

TRIANGLE JOURNAL

November 1, 2008

Vol: 3 Issue: 11

GLBT News for the Midsouth

BIBLE



LOOSENING THE BIBLE BELT *QUEER PERSPECTIVES ON RELIGION*

Inside

- ▼ Your guide to Decision 2008 - p. 4
- ▼ Vote for the best of Gay Memphis - p. 6-7
- ▼ Snapshots from Memphis Gaymes - p. 12-13

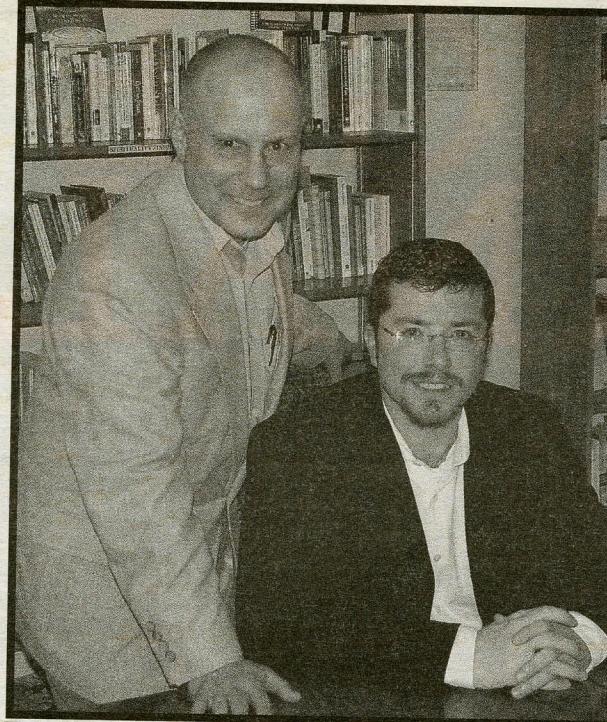
Embracing our freedom of ... and from ... religion

by Len Piechowski and James Cox

Coming fresh off of Halloween, we all have heard our share of horror stories, haven't we? Some of our community's most horrific stories can be found in the what-religion-did-to-me file. Yes, the two of us have some of those stories too. But, thankfully, we've decided to spare you the bloody details. Instead we'll share some of the more positive sides of spirituality in this issue. Even though religion often gets a bum rap in our community, it might be good to remember that religion also produced a Martin Luther King, Jr. and a *Soul Force*. Their theologies of liberation still move many to greatness. Speaking of that religious tradition, we have some remarkably open and affirming Christian churches here in Memphis, albeit just a few. And in the interest of expanding our horizons a bit, we thought we would loosen the bible belt a few notches this month and take a look at a few alternative religions and non-religions.

And of course it's election time. We don't know what we could add to what has already been said in this area, but that won't stop us. Please vote as if your life depended upon it. Actually, the quality of your life and of millions of others does depend upon it. Just in case you're just tuning in, we thought we would share a voters' guide of sorts. You'll find it on pages 4 and 5. And the Thanksgiving holiday weekend is coming up on us as well this month, too! We're sure that there are plenty of us who are nervous wrecks wondering which side of the political spectrum will be the most thankful this month.

Finally, the International Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) will be marked on November 20. Those of us who have attended these memorials in the past can't help but shudder when we think of the list of names read off during the services. As Casey mentions on page 5, these memorials can get lost with the Thanksgiving festivities. We hope that the memories of our trans brothers and sisters who have been so cruelly taken before their time will never be lost on us.



Here's what's coming up in *Triangle Journal*!

December: Celebrate

Homo for the holidays: coping with family

Best of Gay Memphis

January: Legacies

MLK's legacy of justice

Dealing with the Bush legacy

Estate planning for GLBT families

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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.

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Agnosticism by Meghan Geiss

The first time I heard the term "agnostic," it came from the mouth of a dear friend who was an individual with C 5/6 quadriplegia. He defined agnostic to mean that there is not enough evidence to either fully accept or deny the existence of God. This hit me to my core, in that it put a word to what I had felt for some time as a "non-practicing" Catholic. I believe my history with Christianity differs from most individuals who once identified as Christian and no longer practice it and/or are questioning. Both of my parents were raised Catholic and received a Catholic education. However, neither parent practiced Catholicism or attended church by the time I had began walking. I was baptized and received my first communion more so due to the Italian tradition than to any spiritual meaning.

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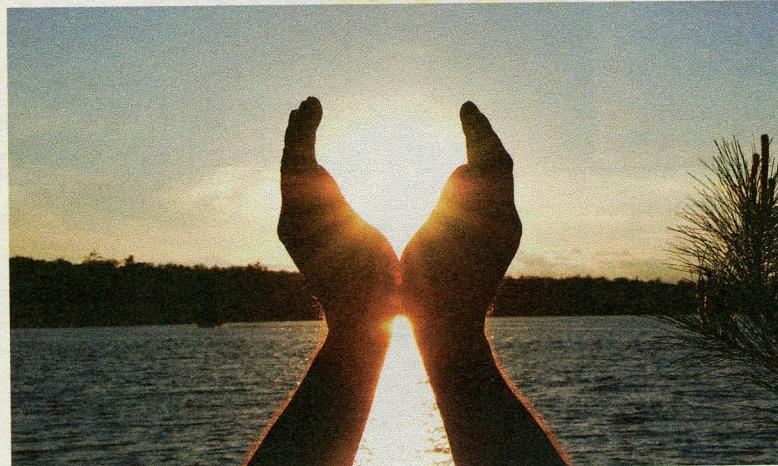
Atheism by Teresa Reeves

I was raised in a conservative Christian church that believed in creationism and all other literal aspects of the Old Testament. My religious and spiritual beliefs shaped every aspect of my life. My diet followed the Biblical health laws, my sabbath began and ended with sunset each week, prayer was my comfort, and my values were those laid out by the Ten Commandments. God was my provider and my social support.

When I was 25 I took an undergraduate class called World Civilizations, and this was a turning point for me. As I read about Buddhism, Hinduism and Islam, I had the realization that people who were not of the same religion as I were certain their religious beliefs were correct. I had been certain my beliefs were correct, but someone must be incorrect. Why would one doctrine be more accurate than another? Maybe we were all wrong! This thought turned my world upside down. I have questioned many core beliefs since that day, and my worldview is changed.

Even after giving up my religious beliefs, I had a deeply engrained belief in God. Over time I began to question what kind of father would make a rule that his son must die for the lives of those he created. I have since spent many years rethinking my belief that a being exists who created me and judges me and takes care of me. This critical belief had once been my foundation because I respected the source of the information. As an adult I could choose to believe in a loving god or a nurturing goddess or any number of other spirit beings. If I have such a choice, what of this is real and what am I creating

continued on page 10



Paganism by Keith Mitchell

For most, paganism conjures images of witches, druids, devil worshiping, spell casters and potions makers. I am none of these. I see myself as one who is in fact one with all things. Nature is my master and mistress, my brother and sister, my father and mother, my lovers and tormentors. All things are possible in my eyes because I have no boundaries, no limits that I impose on myself as practitioners of other religions impose on their members. For me pleasure of the senses is what guides my journey through life. I live out loud, laugh out loud and love without conditions.

When rain falls everyone thinks it's a crappy day. For me it is purifying, refreshing. It awakens the senses, telling me that something new and exciting is about to happen. When a storm approaches on the horizon, a great change or cleansing is about to occur. And when the sun shines bright in the sky, I bask in its radiance and let its energy flow through me and cleanse my being and mind.

Earth, Wind, Fire and Water. These four words are elements in the minds of most but for me they are my family. When I am without direction or focus, they are what inspire me to trudge forward and overcome any obstacle. I face my fears and I let them pass through me. Fear is not an option for me in my life. I challenge myself everyday to try and do something that I have not done before.

For me people travel in and out of one's life so why fixate or obsess over one when there are so many others yet to meet. I try to treat everyone I meet

Loosening the Bible Belt

GLBT Midsoutherners find peace and tolerance in non-Judeo-Christian perspectives

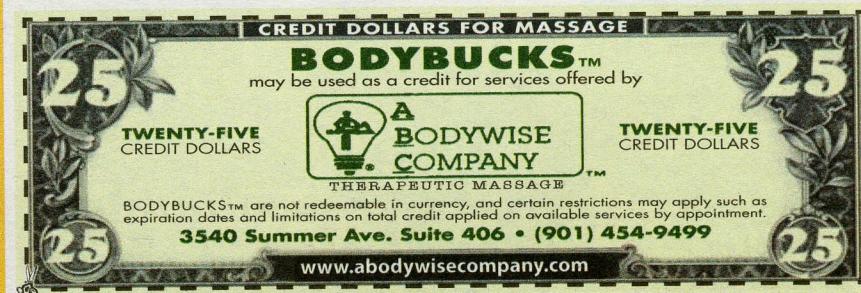
Buddhism

by Carol Gothe

As a refugee from fundamentalist Christianity, I wasn't looking for God, so the first thing that appealed to me about Buddhism is that there isn't an omniscient God judging everything. Instead, there are only beings who are on different levels of the same evolutionary path, and all of us are responsible for our own salvation. In my reading, I had seen myself as kind of a Zen sort of person, a kind of no-frills sort of Buddhist, but the Buddhism that found me was the rococo branch of the faith, Tibetan Buddhism, with its ornate rituals, elaborate practices, and fantastic myths.

In my first contact with Tibetan Buddhists, I asked a friend how Tibetans felt about gays and lesbians and I was told that

continued on page 10



Woman denied visitation with dying partner

Lambda Legal fights on in Miami case

by Heidi Cranford Williams

On June 25, Lambda Legal filed a lawsuit against Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami, Fla., on behalf of Janice Langbehn who was denied visitation to her dying partner. While on a family cruise leaving from Miami, Lisa Pond, a healthy 39-year-old, suddenly collapsed. She was rushed to Jackson Memorial Hospital with her partner Janice and three children following close behind. There, the hospital refused to accept information from Janice about her partner's medical history. Janice was informed that she was in an antigay city and state, and she could expect to receive no information or acknowledgment as family. A doctor finally spoke with Janice telling her that there was no chance of recovery. Other than one five minute visit, which was orchestrated by a Catholic priest at Janice's request to perform last rites, and despite the doctor's acknowledgement that no medical reason existed to prevent visitation, neither Janice nor her children were allowed to see Lisa until nearly eight hours after

... she was in an antigay city and state, and she could expect to receive no information or acknowledgment as family

their arrival. Soon after Lisa's death, Janice tried to get her death certificate in order to get life insurance and Social Security benefits for their children. She was denied both by the State of Florida and the Dade County Medical Examiner.

Because they are prohibited from marrying, gay and lesbian partners too often have to argue their right to visit with ill loved ones in the hospital. National standards for hospital accreditation allow visitation to family members; people not legally related are considered family members if they play a significant role in the patient's life.

This case illustrates the need for hospitals to recognize the legitimacy of same-sex relationships so that loved ones are not kept apart at a time when they most need each other. Furthermore, hospitals are fully responsible for adhering to national standards for accreditation and should be held liable if those standards are not met. Lambda Legal has published a life planning tool-kit, a portion of which is designed to help same-sex partners protect themselves in a hospital setting by preparing legal documents in advance.

Triangle Journal voters' guide for the 2008 presidential election

Barack Obama

voted for the Matthew Shepard Hate Crimes Act to protect the GLBT community against bias-motivated violence.

John McCain

voted against the Matthew Shepard HatesCrimes Act.

Barack Obama

supports ENDA (including protection based on gender identity)

John McCain

opposes ENDA

Barack Obama

supports repealing "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" which bans the service of openly gay and lesbian people in armed services

John McCain

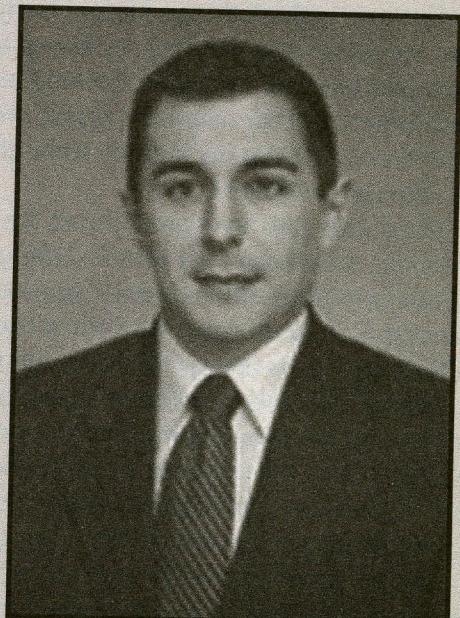
opposes repealing the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" ban

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Barack Obama	supports equal benefits for same-sex couples
John McCain	opposes relationship recognition for same-sex couples
▼	
Barack Obama	supports the Ryan White CARE Act and access for early treatment of HIV under Medicaid (ETHA) and supports comprehensive sex education aimed at preventing disease
John McCain	Voted to remove HIV/AIDS funding and supports abstinence-only education
▼	
Barack Obama	supports the right of same-sex couples to adopt
John McCain	opposes the right of same-sex couples to adopt
▼	
Barack Obama	opposed President Bush's judicial nominees
John McCain	voted to confirm President Bush's judicial nominees
▼	
Barack Obama	supports the Uniting American Families Act, which would allow an American citizen to petition for immigration sponsorship for a same-sex partner
John McCain	opposes the Uniting American Families Act

Vote!
November 4, 2008

Transgender Day of Remembrance

by Casey

For most people, November 20 is just another day. It's one of those days that gets lost in the pre-Thanksgiving rush. For those of us in the trans community, though, it is a date with a particularly special significance. November 20 is the International Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR).

TDOR got its start in 1999 when San Francisco trans activist Gwen Smith organized a vigil for the one year anniversary of the murder of Rita Hester. Sadly, Rita's murder has never been solved, as is the case with the vast majority of others in which the victim was trans. But we in the trans community refuse to forget her. What started out as a memorial for Rita steadily grew into an international observance.

TDOR is, first and foremost, a day of mourning. It is a day where we come together as a community to remember and celebrate the lives of those who have died. We remember how violently and totally their lives were ended. We remember the profundity of the silence surrounding these murders. We remember that these people because no one else will.

Approximately one trans person is killed every month. That might not seem like much, but trans people are killed disproportionately to our population. With the current TDOR list, courtesy of the many long hours of research done by trans activists, there are over 410 children, parents, and friends who have lost their lives to violence. As I've said before, it is very telling that of these 410 people, the vast majority were young and poor women of color. Many had little or no family support, and many worked the streets to survive.

Kellie Telesford. Ebony Whitaker. Gabriela Albornoz. Patrick Murphy. Stacy Brown. Adolphus Simmons. Larry King. Ashley Sweeney. Sanesha Stewart. Simmie Williams. Luna. Fedra. Lloyd Nixon. Felicia Melton-Smyth. Silvana Berisha. Rosa Pazos. Angie Zapata. Juan Carlos Aucalle Coronel. Jaylynn Namaau. Samantha Brandau. Ruby Molina. Brian McGlothin. These are all the names of the sisters and brothers that we have lost in 2008 alone. They are also only the ones that we know about through media reports and word-of-mouth in the trans community. Unfortunately, because of the seemingly endless social and institutional barriers and hardships they face, we often will never know what happened to the many anonymous trans people in the world.

Here in Memphis, we should remember two young women in particular: Tiffany Berry and Ebony Whitaker. Ebony Whitaker was lost in this past summer's focus on the beating of Duanna Johnson. Just 20 years old, was working the streets as a prostitute. In July, she was found shot and her body was dumped near a daycare near the airport. Currently, there are no witnesses and no leads. Like so many others, hers seems destined to be a cold case.

In February 2006, Tiffany Berry and her roommate complained of being harassed at their apartment in South Memphis. The MPD did not respond. A couple of weeks later, Tiffany was found shot outside her apartment. To this day, the MPD insists that this was a "robbery gone wrong." Never mind that nothing was taken from her purse or from the apartment. According to Tiffany's family, the man who killed her, D'Andre Blake, admitted that he did it, saying that he was justified in killing Tiffany because he "didn't like the way [she] touched [him]." He showed not a whit of guilt or remorse.

Because the judge accepted this trans panic defense, Blake was basically allowed to go free. He had a \$20,000 bond, of which only ten percent must be posted. In effect, Tiffany's life was only worth \$2000 in Memphis. Blake never went back to court and never stood trial, all the while admitting that he had killed her.

The callousness and extreme injustice of this is shameful enough in its own right, but we shouldn't hesitate to consider the other consequences of allowing a confessed murderer to go unpunished. In July of this year, Blake beat his 2 year-old daughter Dre'Ona to death over potty training. This goes to show that anti-trans and anti-gay violence not only destroys the lives of people in our community, but it also destroys the lives of everyone around us. If the judge and the court system hadn't bought a trans panic defense and instead pursued the case against Blake, Dre'Ona would still be alive today.

As you finalize your plans for Thanksgiving and anticipate spending time with your loved ones this year, stop. Remember Dre'Ona, Ebony, and Tiffany. Remember all of them. Remember that many of them, people who lived, breathed, felt, and did their best to survive, got little love in their lives. Remember how important it is to reach out to them and how vital it is to keep their memories alive. This savagery cannot continue.



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Best Food

Best BBQ:

Best place for breakfast:

Best place for brunch:

Favorite Chinese restaurant:

Best coffee:

Favorite deli:

Best place for dessert:

Best restaurant to impress a date:

Best hamburger:

Best Indian restaurant:

Best Italian restaurant:

Best Japanese/Sushi:

Best restaurant for a working lunch:

Best Mexican restaurant:

Favorite pizza:

Favorite seafood restaurant:

Best service in town:

Favorite place for soul food:

Best place for steak:

Best vegan/vegetarian:

Best wine list:

Best Shopping

Best place for antiquing:

Favorite new bookstore:

Favorite used bookstore:

Favorite day spa:

Favorite department store:

Favorite gym/fitness club:

Favorite florist:

Favorite gift shop:

Favorite grocery store:

Favorite hair salon:

Favorite jewelry store:

Favorite liquor store:

Favorite men's clothing store :

Best place to buy pride paraphernalia:

Favorite shoe store:

Favorite mall:

Best tattoo parlor:

Favorite video store:

Favorite women's clothing store:

Out and About

Best place for art:

Favorite place to bowl:

Best festival/party/fundraiser:

Best place for live theater:

Best live music venue:

Favorite movie theater:

Politics & organizations

Favorite museum:

Best GLBT organization:

Favorite park:

Best GLBT friendly organization:

Best place for a picnic:

Favorite charitable organization:

Favorite local sports team:

Favorite politician:

Best place to people watch:

Favorite political group:

Best place to take out-of-towners:

Best GLBT political advocate:

Best place to pick up guys:

Media

Best place to pick up girls:

Favorite newspaper/magazine:

Best place to get GLBT info:

Favorite radio station:

Favorite TV station:

Personalities

Favorite local TV personality:

Favorite local radio personality:

Favorite local singer/songwriter:

Favorite local artist:

Favorite bartender:

Hottest waiter/waitress:



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Best place to dance:

Favorite drag king/queen:

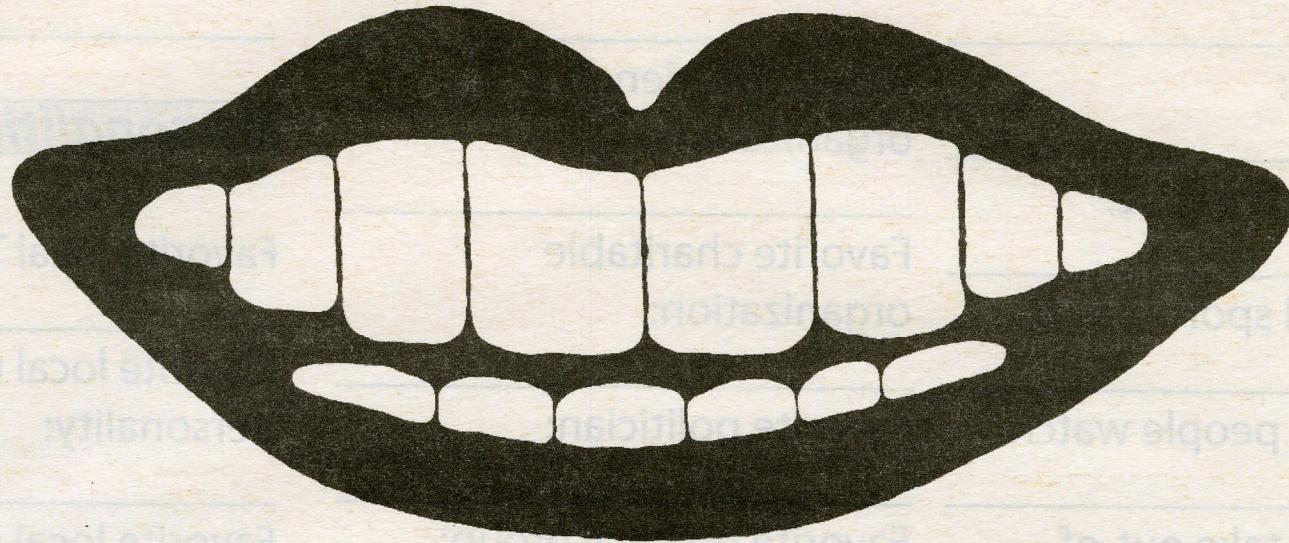
Best place for a drag show:

Favorite after-hours place:

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Sitting on my hands

Election year draws a difficult line to walk

by Elizabeth Flanders Pitts

Confession time: I have three political signs in my yard and for this, I could lose my job. Well, probably. Maybe. This is the first election cycle in which I've had a job with a non-profit agency, and since most of my funding comes from a statewide grant, I had to learn to walk a line this year between encouraging candidates who would support my initiatives and avoiding the appearance of endorsing one over the other. This has been especially difficult since one of the local candidates for state representative is on my board of directors and has been very active in expanding some of my programs.

My state office sent out a list of guidelines, most of which are completely subjective and depend upon public perception of my position. I could write a personal check to a candidate – as long as I didn't think anyone in the area would interpret that as an organizational endorsement. I could put a sticker on my car, as long as my car isn't used as transportation on work business. I could put a sign in my yard, but only if my house isn't easily identified as "Where That Nonprofit Coordinator Lives." The list is long and utterly open to interpretation, which is exactly as frustrating as you might imagine.

Never more frustrating than at the last meeting of my leadership class, where we spent 10 hours listening to area candidates and discussing politics. Ten hours. Local candidates. Twenty people in the room and ample time for Q&A... except I had no idea whether or not I could say anything. Was I there as Elizabeth Flanders Pitts, citizen and constituent? Or as the "Nonprofit Coordinator Whose Grant Paid Her



Tuition?" I looked around the room and saw no one else in a similar situation, and had no idea what to do in order to maintain my credibility and integrity as far as political involvement guidelines would dictate. In an undercelebrated feat of personal discipline, I spent the ten hours virtually sitting on my hands and biting my tongue while I listened to platforms and plans and priorities of local politicians.

I do get to have a voice from time to time during this interminable election cycle; I have a regular column in the local newspaper and this month, it was about supporting candidates who support early childhood initiatives and concerns. I didn't mention anyone specific; just invited readers to examine platforms and voting histories in order to determine which of them cared about kids. The local editor and I went round and round about whether or not I'd overstepped – or if he would by printing the column. Neither of us wanted to compromise any support we'd worked hard to garner in the community by seeming to endorse a candidate.

Oh, I can't wait until this election is over. I'm having such a hard time keeping my mouth shut. I promise, I swear to you that when I get my voice back I will use it more than I've done in the past year. I will write letters, I will make appointments, I will go to the state capitol when the legislature is in session and I will talk to whoever won and I will not take no for an answer when it comes to the issues I care about. I will not waste my opportunity to have a voice now that I know what it is to have lost it, even just for a few months.

Have you had the opportunity to speak, and let it go by? Have you been given the chance to give voice to your opinion, and not had the time or the bravery to do so? You're given another chance after this election is over. No matter the outcome, it's on you and me to make sure the winners hear us. Promise me you won't sit on your hands and bite your tongue.

Mollie Fontaine Lounge delivers an amazing experience

by Meghan Geiss

Pulling up to the Lounge, I was taken aback by the beautiful architecture of the establishment and its neighboring homes. With a lush and well kept garden hugging the stairs leading to the entrance door standing over 10 feet, I got a tiny tickle in my tummy that reminded me of how much of Memphis I have yet to discover and experience. The furniture, the décor, the staff were of such amazing character I can only describe them as just that, Amazing! One of the memorable moments of the night was receiving an informal tour by David Benson who informed us of a framed suicide note found in the attic of the home and is now displayed at the top of one of the several flights of stairs. The ambiance of the lounge consisted of 40s style eclecticism with a shade of Memphis charm. An amazing experience indeed that I plan to replicate with frequent visits.

Mollie Fontaine Lounge

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Parking: on street**

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Loosening the Bible Belt

Atheism continued from page 3

to fit my needs? I became uncomfortable with choosing to believe in a spirit being "on faith," no matter the characteristics of the god.

Now I do not have a need to believe in a creator to understand the world or explain the unexplainable. I do not have a need to convince myself of what happens after my death to be able to live this life fully. I have values that I live by, and I am comfortable with my values without the validation of a church doctrine or guilt that a spirit being may disapprove. I have a meaningful life, so I do not need to look for a spirit being to give my life purpose.

It has been my experience that the criticism and misunderstanding of being bisexual has only been exceeded by others' responses to my being atheist. I have read that less than 4% of people in the United States claim to be atheist, and many do not claim this loudly, which means the numbers may be invalid. Saying I am atheist is an invitation for looks of confusion or distain, and often an effort to convert me to another's spiritual beliefs. I respect the beliefs of others and hope others respect mine. We are a diverse people, and our diversity is a strength we often undervalue.



Agnosticism continued from page 3

Compared to other kids who were going to church, I was one of the few who CHOSE to attend. I believe I was drawn to the idea that there were answers, universal truths, a higher purpose and power to life. Coming from a difficult childhood where chaos and pain were experienced as the norm, I feel I needed for there to be some "grand scheme" to all of what life was presenting to me. As I continued my education and traveled to many areas of the world the less and less I could fully believe in Christianity as the end all Truth. Evolutionary theory is at my core and I believe that science helps to uncover truths of the past and present. However, I do believe there are things that have yet to be explained fully by science. I believe that humans are beautiful and complex creatures that share energy with a system beyond the understanding of any human mind.

Buddhism continued from page 3

homosexuality was considered an illness they would treat with herbs. That was over twenty-five years ago. At the last retreat I attended, under the same Lama as all those years ago, I went to an Ngondro (a sacred practice) class led by an openly gay man who was at the retreat with his partner. That is big; not just anyone can teach these classes! Gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered people were not on the periphery, they were integral to this Lama's organization, so a lot had changed in those twenty some-odd years.

Whatever little I know of heaven, I can attribute to my contact with Tibetan Buddhists. I like to think tolerance and understanding of gender diversity was a gift some of us in the West were able to give back to this ancient Asian faith.

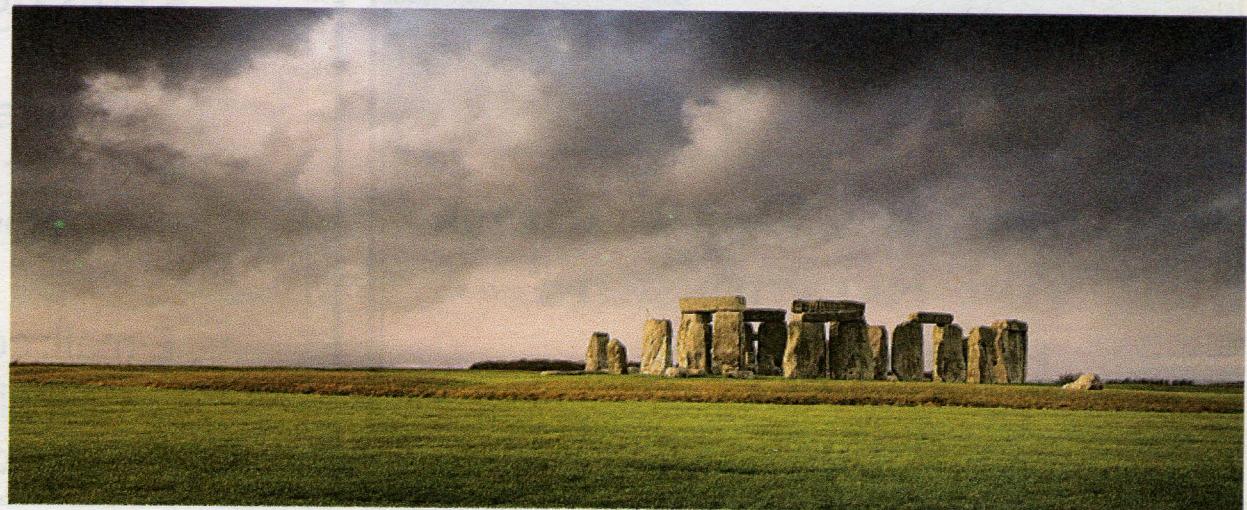


Paganism continued from page 3

with respect or at least tolerance. I help others when I can and sometimes when I can not afford. Gifting is a big part of my existence. When I meet a person that touches me in some way I reward them with a gift. Mainly, something from my garden, since my garden holds many of my most precious possessions that I have and it is a gift that will keep giving long after I have been forgotten.

My senses are a force that drives my daily life. Sight, smell, hearing, tasting and touching, each one a powerful teacher and a powerful tormentor. Good food is something I ingest in excess. Good drink I have to do in moderation due to the fact that I already have no inhibitions and a mouth that follows suit. I enjoy watching, looking and observing everything and everyone I encounter. The scents that surround me, food, guys, gals, nature, at times intoxicate me to the point of a climactic orgasm. And lastly, lively conversation ignites my mind and sharpens my insight into the world that surrounds me, a world that I try extremely hard to avoid interacting with at times.

These are the elements that I use to define myself as Pagan. I hold not a belief but a daily habit that others only touch upon on certain days of the year. I seek to influence, inspire the people around me and maybe enlighten some of the lives that I encounter along my journey. At the end of the day and at the end of my life, I shall have lived without regret or remorse because every choice, every decision that I make made me into who I am today and who I shall become in the future. Live out loud. Laugh out loud. Love without condition. And if you fall short get up and try it again. Live the journey.



New directors take helm of growing film festival

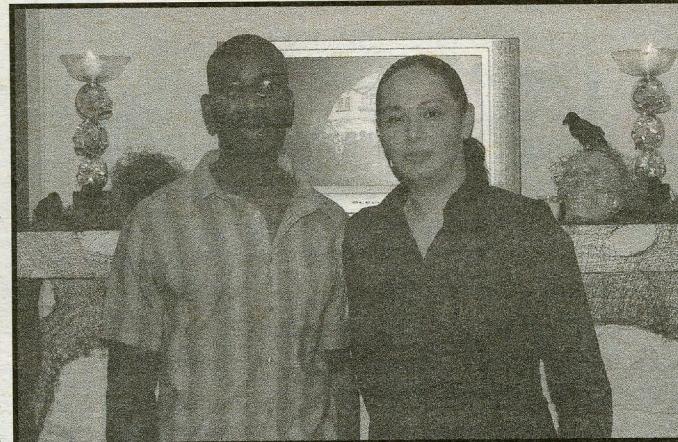
by Ian Keller

On October 14, Mark Jones, 2008 Outflix director, and Will Batts, MGLCC executive director, met with Susana Rodas and Keith Mitchell to discuss the future growth of Outflix as well as Keith's and Susana's new roles as co-directors of the event. Going into its twelfth year, the festival has seen tremendous growth, both within the GLBT community and within the film festival circuit. The group felt the responsibilities of putting together a 2009 A-list festival were so overwhelming for one director, a plan to have two co-directors was born. This year, thanks to the endless efforts and dedication of the 2008 Outflix committee members, MGLCC board members, sponsors and donations, the festival netted \$6,000 towards the operational costs and programs that the center provides to the community.

Susana and Keith are already hard at work planning the 2009 festival. The first of many upgrades planned for the festival will be the availability of online festival tickets and passes for moviegoers. Talks are also underway with various businesses for door prizes to be raffled off during the festival. The inner workings of the committee are getting a makeover with the introduction of new subcommittees. The tasks of the new subcommittees will include obtaining corporate sponsorship, community/local sponsorship, website design, fundraising socials, marketing & advertising, feature film review, shorts film review, Outflix grant proposals and the festival program and posters. With the introduction of these subcommittees, Outflix hopes to tap into the vast resources of talent and imagination that lies within the Memphis community. The co-directors are calling on graphic artists, web designers, advertising and marketing professionals and interns, film buffs, journalists, writers, students and social event planners to jump on the train that is the Center's vision.

The 2009 Outflix film festival season is gearing up to show moviegoers throughout the southeast that Memphis is the place for the very best in LGBT independent cinema. The mantle has been passed and the bar is being set for 2009.

The first meeting of the 2009 Outflix committee will be held on November 13, 2009, at 6:30 pm at MGLCC. Thereafter, all meetings will be on the second Thursday of every month up until July 2009 when the committee will meet every two weeks to finalize the details of the festival. For more information about being a part of Outflix or questions, email director@outflixfestival.org. MGLCC, (Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center), is located at 892 South Cooper in midtown Memphis.



Let your voice be heard Storytellers asked to write for MGLCC

by Keith Mitchell

Every year MGLCC strives to enrich the lives of the GLBT community and its allies by offering programs that benefit society. Diversity and inclusion of all are the cornerstones that make the MGLCC a beacon of light to us all. A new and exciting program is underway at the MGLCC which will embody this philosophy.

"Voices Along the River" is a short story and poetry contest / fundraiser for MGLCC. Breaking ground this November, the website, www.voicesalongtheriver.com will be up and running allowing hundreds, if not thousands, of writers, poets, storytellers and oracles to be heard. Submissions for this program may be made and paid for online or mailed to the center. The grand prize is \$150.00 and the publication of the winner's work in a statewide periodical. Three honorary mentions will also be announced and awarded \$50.00. Every person, every age from every walk of life is encouraged to submit their work or works. With each submission there is a fee of \$5.00 for each poem and \$10.00 for each short story. Poems are limited to a maximum of 80 lines and short stories to 4500 words.

"Voices" seeks to ensure that the voice within every person is heard loud, clear and wide. For additional information, or if interested in working on this program, please contact Keith Mitchell at info@voicesalongtheriver.com. Your time to be heard is now.

Pumping Station benefits Friends for Life

In a dramatic expression of support to the community of persons living with HIV/AIDS, The Pumping Station held a 3-day A Place At The Table fundraising event during Labor Day weekend. The event, benefitting Friends For Life, raised \$2,721 to support the programs offered by the agency. A silent auction with items worth \$7,804 secured by Dan Taylor, bartender at The Pumping Station brought in the majority of the funds. The event ended with a cook-out on Sunday afternoon and with members of Taurus on hand as well selling Jello shooters with the proceeds also going to Friends For Life. Kim Daugherty, Executive Director of Friends For Life remarked, "I am simply overwhelmed by the support provided to Friends For Life by The Pumping Station and members of Taurus. Steve Murphy, Robert Taylor and The Pumping Station staff really went all out for the organization. Their dedication to supporting our mission is just phenomenal."

Editors' note: This important acknowledgement was accidentally omitted from last month's TJ. We sincerely apologize to those we disappointed.

— MASSAGE —
BY

Ron Pitman

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MGLCC celebrates NCOD with Memphis Gaymes

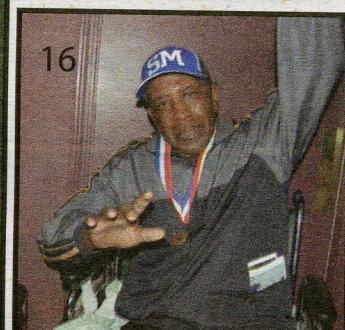
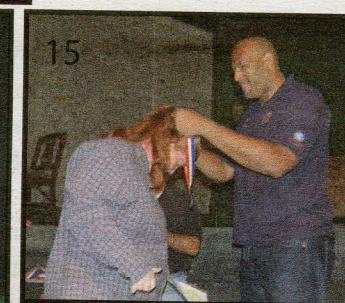
Welcomes former NBA player John Amaechi



The Fifth Memphis Gaymes presented by Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center is the local biannual celebration of National Coming Out Day. The competitions were conducted Oct. 5 through 12.

- 1) The Big Chicks Hot and Spicy from Chicago, Ill., pause for a break with special guest John Amaechi at the Memphis Blues Bash, a featured competition at the Gaymes. From left to right, they are Aaron, Andrew, Cap, Amaechi, G.J., Joe, Brad and Mike. Another team mate, Dieter, is not pictured.
- 2) The team from Holy Trinity Church in Nashville show why they won a silver medal.*
- 3) Master chef Carl Smith and Nashville's David Baylis strike a pose.
- 4) Man's best friend shows his support to the home team! *
- 5) Curtis Petty of the Memphis RP Tracks Hobos.
- 6) The Memphis Maniacs and Nashville Holy Trinity UCC congratulate each other at the Blues Bash Tournament. *
- 7) Chris Balton and Amaechi cuddle up at Kennedy Fields while Chris' partner was in the restroom.
- 8) Dwight Dunn practices before the basketball competition.
- 9) The volleyball competition gets underway at Idlewild Church.
- 10) The scrabble tournament always draws a crowd at MGLCC.
- 11) John Hackett, the pool shark at R.P. Billiards.
- 12) Jeff Reynolds shows his determination at the Putt-Putt competition.
- 13) Wendy Preszler and Jimmy Hyder pose before the Bowling competition at Winchester Bowl.
- 14) Amaechi speaks poolside at the residence of Marty Acree and Mac Gardner on coming out during the MGLCC National Coming Out Day Reception on Oct. 11.
- 15) Angela Miller receives her silver medal at the closing ceremonies.
- 16) At the closing ceremonies, a special gold medal for perseverance and determination was awarded to Ernest Smith who suffered a near fatal automobile accident a few months before the Gaymes.
- 17) The crowd of partiers at the MGLCC NCOD Reception
- 18) The crowd gathers for the closing ceremonies at Playhouse on the Square.
- 19) The Memphis Pumping Station Heat bronze medalists clown for the camera at the closing awards ceremony.
- 20) Hosts of the MGLCC National Coming Out Day Reception Mac (left) and Marty meet John Amaechi.

* These photos are courtesy of John Lloyd.



The Medalists of the Fifth Memphis Gaymes

Bowling Competitions

League - Gold: Reggie Powell, Silver: James Hyder, Bronze: Carl Smith; Non-League: Bronze: Jake Hughes, Silver: Eddie Parker. Gold: Sherman Leong.

Putt-Putt Competition

Gold: Adam Brassfield, Silver: John Hackett, Bronze: Andy Monsue.

Basketball Competition

Gold: Mike Stegal, Chris Haskins, Chris Balton; Silver: Mark Jones, Dwight Dunn, Joshua Head; Bronze: Wendy Preszler, Tammy Jordan, Mimi Homer.

Volleyball Competition

Gold: Janet Harris, Sam Goeff, Dan Johnson, Josh Head, Chris Balton; Silver: Mimi Homer, Sara Goeff, Dwight Dunn, Chris Haskins, Mike Stegal; Bronze: Mark Jones, Michael Pyer, Wendy Preszler, Tammy Jordan.

Chess Competition

Gold: Josh Head, Silver: Len Piechowski, Bronze: Elokin CaPece.

Checkers Competition

Gold: Ann Hackerman, Silver: Jeff Reynolds, Bronze: Wendy Preszler.

Scrabble Competition

Gold: Karin Buchanin, Silver: Angela Miller, Bronze: Ann Hackerman.

Pool Competition

Gold: Darryl Rodgers, Silver: Sherman Leong, Bronze: Andy Monsue.

Darts Competition

Gold: Amy Collins, Silver: William Carlton, Bronze: John Hackett.

Blues Bash Softball Tournament

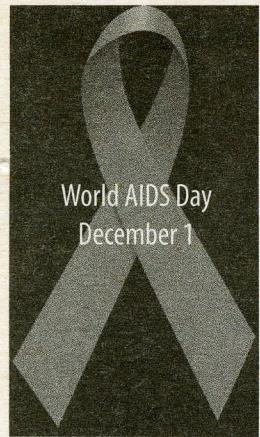
Group A - Gold: Nashville Clippers, Silver: Birmingham Fury, Bronze: Pumping Station Heat.

Group B - Gold: Chicago Crew Litening, Silver: Memphis Neons, Bronze: Nashville Players.

Group C - Gold: Chicago Big Chicks Hot and Spicy, Silver: Nashville Holy Trinity, Bronze: Memphis Maniacs.



First Baptist commemorates World AIDS Day with marker project



World AIDS Day
December 1

For the ninth year, First Baptist Church will remember lives lost in Shelby County to AIDS, in connection with World AIDS Day on December 1. The sight of over 2,000 markers on the lawn at the corner of Poplar and E. Parkway is a powerful expression of compassion and sympathy for family and friends left behind.

The markers will be installed on Sunday, November 23, 2008 and will be taken down on Saturday, December 6, 2008. Gridding by the Alpha Rho Chi architectural fraternity at UofM will be in mid-November.

Volunteers from the community are invited to join First Baptist Church, Greater Lewis Street Missionary Baptist Church and Friends For Life for one of the marker workdays in November, along with the installation following church on the 23rd and the takedown on the 6th.

Bring a hammer to church with you on Sunday, November 23. Following morning worship, volunteers will go to the lawn and pound the markers in the ground.

Got something to say? Say it to the TJ
editors@tjmemphis.com

Larry Timmerman

Bill Johns

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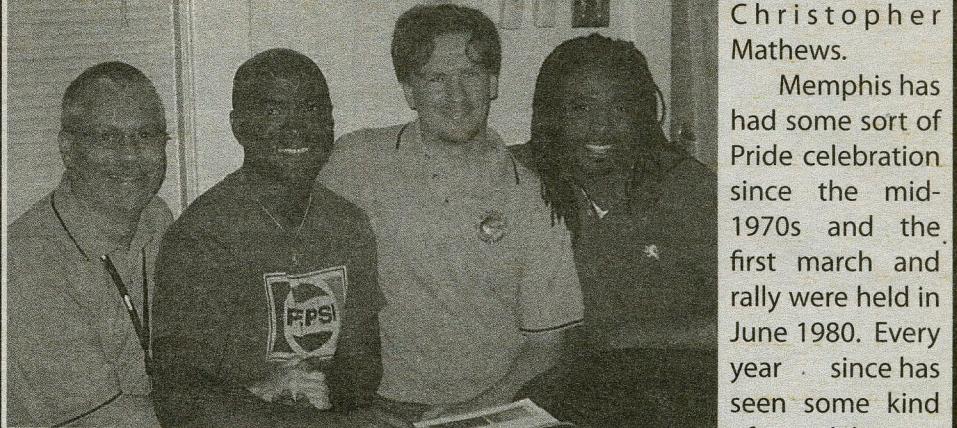
Memphis falls to Miami in women's rugby division championship, 34-12

Memphis Women's Rugby hosted the USA Rugby South Women's Division II Championships Saturday and Sunday, Oct 4-5, at McBride Rugby Field in Tobe Park. The four best DII teams in the South (Memphis, Miami, Orlando, and Charleston, SC) competed for the regional title, and the top two teams will advance to the National Championships on November 8. The Memphis women placed 3rd and 4th at this tournament in the past two years, and again ended the season number three in the division. Regardless, the Memphis Water Pirates had an excellent season, beating several higher-ranked Division I teams, and coming away with a 7-1 record.

Town meeting hosted by two Pride organizations

by Vincent Astor

A town meeting was held at MGLCC on Tuesday, September 23 to discuss the existence of two Pride celebrations in Memphis and to answer questions. Representing Mid-South Pride were Sean Alexander and Kent Hamson; representing Memphis Black Pride were Anthony Hardaway and Christopher Mathews.



Memphis has had some sort of Pride celebration since the mid-1970s and the first march and rally were held in June 1980. Every year since has seen some kind of celebration

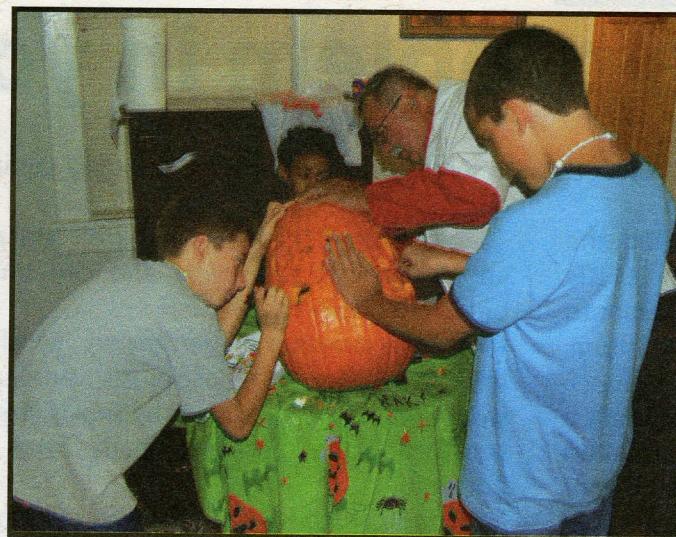
with the present parades continuing every year since 1993. Memphis Pride of Color was founded in the early 1990s. Sponsorship of both celebrations and community support has been very different, Black Pride being founded and primarily supported by one individual and its community support was slow in building. Mid-South Pride and its predecessor Pride celebrations rely on numerous sponsors and individual donations. It has always been a very public celebration which continues to grow.

Many topics were touched upon in the discussion such as the cultural reasons for the existence of Black Pride celebrations and the International Federation of Black Prides. Mid-South Pride is a member of InterPride, also a global organization. It was noted that all communities have been welcome and invited to the larger Pride events. The lack of large-scale participation by the black community is partially because of the difficulties of acceptance within that community and the awkwardness of appearing at public Pride events. Black Pride has only used a public park for events in the last three years. Participation is mainly by young people and the attitude toward a large public celebration is slowly changing.

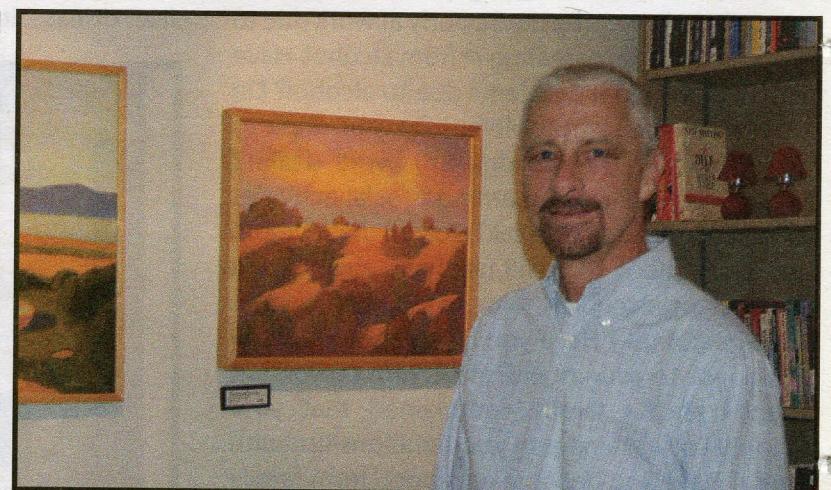
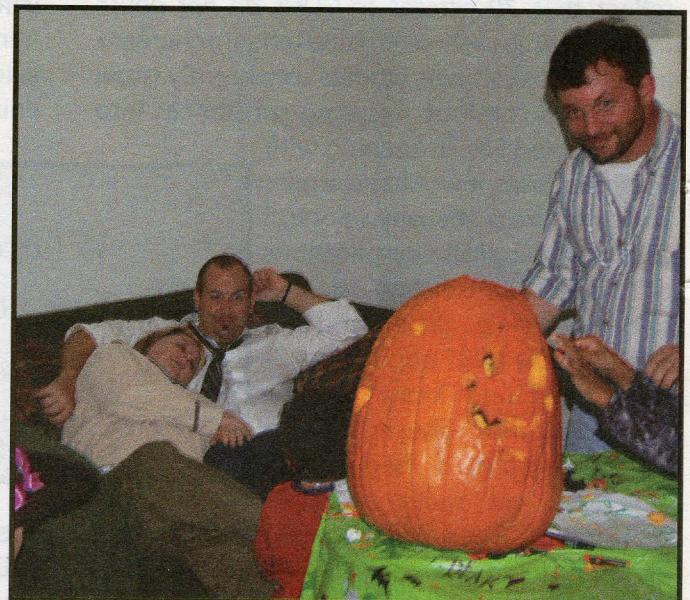
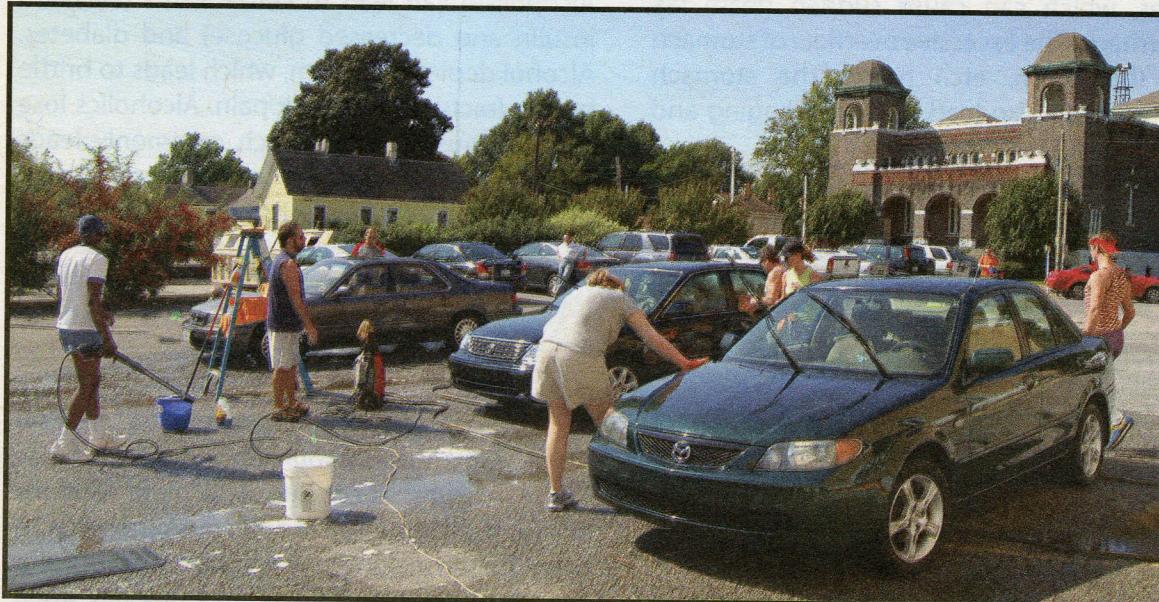
Mentoring and encouraging younger leadership is considered very important toward the future of both organizations. Mid-South Pride has been invited and welcomed at Black Pride events in the past few years and there has been discussion of a joint event and/or a joint theme for 2009. Concerned community members and two new officers of P-FLAG joined in the discussion. This meeting was the first of several to be scheduled to continue discussion and networking among the Pride organizations and their respective communities.



TRIANGLE SNAPS



Top far left: Terrence Jones arrives to have his car washed at the Team Fusion Disco Car Wash held on Oct. 4. Top left: Joshua, Jamie, and Jacob give Paul Northrop some lessons on carving a pumpkin at MGLCC's first Family Night on Oct. 22. Center row left: Team Fusion raises over \$1200 for MGLCC at their Disco Car Wash. Center row below: AJ Northrop and Traci Brooke pretend to be a straight couple at MGLCC's Family Night as Don Anderson indicates he knows better. Below left: Jonathan Cole of the Shelby County Committee of the Tennessee Equality Project offers a hate crimes presentation at University of Memphis on Oct. 15 in commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the murder of Matthew Shepard. Below right: Bill Johnson at his art opening at MGLCC on Oct. 17.



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Is alcohol a problem in your life?

by: Ann E. Hackerman, MS, LPC, NCC, CRC

Studies of urban cities tend to find the same results. That two-thirds of LGBTs report illegal drug use within a six-month period, and one-third report using "soft" drugs like marijuana on a weekly or even a daily basis. The incidence of substance abuse is estimated to be about 30 percent of the GLBT population as compared to approximately 11 percent of the general U.S. population. Such statistics also reflect that 70 percent of GLBTs do not abuse alcohol or drugs. Whereas abuse tends to decrease as heterosexuals age, studies consistently show that LGBTs continue misusing substances into their 40s and 50s. In keeping with these statistics, it would be remiss not to address the physiological and psychological complications of alcohol abuse and alcohol dependence (i.e., alcoholism) as it relates to the LGBT population. How does one know if (s)he is an alcohol abuser? As a psychotherapist, I begin with a simple yet quite profound question of, "Does alcohol (or other substance) cause a problem in your life?" Other questions to consider include asking yourself if you've missed work or performed poorly at work due to being hung over or feeling ill from alcohol. Have you had any legal problems due to alcohol? Do you have financial problems? Do you drink to self-medicate? Do you drink to avoid dealing with problems? Do you arrange social activities around being able to drink? Do you drink before social functions that will not have alcohol? Do you get preoccupied with when you can get your next drink? Have you failed at promises to cut down on your intake? Have your coworkers, friends and/or family complained that your alcohol use is damaging your relationships with them? Have you become estranged from family or friends, or lost jobs due to drinking? If you answered yes to even one of these questions, there is a good chance that you abuse alcohol. Alcohol effects every body organ except the ears. Short-term effects of alcohol include altered perceptions and sensations, drowsiness, increased urine output, elevated heart rate, decreased motor coordination, lowered inhibitions and fearlessness. GLBTs that become inebriated from alcohol (and/or powder cocaine, Ecstasy, GHB, crystal methamphetamine, etc.), in regards to decreased social inhibitions, have a higher incidence of sexual behaviors that result in HIV, hepatitis and other STDs. Alcohol alters brain cells, which can lead to blackouts and loss of control, blurred or double vision, and slurred speech. Alcohol binges can lead to a high blood-alcohol level, which brings on a host of

emergency complications including coma and death.

Long-term effects of moderate alcohol abuse and alcoholism are many and can only be broached briefly here.

Alcohol aggravates hypertension, which can lead to strokes. Arteriosclerosis can lead to weakened heart muscles, arrhythmias (irregular heartbeat) and possible death from atrial fibrillation.

Alcohol can lead to oral lesions and esophageal varices, which can cause sudden death via hemorrhage. The excessive overflow of stomach acids (heartburn, etc.) harms the stomach lining and can also lead to hemorrhaging and

hepatitis, which is reversible. Cirrhosis, however, is not reversible. Chronic alcohol consumption, along with hepatitis C and hepatitis B, are risk factors for hepatocellular carcinoma (a form of cancer). Alcoholics are prone to develop pancreatitis and are also at a higher risk for pancreatic cancer.

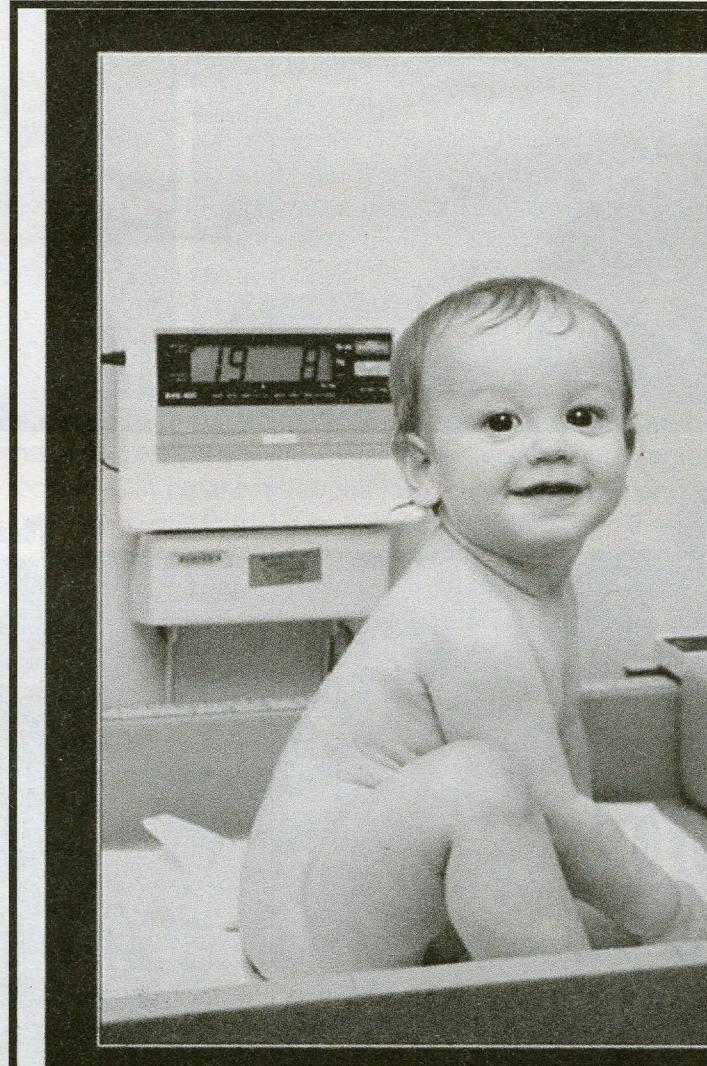
Chronic, long-term alcoholism causes hypoglycemia (low blood sugar), which results in confusion, speech problems, sweating, fatigue and lethargy, aggression and "fruity" breath. Alcoholism can lead to ketoacidosis (elevated insulin and decreased glucose) and diabetes. Alcohol depletes calcium, which leads to brittle bones, fractures and back pain. Alcoholics lose muscle tone (which commonly leads to the "beer belly" and a general flabby appearance). Alcohol alters cellular immunity, which increases the risk of respiratory infections. For those with already-compromised immune systems, such an infection can lead to fatality.

If you are interested in making changes in your life to address these issues, there are treatment options available. Next month we will examine what to expect when seeking professional assistance and ways to begin living a sober life, especially when it seems like alcohol is abundantly available.

Whereas abuse tends to decrease as heterosexuals age, studies consistently show that GLBTs continue misusing substances into their 40s and 50s.

ulceration. Alcohol gastritis can be fatal.

Even moderate alcohol abuse may result in upper right quadrant pain, which is common in liver disease. It may result in fatty liver or alcohol



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And the Band Played On: the history of the fight for gay rights from politics to AIDS

by Andrew Cruz

The 20th anniversary edition of *And the Band Played On*, by Randy Shilts, is now available in bookstores. As the book is hands-down *de rigueur* for any serious student of the gay rights movement, now would be a good time to revisit this classic piece of journalism regarding the gay community and AIDS.

Spanning the genesis of HIV in Africa, its spread through the coastal cities, the political backlash, the hopes and dreams of a nascent gay rights movement and love and heartbreak between gays in love and in the face of the then-new disease, *And the Band Played On*, takes the reader on a fascinating, touching and non-fictionalized journey of the gay community, politics and AIDS up until the disease finally came to the forefront of American politics with the public announcement of the AIDS diagnosis of Rock Hudson, the film and television actor who died in 1985.

Included in the tome are some of the first cases of people coming down with diseases before unknown to infect human beings, much less kill them, such as toxoplasmosis and Kaposi's Sarcoma. However, as the death toll mounted, suspicions of an unknown disease began to mount.

The book details the concurrent ascent of the gay community as a national political force within the Democratic Party, including that its 1980 national convention counted seventy delegates in the gay caucus, which "was larger than the delegations of twenty states."

A distinction is drawn between the gay politics of California and of the East Coast, where the Californians, particularly San Franciscans, were more adamant about securing their rights and less inclined to conform to the mainstream by doing so, whereas the East Coasters, particularly New Yorkers, were more of the liberal stripe rather than radical, and more inclined to working within the system in order for the government to respond to and represent their needs and issues as a gay community.

As the San Francisco Department of Health first linked certain sexual practices to AIDS infection, many in the government turned a blind eye to the gay community as many gays disregarded the warnings and continued unsafe sex practices, as sexual liberation had been the celebrated cause of the gay rights movement for decades already.

The book includes the stories of Larry Kramer and Paul Popham, who formed the Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) to address the issue. I remember the first time I went to a GLBT organization meeting. Indeed one of my first steps in coming out of the closet was a GMHC meeting at Columbia University in the City of

New York, in 1986, much later than the time frame of the book, but a historically important organization nonetheless. Shilts details the checkered history of New York city and state government in adequately addressing the threat of AIDS to the gay community. Issues arose between Kramer and Popham as the number of AIDS infections and deaths increased despite their efforts.

Larry Kramer went on to found ACT-UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power), when in 1987 at the Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center in New York he gave a speech attacking the GMHC as politically impotent and asked the audience if they wanted a new organization. Many answered, "yes," and two days later over 300 people met to form ACT-UP, which later held several protests around New York to demonstrate for better care of AIDS patients, and other issues as well, taking pro-choice and antiwar stances.

The book details the efforts of AIDS researchers in first identifying the disease and then in tracking its spread throughout the gay population. By the time researchers linked the use of poppers and number of sexual partners with cases of the new disease in 1981, they were pretty sure it was a sexually transmitted disease.

The terms "Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome," and its acronym AIDS, were coined in 1982, to replace the earlier designation of GRID, or "Gay-Related Immune Deficiency," with a sexually neutral designation.

And the Band Played On is richly detailed, and quite a long read, but I highly recommend it to anyone who is seriously interested in studying the development of the gay rights movement. Sometimes illuminating, sometimes heart-breaking, and often raising questions, *And the Band Played On* is an invaluable contribution to literature and the fight for gay rights.

A local HIV/AIDS resource is Friends for Life, www.friendsforlifecorp.org, at 43 N. Cleveland. Friends for Life offers free HIV testing. They can be reached at (901) 272-0855.

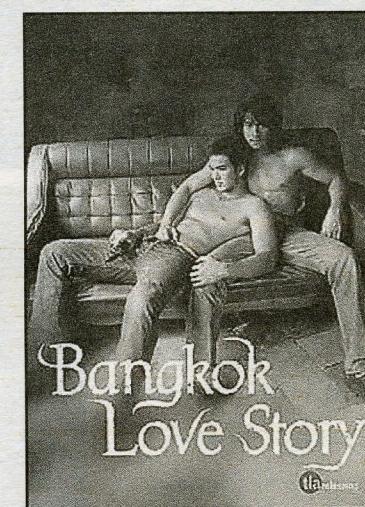
Other free, local HIV testing locations are at: Memphis Regional Planned Parenthood - 1407 Union Avenue - (901) 725-1717; Community HIV Network - 1407 Union Avenue - (901) 287-4750 and New Directions Inc. - 4466 Elvis Presley Boulevard, #310 - (901) 346-5497. MGLCC - 892 South Cooper also has a "Ask a Sex Ed Counselor" night each Wednesday. Information on contraception and safer sex practices, as well as free HIV testing is available.

Mr. Shilts, then a reporter for the *San Francisco Chronicle*, decided to write the book after hearing AIDS jokes at an journalism awards ceremony in 1983.

Bangkok Love Story

A DVD Review by Carl Smith

Bangkok Love Story is about a loner hitman named Mhek (translated as Cloud), played by Rattaballung Toesawat, who supports his HIV-positive mother and brother Mhok (Fog) with his assassination jobs. His usual hits are simple in nature by walking by or sneaking up on his intended targets, pulling the trigger and running away. What makes Cloud a hitman of a different sort is his ethical code of only killing "bad" people and not those he considers to be good. But for his next assignment, Cloud must kidnap a guy named It (Stone), played by Chaiwat Tongsang, and take him to his bosses. When the confrontation with the mob bosses goes awry, Cloud declares that he won't kill Stone because he deems Stone as a good guy. A gunfight erupts, and Cloud ends up taking a bullet. Stone takes Cloud's gun, returns fire and the two manage to escape. They end up at Cloud's rooftop hideaway. Stone, thankful that Cloud spared his life, decided that there was nothing to do other than to take care of Cloud. Stone undresses Cloud down to his underwear and removes the bullet from Cloud's shoulder. He then gives Cloud a soothing sponge bath. Stone also strips down to his underwear and as time goes by, that becomes the standard uniform while they are together. The sexual tension is palpable. Stealing glances and lingering looks while the other sleeps soon culminates in a very passionate exchange outside in a rain shower as the city sky train goes by. Of course with the sexual tension gone, Cloud's feelings of guilt take over, and he wants nothing more to do with Stone. Stone spends the rest of time pining away for Cloud while Cloud seems to sadistically keep Stone at a distance. Stone later returns home to his fiancée Sai (Sand). She immediately notices how Stone has changed emotionally and how he disappears for long periods of time. One evening Stone comes home with an old rag doll that he found in Cloud's room, and he spends the night pathetically hugging it. Sand knows that Stone no longer belongs to her. The chemistry



between Cloud and Stone has a difficult time fully developing beyond their initial rooftop consummation. When Cloud finally stops fighting against his inevitable emotions for Stone, it's too late. *Bangkok Love Story* is available from TLA Video.

Tiempo para decidir!

por Erick Vásquez

Mientras algunos de ustedes pueden estar inclinado a votar por el Senador John McCain (y la mayoría por el Senador Barack Obama), hay algo mas que se esta decidiendo en California que tambien requiere nuestra atención: la Proposición 8 para enmendar la Constitución de California eliminando el derecho a las parejas del mismo sexo de casarse.

La medida fue enviada a votación por sus proponentes con el título de "Acta de Protección del Matrimonio en California". El título y resumen fueron revisados por el litigante general Jerry Brown para que reflejera la medida lo mas fielmente posible. Previamente, la Corte Suprema de California había decidido que las parejas del mismo sexo tienen el derecho constitucional de casarse bajo la constitución de California.

En el año 2000, los votantes pasaron con un 61% del electorado la Proposición 22, que cambio el Código de Familia de California para limitar el matrimonio en California entre un hombre y una mujer. Sin embargo, el 15 de Mayo del 2008, la Corte Suprema de California, por un voto de 4 a 3, ordenó que el estatuto que cubría la Proposición 22 y otros estatutos similares violaba la cláusula de protección igualitaria de la Constitución de California. Por consiguiente, el matrimonio gay se hizo una realidad!

Si la Proposición 8 se aprueba, la enmienda podría invalidar la orden que trajo abajo la Proposición 22 y otras órdenes similares por ser inconstitucionales. A la Constitución se agregaría una nueva sección (Sección 7.5) al artículo I que leería: "Solo el matrimonio entre un hombre y una mujer es válido y reconocido en California".

De acuerdo a Joan Hollinger, una profesora de la Universidad de California en Berkeley de la escuela de Derecho Boalt Hall, "Los escolásticos constitucionales están de acuerdo que la enmienda no puede ser retroactiva". El Instituto Williams de la escuela de derecho de la UCLA estima conservadoramente que mas de

11000 parejas del mismo sexo se han casado en California entre Junio 17 y Octubre 17 del 2008.

Igualdad para Todos es la organización que lidera la oposición a la Proposición 8. Ellos tambien estan a cargo de la campaña www.NoOnProp8.com. Ademas, el Gobernador Republicano de California Arnold Schwarzenegger manifestó que aunque él se ha opuesto y ha vetado leyes legislativas que pudieron legalizar el matrimonio del mismo sexo en California, él se opone a esta iniciativa y otros intentos de enmendar la constitución estatal.

El candidato presidencial por los Demócratas y Senador Estadounidense Barack Obama ha dicho que él apoya extender "derechos y beneficios igualitarios totales a las parejas del mismo sexo bajo ambas leyes, la federal y la estatal.... Y es por esto que él se opone a los divisorios y discriminatorios esfuerzos para enmendar la Constitución de California; y de manera similar los esfuerzos de enmendar la Constitución Estadounidense y aquellas de otros estados". Sin embargo, Barack Obama ha dicho también, "Yo personalmente creo que el matrimonio es entre un hombre y una mujer".

La vocera del Congreso, la representante de California (octavo distrito), Nancy Pelosi y los senadores por California Dianne Feinstein y Barbara Boxer, han hablado de su oposición a la Proposición 8, de igual manera lo han hecho los alcaldes de San Francisco, Los Angeles, y San Diego: Gavin Newsom, Antonio Villaraigosa, y Jerry Sanders, respectivamente.

Los seis periódicos mas importantes del estado han escrito en sus editoriales en contra de la Proposición 8: Los Angeles Times, el San Francisco Chronicle, el San Diego Union-Tribune, el Orange County Register, el Sacramento Bee, y el San José Mercury News. Otros periódicos que también han escrito editoriales oponiéndose incluyen el New York Times.

title "California Marriage Protection Act." The title and summary were revised by Attorney General Jerry Brown to more "accurately reflect the measure." Previously, the California Supreme Court has decided that same-sex couples have a constitutional right to marry under the California Constitution.

In 2000, voters passed with 61 percent of the vote Proposition 22, which changed the California Family Code to limit marriage in California between a man and a woman. However, on May 15, 2008 the California Supreme Court, by a vote of 4-3, ruled that the statute enacted by Proposition 22 and other similar statutes violated the equal protection clause of the California Constitution. Thus, gay marriage became a reality!

If Proposition 8 is passed, the amendment would override the ruling that struck down Proposition 22 and any other similar rulings for being unconstitutional. The Constitution would add a new section (Section 7.5) to Article I, it would read: "Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California." According to Joan Hollinger, a professor at the University of California, Berkeley, Boalt Hall School of Law, "Constitutional scholars agree that the amendment cannot be effective retroactively." The Williams Institute at the UCLA School of Law conservatively estimates that more than 11,000 same-sex couples have married in California between June 17 and October 17, 2008.

Equality for All is the lead organization opposed to Proposition 8. They also run the NoOnProp8.com campaign. In addition, Republican California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger stated that although he has opposed and has vetoed legislative bills that would legalize same sex marriage in California, he is opposed to the initiative and other attempts to amend the state's constitution.

Democratic presidential nominee and U.S. Senator Barack Obama said he supports extending "fully equal rights and benefits to same-sex couples under both state and federal law.... And that is why I oppose the divisive and discriminatory efforts to amend the California Constitution; and similar efforts to amend the U.S. Constitution or those of other states." However, Barack Obama has also stated, "I personally believe that marriage is between a man and a woman."

The U.S. House Speaker, California Representative (8th District), Nancy Pelosi and California Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer, have voiced their opposition to Proposition 8, as have the mayors of San Francisco, Los Angeles and San Diego: Gavin Newsom, Antonio Villaraigosa, and Jerry Sanders, respectively.

All six of the state's largest newspapers have editorialized against Proposition 8: the Los Angeles Times, the San Francisco Chronicle, the San Diego Union-Tribune, The Orange County Register, The Sacramento Bee and the San Jose Mercury News. Other papers to have editorialized in opposition include The New York Times.

California's Prop 8 marks a decision-making moment in GLBT history

by Erick Vasquez

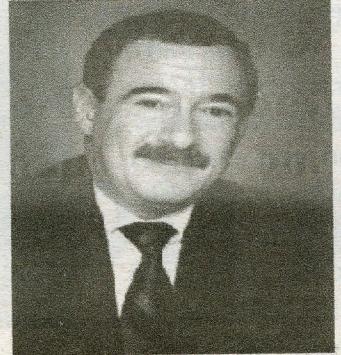
While some of you are voting for either Sen. Barack Obama or Sen. John McCain, there is something else being decided in California that also requires our attention: California Proposition 8 to amend the California Constitution eliminating the right of same-sex couples to marry.

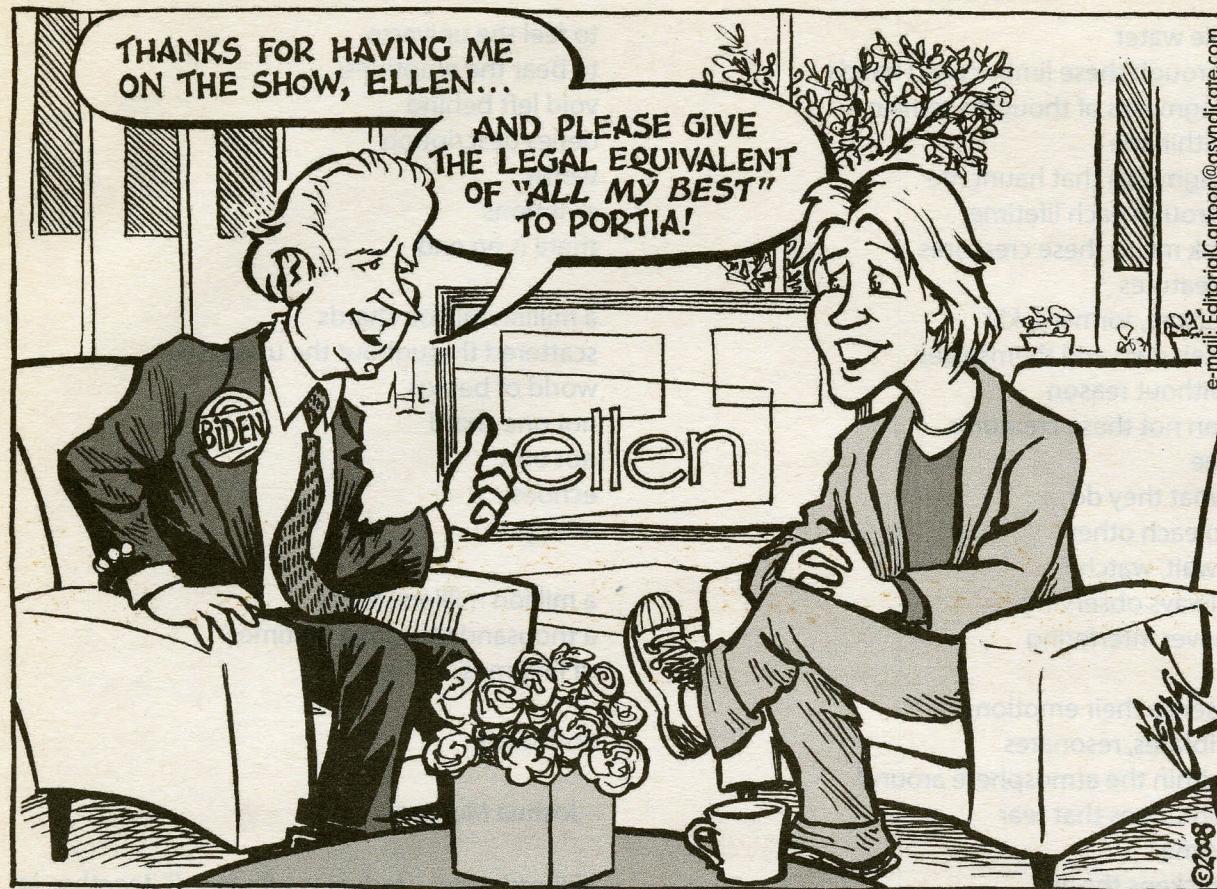
The measure was submitted for the ballot by petitioners with the

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DC court rules transgender discrimination is sex discrimination

In September, the District Court for the District of Columbia issued a decision in the case of a woman who was transgendered and who had not been hired by the Library of Congress. The court found that discrimination on the basis of changing sex was discrimination on the basis of sex, prohibited by Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Although born male, Diane Schroer identifies as female. In August 2004, before she changed her legal name or began dressing publicly as a woman, Schroer applied for the position of Specialist in Terrorism and International Crime with the Congressional Research Service (CRS) at the Library of Congress. The terrorism specialist provides expert policy analysis to congressional committees, members of Congress and their staffs. Schroer was well-qualified for the job, having served in the U.S. armed forces in special forces and special operations and having directed an organization that tracked international terrorist groups. Although she was undergoing the long psychological and physical treatment to transition from male to female, she had not yet reached the stage of presenting herself as a woman. She applied under her legal, male name. She was the most qualified candidate in the view of the hiring staff at the Library of Congress, and was given the position. After the hiring paperwork had been submitted but before Schroer actually started work, she told her superiors that she would be transitioning to female and that when she began the job, she would do so as female. The Library rescinded the offer and gave the job to a less qualified man.

Schroer sued, and the district court found in her favor. The court held that the discrimination on the basis of gender identity is literally discrimination on the basis of sex and it is also discrimination on the basis of failing to conform to sex stereotypes, both prohibited by Title VII. The Library refused to hire her because she would not be feminine enough, in the view of one of the decisionmakers, having a particularly "macho" background and based on pictures Schroer provided of herself dressed as a woman. The court acknowledged that it was difficult to separate this motivation from the motivation that it was Schroer's transgendered condition which made her a bad candidate, and which several courts have held is not protected by Title VII.

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Gay Iraqi leader assassinated

In September, the Baghdad coordinator of Iraqi LGBT was assassinated, most likely by one of the two religious militia.

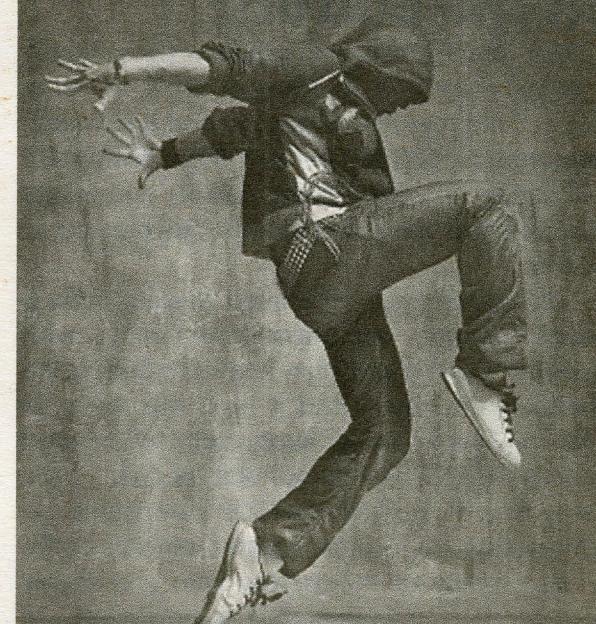
The 27-year-old university student, Bashar, was in a barber shop when militias burst in and sprayed his body with bullets at point blank range.

He was the organizer of safe houses for gays and lesbians in Baghdad. His efforts saved the lives of dozens of people.

The exact identity of the gunmen is unclear, but Islamic death squads who are targeting lesbian and gay Iraqis for 'sexual cleansing' are suspected.

To date, Iraqi LGBT's network of underground gay activists has been able to assemble documentation of 487 deliberate murders of Iraqis targeted by the death squads because they were known or believed to be gay, lesbian or transgendered. That figure may well be only the tip of the iceberg, given the difficulty of their investigations in an ultra-homophobic society riven by armed conflict among ethnic and religious groups.

**MGLCC'S
QUEER AS YOUTH
FOR TEENS AGES 14-19**



MEETS EVERY OTHER SATURDAY AT
892 S. COOPER AT 7:00 PM
NOV. 8 - ART
NOV. 22 - HANDCRAFTS

we existed before time was time
 before what is
 was
 the universes were our domain
 solely, completely
 we traveled through time
 through the universes
 danced amongst the stars
 rode the solar winds
 we watched worlds
 galaxies come into creations
 universes end
 through the eons of millenniums
 we existed in harmony
 perfect equilibrium
 without warning
 torn apart
 a million million shards
 thrown through the universes
 a million million shards
 seeking, searching, listening, watching

on this world i have lived
 a thousand thousand lifetimes
 waiting, watching, listening
 for the presence of another
 within me grows a void
 deeper, darker, colder
 than the vastness
 of the universes themselves
 everything around me
 alive, vibrant, intense
 vibrating with sounds
 universes of old
 sensing everything
 everyone around me

thoughts slip in and out

like water
 through these limbs called hands
 fragments of thoughts remain
 within me
 fragments that haunt me
 through each lifetime
 link me to these creatures
 creatures
 torture, torment, kill
 their own and themselves
 without reason
 can not these creatures
 see
 what they do
 to each other
 i wait, watch
 always observing
 never interfering

i sense their emotions
 vibrates, resonates
 within the atmosphere around
 vibrations that tear
 at me
 thickens the air
 fills these organs called lungs
 suffocates me
 a thousand thousand lifetimes
 of lifetimes
 no escape
 no relief
 constantly searching
 emptiness that is
 growing within me

i yearn
 to dance amongst the stars
 to be whole

to feel the universe
 to bear the emptiness
 void left behind
 defies description
 words
 emotions
 there is no end

a million million shards
 scattered throughout the universes
 world of beings
 not one shard
 not one
 echoes
 vestiges

a million million shards
 a thousand thousand lifetimes
 of lifetimes

and i wait

- Joshua Morgan

Editors' note: Joshua crafts words together in hopes that they ignite something within the reader. He says, "I have been writing off and on for a number of years now but was recently inspired to write again after my visit to the center on Cooper. Two guys there had a bond that spoke volumes and it ignited something within me to write. I have lived in Memphis for a number of years and moved here from Mobile, AL where I attended the university -creative writing minor. I guess, my orientation would be termed convenient, if that makes sense to anyone besides myself."

To the Editors:

For years I have struggled with a deeply personal issue. No, it is not whether to come out . . . I did that nine years ago and have never regretted the decision because it has given me a full, happy life with a loving partner and plenty of supportive family and friends. I am blessed, to be sure.

The dilemma I have been dealing with is about squaring my Republican politics with being an openly gay man and confronting the challenges it poses. And it has nothing to do with my party being supposedly dominated and controlled by homophobic bigots. I have many friends working on GOP campaigns, on congressional and other elected officials' staffs, or as candidates themselves who are deeply committed to treating people as individuals and respecting them. This is about what I, and many other conservative-libertarian-Republican gays, truly share in common with the larger gay rights movement as it is now constituted.

What do we have in common? Not much, other than we're attracted to the same gender

and many of us have devoted our lives to partners and are living freely and proudly every day (without any legislation or government decree to "affirm" us). We all strive to be treated with dignity, integrity and respect. We all want to be able to simply be ourselves. But that's where it ends, at least for me. I am not a liberal. I do not believe that gays have anything linking us to pro-choicers (on abortion), unions, leftist anti-military groups, self-appointed civil rights organizations and such. So why does the gay movement, insofar as it exists, insist that we march in lockstep behind these banners? Why do we put our trust almost exclusively in Democrats who will tax us more (think "spread the wealth"), press to punish us financially, threaten our individual rights in many other ways and cheer when some hateful blogger or publication outs gay Republicans or mocks Mary Cheney for having a child with her partner?

For me, the problem boils down to a complete lack of appreciation or recognition for INDIVIDUAL rights, views and responsibilities. To suggest that we have to be liberal and vote Democrat is nothing more than indoctrination

at work. What's wrong with being yourself, with having your own beliefs and views? Four years ago, I seriously flirted with becoming a Democrat. I even penned a letter to this very publication on that topic . . . then I thought better of it. I voted early last week and gave my cherished ballot to John McCain. I voted against an anti-gay ballot measure here in Arkansas that would strip my partner and I from having the right to adopt or be foster parents. Amazingly, the earth did not swallow me up for daring to vote my conscience for McCain and against discrimination. Let's not forget that the Defense of Marriage Act, to date the most glaring example of that discriminatory approach to gay people's relationships, was signed into law by Democrat Bill Clinton.

And so I will sever what few ties I had with those in the gay movement who feel the need to ridicule and denigrate myself and others for being who and what we are. Ironic, isn't it?

Anthony Childress
 Jonesboro, Arkansas

Pride and Glory

NYPD detective Ray Tierney (Edward Norton) steps into an impossible situation when he investigates the ambush murders of four officers who served with his brother Francis (Noah Emmerich) and brother-in-law Jimmy (Colin Farrell). What at first looks like an open-and-shut case against a drug dealer grows complicated with the realization that the dead men were dirty cops. Not even the addition of a subplot involving Francis' cancer-stricken wife (Jennifer Ehle) can humanize the cardboard characters in this ugly excuse for a crime drama. Essentially a compendium of cliched situations, bad dialogue, and outsized brutality, it reaches its nadir in a scene where Jimmy threatens to burn an infant with a hot iron. This is not so much a movie as an assault on the senses.

Grade: D

How Gay Is It?: 1 (Farrell starred in *Alexander* and *A Home at the End of the World*. Norton appeared in *Frida*. Ehle played a bisexual poet in *Possession*

and Oscar Wilde's wife in *Wilde*. Among the co-stars, Jon Voight's breakthrough role was in *Midnight Cowboy*, while Rick Gonzalez appeared in *Laurel Canyon* and *What We Do Is Secret*, the biopic of late queer punk rocker Darby Crash.)

The Secret Life of Bees

Unhappy 14-year-old Lily Owens (Dakota Fanning) flees her abusive father (Paul Bettany) and South Carolina hometown with family housekeeper Rosaleen (Jennifer Hudson) after the latter tangles with local racists. In nearby Tiburon, the pair finds refuge with beekeeper August Boatwright (Queen Latifah) and her sisters. Set in 1964, this handsome, warmhearted melodrama based on Sue Monk Kidd's bestseller catalogs the racial injustice boiling over in the wake of the passage of the Civil Rights Act. At the same time, it never loses sight of the human story, as August and her siblings welcome these two damaged souls into their family, and in the process, help heal their psychic wounds. A glorious ensemble of awesome women delivers



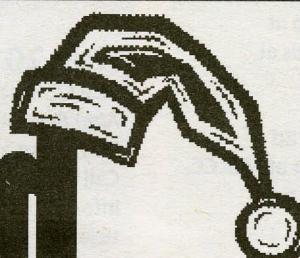
© Fox Searchlight Pictures

powerful performances that transcend the tale's soap opera aspects.

Grade: B+

How Gay Is It?: 1 (Fanning played a young Ellen DeGeneres in an episode of *The Ellen Show*. Hudson was in *Sex and the City*. Latifah was Oscar-nominated for *Chicago* and appeared in *Set It Off* and *Hairspray*. Among the co-stars, Alicia Keys played a lesbian hit woman in *Smokin' Aces*, Paul Bettany had a small role in *Bent*, and Sophie Okonedo was in *Scenes of a Sexual Nature*.)

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DAY IN. DAY OUT.

TRIANGLE JOURNAL GUIDE TO COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT FOR NOVEMBER 2008

S

Nov 9
Music at Lindenwood
Concert Series
featuring organist
Cameron Carpenter
in sanctuary 4 pm

Mystic Krewe of
Pegasus Annual
Silent Auction at
Gould's 2 - 4 pm

ADAPT fundraiser
at MGLCC featuring
Carol Plunk. 3-5 PM

Nov 16
MGLCC board
financial
development
training at 1 pm
and monthly board
meeting at 2 pm

**Select
Sundays**

Disco Sunday @
Quetzal on select
Sundays at 4-7 p.m.
Call 605-7243.

Tea Dance at Metro
every Sunday 4 p.m.

Pool Tournament
at Pumping Station
every Sunday 6pm

Drag Show at
Backstreet at 11 p.m.

M

Nov 17
MGLCC's finance
committee meeting
at 6:30 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

Nov 4
Election Day
Community election
watch at MGLCC
6 pm

Nov 11

Midsouth Comfort
Care potluck and
speaker Jennifer
Sweeney beginning
at 5:30 pm at
1211 Union 7th floor

Every Tues

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

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

Nov 19

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

Deadline for
submissions
December TJ

**Every
Wednesday**

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

Ask a Sex Ed
Counselor at MGLCC.
6:00-9:00 p.m.

**Every
Second
Wednesday**

TEP meeting at
Quetzal at 6:30 pm.

T

**Every 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.

Nov 13

2009 Outflix
planning meeting at
MGLCC 6:30 pm

Nov 20

MGLCC fundraiser
Altar Boys at Circuit
Playhouse at 7 pm.
Call 278-6422 for
information and
tickets.

Transgender Day of
Remembrance

Nov 27

Thanksgiving Day
MGLCC potluck
Noon to 3 pm.

Every

Thursday

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.

Karaoke at Paragon
at 9 p.m.

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

F

Nov 7

Andy Prislovsky
art show opening
reception at MGLCC
at 7 pm

Nov 28
December TJ on
stands

**Every
Friday**

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

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

Karaoke at One More
at 8 p.m.

Drag Show at
Crossroads at
11 p.m.

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

Drag Show at
Backstreet at
midnight.

S

Nov 2
Club Sexy @ Quetzal
668 Union with
Madonna-Rama all
night long.

Nov 8
WKNO televised
Art and Antiques
Auction begins and
continues through
weekend and
weekend of
Nov 15 & 16

Queer As Youth at
MGLCC. 7:00-9:00 PM

Nov 15
Quetzal After Dark
presents the Red
Room starting at
10 pm.

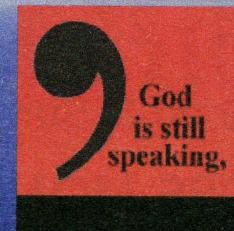
Nov 22
Queer As Youth at
MGLCC. 7:00-9:00 PM

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COMMUNITY RESOURCES

▼ Indicates Triangle Journal distribution points.

Please let us know if your contact information changes so that we can keep our community updated with accurate information.

Thanks!

editors@tjmemphis.com

ADULT BOOKSTORES

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

BARS

▼ 901 Complex: 136 Webster St., (901) 522-8457

▼ Backstreet Memphis: 2018 Court St., (901) 276-5522

▼ Crossroads: 1278 Jefferson Ave., (901) 272-8801

▼ Dru's Place: 1474 Madison Ave., (901) 275-8082

▼ Lorenz/AfterShock: 1528 Madison Ave., (901) 274-8272

▼ Metro Memphis: 1349 Autumn, (901) 274-8010

▼ One More: 2117 Peabody, (901) 278-6673

▼ Pumping Station: 1382 Poplar Ave., (901) 272-7600

▼ Vault, 529 S. Highland, 525-6203

BOOKS

▼ Borders: 6685 Poplar Pike

▼ Burke's: 936 South Cooper

▼ Davis-Kidd: 387 Perkins Extended

▼ Memphis Public Library 3030 Poplar

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Blue Suede Bears of Memphis, Inc.: 41 S. Morrison - www.bluesuedebears.com

Cotton Pickin' Squares: Gay/Lesbian square dance club meets Thurs., 7 pm Holy Trinity, 685 S. Highland.

4F: Leather/Levi group, 698 Pope Dr., Bartlett 38112

Initiative:Fairness (political committee of MGLCC: IF@mglcc.org; [www.mglcc.org/IF](http://www.mglcc.org/))

Memphis Area Gay Youth (MAGY): PO Box 241852, Memphis, TN 38124 - (901) 335-MAGY - www.magyonline.org

▼ Memphis Center for Independent Living - 726-6404

▼ 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

Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG) Memphis, TN - (901) 268-2511- pflagmemphis@pflagmemphis.org

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

Tennessee Transgender Political Coalition TTPC P.O. Box 92335 Nashville, TN 37209 <http://ttgpac.com> TTGPAC@aol.com (615)293-6199 (615)353-1834 fax

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

▼ KentD. 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

▼ Bluff City Coffee Shop: 505 S. Main

▼ Bogie's Delicatessen: 2098 La Salle Pl. - (901) 272-0022

▼ Cafe Eclectic: 603 N. McLean

▼ Cafe Ole: 959 South Cooper 274-1504

▼ High Point Coffee: 9077 Poplar Ave.

▼ High Point Coffee: 1680 Union Ave.

▼ 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.

▼ Sean's Cafe/Smooth Moves: 1651 Union

▼ Sweet: 938 S. Cooper.

▼ Wild Oats: 522 Poplar

HEALTH SERVICES

Community HIV Network - 2400 Poplar, Suite 500: 287-4750

▼ Friends For Life: HIV/AIDS service organization - 43 N. Cleveland, (901) 272-0855 - www.friendsforlifecorp.org

Memphis Center for Reproductive Health: 1462 Poplar Ave. - (901) 274-3550

PhoenixAA Group: Every Tuesday evening at Grace St. Luke's Church at 8pm.

Seriously Sober: AA meeting at Holy Trinity United Church of Christ 685 South Highland every Friday evening at 8 pm.

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

Trevor Project - National 24/7 hotline for suicidal or questioning teens: 886-488-7386.

Lambda Legal: 404-897-1880

MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES

▼ Dabbles: 19 North Cooper

▼ Hi Gorgeous: 1475 Madison

▼ Inz and Outz: 553 South Cooper (901) 728-6535

▼ The Studio: 629 South Cooper

▼ Paggios Hair Salon: (901) 274-3944

▼ Tear It Up: 895 S. Cooper

▼ 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@holymemphis.org

Integrity Memphis: Meets the 3rd Tues., Worship, 6:30 pm; Dinner, 7:00 pm; 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

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