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GLBT News for the Midsouth

HOMO FOR THE HOLIDAYS

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Momentous gains, staggering losses

by Len Piechowski

Now that the election is over and some of the oxygen is coming back into the room, I would like to take some time to reflect on the events of the past few weeks.

I'll not focus on the gains and losses arising from the recent election. In the pages that follow, our Politicos Journalists, Jonathan and Marisa, will do that in a much better fashion than I could. Instead, I would like to talk about the losses and gains we have experienced here in the Midsouth.

We lost BJ. It's hard to imagine the Pride Parade next year without her rolling down the street in her wheelchair with a rainbow flag proudly posted. Boy, she was a real corker, wasn't she? The imprint of her strong determination during a time before it was fashionable to be an out activist and her unwavering leadership when it became so, will be felt for a long time on our community. We all gained from her life. We are all the better for her having been here. Rest well, BJ. You've earned it.

We lost Duanna. I met her only once. And what I gained in knowledge and understanding about my transgender and transexual brothers and sisters in the months since our meeting will last for a long time. In the spotlight of brutalized notoriety for the last several months, she has awakened a righteous indignation in not a few of us. And lastly, a personal, although thankfully less final, loss for me. My friend and co-editor of Triangle Journal, James Cox, is moving on to other things after the publication of this issue. What a loss for us all! What a loss for me! But what I've gained from him in technical know-how and journalistic judgement will long remain a part of me. I'll miss our synergy, James. It worked well! Best wishes and much success. I'll take it from here.

And on to the holidays. They're frequently a rough time for our community. Being homo at the holidays has claimed more than our share of losses throughout the years. Please take a look at the article by Mike LaBonte on the next page and give it a lot of thought. We've lost enough this year.

We don't need to lose you too.

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Goodwill toward yourself: tackling the holiday blues

by Mike LaBonte

Whether we celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Yule or Winter Solstice, the Holiday Season is fast approaching. For most, this is a time of good cheer and comfort, filled with the familiar sounds, smells and images of the season. We look forward to the holidays as an opportunity to get together with friends and family to celebrate the joy of the season. But this idealized postcard can be difficult for some in the GLBT community to bear. For some, the holidays can be a time of financial insecurity, family tension and loneliness; all of which are known as part of the holiday blues.

With restaurants, businesses and other places often closed on Christmas, the opportunities for socializing can be limited. Feelings of loneliness may be strong for those who have either lost loved ones or who are estranged from family. One of the best gifts we can share with those who are alone for the holidays is the gift of our companionship. The holidays are a great opportunity to get together not only with our immediate family but our families of choice as well; the friends who mean so much to us and who may not always have the same opportunities for fellowship as we do during the holiday season.

Houseguests and family reunions can become a source of holiday pressure. For those still in the process of coming out to immediate family, the burden of hiding parts of our lives or negotiating disclosure can feel alienating. These family visits may be especially overwhelming. Even when out to family and friends, the tension that often accompanies an extended holiday visit can add to emotional stress. Remember to make time for yourself. This will allow you to relax and be at your best with others.

The additional financial demands of gift-giving can also present a challenge. Increased holiday commercialization may lead many to feel compelled to purchase gifts. If money is in short supply, as it is for many in the current economic downturn, this can create financial burdens that can continue well beyond the holidays as people work to pay off seasonal debts.

You can make the holidays less stressful:

Be sure to make a holiday budget and stick to it. If you cannot afford to buy gifts, try the gift of your talent and time by crafting homemade items. Don't extend yourself beyond your means. Be good to yourself by taking care of yourself financially.

Keep holiday activities manageable. Don't place excessive emotional demands on yourself. Don't drink to excess, especially if you already feel stressed or depressed. Enjoy holiday activities that are free, such as touring the community to enjoy the holiday lights and decorations. If you are alone, consider volunteering for a local charity or goodwill effort.

If you have no place to celebrate the holidays you might consider joining Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center for their holiday celebrations throughout the month. If your blues are persistent, consult a physician. You may be suffering from a more severe but treatable condition that has been triggered by the season. If you need to talk to someone immediately, contact the Crisis Center at CRISIS-7 or 1-800-273-TALK.

Whatever our beliefs, when it comes to peace on earth and goodwill we are all believers. Just remember, during this often hectic time of year to extend some goodwill toward yourself.

Mike LaBonte is Director of the Crisis Center (a program of Family Services of the Mid-South) and Chair of the Shelby County Suicide Prevention Network.
After election day, Proposition 8 is still being fought

by Jonathan Cole

Within hours of celebrating Barack Obama’s election as President, GLBT communities from coast to coast began to realize that the Illinois Senator’s victory would be bittersweet. While the progressive candidate for President prevailed and the Democratic Party gained even more seats in Congress, GLBT citizens experienced significant setbacks in several states.

Voters in Florida, Arkansas, Arizona and California chose to restrict or remove the freedom of GLBT citizens with constitutional amendments.

Florida and Arizona amended their constitutions to define marriage as a union between a man and a woman. Arkansas enacted a constitutional amendment prohibiting unmarried couples from adopting children or becoming foster parents – effectively banning adoption and foster parenting by GLBT citizens.

But the most disturbing event for many was the close vote on Proposition 8 in California (52 to 48%). You may recall that the California Supreme Court ruled last May that the right of same-sex couples to marry was protected by the state's constitution. Since that ruling, over 16,000 couples married in the state. Social and religious conservatives reacted to the court ruling by petitioning for a vote on Prop. 8 on the November ballot. California is the only state where a popular vote has eliminated an existing right of same-sex couples to marry.

The final outcome on marriage equality in California is not yet known, however. Communities in California and across the country organized a national day of protest on Proposition 8. On Saturday, November 15, nearly 200 people in Memphis joined tens of thousands of demonstrators in more than 300 cities across the nation to call attention to the injustice of Prop. 8 – an unprecedented event in American history.

The battle in many states over civil marriage equality may have been lost on November 4, but the uprising of GLBT citizens and their allies may herald the repeal of Proposition 8. At this writing, at least six lawsuits challenging the outcome have been filed. Plaintiffs include Equality California; couples who were married in San Francisco before the state Supreme Court ruled last May; the cities of Los Angeles, Santa Clara and San Francisco; Equal Rights Advocates and the California Women’s Law Center; the Asian Pacific American Legal Center; and the California Council of Churches.

Most of the lawsuits argue that Proposition 8 alters established rights in the Constitution in such a way that it should be considered a “revision” to the Constitution and not an “amendment.” Revisions must be approved by two thirds of the state Legislature to become part of the California Constitution.

California Attorney General Jerry Brown urged the high court to resolve quickly the constitutionality of the ban on same-sex marriage saying “the profound importance of the issues raised by Proposition 8 warrants that this matter be reviewed and promptly resolved by the California Supreme Court.”

Instead of the petitions being heard in lower courts where lawsuits typically begin, Brown argued that the Supreme Court should handle the petitions to “ensure uniformity of decision, finality and certainty for the citizens of California.”
Reflections on November

by Marisa Richmond

Tuesday, November 4, was a day of mixed emotions for members of the LGBT community here in Tennessee and all across the nation. Polls show that over 70% of LGBT voters supported Barack Obama for President. His strong stance in support of a fully inclusive ENDA, fully inclusive Hate Crimes legislation, legal recognition of LGBT relationships, and repeal of both Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell and the Defense of Marriage Act, made his historic victory a victory in the fight for equal rights.

The success at the Federal level, unfortunately, did not extend to the state level. There were five statewide ballot initiatives that pitted progressive, pro-equality groups against those who are opposed to equal rights for all. Of these, only the call for a Constitutional Convention in Connecticut was defeated by the voters. In the other four contests, we lost. Three of those ballot initiatives were Constitutional Amendments banning Marriage Equality in Arizona (Proposition 102), California (Proposition 8) and Florida (Proposition 2). The fourth hits much closer to home as Arkansas’ Act 1 banned adoption and foster care by unmarried couples.

A broad coalition of groups, including the American Civil Liberties Union of Tennessee, Tennessee Equality Project (TEP) and Tennessee Transgender Political Coalition (TTPC), has fought previously introduced anti-adoption legislation in the Tennessee General Assembly in both 2005 and 2008. The passage of Act 1 in Arkansas, and the recent announcement by Tony Perkins, President of the Family Research Council, that they will pursue similar legislation in 20 more states, means we will likely have to fight this issue again in 2009. Furthermore, it is likely that many other anti-LGBT bills will be back. This time, we may not be able to stop them since our legislative allies are no longer in control of those key committees.

The election results in Tennessee were not good for anyone who supports any progressive legislation, including equal rights for LGBT people. In my conversations with several allies in the legislature, the message they all convey is a simple one: “Look out. They’re coming after you.”

Over the past few years, LGBT rights advocates have successfully fought anti-LGBT legislation on a host of issues in addition to adoption rights. These include a ban on civil unions, a ban on teaching sexual diversity in schools, a requirement that parents sign permission slips to join student clubs like Gay-Straight Alliances, and requirements for new Voter ID cards with gender markers that could, effectively, disfranchise transgender voters, not to mention, many working class, poor or unemployed voters. There was also a bill a few years ago, which slipped under our radar at the time, that our allies in the committee system stopped, that included a requirement that artificial insemination be for married women only. With our allies in the minority, we may not be able to stop any bad legislation over the next two years.

If that bad news were not enough, we were planning to push over, pro-LGBT legislation, including expansion of the hate crimes statute to include gender identity, repeal of Tennessee’s one-of-a-kind ban on gender changes on birth certificates, and domestic partner benefits for state employees. Today, all pro-equality legislation may well be Dead On Arrival.

I do not want to sound like the Prophet of Doom, but it is hard to be optimistic when you look at the names who will be in the new House leadership consider some of their past actions and statements. The new speaker, barring some unexpected defection, is likely to be Jason Mumpower of Bristol. In the past, he has voted against Pay Equity in the Workplace for women and against adding “gender identity” to a study of disparity in health care in Tennessee. He also introduced the amendment to the birth certificate bill creating two new categories, MTF and FTM, because transgender people are potential terrorists.

The Majority Party Caucus Chair is Glen Casada of Williamson County. In 2006, he claimed legislation banning discrimination would cover aberrant behaviors like transsexuality (!) as well as pedophilia, bigamy, bestiality and scatology.

Potential new committee chairs include Stacey Campbell of Knoxville, who introduced the bill silencing school teachers, Bill Dunn of Knoxville, the Chief Sponsor of Tennessee’s Marriage Discrimination Amendment, Debra Maggart of Hendersonville, who wrote in 2006, “Most homosexual couples have uneven emotional dysfunctions and psychological issues. We have also seen evidence that homosexual couples prey on young males and have in some instances adopted in order to have unfettered access to subject them to a life of molestation and sexual abuse.” And then there is Eric Watson of Cleveland, who said in 2006, “It’ll be a sad day when queers and lesbians are allowed to get married... and kiss in front of the courthouse,” as if there is a ban on public kissing.

What can you do? Get involved. The 5th Annual Advancing Equality Day on the Hill, organized by TEP and supported by TTPC, will be on Tuesday, February 17. Your legislators need to see you and hear from you. They need to look in the eyes of those they seek to relegate to second class status. Make them explain why they support discrimination and oppose equality.

Finally, I just have to follow up on a couple of items I raised in my last column. I mentioned that I have been appointed to two special study committees operated by the Tennessee Department of Health. Well, I managed to get off of the Anti-Smoking Committee, although they refused to tell me how my name came up in the first place. I am still serving on the Sexual Violence Prevention Planning Committee. This will allow me to have an official forum to continue speaking out about the need to expand Hate Crimes legislation in Tennessee, which the events of 2008, including the murder of Ebony Whitaker, the murder and beating of Duanna Johnson, and a tragic shooting in the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church in Knoxville, have made more timely than ever.

TTPC was also able to provide material to TEP for their recent training session with the Memphis Police Department. We hope to continue this work across the state in the years to come.

I also mentioned that TTPC was working with the Tennessee Nurses Association to introduce a resolution at their annual meeting in late October supporting access to health care for transgender people. The person with whom we were working missed the filing deadline for resolutions. We hope to get it filed on a timely basis next year.
Advancing Equality Day on the Hill on Feb. 17

by Jonathan Cole and Christopher Sanders

While much of Tennessee’s GLBT and allied community was celebrating Barack Obama’s historic victory, something else happened that could have a major impact on our lives. Democrats suffered significant losses in the State Legislature. For the first time since Reconstruction in the 19th century, Republicans now have majorities in both the State Senate and State House of Representatives.

Our community has a great deal of hope about what can happen at the national level—improved prospects for the Matthew Shepard Act and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. But we may have a real fight on our hands right here in Tennessee. How can that be? Isn’t the federal government what matters? Yes and no. While we could seemajor advances at the federal level, we must remember that some aspects of family law as well as health and education policy are state prerogatives. For example, the federal government is unlikely to get involved if we lose our adoption rights in Tennessee or if the Legislature passes a bill that prohibits all discussion of homosexuality in our public school. We’re on our own.

Could that really happen? Yes, it could. Bills related to adoption and the discussion of sexuality in our schools were debated this year and after a long wait died in committee. The outcome could be completely different in 2009. With Democrats no longer controlling the committee system in the Legislature, we may have lost a line of defense against negative legislation.

But here’s what you can do. Just do what you did this year. Shelby County sent 30 people to Advancing Equality Day on the Hill this year—our annual lobby day in Nashville. Your friends and neighbors spoke eloquently with your elected representatives about the harm these bills would create and helped persuade lawmakers to fight for us. We need you to make a show of force again on February 17.

Plan early to take a day or half day off from work to attend. We know it’s a sacrifice, but it is the kind of effort that makes a difference. If you can’t attend, sign up for our legislative alerts at www.TNEP.org. These emails will give you the information you need to contact your lawmakers about important legislation with a couple of clicks. We make it easy for you.

If you think you’re not political or that you wouldn’t know what to say if you came to Advancing Equality Day on the Hill, we can help you with that, too. Plan on attending our Lobbying 101 training session in Memphis on Saturday, Jan. 24 from 2-4 PM.

This year, OUTLAW, an on-campus law student organization that focuses on gay, bisexual, lesbian, and transgender legal issues, will co-host Lobbying 101 with TEP at the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law on the main campus of the University of Memphis at 3715 Central Avenue (room number to be announced). Free parking and refreshments will be provided. Contact the TEP Shelby County Committee at shelbycounty@tnequalityproject.com or 901.301.3306 for more information.

We know that you will come away from this experience feeling more committed than ever to advancing equality for yourself, your friends, and your family. Your representatives care about what you have to say. We hope to see you in February.

Equality at eHarmony

Online dating service, eHarmony, announced on Nov. 19 that it will launch a web site that serves same gender couples. According to reports in the Associated Press, this action is predicated upon the results of a discrimination suit waged by New Jersey’s Civil Rights Division on behalf of a New Jersey resident, Eric McKinley, who told the AP stated “It’s very frustrating and very humiliating to think that other people can do it and I can’t [utilize the eHarmony service for meaningful dating]."

The AP reports state that although it did not acknowledge any liability, the company plans to launch a new service called Compatible Partners March 31. McKinley calls that “fabulous.”

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Bette Jane “B J” Hefner
March 29, 1928—November 13, 2008

Bette Jane “B J” Hefner was a beloved icon and character in the Memphis GLBT community. She was a founding member of Holy Trinity United Church of Christ, a life board member of Mid-South Pride and the oldest active member (one of the earliest) of the Mystic Krewe of Aphrodite, a women’s service organization founded in the mid 1970s. She was a pioneer in the GLBT community of Memphis, Tenn.

Out and open during the 1960s and 1970s before the advent of GLBT activism, she continued her activism throughout her life and was the ultimate fund raiser in the Memphis GLBT community, contributing to a wide variety of causes.

An online memorial may be found at findagrave.com by searching on her name.

The annual Memphis Transgender Day of Remembrance took place Saturday, Nov. 22 at sunset at Tom Lee Park. The event was sponsored by Perpetual Transition - a safe, confidential and friendly Memphis-based support, discussion and social group for transgender people of all varieties, including but not limited to transsexuals (regardless of transition status), intersex people, crossdressers and genderqueers. This year, the gathering especially remembered Tiffany Berry, Ebony Whitaker, DeeOsa Blake and Duena Shemad.
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Duanna Johnson dies of gun shot wounds in apparent hate crime

by Len Piechowski

The victim of a notorious Feb. 12 videotaped beating by former Memphis police officers died on Monday, Nov. 10 of gunshot wounds to the head. The victim, Duanna Johnson, was a transgender person who reportedly worked in prostitution. The incident is classified as a murder by police investigators.

In a statement by Randy Cox, president of Tennessee Equality Project Foundation, “Ms. Johnson’s murder is yet another disturbing act of violence against the transgender community in Memphis, including the apparent murder of Ebony Whitaker, a transgender woman, in July, 2008 and the murder of Tiffany Berry in February 2008. The TEP Foundation urges the Memphis Police Department to do all in its power to quickly apprehend the perpetrators ...”

The Memphis community joined forces with an effort initiated by the Tennessee Transgender Political Coalition to offset the expenses of Ms. Johnson’s funeral. According to Marisa Richmond, President of TTPC, $5,300 was raised in only four hours to assist with the venture. In a statement to the contributors, Dr. Richmond said, “We realize your donations will not ease the pain of Duanna’s tragic loss to her family, but you have sent a message to the world that the lives of transgender people matter, and that we appreciate Duanna’s fight for respect.”

No arrests in the crime have been made at the time of this printing.

Officer indicted in Johnson beating

by Len Piechowski

According to widely distributed local news reports, former Memphis police office Bridges McRae was indicted Tuesday, Nov. 18 on civil rights charges. The indictment was on one count of deprivation of rights under color of law and indicated that McRae used unreasonable force, a dangerous weapon and caused bodily injury to a Duanna Johnson while she was in his custody in the intake area of the Shelby County Jail.

If convicted, Bridges may face up to 10 years in federal prison and a maximum $250,000 fine.

MPD begins diversity training on GLBT issues

Members of the Memphis Police Department (MPD) began participating in a day long training seminar on “respecting and responding to the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community” in early November, according to Randy Cox, President of the Tennessee Equality Project (TEP) Foundation. “The training came about in a response by the MPD, including police officers, detectives, police academy trainers, and administrators. The program is designed to train all MPD employees, including all 2100 police officers.”

The training was entirely funded through the TEP Foundation as part of a grant from the Gill Foundation/Tides Foundation State Equality Fund program. The TEP Foundation strives to eliminate prejudice and discrimination of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons by promoting and advocating equality through education, collaboration and victim advocacy. More information can be found at www.tnep.org.

Crisis Center provides a lifeline

by Brandon Cole

Crisis can stem from any number of life circumstances. It could be the loss of a job, the death of a loved one, foreclosure on a house, or even a failing grade. Everyone has times in their life when they may feel helpless with no place to turn. The Crisis Center, a program of Family Services of the Mid-South, is a volunteer-based service that provides an emotional lifeline through compassionate, non-judgmental, 24-hour live telephone support.

According to Mike LaBonte, the director of the Crisis Center, “We are here as compassionate listeners, to help people in crisis and link them with the resources they need to cope and overcome.”

The Crisis Center was founded in 1970 by Dr. Richard Farmer and Dr. Allen Battle after the suicide of a patient. “Dr. Farmer had a client who was hearing voices. These voices accused him of what he thought was the worst thing possible at the time—being a homosexual. The young man eventually lost hope and ended his life. Dr. Battle, who is still our training director, often says, ‘Dr. Farmer gave birth to the Crisis Center, and I was the midwife.’”

LaBonte states that he feels the Crisis Center can be an important resource for the GLBT community. “I know for me, when I was young I really struggled with being gay. It would have been really helpful if I had known there was a caring and confidential service to help me through some of those emotional hurdles.”

He states that many of the issues facing members of the GLBT community today can be stressful and crisis inducing; whether dealing with discrimination, coping with an HIV diagnosis or dealing with issues of secrecy and disclosure.

Shame, stigma and fear are often barriers to people getting the help they need. The Crisis Center, because it is confidential, can serve as a point of entry for those who might not otherwise access services. “This not only includes issues related to suicide and mental health, but also sexual identity, gender expression, AIDS, coming out, relationship violence and coping with homophobia and prejudice.”

“These are all issues that members of our community face. At the Crisis Center, we hear from the mother who has just discovered her son is gay. We hear from the transgendered woman dealing with harassment in the workplace.”

LaBonte described a dramatic call that he took a few months ago. “The call came from a 16 year old lesbian living in a small rural community. When I picked up the phone, the first thing she said to me was ‘Thank you.’ When I asked her why she was thanking me, she said ‘For being there.’

As her story unfolded, he discovered that she had been outed in her local church and had been barred from worship services by the church elders. “When she called she was actually standing on the side of bridge and thinking about jumping.”

“The call probably lasted no more than an half an hour. But by the end of the call she had agreed not to harm herself and was hopeful and even laughing.” LaBonte stated the call left him feeling exhilarated. “I felt like I really had an impact on this young woman’s life.” According to LaBonte, these are the kind of calls that remind him of the value of the Crisis Center to the GLBT community.

If you need help or just need someone to listen: call (901) CRISIS-7 or toll-free 1-800-273-TALK. The Crisis Center is a volunteer-powered program and also provides suicide prevention training for churches, community groups and agencies. If you are interested in becoming a Crisis Center volunteer or would like training for your organization you can call (901) 271-5492.
Memphis' participation in the National Day of Protest against the passage of California's Proposition 8 consisted of a peaceful protest at the Memphis City Hall on Saturday, Nov. 15. Local chants of "This is what democracy looks like" and "What do we want? Equal rights!" joined the nationwide effort to bring attention to the Nov. 4 actions of the California electorate to ban same sex marriage. At the right, Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center Executive Director, Will Batts (foreground), and his partner, Curtis, add their voices to the throng.

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May Your Holidays Sparkle!
Duanna Johnson, the victim of a videotaped June beating at the Shelby County Criminal Justice Center, was found by officers suffering from a gunshot wound to the head at North Hollywood and States shortly after midnight on Monday, Nov. 10. According to police investigators, she died a short time later. Local news reports identified the crime as an execution style shooting. Ms. Johnson was a transgender person, and according to her attorney, Murray Wells, she was often a target of hatred. Members of the Memphis GLBT community mourned her loss at a candlelight vigil (top photo) on Sunday Nov. 16. At the vigil Amy Livingston (above left photo standing at the right) of the Mid-South Peace and Justice Center addresses the crowd of mourners, while Rev. Cheryl Combs, pastor of First Congregational Church, and Jonathan Cole of the Shelby County Committee of the Tennessee Equality Project prepare their remarks. The Memphis community again gathered on Saturday, Nov. 22 at Tom Lee Park for the Annual Transgender Day of Remembrance. Mara Keiling, Executive Director of the National Center for Transgender Equality, (above right photo standing on the left) spoke at the annual commemoration while Cole Bradley (center) holds up a picture of Ms. Johnson. Autumn Falconer grieves while holding a picture of Ebony Whitaker, another transgender murder victim. Duanna Johnson’s mother, Hazel Skinner, (photo at the left standing in the center) is comforted by Darlene Fike and Jonathan Cole at the annual memorial service.
Crímenes de odio en México

por Susana Rodas

De acuerdo a los investigadores estadounidenses James B. Jacobs y K. Potter, el término crimen de odio no existió sino hasta mediados de los 80’s, según lo señalan en su libro "Hate Crimes, Criminal Laws and Identity Politics" (Oxford University Press, 1998).

Este término se incorporó al lenguaje jurídico poco a poco debido a la presión de grupos defensores de los derechos humanos y a la necesidad de incrementar las sanciones contra aquellos delitos o agresiones cuyas víctimas fueran identificadas como miembros de minorías socialmente desfavorecidas (por nociones de raza, género, orientación sexual, religión, etc).

Durante las dos últimas décadas -señalan Jacobs y Potter-, los gays y lesbianas en los Estados Unidos han exigido la misma protección en contra de la discriminación que la ofrecida a grupos sociales como los africanosamericanos o los judíos. En la mayoría de las legislaciones los homosexuales han sido ignorados, aunque en algunos estados se han promulgado leyes que protegen a diversas minorías.

En 1998, un suceso crimal puso en shock a este país e impulsó la revisión de las leyes antidiscriminatorias existentes y una tipificación a nivel general del crimen por homofobia. Se trata del caso del joven Matthew Shepard, brutalmente asesinado en el estado de Wyoming por el simple hecho de ser homosexual. Este hecho despertó en la conciencia de muchos legisladores la necesidad de una tipificación mas rigurosa de los crímenes de odio.

En México durante décadas ha existido un gran vacío legal que permite que la discriminación contra la minoría homosexual se practique y difunda libremente a través de los medios de comunicación, desde revistas sensacionalistas hasta emisiones televisivas que hacen del homosexual objeto de burla. De igual manera, la discriminación ha subsistido en los mismos cuerpos que imparten justicia, cuando se denuncia un crimen donde la victima es homosexual o lesbiana, transgénero, etc; de inmediato se procede a calificarlo como crimen pasional, desechando por esta via todo vínculo que pudiera considerarlo como un crimen de odio, e incluso haciendo de la víctima el responsable de lo sucedido.

Según datos proporcionados por la publicación Letra S y la Comisión Ciudadana Contra Crímenes de odio por Homofobia, de 1995 a 2006 se documentaron 420 ejecuciones homofóbicas demostradas y 1001 ejecuciones homofóbicas estimadas. Esta revisión se alimentó de materiales recabados a través del trabajo en hemerotecas y con el apoyo de organizaciones de la sociedad civil de varios lugares del país). Solo en la ciudad de México se encontraron 137 víctimas ejecutadas de 1995 al 2004. Afortunadamente, y debido al clima de apertura jurídica que se está viviendo en la ciudad de México, en Marzo del 2007 se lanzó la iniciativa para reformar dos artículos( el 125 y 139 del código penal vigente para el Distrito Federal), relacionados con el crimen, e incluir un artículo, verdadero preludio a una tipificación de los crímenes de odio y que señala: "El que prive de la vida a una persona por su sexo, edad, preferencia sexual, identidad genérica, pertenencia étnica o religión, se le impondrá de diez a treinta años de prisión y pérdida de los derechos que tenga con respecto a la víctima, incluso de los de carácter sucesorio". Esta iniciativa, representa un claro avance en el reconocimiento y sanción penal de crímenes que hasta el momento permanecen por lo general impunes.

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Hate Crimes in Mexico

By Erick Vasquez

According to American researchers James B. Jacobs and K Potter, the term "hate crime" didn't exist until mid 80’s, as they pointed out in their book "Hate Crimes, Criminal Laws and Identity Politics" (Oxford University Press, 1998). This term was little by little added to legal language due to pressure by human rights groups and by the need to increase sanctions against those crimes or aggressions whose victims were identified as members of socially unfavorable minorities (by means of race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, etc).

During the last two decades, Jacobs and Potter assert gays and lesbians in the U.S. have demanded the same protection against discrimination offered to social groups like African American and Jewish citizens. Most legislations has ignored homosexuals, although in some states a few laws have been enacted to protect diverse minorities.

In 1998, a criminal event shocked this country and started a push for the revision of existing anti-discriminatory laws and a classification study at a general level of the homophobia crime. The case in question was the one of the young Matthew Shepard, brutally killed in the state of Wyoming for the simple fact of being homosexual. This crime woke up in many legislators' conscience the need for a more rigorous classification of hate crimes.

In Mexico, a legal vacuum has existed for decades that allows the practice of discrimination against homosexual minorities and free transmission of it through the media, from gossip magazines to TV networks that make homosexuals a laughing joke. In the same way, discrimination has persisted in the same bodies that provide justice, when a crime where the victim is homosexual or lesbian, transgender, etc; the event immediately is treated as a passion crime, discarding in this way any link that would classify it as a hate crime, even making the victim responsible for what happened.

According to data provided by the publication "Letra S" and the Civic Commission Against Homophobic Hate Crimes, from 1995 to 2006, there were 420 executions documented and 1001 more estimated homophobic executions (this revision was fed by materials obtained through work in electronic libraries and with the support...
of civic organizations from several places around the country). Only in Mexico City, 137 executed victims were found between 1995 and 2004. Fortunately, and due to an openness judicial weather that is passing through Mexico City, an initiative was passed in March 2007 to reform two articles (125 and 139 from the current Penal Code for the Federal District), related to hate crimes and to include an article, a true prelude to a classification of hate crimes that points out: "That one who takes the life of a person because of his/her gender, age, sexual preference, genetic identity, ethnic or religious belonging, will receive ten to thirty years of prison and lossof his/her rights over the victim, including those of hereditary character." This initiative represents a clear step forward in the recognizing and penal sanctioning of crimes that until now remain without punishment.

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Your Wishes, Your Choices

An advance health-care planning class,
Tuesday, December 2, 2008
7:00pm – 9:00pm at
Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center
892 S. Cooper
Facilitated by Rev. Ayla Heartsong,
and presented by Lavender University,
the community education initiative of MGLCC.

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Gifts? Schmifts!

by Elizabeth Flanders Pitts

I don't like gifts. They make me uncomfortable. I can say this now that I'm a single parent in the traditional “Gift Giver” role and not typically a “Gift Recipient,” (unless one counts kisses and mysterious crayon-covered constructions as according-to-Hoyle gifts in the Christmas sense, which I do) and thus no longer need to be a gracious receiver. To wit: I don't care for the idea that someone else has spent their money on me; I have a hard time letting a date pick up the dinner check, much less purchase something for me at a retail establishment.

I think it’s the obligation that gets to me. The idea that someone might feel obligated to give me something due to a close or tenuous relationship—I can’t bear the thought. I don’t like the idea that I’m on someone’s list and that I must be checked off at some point. And imagine someone standing at a cash register and pulling out a wallet to pay for something for me... well, I don't like the visual. I’m squinty about money, and I don’t like it when it’s spent on me.

I get into trouble a lot these days because I don’t do Santa either. My daughter is, as we speak, trying to figure out how to tactfully argue to her friends her mama’s assertion that Santa is merely a metaphor for the generosity implied by the spirit of the season and that gifts are given to people we love to perpetuate the honor and gifts given by the Magi in the Christmas story. Gifts are a tangible synecdoche for the love we feel for others; they don’t come from magic. Try explaining that so a five-year-old can understand it and so you don’t get in trouble with the Kindergarten teacher and get back to me. She still gets gifts, but they have names on the tags and we send thank-you notes. Take note: these conversations are delightful, and I hope if you’d like to one day have a similarly surreal experience that you have the opportunity to do so.

It’s a little easier now that I work for a nonprofit organization in whose fundraising campaign I’ve been participating for the past couple of months, an organization I will be directing as of this column’s publication date. My daughter understands that Mama uses people’s money to help people who need it. By extension, she can understand that people give Mama money because they want to, and because they like what she does with it.

As such, in the spirit of this season, I encourage you to consider giving some people some money this year. Pick the people you want to give money to because you like what they do with it. Choose to give a little bit of what you have to someone who will use it in a way you respect: an organization that perhaps provided a valuable service to you or someone you love, a charity that works to cure an ill you feel connected to, a cause you believe in and can get behind with more than your voice – with your checkbook as well. So many forces are working against the GLBT community these days; there’s no way you can avoid finding one whose work means something to you.

The hardest part of my new job will be asking people for money. The easiest part of this season is, for me, recognizing that there are people who will do good things with my money if I can muster the will to give. I mentioned last month that I was unable to give to candidates because of my job, but that doesn’t mean that I won’t contribute to organizations that champion the causes I care about most, namely ones who work to ensure that everyone I love gets to keep the same rights that I have – including the right to have to explain Santa to a five-year-old of their own.

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Bill Johns

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Local groups raise $2,500 to buy toys for children affected by HIV/AIDS

Children affected by HIV/AIDS, whose families are served by Friends For Life, will have toys this Christmas due to the generosity of Tsarus and Blue Suede Bears, two local social groups. A benefit show was held October 4 at Crossroads, sponsored by Tsarus and Blue Suede Bears, raising $2,500 to purchase toys for these children. According to Greg Tanner, president of Tsarus, “This was the first time we have been in charge of this toy drive. We want these kids to have a good Christmas and were very happy to be able to make this happen.”

Tsarus is a Levi/leather club that brings like-minded men together in a social setting and we have always been supporters of Friends For Life.” In addition to this toy drive benefit, Tsarus participated in an A Place At The Table weekend fundraising event held over Labor Day weekend at The Pumping Station, also raising funds for Friends For Life.

Ed Hipsley, former president of the Blue Suede Bears stated, “I wanted to help make sure that the tradition began by the Bears of gathering toys for children served by Friends For Life continues and I was happy to work with Tsarus to make this a success.”

The benefit, hosted by David Seay who is a former president of Tsarus, featured female impersonators and others; some new to the stage while several performers came out of retirement to perform at the event. Another benefit show is planned at Crossroads for Saturday, December 13 at 7:00 p.m. There will be drop-off boxes at most gay-oriented businesses in the city to allow everyone to be a part of ensuring these children have toys for Christmas. In addition, toys may be brought to Friends For Life headquarters and monetary donations to purchase toys can also be mailed to the agency at 43 N. Cleveland, Memphis, TN 38104.

World AIDS Day Annual Marker Project remembers those who have lost their battle against HIV/AIDS

The Ninth Annual World AIDS Day Marker Project got underway on the morning of Sunday, November 23 on the front lawns of the First Baptist Church of Memphis and the Greater Lewis Street Missionary Baptist Church, both located at the corner of Poplar Avenue and East Parkway.

Beginning in 2000 the display of thousands of white markers adorned with red ribbons first appeared on the lawn of First Baptist Church, which invited its neighbor, Greater Lewis Street Missionary Baptist Church to join in the commemoration in 2001. Since that time, both churches, acting in partnership with Friends For Life, the Mid-South’s oldest and most comprehensive AIDS service organization; Volunteer Memphis and the University of Memphis architectural fraternity Alpha Rho Chi, have joined together to create a memorable display that enunciates the tragedy that is HIV/AIDS.

Situated at one of the city’s busiest intersections, the thousands of people that pass by each day are reminded that this disease is a tragedy that has affected many of this city’s children, women and men since 1985. Each red ribbon represents one life lost to HIV/AIDS. And, yet, there are thousands more who are today living with HIV/AIDS in our community. The markers will remain in place until December 6.

Hope House opens doors for visits

Hope House, an organization dedicated to assisting HIV-impacted children and families, will be hosting an Open House and Donation drop off on Monday, December 8th from 9am-Noon. Community members, local churches, businesses, and organizations are invited to celebrate the Holidays with the children of Hope House. Hope House will be hosting interactive activities all morning, and visitors will have time to mingle with the children. Community members are also encouraged to bring donations for the children and families served by Hope House. All of the children served by Hope House rely on donations for Holiday gifts.

Tours of Hope House are at 9:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m., and 11:30 a.m.

Refreshments will also be served. The Holiday Sing Along with the children will be held at 10am & 11am. Arts and Crafts Activities with the children and visitors will be held at 9:30am and 11am. For a donation wish list, please visit www.hopehousedaycare.org. For additional information, please contact Kevin Dean at kiden@hopehousedaycare.org or 901-272-2702 ext. 216.

Hope House was founded in 1994 by The Junior League of Memphis. Hope House is the only agency in Tennessee that provides day care, respite care and 24-hour emergency care for preschool age children who either have HIV/AIDS or whose primary care givers are infected with the disease.
Home for the Holidays
A real holiday treat
by Carl Smith

This 1995 Paramount release is an oldie, but definitely a goodie and a holiday classic to boot! Facing the reality of losing her job, making out with her former boss, and finding out that her daughter Kitt (Claire Danes) plans to spend Thanksgiving with her boyfriend in order to "go all the way" with him, Claudia Larson (Holly Hunter) has to face spending the holiday with her family. Upon arriving in Baltimore and being met by her parents Adele (Anne Bancroft) and Henry (Charles Durning), Claudia immediately reverts back to her childhood in the eyes of her parents. Sound familiar? Riding in the backseat, they pull up next to a car with a young man in the backseat, Claudia's parallel holiday victim. As their eyes met, the expression on both of their faces sets the tone for Claudia's holiday visit. Along comes Tommy (Robert Downey Jr.), Claudia's free-spirited, gay brother with friend Leo Fish (Dylan McDermott) in tow. Claudia left Tommy a desperate phone message earlier pleading with him to meet her at home to help her cope with the antics that were soon to come. From here, Claudia faces and deals with an overbearing, overprotective mother, a hapless, loveable father, an emotionally bankrupt sister Joanne (Cynthia Stevenson) who was the trapped, parental child and an uninhibited Aunt Gladys (Geraldine Chaplin) who speaks truth through her senility. We're also introduced to a host of Claudia's misfit friends from an old high school prom queen to a former beau who seems to be an empty shell of man. Tommy does his best to bridge the gap between Claudia and the rest of her family while providing comic relief to all. Thanksgiving dinner crescendos into a disastrous heap as emotions fly, much like their Thanksgiving turkey, when raw nerves become exposed, and secrets are revealed.

This was director Jodie Foster's second film and one of her best in my opinion. The cast, story, and writing are unbelievably real. Everyone can relate to one or more of these characters.

Treat yourself to Home for the Holidays. It'll become one of your holiday favorites too.

Elvis, Finch, & Calipari
Coach Cal makes history at the U of M
by Jamie R. Griffin

Memphis Tigers' basketball coach John Calipari walked away from an ESPN interview session and toward the locker room where his daughter Erin was there to congratulate him. Cal's Tigers had just improved to 2-0 on the young basketball season but more impressive, he had become the University's all-time leader in victories and ironically the win came against UMass, the team he turned into a national power during the mid-90s. Still Calipari did not appear to treat the win with any more significance than any of the other two-hundred and twenty wins he's accumulated while at the University of Memphis. His mind was elsewhere.

The same day Larry Finch was in a Memphis hospital recovering from surgery and dealing with the complications of a massive heart attack and two strokes that have left him partially paralyzed. Finch has been dealing with those issues since 2002. Before that Monday night at FedExForum, where the Tigers' held off the Minutemen, Finch had been the Tigers' all-time winningest basketball coach.

In the team's locker room, the Tiger's players were excited for their coach, particularly the ones that have been to battle for and with him the past few years. "It definitely means a lot to me," said senior Antonio Anderson. "One hundred and something of those wins I helped him," he gleamed. "I feel good about it, it's part of history and that's something that'll last a long time until the next coach comes in and breaks it. But you never know who the next coach is going to be and that's going to be a hard record to break." Anderson is correct, if you consider the fact Calipari is in his ninth season with the Tigers' and topped Finch who coached at Memphis for eleven years.

To hear Calipari tell it, in spirit, the record still belongs to Finch. "No one will ever overtake Larry Finch," Calipari said. "He's an icon, he and Elvis, that's it. Reflecting on Finch's current state Calipari added, "You need to pray for Larry." (Finch played) College basketball, high school basketball (in Memphis). He brought this city together. At the end of the day, Larry Finch is what basketball in Memphis is about and will always be. There's someone that will come along and win more games than me, but that won't change that Larry Finch is still the icon in this city."

No one will disagree with Calipari as it pertains to Finch, but it's also becoming increasingly safe to say Calipari is making a case for having his name mentioned in the same sentence as the icon.
Here’s the best of gay Memphis!

**Best Food**
- **Best BBQ** ~ Tops and Central (tied)
- **Best place for breakfast** ~ Brother Juniper’s
- **Best place for brunch** ~ Peabody Skyway
- **Favorite Chinese restaurant** ~ Tasty Buffet
- **Best coffee** ~ High Point
- **Favorite deli** ~ Bogies
- **Best place for dessert** ~ Perkins
- **Best restaurant to impress a date** ~ Le Chardonnay and Ittabena (tied)
- **Best hamburger** ~ RP Tracks
- **Best Indian restaurant** ~ India Palace
- **Best Italian restaurant** ~ Pete and Sam’s
- **Best Japanese/Sushi** ~ Sekesui and Do (tied)
- **Best place for a working lunch** ~ RP Tracks
- **Best Mexican restaurant** ~ Cafe Ole
- **Favorite pizza** ~ RP Billiards
- **Favorite seafood restaurant** ~ Red Lobster
- **Best service in town** ~ RP Tracks
- **Favorite place for soul food** ~ Gay Hawk
- **Best place for steak** ~ Butcher Shop
- **Best vegan/vegetarian** ~ RP Tracks
- **Best wine list** ~ Le Chardonnay

**Best Shopping**
- **Best place for antiquing** ~ BoJo’s
- **Favorite new bookstore** ~ Bookstar
- **Favorite used bookstore** ~ Burke’s
- **Favorite day spa** ~ Racket Club, YMCA, and Goulds (three-way tie)
- **Favorite department store** ~ Macy’s
- **Favorite gym/fitness club** ~ YMCA
- **Favorite florist** ~ Pugh’s

**Out and About**
- **Favorite gift shop** ~ Hallmark, Babcock, and Inz and Outz (three-way tie)
- **Favorite grocery store** ~ Kroger
- **Favorite Hair Salon** ~ Elliott’s and Robin Tucker (tied)
- **Favorite jewelry store** ~ Riddels Gems and Jewelers
- **Favorite liquor store** ~ Buster’s
- **Favorite men’s clothing store** ~ Macy’s
- **Best place to buy pride paraphernalia** ~ Ins and Outz
- **Favorite shoe store** ~ DSW
- **Favorite mall** ~ Oak Court
- **Best tattoo parlor** ~ Trilogy
- **Favorite video store** ~ Midtown Video
- **Favorite women’s clothing store** ~ Lux

**Politics & organizations**
- **Best place to get GLBT info** ~ MGLCC and Triangle Journal (tied)
- **Best GLBT organization** ~ MGLCC
- **Best GLBT friendly organization** ~ PFLAG
- **Favorite charitable organization** ~ Friends for Life
- **Favorite politician** ~ Steve Cohen
- **Favorite political group** ~ Democrats
- **Best GLBT political advocate** ~ HRC

**Media**
- **Favorite newspaper/magazine** ~ Memphis Flyer
- **Favorite radio station** ~ FM 100
- **Favorite TV station** ~ Fox 13

**Personalities**
- **Favorite local TV personality** ~ Mearl Purvis
- **Favorite local radio personality** ~ Chris Jarman
- **Favorite local singer/songwriter** ~ Di Anne Price
- **Favorite local artist** ~ Jeff Unthank
- **Favorite bartender** ~ Scotty James
- **Hottest waiter/waitress** ~ Scotty James

**Nightlife**
- **Favorite bar** ~ RP Billiards
- **Favorite casino** ~ Horse Shoe
- **Best place to dance** ~ Backstreet
- **Favorite drag king/queen** ~ Alexis Von Fuerstenberg
- **Best place for a drag show** ~ Metro
- **Favorite after-hours place** ~ Backstreet

**Editors’ note:** A special thanks to all of our readers who voted for the Best of Gay Memphis and congratulations to our winners!
Revelers at Dru's Place gather to celebrate on the weekend of Nov. 14 and 15. 
1) From left to right: Michele Carter, Tasha Lemley, and Georgia Glenn.
2) Birthday lady, Bridget Brookshire. 3) Music provided by David Reinhardt. And 4) Shelly Harper gets the party started.

Dru's Place is located at 1474 Madison (formerly The Jungle) and features Friday Night Karaoke from 9 pm to 1 pm.

Photos courtesy of John Lloyd.

Pacific-Rim cuisine in Cooper-Young

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■ 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@tjmichael.com

ADULT BOOKSTORES
■ Fantasy Warehouse #1: 791-793 N. White Station, (901) 683-9649
■ Fantasy Warehouse #2: 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) 275-8638
■ Lorens/AfterShock: 1528 Madison Ave., (901) 274-8272
■ Metro Memphis: 1349 Autumn, (901) 274-8010
■ One More: 2117 Peabody, (901) 275-8082
■ Lorenz/AfterShock: 1528 Madison Ave., (901) 274-8272
■ Metro Memphis: 1349 Autumn, (901) 274-8010
■ One More: 2117 Peabody, (901) 275-8082
■ Paving Station: 1382 Poplar Ave., (901) 272-7600
■ Vault, 529 S. Highland, 525-6203

BOOKS
■ Borders: 6685 Poplar Pike
■ Burles': 936 South Cooper
■ Davis-Kidd: 387 Perkins Extended
■ Memphis Public Library 3060 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/L'v, group, 698 Poplar Dr., Memphis 38111
Initiative: Fairness (political committee of MGCLC: IF; www.mglec.org; www.mglec.org/IF)
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 (MGCLC): 892 S. Cooper St., (901) 278-6422 Web site: www.mgclc.org
■ Memphis Stonewall Democrats: PO. Box 42242, Memphis, TN 38104
■ memphisstonewalldemocrats.org nphistonewaldem@yahoo.com

COUNSELING SERVICES
Counseling Referral Service: MGCLC'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
■ Bluff City Coffee Shop: 505 S. Main
■ Boggie's Delicatessen: 2098 La Salle Pl. - (901) 272-0022
■ Cafe Escolar: 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
■ Othersland: 641 South Cooper
■ Pie in the Sky: 2158 Young Avenue
■ Quezac: 668 Union Ave.
■ Sean's Cafe/Smooth Moves: 1651 Union
■ Sweet: 938 S. Cooper.
■ Wild Olive: 522 Poplar

HEALTH SERVICES
■ Memphis Center for Reproductive Health: 1462 Poplar Ave. - (901) 274-3550
■ Phoenix AA 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 Hotline: 1-888-340-GLBT (Mon.-Fri., 5-10 pm; Sat.-Sun., 4-9 pm)
Gay & Lesbian Youth Hotline: 1-800-347-TEEN Mon.-Fri., 5-9 pm (Pacific) 1-888-347-TEEN Mon.-Fri., 5-9 pm (Central) (901) 415-2700. A community informational agency providing information on shelters and senior services.
Uni-Mohs 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 suicide or questioning teens: 888-488-7386.
Lambda Legal: 404-897-1880
Gay & Lesbian Helpline: 1-888-340-GLBT (Mon.-Fri., 5-10 pm; Sat.-Sun., 4-9 pm)
Gay & Lesbian Youth Hotline: 1-800-347-TEEN Mon.-Fri., 5-9 pm (Pacific) 1-888-347-TEEN Mon.-Fri., 5-9 pm (Central) (901) 415-2700. A community informational agency providing information on shelters and senior services.
Multi-Mohs 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 suicide or questioning teens: 888-488-7386.
Lambda Legal: 404-897-1880

MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES
■ Dabbles: 19 North Cooper
■ Hi Gorgeous: 1475 Madison
■ Inz and Outz: 553 South Cooper (901) 728-6355
■ The Studio: 629 South Cooper
■ Paggi's Hair Salon: (901) 274-3944
■ Tear It Up: 895 S. Cooper
■ Movies and More: 312 Poplar, 323-3251

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 - oiticis@holytrinitymemphis.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 19th Ave., 917 S. Cooper - (901) 274-1500 - memphisfriends.org
Memphis Gay & Lesbian Atheists & Humanists: (901) 327-2677 - memphisglah@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

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.

Triangle Journal - December 2008
4th Annual
Blue Suede Bears
And Tsarus
Toys for Kids
Toy drive

Help the Blue Suede Bears of Memphis and the men of Tsarus give Children living with or affected by HIV/AIDS a very Beary Christmas by donating A NEW UNWRAPPED TOY FOR CHILDREN AGES 2—16.

Donations can be made at the following businesses: Crossroads, The Pumping Station, Inz & Outz, and Holy Trinity. Donations will be accepted until December 13, 2008.

On the Edge of Happiness
A new soap for the Internet

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Written and Directed by Mark Godhorn Jones