology, and they are "unnatural."

Many of the questions being asked about Beatie's baby were also asked about Louise Brown, the first test tube baby. Would she be normal? Would she be confused? Would people accept her? Should the doctors and the parents be playing god? Louise Brown will be turning 30



in July and is now living a stable, fulfilled life. I have the sense that the life of the Beaties' child will be similar.

These same arguments are used to delegitimize GLB parents in an arrogant and deeply misguided attempt to "protect" our children from us. You know, the children of LGB parents will be confused because their parents aren't "normal." How will they be able to integrate into society? How will children with two mothers or fathers understand themselves in a world where most people have moms and dads?

We all know how false and mean-spirited these statements are. We realize that it is blaming the victim to say that BLG parents shouldn't have children because there is so much discrimination and harassment. Why is any of this different for Thomas Beatie or for trans parents in general?

In the end, though, what any of us feels or thinks or believes about Beatie or his pregnancy isn't important. None of us is Thomas Beatie, Nancy Beatie or their doctor. The most that we can do to be respectful of this family is allow them to raise their child as responsible and loving parents without condemnation or ill will.

Don't let comments slide. Challenge people when they so blatantly dehumanize people like Thomas Beatie. Speak up when people say ugly and cold things about this man and family. Please stand up for and defend all of our rights.

Letter to the Editor

I enjoyed reading the profiles of the community's Movers and Shakers, but it confirmed the bleakness of the gay community in Memphis.

Half of your list were straight allies. Is the LGBT community so radically lacking in leadership opportunities? What (or who) is causing the stagnation? I know there are people in Memphis who are eager to make Memphis a better place to live for LGBTs, me included. But every time I have tried to participate in gay organizations, I meet obstacles and aggressive hostility, especially from our Movers and Shakers.

It's a shame our Movers and Shakers aren't interested in allowing leadership opportunities for others.

Howard Wiggins
Memphis, Tennessee

Editors' Note: The list of 21 Movers & Shakers is comprised of 15 individuals who identify as gay or lesbian, one who identifies as transgender and five who identify as straight.

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Herbert Zeman, PhD
Felipe Zuvichaux

QBliss announces 2008 Creating Change Community Awards

After celebrating its ninth anniversary this past February, QBliss has announced this year's QBliss GLBTIA Creating Change Community Award winners. The awards will be given out to the winners during Mid-South Pride's "Many Cultures, One Community" Pride Festival June 14, 2008, in Memphis.

Founded in February 1999, QBliss is a not for profit GLBTI media outlet and organization created to celebrate the diversity of our lives by providing information and to increase awareness, support and effect change in our local, national and international gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and intersexed (GLBTI) community and it's allies and friends.

QBliss Executive Director, Russell Olivera, is extremely happy about one of those new awards. According to him, this one is extremely personal. As he explains, "This year I am so happy that we can honor a personal hero of mine. We named an award after Gary Wilkerson, of Mid-South Pride, my dear friend who passed away last fall. I met and worked with Gary last year when we gave him and his organization our 'Voice Of Pride' award (2007). He was such a wonderful guy; he and I saw the same rare vision of where we wanted to lead our GLBTI community."

The award Olivera is referring to is the first ever QBliss GLBTIA Creating Change Community

Award—the "Gary Wilkerson Visionary Leadership Award".

The awards will be one of the highlights of Mid-South Pride's 2008 celebration, the biggest ever for the organization. QBliss is Mid-South Pride's major sponsor and is sponsoring the entire 13 days of events and fun. "This year we stepped up to help showcase and bring some big name people to the event to show that some us in mainstream GLBTI media support what they are doing," says Olivera.

Some of the biggest names who are also award winners will be performing and making appearances on that stage. This will include the incredible openly gay and proud singer Ari Gold, dance diva Rachel Panay and filmmakers Robert L. Camina and Yen Tan.

QBliss GLBTIA Creating Change Community Awards 2008 Winners:

Voice of PRIDE Award: The "Soulforce" organization.

Visibility Award: Actor / Comedian Leslie Jordan.

PRIDE In Music Award: Artist Ari Gold.

Outstanding Song Of The Year: "Transport Me" by Recording Artist Ari Gold.

Community Supporter Award: Recording Artist and ally Rachel Panay.

PRIDE In Cinema Award: Filmmaker / Director Robert L. Camina.

Outstanding Documentary Award: "Pageant" Directed By: Ron Davis & Stewart Halpern.

Outstanding Feature Film Award: "Ciao" Directed By Yen Ten.

PRIDE In Literature Award: Author/Professor Nancy Polikoff.

Outstanding Book Of The Year: "Beyond (Straight and Gay) Marriage" By Nancy Polikoff.

Gary Wilkerson Visionary Leadership Award: Thomas N. Simmons - Shelby County committee co-chair of the Tennessee Equality Project.

Voice Of Community Award: Sean Alexander & Kent Hamson Of Mid-South Pride.

Empowerment Award: Rich Overton & RJO Artist Relations & Management.

Voice Of QBliss: Christopher Neumann, QBliss

Pride through art and artifacts goes on display at MGLCC

The art on the walls of MGLCC will take a different twist during the weeks before and after Pride this year. Many framed artifacts and donated art pieces from the center's collection will become an exhibition of art and history.

MGLCC has amassed a significant number

of pieces relevant to Midsouth GLBT history which reside in the Vincent Astor Community Archives.

The art on the walls is always changing because the center showcases many local artists. Some of these individuals donate pieces to the center and most of the

collection remains stored away because there is only so much wall space. Vincent Astor has volunteered to arrange a number of these artifacts and works of art. At the same time, some repairs and permanent framing will continue the effort to preserve more fragile pieces.

Two significant new additions will be displayed for the first time. A memento section of the 1997 Memphis Pride 100-foot flag has just been framed and will have a prominent place in the exhibition. Using fabric from the old flag, the section was constructed by Mike Morgan, designer of the new flag. This artifact will become a permanent part of the archives. To accompany this artifact, photos and other pieces documenting many variations of the flag will also be on display.

Ten years of T-shirt logos belonging to the Memphis Pride era have been sewn into a commemorative quilt by Debi Robertson. The twelve panel quilt includes designs from Memphis Pride and Holy Trinity shirts, used during Pride celebrations between 1993 and 2003 with borders incorporating fabric from the 1997 flag. This will also celebrate the many logo designers represented.

The exhibition will run from mid-May through mid-June.

MGLCC is located at 892 S. Cooper in Midtown. Hours for the exhibit and the center are 6:00-9:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 2:00-6:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.



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Seasons in the sun

Remembering Memphis in the gay hey-days of the 70s

by James Cox

Just before the turbulent 60s evolved into the devil-may-care 70s, a defining moment in the gay rights movement took place at a hole-in-the-wall bar in Greenwich Village of New York City. While the Stonewall riots might have served as a catalyst for the gay rights movement in the big cities, gays and lesbians in heartland cities like Memphis weren't quite so ready to fight back.

"I didn't really come out until 1973," recalls Memphian David Jeffers about those post-Stonewall years in the Midsouth. "Even then, there was a lot of pressure from the cops. I remember many occasions seeing people getting beat up or thrown into police cars. The bars were always being raided. People were always being harassed on the streets outside."

In the late 60s and early 70s, Memphis had a handful of gay bars, one establishment popping up after another closed. The most "progressive" area, Jeffers remembers, was the neighborhood around Crump Stadium, where Methodist Hospital now stands. Another bar was located at Cleveland and Jefferson where there is now a Vietnamese grocery.

"At 2 a.m., we'd lock the door, put someone on the door, push aside the tables and chairs and dance, but we weren't allowed to touch each other," Jeffers says. "The police used to raid the bar because people were dancing."

Despite harassment by the Memphis Police, Jeffers says Memphis was a great environment for gay men and women in the early 70s.

"Because people didn't really want to admit that we existed," Jeffers says, "there was very little hassle. Because we were kind of under the radar to the general public, it was very promiscuous, very crazy, very wild. Of course, that was all pre-

AIDS, but Memphis was a great place to be wild and young and gay."

Things weren't much different for lesbians in those days, recalls BJ Hefner, who has lived most of her 80 years in Memphis.

"In those days, most of the gay women went to the ballpark to play basketball, softball," Hefner says, "or they had private parties. The girls just didn't get out that much and there just weren't many places for them to go."

Even though they didn't go out, they still weren't immune from the police harassment.

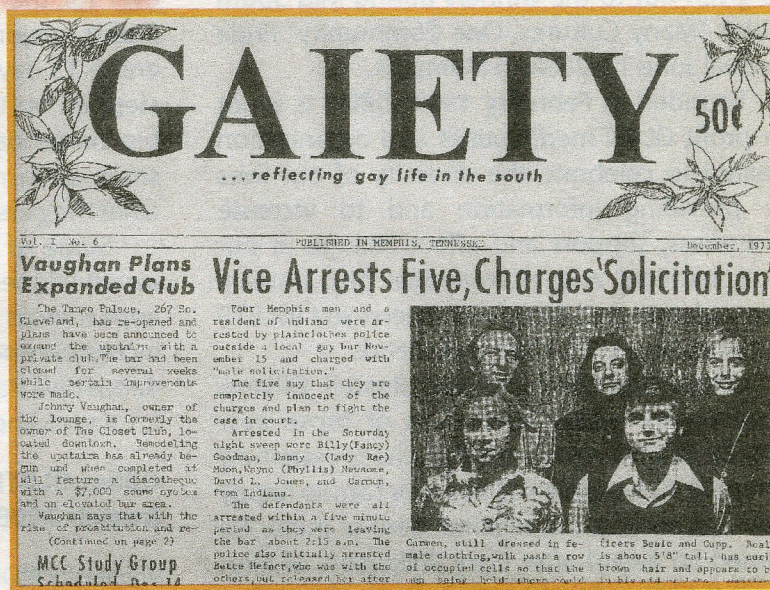
"One night there was a party at Jackie Jackson's. It was the night of the Miss America pageant, so a bunch of them went over to watch the contest, and somebody started playing cards," Hefner remembers. "Someone got mad at their girlfriend, and called the police. The police came and threw them all in jail and there was nothing they could do about it."

BJ also remembers when she and five "drag queens" - Billy "Fancy" Goodman, Danny "Lady Rae" Moon, Wayne "Phyllis" Newsome, David Jones, and "Carmen" - were arrested by the police for solicitation. The six had gone to The Body Shop, a bar at 1350 Madison Ave. Police came into the bar, and before BJ knew what was happening, all six of them were being tossed into a patrol car.

The men were first charged with female impersonation, but the charges were changed to solicitation. Hefner was released when the officers realized she was a woman.

Eventually, things changed. The bars got

Headlines from the November 1975 Gaiety, a Memphis GLBT newspaper, shows an example of the harassment members of the community faced. Despite the struggles, most people say that Memphis was a great place to be gay.



louder and bigger with the advent of disco. Men could dance with men, and even touch each other without fear of police harassment. As men and women moved from the rural areas of Tennessee, Mississippi and Arkansas, Memphis joined Nashville and Atlanta as a mecca for gay men and women throughout the South.

The first Pride parade in Memphis was held in 1976. Although it started as a small event, in later years, the parade boasted more than 3,000 participants and stretched from downtown Memphis to Overton Park.

One might think that in Memphis, a city that figured so centrally in the fight for civil rights, the fight for GLBT rights would come a little easier.

"I think a lot of [the GLBT community] saw themselves in the same struggle [as African-Americans]," Jeffers says. "Because of that, we opened a lot of doors and made a lot of people start thinking."

"We always believed that gays would be treated equally," Hefner said. "We always knew that someday we would have our freedom."

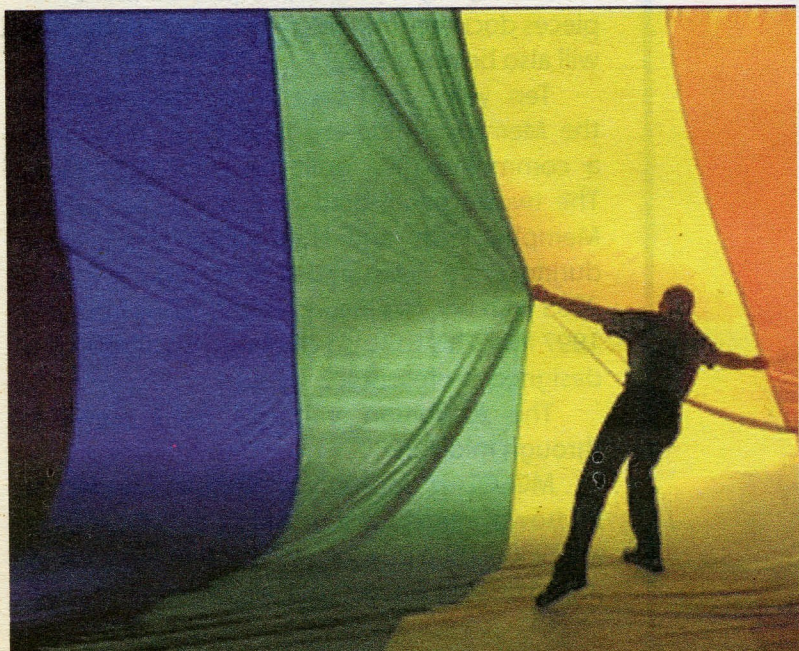
Melting pot *continued from page 3*

and women we have in leadership positions made a decision to stand up and move forward and I would like to believe that they're pursuing a goal that supersedes racial and gender identity. What we all need is a bit more communication and understanding. If anyone feels left out or ignored, they have to speak up about it. You can't expect others to know what you are feeling or thinking if you do not make it known."

"I have not yet found a group of queer Asian-Americans here in the Midsouth," said Bui. "But I have found and have been a part of so many wonderful energetic groups that share similar outlets that I enjoy. I do agree that the GLBT community here in the Midsouth is dominated by gay white males, but I don't think the gay Asian-American community is being overlooked because there simply isn't a large enough group so far to organize. With computers and large amount of information and support available today, it's so easy to find what I need if it is not available locally. I don't feel I'm being underserved."

Rodas had yet a different slant, "In my case, I'm shy by nature so there's a big challenge right there! When I first arrived in Memphis, I used the web to find MGLCC

continued on page 15



Finding Common Ground

Communications on race seek to put communities into action

by Len Piechowski

Timing is everything.

In April, while responding to attacks about his relationship with his pastor, presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.) offered reflections upon race in America that were reported by many in the mainstream media to have been the most profound speech in recent political history. With one heartfelt yet irregularly timed speech, he may have roused open discussions at many watercoolers throughout the nation about a topic usually not discussed in mixed company in America.

By the time Obama delivered his remarks, Wendi C. Thomas, metro columnist for *The Commercial Appeal* and Lisa Moore Willis, vice president of BRIDGES, had already co-founded an initiative called Common Ground, an enterprise that fosters six weeks of discussion groups between persons of different colors, cultures, backgrounds and traditions. The initiative aims to assemble the fruit of these discussions into concrete action plans to make the Midsouth a better place. The discussion groups meet for two hours every Thursday evening. The first series of meetings concludes on June 5.



Lisa Moore Willis

"We hoped for 100 brave souls to sign up. We have over 220 people participating in this round... All are asked to come to the circle and participate, and value is added by all that attend."

Members of the planning team assisting Thomas and Willis include Nancy Coffee, president and CEO of the Leadership Academy; Rabbi Micah Greenstein of Temple Israel; Beverly Robertson, president of the National Civil Rights Museum; David Williams, president and CEO of Leadership Memphis; Russ Wigginton, vice president for college relations at Rhodes College and several other key persons from the Memphis business and service sectors. The team hopes that Common Ground will be an opportunity for Midsoutherners of all shapes, sizes and colors to discover one another in a way that intends to transform the Midsouth. They hope it provides a space for dialogue and an opportunity to stop and think about the human beings we live near in the community.

The initiative is intended to serve as a

jumping off point to talk about the critical issues of race and culture. The co-founders feel it is not possible to take action without finding common ground through such discussions. Thomas and Willis feel that Common Ground is different from other initiatives in our area because it confronts what many feel is one of the most basic obstacles to change in Memphis, our reluctance to talk candidly about issues of race and how it affects our community. They believe that other efforts may focus on changes in policy or attempt to shift the community's views from the top down. It is their hope that Common Ground will build change from all sides by giving all people in Shelby County an opportunity to communicate about difficult issues in a safe environment. Perhaps due to a bit of unexpected assistance from Sen. Obama, the Midsouth community may find itself at a time in history that has primed us to be a bit more open to talking about these issues.

"We hoped for 100 brave souls to sign up," says Willis. "We have over 220 participating in this round. I hear from others how they wanted

to be involved but were unable due to schedule conflicts but plan to get involved as the effort grows!"

What role do the co-founders see for GLBT persons in this initiative? According to Willis, "We do not ask participants about their sexual orientation ... I can say we are open to all; this is a community effort for all to enjoy." She continued, "The curriculum is focused on race, the discussions are focused on race and how each of us define ourselves," says Willis, "... all are asked to come to the circle and participate and value is added by all that attend."

Persons interested in participating in Common Ground may get more information by consulting the initiative's website at www.commongroundmemphis.org.

Melting pot

continued from page 14

and I made some good friends. There are several bars, Mexican restaurants, two radio stations, three weekly publications. In addition, there is of course, MGLCC, Mid-South Pride, MAGY, Friends For Life and so on."



Bruce Bui

Do Susana, Bruce and Terrance see themselves as a double minority?

"I've never thought about this," says Rodas, "I don't like to walk around with the label Mexican lesbian, or any other label."

Jones added, "I don't fit the criteria for black, male or gay. That allows me to bring a new air and fresh

perspective on things."

Bui says, "I feel that being a queer Asian-American in the Midsouth is a challenge ... but I also think it is a great opportunity to explore the difference in our entire GLBT community. I think what is wonderful about the Midsouth is that it is a community that has the opportunity to embrace so many things. Attitudes are definitely changing."

All three believe that we have a bit of work to do in our community.

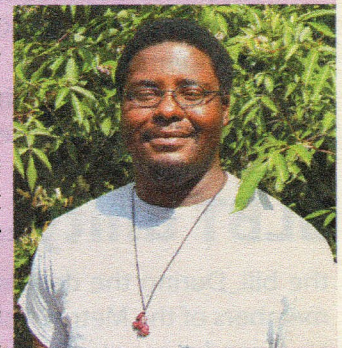
Rodas believes, "With all of the rights we are being denied, the rejection, the discrimination, we all need to be involved and fight for them."

"I think there are times, especially in the younger members of our community," Bui says, "when attitudes toward activism wane due to a lack of self-empowerment, low self-esteem and not realizing that they can make a difference. As a progressive community, our responsibility is to continue to be active, and to open doors and provide resources as best we can."

According to Jones, "I think communication is the key. We should focus less on being more 'visibly diverse' and focus more on uniting as a community. Once we can heal our hearts and ourselves and let go of the outdated ideas we can move forward as a people and focus on the humanity we share in the GLBT community."

Susana, Bruce and Terrance remain optimistic about the future of the Midsouth GLBT community. Each believes that our differences can provide a beautiful collection of hues that can create an even more vibrant rainbow.

The key now, as it has always been, is understanding and acceptance.



Terrence Jones

A little bit of history about Gay Pride Day

by Erick Vásquez

The first Gay Pride march happened in New York city at the end of June of 1969. The incident started when most of the population of the Greenwich Village, mostly gay, confronted the police who repeatedly and violently raided the gay bar called the Stonewall Inn. Since then this event that started Gay Pride Day is just known as Stonewall.

The confrontation lasted more than five days and included more than 2000 protesters, including gay men, lesbians, transvestites, transgender and straight people sympathizing with the protest. The police force charged with stopping the riots consisted of just 400 units. It was during this uprising that protesters started shouting their motto: "Gay Power". Furthermore, a group of transvestites in the front line against the police started singing:

*We are the Stonewall Girls
We wear our hair in curls
We wear no underwear
We show our pubic hair
We wear our dungarees
Above our nelly knees*

The following year, a commemorative march was organized from the Greenwich Village to New York Central Park.

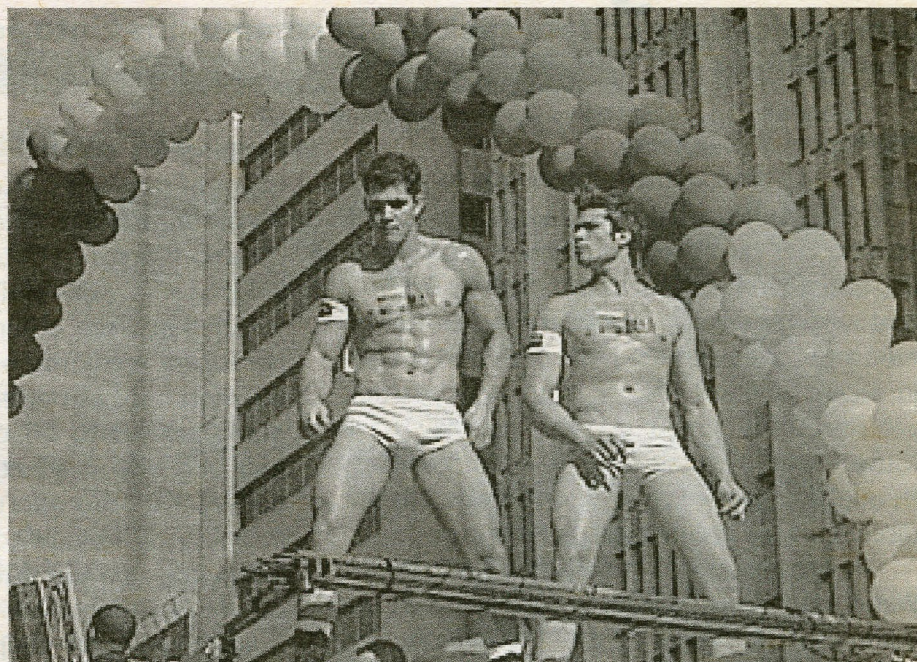
Through the years, this march expanded to the cities of Los Angeles and San Francisco

and to the rest of North America in what became known as Gay Pride Parade or Gay Pride Day.

In almost four decades, this march has also been extended to numerous cities around the world, including most of the European cities, Israel, Japan, New Zealand and Australia; and to less liberal countries such as Turkey, Poland, Lebanon, Serbia, South Africa, Estonia and Romania.

To date, Sao Paulo, Brazil, has held the biggest parade in gay history with 3.5 million people marching over the famous Paulista Avenue.

Other cities in Latin America that conduct Gay Pride Parades are: Mexico City, Guadalajara, Tijuana, Puerto Vallarta and Monterrey in Mexico; Buenos Aires and Rosario in Argentina; Santiago and Valparaíso in Chile; San Juan, Puerto Rico; Caracas, Venezuela and Lima, Perú.



Revelers in Sao Paulo, Brazil, celebrate in the biggest Pride Parade in history. More than 3.5 million people participated in the event

In 2005, Gay Pride Day had a double celebration in Madrid after gay marriage was approved a few days earlier in Spain. In 2007, Madrid had again a double celebration when Gay Pride Day was scheduled together with "EuroPride", another big gay event in Europe.

See Spanish translation of this story on page 10.

GLBT unity *continued from page 5*

the bill. During the debate, transgender people were demonized by several members of the Metro Nashville Council, despite the fact it did not even cover transgender people. That bill was defeated by one vote.

Outside of the political arena, the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival has repeatedly declared that transwomen are not welcome, which has led to the recurring Camp Trans protests.

Some employers, such as Nike and First Tennessee Bank, have included gender identity in their non-discrimination policies, but others continue to leave transgender people out.

On May 8, when Verizon Wireless stockholders voted not to include gender identity in the company's policy, the company's GLBT employee resource group issued a statement supporting the company decision. Transgender activists have now issued a call for Verizon customers to switch to a provider which covers all GLBT employees, and for investors to divest themselves of Verizon stock.

Also, this past winter, the University of Tennessee decided to expand its non-discrimination policy without covering its transgender students, staff or faculty. Until the Tennessee Board of Regents voted in February to add gender identity to its policy covering 47 schools, not one single institution of higher learning in Tennessee, public or private, had a non-discrimination policy covering all GLBT people.

The creation of the United ENDA Coalition in October 2007 shows that there is a real effort by groups and leaders across the nation to bring the GLBT community together, but much work needs to be done before anyone can truly claim there is a GLBT community.

On a personal level, if you do not count transgender people in your social circle, can you say that you embrace diversity? Have you ever done more than just tip your favorite drag performer? If you believe in a true GLBT community, then we must all embrace diversity in all of its forms, even among those who do not look like you.

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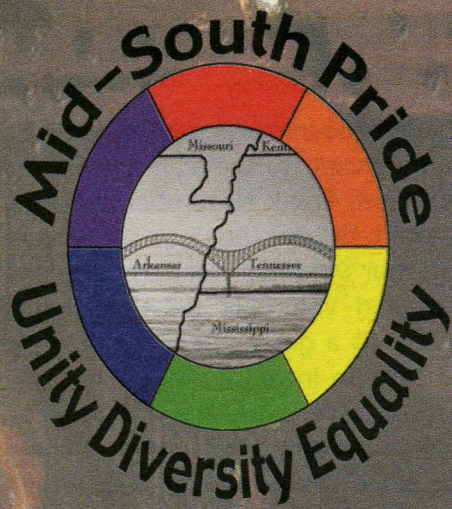
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2008 Events and Activities

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Miss Mid-South Pride Pageant
Backstreet Memphis 9:00 PM

Tuesday June 3, 2008

Book Signing - More details coming soon!

Wednesday June 4, 2008

Pride Kick-Off Event
Leslie Jordan in "My Trip Down the Pink Carpet"
University of Memphis, Michael D Rose Theatre 8:00 PM

Saturday June 7, 2008

Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center Cook Out!

Mid-South Pride Night at the Roller Derby - 7:00 PM Fairgrounds Youth Building
Memphis Hustlin' Rollers vs Central Arkansas Rock-n-Renegades

Just Us Magazine Launch Party
more details coming soon!

Sunday June 8, 2008

Pride Kick Off Party at Crossroads - Hosted by the Blue Suede Bears
More details coming soon!

Monday June 9, 2008

Community Forum - More details coming soon!

Tuesday June 10, 2008

Free Movie Screening - "For the Bible Tells Me So"
First Congregational Church Theater 7:30 PM

Wednesday June 11, 2008

Peterson Toscano in "The Re-Education of George W Bush - No President Left Behind"
Circuit Playhouse 8:00 PM

Thursday June 12, 2008

QBLISS PRIDE in Cinema - A Night OUT at the Movies
Studio on the Square 7:00 PM and 9:15 PM

Friday June 13, 2008

An Evening With Nancy Polikoff, The Author of
"Beyond (Straight and Gay) Marriage - Valuing All Families Under the Law"
Holy Trinity United Church of Christ, 7:00 PM

Saturday June 14, 2008

Mid-South Pride Fifth Annual Pride Parade
Line up at First Congregational at 3:00 PM Step off at 4:00 PM

Mid-South Pride Annual Pride Festival
Featuring Ari Gold, Rachel Panay, Clay Callaway and Lisa Busler
Vendors can set up at 10 AM - Festival opens at 12:00 PM and goes until Dusk

Pride After Party

More details coming soon!

Sunday June 15, 2008

Event Details coming soon!

Check our website for the most up to date information:
www.MidSouthPride.org

Memphian appointed to prestigious Lambda Legal post

by Len Piechowski



"My life's passion is to make a difference in the fight for equality."

Virginia. Cranford Williams accepted the position in late April and will assume her responsibilities on June 2.

Since September 2006, Williams has served as a communities manager at the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) in Washington, DC. In this capacity she recruited members, lobbied for HRC endorsed candidates, educated the public about the need for equality, developed and facilitated leadership training seminars and mentored new activists.

In an interview with *Triangle Journal*, Williams said, "I am certainly what you would refer to as a Southerner. When away, I miss the magnolias, the beautiful drawl in which people talk, the friendly people and the quiet you don't find in big cities ... unfortunately, [the South] can also be known for bigotry and hate born of ignorance. My life's passion is to make a difference in the fight for equality." She expressed her excitement at accepting the new position in which she will attempt to " ... bring people out

of discrimination and into acceptance."

When announcing to the staff at HRC her new appointment, Frank November, Williams' manager, stated "While this is a significant loss for HRC, our volunteer leaders, the HRC Communities and Volunteer Relations team, and for me, this is a great career opportunity for Heidi to take an increased leadership role within this movement.... Heidi is adored by all who have come in contact with her.... I know I will not be alone in sincerely missing Heidi's presence and leadership at HRC."

The Lambda Legal regional director assists with development, education, public relations and oversees the administrative functioning of regional office operations and staff employees.

Lambda Legal is the oldest national organization pursuing high impact litigation, public education and advocacy on behalf of equality and civil rights for lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgender people and people with HIV.

The position of southern regional director is domiciled in Atlanta, and Williams and her wife, Erin Cranford Williams, relocated there in late May.

During that time of transition, the newly appointed director reminisced about her Memphis roots: "I miss my 892 South Cooper home (location of MGLCC) and my hometown. As I find myself returning to the South ... [I am] much closer to the home I love."

Former MGLCC vice president, Heidi Cranford Williams, has accepted the position of southern regional director for Lambda Legal.

The director is the chief regional representative of Lambda Legal and serves as a spokesperson, ambassador and development officer for the organization in the states of Mississippi, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, South Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, West Virginia and

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MGLCC kicks off HOME campaign with salute to Movers & Shakers

by Mark Jones

In the April edition of *Triangle Journal*, 21 Memphians were recognized as "Movers and Shakers" of the GLBT community. On June 21, each one of these individuals will be honored at the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center's 2008 HOME Campaign Kickoff Event which will be held at the Center for Southern Folklore, 119 South Main Street.

The HOME campaign is the annual membership drive for the Center. Funds raised in the HOME campaign pay the monthly mortgage and are used for repairs and maintenance of the community center building at 892 South Cooper.

Each person named as a "Mover and Shaker" has added to the quality of life for all members of the GLBT Community in the midsouth. These individuals have gone the extra mile to ensure that Memphis and the surrounding area are a better place for both present and future members of our Community. Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center is proud to honor each one of these leaders at the celebration on June 21.

The honorees for 2008 are: Marty Acree, Sean Alexander, Terryl Buckner, Jeff Childress, Rick Johns, Steve Cohen, Jonathan Cole, Tommy Simmons, Allen Cook, Casey, Susan Mackenzie, Beverly Marrero, Tim Meadows, Carmen Mills, Bianca Phillips, Darian Porter, Jeannie Richardson, Wendi C. Thomas, Shane Trice, Herb Zeman and Felipe Zuvichaux.

Admission is free with a cash bar and a complimentary buffet catered by Buckey's. Musical entertainment will be provided by the Delta Nomads. Doors open at 7:00 p.m., and the party goes until 11:00.

MGLCC youth program revs up for summer

by Rohbi Yow

MGLCC's youth program, funded by Community Foundation of Greater Memphis, begins this month. Teens aged 14 to 19 are invited to spend their summer hanging out in a safe queer space while learning painting, photography, cooking, sewing, theatre, dance, physical and sexual health, and much more.

The MGLCC planning team has worked with the Memphis Area Gay Youth (MAGY) advisory team to create this exciting program. The June and July schedule for the youth program will be 2:00 to 5:00 pm Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at MGLCC. July's schedule may also include Mondays.

Each day allows for about an hour and a half of free, unstructured hang out time and about an hour and a half of planned lessons and activities. Tuesdays are Theatre and Art Day which includes art lessons in several different media such as painting and sculpting, and theatre activities such as developing short plays, skit writing, technical theatre and interpretive movement. Wednesdays are Special Guest Day where volunteers will teach anything from cooking and sewing to gay history and life skills. Thursdays are Health Day where all aspects of health will be explored and physical activities such as yoga and dodgeball will be taught.

On Thursdays in July, the Center for Reproductive Health will present a wonderful six week program called "Between Teens, Each Other and Your Body".

The youth program kick-off party will be Sunday, June 1, at 6:00 p.m. at MGLCC. All interested youth, MAGY advisors and pre-approved youth program volunteers are invited. We'll be serving pizza, sodas and other munchies as well as playing lots of games, so please come join us! We have some amazing volunteers already, but we still need many more.

If you would like more information, if you are interested in becoming a youth program volunteer or if you are interested in volunteering to teach a certain skill or activity such as the ones listed above, please contact Len Piechowski at (901) 857-8523 or at mglcclen@comcast.net or Rohbi Yow at robinyow@gmail.com.

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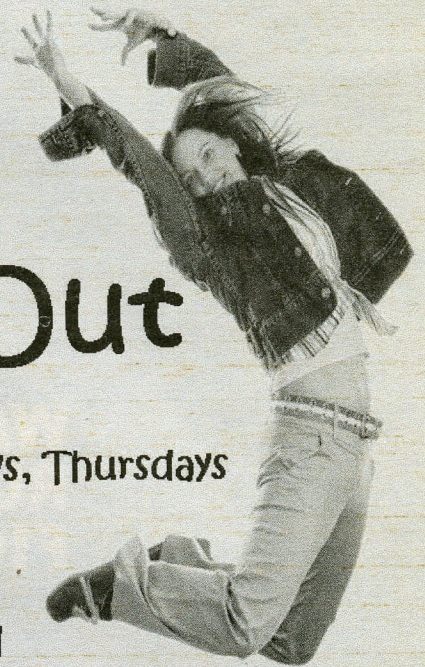
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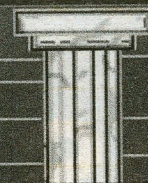
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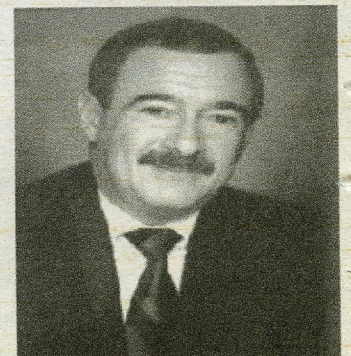
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WALK.
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WALK.
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Get on your feet for Friends For Life

First Walk.Run.Fight AIDS planned for July 26

Memphians can *Walk.Run.Fight AIDS* on Saturday, July 26, by participating in Friends For Life's first Walk/Run to raise money to support its many programs. The event will begin at 8:00 a.m. at the Shelby Farms Chickasaw Trail, a certified 3.1 mile course, which begins and ends just above the Shelby Farms Visitor Center where the post race gathering and award ceremony will be held. The race is a Memphis Runners Track Club sanctioned event and will occur rain or shine.

Friends For Life is inviting everyone (no dogs, please) to offer support! More information can be received by visiting Friends For Life's website at www.friendsforlifecorp.org to complete the registration or by visiting www.racesonline.com.

Additional fundraising activities are available for those unable to walk or run the distance through creation of fundraising web pages to support the Walk/Run. At the Friends For Life website, citizens hoping to raise funds in this way can click on the *Walk.Run.Fight AIDS* link and follow the simple instructions.

Friends for Life celebrates two milestones

Kim Daugherty, CMSW, has been named as the executive director of Friends For Life Corporation, the Mid-South's oldest and most comprehensive AIDS services organization.

Daugherty holds a master of science in social work from the University of Tennessee and has worked in the nonprofit and government sector on behalf of persons with medical, physical and intellectual disabilities for over twenty years. Additionally, Daugherty has taught at Southwest Tennessee Community College and provided individual and group psychotherapy for several years. Most recently, she has held the position of director of clinical services at Friends For Life Corporation.

In addition, on April 30, the agency received a check in the amount of \$125,000 from The Assisi Foundation of Memphis; the second installment of a total \$250,000 grant. The grant was applied toward retiring the mortgage from a 2005 loan secured to help fund renovations to the building.

The Assisi Foundation has a long history of supporting services to persons affected by HIV/AIDS in the Mid-South. The foundation has financially supported Friends For Life for many years and was instrumental in providing grants to help begin Aloysius Home, an agency that provided housing to persons living with HIV/AIDS, and which merged with Friends For Life in 1999.

The building at 43 N. Cleveland was donated to Friends For Life in 2002 by Bill Bruce and the late Ronney Snell to be used as the agency headquarters. This gift allowed the agency to significantly expand its services and, for the first time in the agency's 23-year history, to own its headquarters.

A Preview of the TJ's Coming Attractions!

We're halfway into the new year and new look of the *Triangle Journal*. And we think that best is yet to come!

July: Fight For Your Rights
Frontline activists in the Midsouth
A look at Pride 2008
The Political Parties' Perspectives

August: Art of the Matter
OUTFLIX Preview
Local artists & musicians
Behind the Memphis theatre curtains

September: Going Home
Gays in the burbs: Life beyond Midtown?
Good food: chefs & recipes

October: Gaymes People Play
GAYmes Preview
Coming out stories
GLBT hobbies & collections

November: Gratitude (Faith & Values)
Election 2008
Loosening the Bible Belt: Profiles of non-Judeo-Christian GLBTs

December: Celebrate
Homo for the holidays: coping with family
Best of Gay Memphis

Moten and Love united



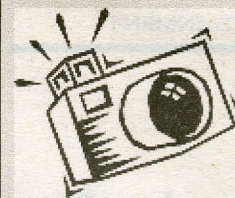
United in holy matrimony May 3rd were Edie Love and Tamar Moten, in a beautiful ceremony at the National Ornamental Metal Museum.

The sunset ceremony was attended by 75 friends and family of the brides. Both women wore 1920s reproduction wedding gowns: Tamar wore an ivory dress, and Edie wore lavender with dark purple. Bridal attendants were Tamar's best friend Maria, Edie's sister Johanna, and cousin Rohbi. Their four children Lily, Leif, Violet and Ivan stood up with them (pictured above).

The processional music was *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* by J.S. Bach, performed on

violin by friends Alex and Tammy. The wedding was officiated by their dear friend Denise. The couple vowed to love, honor and cherish each other, until death parts them. They exchanged diamond bands, and their friends and family, as well as their children participated in vowing to support their marriage. Recessional music was *La Rejouissance* by Handel.

Guests then enjoyed gourmet vegan carrot cake, and a plentiful selection of wine. They honeymooned in Missouri, touring Onondaga Cave and the St. Louis Arch. Later this year they will travel to Canada to be legally wed.



TRIANGLE SNAPSHOTS

If you want to share with the Midsouth your photos of special occasions, birthdays, anniversaries, weddings, even just a night out on the town with friends, send them to *Triangle Journal*.

Be sure to tell us where you were and identify the people in the photo!

Pictures and articles for the June *Triangle Journal* are due:

June 15, 2008

E-mail: editors@tjmemphis.com

Web: www.tjmemphis.com

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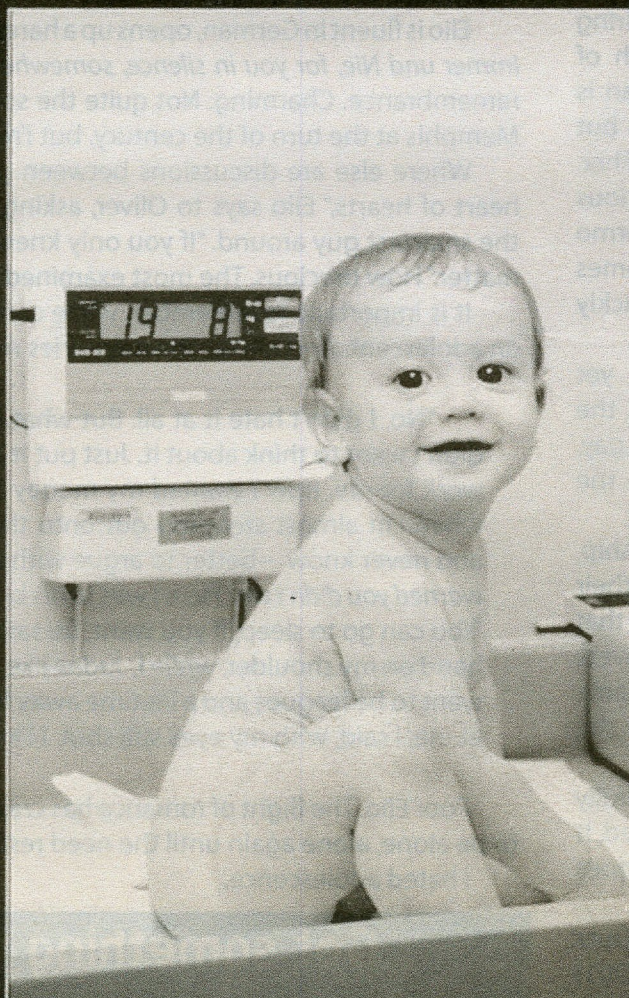
Cruz celebrates book release



Triangle journalist Andrew Cruz celebrated the release of his first book, *To Walk Across the Pacific*, published by Sampaguita Press, with a release party and reading on May 23 at Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center.

Cruz celebrated the occasion with his parents, Dr. Eduardo Cruz and Dr. Dinia Cruz-Reyes (pictured above). Also joining the party were Melissa Conn, Mark Jones, Bob Loos, Sean Alexander and Beth Yow.

The book is a collection of poetry inspired by the author's desire to fill a vacuum in literature about the contributions of Asians, specifically Filipinos, in American culture. *To Walk across the Pacific* will be reviewed in an upcoming issue of *Triangle Journal*.



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DVD Review:

Back Soon

How long does love last?

By Carl Smith



If you missed this gem from last fall's 2007 Outflix Film Festival, now is your chance to see this festival favorite.

Logan Foster (Windham Beacham), aspiring actor, grieves the sudden, untimely death of his wife Adrienne (Maggie Eilertson). Logan is emotionally paralyzed by Adrienne's death but is comforted by his memories and visions of her. After deciding to sell their home, a mysterious ex-con and former drug dealer Guillermo Ramirez (Matthew Montgomery) becomes inexplicably drawn to the house and quickly decides to buy it.

Upon meeting Logan, a strong, yet unspoken connection develops between the two strangers. Although both are not gay, several chance meetings over time open the door to a deepening, soulful relationship.

Uncomfortable with their fast friendship, Logan and Gil's friends try to extinguish their smoldering attraction. Logan declares that Adrienne is the only person he ever truly loved, but something about Gil rekindles the same feelings he once shared with her. What's the connection? See for yourself.

Director Rob Williams creates a beautifully haunting story of love, both lost and regained. It begs us all to ask the question, "How long does love last?"

Back Soon is now available at Inz & Outz Gifts & Cards, 553 S. Cooper St. in Memphis (901) 728-6635.

To Love, Or Not to Love: Aciman's *Call Me By Your Name*, an adolescent look into obsession

By Andrew Cruz

Andre Aciman's *Call Me By Your Name* is an unabashed and luxurious foray into a young man's romantic obsession. If you have a love for things Italian, appreciate the dark attractive swarthy of many a masculine Jewish man and appreciate educated banter focusing on the likes of Baroque musicians, then this is the book for you.

The opening scene focuses on the romantic object's use of the word "Later!" as a goodbye, his apparent nonchalance for the narrator, and then the narrator's irritation and resulting sexual frustration. This focus reminded me of a not-so-different encounter I once had here in Memphis, minus the Italian alps and discussions on Johann Sebastian Bach. Amid the economic depression near Lamar Avenue and querulous discussions on white hip-hoppers, I too was chastised for saying, "Later!" as a sort of noncommittal goodbye. Although, I don't think my chastiser lusted for me as openly as does Elio for Oliver.

As I continued to read, I was Oliver, albeit Filipino, and the guy on the cover does look, from a certain angle, to be my Elio. To invert the narrator's words, I was Diomedes, and he was Glaucus. It was close enough to my reality, in an abstract sort of way, to give me a five-minute attack of paranoid schizophrenia in Overton Park on a Tuesday afternoon, during which Mark Doty laughed at me from the back cover filled with laudatory reviews. I almost threw the book in the trash before regaining my composure.

Call Me By Your Name should interest any reader who likes tidbits on Heidegger, Sicily, Jewish psychology and Columbia University. Being a former student of the prestigious upper Manhattan university myself, I took its apparent effect in the book with a nonchalant *Later!* All this mixed in with delicious, and frustrating, accounts of sexual heat in private—unrequited, so far; and burning.

Elio and Oliver however, do get together, and do have sex. I never got that with my Elio. Possibly like other readers of this review, I live out most of my sexual fantasies with books just like *Call Me By Your Name*. Ah, the beauty of fiction.

Elio is fluent in German, opens up a hardbound edition of Stendhal's *Armance*, and writes "Zwischen Immer und Nie, for you in silence, somewhere in Italy in the mid-eighties." A charming dedication for remembrance. Charming. Not quite the scene in Chelsea in the 1980's, nor that at the University of Memphis at the turn of the century, but I'm sure it really happened somewhere, sometime.

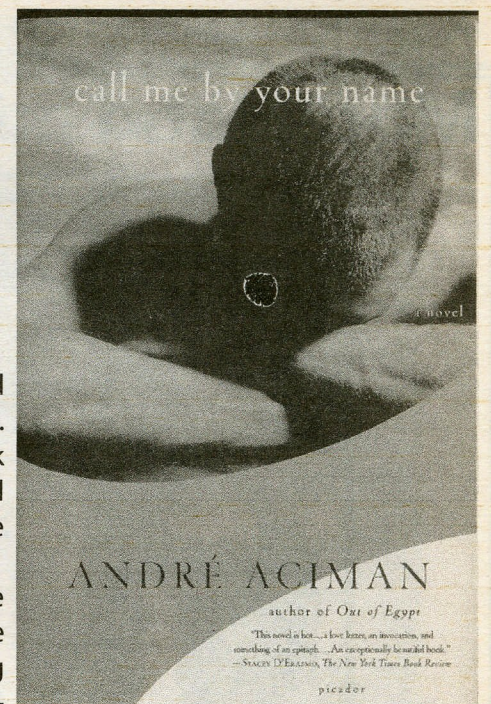
Where else are discussions between potential lovers really English class exams? "Cor cordium, heart of hearts," Elio says to Oliver, asking him about Shelley. Oliver wonders out loud why Elio is the smartest guy around. "If you only knew," Elio says, "how little I know about the things that really matter." How precious. The most examined remark I've heard is, "That's funny," but I'll take it.

It is important to remember, while consuming Andre Aciman's *Call Me By Your Name*, that Elio is an adolescent. And, oh do the memories resurface from adolescence in passages like this:

"No, I didn't hate it at all. But what I felt was worse than hate. I didn't want to remember, didn't want to think about it. Just put it away. It had never happened. I had tried it and it didn't work for me, now I wanted my money back, roll back the film, take me back to that moment when I'm almost stepping out onto the balcony barefoot, I'll go no farther, I'll sit and stew and never know—better to argue with my body than feel what I was feeling now, *Elio, Elio, we warned you didn't we?* Here I was in his bed, staying put out of an exaggerated sense of courtesy. 'You can go to sleep, if you want,' he said, perhaps the kindest words he'd ever spoken to me, a hand on my shoulder, while I, Judas-like, kept saying to myself, If only he knew. If only he knew I want to be leagues and a lifetime away from him. I hugged him. I closed my eyes. 'You're staring at me,' I said, with my eyes still shut. I liked being stared at with my eyes shut."

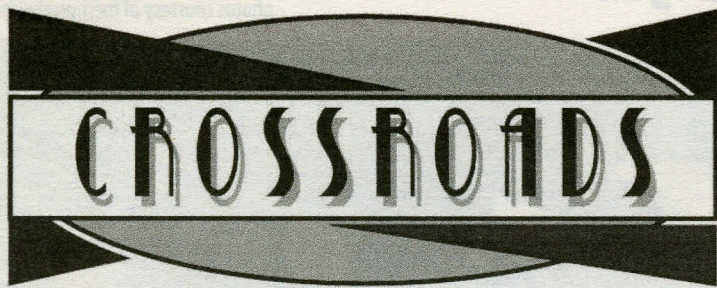
Poor Elio. The flight of romance has crashed down. The need to be with has given way to the need to be alone, alone again until the need resurfaces.

I hated adolescence.



Got something to say? Say it to the TJ.

Email: editors@tjmemphis.com.



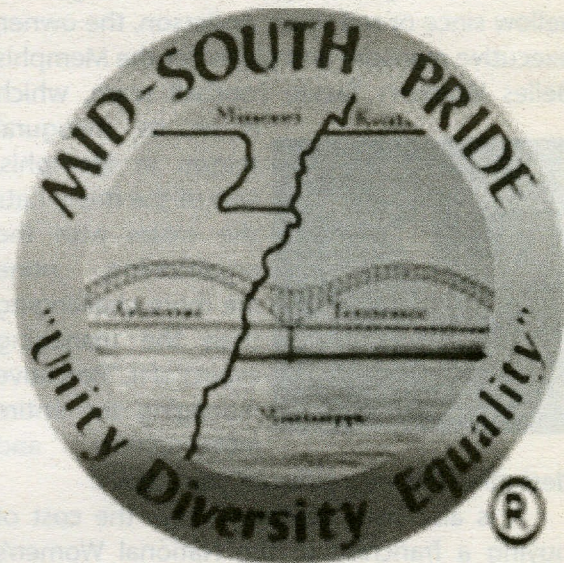
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Thurs.	Open 4p-12a	Singles Dart Tourney	Sun.	Open 2p-12a	Bingo 8:30p

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JUNE 13 & 14 2008

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SHOWTIME 11PM

DRINK SPECIALS ALL WEEKEND

The Belles Ringer

Fan becomes player, owner in women's football league

photos courtesy of memphisbellesfootball.com

by Jamie R. Griffin

"I remember getting on this website and seeing a high school mate playing with the Pittsburgh Steelers and I thought about how neat it would be to be part of that," says Paula Anderson. One problem: Anderson is a woman, and there are no women playing in the NFL. A fan of football from her childhood, she realized that she never actualized her dream of playing the sport professionally and that's when she asked, "Why not?" as in why not start a team of her own and play.

"I'm watching Dwayne Woodruff retire," she says of her former classmate, "and I haven't even got going. Now I'm saying let's go."

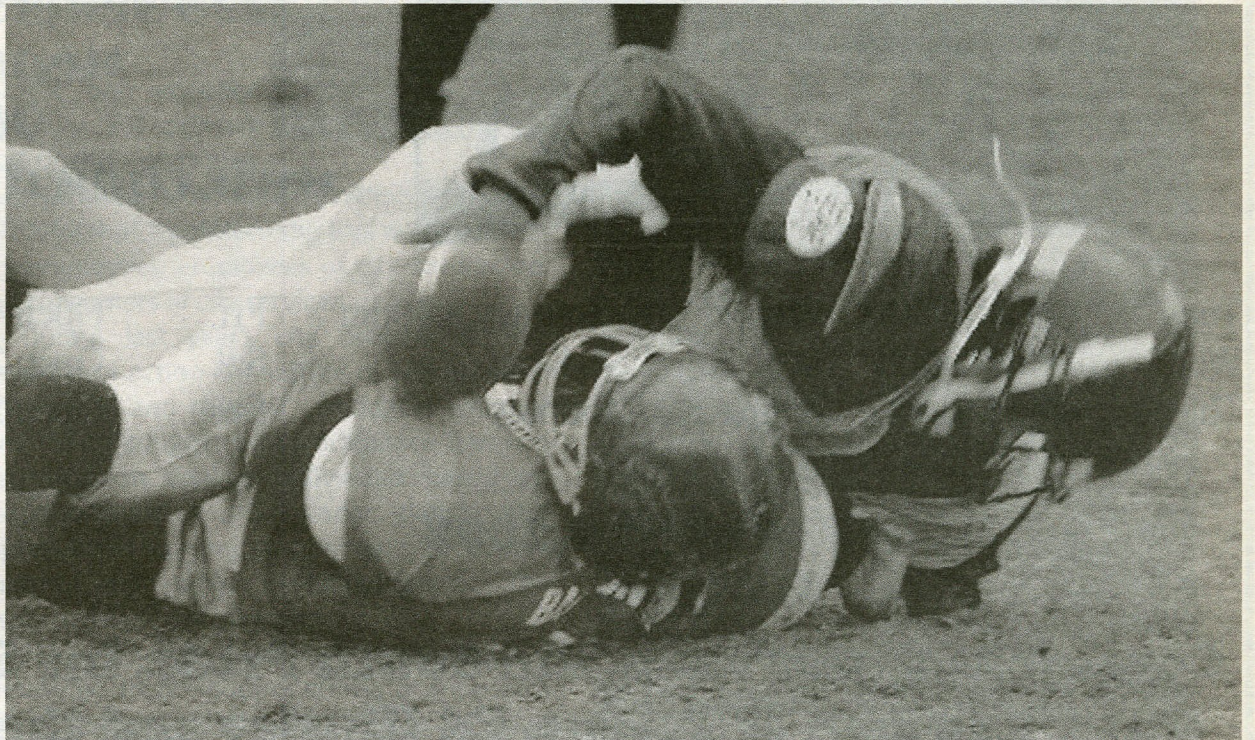
And the green light hasn't changed to yellow since or red since. Anderson, the owner, executive manager and player for the Memphis Belles Women's Tackle Football team, which

is in its inaugural season in Memphis, says of the many hats she wears with the organization, none are more challenging than the managing aspect of it. "Executive managing the entire infrastructure and

designing it is very difficult," she admits.

It is also risky. Anderson says the cost of buying a franchise in the National Women's Football Association (NWFA) is anywhere between \$15,000 to \$50,000 with no guarantee of making a profit. "Yes you can make money, but it's extremely difficult," says Anderson. "One part of the day you have to be prepared not to make money, but you have to say I'm going to win regardless." And by winning she means not just long term financially, but on the field.

The Belles, who play their home games at St. Benedict High School at Auburndale, won their first home game, 52-0, against Emerald Coast,



Fla. Their regular season consists of eight games, and the Belles have been selected to host the NWFA Championship to be played in Memphis on July 26. That speaks volumes about a team that is only in its first season of competition.

Still, Anderson isn't resting on her laurels. In addition to pounding the pavement promoting her team, she stays busy recruiting players. Selling her vision wasn't a piece of cake.

"The first year is very tricky," she claims of getting players to join the team. "You have to get the word out. It's not visual at that point. It's a concept you are selling. It takes some growth, heart, soul and determination. (Potential) players have to convince spouses, fathers, boyfriends, that this is something they really want to do."

What Anderson had going for her is that she knew she wasn't the only "crazy athlete" in the area. She understands the disconnection many women have with football.

"It's not encouraged and it's rare for females actually to play. In sports for women, it's college and then it's over. I always wanted to play. I always wanted to be on the field," and she knew there was a market for women who felt the same way. The only way to satisfy the craving was to lace up the sneakers and put on the pads.

"Playing X-Box and Playstation makes you want to play even more," she jokes.

So at 49, Anderson is living her dream. To show her admiration for her male counterpart Woodruff, she wears his number 49 and

plays the same position he did in the NFL, safety. Now he can go searching on the web and read about her playing football.

Memphis Belles will host the NWFA national championship game in Memphis on July 26 where the two top teams in the NWFA will battle for the 2008 national league title.

For more information regarding the Memphis Belles football team log on to memphisbellesfootball.com.

The last regular season home game for the Memphis Belles is Saturday, June 21 against Kansas City.

Games are played at Tully Stadium of St. Benedict High School, 2100 N Germantown Pkwy., in Cordova.

Game time is 7:00 p.m.



Taylor-Maid Cleaning

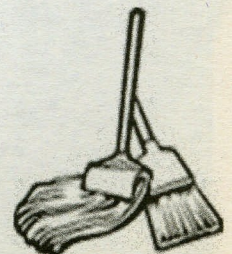
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Q-Puzzle Count Me Out

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
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69					70					71				

Across

- 1 "Bottoms up!"
- 6 Nick was his master
- 10 *The Lion King* cad
- 14 "Flesh" in an Almodovar movie title
- 15 Bosom buddy
- 16 Jolie's ____, *Or Something Like It*
- 17 Hot blood
- 18 Fielder's call, to Bean
- 19 Queen's "subjects"
- 20 Prosecuting attorney in drag?
- 23 Castro, in San Francisco
- 24 Stick your chip in it
- 25 Britten's raincoat
- 28 Gossip columnist Barrett
- 31 Country with same-sex marriage since 2005
- 33 Like a fairy tale brother?
- 37 Personal from an anthropologist?
- 39 Like some Greek columns
- 41 Feminizing suffix
- 42 You can wrap it around your package
- 43 Ms. Flag after marrying a M*A*S*H cross-dresser?
- 46 James VI, e.g.
- 47 Really camp
- 48 Rip Torn's voice role in *Hercules*
- 50 Old abbr. of Nureyev's land
- 51 Long, slippery one
- 53 "Queer as a three-dollar bill," e.g.
- 58 Rita Mae Brown novel about paying off a debt with a hit?
- 62 *Billy Elliot* epithet
- 64 Male actor named Julia
- 65 Vintner's fruit
- 66 Errol Flynn's *The Sun* ____, *Rises*
- 67 Atop
- 68 City of Magnus Hirschfeld's land
- 69 They come between Mauresmo and opponents
- 70 Oral attention getter
- 71 Seals in the juices, to Traci Des Jardins

Down

- 1 Loads
- 2 Solid gold measure
- 3 Purchase from goodvibes.com
- 4 Start of a Sappho title, perhaps
- 5 *My Fair Lady* lyricist
- 6 Top
- 7 It pokes you in prison
- 8 Got ready to play, like Etheridge
- 9 Miller's *In Search of Gay* ____
- 10 Loose woman, in the land of Joe Orton
- 11 Like Rob Marshall's work
- 12 Toward the rear, to sailors
- 13 Lawyer's thing
- 21 *Exotica* director Egoyan
- 22 Like unhappy lovers, maybe
- 26 Hersey's *A Bell For* ____
- 27 Non-asker/non-teller in training
- 29 Inexperienced one
- 30 Ball's partner
- 32 Anderson Cooper's area
- 33 Shower sights
- 34 Makes an uncowardly lion sound
- 35 Like deep-throating?
- 36 A. Spear's state
- 38 Richard of *And the Band Played On*
- 40 Fruit drink
- 44 Peeper lube
- 45 Geoffrey of *Frida*
- 49 Greeks' operation against the Trojans, et al.
- 52 Isn't quite straight
- 54 Capote portrayer Robert
- 55 Michael Landon's ____ *Teenage Werewolf*
- 56 Social outcast
- 57 *I Dream of Jeannie's* Barbara, and others
- 59 Sources of anal probes?
- 60 You might get into them on a back road
- 61 One-armed bandit's opening
- 62 Boy played by Martin and Duncan
- 63 Cheer for Lorca

June Q Scopes by Jack Fertig Take bold risks, Aquarius!

Everyone is being just a bit too fabulous for words! Mercury is retrograde, so his alignment with Venus and the Sun is a bit more like a collision of verbosity and overaffected efforts at charm. Mars in Leo is feeding the frenzy. Remember Lucy and Ethel at charm school? It's that kind of week!

ARIES (March 20 - April 19): Baby wants to play, but you are atypically given more to talk than action now. Chatty word games and rambling are not usually your style, but go with it for now. Don't be afraid to look silly.

TAURUS (April 20 - May 20): Buying or tossing out household items could easily be a mistake. Instead try rearranging things and seeing them in a new light. This is a great time to locate problems in domestic finances, but solving them should wait a few weeks.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 20): You're going to trip over your tongue no matter what you're talking about. Best to keep it light, nonconfrontational, and all in good humor so you can laugh with your friends over your own malapropisms and faux pas.

CANCER (June 21 - July 22): Hide the plastic, and keep the cash out of reach. Any urge to display your good taste is best done as tasteful restraint - and no, that doesn't mean buying handcuffs that match the bedposts! Take time out with someone you value most.

LEO (July 23 - August 22): Everyone says you look fabulous - and you do! You're all cranked up, looking and thinking three steps ahead, but are you really three steps ahead going in the right direction? Check with friends who care about more than looking fabulous.

VIRGO (August 23 - September 22): Someone behind the scenes offers to help you up the ladder. Some secrets may be revealed in the process, but that can also work in your favor. Everyone's screwing up some these days, but your mistakes - and the way you handle them - look good!

LIBRA (September 23 - October 22): You could charm anyone into believing your stories and arguments, even if they contain mistakes. Leave room for later revisions! Better just to radiate charm and energy; save the important facts for later.

SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21): Seems everybody wants a taste of what you've got! If you do play around, none of it will be secret. You could get a reputation as a great lover, but what would your boss and your partner say?

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 - December 20): Misunderstandings with your partner actually open new doors that could improve your relationship. Explore new pleasures and possibilities together. If anything seems disappointing, you might want to try again a few weeks later.

CAPRICORN (December 21 - January 19): Anyone playing around should make regular visits to the clinic. When was your last time? If you have a clean bill of health, you can have a great time practicing any erotic techniques you'd like to develop.

AQUARIUS (January 20 - February 18): Be creative! Be daring! Take bold risks and be willing to fall down and look utterly ridiculous. A good pratfall can be endearing, helping to improve your partnership or to find a good candidate for one.

PISCES (February 19 - March 19): You have the housecleaning energy and lack of focus typical of a speed freak. Try to concentrate on one specific task or goal at a time. You'll soon be dissatisfied with the results, but that's OK. Housework always needs redoing!

Jack Fertig, a professional astrologer since 1977, can be reached for consultations at (415)864-8302, via his website at www.starjack.com and e-mail at Qscopes@qsyndicate.com.

DAY IN. DAY OUT.

TRIANGLE JOURNAL GUIDE TO PRIDE FESTIVITIES (P) AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT FOR JUNE 2008

S

June 1

Carillon Concert:
Favorite Tunes of David and Paul
12:30 pm at Idlewild Presbyterian Church

MGLCC Board of Directors meeting at 4 pm at MGLCC

Camp Out Kick Off party for teens and Camp Out Volunteers

(P) **Miss Mid-South Pride Pageant**
Backstreet Memphis at 9 pm

June 8

(P) Blue Suede Bears Pride Kick Off Party at Crossroads

June 15

(P) Memphis' Most Wanted Black Pride Celebration **Pride in the Park** Overton Park 9 am - 7 pm

Every Sunday

Bluff City Sports Association Softball at Willow Park

Tea Dance at Metro at 4 p.m.

Pool Tournament at Pumping Station 6pm

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

Drag Show at Backstreet at 11 p.m.

Country Sissy Bingo Crossroads at 8 p.m.

M

June 2

(P) **"Turning Point"**
Documentary on WKNO at 9:30 pm

June 9

(P) **"Anyone and Everyone"**
Documentary on WKNO at 9:30 pm

June 23

(P) **"His Own Design"**
Documentary on WKNO at 9:30 pm

Every Monday

Women's Rugby Practice at Tobey Park at 6:30 p.m.

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

Second & Fourth Mondays

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

T

June 3

Outflix Planning Meeting 7 pm at MGLCC

June 10

(P) Special screening of **For the Bible Tells Me So** at First Congo at 7:30 pm

Every Tuesday

Camp Out for ages 14-19 at MGLCC 2-5 pm

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

June 4

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

(P) Pride Kickoff Event Leslie Jordan at U of M Rose Theatre at 8 pm

June 11

(P) **The Re-education of George W. Bush** with Peterson Toscano at Circuit Playhouse at 8 pm

June 18

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

Every Wednesday
Camp Out for ages 14-19 at MGLCC 2-5 pm

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

Every Second Wednesday
TEP meeting at Quetzal at 6:30 p.m.

T

First Thursday of the 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.

June 12

(P) QBLISS PRIDE in Cinema - A Night OUT at the Movies Studio on the Square 7 and 9:15 pm

June 26

Gayme Night at MGLCC at 6:30 pm

Every Thursday
Camp Out for ages 14-19 at MGLCC 2-5 pm

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

Women's Rugby Practice at U of M at 6:30 p.m.

F

June 6

"Earth - Sky" opening reception at Artists on Central Art Gallery 2256 Central from 5 pm - 8 pm

Q-Cafe presents Skinny White Chick at MGLCC at 7 pm

June 13

(P) Memphis' Most Wanted Black Pride Celebration **Meet and Greet** at 5 pm and **Friday Night Ball** at 2 am at Artisan Hotel Union and McLean

(P) An Evening with Nancy Polikoff, author of **Beyond (Straight and Gay) Marriage - Valuing All Families Under the Law** at Holy Trinity at 7 pm

June 27

Andrew Prislovsky Art Opening at MGLCC at 7pm.

July Triangle Journal on the stands

Every Friday

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

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

Karaoke at One More at 8 p.m.

Drag Show at Crossroads at 11 p.m.

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

Drag Show at Backstreet at midnight.

S

June 7

Memphis Farmers' Market "Beets Me"

(P) Pride Cookout at MGLCC from 4 pm to 8 pm

(P) Mid-South Pride Night at the Roller Derby Midsouth Fair Grounds Youth Building 7 pm

June 14

(P) Memphis' Most Wanted Black Pride Celebration **Pool Party** at 5 pm at Artisan Hotel and **All White Evening Affair** at 901 Complex

(P) Mid-South Pride **Fifth Annual Pride Parade** line up at 3 pm at First Congo step off at 4 pm

(P) Mid-South Pride **Annual Pride Festival** from noon 'till dark

June 21

MGLCC's **Home Campaign Kickoff and Awards Ceremony for 2008 Movers and Shakers** at Center for Southern Folklore 119 South Main from 7 pm until 11 pm

Memphis Farmers' Market "Flower Power"

Red Room @ Quetzal. 668 Union Ave. at 10 p.m.

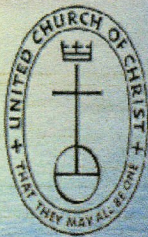
June 28

Memphis Farmers' Market "Just Peachy and Artist Appreciation Day

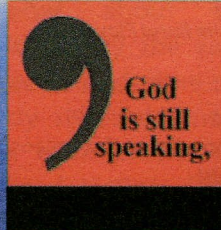
Every Third Saturday
Mirror Image Transgender Support Group at Holy Trinity at 7 pm.

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COMMUNITY RESOURCES

▼ Indicates Triangle Journal distribution points. Updated 05.08

ADULT BOOKSTORES

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

BARS

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

BOOKS

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

COMMUNITY GROUPS

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

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 Equality Project works for the equality of LGBT persons through the establishment of fair and equitable laws. Meets every second Wednesday at 6:30 pm at Quetzal.

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

Bob Loos, MS, LPC-MHSP: Individual, couples, & family therapy for anxiety, depression, relationships sexual identity issues: (901) 581-9898

FOOD, RESTAURANTS, AND COFFEE

▼ **Bogie's Delicatessen:** 2098 La Salle

Pl. - (901) 272-0022

▼ **Buns on the Run:** 2150 Elzey Ave. ☎ (901) 278-2867 Cafe Ole: 959 South Cooper

▼ **India Palace:** 1720 Poplar

▼ **Java Cabana:** 210 Young

▼ **Molly's:** 2006 Madison

▼ **Otherlands:** 641 South Cooper

▼ **Pie in the Sky:** 2158 Young Avenue

▼ **Quetzal:** 668 Union Ave.

▼ **Sweet:** 938 S. 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@holytrinitymemphis.org

Integrity Memphis: Meets the 3rd Tues., Healing Service/Eucharist, 6pm; Dinner, 6:30pm; Meeting 7:30pm - c/o Calvary Episcopal Church, 102 N. 2nd - (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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