

# TRIANGLE JOURNAL



May 1, 2009

Vol: 4 Issue: 5

GLBT News for the Midsouth

## Jocks

Pride through sport

### **Inside ...**

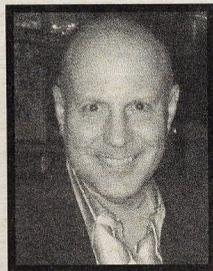
**A non-discrimination ordinance for glbt Memphians? - p. 4**

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**And ... trans inclusive hate crimes bill moves forward in Tennessee legislature - p. 14**

# A perfect storm?

by Len Piechowski



**M**y head is spinning. After years in the doldrums, suddenly our world may be changing.

In the last month, we have seen the Vermont Legislature deliver a rare and historic override to Governor Jim Douglas' veto of their efforts to legalize gay marriage. Connecticut redefined "marriage" in state statutes to include us. Citizens of the District of Columbia began pinching themselves after the city council soundly gave preliminary approval to marriage equality.

And, of course, there was Iowa. Iowa? Yes. Iowa. Same gender couples began to marry on April 27 in the American heartland and the world did not come to an end after the State Supreme Court issued its April 3 opinion guaranteeing marriage equality.

So what about Tennessee? Well, no marriage equality yet. But, baby steps. Baby steps. Back in 1998, preliminary baby steps were taken on-the-qt to begin to solicit the approval of the Memphis City Council for a Non-Discrimination Ordinance that referenced GLBT persons. The efforts were abandoned after missteps and lack of follow-through. Despite the hearty endorsement of the Honorable W. W. Herenton who then pledged his support of this effort, our community was not ready to press forward with the legislation.

A decade later, times have changed. Tennessee Equality Project (TEP) is ready to take a new ordinance to the Memphis City Council and even to the Shelby County Board of Commissioners. In recent weeks, TEP representatives have met personally with the city mayor and have received his assurances that his support for this ordinance has not changed in the intervening decade.

So, here we go. Finally. This is huge. Can the Memphis community do this? You bet. How? By surfing the waves of a perfect storm swelling in our country and by throwing our efforts into the wake. Watch the TJ. Watch the weekly online newsletter from MGLCC. Events will be happening fast and furiously in the next few weeks so we will rely on on-line communications (you can sign up for the weekly newsletters at [www.mglcc.org](http://www.mglcc.org)) Contact [shelbycounty@tnequalityproject.com](mailto:shelbycounty@tnequalityproject.com). You can call, write and be present to meet with our city council and our county commissioners. The religious right will be out in full force to stop us. We must be out there as well to, as Dr. King would say, bend the arc of the moral universe toward justice.

Many people complain about the apathy of the Memphis community. Let's show them how wrong they are. The time is come to make history.

## TRIANGLE JOURNAL

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### EDITORIAL POLICY OF TRIANGLE JOURNAL

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

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

*Triangle Journal* assumes no liability for claims made by advertisers. Appearance in this publication should not be an indication of sexual orientation, preference or identity unless specifically stated.

Articles in *Triangle Journal* marked as commentary are entirely the opinion of the author. Commentaries are not intended to represent the opinions of the editorial staff of *Triangle Journal*, Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center, or any of its affiliates.

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

*Triangle Journal* will correct erroneous information. Please email [corrections@tjmemphis.com](mailto:corrections@tjmemphis.com).

MAY 2009

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**Correction:** In the April issue of TJ, we mistakenly identified Ron Hutchinson as the author of the article on Theatre Memphis' *Moonlight and Magnolias*. He is actually the playwright. We regret the error.

## SUBMISSION DEADLINE

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

**May 20, 2009**

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## Getting down and derby

by Caleb Simmons

Are you looking for something more exciting than the run-of-the-mill sports league in Memphis? Has your Extreme Ironing League or Boggle Team lost the excitement it once had? Then how does some fast-paced, full-contact, girl-on-girl action, surrounded by hundreds of screaming fans sound? Perfect? Then you need a quick introduction to the phenomenon that is sweeping the Midsouth... Memphis Roller Derby.

Memphis Roller Derby (MRD) is a non-profit flat-track derby league affiliated with the Women's Flat Track Derby Association. MRD consists of three intra-league teams and an all-star traveling team. Founded only three years ago by a small group of women, the league has grown to over 60 skaters, nearly 20 referees and support staff, and recent bouts have had as many as 700 screaming fans.

For those of you who are new to roller derby, it is a full-contact sport involving two five-player teams skating in formation around an oval track. A team is made up of four defensive players and one offensive scorer called the jammer. Both teams' defensive players skate together in a tight formation counterclockwise around the track. The jammers start together 20 feet behind the pack and the basic goal is for the jammer to break past the group and score points by lapping the pack. Of course, the teams will do whatever

it takes to help their jammer make points and also stop the other jammer from scoring. This usually involves an action-packed combination of acrobatic skating maneuvers and good old fashioned full-contact pushing and elbowing.

The game has many additional technical rules that make it both complicated and even more interesting.

Roller derby is not a new sport. It was founded during the Great Depression and reached its heyday during the 1950's and 60's. It was one of the first sports in which women could compete professionally. The sport's popularity faded in the 70's and 80's, but had a rebirth in the late 90's. The new generation roller derby is an electrifying combination of intense team athleticism, quirky punkish uniforms and superhero-like characters. The players and referees wear outlandish uniforms and skate under creative satirical aliases that exemplify their assumed alter-ego. Some examples of MRD player's names are Broken Bones, Instant Karmen, Bloody Elle, Irene Business and Blanche Deathreaux. But when you play on teams named the Angels of Death, PrissKilla Prezleys and the Women of Mass Destruction you have to do something to stand out.

From the early years, roller derby has had a lesbian following and most leagues have been very supportive of their openly lesbian players since the 60's. Teams have only become more

accepting with the new generation of derby. Memphis Roller Derby PR Director, Colleen Couch-Smith, speaks of the league's openness, "We are proud to have a mix of both gay and straight players and fans." Memphis Roller Derby doesn't leave the men out either offering plenty of opportunities for men to participate as coaches, trainers, referees and even mascots. As with the players, the guys also get to create their alter egos. "Queer Leader" Brendan, mascot for the Angels of Death, says he thoroughly enjoys being a part of the sport. His primary job is to boost the morale of his team and also motivate the fans. He says he "loves the camaraderie of the players and the fans" and also the "free-spirited openness of the roller derby environment." He says he "wouldn't feel confident prancing around a hockey game in a pair of angel wings." There is little doubt that attending a MRD bout is truly an eye-opening experience and one that gives us more hope that the Mid-South sporting community is becoming more open-minded and accepting.

If you are interested in becoming a roller derby skater, all you have to do is show up at practice and the recruitment team will assess and teach you the basic rules and skills. If you are interested in becoming one of the hundreds of spectators, come out to the Mid-South Fairgrounds Youth Building at 940 Early Maxwell. The next game is the Intra-League Championship Bout "Get Down and Derby" on May 9 at 7 PM. Adult tickets are only \$10. See the [www.memphisrollerderby.com](http://www.memphisrollerderby.com) for more information and a schedule of future bouts.

# Rainbow arc of justice may soon bend toward Memphis

Shelby County and city of Memphis to consider Non-Discrimination Ordinances

by Jonathan Cole

**H**ave you ever wondered how many laws explicitly protect the civil rights of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender citizens in Tennessee? The state has only a handful of laws that provide explicit protections for GLBT citizens.

State law prohibits health care insurance providers from refusing to provide services to plan enrollees on the basis of sexual orientation (gender identity not included).

Another state law allows criminal courts to consider sentencing enhancement factors for defendants who intentionally select a person against whom a crime was committed or property was damaged or otherwise affected by the crime because of the defendant's belief or perception regarding sexual orientation (again, gender identity is not included).

Closer to home, Shelby County has no ordinance that speaks to protecting civil rights of its GLTB citizens. Memphis has only an ordinance that prohibits the city from discriminating against permit applicants for parades and public

assemblies based on "sexual orientation or gender-related grounds."

*That's it!* Kinda pitiful, isn't it? When you consider that the arc of justice has been bending awfully hard toward places like Iowa, Vermont and Washington, D.C. on marriage, it's enough to make the GLBT and allied citizens of Tennessee a little envious.

But recognition of GLBT civil rights in Tennessee may be closer to reality than you realize. In fact, Memphis and Shelby County citizens will be first in line for recognition of those rights in Tennessee.

The Shelby County Committee of the Tennessee Equality Project recently learned from friends on the Shelby County Board of Commissioners that Shelby County government will soon consider a comprehensive non-discrimination ordinance (NDO) for Shelby County. In fact, the Shelby County Commission may consider this legislation on its agenda during the month of May!

The proposed county ordinance would include protections from discrimination in employment by the government and government

contractors and in the provision of government services. These protections would prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity or expression in addition to religion, race, sex, creed and political affiliation which are already covered by current law.

The Memphis City Council may take up similar legislation before Memphis celebrates Pride month in June.

This is an historic moment for Memphis, Shelby County and all of Tennessee, and all citizens can participate in the occasion. TEP believes that majorities on the commission and council will agree to the proposed Non-Discrimination Ordinances, but they need to hear from the community.

When the ordinance appears on the agendas of the Shelby County Board of Commissioners or Memphis City Council, community presence at those meetings will be critical. TEP would like to recruit you to be a contact liaison for your circle of friends or an organization you belong to. We're asking volunteers to commit to calling and recruiting others to the cause within their

*continued on page 6*

## Injured on the job?

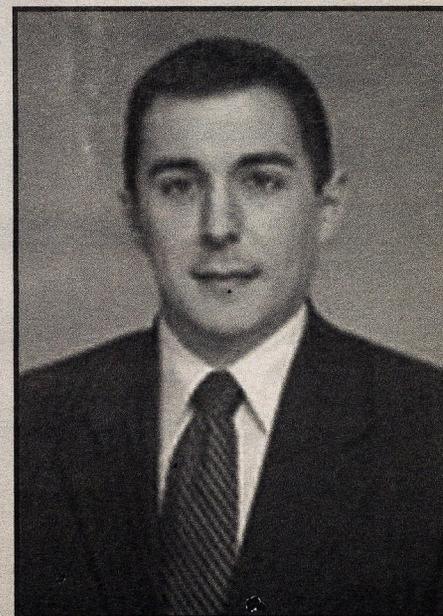
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# Hate crimes bills are moving forward

Richardson's HB335 moves out of subcommittee. Bill would add gender identity / expression to hate crimes sentencing

by Marisa Richmond

I am writing this month's column in the midst of a whirlwind of activity in the political arena on the subject of hate crimes. The killer of Angie Zapata, a transgender teenager from Greeley, Colorado, was just found guilty of First Degree murder, and received a sentence of life without parole. This verdict is hugely important to the transgender community which has seen the "trans panic" defense used successfully over the years. The case of D'Andre Blake, who is accused of the 2006 murder of Tiffany Berry, is a prime example of this. He allegedly told people that he killed Berry because she "touched" him. For that, he was released on a \$20,000 bond. To put that into perspective, Plaxico Burriss was given a \$100,000 bond for shooting himself. After walking the streets of Memphis for two and a half years as a free man, while local law enforcement twiddled its fingers, he killed his own two year old daughter over "potty training." If the lives of transgender mattered, he would have been held without bond in the first place, his case would have been brought to trial much earlier, and little Dre-Ona Blake might still be alive.

It is pleasing, therefore, to see two major events occur on the exact same day as the verdict was issued. First, members of the Judiciary Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives, which includes Steve Cohen, voted to oppose amendments to H.R.1913, the Federal Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009 which would weaken the bill. One amendment voted down was one to strip gender identity from that bill. It will now move forward covering all LGBT people, and it is expected to pass.

The second major event that day occurred in the Tennessee General Assembly. The Criminal Practice Subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee passed HB335 by Jeanne Richardson. This bill will add "gender identity or expression" to the Tennessee Hate Crimes Sentencing Enhancement Act of 2000. This language is necessary to send a message that the lives of transgender people has value and must be respected. It will also add one more tool to local law enforcement and local prosecutors in dealing with hate violence against all who are gender variant and gender non-conformists, regardless of whether or not they self identify as transgender. The remarkable thing about the subcommittee vote was a lack of controversy. There were no questions, no debate and no discernable dissent. The bill moves to the full House Judiciary Committee. That vote will likely take place between the time I write this and when this column appears in print.

In early April, I made a special presentation

to members of the Tennessee Legislative Black Caucus, with the kind permission and support of Caucus Chair John DeBerry, to ask for support for the bill. I pointed out the unique intersection of race, class and gender that seems to be a special problem in Memphis. The rash of murders of African American transgender women has given Memphis a special notoriety. As a result of that lobbying effort, we picked up several new co-sponsors, most of whom are from Memphis: Karen Camper, Speaker Pro Tempore Lois DeBerry, G.A. Hardaway (who proudly pointed out to me that he represents the Cooper-Young district) and Larry Turner. In addition, Senator Ophelia Ford signed on as a co-sponsor of the Senate companion bill, SB0253 by Beverly Marrero.

One person who was in attendance the night I spoke was Rev. LaSimba Gray. Since I am actually in Nashville, I did not know much about Rev. Gray, although I recognized his name. When I got home that night, I e-mailed Jonathan Cole and Tommy Simmons for clarification. They reminded me of Rev. Gray's opposition to the federal Hate Crimes bill in 2007, and his role in attacking Steve Cohen for his support of that bill. Rev. Gray actually left the Black Caucus meeting before I spoke, so he did not challenge anything I said that night. The support we have received from Memphis' political leadership, especially in the African American community, is critical to our efforts to get this bill passed in the weeks and months to come.

Our ability to move this bill owes a debt of gratitude to Rep. Richardson and Sen. Marrero for putting their names on the line in the first place. The recent show of support from the Black Caucus in standing against hate based crimes is also very important. Of course, all those who participated in this year's 5th Annual Advancing Equality Day on the Hill in Nashville spent time educating legislators about the vital need for this legislation. All of the members of the Tennessee Transgender Political Coalition (TTPC), and Tennessee's transgender community, appreciate the hard work of the Tennessee Equality Project in support of this bill. The fight for passage is not over, but we are one step closer to validating the lives of transgender people.

Of course, back in Washington, as expected, the Hate Crimes bill is the first LGBT bill to begin moving. Of

the Memphis area Representatives, Steve Cohen, Marion Berry, and Bennie Thompson voted "Yes" in 2007. We need to make sure they do so again. Sadly, Marsha Blackburn has consistently voted "no" on all hate crimes legislation, even the Tennessee Hate Crimes Penalty Enhancement Act of 2000 when sexual orientation was added. John Tanner's office told me they were opposed to ENDA and Hate Crimes "because of who it would cover."

The Senate vote will likely take place late this summer. Those of you in Arkansas actually have good support. Both Blanche Lincoln and Mark Pryor were supporters in 2007. The Senators from Mississippi and Tennessee are far behind. Recently, a TTPC member in Bradley County received a response from Lamar Alexander with regard to Hate Crimes. He told her, "Tennessee already has its own state law allowing more severe sentencing for crimes committed based on a victim's race, religion, color, disability, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry or gender. Therefore, I supported an alternative amendment offered by Senator Orrin Hatch of Utah because it provided federal assistance to state and local authorities to enforce their own laws while providing for a study to help determine what the proper federal role is in this area."

If we are going to get any votes from Tennessee or Mississippi beyond Reps. Cohen, Thompson or Jim Cooper from Nashville, we have to make sure they understand that we need both laws to provide maximum coverage so that there can be adequate prosecution. The Tennessee Hate Crimes law is simply inadequate. Even with the new language if adopted, it will still require a commitment from local law enforcement to value the lives of LGBT people, a commitment that has been sorely lacking to date.



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# LGBT Memphians attend the Tenth Annual White Privilege Conference

Lesbian community members offer reflections from a caucasian cultural perspective

## Commentary by Rev. Ayla Heartsong

I had never attended the WPC before, but heard about it from anti-racist lesbian feminist friends.

The message I heard over and over: *It's not enough that you are aware of what your privileges are, you also have to be doing active things about it toward social change and equity.* For example, I learned that *it's not enough* that I'm aware I have privilege living on land stolen from the Choctaw, and that I'm aware of where the tribe is now, on a reservation in Neshoba County; *because* I haven't asked those oppressed people what their current struggles are, nor have I taken any action they have told me would be supportive in solidarity with them.

As a lesbian feminist; identifying male privilege, misogyny, lesbophobia and their consequences is one of the 'lenses' I examine the world through. It was hard for me to meet straight, white male conference attendees on genuine levels. It was harder still to respect the distance lesbian of color attendees insisted from me, as they examined me thru *their* lenses. I wondered if this year's conference theme: *Taking Responsibility: Awareness, Healing and Social Change*, was directed specifically at me!

## Commentary by Dixie Fletcher

From April 1-4, 2009 I attended the White Privilege Conference in Memphis. The conference was about all of the privileges

that folks automatically get because of the color of their skin, their gender, their sexual identity, their religion, etc. I was surprised and pleased that heterosexism was mentioned in almost every workshop along with racism and sexism. I was also pleased at the variety of workshops offered.

I particularly liked the methods used in the workshops on Christian Hegemony and the Israeli and Palestinian conflict. In the first workshop, the leader had people stand whenever he read a statement that reflected an experience that they had had (i.e., I was taught that women were the root of all evil OR I have witnessed Christian symbols displayed on government property). The questions were very thought-provoking and made me realize how people who do not share this perspective are shunned or made to feel inferior.

Although I learned a lot the first few days, it wasn't until the third day that I actually began to "feel" the effects of all of these workshops. It was triggered by the workshop on Asian-American issues because two of my granddaughters are bi-racial and the oldest one has begun to experience prejudice at school. I realized that I could prepare her and help her deal with racism but I could not "protect" her from it.

I had started off the conference by going to an all day workshop on "What's Queer about White Privilege?" I also attended a Queer Caucus and talked to lots of GLBT folks. I realized that about HALF of the folks that organized, presented workshops AND gave keynote addresses were "out" GLBT folks. That was truly remarkable in

and of itself, but it was even more remarkable that most of the straight folks also acknowledged the importance of sexual identity issues!! I felt extremely comfortable being open about my sexual identity – as much as I do at GLBT events.

I also made several commitments to projects that I want to be involved in; including 1) doing a workshop in my granddaughter's classroom, 2) using the solo theater performance that I have been working on to share my journey regarding my sexual orientation with straight as well as queer friends, 3) working with Common Ground group to alleviate racism within the queer community, and 4) continuing to work on my own "isms" and the ways that I separate myself from other folks!!

I invite all of you who are interested to explore these issues with me. I am very glad that I attended the White Privilege conference and I plan to go again next year (in Wisconsin).

## Commentary by Audrey May

My good friend Yolandra got me involved in the planning work for WPC 10 over a year ago. The local committee – and the national planning committee – was mixed in terms of sexual orientation, race, class and gender. It was exciting to work with the terrific national conference staff and be part of a larger community of social change activists and educators.

Over 900 attendees from around the country came to Memphis for the tenth annual conference – first time in the South! WPC 10 opened my eyes to some of my privilege and made me re-commit to learning and doing more to help create a just world for all. There is much we can do as LGBT Southerners to examine and eliminate our own racism, sexism, classism, ageism, ableism, internalized homophobia, etc.. There are ongoing local and national groups that need our involvement. We need to understand how we are all entangled in these oppressive systems – and work to free ourselves and each other. Personal change is not enough, but it is where we all have to start.

I hope to have more conversations about these issues at MGLCC. Wouldn't it be wonderful if LGBT people were in the vanguard of changing racist attitudes and practices in this community? We can be. It won't be easy and it won't be quick and it won't all be fun. But it will be wonderful, and it will be worth it.

## Rainbow arc continued from page 4

organization or circle of friends and family. The task simply involves sending e-mails and calling people to invite them 1) to attend council or commission meetings and 2) to write or call their council and commission members to ask their support for the NDO.

When TEP learns that the NDO is added to the agenda of the County Commission or City Council, we will contact you with the dates and times of these meetings. The ordinance will have to be read at least three times before the commission and council over a six week period.

The Memphis City Council meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 3:30 PM on the first floor on 125 North Main Street. The Shelby County Commission meets on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 1:30 PM at 160 N. Main Street

We know that many people work or attend class when the City Council and County Board of Commissioners meet. We're asking that you try to identify as many people as you can within your circle of friends, family or group who can come to these meetings. For those who cannot come, please call the Council or Commission offices to ask the council to support the ordinances.

If you are willing to serve as a liaison for your group or group of friends, please contact the Shelby County Committee of the Tennessee Equality Project at 901.301.3306 or [ShelbyCounty@tnequalityproject.com](mailto:ShelbyCounty@tnequalityproject.com).

All are encouraged to join the Facebook cause page supporting a non-discrimination ordinances for our community at [www.causes.com/MemphisandShelbyNDO](http://www.causes.com/MemphisandShelbyNDO) or join TEP's mailing list at [tneq.org](http://tneq.org) to track new developments.



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**Mission Statement**

*It is the mission of Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center to create a better future for our Community in the Mid-South. We will endeavor to offer an array of diverse GLBT services by utilizing the talents, energy and resources among us.*

April 26, 2009

Dear Memphis Community:

It seems that so much of life is waiting in anticipation for good things to happen: waiting for summer break or a call from that guy or girl we're interested in or anxiously expecting the birth of a child or sitting by the phone hoping to get that new job. Those moments are filled with expectant joy hoping that our lives will be richer and more fulfilling. When we're at our best, we take advantage of those new directions in our lives to make them better.

Sometimes what we're waiting for is an opportunity not only to improve our own lives, but those of many others. We volunteer with, serve, donate to and support causes we believe in hoping to leave a better world than we found. Now is just such an opportunity for those of us in the Memphis Community

Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center wholeheartedly supports the Non-Discrimination Ordinances being championed by Tennessee Equality Project with both the City Council and County Commission (please see the article by Jonathan Cole in this issue). This is that long-awaited opportunity for the whole Memphis gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, same gender loving, intersex, queer community and our straight allies to work together on an issue of common interest.

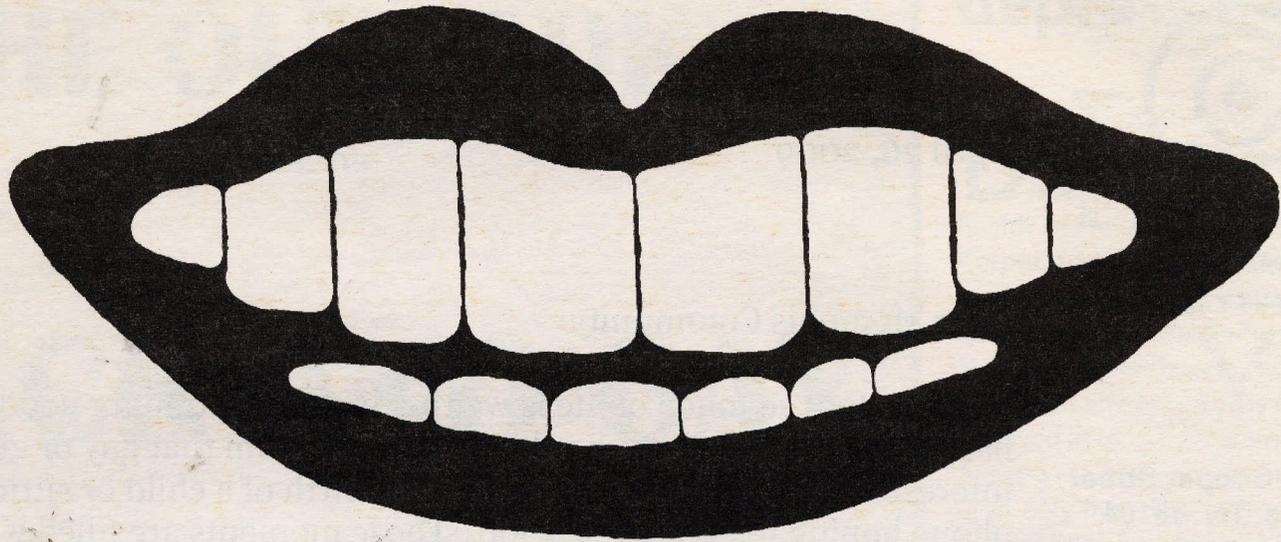
Let's all work together on this cause. We can set aside our personal differences and individual issues to seize this moment. It's going to take all of us. The moment to make history is now.

It's what we've been waiting for.

Very sincerely,

Will Batts  
Executive Director

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## Two more gay men murdered in Baghdad

The *Associated Press* reported in early April that the bodies of two gay men were found in Sadr City shortly after a Shiite cleric denounced homosexuality during a Friday prayer service. The cleric was identified by the AP as Sattar al-Battat and according to those reports the cleric repeatedly and vehemently reminded radical believers that Islam condemns homosexuality. Speculation in that same media outlet claimed that the two men were believed to have been killed by family members shamed by their behaviors because no family members have claimed the bodies or requested criminal investigations. This occurrence is the latest in a string of hate related murders in the region. In early March, four male bodies were found in Sadr City with the words "pervert" and "puppies" (a slur for homosexuality) written on their chests. In Iraq, homosexual acts are punishable by up to seven years in prison.

## Marriage equality realized in the American heartland

In news reports widely circulated in the mainstream media in April, the Iowa state Supreme Court unanimously upheld the earlier ruling of the District Court that states that there is no legitimate interest in denying same gender couples the right to marriage. In 2005, Lambda Legal filed a lawsuit on behalf of six Polk County, Iowa same-sex couples and their children who were denied marriage licenses in Iowa, arguing that this denial violated the liberty and equal protection clauses in the state constitution. In 2007, the Polk County District

Court ruled in favor of the couples, prompting the county to appeal to the highest state court. The April 3 opinion of the high court is available at [www.judicial.state.ia.us/Supreme\\_Court/Recent\\_Opinions/20090403/07-1499.pdf](http://www.judicial.state.ia.us/Supreme_Court/Recent_Opinions/20090403/07-1499.pdf).

## Vermont legislature overrides governor's veto

WCAX.com, a local Vermont news affiliate reported on April 7 that the State Senate and House of Representatives overrode Republican Governor Jim Douglas' veto of a same-sex marriage bill. The decision occurred within 24 hours of the governor's veto as the Vermont Senate voted swiftly by a margin of 23-5 and the house voting 100-49 to legalize same sex marriage. This is the first such action by any state legislative body and represents what the news outlet called "a historic day in Vermont."

## SF same-sex marriage backers plan ballot drive

The San Francisco media outlet, *SFGate.com* reported in late April that local supporters of same-sex marriage have begun planning a ballot measure to overrule Proposition 8 which banned gay marriage last November. This initiative commences even as the state Supreme Court's ruling on Proposition 8 is pending. The ballot initiative is considered a Plan B of sorts and Rick Jacobs of the Courage Campaign, a progressive organizing group, said that if the Supreme Court overturns Proposition 8, "We'll celebrate ... and call off the process" involved in the ballot initiative. The Court's ruling is expected in late June.

## Icing tops wedding cake in Connecticut

The *Associated Press* reported on April 23 that the Connecticut legislature voted to redefine marriage in Connecticut as the legal union of two people. This decision came six months after the state Supreme Court ruled 4-3 that same-sex couples have the right to marry rather than to accept civil unions. A spokesperson for Governor M. Jodi Rell said she intends to sign the bill into law. The bill passed 28-7 in the state Senate

and 100-44 in the House and will transform civil unions into marriage as of October 1, 2010.

## Gay couples flock to states with legalized marriage, spend lots of money

The *American Express Publishing Corporation* reported via *MSNBC.com* on April 23 that numerous New England wedding planning agencies and professionals are cashing in on the surge in business resulting in the change in states' legislation in the last two years. The corporation quoted wedding planner Bernadette Smith who says her career has become very "hectic" as the number of same-sex nuptials she has been arranging has surged. The outlet also reports that numerous hotels and resorts in Massachusetts, Connecticut and Vermont have been cashing in as well. The wedding experts report that very little backlash has occurred and according to Anne Stanback, executive director of Love Makes a Family, a pro-gay marriage organization in New Haven, Conn. "... lots and lots of people ... are pleased."

## Golden Girl Bea Arthur dies at 86

Tony Award and Emmy Award winner Beatrice Arthur died on Saturday morning April 25 in her Los Angeles home. Her family was at her side at the time of her death, according to a family spokesman, Dan Watt. According to *The Associated Press* Ms. Arthur died of cancer. Her theatrical accomplishments were numerous but it was her performance as Dorothy Zbornak in *The Golden Girls* (1985-1992) that endeared her to many in our community. She was preceded in death by her "Ma", Estelle Getty who died in July, 2008. Thank you for being our friend, Dorothy!

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# MGLCC to hold inaugural golf tournament

by Kenan Gilmore

The first ever MGLCC Golf Tournament will be held on June 27 at the Cordova Country Club. The tournament will be a four person scramble and athletes of every persuasion can expect a comfortable environment, with no assumptions made. I recently had the opportunity to sit down with Curtis Petty, tournament director to find out more.

**Kenan: So, Curtis... What is it about golf that made you want to start the league/tournament?**

**Curtis:** Well, I actually picked up the game in college! It was my third or fourth year and my roommate played a lot. He said "I think you really should play this game." I, at first, said 'well it looks pretty hard...I don't know.' It turned out that a friend of his was selling his clubs and he ended up taking me out and just like everybody says... 'There is that one shot, the first time you go out, that will make you addicted to the game.' It happened to me. As soon as I made that shot, I knew this was a game that I had to play for the rest of my life.

**Kenan: What should people expect after joining the tournament/league?**

**Curtis:** Outside of having a good time, I think they will see that they are helping Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center (MGLCC) as well as the community. We really don't have a league just yet. We ran an ad for a few months asking people to join and got too small a response, so it's just a tournament for now. Hopefully this will open the door for a league. I think the big factor around not getting a league going is that we already have a lot of leagues in the city and this one needs the understanding that just because you are apart of the league doesn't imply that you are gay. I want people to be able to let their hair down, enjoy themselves and just play a good game of golf.

**Kenan: If the tournament is a success and a league is formed, will national tournaments or events will be an option for more exposure to the team and the center?**

**Curtis:** I hadn't really thought of that yet. I do

think that that would be an option considering that all the other sports that I'm involved in do have national events. If there is a competition where we can compete on a different level, in different cities and have a good time in the process, then most definitely. I haven't done a whole lot of research yet because we don't have the league yet but you have opened my eyes to some new things already. I'll start a search and find out but we do have to build our base first by getting people out there and involved in the sport, but that is most definitely something I would love to see. I think this tournament is a good launching pad for things like that and especially for raising money for MGLCC.

**Kenan: I won't lie to you, I've always been curious about the sport and I would love to learn and then possibly join tournaments or the league... For people like myself, will there be the opportunity to be molded first and then be brought aboard the team?**

**Curtis:** In the softball league, we have what we call "clinics", where we teach people how to play. Yeah, that's definitely an option; we could bring a professional in to give lessons. We have people who are going to be at beginner, advanced and expert levels. I am intermediate and had a few lessons. I believe that playing with people who are better can help to better your game. I would also love to set up for people to go to Putt-Putt for clinics, because they have professionals there also. I've had lessons there before.

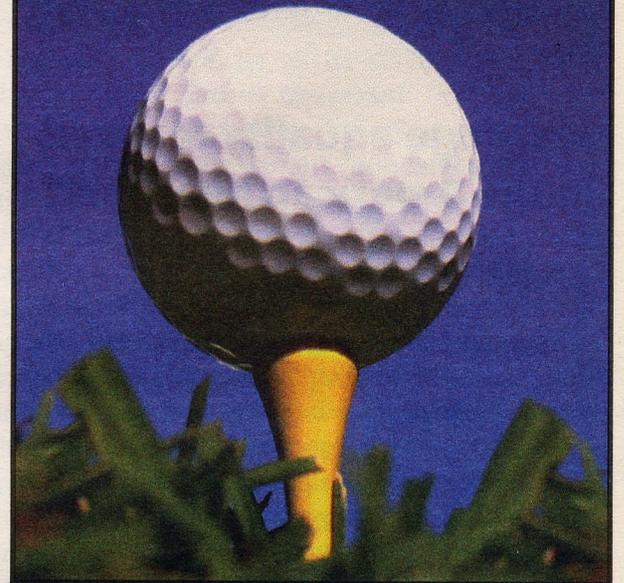
**Kenan: What impact do you think the tournament or an actual league from Memphis would make in the golf and GLBT world?**

**Curtis:** Wow... that's a hard one. I would love to build interest in MGLCC. Hopefully, with people showing interest in the sport, they will in turn show interest in being involved in MGLCC. Talks with Nike led to their sponsoring the event. We want people to realize that it doesn't matter who we sleep with, but who we are and what we do to help this community. Hopefully we can let the national gay community know that we are here because everything we do can and will have an impact.

# MGLCC Golf Tournament

June 27  
Cordova Country Club

For information call  
901-270-0067  
or email  
tournament@mglcc.org



**Kenan: What exactly is the owner's understanding of the event?**

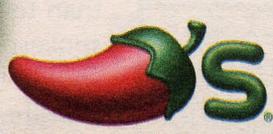
**Curtis:** I just let him know that it is an event for the gay community. We want a positive and respectful event. I could have been vague with telling him who we were but that wasn't the right choice. Plus, a lot of people could possibly join their club after seeing the support to our community. We can all get along and play the game and be just as happy & frustrated as everybody else!

Well, Curtis has laid it all on the line. If you are gay but don't want it to be known... **Just Enjoy The Game!** If you are straight and want to help the community... **Just Enjoy The Game!** If you have little experience, but would love to attend and help out... **Just Enjoy The Game!** The call is out! Food will be provided to all entrants. Prizes will be awarded to top teams and special events winners. For more information, please contact Curtis at the information listed in the box above.

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# Pool and darts...sports or not?

by Jamie Griffin

In her tight black outfits, billiards professional Jeanette Lee leans over the edge of the pool table zoning down the cue ball, occasionally allowing her eyes to shift to the remaining balls on the table before glancing at one of the table's pockets. The room is filled with spectators, all of them silent, with the exception of an occasional whisper in anticipation of her next move. They wait for her to finish off her opponent with some high impact drama; she's not called the Black Widow for nothing. She's sexy, mysterious and one heck of a pool player. She's the LeBron James of her sport...or would be if pool were actually a sport. Is that controversy I smell?

Don't kill the messenger. A man once said to me in reference to golf, "If you take away the golf clubs all you'd have is walking." It makes me wonder, what do you have if you take away the throwing objects in darts? Standing?

Okay, I have to come clean. I actually believe pool, golf, darts and auto racing are all sports. I'd also have to admit that I couldn't tell you why I think they are. I have to ask, what exactly is a sport to begin with? And yes, I do realize this is like asking people to agree on religion and politics, not going to happen. But for the fun of it, let's use an objective operational definition by Webster's Dictionary/Encyclopedia. Accordingly, sports are defined as "organized athletic events in which people are either participants or spectators."

Hmmm. Okay, then what are athletics? Back to Webster's. "Exercises, sports or games engaged in by athletes." Sigh. So who are athletes? Webster's, take it away. "A person who is trained or skilled in exercises, sports or games requiring physical strength, agility or stamina." Now we are getting somewhere.

So are pool, darts and golf performed by athletes? Instead of answering myself, since I don't care for being controversial, I decided to hear from "the people" and no we will not go to Webster's to define "the people." Here's what you had to say.

**"Hell no!"** Jai-Red. (Cordova)  
How's that for brevity?

**"Playing sports is not only about the physical, it's about the mental, which is why they should be considered a sport."** Willis C. (Memphis)  
Can we stick to the definition provided by Webster's please?

**"If you're going to make beer drinking a sport, than yes."** Carolyn Rodus. (Eads)  
So is that a yes or a no?

**"Yes (darts) is a sport that's also a hobby."** Phillip Childs. (Memphis)  
Kind of like the soup that eats like a meal?

**"Yes especially if you are good at it because they can be physically draining. And if archery can be considered (sports) than why not golf and pool?"** P.Paul. (Olive Branch)

Interesting. Regardless, I don't think there would be any disagreement that if you add friends to the mix, sport or no sport, what matters is that they are fun to play, especially if the participants are wearing tight black outfits.

## The Tournament Hoppers

Darts players are hitting the friendship bull's eye

by Jamie Griffin

Leslie Lawrence could not have hit the target with any more perfection if she had tried a million times over. As it was on a Tuesday night at Crossroads Bar, Lawrence again couldn't miss. But she wasn't aiming at the dartboard, her goal was to make friends and have fun.

"Winning (at darts) is a bonus," says a smiling Lawrence. And make no mistake; she has won, but not nearly as often as she has made friends. One of the partners she has been paired with in one of the many Darts Mixed Doubles tournaments she participated in is Phillip Childs, whom she met while competing in Southaven.

"You never know who your partner will be," explains Childs of the blind draw format used to select teammates during the tournaments. Which is actually kind of the point. After all, no one is about to make a living being a dart tournament hopper on the Memphis scene. Childs, for example, once won \$175.00 by winning a doubles tournament; enough to contribute on a bill, but fortunately for him the money isn't the real incentive.

Childs, who began competing in tournaments about nine months ago has also had the opportunity to meet new people. "You'll find a little group of darts players that hop around from tournament to tournament," he explains. Suddenly you have an adopted family, which helped lessen the blow of his last place finish during his first outing at Crossroads. Childs looks back on the experience and laughs.

According to Lawrence, the number of players participating in the tournaments has grown primarily by word of mouth. The number of tournament sites has also increased, as has Lawrence's confidence in her game. She has a second place finish to her credit in addition to her mixed doubles tournament win at the Pumping Station.

What's her secret? "I just hope I'm lucky enough to get a partner that's better than me and can carry us both." Now that's what friends are for.

You can catch up with some of the Tournament Hoppers at several locations in Memphis including the Pumping Station on Mondays and Wednesdays at 8pm, Crossroads on Tuesday and Thursdays at 8pm and Dru's Place Bar & Grill at 7:30pm. The Pumping Station and Crossroads hosts doubles and singles competitions. Tuesday nights at Dru's are Ladies Night Tournaments.

For more information on the Darts Tournaments contact the following establishments: Crossroads 901.272.8801, Dru's Place 901.275.8082 or The Pumping Station 901.272.7600.

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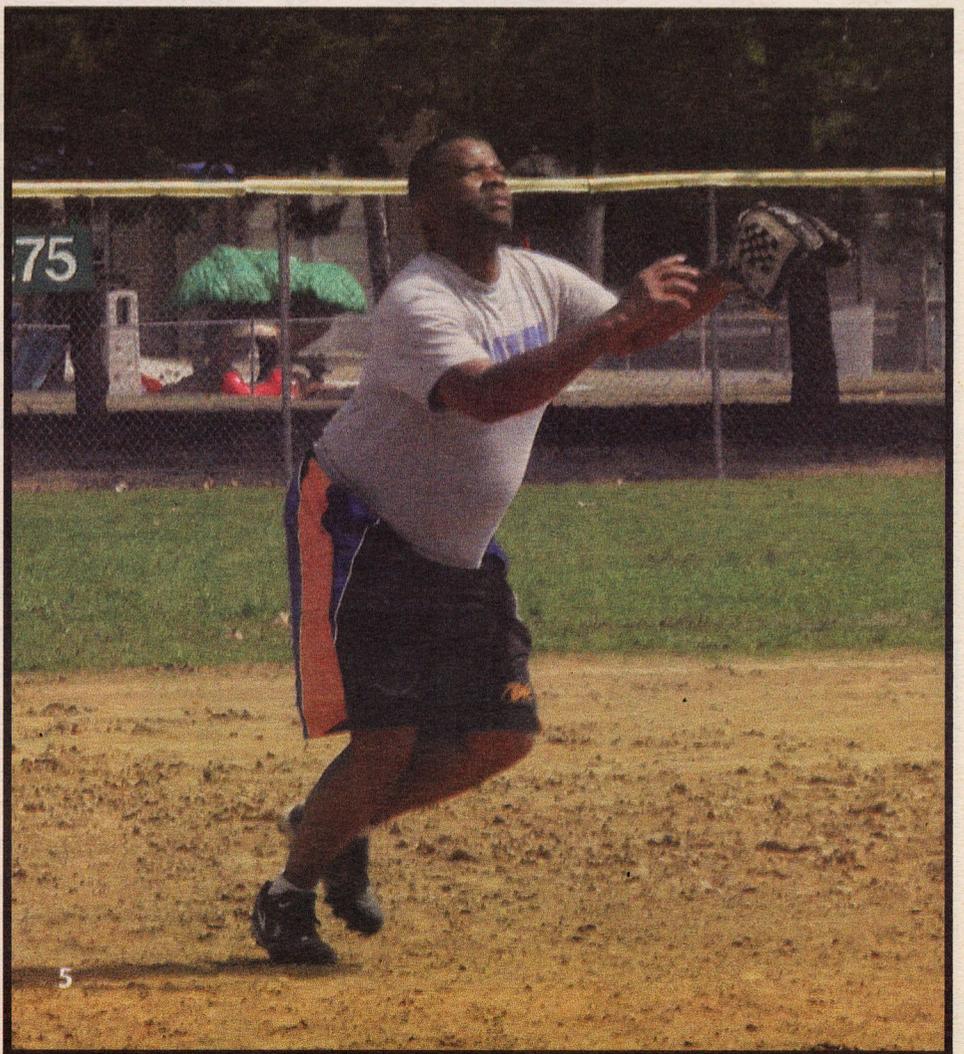
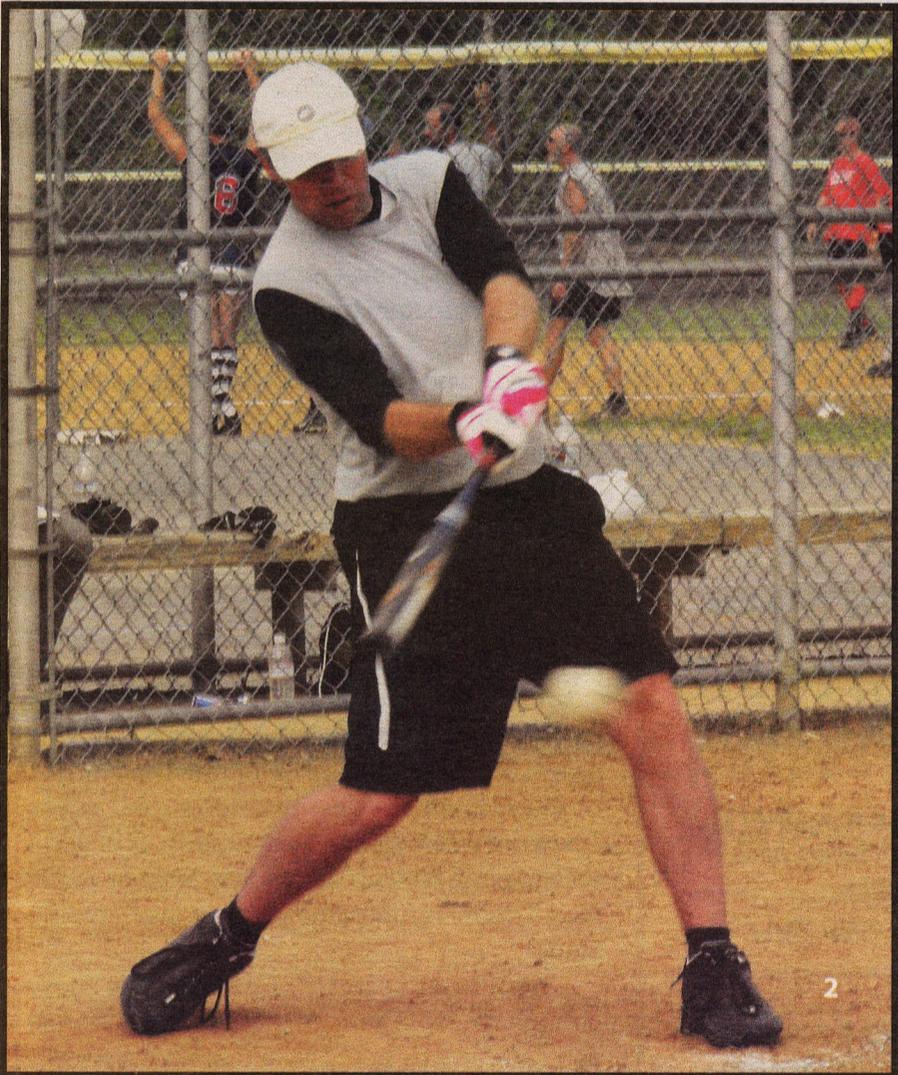
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# Memphis GLBTs show their pride through sport



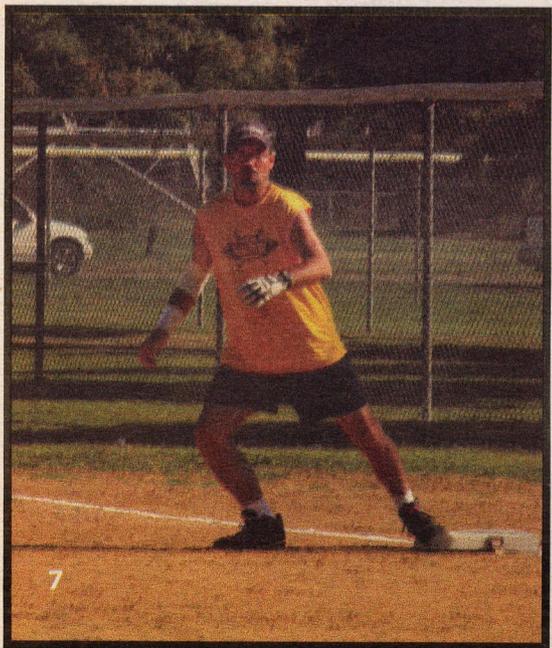
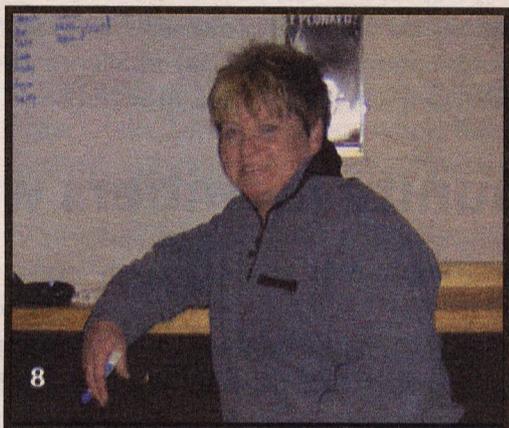
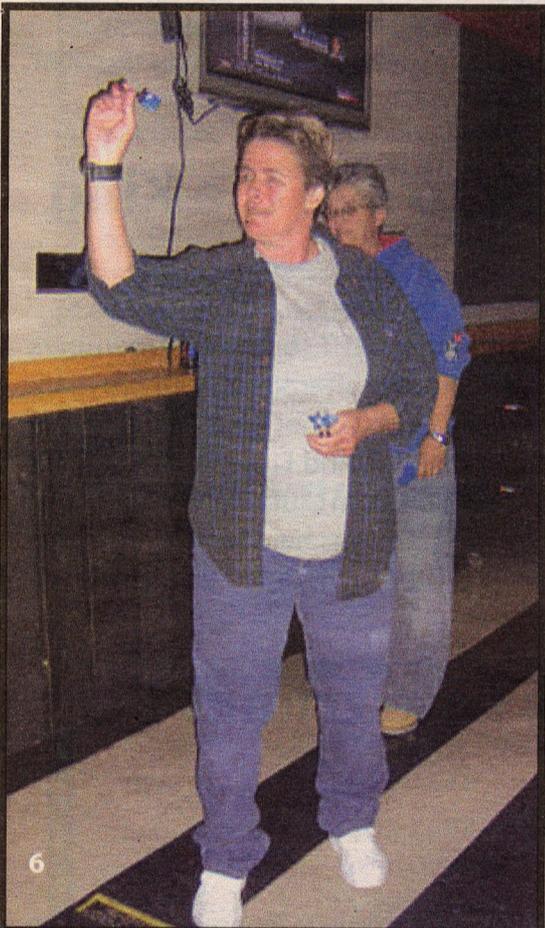
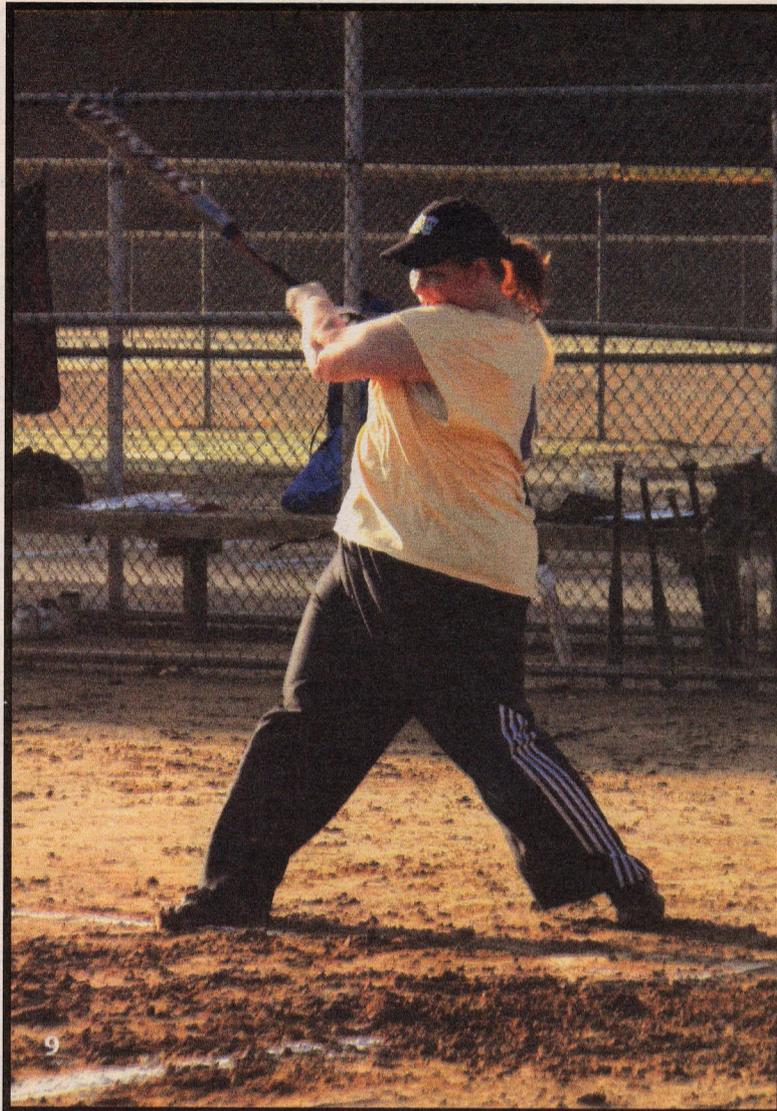
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- 1) Members of the Memphis Roller Derby rumble at the Mid-South Fairgrounds. *(Photo courtesy of the Memphis Roller Derby).*
- 2) Chris Haskins helps to kick off the fourteenth season of Bluff City Sports Association softball by hitting a line drive. *(Photo courtesy of Ann Hackerman).*
- 3) Brandy Shroyer (*catcher*) provides a target for the pitcher as Charles Ettinger waits for his chance. *(Photo courtesy of John Lloyd).*
- 4) The Memphis Maniax keep their eyes on the action. *(Photo courtesy of John Lloyd).*
- 5) Dewayne Phillips moves in to catch a fly ball. *(Photo courtesy of Ann Hackerman).*
- 6) Everybody at Dru's Place stands back as Smitty takes aim. *(Photo courtesy of John Lloyd).*
- 7) Eric Gaither is ready to make his move. *(Photo courtesy of Ann Hackerman).*
- 8) Tami Montgomery, owner of Dru's Place, keeps track of scores. *(Photo courtesy of John Lloyd).*
- 9) Angela Miller nails a solid double. *(Photo courtesy of Ann Hackerman).*



**Holistic healing at The Psychic Shop**  
by

**Natalie**

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## Simply Vonna Valentino

Donald Eldridge Blair III  
July 4 1967-April 9 2009

Vonna Valentino entertained in the Memphis area for many years and held numerous titles such as Miss Gay Memphis, Miss River City, Queen of Memphis and others. She was known as a "drag mother" to a large group of young people who found love and understanding with her when their biological families had rejected them. It was said that she had a "heart as big as Texas" and friends are planning a tribute show to be announced later. She died in a tragic auto accident in April near Sikeston, Missouri, while traveling back toward Memphis and was later cremated. Her memorial may be visited at findagrave.com by searching on Vonna Valentino.

## Day of Silence observed in Memphis

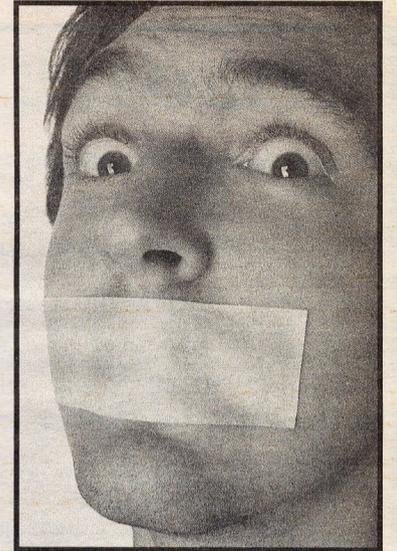
by Jared Burrow

**H**igh school and college students across the nation participated in the Thirteenth annual Day of Silence on April 17 and took a vow of silence to protest the abuse and harassment felt by GLBT youth.

One straight ally who participated at Cordova High School remarked, "It's not about being gay or straight, it's about standing up and saying 'No. This is wrong, and I'm going to do something about it.' It's about seeing to it that everyone, regardless of race, orientation or self-assumed identity gets treated fairly."

While reported participation was rather small, it still ran higher than expected. Around 60 high school students from 15 different schools in the Memphis area signed a vow of silence, or agreed to publicly support the effort where unable to find approval from the school staff. It is hoped that with more effective organization and more public advertising of the event participation and school-approval will be higher next year.

For more information about the Day of Silence and other areas of youth activism in the GLBT community, feel free to visit <http://www.glsen.org>.



## Community members walk to see the King

by Len Piechowski

**M**embers of the same gender loving community and other GLBT community members joined together in a *Walk To See The King* event on Saturday afternoon, April 4 to mark the 41st anniversary of the assassination of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The event was hosted by Club 901, Memphis Black Pride, Nashville Black Pride, and Little Rock, Arkansas Black Pride Committee. The event commenced with a procession from Club 901 Complex and culminated at the National Civil Rights Museum where a program was held for the Memphis community. For upcoming information on Black Pride and other scheduled events, please see [www.ifbp.org](http://www.ifbp.org) or [www.brothersunited.com](http://www.brothersunited.com).

## Trans inclusive Tennessee hate crimes bill passes to full committee

by Len Piechowski

**T**he Tennessee Transgender Political Coalition (TTPC) has been working with Tennessee lawmakers in the recent months to introduce a bill that would add gender identity as a hate crime sentencing enhancement. Christopher Sanders, Chair and President of the Tennessee Equality Project (TEP) announced on April 22 that the bill successfully passed out of subcommittee and will proceed on to consideration by a full committee. According to Sanders, "this is a big victory." The ideological climate of the Tennessee legislature has shifted to the right since the most recent election, so the movement to full committee is considered by members of the TTPC and TEP to be highly significant. The bill is HB-0335 and is sponsored by Rep. Jeanne Richardson.

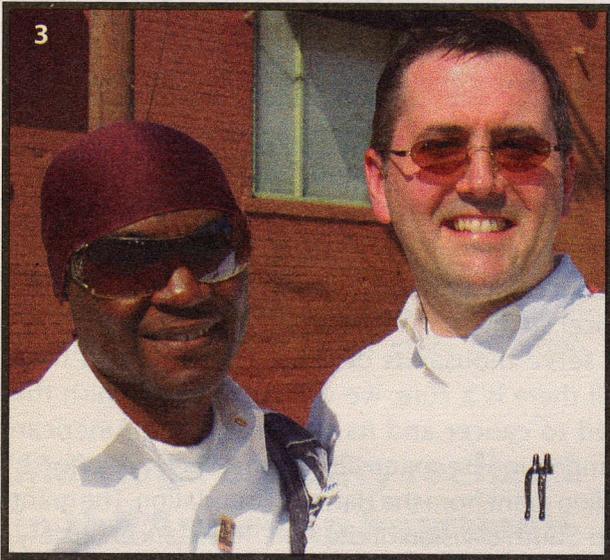
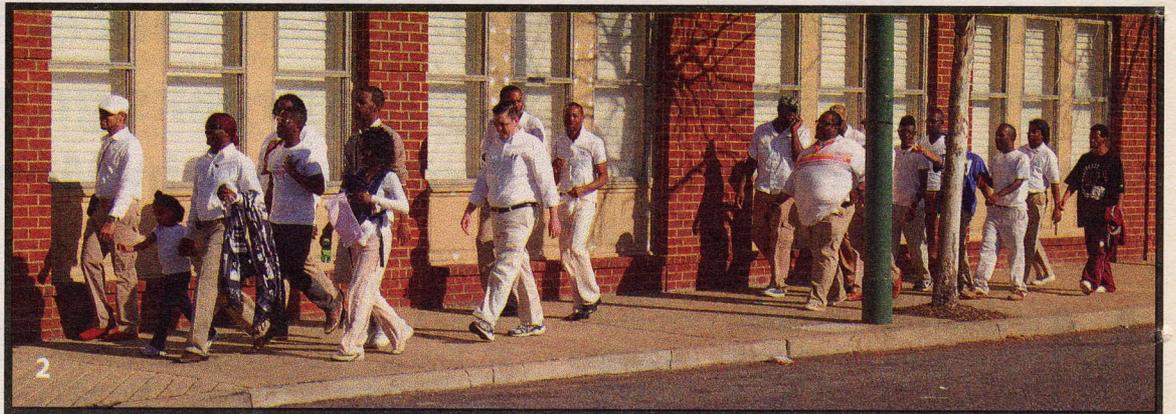
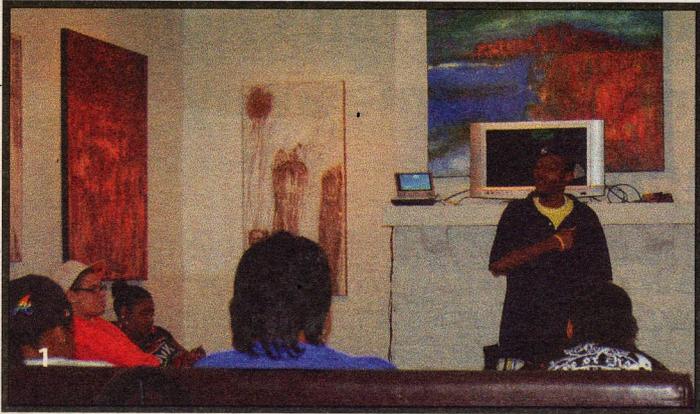
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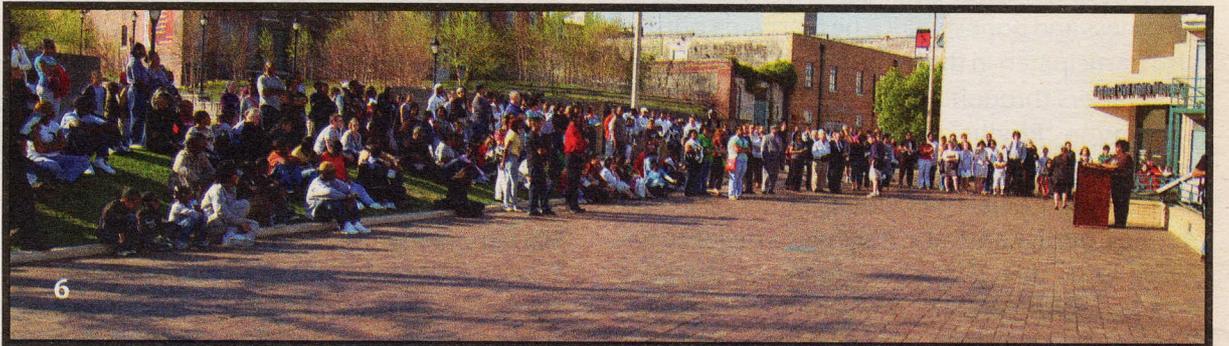
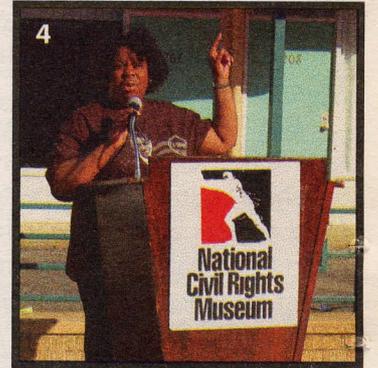
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Give Back Night flyer required with each check to receive credit for the sale. Sale cannot be included in donation amount without flyer. Offer only valid on the date and location stated above. Donations will not be given on sales made prior to or past this date.





1) Sleepy P. performs spoken word at MGLCC as guest of High Life Entertainment's commemoration of the Day of Silence on Friday evening, April 17, remembering persons who have suffered hate crimes. 2) Members of the Memphis same gender loving community and their allies walk in procession to the National Civil Rights Museum in *Walk To See The King* on April 4. 3) *Walk To See The King* organizer, Anthony Hardaway (left) and Jonathan Cole of the Shelby County Committee of Tennessee Equality Project. 4) Barbara Andrews, Curator of Exhibitions and Collections at the National Civil Rights Museum, welcomes visitors to the April 4 ceremonies. 5) The board of directors of Little Rock Black Pride organize before the procession. From left to right they are, Stanley Rogers, president; Vangele West, vice-president; Desmond Pruitt, treasurer; Kevin Holmes, chairman; and Terrio Williams, public relations officer. 6) Members of the Memphis community commemorate the forty-first anniversary of the death of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King at the National Civil Rights Museum.



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## Mid-South Pride announces parade Grand Marshals

by Vincent Astor

**M**id-South Pride has named three of this year's Grand Marshals: Bill Goodman, David Jones and Wayne Newsome. These men were selected for their contributions to the GLBT community in earlier years and as a focus of last year's "past times" article in the *Triangle Journal*.

Bill "Fancy" Goodman was formerly an entertainer and owned The Hut, Bill's and the Sunshine Lounge. He has performed in numerous fund raisers and has participated in several other Pride parades, sometimes bringing family members who supported him whole-heartedly.

David Jones, an active member of Living Word Community Church, has set an example of openness and honesty since he first came out. He also participated in the early ball clubs and many fund raisers throughout the years.

Wayne "Phyllis" Newsome was a charter member of the Queen's Men, a ball club founded in the early 1970s. The Queen's Men's Ball, held during Cotton Carnival in May, was a major social event in its day. That club organized the Miss Gay Memphis pageants for a number of years, frequently using venues in the larger community. The club also organized the town meeting during which the Aid to End AIDS Committee (now Friends For Life) was founded.

The article in last June's *Triangle Journal* focused on the struggles of the GLBT community in the 1970s when it was hazardous, even dangerous, to be openly gay or lesbian. Goodman, Jones and Newsome were part of a group arrested in late 1975 as part of an entrapment by vice officers. The incident was front page news in the old "Gaiety" newspaper. The case was taken to court resulting in the charges being dropped and expunged from the record. An interview last fall with these three men has become part of the oral history collection at Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center and will appear in this June's *Triangle Journal*.

## American Cancer Society Harrah's Hope Lodge breaks ground for home away from home in Memphis

**I**f you are a cancer patient fighting for your life, the last thing you should have to worry about is where you're going to stay when receiving treatment and how you're going to pay for it. The American Cancer Society Harrah's Hope Lodge broke ground at 10 a.m., Wednesday, April 22, 2009 at 718 Union Avenue in Memphis, Tenn. The facility will help lessen the financial burden on adult patients traveling to Memphis for treatment at one of the metropolitan area's many cancer facilities.

Many patients require daily treatment for multiple weeks, and staying in a hotel for that long would be expensive. The Harrah's Hope Lodge will allow patients and a caregiver to stay at no cost and be with others going through the very same experience. Patients will be able to concentrate on their health and getting well.

The facility will include 40 guest rooms, each with a private bath and sleeping accommodations for two. There will be community dining, kitchen, library, and recreational areas, and each floor will have a day room and guest laundry with 24 hour access. "We have a tremendous void in this community for adults who must come to Memphis for cancer treatment," said Peter Pettit, co-chairman of the capital campaign committee, past president of the American Cancer Society board, and a two-time cancer survivor.

"This much-needed facility will enable us to serve thousands of cancer patients and their families for many years to come," Pettit said. "Until there is a cure, we will strive to diminish the financial, emotional and physical burdens related to cancer and its treatment. The American Cancer Society Harrah's Hope Lodge will be a compassionate extension of the Society's efforts." The Harrah's Hope Lodge is funded in part by a \$2 million grant from the Harrah's Foundation. The grant is the largest one-time donation received by the Mid-South Division of the American Cancer Society. The Harrah's Foundation is the charitable giving arm of Harrah's Entertainment, parent company of Harrah's, Horseshoe and Sheraton Casinos in Tunica, Miss.

"As evidenced in Harrah's Code of Commitment, the health and well-being of our employees, our customers and our communities is one of our primary concerns. For this reason, the Harrah's Foundation is proud to partner with the American Cancer Society by providing a \$2 million grant for the construction of the Harrah's Hope Lodge, which will house adult cancer patients undergoing treatment and their loved ones at no cost. We hope that through this donation the American Cancer Society will be able to help lessen the burden cancer patients and their families endure during treatment so they may focus on wellness," said R. Scott Barber, advisory board member, Harrah's Foundation and regional president, Harrah's Entertainment, Mid-South Region.

Other leadership gifts include a no-cost lease of land valued at \$1.5 million from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, and a \$500,000 grant from The Assisi Foundation of Memphis, Inc.

To make a donation to the American Cancer Society Harrah's Hope Lodge or for more information, call the American Cancer Society at 1-800-227-2345.

## Concert season finale at Lindenwood

**M**usic at Lindenwood, the concert series of Lindenwood Christian Church, 2400 Union Avenue at East Parkway, presents their final concert of the current season on Sunday, May 10 at 11 a.m. The program, titled "Music for Mother's Day - A Service of Scripture and Song," will feature the King's Choir (Grades 1-5), Laudate! (grades 6-12), Chamber Orchestra, conductor Chris Nemecek and pianist Gary Beard performing music from several centuries, including selections by Schubert, Franck, Purcell and others. This family-friendly service will also include a recognition of mothers and Holy Communion. For additional information to this free event, call 901-458-1652. Lindenwood is handicap accessible and offers a staffed nursery.

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### SUBMISSION DEADLINE

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

**May 20, 2009**

E-mail: [editors@tjmemphis.com](mailto:editors@tjmemphis.com)

Mail: Triangle Journal - 892 South Cooper - Memphis, TN 38104

## Mid-South Pride announces dates for Karaoke Idol Contest

by Vincent Astor

Two bars have announced dates for the Mid-South Pride (MSP) Karaoke Idol Contest. Crossroads' event will be held on Sunday May 10 at 8pm with hosts Joe and Dave. Dru's Place is set to have its event on May 29 at 9pm with Ali hosting. MSP will be co-hosting the events in order to explain the rules to the crowd as well as to register contestants. All money raised will be used to fund this year's Pride Parade and Festival.

Registration will be \$5 at the bar preliminaries and the contests will be integrated into the regular karaoke night at each location. Winner will be determined not by judges but rather by the amount of money raised through tips during the performance—begging and schmoozing by performers is permitted and encouraged. All singing must be live. The winners at each location will compete at the annual Pride Festival on Saturday, June 20, following the Parade. The same rules will apply. Prizes will be awarded to all finalists and cash prizes will be provided for the top performers.

Any establishment that has not been contacted and would like to host a fund raiser to have a finalist entered in the contest, contact Mid-South Pride's board secretary, Mike Morgan at Mike.Morgan@midsouthpride.org. Additional rules are available from Mike.

This year's theme for Pride is OUR Rights are Civil Rights. Parade and festival registrations are available through Mid-South Pride. The festival is being expanded with a large tent space available to participants.

## Third performed at Circuit Playhouse

As wife, mother, and daughter, an English literature professor's well-ordered life is the subject of this witty dramatic essay. Her role as a liberal educator within a prestigious New England college is disrupted when she accuses a student of plagiarism. But her assumption that an athlete is incapable of scholarly merit begins to unravel as her pupil retaliates with charges of reverse discrimination and harassment. Deftly skewering both ends of the political spectrum, the late Wendy Wasserstein's drama offers provocative insights and challenges, that even the most open-minded of people possess bias and intolerance. *Third* "sweetly but shrewdly suggests that life is an unending identity crisis." – NY Times

Directed by University of Memphis graduate student Emily Wells (*Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story*), *Third* stars Resident Company Member Irene Crist and Associate Company Member DJ Hill. The supporting cast features Ron Gephart, Jade Hobbs, and Laurie Cook McIntosh.

*Third* runs at The Circuit Playhouse April 24 – May 24, 2009, Thursdays through Saturdays at 8pm & Sundays at 2pm. The *Pay What You Can* performance is Thursday, April 30 at 8 pm. The Circuit Playhouse is located at 1705 Poplar Avenue in Midtown. For more information, or to make reservations, please call 901-726-4656 or visit their website at [www.playhouseonthesquare.org](http://www.playhouseonthesquare.org).

## Into the Woods opens at Playhouse on the Square May 8

An ambivalent Cinderella? A blood-thirsty Little Red Ridinghood? A Prince Charming with a roving eye? A Witch...who raps? They're all among the cockeyed characters in James Lapine and Stephen Sondheim's fractured fairy tale *Into the Woods*. When a Baker and his Wife learn they've been cursed with childlessness by the Witch next door, they embark on a quest for the special objects required to break the spell, swindling, lying to and stealing from Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Rapunzel and Jack (the one who climbed the beanstalk). Everyone's wish is granted at the end of Act One, but the consequences of their actions return to haunt them later, with disastrous results. What begins as a lively irreverent fantasy in the style of "The Princess Bride" becomes a moving lesson about community responsibility and the stories we tell our children.

Directed by Resident Company Member Dave Landis, *Into the Woods* stars Memphis favorites Carla McDonald (*The Light in the Piazza*, *Jerry Springer: The Opera*, *The Wild Party*) as the Witch and Michael Detroit (1776, *The Producers*, *Jerry Springer: The Opera*) as The Baker. *Into the Woods* features standout performances from Claire Hayner (*Cyrano*, *The Full Monty*) as Cinderella, Stephen Andrew Parker (*Altar Boyz*, *A Year With Frog & Toad*) as Jack, Amber Snyder (*The Glass Menagerie*, *The Producers*) as The Baker's Wife, and Stephanie Olson (*Romeo & Juliet*, *A Year With Frog & Toad*) as Little Red Riding Hood. The excellent supporting cast includes David Foster, Parker Dinwiddie, Jennifer T. Dinwiddie, Kevin Todd Murphy, Jennifer Henry, Stephanie Faatz and David Ryan.

*Into the Woods* runs at Playhouse on the Square May 8 – June 7 Thursdays through Saturdays at 8pm & Sundays at 2pm. The *Pay What You Can* performance is Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at 8pm. Playhouse on the Square is located at 51 South Cooper Street in Midtown. For more information, or to make reservations, please call 901-726-4656 or visit our website at [www.playhouseonthesquare.org](http://www.playhouseonthesquare.org).

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# THE OUTLOOK

PRESENTS

## BLACK AND GAY

## HOMOSEXUALITY IN THE BLACK COMMUNITY

**FRIDAY JUNE 19, 2009 AT 3 PM  
MEMPHIS GAY AND LESBIAN  
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**AT**

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THEOUTLOOKMEMPHIS@YAHOO.COM.**

## 88 keys shown to depress the stress

**B**arry B. Bittman, M.D., CEO of Mind-Body Wellness Center in Meadville, PA, has scientifically shown the human health benefits of playing musical instruments. Corporate employees, undergraduate nursing students, senior citizens, stay-at-home mothers and many more have found significant reductions in work related stress, educational burnout, loneliness and low quality of life after becoming involved in music programs. Recreational Music Making is a new exclusive program to Memphis with only five other cities having been chosen nationwide. Recreational Music Making (RMM) is a burgeoning movement in music instruction that encourages individuals to pursue music for enjoyment and pleasure, without the pressure of performance or testing. Designed for adults, the program allows students of all experience levels to participate in music at their own pace.

Jason Bell in collaboration with Dr. Gary Beard and Lindenwood Christian Church is excited to offer Adult Piano Group Lessons through the Recreational Music Making program. If you have been putting off learning how to play or if it has been 5, 10, 15 or even 20 years since you last touched a piano, now is your time to make beautiful stress-reducing music in a fun, safe and relaxed environment. In addition, piano playing puts the entire brain to use, improves eye-hand-foot coordination, is fun and provides a break from the normal routine.

Jason Bell teaches piano classes in an all-inclusive eight-week program. Students have the option to continue for additional lessons as well. Lessons are held once a week at Lindenwood Christian Church. New classes are forming and filling up rapidly.

Jason Bell, adult piano class teacher, is an accomplished Memphis musician and teacher. Mr. Bell teaches piano at the University of Memphis, is Assistant Musical Director at Theatre Memphis and performs for various churches, organizations and stage productions in Tennessee and other states.

If you would like more information on Adult Piano Group Classes, please visit [www.musiciansatwork.net](http://www.musiciansatwork.net) and/or contact Jason Bell at 901.907.0499 or [jbelle@musiciansatwork.net](mailto:jbelle@musiciansatwork.net).

Coming in the June issue of

*Triangle Journal*

*Taking the law  
into our own hands*

# Eyes of Desire 2 - A Deaf GLBT Reader

by Marian Bacon

I volunteered to read the Deaf GLBT Reader because of my involvement with the hearing-impaired community and being a lesbian. Hopefully, I will be able to portray an account of some of the stories in this book.

One of the stories I read talked about coming out to either your family and/or friends which can be a very difficult task. "Black Deaf Pagan Lesbian Tomfemme" is a story about a young woman that comes out to her parents by accident. She was caught having sex with another girl at a deaf school in California. The young woman is a pagan but really isn't practiced in the community she lives in now. Paganism is a form of spirituality that is often misunderstood by outsiders especially in the deaf community. Her sister is studying to become a Muslim which she states is a liberal type of Islam. I thought it was a good story and it kept me interested through the whole time I read it.

Another section of the book talks about family and friends and each of these stories were very appealing and kept me reading for hours. The one I would like to talk about is "Identically Different" which is talking about a set of twins. The twins were identical but each had a language

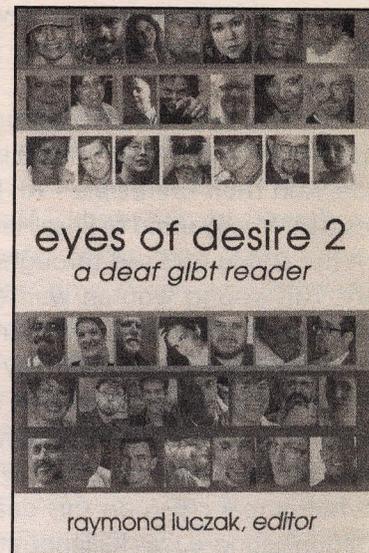
of their own. Deborah and Joanna were unique because they didn't want research done on them. Deborah would tell others to leave them alone and let them learn for themselves the things they will need to learn in life. Both of the twins would eventually attend Gallaudet University but not major in the same subjects. They would eventually complete their educations at different universities after growing tired of being on the campus of Gallaudet University. Deborah started seeing a girl in college while her sister didn't start dating until later in life. Deborah wanted to feel accepted because it was difficult when others confused her with her sister who used to date men. They ended up coming out as lesbians and moving out of the country for several years to find themselves.

The next section in the book is "Identity" and all of these stories were very interesting and made sense in so many ways. I read "Awakenings - An Interview with a Deaf Ex-Gay Man" that talked about some of the man's feelings after he decided to change his lifestyle back to being a straight man. It was a wonderful interview full of excitement and made sense because there are programs out there especially in Memphis trying to get individuals to go back to that way of living. Mark wanted others to understand he

isn't against individuals who are gay but he felt he needed to do this for himself now.

Another section in the book that was full of well written stories is "Love and Desire." I read "What Speed Dating Taught Me" and it was a very well plotted article. This story is about a deaf lesbian who

just got a telephone call from her interpreter telling her about a speed dating session at the local mall. The woman at first didn't realize how tired she was from events from the day and told the interpreter she would meet her at the mall. Later on the woman didn't want to make the event but went ahead anyway and actually had

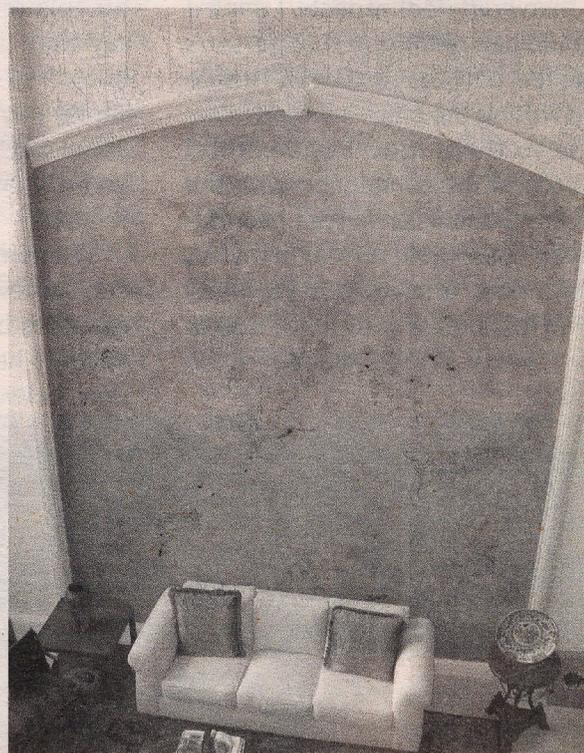


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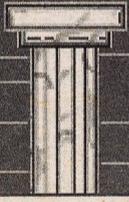
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## Eyes *continued from page 19*

a wonderful time. She met a woman that she wanted to keep in contact with but wasn't sure if it would match her up with the woman. She got an email from the woman several days later and they started the relationship slowly and are good friends.

The final section of the book was called "Community" and it was the most important part. I read "And Then There's Me – An Interview with a Lesbian Who Wanted to Lose Her Hearing" that kept me crying and sad throughout the whole story. This young woman wanted to become deaf because of meeting a woman that she liked very much. She was fascinated by this individual because of renting TTYs (text telepho-ness) from the library and learning how to fingerspell along with other things deaf individuals do now. She had a real crush on this deaf woman but communicating was a challenge at times for both of them. She wished to be deaf so she could be the same as her lover but it never happened.

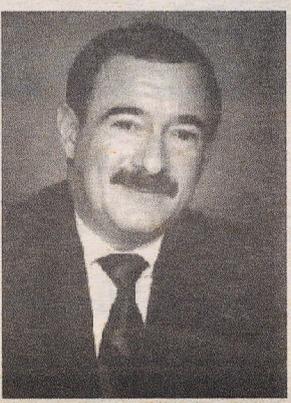
The *Eyes of Desire 2 – A Deaf GLBT Reader* was a book that was very difficult to put down. I read the book three different times because the stories were interesting and fun. I wish there were more books about being deaf and gay because we are part of a hidden group of individuals. I think all of the stories were portrayed in a manner that was appealing and interesting so the reader could get into their soul. In this collection of stories the editor portrayed, in my opinion, a sense of what being deaf or hearing-impaired and gay can feel like in many different aspects. I think if an individual could just get inside that person's heart and soul to feel how they are feeling inside when they were writing the piece it would make complete sense to them now. I understood each story because of my connection with the deaf community as a whole since I am hearing-impaired an haven't been able to hear in my left ear for many years now. You would never know about my hearing loss unless you came close to talk to me now. *Eyes of Desire 2* was edited by Raymond Luczak.



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## Yazoo Blues - roughnecks in literature

by Andrew Cruz

**Y**azoo Blues, by John Pritchard, is a comical, open-hearted journey through the life and character of Junior Ray, a fictional, rural, foul-mouthed, illiterate and interesting self-made historian. Ray was born and bred among only the most rural, indeed the most Southern, characters of the Mississippi Delta, defined by the facilitator and fictional writer of Junior Ray's story, a Mississippi Delta woman by the name of McKinney Lake, as the crescent-shaped region of Mississippi just south of Walls to just north of Vicksburg and straddling on the west the mighty Mississippi. "A peculiar region," it is often called, alluding to the pride and cultural uniqueness of its people.

I found the book immensely entertaining, from the almost adorable attempts by Junior Ray at being a historian, particularly of the Union expedition in the area in 1863, to his profane, regionalist rambling and drawl, most of which might get *Triangle Journal* in trouble for repeating, so I'll skip most of the memorable quotations for this review, but I must say that the diction in the book is so entertaining, that Junior Ray could be talking about anything, even doing laundry, and it would be a fun read.

He reminds me of an ex-boyfriend who is a cop somewhere in rural Tennessee, though my ex was more polite even than Junior Ray. If that's because he was a cop, and not a drifter of sorts, I don't know, but perhaps it is more due to the fact that Junior Ray speaks as though he is talking to his brother he has not seen in several years, or even his attorney in a criminal trial—someone that he tells everything as though his life depended on it, and no amount of honesty could ever get him in trouble with whom he is speaking. More polite people would find it offensive, and I broke up with my ex over something that was just a little too honest. He would say he broke up with me, or even that we were never together (I'm not complaining).

But back to the book, honestly, between all the cursing and the regionalisms, and my laughter and appreciation (I felt like I had been

given a free pass to seeing what those people in my childhood from Ruleville and Grenada really talk like: they seemed to be so polite it was inhuman in the presence of a Filipino American child), I found it hard to follow the plot. I was paying too much attention to the narrator's jokes. "That's a joke," as he always says. Reading *Yazoo Blues* is like hanging out with those roughnecks you see driving through Cooper Young every now and then in old pickup trucks with Mississippi license plates.

Junior Ray's evaluation of male sexuality is classic: "As far as he was concerned," says Junior Ray, "he didn't have but two organs in his whole body: one was his heart and the other was his dick, and both of 'em was poundin' like hammers and near bout ready to burst out of his uniform and run around the fukkin room. It was like tryin' to hold back a brace of blueticks once they've smelt the coon." That's one of the more polite quotations I have scribbled in my notebook.

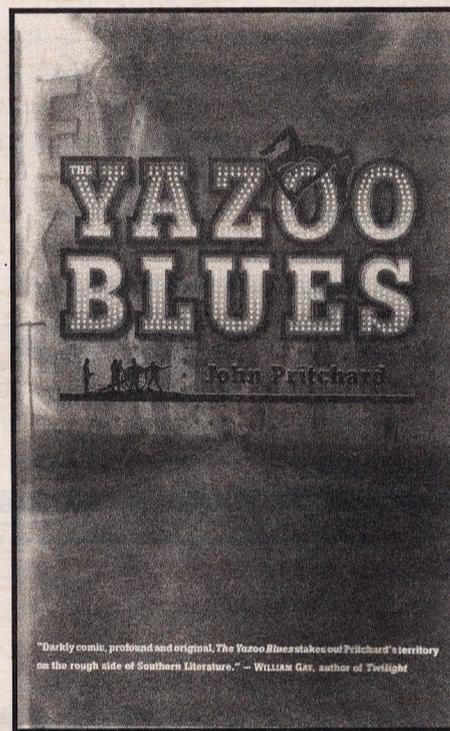
One of Junior Ray's sociological perspectives: "Anyway, after a while, up in the eighties I reckon, after the good ol' boys got through wantin' to shave the hippies' heads and all, hell, they and every other fukkin pekkawood in the state started wearin' long hair, and some of em even grew beards and wore them splotchy T-shirts and—get this—still managed

to keep on hatin' hippies! That's what makes good ol' boys so fukkin dangerous. They can see everything but themselves." My ex from rural Tennessee explained to me once the difference between good ol' boys and mama's boys. He said he was a mama's boy. I never understood.

Memphis is "Meffis," and the place to go when you're in the city is the Magic Pussy Cabaret & Club, and what does Junior Ray say to a stripper when he doesn't want her to think he's ignorant? "Mooney Bone Eater." I don't even know what that is.

All in all, I highly recommend *Yazoo Blues* as an amazingly entertaining, and for some of us, a strangely heart-warming read. Junior Ray is a real character, and John Pritchard has produced what is, if not a novel in the traditional sense, instead a nicely packaged facsimile of Southern culture, and life in the Mississippi Delta.

Mr. Pritchard' has taught college-level English. My elementary school teachers from the Mississippi Delta would have hissy fits if he taught *Yazoo Blues* in class. "Don't say ain't, your mother will faint..." the song went on the playground back then.



## Building a better Bloody Mary

by Camper English

You can tell a lot about a person from his or her choice in a Bloody Mary. Some people try a little too hard to butch up the drink with seven kinds of hot sauce. Others are all about flair, bedazzling the drink with enough garnish to decorate Carmen Miranda's hat. And a certain segment of the population just likes drinking at breakfast.

I suppose my style of Bloody Mary reveals both trust and control issues. I don't trust the bartender to make the drink for me most places; I'd prefer to control the process at the make-your-own Bloody Mary bar. I want the drink to have a perfect combination of savory flavors, with a dash of olive brine and the tiniest pinch of celery salt. I don't like the saltiness of a Dirty Martini or even olives in the drink ("Can I get those on the side?" I'll ask,) but when you add savory tomato juice to the situation then all my issues are going to come out.

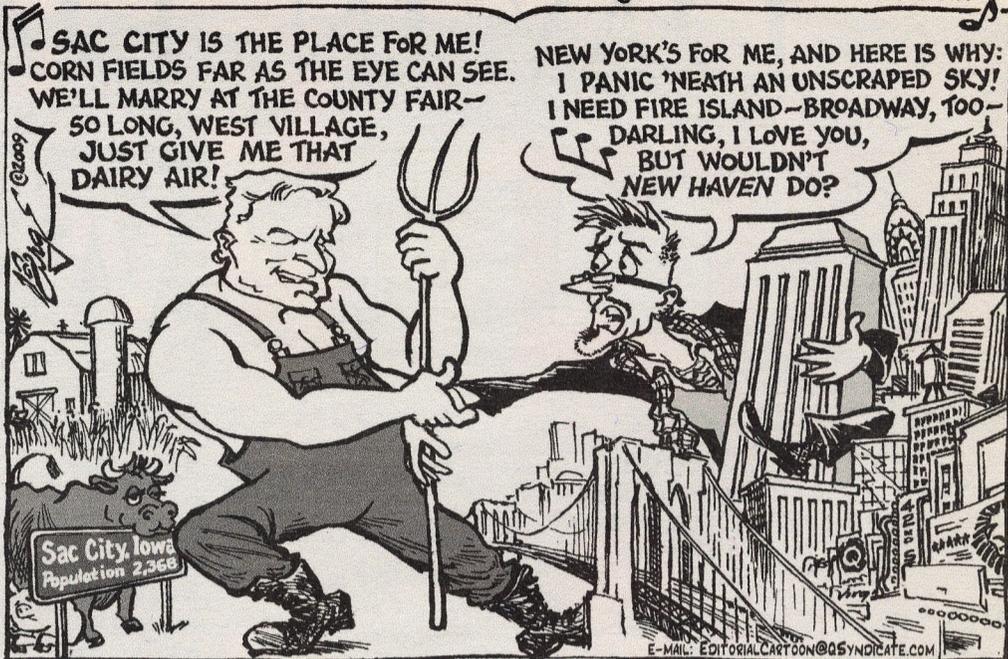
These days savory cocktails are all the rage in experimental bars. I've consumed drinks with carrot juice, cucumbers, yogurt, and even mustard - but those weren't Bloody Marys. Savory additions to that drink mostly involve mixing meat into it, with beef bullion and clam juice inside the cocktail and bacon and shrimp on top as garnish. Some bartenders are infusing vodka with bacon, though that often leads to gloppy vodka.

But that's all recent history. The Bloody Mary's history goes back to 1920 or 1939 (or some other date) depending on whose story you believe. Like most of the famous cocktails of today, its origin is in dispute. It may have been created in France; maybe New York. It may have originally been made with vodka, or maybe with gin.

Today some call the gin version a Red Snapper; the tequila version a Bloody Maria; sake in the Bloody Geisha, and so on. No matter what you call it, there are plenty of ways to adjust the recipe to your personal taste. Within the vodka family, flavored or infused vodkas go great in this drink - citrus flavors like lemon and even lime can work, and you can sometimes find special edition chipotle flavored vodka, or the more readily available pepper (Peppar) flavor.

Speaking of spicy, I love wasabi paste, horseradish, and muddled jalapeno and red bell peppers in the drink. You can also infuse them in vodka overnight - I've tried them all, and they were each differently delicious. Ethnic hot sauces for Asian and Latin cuisine are great in the drink. Bring them on!

News Item: Iowa Supreme Court Okays Same-Sex Marriage...and the rush to wed is on!



TRIANGLE TRAVELER

## Taos, New Mexico

by Andrew Collins

Remote and resplendent Taos, a diminutive town of about 6,500 nestled beneath New Mexico's highest peaks, has long been a haven for artists, bohemians and free spirits. The percentage of gays and lesbians in the population is likely far less than Santa Fe or Albuquerque, but Taos nevertheless pulls in a considerable number of GLBT visitors. It's a perfect long-weekend destination, just 90 minutes from Santa Fe and a little over four hours from Denver. The town abounds with exceptional art galleries, notable restaurants, gay-friendly B&Bs and an almost endless supply of cultural and outdoors diversion.

In choosing a place to stay, go with either of two strategies: If you're here more for relaxation and romance, and to soak up the 50-mile views, opt for one of the gay-friendly inns 10 miles north of town in the spectacularly scenic village of Arroyo Seco, which also has a couple of superb restaurants. If you're more the type to explore art galleries and museums and sample as many restaurants as possible, pick one of the excellent properties right in the heart of Taos' small downtown.

Up in Arroyo Seco, the luxurious, light-filled Adobe and Stars B&B offers stunning 360-degree vistas of the surrounding countryside. This contemporary house is surrounded by decks and patios and filled with big windows, high ceilings and elegant furniture; some guest rooms have Jacuzzis and fireplaces. Nearby, Salsa del Salto is an inviting inn with spacious rooms, some in the main building and others in a more private wing. The best rooms have jetted whirlpool tubs and fireplaces, but all are handsomely furnished.

With an especially peaceful and hidden-away location on a mesa a few miles west of Arroyo Seco, the moderately priced Little Tree B&B affords panoramic views of the Sangre de Cristo mountains and Rio Grande Valley. The four simple but refined guest rooms in this authentic adobe house open onto a flowery garden usually buzzing with hummingbirds.

Taos is a vibrant mix of the region's Indian, Spanish and frontier legacies, further influenced by the legions of artists, writers and creative spirits who have settled - or at the very least passed through - among them Ansel Adams, D.H. Lawrence, Georgia O'Keeffe and Aldous Huxley. You can tour dozens of art galleries in the center of town, which also contains quite a few funky specialty shops, selling everything from Day of the Dead figurines to New Age crystals.

Taos may be small and informal, but it enjoys an excellent reputation for outstanding - and highly sophisticated - restaurants. Two of the musts for foodies are Joseph's Table and De la Tierra, mentioned above. Another top pick, up in Arroyo Seco, is Sabroso Restaurant and Bar, which occupies a romantic hacienda-style building and serves delicious Mediterranean-inspired cuisine. It's known for its stellar wine list (lots of hard-to-find Spanish and Italian varietals), and there's live music in the bar many evenings. Taos has no gay bars per se, but the bar at Sabroso (as well as the one at the Taos Inn) both have something of a GLBT following.

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# DAY IN. DAY OUT.

TRIANGLE JOURNAL GUIDE TO COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT FOR MAY 2009

## S

### May 3

Bluff City Sports Association softball games at Willow Fields 1 pm

### May 10

#### Mother's Day

Music at Lindenwood Concert Series at 11 am

### May 17

MGLCC Board of Directors meeting at 1 pm.

Bluff City Sports Association softball games at Willow Fields 1 pm

High Life Spoken Word open mic 3 - 6 pm MGLCC

### May 31

Bluff City Sports Association softball games at Willow Fields 1 pm

### Every

#### Sunday

Tea Dance at Metro every Sunday 4 p.m.

Pool Tournament at Pumping Station every Sunday 6pm

## M

### Every

#### Monday

Women's Rugby Club practice 6:30 pm at Tobey Fields

### Second & Fourth Mondays

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

Please see our online calendar at [www.mglcc.org](http://www.mglcc.org) for changes and additions.

Please send your events and activities to [editors@tjmemphis.com](mailto:editors@tjmemphis.com) for monthly publication in *Day In Day Out*

## T

### 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.

## W

### May 6

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

### May 20

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

Deadline for submissions for June TJ

### Every

#### Wednesday

HIV testing at MGLCC 6:00-9:00 p.m.

### Every

#### Second

#### Wednesday

TEP meeting at Quetzal at 6:30 pm.

## T

### May 7

PFLAG meets at Central Library at 7 p.m.

CYBA sponsors a monthly **Neighborhood Night Out**. Call 276-7222 for info.

### Every

#### Thursday

Women's Rugby Club practice 6:30 pm at Tobey Fields

Cotton Pickin' Squares square dancing group at Prescott Church at 7:00 p.m.

Karaoke at Dru's Place at 9 pm

## F

### May 1

MGLCC Bachelor and Bachelorette Auction 7 pm - 11 pm at 1625 Central Avenue

High Life presents a screening of *For the Bible Tells Me So* at MGLCC at 7 pm

### May 8

*Into the Woods* opens at 8 pm at Playhouse on the Square

### Every

#### Friday

Karaoke at Dru's Place at 9 pm

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

Seriously Sober at Holy Trinity UCC at 8:00 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 midnight.

## S

### May 2

*Suicide and the GLBT community* at MGLCC at 3:30 pm with Dr. Sharon Horne and Mike LaBonte

Queer as Youth at MGLCC 7 - 9 pm

### May 9

MGLCC Arts and Performance Series presents works by Monty Shane at 7 pm for ages 21 and up

Memphis Roller Derby *Get Down and Derby* at Midsouth Fairgrounds at 7pm

### May 16

MGLCC Family Group Event at 2 pm at MGLCC

Queer As Youth at MGLCC 7 - 9 pm

### May 30

MGLCC Arts and Performance Series presents works by Allen Jones at 7 pm for ages 21 and up

### National Women's Health Week

is May 10-16.

A selection of free services will be offered at Planned Parenthood of Greater Memphis. See [www.ppgmr.org](http://www.ppgmr.org) for details.

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## MGLCC'S QUEER AS YOUTH



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CALL 901-278-6422 FOR DETAILS

# 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

## 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
- ▼ **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 Prescott Church - 961 Getwell
- 4F:** Leather/Levi group, 698 Pope Dr., Bartlett 38112
- FedEx:** LGBT & Friends Network at FedEx: lgbt@fedex.com or Intranet Keyword: LGBT
- Initiative/Fairness** (political committee of MGLCC: IF@mgcc.org; www.mgllc.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 (MGLCC):** 892 S. Cooper St., (901) 278-6422 Web site: www.mgllc.org
- Memphis Stonewall Democrats:** P.O. Box 42242, Memphis, TN 38104 www.memphisstonewalldemocrats.org mphsstonewalldem@yahoo.com
- Mid-South Equality:** www.geocities.com/midsouth\_equality
- 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

**Nike TN GLBTF Network:** Daniel. forrest@nike.com office: 901.547.8217

**Olive Branch Gay & Lesbian Christians Fellowship:** meeting: first Tuesday 7 PM - discussion and fellowship location: Holy Cross - 8230 Highway 178 - Olive Branch MS 38654 - (662) 895-5029 on the web at http://www.meetup.com/The-Olive-Branch-Gay-Lesbian-Christians-Fellowship/ admin@holycrossolivebranch.org

**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@aeneas.com

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

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

**Shelby County Committee of Tennessee Equality Project:** shelbycounty@tequalityproject.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

▼ **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  
▼ **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

**American Cancer Society:** 1-800-227-2345 - 24 hour hotline

**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

**PhoenixAAGroup:** Every Tuesday evening at Grace St. Luke's Church at 8pm.

**Planned Parenthood Greater Memphis Region:** 1407 Union - Suite 300 - Memphis, TN 38104 - phone: (901)725-1717 web: www.ppgmr.org

**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

▼ **Movies and More:** 3129 Poplar, 323-3251

**Underground Art** 2287 Young Ave.

## SPIRITUALITY

**Balmoral Presbyterian** 6413 Quince Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 11:00 am 767-7510 or www.balmoralpc.com

▼ **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

**Holy Cross Episcopal Church:** Worship services: Sunday 10 AM - discussion at 9 AM Small groups - 8230 Highway 178 - Olive Branch MS 38654 - (662) 895-5029 on the web at www.HolyCrossOB.org admin@holycrossolivebranch.org

▼ **Holy Trinity United Church of Christ:** Worship Service: Sun. 11 am; Bible study: Wed. 7 pm - 685 S. Highland - (901) 320-9376 - office@holyltrinitymemphis.org

**Integrity Memphis:** Meets the 3rd Tues., 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

▼ **Prescott Church:** 961 Getwell, 327-8479, www.prescottchurchmemphis.org

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

## SPORTS AND FITNESS

**Bluff City Sports Association:** www.bluffcitysports.net

▼ **French Riviera Spa:** 3486 Poplar

## THEATER

▼ **Circuit Playhouse:** 1705 Poplar

▼ **Playhouse on the Square:** 51 South Cooper

▼ **TheatreWorks** 2085 Monroe

## Triangle Journal

Community Resource listings are free of charge to nonprofit organizations to promote their services, community clubs and organizations, spiritual and/or religious groups, churches and *Triangle Journal* distribution points.

To advertise your business or for-profit service in the Community Resource listing, the cost is just \$5 a month or \$50 a year.

# TOGETHER LET'S STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITY



**We can make a difference if we all JOIN IN!**

MGLCC depends on the generous support of our Members and supporters in order to *celebrate, advocate* and *educate* our Community. In this time of economic struggle, we need your help more than ever!

MGLCC Membership Benefits	Membership Levels							
	Basic (\$30/\$55)	Friend (\$100)	Advocate (\$240)	Activist (\$540)	Leader (\$1200)	Foundation (\$2400)	Patron (\$4800)	Lifetime (\$10000)
Membership Card with business discounts	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Advanced notice of events	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Weekly newsletter and calendar	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Vote in the election process	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Small MGLCC gift (e.g. sticker, magnet)	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Recognition on MGLCC website		*	*	*	*	*	*	*
MGLCC gift (e.g. t-shirt, mug, water bottle)		*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Triangle Journal</i> home delivery			*	*	*	*	*	*
Entrance to private receptions at select events			*	*	*	*	*	*
Discounted pass to Outflux and select events <sup>♥</sup>			*	*	*	*	*	*
2 passes to Outflux Festival <sup>♥</sup>				*				
2 VIP seats at select events				*	*			
Advanced preview/reception at art exhibits				*	*	*	*	*
Annual recognition in the <i>Triangle Journal</i>				*	*	*	*	*
Partner <sup>3</sup> membership at no additional cost				*	*	*	*	*
4 passes to Outflux Festival <sup>♥</sup>					*			
Prominent recognition in Annual Report					*	*	*	*
Reception with Executive Director & Board					*	*	*	*
Name plate in Benefactor Hall					*	*	*	*
6 free passes to Outflux Festival <sup>♥</sup>						*		
4 VIP seats at select events						*	*	*
Invitations to community special events						*	*	*
Sponsorship status at 1 MGLCC event <sup>♥</sup>						*	*	*
8 free passes to Outflux <sup>♥</sup>							*	*
5 VIP seats at select events							*	*
Lifetime Member status							*	*
Picture in Benefactor Hall							*	*
Customized benefits package							*	*

<sup>♥</sup> Restrictions apply. See [www.MGLCC.org](http://www.MGLCC.org) for details

## How Your Support Helps:

- Community Center SafeHouse - open 365 days a year
- *Triangle Journal* monthly newspaper
- Queer as Youth
- Counseling Referral Service
- [www.MGLCC.org](http://www.MGLCC.org) - online resources
- Meeting Space & Resource Library
- Outflux Film Festival
- Family Group
- Arts and Performance Series
- Initiative: Fairness - policy advocacy committee
- Lavender University - educational workshops
- HIV Testing
- Monthly Men's & Women's Potlucks

## Receive Member Discounts:

See [www.MGLCC.org](http://www.MGLCC.org) for Full Details