

Canadian Supreme Court Rules in Favor of Gay Marriage

TORONTO (AP) — The Canadian Supreme Court said Dec. 9 the government can redefine marriage to include same-sex couples, but added that religious officials cannot be forced to perform unions against their beliefs.

However, legislation to allow gay marriage must still pass in the 155-seat House of Commons.

Canada would join Belgium and the Netherlands in allowing gay marriage if

the government rules that it is legal nationwide.

The court's decision brings to the final stages a long, bitter fight over whether gays and lesbians should be allowed to marry in Canada.

Judges in six provinces and one territory have already overturned the traditional definition, allowing thousands of same-sex weddings.

Gay Couple Leaving Arkansas as Amendment Takes Effect

NORTH LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — At least one gay couple has decided to leave the state as an amendment to the Arkansas constitution went into effect that bans gay marriage.

"The law does not respect me the way I respect it," said Deborah New, who along with partner Kristy Seaton has decided to move from North Little Rock to Oregon. "So I'm taking my money and my disposable income and my education and my charitable volunteering and everything else I contribute to this economy with me."

The couple said they may eventually move to Canada, where gay marriage is legal. Their concern is that the amendment could have an affect on legal contracts they've set up to establish their relationship.

The new amendment defines marriage in Arkansas as between one man and one woman. It also states that unmarried persons won't be able to have legal status similar to marriage, which is the section that worries New and Seaton.

The amendment's supporters say that couples like New and Seaton are overreacting and the law won't affect their relationship. The goal, they say, was to prevent gay marriage and civil unions from being established.

"They need not worry about rights being taken away from them," said Jerry Cox, president of the Arkansas Family Council, which lobbied for the amendment's passage. "We've said all along that this amendment will not affect private contracts. What it does affect, what it does say, is that the state of Arkansas will not recognize unions that are substantially similar to marriage."

Cox said that gay couples don't need to move.

"It will not affect inheritance," he said. "It will not affect wills and how they're written or joint ownership of property, or hospital visitation rights or any legal arrangements."

The amendment was overwhelmingly approved by a vote of 747,770 to 255,180. Several groups campaigned against the amendment, but none have filed lawsuits challenging it so far. Eleven states passed laws banning gay marriage on Nov. 2, including Oregon.

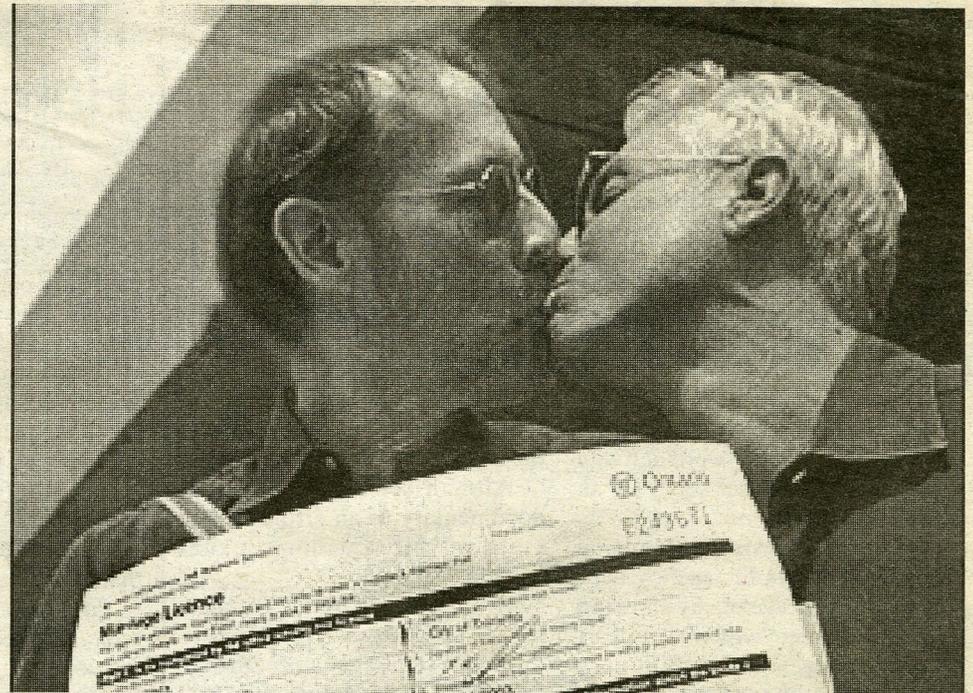
But Oregon's law isn't as constricting as Arkansas', New and Seaton said, because it doesn't ban civil unions.

"In their less-than-fundamentalist fervor, they didn't rule that out with their amendment," New said. "Arkansas' prevented rights we don't even have yet, which is mean-spirited, to put it politely."

Chauncey Brummer, a professor at the University of Arkansas School of Law, said because there haven't been any legal challenges it's not clear how courts will interpret the amendment. He also said it's unclear if legal contracts between couples who aren't married would be affected.

Stacy Fletcher of Little Rock, spokesman for Arkansas for Human Rights, said Seaton and New aren't the only gay Arkansans considering a move out of state.

"A lot of people are considering that," Fletcher said. "A huge number of people have thought about moving to Canada. ... When people hear that, they want to know why we're so upset. Its because this makes us second-class citizens."



A gay couple kiss after receiving their marriage license at Toronto City Hall. Canada's Supreme Court ruled that government plans to allow same-sex marriage were constitutional, in a landmark ruling in the long battle for equal rights for gays and lesbians.

Photo by David Lucas

Supreme Court Declines to Step Into Massachusetts Gay Marriage

By Gina Holland
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court on Nov. 29 sidestepped a dispute over gay marriages, rejecting a challenge to the nation's only law sanctioning such unions.

Justices had been asked by conservative groups to overturn the year-old decision by the Massachusetts Supreme Court legalizing gay marriage. They declined, without comment.

In the past year, at least 3,000 gay Massachusetts couples have wed, although voters may have a chance in 2006 to change the state constitution to permit civil union benefits for same-sex couples, but not the institution of marriage. A number of Rhode Island couples also wed in Massachusetts, and several are part of a lawsuit seeking to overturn a 1913 Massachusetts law that bars couples from marrying in the state if their unions would be invalid in their home states.

Critics of the November 2003 ruling by the highest court in Massachusetts argue that it violated the U.S. Constitution's guarantee of a republican form of government in each state. They lost at the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Boston.

Their attorney, Mathew Staver, said in a Supreme Court filing that the Constitution should "protect the citizens of Massachusetts from their own state supreme court's usurpation of power."

Federal courts, he said, should defend people's right "to live in a republican form of government free from tyranny, whether that comes at the barrel of a gun or by the decree of a court."

Merita Hopkins, a city attorney in Boston, had told justices in court papers that the people who filed the suit have not shown they suffered an injury and

could not bring a challenge to the Supreme Court. "Deeply felt interest in the outcome of a case does not constitute an actual injury," she said.

Massachusetts Attorney General Tom Reilly told justices that voters can overrule the Supreme Judicial Court by adopting a constitutional amendment.

The lawsuit was filed by the Florida-based Liberty Counsel, a conservative law group, on behalf of Robert Largess, the vice president of the Catholic Action League of Massachusetts, and 11 state lawmakers.

"I think this decision underscores the need for Supreme Court justices who will restrain the activist impulses of ideologues on the bench," said C.J. Doyle, executive director of the Catholic Action League. "This was one skirmish, one battle in a much larger issue."

The Liberty Counsel had persuaded the Supreme Court in October to consider another high profile issue, the constitutionality of Ten Commandments displays on government property. The court agreed to look at that church-state issue before Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist was diagnosed with thyroid cancer.

He is working from home while receiving chemotherapy and radiation and will miss court sessions for the next two weeks.

State legislators will decide whether to put the issue before Massachusetts voters in November 2006. Voters in 11 states approved constitutional amendments banning gay marriage in November elections. President Bush has promised to make a federal anti-gay marriage amendment a priority of his second term.

The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court narrowly ruled that gays and lesbians had a right under the state constitution to wed.

S.C. ETV Budget Targeted After Gay Documentary Airs

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — A Lowcountry legislator says he wants to cut South Carolina Educational Television's budget after it aired a documentary on gays in the South.

"I thought it was just social, leftist propaganda that they had no business airing," said state Rep. John Graham Altman, R-Charleston. "They were actively promoting homosexuality as an OK thing to do."

SCETV President Maurice Bresnahan says his agency isn't promoting an agenda by showing *We Are Your Neighbors* as part of its twice-monthly Southern Lens series of stories about life in the South.

"An analogy would be a librarian buying books for the bookshelf. *We Are Your Neighbors* was just one 26-minute show out of 8,700 hours of programming. We are just presenting a point of view. This is just one book on a shelf of thousands of books," Bresnahan said.

Sunhead Projects, which produced the documentary, said they intended to promote acceptance through understanding.

The Southern Lens series has featured documentaries on Moon Pies and Holocaust survivors in South Carolina.

Another documentary, *Sen-*

tencing the Victim, focused on the hardships victims endure during criminal trials. The movie, which featured a Charleston woman, is credited with spurring legislators to address shortcomings in the legal process to ease victims' burden.

All of the documentaries are independently financed and cost the state nothing.

Altman sees the *Neighbors* documentary as an effort to promote a "militant homosexual agenda."

Altman says if SCETV can afford to produce such programs to influence the Legislature, then it can afford to have its budget cut. The agency runs on a budget of \$12.7 million, down from \$20.3 million four years ago.

"As soon as the session starts," he said, "I'm going after them."

Bresnahan says his agency isn't promoting an agenda.

"Our purpose is to provide an outlet for independent filmmakers and to give an outlook rarely seen on television," he said.

During his re-election bid this year, Altman sent out fund-raising letters pointing out his Democratic opponent, Charlie Smith, was openly gay. Altman also is pushing legislation to strengthen the state's ban on same-sex marriages.

Shepard's Killers Deny Attack Was Hate Crime in First Interviews

By Robert W. Black
Associated Press Writer

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) — In their first public interviews since attacking gay college student Matthew Shepard, his killers said they were motivated not by homophobia, but the prospect of robbery to fuel a methamphetamine binge.

"He was pretty well-dressed, had a wallet full of money," Aaron McKinney said of meeting Shepard at a Laramie bar more than six years ago. "All I wanted to do was beat him up and rob him... Seemed like a good idea at the time."

The interviews aired Nov. 26 on ABC's *20/20*.

The robbery got out of hand, said McKinney and his buddy, Russell Henderson, and Shepard was beaten into a coma while tied to a fence outside the small college town.

Shepard, 21, never regained consciousness. He died at Poudre Valley Hospital in Fort Collins, Colo., on Oct. 4, 1998 — five days after the attack.

The crime drew condemnation from President Clinton, Congress and the international community, and spurred debate on the effectiveness of hate crime laws.

McKinney and Henderson, both 27, are serving life sentences for murder.

McKinney said he killed Shepard because he was strung out on drugs, not because Shepard was gay. Henderson agreed, saying "it's not because me and Aaron had anything against gays or any of that."

Henderson said that McKinney, who had been bingeing on meth for days, set out that night to rob a dealer of \$10,000 worth of the drug. Henderson thought if he could keep McKinney drinking, his friend would forget the plan.

McKinney said Shepard was sitting at the bar when he and Henderson arrived, and at one point McKinney asked Shepard for a cigarette.

"He said he was too drunk to go home and then he asked me if I'd give him a ride," McKinney said.

In the truck, McKinney claimed, the two learned Shepard wanted sex in return for giving them drugs, but McKinney decided to rob Shepard instead.

According to McKinney, Shepard grabbed his leg and he struck Shepard with his gun and demanded money. Although Shepard handed over his wallet, the beating continued.

"Sometimes when you have that rage going through you, there's no stopping it," McKinney said. "I've attacked my best friends coming off of meth binges."

They decided to dump Shepard in a secluded spot, and when they came upon a rustic fence blocking the road, McKinney decided to tie him to it.

"Then when I'm leaving, he says he's going to tell on me," McKinney said. "I went back and hit him one more time. I hit him real hard that time."

One of McKinney's attorneys, Dion Custis, said that drugs and robbery, not sexuality, have long been considered the main motives for the crime.

"If anyone saw the trial and the evidence that was presented at trial, that was exactly what we presented at the time," he said.

Prosecutor Cal Rerucha also said the case was too complex to simply be labeled a hate crime. He said many people overlooked the drug and robbery aspects of the case at the time of the attack.

"People want an easy answer to this case and I don't think we would be here five years later if there was an easy answer," Rerucha said.

Judy and Dennis Shepard Respond to 20/20 Report on the Murder of Matthew Shepard

On Nov. 26, *20/20* (aired) a piece that promised "new information and facts" about Matt's beating and subsequent death. Dennis and I reviewed an advance copy of the show and were dismayed and saddened by the tabloid nature of the show, its lack of serious reporting of facts in evidence, and the amateurish nature of asking leading questions to the people who were interviewed.

I, too, was asked by *20/20* for an interview and agreed to do so to ensure that all of the facts were correctly stated. My only stipulation was that our legal advisor Sean Maloney, Matthew Shepard Foundation Board member and former senior White House staffer, had to be included in the interview to share his legal knowledge and expertise regarding Matthew's murder. He was quite eloquent in stating the facts pertaining to Matt's case, his knowledge of hate crimes in general, and in debunking *20/20*'s attempt to rewrite history. As you may or may not know, Sean was deleted from the interview entirely. The editing by *20/20* of my interview seems to leave out all of my relevant

comments regarding the potential bias of the show and my deliberate restating of the facts of the case clearly ended up on the cutting room floor. My remarks were reduced to a few very personal maternal comments taken out of context to make it appear as if I agreed with *20/20*'s theories. That couldn't be farther from the truth.

This same subjective editing occurred with Dave O'Malley's interview. Dave, a Captain with the City of Laramie police force at the time, was Laramie's lead investigator in the case and worked in tandem with Rob DeBree, the lead investigator for the Albany County Sheriff's Department, to bring the case to trial and to provide the evidence necessary to convict both Russell Henderson and Aaron McKinney. (Both law enforcement officers are in complete agreement with the facts as stated during the trials.)

Dave gave Ms. Vargas a detailed account of the case. He described the elements of hate and gay bias that were found during the extensive investigation and were substantiated in the large body of evidence collected for

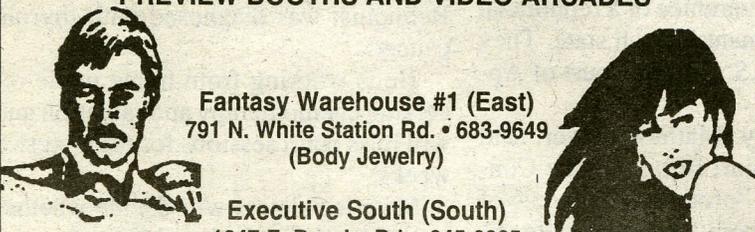
this case. Dave's comments were severely edited. Perhaps they were left out because he did not give Ms. Vargas the answer(s) she needed to maintain her "new" theory concerning the murder. One of the most glaring omissions in the piece was the transcript of Aaron McKinney's in-custody interview which took place a few days after the murder. This occurred before any "line of defense" had been established by legal counsel for the two defendants. Had that document been included, it would have shown an un-rehearsed and unemotional anti-gay account of the events before, during, and after leaving Matt tied to the fence.

Despite their promotional efforts to the contrary, *20/20* has not presented a "new" theory. Much of this information was included in a *Harpers Magazine* cover story in 1999. What is new is the unfortunate downslide of a reputable news magazine show when its highly respected host retires. *20/20* has sacrificed years of professional journalistic ethics and values for a stab at revisionist history ... and ratings.

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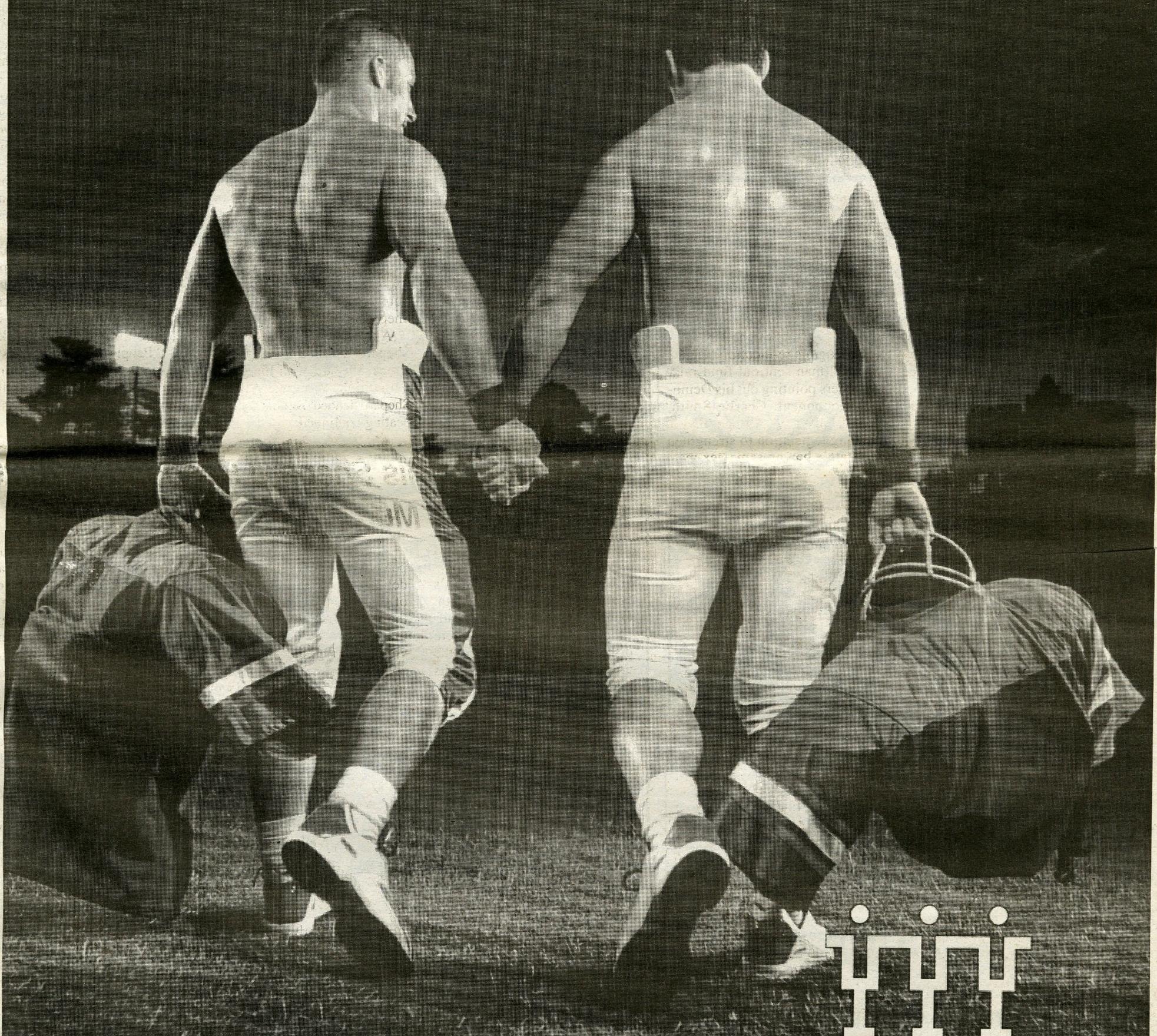
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INFORMATION

Gays Challenge Military's 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' Policy

By Nancy Zuckerbrod
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Twelve gays expelled from the military because of their sexual orientation filed a legal challenge Dec. 6 to the Pentagon's 11-year-old "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

The lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court in Boston, cited last year's landmark Supreme Court ruling that overturned state laws making gay sex a crime.

Other courts have upheld the policy, approved by Congress and put in place by the Clinton administration. However, those decisions came before the 2003 Supreme Court ruling, said C. Dixon Osburn, executive director of Servicemembers Legal Defense

Network, which is advising the plaintiffs.

"We think the gay ban can no longer survive constitutionally," he said. "You do not ban an entire class of people just to accommodate prejudice."

Former Lt. j.g. Jen Kopfstein of San Diego was dismissed from the Navy after she told her commanding officer she was a lesbian. Kopfstein, a plaintiff in the case, said Monday hiding her identity felt dishonest.

"Today, I'm here to stand up for what is right," she said. "Don't ask don't tell is a horrible policy."

Justin Peacock, a former Coast Guard boatswain's mate from Knoxville, Tenn., and another plaintiff, was discharged after someone reported he was seen

holding hands with another man.

"I would love to rejoin, but even if I don't get back in at least I could say I tried to get the policy changed," Peacock said.

Lt. Col. Joe Richard, a Pentagon spokesman, said officials have not seen the lawsuit and therefore could not comment on it.

"Don't ask, don't tell" allows gays and lesbians to serve in the military as long as they don't reveal their sexual orientation and abstain from homosexual activity. Before that the Pentagon barred homosexuals from military service.

The Supreme Court ruled last year that state laws making homosexual sex a crime were unconstitutional. That overturned an earlier Supreme Court ruling that had upheld sodomy laws.

Two other lawsuits challenging the policy have been filed since the high court's reversal.

One was brought in California by the Log Cabin Republicans, a political organization for gays. Osburn said that group could face a difficult fight because it was not bringing its suit on behalf of a specific injured party. He also noted a federal appeals court in California has upheld "don't ask, don't tell," but the appellate court for Boston has not ruled on the issue.

The other suit was filed in the U.S. Court of Federal Claims, which generally deals with cases that involve money. That plaintiff, who was separated from the Army, is seeking to recover his pension and is challenging the ban in the



Jenny Kopfstein, left, speaks about her time in the U.S. Navy as Sharra Greer, an attorney with Servicemembers Legal Defense Network listens during a news conference in Washington. Kopfstein is one of 12 gays expelled from the military because of their sexual orientation who filed a legal challenge in Boston Dec. 6 to the Pentagon's 11-year-old "don't ask, don't tell" policy. (AP Photo/Kevin Wolf)

process. Osburn said the court might rule narrowly on the constitutionality of the gay members policy. financial claim and not on the constitu-

Indiana Court Extends Parental Rights to Lesbian

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Lesbian partners in Indiana who agree to conceive a child through artificial insemination are both the legal parents of any children born to them, the Indiana Court of Appeals has ruled.

In its unanimous ruling, the court chided state lawmakers for being slow to deal with advances in reproductive technology and urged the General Assembly to address the "current social reality" of unconventional families.

"No (legitimate) reason exists to provide the children born to lesbian parents through the use of reproductive technology with less security and protection than that given to children born to heterosexual parents through artificial insemination," Judge Ezra H. Friedlander wrote in the ruling issued Nov. 29.

"Our paramount concern should be with the effect of our laws on the reality of children's lives."

The court's decision overturns a ruling by a Monroe Circuit Court judge who found that a

Bloomington woman, Dawn King, had no legal standing with the girl born to her former partner, Stephanie Benham, because King was not a biological parent.

Fran Quigley, executive director of the Indiana Civil Liberties Union, called the ruling "an important first step" in providing legal protection to parents and children of nontraditional families.

Courtney Joslin, an attorney with the National Center for Lesbian Rights in San Francisco, said appellate courts in about a dozen states have issued similar rulings.

The decision is likely to have an impact on future custody and child support cases, and issues such as access to health insurance and inheritance through the non-biological parent, said Joslin and Quigley.

Previously in Indiana, the only way for same-sex partners to each attain legal parent status was through a "second-parent adoption" — a costly undertaking that grants parental rights to a non-biological parent.

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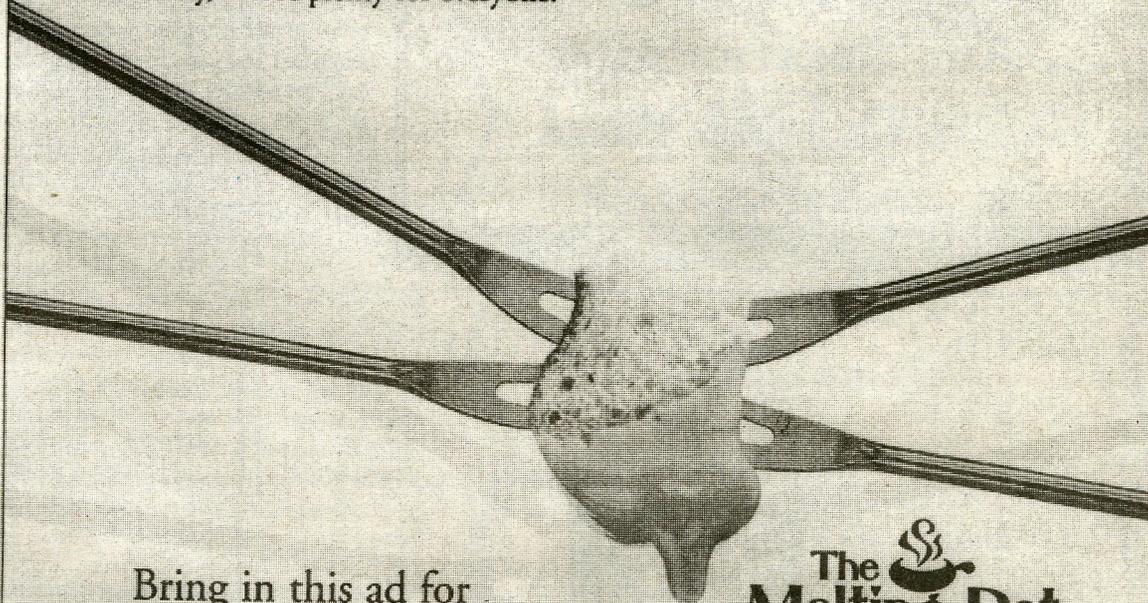
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ACLU Argues for Lesbian's Parental Rights

The American Civil Liberties Union has filed a friend-of-the-court brief in a dramatic case of parental rights now pending before the West Virginia Supreme Court.

The case pits a lesbian mother, Tina Burch, against the parents of her dead partner, Christina Smarr. Smarr was killed in an auto accident in June of 2002, roughly two-and-a-half years after giving birth to the couple's son.

Piling tragedy on tragedy, it was Burch who was driving at the time of the one-car collision that killed her partner of three-and-a-half years.

Smarr's parents initially pursued a wrongful death claim, which may still be active.

After the crash, Smarr's parents reportedly sent their two sons to collect their grandchild, Zachary.

Tina Burch, who had planned

the pregnancy and raised Zachary from birth, was obliged to go to family court to win back her son.

The Smarrs, Janet and Paul, appealed, and this time Tina Burch lost her case, as the Circuit Court of Clay County ruled that Tina lacked parental standing.

Burch appealed that ruling to the state Supreme Court, and the court accepted review of the case on a 3-2 vote and returned Zachary to Burch's custody until the appeal is resolved.

According to the ACLU brief, West Virginia courts have a long history of recognizing psychological parents, as has the U.S. Supreme Court. Parental bonds, in turn, whether established through blood or through "the intimacy of daily association" (as the high court put it in 1977), are sacrosanct as a matter of law.

In the relatively recent case of *Troxel v. Granville*, a fractured Supreme Court ruled that grandparents do not have the right to dictate visitation terms over the objection of a parent.

In that case, much like the one here in West Virginia, a mother was battling the parents of her dead spouse.

"The Circuit Court ignored one of the most basic tenets of family law — safeguarding children's relationships with their parents" said the ACLU's Leslie Cooper.

"Zachary has already lost one parent. There is no reason a court should subject him to another grievous loss simply because of the sexual orientation of his parents."

Oral arguments in the case are expected to be scheduled for early spring.

Botched Castration Gets Man Probation

PITTSBURGH (AP) — A man who botched the castration of a transgendered woman will spend the next three years on probation.

"I have no intention of doing this again to animals or humans," Douglas Lenhart, 49, told Allegheny County Judge John Zottola on Nov. 29. "I'm completely out of this. Completely done."

Zottola sentenced Lenhart to jail time he had already served and will let him serve his probation in Kansas City, Kan., where he now lives.

In July, Lenhart acknowledged trying to castrate Catherine Watson, 46, of McKeesport. Watson was born with nonfunctioning male genitals and has lived as a woman since age 9, Lenhart's defense attorney James Wymard said.

Lenhart pleaded guilty to aggravated assault and practicing medicine without a license.

Lenhart had said Watson was "desperate" to find someone to perform the surgery and he thought he could do it because of his experience castrating animals on a farm.

Head of Human Rights Campaign Resigns

By Theo Emery
Associated Press Writer

BOSTON (AP) — The president of the nation's largest gay and lesbian civil rights organization has announced her resignation, citing "a difference in management philosophy" with her board.

Cheryl Jacques, a former Democratic state senator from Massachusetts, departed less than a year after becoming head of the Human Rights Campaign. In a joint statement released with the Washington-based organization on Nov. 30, she said she had achieved her goals.

"My priorities were to defeat the Federal Marriage Amendment, expand the organization's membership and fund-raising capacity, increase our diversity and maintain a strong voice in the media," said Jacques.

The Human Rights Campaign selected Jacques last November after a 10-month search, and she left her seat representing cities and

towns west of Boston on Jan. 4.

She led the organization during a momentous year in the gay rights movement, when same-sex marriage became legal in her home state, sparking a backlash in many parts of the country, including 11 states that passed anti-gay marriage referendums.

Organization officials praised her leadership, citing the defeat earlier this year of the Federal Marriage Amendment, and growth in the organization's fund-raising and membership.

"Cheryl has achieved a great deal as HRC president," said board co-chair Gwen Baba. "We will miss her leadership and professionalism, but we understand her desire to move on to other challenges. Cheryl was a member of the HRC family before she arrived in Washington, and she'll remain part of us."

Board co-chair Michael Berman and HRC strategist Hilary Rosen will serve as interim leaders.

Study Links Diet Pills, Having Gay Children

A new study suggests that women who take amphetamine-based diet pills when pregnant are more likely to have lesbian and gay children. Expectant mothers who have taken thyroid medication are also included, with similar findings.

Conducted by the Minot State University, North Dakota, the study followed more than 5,000 mothers and their offspring. The research will be published in the journal *Personality and Individual Differences*.

Researchers found that mothers of lesbian women were five times more likely to have taken thyroid medications in the early stages of their pregnancies than those of heterosexual women. Additionally, they were nearly eight times more likely to have taken amphetamine-based diet pills.

Conversely, mothers of straight men were 70 percent more likely to have taken anti-nausea drugs than those of gay men.

Professor Lee Ellis, one of the researchers for the study, said that the data backs claims that sexuality is determined in the womb through a variety of genetic and biochemical chain reactions, the *Telegraph* reports.

"These analyses support the

conclusion that female offspring are more vulnerable to alterations in sexual orientation via exposure to a variety of prescription drugs, and suggest that this vulnerability is greatest during the first trimester," Ellis told the newspaper.

Others pointed to the movement of nutrients and chemicals from the mother to the baby in the womb.

"All drugs can cross the placental barrier and, looking back, we weren't so aware of what was going on inside the womb," Professor Jim Dornan, the vice-president of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, told the *Telegraph*.

It is not the first study to look to claim sexual orientation is decided in the womb, with recent investigations pointing to blink patterns, genetics and brain patterns as deciding factors. However, some gay activists are keen for the nature-or-nurture debate to be dropped in favor of a more sophisticated debate on equality.

"It does not really matter whether it is nature or nurture. The important thing is getting equality for lesbian and gay people," Stonewall's Alan Wardle said.

Professor Ellis is now calling for a larger study to take place in the near future.

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California Proponents Decry Claims That Gay Marriage Harms

By Lisa Leff
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Proponents of gay marriage told a judge that arguments over whether marriage is designed to foster procreation and whether gays make good parents are irrelevant to their case.

Twelve couples are suing to get California to overturn its statutory ban on gay marriage, a response to legal claims of two Christian groups.

In briefs filed Dec. 3, the couples' lawyers pointed out to Superior Court Judge Richard Kramer that California's Legislature and Supreme Court have already settled the procreation-parenting question by allowing gays to have children through adoption or reproductive technology.

"California's public policy unambiguously rejects the notion that families headed by same-sex couples provide a harmful or inferior environment for children, and unambiguously has embraced the

premise that same-sex parents and their children should be treated equally," they wrote.

Kramer has set a Dec. 22 hearing on the constitutional issues raised in the couples' lawsuit and a companion case brought by the city of San Francisco. Both suits claim a 1977 state law that defines marriage as a union between a man and a woman is unconstitutional because California's equal protection clause bars discrimination.

Attorney General Bill Lockyer has told the court that limiting mar-

riage to opposite-sex couples does not run afoul of the California Constitution because that "common and traditional understanding" of matrimony "predates the founding of this state or nation." Lockyer said it was up to voters or the Legislature to decide whether to change that.

The Christian groups, the Arizona-based Alliance Defense Fund and the Campaign for California Families, adopted Lockyer's reasoning and took it a step further, arguing that the state should maintain the status quo because "children do best with both a mother and a father."

The couples, who are represented by lawyers from the National Center for Lesbian Rights, the American Civil Liberties Union and Lambda Legal, said the groups' claim amounts to gender discrimination.

In court papers submitted Dec

3, the San Francisco City Attorney's office also rejected the "procreation and childrearing rationale" for not allowing gay couples to wed.

"Marriage in this state has never been limited in any other way that suggests that its major or primary purpose is in fact procreation," the city's lawyers said. "On the contrary, a 90-year-old heterosexual may legally marry, a heterosexual stricken with a fatal illness and on his or her deathbed may legally marry, a heterosexual person who is imprisoned for life without parole may legally marry."

They also urged Kramer to prohibit the opponents from presenting any evidence on the viability of families headed by gay parents without giving them a chance to offer counter-evidence.

Both sides have vowed to appeal the cases to the California Supreme Court.

Months After the Start of Gay Marriage, the Divorces Begin in Massachusetts

By Jennifer Peter Associated
Press Writer

BOSTON (AP) — Seven months after champagne toasts rang in a new era of gay marriage in Massachusetts, same-sex couples are beginning to share in the less joyous side of matrimony: irreconcilable differences, settlement agreements and divorce.

Over the past few months, newlywed same-sex couples have been trickling into probate courts across the state, seeking to renounce the vows they so recently took, filling out forms that remain outdated with the traditional "husband" and "wife" references.

While opponents of gay marriage are already promising to put a political spin on these swift separations, the divorces are like the thousands of others that take place each year, involving dry legal proceedings, the division of property and custody of the family pets.

"A divorce is a divorce is a divorce," said Pamela Casey O'Brien, register of the Essex County Probate and Family Court.

In Suffolk County, which includes Boston, the first gay divorce case was filed by a male couple who exchanged vows in Marblehead on May 22, in the heady early days of gay marriage when hundreds of couples exercised the hard-won right.

One partner was a 33-year-old religious educator from Boston, the other a 39-year-old professor based in Washington, D.C.

Since then, the couple said in their divorce filing, "our interests have grown in different directions." Each man signed a settlement attesting that the marriage had "irretrievably broken down."

The most difficult part of the settlement appeared to be custody of their three cats, who will live exclusively with the D.C. professor.

But "in recognition of the emotional hardship of such relinquishment," the settlement reads, he agrees to provide his ex-husband

"with periodic updates, photographs, and any health-related information pertaining" to the cats.

Middlesex County, the state's largest, received its first gay divorce case on Dec. 2, involving a 38-year-old Somerville woman who works for a cleaning business, and a 27-year-old student. The Somerville woman sought the divorce, citing "cruel and abusive treatment" during the three months of marriage.

According to the state Registry of Vital Records, at least 4,266 gay marriage certificates have been issued, although there is a lag time in the records, which means hundreds more could have wed this year.

Massachusetts began hosting the nation's first state-sanctioned, legally binding gay marriages on May 17, six months after the state's highest court ruled it was unconstitutional to ban gay couples from the institution of marriage.

The prospect of gay divorce raises some trickier questions, however, when it comes to couples that may have moved to states that do not recognize their marriages — and therefore would not have a standing to grant them divorces.

Opponents of gay marriage said

that these divorces, occurring so soon after the weddings, confirm that gay couples and marriage just do not jibe.

With the national divorce rate hovering near 50 percent, gay rights advocates dismissed any attempts to cast judgment on same-sex couples who decide that a marriage won't work.

Josh Friedes, a spokesman for the Massachusetts Freedom to Marry Coalition, said the rapid divorces were no cause for concern.

"It would be wonderful if every marriage lasted until a couple lived to a ripe old age, but unfortunately we know from our heterosexual peers, that all too often there are irreconcilable differences, and for these couples, divorce is often the most humane option," Friedes said. "Anyone who argues that gay and lesbian couples divorcing is grounds for opposing gay marriage is being incredibly hypocritical."

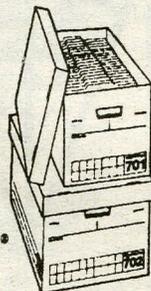
Others saw the divorces filed by gay couples as just another sad sign that people sometimes make the wrong decisions.

"They're just divorces like any other," said Francis B. Marinaro, register of the Berkshire County Family and Probate Court. "They'll be treated like any other couple."

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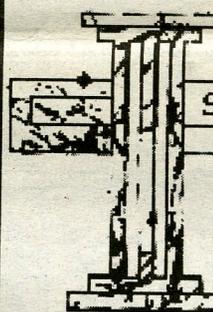
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Stonewall Democrats of Memphis Continues Reorganization

At a Dec. 5 reorganization meeting, officers were elected for 2005. Marty Katz was elected president of the local chapter, with Sonia Garner serving as vice-president; Tommy Simmons, treasurer and Wayne Hastings, secretary. Also serving on the board of directors are Jim Maynard and Herb Zeman.

In accepting the presidency,

Katz said, "I am very excited about the upcoming year for the Stonewall Democrats. I have three goals for this year.

"First, we must complete the incorporation process. This will allow us to grow from year to year and election cycle to election cycle in a stable manner.

"Second, we need to begin developing relations with other organizations in the community. We need to identify groups and individuals with whom we share common goals and join together to fight for them.

"Third, we must begin developing a membership base that can carry forward our mission in the

years to come. If we can achieve these things in the next year, I will consider the year to be very successful."

The next meeting of Stonewall Democrats will be Sun., Jan. 9 at the Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center at 1:30 p.m.

At that meeting SWD-Memphis plans to finalize acceptance of its by-laws, establish a membership fee, and continue the process of organizing for the next year.

More information on SWD-Memphis can be found at its newly redesigned website: <http://www.memphisstonewalldemocrats.org/>

Contact SWD at mphsstonewalldem@yahoo.com.

MGLCC Corner

By Vincent Astor

Social — Second Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m.

Weekly Events at MGLCC

• Drumming Circle — Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m. A drumming circle, or a drum circle for short, is a group of people creating and sharing a rhythmical/musical/healing/spiritual experience. It's a lot of fun. You don't have to be experienced. If you have a drum, bring it along. If you don't have a drum, we have some you can use.

• Volunteer Training — Sun., Jan. 30 from 6:15-7p.m.

• Heidiville — Thursdays at 6 p.m. Founded by Board Vice-President Heidi Williams, Heidiville is a weekly gathering at the Center. Programs include videos, conversation and socializing and plenty of home-cooked food.

• Q-Cafe Coffee House — Fridays at 7 p.m. A coffee house-style evening of live entertainment featuring local talent.

• Sunday Matinee at the Gaiety — Sundays at 3 p.m. A video or DVD from the Center's collection or loaned by an individual is shown.

• Open AA meeting — Sundays, 8 p.m.

The Center is thinking about starting up a Chorus. If you're interested, especially if you're interested in directing, please contact Sonia at 901 489-2182.

And you thought there was nothing to do in Memphis besides the bars? You can also receive a weekly schedule from MGLCC. Call or visit www.mglcc.org for more details.



After a reorganization hiatus, MGLCC Corner is back. As we begin the new year, I thought it might be good to just elaborate on the regular schedule. The Center is seldom dark, except on fund-raising occasions and some holidays. The groups using the center put the "D" in diversity.

Monthly Events at MGLCC

• Memphis Log Cabin Republicans Business Meeting — Third Sundays, 2 p.m.

(<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MemphisLCR/>) Their monthly social was also held at the Center last month.

• Memphis Stonewall Democrats Business Meeting — Second Sundays, 1:30pm www.memphisstonewalldemocrats.org/ or mphsstonewalldem@yahoo.com

• Volunteer Appreciation Potluck — First Saturday of each month. The Center provides a meal to thank its many volunteers for keeping the Center and Switchboard operating smoothly, sometimes seven days a week.

• Birth Celebration Potluck — Third Saturday of each month. Everyone is invited and the Center provides the cake and ice cream. Potluck dinners are a long tradition at the Center.

• Let's All Meet and Chill — First Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m. Dedicated to addressing multi-racial/cultural issues The next meeting will be Wed., Jan. 12, at 7 p.m. MGLCC will be putting together an AIDS panel. This will be a three-part series.

• Women's Monthly Potluck

WHAT ABOUT IT?



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Traditionalists Win The Latest Round, But United Methodist Church Gay Dispute Is Far From Over

By Richard N. Ostling
AP Religion Writer

PUGHTOWN, Pa. (AP)— The defrocking in December of a United Methodist Church pastor who broke church law by living openly with her lesbian partner was a victory for the denomination's conservative wing. But more broadly, did it signify a decisive turn for the denomination?

Conservatives hope so. The church-trial verdict shows "we will not surrender to the popular culture on matters of sexual ethics." That's the contention of Mark Tooley, the Methodist specialist at the conservative Institute on Religion and Democracy.

Liberals, however, saw the result against the Rev. Irene Elizabeth Stroud of Philadelphia as a case of the UMC "shamefully" caving in to "cultural prejudice" against gays and lesbians.

Those are the words of the Reconciling Ministries Network, an alliance of 192 congregations and other Methodist groups that favors "full participation of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities." The network branded Stroud's ouster as sin and blasphemy.

American society's ongoing cultural war over gay relationships undoubtedly affects churches, but the Stroud case was shaped more by internal Methodist dynamics.

With 8.3 million members, 35,000 congregations and \$5 billion in annual proceeds, the UMC is the monolith of mainline Protestantism. On most matters, both theological and temporal, it follows mainliners' left-of-center views — but on the gay clergy issue, forces that back traditional Christian teaching against gay sex have been winning.

Among other mainline groups, the United Church of Christ and Episcopal Church are more welcoming of openly gay, partnered clergy, though a minority of Episcopalians fiercely disagree with that stance, with backing from fellow Anglicans overseas. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is sharply divided over its gay ban, which covers both clergy and lay officeholders, and awaits a crucial report late next year and a 2006 showdown.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America could also erupt, depending on recommendations that a panel is polishing for release Jan. 13 and action at a convention next August.

The UMC's struggle originated at the 1972 legislative General

Conference, where an official committee to re-examine overall social policy proposed language of acceptance toward gays and lesbians. But delegates inserted a phrase specifying that same-sex practices are "incompatible with Christian teaching."

The 1984 Methodist conference followed up with the law Stroud violated, forbidding "self-avowed practicing homosexuals" in the ministry.

National UMC rules are applied by regional clergy juries. The one in eastern Pennsylvania readily agreed that Stroud broke the law, but the vote of 7-6 on the penalty of defrocking was the minimum necessary. It's anguishing for clerics to oust fellow ministers, and with Stroud — who will retain many of her duties with her supportive congregation — even the prosecution praised her pastoral devotion.

Though narrow, the verdict was significant because only last March a Methodist court in Washington state acquitted another minister living with a lesbian partner, finding a loophole that was closed at last May's General Conference.

Stroud could offer little more than a character defense and plead for mercy, because the bishop who presided — and who personally opposes the Methodist policy — disallowed the plan of Stroud's side to challenge denominational law as discriminatory. Those preparing to testify were theologians from Emory and Southern Methodist Universities; New England's retired bishop; the pastor of Foundry United Methodist Church in Washington, D.C.; a psychiatrist, and a Pennsylvania lay leader.

However, their arguments were entered into the trial record and will re-emerge if Stroud appeals to

the Northeastern Jurisdiction and, beyond that, the national Judicial Council.

Stroud is undecided on that and will announce her plans after Christmas. An appeal might seem automatic but she wonders, "If I were to win on an appeal, is it healthy for the church for a decision to be made judicially that as many as two-thirds of Methodists may disagree with?"

Whatever Stroud does, the Rev. Troy Plummer of Reconciling Ministries is calling on jurors in future cases "to keep their conscience," practice "jury nullification" and acquit openly gay clergy — no matter what church law says.

And there surely will be other cases if Reconciling Ministries is correct that Methodism has "hundreds, if not thousands" of other homosexual pastors, seminarians, district superintendents and bishops.

Liberals face an uphill battle in seeking repeal of the clergy ban at the next General Conference in 2008.

But Plummer thinks they have a good shot at softening the policy through language that was narrowly defeated last May, and basically sets up an agreement to disagree: "We recognize that Christians disagree on the compatibility of homosexual practice with Christian teaching." Another necessity is electing a liberal majority to the influential Judicial Council.

Tooley, of the Institute on Religion and Democracy, predicts that 2008 is the liberals' last chance because conservative congregations are growing while liberal ones decline. Also, unlike other mainline denominations, the UMC has sizable delegations from conservative overseas churches and after 2008 there will be a big



Rev. Irene Elizabeth Stroud, left, hugs her partner Chris Paige in Pughtown, Pa. Stroud, a lesbian minister in the United Methodist Church who lives with her partner was found guilty Dec. 2 of violating a church ban on actively gay clergy and defrocked. A 13-member jury made up of Methodist clergy convicted Stroud on the second day of her church trial.

(AP Photo/Bradley C Bower)

influx of Ivory Coast Methodists joining the UMC. probably stronger than we have been for 30 years," Tooley summarizes.

The Stroud case "was symbolically very important," and "we're it's not over."



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A Powerful Place to Belong...

Despite Government's Best Efforts, U.S. HIV Rate Unchanged

By Daniel Yee
Associated Press Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — Nearly a million Americans now have the AIDS virus and the nation's ability to keep others from becoming infected still lags despite a government pledge four years ago to "break the back" of the AIDS epidemic by 2005.

The campaign, launched by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in February 2001, had intended to cut the number of new HIV infections in half from an estimated 40,000 yearly to 20,000.

More than three years later, the rate of new HIV infections remains about the same, according to CDC data released Dec. 1 as part of the federal health agency's commemoration of World AIDS Day.

"We have a ways to go before we reach the mark of reducing new infections by half in the United States," said Dr. Ronald Valdiserri, the director of the CDC HIV and AIDS prevention program, who characterized the country's HIV infection rate as "relatively stable."

"Clearly we want to continue, and are continuing, to fund pro-

grams to reach out to people who are high risk and are not infected," he added.

About 40,000 people each year become infected with the virus that causes AIDS, an estimate that's remained unchanged through the 1990s. The CDC also said up to 950,000 people in the United States are believed to be infected with HIV and a quarter of them — or up to 280,000 people — don't know it, Valdiserri said.

The number of people in the United States diagnosed with HIV or AIDS increased slightly — by 1 percent — between 2000 and 2003, from 19.5 people per 100,000 population to 19.7 per 100,000 in the 32 states surveyed by the CDC. Nearly 126,000 people in those states had been diagnosed with either HIV or full-blown AIDS between 2000 and 2003, the CDC said.

Advocacy groups said a lack of federal funding has prevented the agency from lowering the HIV rate. Group members also said health officials are hindered by conservative political pressure and can't interdict the virus in controversial parts of society, including among

drug users, sexually active youth, and gay and bisexual populations.

"The reality is, to cut the number of infections, we need to do more — you can't always do more with less. We desperately need more resources," said Terje Anderson, executive director of the Washington-based National Association of People Living With AIDS.

The CDC's 2001 campaign focused on outwardly healthy people who did not realize they had HIV. Officials then said targeting those people was key, because if they knew they were infected, they would be more careful to protect others and would take drugs that would probably make them less likely to be able to transmit the virus.

The government's failure to meet its goal of halving the number of new HIV infections by 2005 could lead to 130,000 more people acquiring the virus by 2010, at a health care cost of \$18 billion, HIV researchers previously said.

U.S. HIV infections rapidly increased in the 1980s, peaking late in that decade, but have remained level since the mid-1990s. Drug therapies have enabled many infected with HIV to live regular lives, but more than 18,000 Americans died of AIDS in 2003, according to the latest CDC data available.

Networks Ban Church's Gay-affirmative Ad

A television commercial promoting a church's acceptance of all people, including gays and lesbians, was deemed too risky by CBS and NBC, who refused to air it Dec. 1.

The 30-second United Church of Christ spot is aimed at attracting gays and others who feel alienated by other denominations, said the church.

The ad features two "bouncers" standing guard outside a church and selecting which individuals are permitted to attend Sunday services. A gay male couple is among those rejected before written text interrupts the scene, announcing, "Jesus didn't turn people away. Neither do we."

CBS' prepared statement about its decision — saying that the church's implied acceptance of gay and lesbian couples is too controversial because gay marriage is a hot political issue — has mystified and angered LGBT leaders and church officials.

"Because this commercial touches on the exclusion of gay couples and other minority groups by other individuals and organizations," CBS said, "and the fact the executive branch has recently proposed a constitutional amendment to define a marriage as a union between a man and a woman, this spot is unacceptable for broadcast on the (CBS and UPN) networks."

Responding to the controversy over banning the ad, a CBS spokesman said the network "has a longstanding policy of not airing advocacy ads where the issue is a matter of public debate," but declined to specify on the record how the UCC ad — which does not mention same-sex marriage — is subject to debate.

CBS's mention of President Bush's proposed Federal Marriage Amendment (FMA) is what most troubles Ron Buford, director of UCC's public relations campaign.

"I was shocked to see the executive branch mentioned in the refusal of our ad, and invoking the FMA in their decision is scary; it's chilling," Buford said.

In a prepared statement, GLAAD takes CBS to task for its reasoning.

"For CBS to suggest that it

would not run an ad because its message conflicts with anti-gay legislation put forward by the Bush administration calls into serious question the independence of CBS' actions and business practices. CBS owes the LGBT community and all its viewers both an apology and an explanation for its suggestion that its decision around this ad was motivated in part by the current administration's agenda."

The 1.3 million-member, Cleveland-based UCC has a long reputation for promoting inclusion. It was the first denomination to ordain an African-American pastor in 1785, the first to ordain a woman in 1853, and in 1972 it became the first mainstream denomination to ordain an openly gay man.

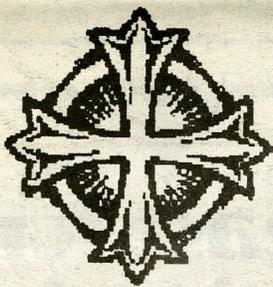
NBC, which airs *Will & Grace* and *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy* on its Bravo channel, also rejected the UCC spot for being "too controversial."

"We find it disturbing that the networks in question seem to have no problem exploiting gay persons through mindless comedies or titillating dramas, but when it comes to a church's loving welcome of committed gay couples, that's where they draw the line," said the Rev. Robert Chase, director of the UCC's communication ministry.

"It's ironic that after a political season awash in commercials based on fear and deception by both parties seen on all the major networks, an ad with a message of welcome and inclusion would be deemed to controversial," said Rev. John H. Thomas, the UCC's general minister.

"What's going on here?" Calling the networks' actions "shameful censorship," Seth Kilbourn, national director of the Human Rights Campaign, said, "That the divisive and unsuccessful attempt to put discrimination in the Constitution is being used to deny the church its freedom of religion is un-American."

The UCC ad has been accepted and will air on other networks, including ABC Family, AMC, BET, Discovery, Fox, Hallmark, History, Nick@Nite, TBS, TNT, Travel and TV Land. The ad can be viewed online at www.stillspeaking.com.



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Founder of Gay Journalists' Association Dies at 70

SEBASTOPOL, California (AP) — Leroy F. Aarons, a former national correspondent for The Washington Post and executive editor of the *Oakland Tribune* who founded the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association, has died. He was 70.

Aarons died Nov. 28 after a yearlong battle with bladder cancer, according to his friend Charles Kaiser, a founder and former president of the association's New York chapter.

As a founding member of both the Maynard Institute for Journalism Education in the 1970s and then the NLGJA in 1990, Aarons was at the forefront of efforts nationwide to combat ethnic and sexual discrimination in journalism.

"His commitment to gay issues helped raise the consciousness of the entire country," said longtime NBC anchorman Tom Brokaw, a friend and former colleague.

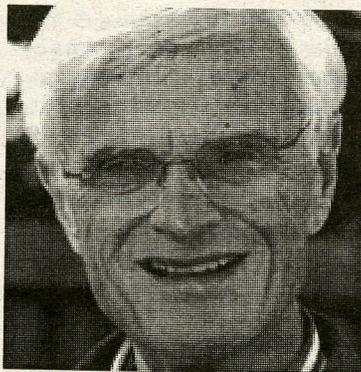
Aarons served as a national correspondent and editor at the *Post*

for 14 years, including during the Watergate scandal that led to the 1974 resignation of President Richard M. Nixon.

In 1982, he spent a year in Israel as a freelancer for *Time* magazine. In 1983, he joined the *Oakland Tribune* as features editor. In 1985, he was named executive editor, and in 1988 senior vice president for news. During his tenure, the *Tribune* won the Pulitzer Prize for its photojournalism during the 1989 earthquake.

Aarons coordinated a survey, commissioned by the American Society of Newspaper Editors, that examined the lives of gay and lesbian journalists at American newspapers. In presenting the survey findings at ASNE'S convention in April 1990, he also publicly came out as gay.

A few months later, he hosted a gathering of six other journalists at his home to found the NLGJA. The organization now has more than 1,200 members in 24 chapters across the United States.



In recent years, Aarons published a nonfiction book, *Prayers for Bobby*, about a mother's grief over her gay son's suicide.

"Roy was not only a great leader and great spokesman for gays and lesbians in the journalism game, but he was also a good man and a good friend. I learned an enormous amount from him about his values and a lot that is reflected in the values of *The New York Times*," said *Times* publisher and chairman Arthur Sulzberger, Jr. "There's no question that Roy was an important force in journalism."

ACLU Sues School District Over Ban on Gay Student's T-shirts

By Steve Brisendine
Associated Press Writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — The American Civil Liberties Union on Nov. 23 sued a southwest Missouri school district for prohibiting a high school student from wearing gay pride-themed T-shirts.

The district has said the T-shirts were disruptive and therefore a violation of school dress code. The lawsuit filed in federal court also names Webb City High School Principal Stephen P. Gollhofer.

"Because I'm gay, my school is trying to take away my constitutional right as an American to express myself," the student, Brad Mathewson, said in a statement.

"The school lets other students wear anti-gay T-shirts, and I understand that they have a right to do that," he said. "I just want the same right."

The 16-year-old junior started attending the high school this year. On Oct. 20, he came to class wearing a shirt from the Gay-Straight Alliance at his former high school in Fayetteville, Ark.

Mathewson was told either to turn the shirt inside out or to go home and change. Instead, Mathewson traded shirts with a friend, who wore the shirt without incident the rest of the day.

On Oct. 27, Mathewson wore a T-shirt bearing the phrase, "I'm gay and I'm proud." He left school af-

ter refusing Gollhofer's request to turn the shirt inside out, and was briefly suspended.

He returned to school Nov. 2 after promising not to wear gay-themed T-shirts until the issue could be resolved.

Ron Lankford, superintendent of the Webb City R-7 school district, said that while he had not seen a copy of the lawsuit, the district plans to contest it.

"I suppose this is why you have a court proceeding," Lankford said. "One side of the story has already been told, and this will be an opportunity to present the side that hasn't been told."

He declined to be more specific. The ACLU is basing its case on a 1969 Supreme Court ruling that said schools cannot force students to give up their right to freedom of expression.

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<http://gayellowpages.com>

Who We Are Faggot

Webster would say it is a bundle a sticks. Why is a bundle of sticks equated with a gay man? In the inquisition of Europe, when witches were being burned, among those sought out for burning were gay people. They were required to gather the very "bundles of sticks" (the real meaning of a faggot) with which they would be burnt. When the faggots (sticks) were running out, gay men were thrown on the fire to keep it going for the witches. Faggot came to mean gay man to force them into the closet for fear of death. Scary, huh? Think about what you are saying — who you are offending when say this word, even if in jest to a friend.

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Study Tracks Gay Men, Hepatitis Vaccines

The Gay and Lesbian Medical Association (GLMA) claims that more than half of the nation's gay and bisexual men are not protected against hepatitis A and hepatitis B, despite an increase in vaccine rates.

GLMA drew the conclusions after its sixth annual multi-city survey of men who have sex with men (MSM) at LGBT Pride festivals over the summer of 2004.

GLMA gathered 949 responses

from nine sites to determine what sort of precautions MSM are taking to prevent hepatitis A and B.

"Hepatitis A can be spread by anal/oral contact or by contact with fingers, sex toys or condoms which have been in or near the anus of an infected sex partner," said Joel Ginsberg, interim executive director of GLMA.

"Hepatitis B can be spread by anal or oral sex, by sharing needles,

or by tattooing or piercing equipment which has not been properly sterilized."

Symptoms of hepatitis A and hepatitis B include fatigue, loss of appetite, nausea, stomach discomfort, dark urine and jaundice. In 5 to 10 percent of cases, hepatitis B infection becomes chronic and may cause primary liver cancer, which can lead to death.

Both hepatitis A and B disproportionately affect gay and bisexual men.

According to GLMA's findings, 40 percent of respondents were immune to hepatitis A, and 39 percent of respondents were immune to hepatitis B. GLMA believes attendees at the San Francisco Pride event had the highest vaccination rate.

Of the people surveyed, 51 percent said they received at least one

dose of a vaccine against hepatitis A. When it came to hepatitis B, 56 percent of respondents said they had received at least one dose of a vaccine.

GLMA found the lowest vaccination rates from respondents at the Queens, N.Y., PrideFest: 35 percent had received at least one dose of a vaccine against hepatitis A; 40 percent had received at least one dose of a vaccine against hepatitis B.

GLMA claims respondents were less likely to have been vaccinated if they had a lower income, did not have a regular health care provider, or if they weren't out to their provider.

By comparing this latest round of numbers, GLMA believes that vaccination rates are improving for respondents living in eight out of nine cities, rising by at least five

percentage points from 2003 to 2004.

Since GLMA started this survey in 1999, overall vaccination rates against hepatitis A have more than doubled from 21 percent to 48 percent. Rates of vaccination against hepatitis B have also increased to 48 percent.

"It's true that this is not a rigorous study," admitted Ginsberg. "But we have been doing it for several years now and are seeing consistent results, so that makes us feel confidence in the findings."

"Unfortunately, no one else is doing this research, so for the time being, this is the best data available," Ginsberg added.

"But whether or not the numbers are exactly right, it is clear that too many men who have sex with men are not protected from hepatitis A and B."

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Army Ruling Deals Blow to Sodomy Law

An unpublished ruling by the U.S. Army's top court may herald the beginning of the end for the military's sodomy law.

The military has long outlawed sodomy under Article 125 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, a prohibition on "unnatural carnal copulation with another person of the same or opposite sex, or with an animal."

The rule, otherwise translated into a ban on oral and anal sex, even applies to private conduct off the military base, allowing the long arm of military law to stretch a little further than might be constitutional.

LGBT advocates challenged the military sodomy law earlier this year in a case that went all the way to the highest military court, the Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces.

In that case, Air Force Technical Sgt. Eric Marcum challenged his court martial, which was based on a number of Article 125 viola-

tions with other men.

Since some of Sgt. Marcum's activities were possibly coerced, the court was not able to absolve him in the specific incident under review, a consensual episode with a subordinate.

In its ruling, however, the high court took no position on the key question of whether the U.S. Supreme Court's 2003 ruling in *Lawrence v. Texas* effectively gutted the military's sodomy ban along with that of Texas.

In fact, the court suggested that *Lawrence* could govern a military case under different circumstances. Now, that case may have arrived.

Basing its ruling on *Lawrence*, the U.S. Army Court of Criminal Appeals overturned the guilty plea of an Army specialist who had oral sex with a female civilian in the barracks.

According to the *Washington Post*, the decision is the first to uphold a right to sexual privacy that trumps Article 125. The fact that

the man involved was accused of a heterosexual violation is irrelevant to the legal principles at issue. Oral sex is oral sex, and if Article 125 no longer applies to straight sex, it no longer applies to gay sex, either.

If the Pentagon appeals the ruling to the Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, the high court will have another chance to consider the impact of *Lawrence* on the armed services.

The ruling coincides with a new lawsuit challenging the 1993 "don't ask, don't tell" ban on gay speech in the military. The issues of sodomy and "don't ask, don't tell" are separate, but related, since the ban on gay speech is supported by the more fundamental ban on gay actions. Taking away that support could weaken "don't ask" and could affect the outcome of the challenge to the policy, brought before a federal court in Boston by a group of 12 ousted gay and lesbian service members. (See related story on page 5.)

George Michael Slams Elton John in Letter to Magazine

LONDON (AP) — Singer George Michael has written to a British celebrity magazine to rebuke Elton John for making unflattering comments about his personal life.

In an open letter to *Heat* magazine, released Dec. 14, Michael accused John of spreading unsubstantiated gossip picked up on the "gay grapevine."

In comments published in November, John told *Heat* that "George is in a strange place. There seems to be a deep-rooted unhappiness in his life and it shows on the (latest) album. All I would say to George is: you should

get out more."

In the letter, Michael, whose latest album, *Patience*, topped the British charts, said he had "rarely been as happy and confident as I am today, thanks to my partner Kenny (Goss) and the continued support of my fans."

Michael said he and John were not close, and that he had kept his distance because "I was always aware that Elton's circle of friends was the busiest rumor mill in town, and that respect for my privacy was not exactly guaranteed."

"Elton John knows very little about George Michael, and that's a fact. Contrary to the public's im-

pression, we have spoken rarely in the last 10 years, and what would probably surprise most people is that we have never discussed my private life. Ever," Michael wrote.

"And to this day, most of what Elton thinks he knows about my life is pretty much limited to the gossip he hears on what you would call the 'gay grapevine' which, as you can imagine, is lovely stuff indeed," Michael added. "Other than that, he knows I don't like to tour, I smoke too much pot, and that my albums still have a habit of going to number one."

"In other words, he knows as much as most of my fans do."

Wake-Up Call

New Year's Resolutions

Commentary by Jon Devin

One of my New Year's resolutions is continuing on from 2004: lower my cholesterol. And well you know why, or perhaps if you haven't yet had that conversation with your doctor I'm sure you will eventually. It started with a routine, annual physical. Never mind that, like the dolt I sometimes am, I stopped at Mickey D's to pick up a sausage biscuit and a large coffee on the way to my physical.

After my usual complaining about jogger's knees and swimmer's ears, I get the pronouncement that generally I'm fine, but if I don't get that cholesterol down, I'll have to take Lipitor for the next 50 years.

"That's what you think," I muttered under my breath, and then I ordered meat-lover's pizza for lunch and resolved to simply avoid his office for another year.

My doctor is truly a great one, and I know he only wants the best for me. I keep explaining to him that I've got the situation under control. See?— It's now written out in black and white: lowering cholesterol is officially on my list of New Year's resolutions. Right after, "Get picked for next season of *Survivor*."

The poor man has this annoying thing about follow-up though, and when that happens I just change the subject.

Subject change: What does the gay and lesbian community of Memphis hope to accomplish in 2005? First of all, please just tell me that we're hoping for anything at all in light of the great disappointment of Nov. 2, 2004. I would have to say I'm among those still nursing political wounds after finding out that half of America really

is satisfied by nothing more and nothing less than greed and self-serving desires with full knowledge of their destructive effects on other humans.

Hope, it seems, is at a premium today.

Opinions expressed in editorials, commentaries and letters are those of the authors.

Community Resolution 1: Maintain hope against all odds and continue to celebrate the remarkable changes that have taken place like legalized marriages in Massachusetts.

Community Resolution 2: We need to support the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center as if our lives depended on it. This organization, if you haven't noticed, has done some pretty incredible things in the last couple years, namely launching two big successes in the Lavender University and the Memphis Gaymes.

What's more, this group of die-hard community organizers has proven time after time that they are willing to do whatever it takes — from ill-advisedly donning bikinis to approaching national grant foundations — to raise funds, and they always come out on top.

What's missing is more involvement from the rest of us, especially those who are too comfortably invisible to go to a community event.

The same goes for Mid-South Pride. Considering the great parade they pulled off with 30 days notice, I can't wait to see what they've got in the works after having a full year to plan. SHOW UP, DAMMIT.

And finally, Community Resolution 3: 2005 should be the year we all get really tired of being publicly insulted. I don't know about you, but I'm sick of opening *The Commercial Appeal* only to find half page ads purchased by churches calling me sick or sinful, or standing united against my rela-



tionship. I'm royally pissed off that the United Church of Christ (which is First Congregational) ad was deemed too controversial for expressing inclusion.

We need some Maynardian leadership to arise from our midst and let hateful churches and non-chalant media outlets know that they have crossed a line that they will certainly hear about, if not regret.

Furthermore, we need to garner the support from our straight friends who are equally appalled.

Look, folks, if we say nothing to their continued insults, we might as well be as bad as they say. Resolutions are not wasted efforts. It hasn't happened fast enough to satisfy my doctor, but with steady effort my cholesterol has gone down over the past couple of years.

It's time for our community to start replacing our wish lists with results as well.

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memphistrianglejournal.com

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By Jim Maynard

Welcome to the Third Bush Reich. The neo-fascist takeover of the United States continues. If Fascism is defined as the concentration of corporate and government power over a society, I think we can declare the United States a neo-fascist country.

Antonin Scalia, Bush's favorite right-wing Supreme Court

Justice, declared in a recent speech at a Jewish synagogue that the "separation of church and state" is a myth and that government must oppose secularism. Hitler said the same thing in Germany before the Nazis rounded up the Jews, Communists and homosexuals. This is the kind of society you Bush voters chose for us.

A recent congressional study found that the abstinence "sex edu-

cation" programs supported by the Bush administration are full of misinformation: that condoms do not prevent the spread of HIV; that touching someone's genitals can cause pregnancies; and that half of gay teens have AIDS. And speaking of AIDS, a coalition of AIDS organizations give the Bush administration failing grades on fighting the spread of AIDS and funding AIDS programs. Bush has not even kept his promises to fund AIDS programs in "deserving" poor countries.

Some of the closeted gay Bush supporters are now coming out to make the case that Bush's re-election was good for the gay community. Bush is going to be a champion of gay rights, civil unions, lifting the ban on gays in

the military, etc. Seems like we heard that before. Take off the pink-colored classes guys. The Republican Party could not care less about gays and lesbians, unless they are conservative, wealthy and Christian, and keep their place in line behind the real base of the party: the Christian Right and the corporate rich.

Admitting, "we lost" in this election, Patrick Guerriero, head of the Log Cabin Republicans, offered a three-page "new strategy" for the gay community to court the respect and support of the homophobes in the "heartland" of America. May I suggest a new strategy for gay (and so-called "moderate" Republicans): stop supporting the Republican Party until it takes the anti-gay planks out of its party platform and quits bashing gays and lesbians to win the votes of the homophobes in the heartland of this country. Maybe an ultimatum that you will not support or vote for the Republican Party until they quit pandering to the right-wing religious fanatics might get their attention.

Meanwhile, in the civilized (and more "liberal") countries of the world, gay and lesbian equality is moving along quite well. Canada is well on its way to legalizing same-sex marriage (it is already legally recognized in half of the country).

Even Israel and New Zealand have taken steps to give legal recognition of gay and lesbian couples.

There has been a lot of turnover of leadership among LGBT organizations. The Human Rights Campaign has replaced Cheryl Jacques with a straight male who suggests that HRC should take more moderate positions to win conservative and moderate support. More progressive LGBT organizations have sent a letter to members of congress and the press to warn against accommodating anti-gay prejudice and discrimination.

Locally, we have had two organizations disintegrate because of lack of community support: Memphis Pride and the Memphis Lesbian & Gay Coalition for Justice. Mid-South Pride has taken over for Memphis Pride. After helping to found the Memphis Lesbian & Gay Coalition for Justice in 1996, I finally turned leadership of that organization over to someone else, who happens to also be the leader of Mid-south Pride and has been out of town most of the year, so the future of both groups is in question.

Len Piechowski and a group of concerned activists in our community have been meeting at MGLCC to organize in response to the election and try to create a new organi-

zation to fight for our rights locally. The Stonewall Democrats are now on their way to forming a chapter, and have new officers, including President Marty Katz and Vice-President Sonia Garner. I wish all of them luck and urge others to support them.

On the state level, another organization I helped form and was vice-chair of, Equality Tennessee, died about a year ago because of lack of local support and internal problems. There is now a new statewide organization forming to fight for our rights statewide, the Tennessee Equality Project (www.tnep.org). Hopefully the Memphis and Tennessee gay "community" will get organized to stop the anti-gay legislation coming in the Tennessee legislature.

I am retiring from the "Memphis Gay Leader" positions I have held the past decade, and have decided that I want to move to Canada. Not only do they recognize gay and lesbian civil rights, they have universal health insurance, and they did not participate in Bush's illegal invasion of Iraq. If I could only win that Powerball lottery (or find a benevolent sugar daddy), my partner and I would be on our way north of the border. (Check out www.alternativecanada.com)

Jim Maynard can be contacted through www.jimmymaynard.com.

Opinions expressed in bylined columns are those of the authors.

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Personal and classified ads are a free service to our readers - Please limit them to 30 words or less. We request that ads be submitted in writing via postal or e-mail. Ads will generally run one time only, but may be resubmitted each month. Mail to Triangle Journal News, P.O. Box 11485, Memphis, TN 38111 or e-mail them to memphisTJN@aol.com. Ads deemed too explicit may be edited.

ROOMMATES

GWM seeks GWM for roommate. House located in country. Straight-acting, please. Room not furnished. Rent \$250 plus 1/2 utilities. Call Bobby at 731-855-4255

GWM, 39, 5'10", 169 lbs, brown goatee, shaved head, no piercings or tattoos, looking to share my one bedroom home on Kentucky Lake, just outside Paris. I am on Social Security and have a vehicle we can share. Would like someone who is also disabled. No severe disabilities with me. Will help relocate. 731-642-3580.

GWC seeks roommate for their 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home in Cordova. The house is 3 minutes from I-40, off Appling road. \$450 includes phone and utilities. Garage parking for your car, as well. 765-6823

GWF, 49, quiet, non-smoker seeks same to help share 2 BR modern and clean apt.w/balcony next to Overton Square. \$250/mo. + utilities. Pets OK. 901-272-3278

WANT TO MEET

GWM, 48 interested in meeting gay and bi-males for fun, good times and possible friendship. I have

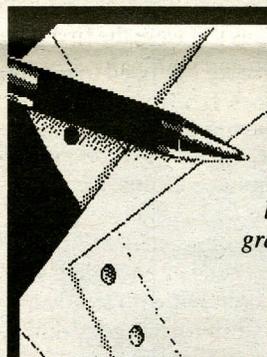
brown hair and eyes, weigh 180, drink and smoke sometimes although, I like to keep fit. I also love gay movies and computers. Contact me at moptopmouse@Yahoo.com.

Alone in Rural N. MS. GWM, 50s, seeks GWM, 50-whatever for fun, friendship, sex. Walk on the wild side of 50. I am AARP-approved. W.B. 662-223-5882.

GWM, 49, 6'1" would like to meet another GWM 50-60 years of age who would like to start a friendship and possible lead-up to long term. Mail me at: Lewis Lee, P.O. Box 41, Kenton, TN 38233 or give me a call at 731-665-6644 from 6pm-10:30pm.

GWM would like to meet another GWM from age 37 to 47. I have brown hair and hazel eyes and have a hairy chest. My weight is 250 and I like cooking, movies, enjoy being with someone. I like to go to the clubs. I drink some, dine out. I smoke sometimes. Call Jimmy at (901)-604-6236. I will be waiting.

Seeking husky, muscular GWMs, 3-60, furry or otherwise, for friendship and fun times. No mind games or flakes. Only serious need call. Contact Bud at 732-2755 and be discreet.



LETTERS

The Triangle Journal News welcomes letters from its readers. Letters should be as short as reasonable and typed if possible. Although names may be withheld on request, all letters should be signed and include a phone number for verification. Anonymous letters will not be printed. All letters are subject to editing for spelling, punctuation and grammar. However, every effort will be made to maintain the original intent of the writer.

Letters should be mailed to:

Triangle Journal News, P.O. Box 11485, Memphis, TN 38111-0485 or faxed to (901) 454-1411.

Writer Alleges Work was 'Stolen'

I picked up the recent (December) edition of *Triangle Journal* and I am appalled that a story I wrote for the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center's Newsletter has been published in the *Triangle Journal* without my permission. Not only is this appalling but the logo for MGLCC is blocking some of the text present in the article. The article also contained a website link for people to visit about Billy Bean's book - this site was omitted. **Sending my work to a publication without my permission is stealing!**

I did not give permission for my work to be reprinted in any other medium but MGLCC's newsletter.

My writings, photos, whatever - belong to me and whatever medium I release them to. Sending my writings and other works to other publications without my permis-

sion is stealing and brings up the issue of copyright and release. I have also noticed photographs in many publications that do not offer a photo credit - this is also stealing. I would advise all publication leaders to learn about the rules of reproducing works and crediting photographers. I would advise all leaders to enforce giving credit where credit is due.

Using someone's work without their permission is STEALING - STEALING! There is no way to sugar coat it!! I am very disappointed in *Triangle Journal*, the person who sent Mr. Cook my work, and the layout/design of the page and the logo.

Nick A. Davis
Memphis

When this material was forwarded to me as it was apparently to its membership through its listserve, I assumed that Mr. Davis was now writing the Community Center column and that was what was being forwarded. I added a few other items that had been for-

warded to flesh it out. I guess I was wrong. There didn't seem to be anything in what was forwarded that indicated it was for any particular use, that it was copyrighted or its use was restricted. I sincerely apologize to Mr. Davis for apparently using his work inappropriately.

TJN relies on contributions from its readers in a way that other publications do not. Regarding photos without credit. Most often they are either taken by myself, TJN staffers or contributors. Sometimes they want credit, sometimes not. In any case, we are not "stealing" them. Mr. Davis was given a byline for the column which ran in the space reserved for the MGLCC column.

There were numerous problems regarding the quality of the December issue's printing. They are being addressed.

For the record, Mr. Bean's book info on the World Wide Web can be found at <http://www.billybean.com>.

Allen Cook, Publisher

WHAT ABOUT IT?

by Shannon Yarbrough



Happy New Year! This month I'm exploring a few "feel good" items to get 2005 off to a great start for you. A debut book of short stories, some sappy inspiring music, and some good sex advice. Now all we need is a gym membership and a new fad diet we've tried a thousands times in the past, and our new year will be set.

Cheers!

The Music of Your Life

With a voice that is both sophisticated and deeply Southern, first-time author John Rowell evokes the memory of the great Truman Capote in this wonderful collection of short stories called *The Music of Your Life*, peopled with unforgettable, endearing characters and filled with wry insights.

Although Rowell flirts dangerously with gay stereotypes in his debut collection of seven highly polished stories, his characters will win over readers with their biting sarcasm and emotional tenacity. In the title story, the highlight of the collection, a young boy bonds with his family over *The Lawrence Welk Show* while tossing back ginger ale in champagne glasses; that's part of what sustains him in the face of vicious bullying on the school playground, as his schoolmates torment him for being different.

In "The Mother-of-the-Groom and I," unemployed, unloved gay 33-year-old Hampton takes a break from New York City to come home to Mullens, N.C., and helps his mother shop for a dress for his brother's wedding. As all that's unspoken about Hampton's unmoored circumstances simmers just below the surface, his mother is able to communicate to him his

key place within their family by singing along to "Moon River."

Filled with a deep sadness over the unending struggle to integrate love and sex, these stories also offer perfectly honed, hilarious dialogue.

Hopes and Fears

Keane is a band I discovered by watching videos on one of those VH-1 channels one Saturday, when I happened to catch their video for a nice ballad called "Someplace

Only We Know." I had been doing some recent Christmas shopping online with BMG and decided to look Keane up. Sure enough, BMG had their latest album, *Hopes and Fears*, which features the song.

Using only a guitar and piano for instruments, the

lead singer definitely has that Freddy Mercury sound lingering on Enya themes and Cold Play vocals. I have even called him the male Norah Jones. Although the album never "rocks out," I've thoroughly enjoyed the sappy vocals and easy lyrics, especially this time of year when outside of Christmas commercialism, we start self-analyzing and thinking about plans for the new year.

So, if you are in need of a song that makes you stop and say, "that's exactly how I feel and now I'm going to turn my whole life around starting next year," this is the album for you.

Sex is Natural, Sex is fun...

"This is one of the most lavishly produced erotic gay videos ever made. Featuring eight of Britain's sexiest guys, *Better Gay Sex* illus-

trates the beauty, passion and sensuality of man-on-man sex. Experience the spectrum of gay sex as our gorgeous guys take you through the best their bodies (and yours) have to offer. Amazing sex is all about having the most wonderful mind-blowing fun. Sex gives you a more confident outlook on the whole of your life.

This video won't just turn you on with its explicit red hot imagery; it'll show you how to really enjoy one of the most important aspects of your life — sex!!! So reads the keep-case of this DVD.

But what does this really mean? Surely there is more to this video than what is printed on the box? *Better Gay Sex* is probably the most groundbreaking and meaningful videos I have seen, regarding gay sex.

This is not pornography, rather an exploration of the pleasures that two men can experience together. Safe sex is discussed, as well as how to relax and open your mind to what your partner is feeling.

The vid teaches you to never let sex become routine, as this is what dampens its eroticism. Always take it slowly, as if it were the first time. Then, you and your partner can re-



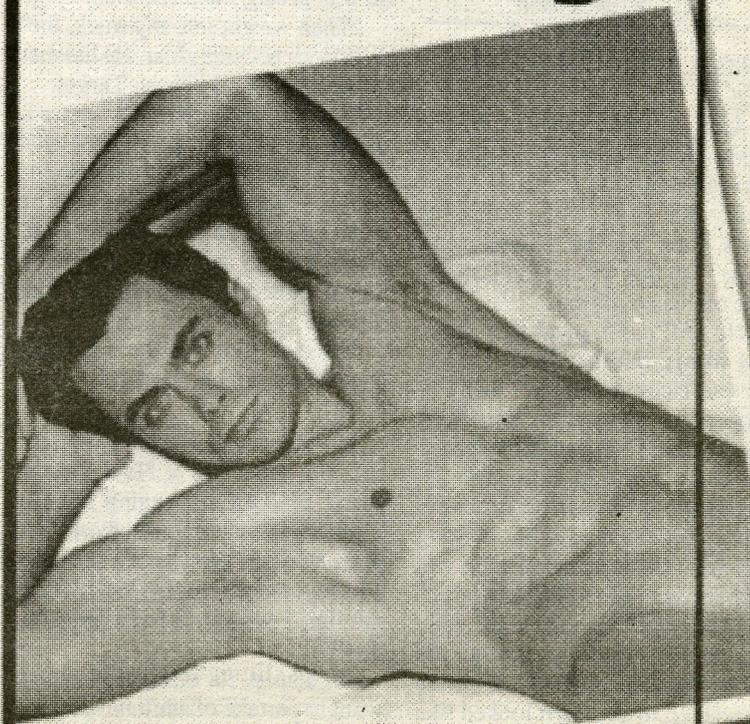
John Rowell



reading this thinking I've been watching too much Susan Johansen on Oxygen, but trust me on this one. If you are tired of the same old plotless porn, this DVD has a lot to offer (and the guys are hot too)!

Shannon Yarbrough lived in Memphis for six years. He now lives in St. Louis, Missouri. He is the author of the book, *The Other Side of What*. You can e-mail Shannon at MisterYarbs@msn.com.

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By Allen Cook

Miracles do happen at Christmas.

After suffering a severe stroke in March and being in a nursing home/rehabilitation center since April, my partner of almost 30 years, John Stilwell, has returned home... so this will be the last update on his condition.

He still can't speak beyond a few words, but that doesn't mean we can't communicate. Shannon Yarbrough sent me an e-mail on hearing that John had come home. He said, "I can only imagine the thousands of words he probably wishes he could say, but as long as you two have been together, you probably can hear them already."

On his first full day home, John indicated that he wanted to go out somewhere. I couldn't tell where he wanted to go, but it looked like

he was giving me directions.

When we got into my truck, the directions became clear. He led me directly to, of all places, Target.

Not knowing what he wanted there, we went in and he led me directly to the men's underwear section where he picked out two 5-packs of undershirts. When we got home, I found a pile of undershirts he had pulled from his dresser and rejected.

I'll give him this, he's got his priorities straight, anyway!

If you're looking for a non-alcoholic venue for a New Year's party, MGLCC is staging a New Year's Eve Snack Buffet from 7-9 p.m. They say they have a surprise announcement about MGLCC... hmmm, I wonder what's up with that?

Of course, for those of you who want to partake of adult beverages,

I'm pretty sure there will be no shortage of places to go. Horns, hats and champagne at midnight!

Kiss the one you love on New Year's Eve and you'll remain together until the next one. Whether that's the next one you kiss or the next New Year's Eve is for you to determine. Enjoy, but designate a driver or take a cab if you plan to drink.

You may have noticed that some of the features (including this column) in *TJN* have been moved. Trust me, we're not trying to confuse you. We're just trying to emphasize the fact that we are a newspaper and by putting news in the front part of the paper, we feel we are doing that. Opinion pieces, reviews, letters and commentary columns have been moved to the back, not because we feel they are less relevant, but because they can be more easily grouped there.

And while I am talking about the paper, let me apologize for the print quality of the December issue. Suffice it to say, we tried something different in production, and it failed miserably. The pictures were dark and the paper was generally over-inked. Hopefully that situation has been rectified for this issue, but, as anyone who has dealt with printers knows, you lose control over the final product when you send it out.

If you're one of those people who reads a newspaper from front to back, this will be your second encounter with someone offering suggestions for New Year's resolutions. If, on the other hand, you read it from back to front, it will be your first.

At the risk of sounding preachy, I *implore* you to protect your relationship if you have one. Don't expect gay marriage or civil unions to become the law of the land anytime soon, despite what several New England states have done.

Get those powers of attorneys done. Update those wills (or get them made in the first place). Make sure those beneficiary forms on insurance policies are set up right. Even if you aren't in a relationship at the moment, it's important that these things be in place.

And while you're at it, make sure your partner or friends know who to contact in the case of your severe illness or death (face it, you *both* could be hit by a truck at the same time).

If you don't have a relationship, make sure a trusted friend at least has a key to your place... all the better to de-gay the place in the event something should happen to you. Of course, removing the sling hung from the ceiling in the spare bedroom could be challenging, but I digress...

Looking back over the past year in our local gay community, aside

Mystery Novelist Joseph Hansen, 81, Dies

LAGUNA BEACH, Calif. - Joseph Hansen, a mystery novelist known for crisp, lean prose and for creating one of his genre's first gay protagonists in the character of Dave Brandstetter, has died at the age of 81.

Hansen died of heart failure at his home on Nov. 24, his family reported. He had long suffered from respiratory illness.

He had already published five novels and a collection of short stories dealing frankly with homosexual subject matter under the name James Colton when *Fadeout*, the first of 12 Brandstetter mystery novels, was released in 1970.

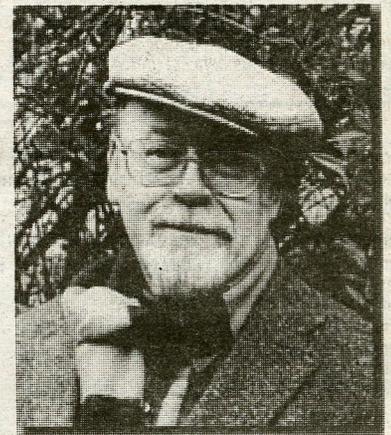
Brandstetter was a tough, street-smart shamus who was typical of the genre in every way except one. "My joke was to take the true hard-boiled character in American fiction tradition and make him homosexual," Hansen told the *Orange County Register* in 1998.

"He was going to be a nice man, a good man, and he was doing to do his job well."

San Francisco lawyer Michael Nava, who writes a series of mysteries featuring gay attorney Henry Rios, credited Hansen as a pioneer.

"Not that he was just a good gay writer, but he is right up there with Raymond Chandler and Ross Macdonald in terms of being one of the great California mystery writers," Nava said.

In all, Hansen wrote nearly 40



books, including mainstream novels and a series of semi-autobiographical works based on his early years as a struggling writer. He also taught fiction workshops, published poems in *The New Yorker* and produced a local radio show in the 1960s called "Homosexuality Today."

Hansen's wife, Jane Bancroft, died in 1994. He once described their relationship as that of a gay man and woman who happened to love each other.

"Here was this remarkable person who I wanted to spend the rest of my life with. We were married 51 years. So something was right about it, however bizarre it may seem to the rest of the world," he said. The couple had a daughter who later underwent gender reassignment. He is Hansen's only survivor.

from the election, things seem to be better. We haven't had too many long standing gay institutions crash and burn. The one that did (Memphis Pride) was quickly replaced and staged a pretty nice Gay Pride event notwithstanding.

We haven't heard much about a gay film festival, but I am quite confident that, too, will be resurrected.

One significant thing, at least in my mind, is that we seem to be having a hiatus on character assassinations.

As Martha Stewart would say, that is a "good thing."

I was pleased to see the Broadway revival of *La Cage aux Folles* being referred to as "Broadway's family values musical" in a review by drama critic Michael Kuchwara.

He said, "The show, which arrived Dec. 9 at the Marquis Theatre, stands foursquare in support of motherhood. OK, so mom happens to be a drag queen working in a Saint-Tropez nightclub, but the musical couldn't be more in favor of loving, nurturing relationships. This one just happens to be between two men."

Sad to say, no self-respecting Republicans will be seeing it.

In Atlanta police shut down a

bar that had been showing a successful musical revue featuring nudity for four months because the venue didn't have an adult entertainment license.

The revue, *Naked Boys Singing*, has spent six years off-Broadway in New York and road show versions are playing in several cities. The gay-themed show, billed as celebrating "the splendors of male nudity in comedy, song and dance," features six male actors who are in the buff for much of the performance.

Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin, however, in a statement asked that police not to press charges against The Armory, saying that the police action "was based upon the misreading of a section of the Atlanta City Code.

Assistant Police Chief Alan Dreher said, "We apologize for the mix-up."

Finally CBS and NBC may not be showing those United Church of Christ commercials that promote the inclusion of everyone in their congregations, but that doesn't mean you can't see them. I've seen the spot a number of times on The History Channel. It seems quite a few other outlets are less restrictive than the three major commercial networks.

Sheridan Lambe, LCSW

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Mid-South Community Resources

The Gay Memphis Resources Directory is printed as a public service, and its listings are free. Agencies and businesses listed herein have requested to be listed, but have not been charged. All phone numbers are area code 901 unless otherwise noted.

(* Indicates TJN distribution points.)

ADULT BOOKSTORES

Airport Bookmart: 2214 Brooks Rd E. ☎ 345-0657.
Cherokee Adult Book Store: 2947 Lamar ☎ 744-7494.
Fantasy Warehouse I*: 791-793 North White Station - ☎683-9649
Executive South* - 1847 E. Brooks Rd. ☎ 345-0825
Executive Warehouse #4* - 2532 N. Watkins - ☎ 358-8642
Getwell Book Mart: 1275 Getwell ☎ 454-7765.
Paris Adult Entertainment Center: 2432 Summer ☎ 323-2665.
Tammy's # 2: 2220 East Brooks Rd ☎ 396-9050.
Tammy's # 3: 1617 Getwell Rd ☎ 744-4513.
Tammy's # 4: 5937 Summer Ave. ☎ 373-5760.

BARS / RESTAURANTS

Allusions Entertainment Center*: 3204 N Thomas St. ☎357-8383
Backstreet*: 2018 Court Street ☎ 276-5522.
Bogie's Delicatessen: 2098 La Salle Place ☎ 272-0022.
Buns on the Run*: 2150 Elzey Ave. 38104 ☎ 278-2867
Crossroads*: 111 N. Claybrook ☎ 276-1882.
J-Wags*: 1268 Madison ☎ 725-1909.
Lunch/AfterShock*: 1528 Madison ☎ 274-8272.
Madison Flame*: 1588 Madison ☎ 278-0569
Mélange: 948 South Cooper ☎ 276-0002.
Metro Memphis*: 1349 Autumn ☎ 274-8010.
One More*: 2117 Peabody ☎ 278-MORE (6673).
Overstuffed Deli & Caterers: 3003 Airways Blvd. #701 ☎ 396-1969, 3727 South Mendenhall ☎ 362-2989, 7716 Poplar Ave., Germantown ☎ 757-1212.
Paragon Lounge*: 2865 Walnut Grove ☎ 320-0026
P & H Cafe*: 1532 Madison Ave. ☎ 274-9794.
Pumping Station*: 1382 Poplar Ave. ☎ 272-7600..
The Jungle*: 1474 Madison ☎ 278-0521

CARDS & GIFTS

Inz & Outz*: 553 South Cooper ☎ 728-6535.
Family Flavors: 18 N. McLean ☎ 725-0313

CARPET CARE / CLEANING SERVICES

BJ's Cleaning Service: ☎ 726-4211.
King's Kleaning Service: Home or Office ☎ 283-1089
King's Dogsitng Service: ☎ 283-1089
Lee's Carpet Care: Commercial or Residential, 24-hr. service, free estimates ☎ 327-6165.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Alliance: Leather/Levi club • Box 42174, Memphis 38174.
Aloysius Home, Inc.: (See Friends for Life).
American Gay Atheists (AGA) Memphis: Box 41371, Memphis 38174-1371.
Aphrodite: 3430 Summer Ave, Memphis 38122.
BGALA (Students for Bisexual, Gay & Lesbian Awareness): University of Memphis, c/o BGALA, 2522 Campus Postal Station, Memphis, TN 38152-2521, e-mail: bgala@memphis.cc.edu, website: www.people.memphis.edu/~bgala.
Bluff City Sports Association: Box 41074, Memphis 38174, web site: www.bluffcitysports.net.
Brothers & Sisters Bowling League: ☎ 465-4371 - Richard Andrews.
Cotton Pickin' Squares: Gay/Lesbian Square Dance Club • Meets Thurs., 7 pm Holy Trinity • 685 S. Highland, Memphis 38104 ☎ 272-2116.
Equality Tennessee: P.O. Box 330965, Nashville, TN 37203, www.equalitytennessee.org.
4F: Leather/Levi group • 698 Pope Dr., Bartlett 38112.
First Congregational Church: Worship Service: Sun. 9:30 & 10:00 am, Wed. 6 pm • 1000 South Cooper ☎ 278-6786.
First Presbyterian Church: Sun. School, 9:30 am; Coffee & fellowship, 10:30 am; Worship, 11 am • 166 Poplar ☎ 525-5619.
Friends For Life—HIV Resources: HIV/AIDS Service Organization • 1384 Madison, Memphis 38104 ☎ 272-0855 or ☎ 278-AIDS, www.FriendsForLifeCorp.com.
Holy Trinity Community Church*: Worship Service: Sun. 9 & 11 am; Bible study: Wed. 7 pm; 685 S. Highland, Memphis 38111 ☎ 320-9376, e-mail:office@holyltrinitymemphis.org.
Integrity Memphis: Meets the 3rd Tues., Healing Service/ Eucharist, 6pm; Dinner, 6:30pm; Meeting 7:30pm • c/o Calvary Episcopal Church, 102 N. 2nd ☎ 525-6602.
Jackson Lambda Support Group: Memphis Lambda Center ☎ 901-427-1500 for information.
Living Word Christian Church: Worship Service Sun. 10 am & 6pm, Wed. 7 pm • 2489 Broad Ave ☎ 452-6272
Memphis Area Gay Youth (MAGY): PO Box 241852, Memphis, TN 38124 ☎ 335-MAGY. Website: www.magyonline.org
Memphis Black Same Gender Loving Alliance: ☎274-0163.
Memphis Center for Reproductive Health: 1462 Poplar Ave ☎ 274-3550.
Memphis Gay & Lesbian Atheists & Humanists (GALAH): www.geocities.-com/memphisgalah ☎ 327-2677.
Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center (MGLCC): 892 S Cooper, Memphis 38104 ☎ 278-4297.
Memphis Lesbian & Gay Coalition for Justice (MLGCJ): 111 S. Highland, Suite 305, Memphis, TN 38111 ☎ 262-2702, e-mail: mlgcj@yahoo.com, www.mlgcj.org
Memphis Stonewall Democrats: www.memphisstonewalldemocrats.org, ☎ 327-2677
Mid-South Pride: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, & Transgendered Pride Events • 111 S. Highland, Suite 261 ☎ 328-6349,

website: www.midsouthpride.org.
Mirror Image: TV/TS support group • c/o Barbara Jean Jasen, Box 11052, Memphis, TN 38111-0052.
Mystic Krewe of Memphis United: 41 S. Century, Memphis, 38111. www.geocities.com/mardigrasmemphis
Mystic Krewe of Pegasus Memphis: a social charitable organization. 7626 Shelby Woods Cove, Memphis, TN 38125
Open Heart Community of Faith: North end of First Congregational Church, 1000 South Cooper, Rev. John Gilmore ☎ 323-3514.
Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (P-FLAG): ☎ 761-1444 Website: www.pflagmemphis.org
Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (P-FLAG): Jackson, TN 38305 ☎ 1-901-664-6614 for information, e-mail: burtren@aeneas.com
Pink Pistols: e-mail: memphis@pinkpistols.org.
Stonewall Mission Church: A Progressive Christian Church • Sun. Service 6:30 p.m., meets at the Center, 103 Berry Rd., Nashville, TN 37204 ☎ (615) 269-3480.
Sunshine Travelers: Meets every other Tuesday at 7 pm at The Jungle, ☎ 788-4PLA (4752)
Tennessee Leather Tribe: Gay men's/women's leather org. 1568 Rolling Hills Dr., Memphis, TN 38127-5409 ☎ 357-1921.
The Mid-Towners Bowling League: ☎ 323-3111 - Linda Etherton, 342-4630 - James Bailey.
Tsarus: Leather-Levi club • Box 41082, Memphis 38174-1082.
Univ. of Miss. Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Assoc.: GLBA, PO Box 3541, Univ., MS 38677 ☎ 662-915-7049, email: glba@olemiss.edu, website: http://www.olemiss.edu/orgs/glba.
UT-Martin ALLIES: Campus and community. Alternate Weds. 5 p.m. Info 131F Humanities Bldg., Martin 38238, neilig@utm.edu ☎ 587-7301.
WAC (Woman's Action Coalition): PO Box 1203, 3566 Walker, Memphis 38111 ☎ 678-3339.

COUNSELING SERVICES

Alive Memphis! A Holistic Healing Center, www.alivememphis.com, Individual & Couples Therapy, EMDR, Radiant Heart Therapy. ☎ 372-2991, Susan Taranto; 372-2593, Carol Schlicksup.
Eric Cassius, L.P.C., C.H.T.: Hypnotherapy, Individual, Group, Adolescent, Couples & Family Counseling. Sliding scale fee available. ☎ 685-5491 for appointment.
Joel Chapman, PhD: 1000 S. Cooper ☎ 844-4357.
Kent D. Fisher, LPC, MAC: Experiential Healing Center, 1713 Lockett Place ☎ 372-0710. EMDR, group, individual, couples & family therapy.
Gary Gardia, M.Ed., LCSW: Midtown location; grief, loss; Lesbian, Gay & transgender; individuals, couples ☎ 527-1098.
Anne S. Gillis, MS: Individual, couple & family counseling, rebirthing ☎ 761-3435.
Patricia Goshorn, M.Ed.: Licensed Psychological Counselor • Simmons, Kelman & Assoc., 3960 Knight Arnold Rd, Ste 316 ☎ 369-6050.
Cliff Heegel, PhD: Licensed Psychologist • Centerpoint, 5180 Park Ave. Ste 150 ☎ 767-1066.
Sheridan Lambe, LCSW: Individual & Couple Counseling, ☎ 761-9178.
Rhonda Manning Hidaji, LCSW: Individual & Couples. Goal-Oriented Gestalt & Integrative Psychotherapy, Sliding Fee Scale, Germantown/Cordova area ☎ 757-7706.
Joseph Robert Pfeiffer, LCSW: ☎ 578-9107.
M. Todd Puckett, MS, LPC: Personal Enhancement Coaching. • 5050 Poplar Ave., Suite 2400 ☎ 844-6228.
J. Kent Usry, M.Div., MAC, LCSW: Counseling Individuals, Couples, Children, & Families. Specialties: Trauma, Addictions, Grief & Sexuality. Sliding Fee Scale. ☎ 491-8632.
Kathryn T. Vullo, PhD: Licensed Clinical Psychologist, LLC • 8590 Farmington Blvd., Ste. 3, G'twn, 670 Colonial Rd., Ste. 1, Mphs. ☎ 848-6666, www.inter-personalnet.com.

DENTAL SERVICES

William N. Castle, D.D.S.: Dentist • 79 North Cooper ☎ 685-5008.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Ronnie Bingham, CPA: Taxes, accounting, estate planning ☎ 753-1413.
Donald Morgan Bookkeeping and Tax Service: ☎ 458-0152.
Karen B. Shea: Financial Consultant, Smith Barney Inc., 1661 International Dr., Ste. 200 ☎ 818-4134, 800-227-4146, fax: 818-4233.
Sarah A. Washington: Investment Advisor ☎ 466-3588, website: www.lpl.com/sarah.washington, e-mail: sarah.washington@lpl.com.

FLORISTS

Botanica: 3092 Poplar, ☎ 458-1929.
Park East Florist: 6005 Park ☎ 761-2980.

GRAPHICS/PHOTOGRAPHY

ABC/A2Z: Digital Photography/Videography. By Appointment ☎ 377-7701.
Graffiti Graphics: 1985 Madison #7 ☎ 278-5002.
It's Done! Typing, word processing/printing service-resumes, thesis, manuscripts, etc. ☎ 795-4308.
Printers Ink: Box 11485, -0485 ☎ 454-1411.
RK Photo: Black & white photography, processing & printing services. Full color post card advertising. Call ☎ 452-2766 or e-mail: btg69a@prodigy.com.
See-S: Portraits & photography ☎ 327-3760.
Silva Piano Studio: Private piano instruction, beginner to highly advanced ☎278-1384

HELP & INFORMATION LINES

Affirmation: ☎ (708) 733-9590.
AIDS Switchboard: ☎ 278-AIDS.
Gay & Lesbian Helpline: ☎ 1-888-340-GLBT (Mon.-Fri., 5-10pm, Sat.-Sun., 4-9pm).

Gay & Lesbian Hotline: ☎ 1-800-285-7431 (24 hr. help & information for Lesbians, Gays, transvestites & transsexuals).
Gay & Lesbian Youth Hotline: ☎ 1-800-347-TEEN (Thu.-Sun., 7pm-11:45pm).
Gay & Lesbian Switchboard: ☎ 278-4297 • 24-hrs. LINC: ☎ 415-2700.
Memphis Sexual Assault Resource Center: ☎ 272-2020
Narcotics Anonymous: ☎ 276-LIVE.
Peer Listening: Youth-staffed GLBT youth hotline (Mon.-Fri., 3-9pm) ☎ 1-800-399-PEER.
Suicide & Crisis Intervention: ☎ 274-7477.
Transvestite-Transsexual National Hotline: ☎ (617) 899-2212 (8-2am, Mon.-Sat.).

LEGAL SERVICES

Wayne C. Gulledd, Attorney at Law: 1014 S. Crockett Rd., Senatobia, MS 38668 ☎ (662) 562-5949, (662) 292-0823 or (662) 292-0046.
Deborah K. Brooks, Attorney at Law: 200 Jefferson Ave. ☎ 529-8888.
Susan Mackenzie, Attorney at Law: 266 So. Front St., Ste. 206 ☎ 527-7701.
Robert Ross, Attorney at Law: 100 N. Main, Ste 3310 ☎525-0417.
Jocelyn D. Wurzburg, Attorney at Law: 5118 Park, Ste 232, ☎ 684-1332.

LODGING

French Quarter Suites*: 2144 Madison ☎ 523-8912.
Hampton Inn & Suites: 962 S. Shady Grove, Group Sales-Events Coordinator: E. Ryan Dougherty ☎ 762-0056.

MASSAGE SERVICES

ABC A Bodywise Company Guesthouse: Relaxing therapeutic, full-body massage/sports massage. By appointment. ☎ 377-7701.
Mike Warkentin, LMT: By appt. ☎ 218-0669. Inbalance Fitness, 794 S. Cooper
Stephen Pair: Sports, therapeutic, relaxing, Swedish massage ☎ 277-1705, stephenpair@aol.com
Tom Pitman: Rejuvenating full-body massage by appointment. ☎ 761-7977.

MEDIA

Family & Friends: Free monthly magazine • Box 771948, Memphis 38177-1948, ☎ 682-2669, Fax: 685-2234, email: FamilyMag@aol.com,
Triangle Journal News: Free monthly newspaper published by Printers Ink • Box 11485, Memphis, 38111-0485 ☎ 454-1411, Fax: 454-1411 51*, email: memphisTJN@aol.com, website: www.memphistrianglejournal.com.

MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES

Antique Warehouse*: 2563 Summer ☎ 323-0600.
Bailea Blue Hair Salon: 2111 Madison ☎ 726-0090.
Bereavement Express: A unique way to express your sympathy to family, friends, co-workers, clients. ☎ 578-9107; www.LandscapesPublishing.com
Christian Funeral Directors: 2615 Overton Crossing ☎ 358-0062
Dabbles Hair Co.: 19 N. Cooper ☎ 725-0521.

DJ Services: breakbeatkid69@hotmail.com.
DiversityBuilder: Free Professional Gay Referrals, Box 3614, Brentwood, TN 37024 ☎ 615-794-5047, email: info@diversitybuilder.com, www.diversitybuilder.com
Doing Business In Memphis: A Sales Leads Directory www.memphisbusiness.com.
Girls Work: Includes: *House Doctors, Intimate Occasions, Lunch to Go, BasketGrams & Everyday Services* ☎ 276-1935, email: grlswrk@hotmail.com, http://www.webspawner.com/users/girlswork/index.html.
Bob Hughes, EdD: Yoga, relaxation & meditation classes ☎ 682-0855.
Bonnie's Doggie Day Care: 885 S. Cooper, ☎ 726-1300.
Love Song Greeting Cards: Specializing in greeting cards for lovers only • P.O. Box 676, Horn Lake, MS 38637-2165.
McPherson Appliance Clinic: Sales, service & repair, Heating & A/C. • 1447 National, ☎ 327-6887, 327-7395.
Memphis Paranormal Investigation Team: http://hometown.aol.com/paranormal38111/ghost.html.
Midtown Galleries & Auction, Inc.: Antiques, Art, Painted & Unusual Furnishings • 2228 Central ☎ 725-0049.
Midtown House Cleaning Service: 15yr. exp., ref., onsite est., ☎ 274-0281 evenings or weekends.
Mr. Scruff's Pet Care: Pet sitting ☎ 725-9216.
Paggios for Hair Salon: ☎ 274-3944.
Pet Care Unlimited: Pet sitting and/or house sitting by competent, caring couple ☎ 726-6198.
Professional Pest Management: ☎ 327-8400
TNT Painting: Tom Rowe & Trent Gatewood ☎ 503-8376 or 649-3270.
Tom Webb Ins.: Insuring in the Gay and -Lesbian Community, 4646 Poplar ☎ 682-2170.
Vantek: Internet Services • Box 11187, Memphis 38111-0187 ☎ 324-4999, e-mail: vladadmin@vantek.net.
www.TheFunStartsNow.com: Professional magicians, live animals, clowns, balloon artists, face painter, DJs, pony rides & illusionists—fund raisers ☎ 358-7258-Nicholas Toombs.

REAL ESTATE SERVICES

Russell Armstrong, Developer, Looney Developments: 194 Looney Ave. ☎ 525-3044.
Brian Clanton, The Carter Group: 1908 Exeter, Ste. 2, Germantown ☎ 753-7222, 458-3852.
Joanna Johnson, Realtor, Clay Johnson Realty: 757-B West Poplar Ave. ☎ 853-0237.
Glenn Moore, Broker, Owner, Woodland Realty: ☎ 377-1057.
Steve Solomon, Broker, Sowell & Company: 54 S. Cooper ☎ 278-4380.
Randy Wilder, Affiliate Broker, Sowell & Company: 54 S. Cooper ☎ 278-4380.

TRAVEL

Great American Cruises, Inc.: Cruise Travel Agency, Sherman Perkins, 52 N. Second ☎ 525-5302.
Travel Customized by Jean Morris: Member International Gay & Lesbian Travel Association ☎ 465-2936.



Box 11485, Memphis, Tennessee 38111-0485
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Publisher/Editor

Allen Cook
(MemphisTJN@aol.com)

Columnists/Contributors

Shannon Yarbrough • Jim Maynard • Jon Devin

Production

Allen Cook • Bob Dumais

Advertising Sales

Bob Dumais • Allen Cook

National Advertising Representative

RIVENDELL MEDIA

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Calendar Listings in Bold type take place at GLBT venues or are specifically GLBT-related.

Calendar Listings in non-bold type take place at GLBT-friendly venues or are of interest to the GLBT community

Out & About

REGULAR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICES

- Open Heart Community of Faith - Bible Study & Worship Celebration - North End of First Congregational (1000 South Cooper) - (901) 323-3514 - 9am
- **Holy Trinity Community Church - Sunday School and Holy Worship Service & Children's Church - (901) 320-9376 - office@holytrinitymemphis.org - 9:45am and 11am**
- First Congregational Church - Sunday School, Café Congo, and Worship Service - (901) 278-6786 - 9:30am, 10am, and 10:30am
- Prescott Church - Sunday School & Worship Service - (901) 327-8479 - 9:30am & 10:45am
- **Living Word Christian Church - Morning and Evening Worship Services - (901) 452-6272 - 10am and 6pm**

WEDNESDAY CHURCH SERVICES

- Taizé - First Congregational Church - (901) 278-6786 - 6pm

- Holy Trinity Community Church - Fellowship Supper and Bible Study - (901) 320-9376 - office@holytrinitymemphis.org - 6pm & 7pm
- **Living Word Christian Church - Worship Service - (901) 452-6272 - 7pm**
- Open Heart Community of Faith - "A Course in Miracles" - Study Group - North End of First Congregational (1000 South Cooper) - (901) 323-3514 - 7:30pm

SUNDAYS

- Softball - Toby Fields (Central and Hollywood) - 1pm
- Sunday Afternoon at the Gaiety (GLBT-themed films), MGLCC - 3pm
- Tea Dance - Metro - 4pm
- Brothers & Sisters Bowling League - Winchester Bowl - (901) 722-5236 or MemphisGayBowlin@aol.com - 6pm
- Pool Tournament - Pumping Station - 6pm
- AA Meeting - Community Center - 278-4297 - 8pm
- Sissy Bingo - Crossroads - 8pm

- After Park Set Sundays - Paragon - 9pm
- Queer As Folk - Metro - 9pm
- Lights Out, Everything Goes - J-Wag's - 10pm
- Drag Show - Backstreet - 11pm

MONDAYS

- Monday Night at the Movies - Sponsored by Holy Trinity Community Church - Bartlett Cinema 10 - 6:45pm - Details at www.HolyTrinityMemphis.org
- Plus Support Group - Community Center - (901) 278-4297 - 7:30pm
- Pool Tournament - The Jungle - 7:30pm
- Dart Tournaments - One More, Pumping Station - 8pm
- Karaoke Night - Metro - 10pm

TUESDAYS

- Women's Rugby Practice - Audubon Park - 6:30pm
- The Caring Group - Relaxation and de-stressing by subtle energy practices - Holy Trinity Community Church - (901) 320-9376 - 7pm

DECEMBER/JANUARY 2004 COMMUNITY CALENDAR

26	27	28	29	30	31	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open AA Meeting, 3pm, MGLCC • Bowling, Winchester Lanes, 6pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plus Support Group, MGLCC, 7:30pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hairspray - Broadway Touring Company, The Orpheum, 8pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hairspray - Broadway Touring Company, The Orpheum, 8pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GLBT Parenting Group, MGLCC, 6pm • Heidiville, MGLCC, 6-8pm • MGLCC TV Night, MGLCC, 7pm • Hairspray - Broadway Touring Company, The Orpheum, 8pm 	<p>NEW YEARS EVE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Year's Eve Free Snack Buffet, 7-9pm, MGLCC • Hairspray - Broadway Touring Company, The Orpheum, 8pm 	<p>NEW YEARS DAY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hairspray - Broadway Touring Company, The Orpheum, 2 and 8pm
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bowling, Winchester Lanes, 6pm • Women's Action Coalition, First Congregational Church, 6:30pm • Open AA Meeting, MGLCC, 3pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feast for Friends, St. John's United Methodist Church, 6pm • Plus Support Group, MGLCC, 7:30pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Caring Group, HTCC, 7pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GLBT Parenting Group, MGLCC, 6pm • Heidiville, MGLCC, 6-8pm • MGLCC TV Night, MGLCC, 7pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cafe Q, MGLCC, 9pm 	<p><i>See regular Friday events</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MGLCC Birthday Potluck • Tsarus Club Night, The Pumping Station, 9pm
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stonewall Democrats, MGLCC, 1:30pm • Bowling, Winchester Lanes, 6pm • Open AA Meeting, MGLCC, 3pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friends for Life Coffee House, 6-8pm. Call 272-0855 for location • Plus Support Group, MGLCC, 7:30pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Caring Group, HTCC, 7pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Let's Meet and Chill, MGLCC, 7pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GLBT Parenting Group, MGLCC, 6pm • Heidiville, MGLCC, 6-8pm • MGLCC TV Night, MGLCC, 7pm 	<p><i>See regular Friday events</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cafe Q, MGLCC, 7pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MGLCC Birthday Potluck • Tsarus Club Night, The Pumping Station, 9pm
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bowling, Winchester Lanes, 6pm • Women's Action Coalition, First Congo, 6:30pm • Open AA Meeting, MGLCC, 3pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feast for Friends, St. John's United Methodist Church, 6pm • Plus Support Group, MGLCC, 7:30pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Caring Group, HTCC, 7pm • Integrity Dinner/Meeting, Calvary Church, 6:30pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GLBT Parenting Group, MGLCC, 6pm • Heidiville, MGLCC, 6-8pm • MGLCC TV Night, MGLCC, 7pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See regular Friday events • Cafe Q, MGLCC, 7pm 	<p><i>See regular Friday events</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See regular Friday events • Cafe Q, MGLCC, 7pm
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- Lesbians with Breast Cancer - Support Group - YWCA (766 South Highland) - 7pm
- Singles Dart Tournament - Crossroads - 7:45pm
- Pool Tournament - One More - 8:30pm

- Karaoke Night - Metro - 10pm
- Karaoke Night - J-Wag's - 11pm

WEDNESDAYS

- Frontrunners 3-mile run, Overton Park Pavilion, 6pm
- Dart Tournament - The Jungle -

- 7:30pm
- Partners Dart Tournament - Crossroads - 8pm
- Lights Out - Come Party in the Dark - Metro

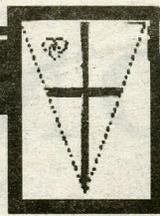
THURSDAYS

- Cotton Pickin' Squares - Holy Trinity Community Church - (901) 438-2427 - 7:30pm
- Dart Tournament - J-Wag's - 8pm
- Karaoke - Paragon - 9pm
- Karaoke Night - Allusions Entertainment Center - 9:30-11:30pm
- Star Karaoke - Crossroads - 10pm
- Amateur Show - Metro - 11:30pm

Welcome

685 S. Highland
Memphis, TN 38111
Phone: 901-320-9376

Website Address: www.holytrinitymemphis.org
Email Addresses:
Church Office: office@holytrinitymemphis.org
Pastor: Minister@holytrinitymemphis.org



Weekly Schedule

- **Worship Service** 11:00AM
- **Wednesday Night Study** 7:00PM
- **Thursday Evenings** Cotton Pickin' Squares

HOLY TRINITY COMMUNITY CHURCH

THE REV. TIMOTHY MEADOWS, M.DIV., PASTOR

FRIDAYS

- First Congo Films - First Congregational Church - (901) 278-6786 - 7pm & 9pm
- MGLCC Coffeehouse Nights - Community Center - (901) 278-4297 - 7pm

- Drag Show - Crossroads - Midnight
- Drag Show - J-Wag's - 3am

SATURDAYS

- Frontrunners 2-mile run, The Pier parking lot (Union and Riverside), 9am
- Women's Rugby Practice, Harbortown Greenbelt Park on Mud Island - 9am
- Live and Let Live on Cooper St. - MGLCC - 278-4297 - 7 pm
- Pool Tournament - J-Wag's - 9pm
- Drag Shows - Crossroads - Midnight, - Allusions Entertainment Center - 10:30pm & 12:15pm

Larry Timmerman

Bill Johns

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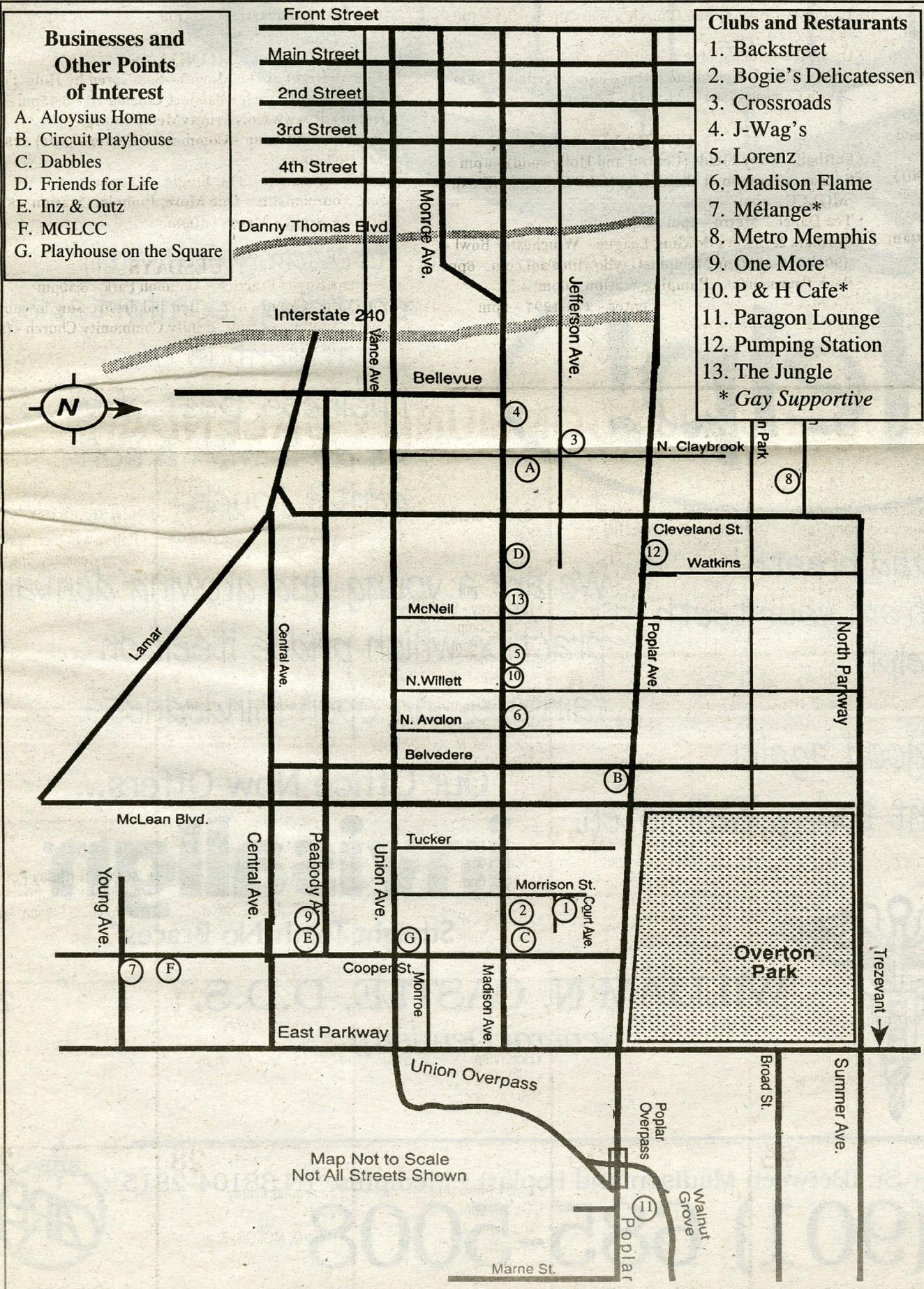
Businesses and Other Points of Interest

- A. Aloysius Home
- B. Circuit Playhouse
- C. Dabbles
- D. Friends for Life
- E. Inz & Outz
- F. MGLCC
- G. Playhouse on the Square

Clubs and Restaurants

1. Backstreet
2. Bogie's Delicatessen
3. Crossroads
4. J-Wag's
5. Lorenz
6. Madison Flame
7. Mélange*
8. Metro Memphis
9. One More
10. P & H Cafe*
11. Paragon Lounge
12. Pumping Station
13. The Jungle

* Gay Supportive



Map Not to Scale
Not All Streets Shown

Stephen Pair

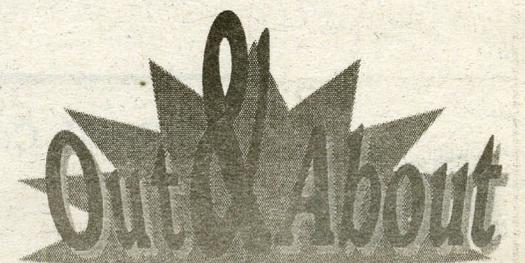
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Certified Personal Trainer

By Appointment Only

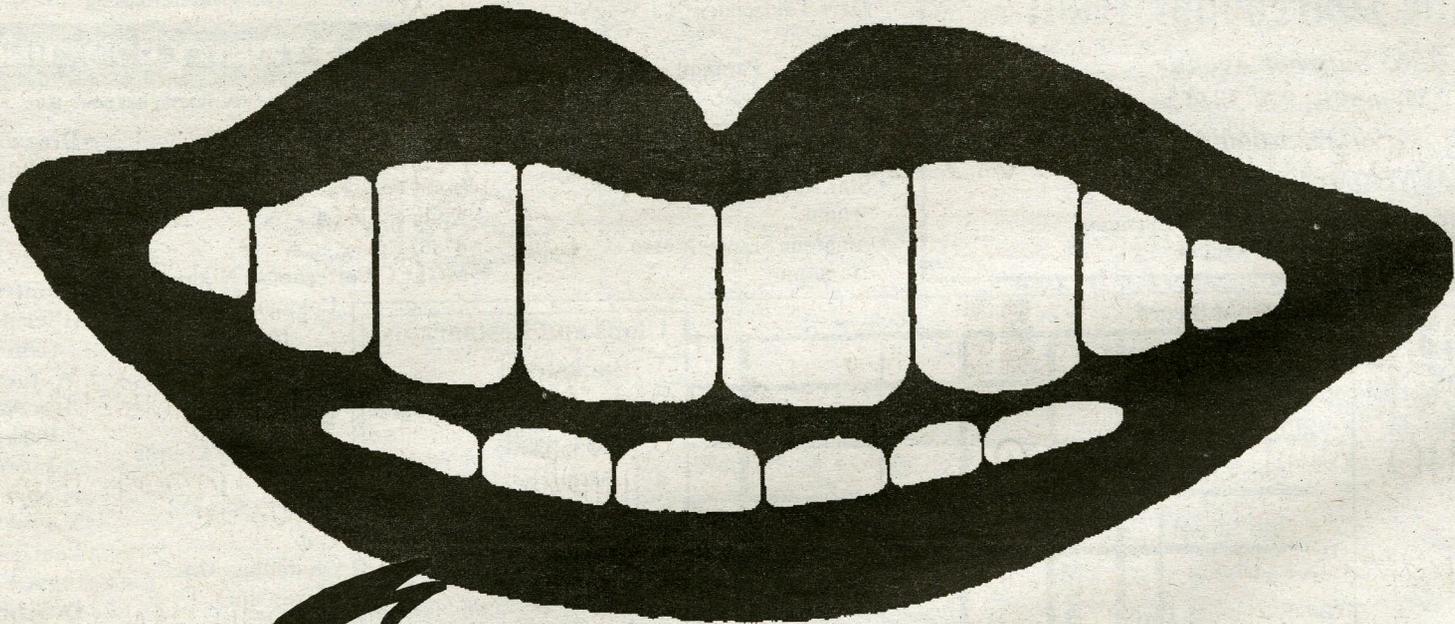
- Sports
- Therapeutic
- Relaxing
- Swedish

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