

Canada 4th Nation to Legalize Gay Marriage

By Rob Gillies
Associated Press Writer

TORONTO — Canada legalized gay marriage July 20, becoming the world's fourth nation to grant full legal rights to same-sex couples.

Supreme Court Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin signed the legislation making it law, hours after it was approved by the Senate late July 19 despite strong opposition from Conservatives and religious leaders.

The bill gives homosexual couples the same rights as those in traditional unions between a man and a woman, something already legal in eight of Canada's 10 provinces and in two of its three territories.

The legislation drafted by Prime Minister Paul Martin's minority Liberal Party government easily passed the Senate, which essentially rubber stamps any bill already passed by the House of Commons, which passed it late last month.

The Netherlands, Belgium and Spain are the only other nations that allow gay marriage nationwide.

The law comes after years of court battles and debate that divided families, religious groups and even political allies.

The Roman Catholic Church, the predominant Christian denomination in Canada, has vigorously opposed the legislation. But Martin, a Roman Catholic, has said that despite anyone's personal beliefs, all Canadians should be granted the same rights to marriage.

Alex Munter, national spokesman for Canadians for Equal Marriage, which has led the debate in favor of the law,

was triumphant: "It is a signal to the world that Canada is an open and inclusive society that believes in the notion of full citizenship for all."

Churches have expressed concern that their clergy would be compelled to perform same-sex ceremonies. The legislation, however, states that the bill only covers civil unions, not religious ones, and no clergy would be forced to perform same-sex ceremonies unless they choose to do so.

Charles McVety, a spokesman for Defend Marriage Canada and president of Canada Christian College, said he was "very sad that the state has invaded the church, breached separation of church and state, and redefined a religious word."

McVety vowed his group would work to vote out lawmakers who supported the legislation in the next general elections.

"A new Parliament is going to readdress this issue and common sense ultimately will prevail," McVety said.

In the United States, Massachusetts is the only state that allows gay marriages; Vermont and Connecticut have approved same-sex civil unions.

Though hundreds of foreigners have come to Canada to seek civil ceremonies since gay marriages were first allowed in Ontario and British Columbia in 2003, not all countries or states recognize the unions.

The U.S. government does not recognize same-sex marriage, and most states refuse to acknowledge marriage certificates from gay and lesbian couples, regardless of where they wed.

WELCOME HOME!



On Friday afternoon, July 18, the MGLCC board of directors closed on the purchase of the property at 892 South Cooper. The community center expects to save as much as \$4000 a year as the result of the transaction from reduced insurance premiums and a possible property tax exemption. The property had been purchased by Dr. Herb Zeman and was being leased to the center.

Father Defends Love In Action

The father of a gay teenager who wrote in a Web log that he was being sent against his will to a camp run by Love in Action International to "cure" him of his homosexuality is defending his actions.

In an interview with the Christian Broadcasting Network, Joe Stark says he did the right thing when he sent his 16-year-old son Zach to the program.

"We felt very good about Zach coming here because to let him see for himself the destructive lifestyle, what he has to face in the future, and to give him some options that society doesn't give him today," Stark told CBN.

"Knowing that your son... statistics say that by the age of 30 he could either have AIDS or be dead."

Stark also said that he did nothing wrong in sending the teen to the camp against his will.

"But until he turns 18 and he's an adult in the state of Tennessee, I'm responsible for him. And I'm going to see to it that he has all options available to him."

Stark told CBN that when Zach

is an adult he can make his own life choices.

The interview is the first proof offered that Zach actually exists. His story first came to light last month when a Web logger going only by the name of "Zach" said his parents were sending him to the religious organization to try to convert him to heterosexuality.

The teen identified himself as a 16-year-old from Bartlett, Tenn. but did not give a last name, making it impossible to verify the story.

He said on the Web log that his parents "tell me that there is something psychologically wrong with me. ... I'm a big screwup to them, who isn't on the path God wants me to be on. So I'm sitting here in tears ... and I can't help it."

The log created fury among LGBT activists and led to an investigation by the state Department of Children's Services. A department investigator visited and found there were no signs of abuse. The Department did not say whether it found "Zach" and until Stark came forward it remained unclear if the teen ever existed.

John Smid, executive director of Love in Action, said the allegations were never described to him but he assumed they involved a complaint of psychological abuse.

The camp program, Smid said, "is to help kids to grow in their relationship with Christ."

"We understand people don't have control over what they feel, but we teach them they are able to control what they do," Smid said. "We don't have to act on those desires, even if we feel them."

A second probe of "Love In Action" was begun by the state Mental Health & Developmental Disabilities Department — because the group was offering counseling in drug and alcohol addiction. State officials say they can't do that without a license.

In an effort to head off the new examination of the camp, Love in Action executive director John Smid said the organization will change its Web site wording and direct clients to established, off-site drug and alcohol counseling services.

Third Case of Arson Against Gays In Month

BROWNSVILLE, TEX. — A gay club in Brownsville, Texas has been gutted by fire — the third case of arson hitting a gay venue in three states in three weeks.

The Heart Rock Club sustained heavy damage when fire raced through the building July 24.

Police say that the club's interior was vandalized and several cans of gasoline were poured on furniture to fuel the fire. Police have listed the blaze as a hate

crime.

The club had closed for the night several hours before the fire began. If the club had been open and packed with people, as it was most Saturday nights, no one would have gotten out of the windowless cement block building alive a police official said.

Club owner Sylvia Armente called the fire an attack on the entire Brownsville's gay community. "What else could it be?" Armente

told the *Brownsville Herald*.

When the club opened on May 20, with a 25-foot gay pride flag over its doorway, Armente said she hoped to "create an environment where people can enjoy themselves and not hide who they are."

Armente told the *Herald* that the club had not received any specific threats but had endured a few random acts of vandalism in the past. Late in July, fire destroyed the only

See Arson on page 6

MGLCC Revises By-Laws, Elects New Officers

The members of the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center elected a new board of directors at the annual membership meeting on July 10th.

Marty Katz was re-elected as treasurer for the MGLCC, and Jeffrey Curbo was elected vice-president.

Sonia Garner, Tommy Simmons, Daniel Slover, Janet Watson, Charlie Weatherall, James Williams, and Robin Yow were each elected as members-at-large.

Len Piechowski and Tuffy Keenan will continue to serve as president and secretary, respectively, as their terms run until July 2006.

According to the newly adopted by-laws of the

MGLCC, members-at-large shall serve one-year terms. Officers serve two-year terms with the offices of treasurer and vice-president concluding in odd years and the offices of president and secretary concluding in even numbered years.

The new by-laws also allow room for two additional members-at-large to be elected to board of directors.

The Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center is a non-profit 501(c)(3) working to create a better future for the GLBT community in the Mid-South. It offers an array of diverse GLBT services by utilizing the talents, energy, and resources of its members and surrounding community.

Are You Green?

Submitted by
Memphis Lavender Greens

A Lavender Greens chapter is forming and will be meeting at the MGLCC on the first Sunday of each month at 2 p.m. The first meeting will be Sun., Aug. 7.

The Green Party is the fastest growing political party and global movement in world. Committed to environmentalism, non-violence, social justice and grassroots organizing, Greens are renewing democracy without the support of corporate donors.

Greens provide real solutions for real problems. Whether the issue is universal health care, corporate globalization, alterna-

tive energy, election reform or decent, living wages for workers, Greens have the courage and independence necessary to take on the powerful corporate interests.

The Lavender Greens are a part of the Green Party of the United States! The Lavender Greens are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Queer Greens organized as a Caucus with the purpose of promoting LGBTIQ issues within the Green Party.

The Green Party platform supports: Same-sex Marriages, Medical Marijuana & Needle Exchange, Low-Cost AIDS Drugs, Equal Rights, Ending anti-gay bias in the Military, Abortion rights, Civil Liberties,

Universal Health Care, Election Reform and Instant Runoff Voting and Nonviolent Solutions to Conflict.

If you believe in full human rights and equality for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer people and the need for a political party that demands social and economic justice, nonviolence, a healthy environment, and expansion of our freedoms and human rights in a democracy, then attend the first meeting on Sun., Aug. 7th at 2 p.m at the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center.

For more information, contact Sonia Garner at sgarner349@yahoo.com or at 901 489-2182.

Third Annual Dead Elvis Fun Bowl Set for Aug. 20

The third annual Dead Elvis Fun Bowl, a fundraiser for the St. Patrick's Invitational Tournament, will take place on Sat., Aug. 20, at Bartlett Lanes, 6276 Stage Road.

Registration begins at noon and bowling will commence at 1p.m. The entry fee is \$25.

Organizers are planning a silent auction, door prizes and "a few surprises." A wake will

be held after the bowling.

A portion of the proceeds will benefit the 2006 S.P.I.T. chosen charity with the remainder funding the annual tournament held in March.

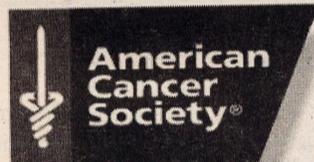
Bowlers Set to Start New Season

The Brothers and Sisters Bowling League will have a Sign-up Party on Sun., Aug. 28, at 6 p.m. at Winchester

Lanes, 3703 Winchester Rd. The first night of bowling will be Sun. Sept. 11.

For more information, con-

tact Ron Bright or Darian Porter at Inz & Outz at 728-6535.



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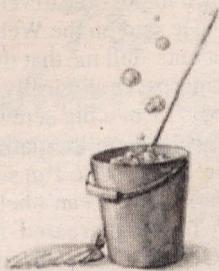
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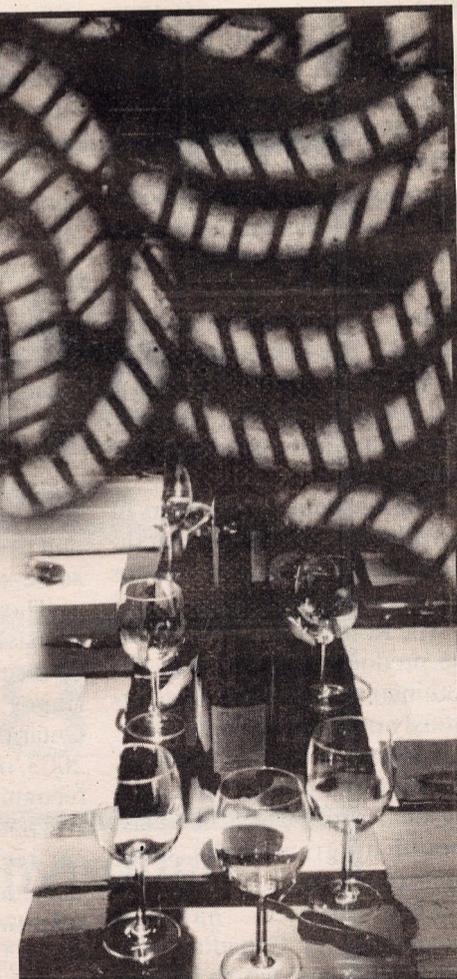
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San Francisco Owner Accused of Racism Shuts Down Black Gay Bar

Community activists in San Francisco say their fears were realized July 20 when a bar owner accused of racism closed down the city's only gay bar catering to a predominantly black customer base.

Les Natali, the owner of the Pendulum, has faced two investigations for another bar he owns, SF Badlands.

In April, San Francisco's Human Rights Commission ruled that Natali enforced a stricter dress code on African Americans, demanded

multiple forms of I.D. from them, and discouraged them from entering his bar.

In June, San Francisco's board of supervisors unanimously passed a resolution urging city and state agencies to take action against Natali. But a year-long undercover investigation by the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) stated on July 14 that it found no signs of discrimination.

ABC launched its investigation

after Natali applied for a liquor license for the Pendulum. The organization leading the protests, And Castro For All (AC4A), warned California regulators that if Natali obtained the liquor license, something bad would happen to the bar.

"This is definitely a case of the chickens coming home to roost," Don Romesburg, a AC4A spokesperson, told the PlanetOut Network.

"It seems with the ABC ruling, Natali is above the law. And with-

out any penalties for his civil rights violations, he can act with impunity."

On July 14, AC4A held a demonstration outside Badlands and the Pendulum.

"He fired the employees without notice, severance, and without any hope," said demonstrator Calvin Tipston to KRON-4 TV. "That's wrong."

But Berin Nakamura, the Pendulum's general manager, said that employees knew the bar was

closing for remodeling and were offered a very generous severance package.

"I believe there are some people who feel they were discriminated against," said Nakamura. "Natali's business had made so much money catering to young professional white males that he didn't need to extend himself to minorities, but I don't think he's a racist at all."

Natali's attorney, Stephen Goldstein, made the case to KRON-TV to put the matter to rest.

Lesbians Say Police Ignored Hate Crime Attack

Two Kansas City, Mo. lesbians were attacked by a bat-wielding woman in the early morning hours of July 14.

According to a July 18 press release from the Kansas City Anti-Violence Project (KCAVP) and local sources, the women were walking hand in hand when a pickup truck drove by, and a woman in the passenger seat yelled anti-gay comments in their direction.

The truck circled the block for another round of hate speech, and then made a third pass at the victims. This time, the truck stopped, a woman came out with a bat and proceeded to attack the pair, pum-

meling one of the lesbians multiple times.

The assault was cut short by the appearance of a tow truck with flashing lights that the basher may have thought was a police car. She took off in the pickup and has not been identified.

According to Doug Riley, executive director of the KCAVP, one of the women was relatively unscathed, but the other suffered a concussion and a cut on her ear.

Riley told PlanetOut that the injured woman refused an ambulance, but was driven to St. Luke's hospital for treatment. Riley's group was initially outraged by the nonchalant reaction to the crime by

authorities.

The press release said the police responded to a call and met with the women at their house after the beating. However, they failed to treat the incident as a hate crime, or even mention the gay slurs in their report.

Two officers reportedly told the women they were under no obligation to respond to the call at all, and seemed indifferent to the implications of the attack, describing it in their paperwork as a "verbal assault."

"I would think being bashed over the head with a bat would give reason for police to come to a scene," Riley said in the press re-

lease.

"They need to be held accountable for their inaction and insensitivity."

The press release triggered media interest in the story, which appeared in the local press and on television stations. Subsequently, Riley said the police called the women back into the station to give their statements again, and pressed much harder for a description of the assailant.

Riley is encouraged by the renewed effort by law enforcement, and is cautiously optimistic that the Kansas City police are now taking the case seriously.

An Associated Press dispatch

said that Donna Pittman of KMBC has reported that police are in fact treating the matter as a hate crime. But Riley himself has not received confirmation to this effect during his own discussions with police.

The Kansas City community is "really shocked and angered that this happened," Riley said. But the KCAVP has received a tremendous amount of community support in the process.

The Kansas City Anti-Violence Project is a member of the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, and the only organization of its kind in the entire territory of Western Missouri, Kansas, Iowa and Nebraska.

Chicago Republicans Withdraw Gay Games Support

Chicago — The five Republicans on the Cook County Board of Commissioners withdrew their names from a routine proclamation welcoming the 2006 Gay Games to Chicago. The Illinois Family Institute is urging Democratic commissioners to do the same.

"There's a big difference between tolerating and celebrating homosexuality," said Peter LaBarbera of the group.

"For governments to be using taxpayer money, and big corporations spending money to sponsor this — we think the average Joe sees that as being just a little bit off."

The Cook County Board of Commissioners approved the ceremonial proclamation without opposition in June as one of a group of routine measures.

"I must have been out of the room" when the proclamation came up, said Tony Peraica, one of the five Republicans on the 17-commissioner board.

Organizers say the Gay Games, set for July 2006, could pump \$50 million to \$80 million into Chicago's economy.

Gay Games spokeswoman Tracy Baim said she was not surprised by the commissioners'

move and was "actually more surprised" when the proclamation was approved.

Commissioner Mike Quigley, who sponsored the proclamation, plans to play hockey in the games and said the Republicans' move stemmed from "blinding bias and

animosity."

The city of Chicago isn't a financial sponsor, but is helping line up facilities and other resources.

The opening ceremony is to be held at Soldier Field, home of the Chicago Bears, and the closing at Wrigley Field, home of the Cubs.

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Hello, Goodbye to Gay TV Landmarks as Gay-Themed Networks Arrive, *Queer as Folk* and *Six Feet Under* Depart

Commentary by Damon Romine
Entertainment Media Director
Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against
Defamation (GLAAD)

It's been quite a queer summer. And I mean that in a good way.

MTV Networks made history in June with the launch of LOGO, the first basic cable channel specifically for a lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) audience. In the cable spectrum, LOGO joins pay channels here! and Q Television, which both went to round-the-clock LGBT programming last year.

Also this summer, we've been treated to new seasons of

Showtime's *Queer as Folk* and HBO's *Six Feet Under*. They are, sadly, the final episodes as each comes to an end this month.

The tremendous hours of new programs on the gay cable networks may help fill the void left by the departures of *QAF* and *SFU*, but it won't make saying goodbye any easier. In their own ways, each show was historic television, holding up a mirror which allowed gays and lesbians to really see ourselves on TV.

Since its premiere in 2000, *QAF* has been an unabashed and unashamed depiction of relationships amongst a group of Pittsburgh friends. The show

presented their world with an honesty and candor never before seen on television.

With *QAF* executive producers Ron Cowen and Dan Lipman — partners both personally and professionally for over 25 years (*An Early Frost*, *Sisters*) — not only brought the word "queer" back into vogue, but gave us a series wherein gays and lesbians are multi-dimensional characters who work, love, create families and have sex. This was a series where gay characters were not relegated to the role of wisecracking neighbor or supportive best friend.

An unflinching slice of gay life, the show never purported to represent our entire community, but *QAF* still polarized the very audience it portrayed. Some viewers loved the show's soap opera-like elements. Some hated the fact that at times drugs and promiscuous sex seemed glamorized. Many appreciated the fact the show included lesbian characters. And others argued the series belied its Pittsburgh locale with an all-white cast.

After *QAF*'s somewhat shocking debut — audiences had never seen depictions of sex between men on series television before — a new drama the following year about life and death seemed almost tame by comparison. But *Six Feet Under* was groundbreaking in its own right. Created by Alan

Ball (*American Beauty*) in 2001, the show at its core is a family drama where two of the main characters happen to be gay.

People tuned in to watch a series that broke convention and took them on a journey with quirky and engrossing stories. The saga about the funeral-home-owning Fisher family includes gay son David and his African American partner Keith — three-dimensional characters who showcase the complexity and diversity of our community.

Every member of the Fisher clan has experienced romantic upheavals, but David and Keith have sustained a long-term relationship that is neither stereotypical nor perfect. The couple has dealt with real issues like religion, race, monogamy and violence. As the final episodes unfold, David and Keith are focused on having a family of their own, having spent this season looking at options such as surrogacy, foster care and adoption.

Anyone who questions the importance of having complex, textured characters like David and Keith on a successful show only has to look at a recent study out of the University of Minnesota. Researchers measured the attitudes of 150 students about gay men. After the students watched ten episodes of *SFU* and were tested again, there was a statistically significant reduction in their reported prejudice. That's the power of television in changing hearts and minds.

QAF will go down in history as TV's first gay drama that pushed through barriers and broke new ground. *SFU* will forever be an example of an ensemble show that successfully integrated our stories, depicting the diversity of our community and the value of our families. For many different reasons we're grateful to have had them as part of our lives. (Dare we dream of the reunion movies a decade from now: *Queer as Old Folk* and *Really Six Feet Under*?)

Long after they are gone, the influence of these two shows will continue. Would the triumvirate of LOGO, here! and Q Television even exist without the success of these shows? Would Bravo's *Queer Eye* or Showtime's *The L Word*? Probably not.

It's been an amazing five years when it comes to the progress we've made on cable television, while our portrayals on the broadcast networks have declined over the same period of time. With the end of *QAF* and *SFU*, and the series finale of *Will and Grace* on NBC in May, a huge void will be left when it comes to LGBT images on mainstream TV.

The magic of television is its power to offer a broad audience a glimpse of our lives, and show everyone that LGBT people have many of the same hopes and dreams (and hormones) as straight people. When our stories are not told, the implicit message is that our stories are not worth telling. But *Queer as Folk* and *Six Feet Under* have shown that our stories are interesting, engrossing and capable of transforming the way people see us.

The recent setbacks we've suffered in our quest for equality make it clear: we cannot take our visibility for granted. Having three niche networks devoted to us is a major leap forward, but the other cable and broadcast networks must continue to step up to the plate and share our stories. And we, in turn, need to support those shows whose commitment to inclusion is expanding acceptance and understanding of us in the larger culture.

PROGRAM NOTES:

Queer as Folk will close its five-season run on Sun., Aug. 7, at 9 p.m. The finale will be preceded by a half-hour special *Queer as Folk: Saying Goodbye* at 8:30 p.m. that same night.

Six Feet Under will air its series finale on Sun., Aug. 21, at 8 p.m. The broadcast will be preceded by the one-hour special *Six Feet Under: 2001-2005* at 7 p.m.

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Gay Fraternity to Go National

Students as far away as New York could eventually reap the benefits from the planned nationwide expansion of Arizona State University's only college-based gay fraternity.

Sigma Phi Beta, a fraternity at ASU for gay students, became a national organization during a convention on July 17. The fraternity adopted a national constitution and elected four alumni to leadership positions.

Carlos Galaz, director of expansion, said the fraternity gives gay students an opportunity to interact with others in the gay community in an environment where they won't be judged on the basis of their sexuality.

"I think we offer a safe space for people where they can be themselves," he said.

Sam Holdren, president and chairman of Sigma Phi Beta, said the fraternity is in a unique position because it is officially recognized by a university and is part of the collegiate Greek system. Other gay fraternities are community-based, he said.

Their campaign may help bridge the gap with the traditional Greek system, where straight males dominate fraternities, Holdren said. By forming personal relationships,

Sigma Phi Beta can help students learn to befriend their gay classmates on a more human level, reducing the negative effects of stereotypes, he added.

"People need to realize that they know somebody who's gay and they're not that bad," Holdren said. "They're just a regular person."

The adoption of a national organization is the culmination of three months' work. Fraternity members met at least once a week to formulate its structure, write a constitution and define roles for its leadership, said Holdren.

Ruben Grace, president of Sigma Phi Beta's ASU chapter, said with the national organization in place, a great deal of pressure will be taken off local chapter members. Grace said that the ASU chapter would continue to "build bonds" between the University's lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer community and Greek organizations. The burden of fundraising, advertising and establishing relationships with students at other colleges will be taken up by the national organization.

"They take care of a lot of stuff we were worried about fitting into our yearly schedule," Grace said.

But Holdren said much work remains to be done to further es-

tablish the national fraternity, including helping interested students establish chapters at other universities. Incorporation as a nonprofit organization with the state of Arizona, filing for tax-exemption status from the federal government and setting up an office also would be necessary.

Holdren said he did not anticipate any pitfalls from Sigma Phi Beta's efforts to expand nationwide. He said ASU has been very supportive of the fraternity.

"If we encounter any backlash anywhere, we will work through it," Holdren said. "I couldn't anticipate any negativity because we haven't had any on our campus."

Jeff Stensland, a journalism senior and social chair of the fraternity's ASU chapter, said that he was looking forward to bringing an opportunity like Sigma Phi Beta to students in other colleges.

"It really excites me because I have a lot of friends in other universities that have asked me about my fraternity and ... if we've ever thought about expanding, if they can find something like us," he said. "Now [this] gives them the tools to equip themselves and be able to start up."

N.Y. 'Marrying Mayor' Cleared of Charges

NEW PALTZ, N.Y. — Jason West, the mayor of New Paltz, N.Y., is no longer facing charges for marrying same-sex couples.

The Ulster County district attorney dropped the 24 misdemeanor charges against West, saying a trial would be needless and divisive.

"While a trial in this case would be filled with rhetoric and hyperbole, it would be lacking in a viable public purpose," District Attorney Donald A. Williams wrote to the town judge.

In the spring of 2004, Mayor West followed Mayor Gavin Newsom of San Francisco in presiding over same-sex weddings. West was charged with breaking the state's domestic relations law.

In June 2004, a town justice dismissed the charges, but a county judge reinstated the charges in February. West appealed, but the State Court of Appeals declined to hear the case.

"I was hoping it would go to trial, because the DA would have lost and it would have been a much more public victory," West said.

"Obviously the DA thought he was going to lose in the jury trial, so he backed down," West said. "It

wasn't unexpected. He was a political coward."

Jeff McGowan, who wed his partner, William van Roestenberg, in the first wedding presided over by West, agrees that politics played a role in the way the charges were handled.

"When you look at this, no other mayor was prosecuted for performing same-sex marriages. I think he was attacked because he was a Green Party mayor. I think that it is problematic to be wasting taxpayer money on what amounts to a vendetta."

Williams insisted the case was not about constitutional rights for same-sex couples, but rather a public official's duty to uphold the law. West countered that he was upholding his oath of office by fighting for equal rights.

In a conversation with the PlanetOut Network, he revealed he will marry same-sex couples again.

"I do have a restraining order against me — so once we get that knocked down, I'll be happy to marry same-sex couples," he said. Miramax is publishing a book West wrote about his experiences. *Dare to Hope: Saving American Democracy* is expected in bookstores within a month.

Come out and see a movie!

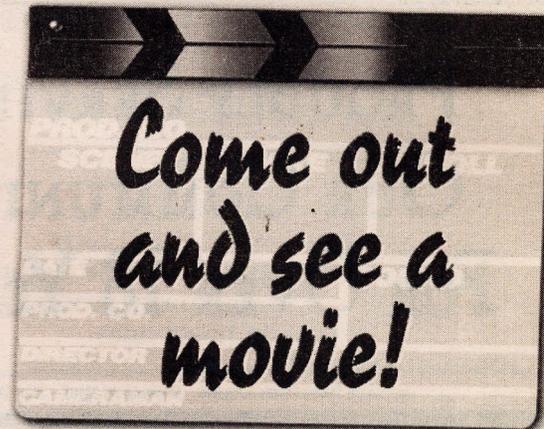
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8:30 20 Gay Stereotypes Confirmed	7:20 The Graffiti Artist	6:30 We Are Dad	2:10 silenceofmind
8:45 Latter Days	8:50 NightShadows	8:00 Gaydar	3:45 Fish Can't Fly
	9:10 Menstrual Monsters: The Ginger Snaps Trilogy	8:25 Never Rob A Bank With Someone You Love	
	9:40 Ginger Snaps Back: The Beginning	8:40 What Ever Happened to Peaches Christ?	
		9:15 The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green	

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Repeal of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' Would Help Army Meet Recruiting Goal

WASHINGTON — The United States military could attract as many as 41,000 new recruits by lifting its "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" ban on gay personnel, new data released by Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN) shows.

The analysis of year 2000 census data, conducted by Gary J. Gates, senior research fellow at the Williams Project, UCLA School of Law, indicates the armed forces could significantly close its recruiting gap — or even eliminate it — by welcoming openly gay troops to the services.

"The 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' law hangs like a 'Gays Not Welcome' sign outside the Pentagon's front door," said Sharra E. Greer, director of law and policy for SLDN. "Thousands of lesbian and gay Americans are ready to answer our nation's call to service, but are turned away because of federally sanctioned discrimination. Now,

more than ever, our country needs the talent of these patriotic Americans. We can make our homeland more secure by repealing 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' once and for all."

The *New York Times* reported that Lt. Gen. Franklin L. Hagenbeck, the Army's top personnel officer, predicted in testimony before Congress that the Army would miss its recruiting goal for the year. The shortfall, the *Times* reported, would include "the active-duty Army, as well as the Army Reserve and Army National Guard."

The Army has also suggested raising the maximum age for enlistment to 42. The Army has not missed its enlistment quota since 1999.

Gates, who previously estimated there are 65,000 lesbian and gay Americans currently serving in the forces, said that if 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' were repealed, the number of gay men who may feel

compelled to enlist in the active duty force, as well as the National Guard and Reserves, could increase.

Gates estimates there are currently more than 14,000 gay men on active duty, but if the ban were lifted and their service rates rose to mirror the service rates of heterosexual men, that figure would increase to 34,000 men.

When the National Guard and Reserve numbers are also adjusted, the number reaches 41,000. "(T)here are thousands and thousands of young men and women out there who want to serve this country," General Peter Pace, the in-coming chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was quoted as saying in the *Times*, an analysis echoed by SLDN.

"There is no justification for continuing to turn away qualified gay Americans from military service," said Greer. "Our military

should be in the business of recruiting the best and brightest Americans. The 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' law is a deterrent to service that, we now know, costs our country tens of thousands of troops. The difference those men and women could make on the ground is immeasurable. Congress should take down the 'Gays Not Welcome' sign and strengthen our national security by ending the ban and welcoming the thousands of lesbian and gay Americans who want to serve."

The Military Readiness Enhancement Act, a bill to repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and allow gays to serve openly, is currently pending in Congress. The bill currently has 90 bi-partisan supporters and was endorsed by eight retired military officers.

"Our national security depends on having the best and brightest Americans protecting our free-

doms," said BG Evelyn Foote, one of the first women to achieve the rank of Brigadier General, upon the bill's introduction.

"As a commander, I know that lesbian, gay and bisexual Americans have served our country with honor and distinction. Our armed forces should be able to recruit every qualified, capable American to protect our homeland, regardless of their sexual orientation. 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' is not only unnecessary and discriminatory, it is also detrimental to our military readiness. The law does not meet the common sense rule our military should abide by."

Servicemembers Legal Defense Network is a national, non-profit legal services, watchdog and policy organization dedicated to ending discrimination against and harassment of military personnel affected by 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' and related forms of intolerance.

Anglican Church Backs Celibate Gay Partnerships

The Church of England has issued a statement backing civil partnerships for gay clergy, as long as they remain celibate, but will not allow services of blessings for same-sex couples. The House of Bishops issued the "pastoral statement" July 25 in an effort to address the implications of the Civil Partnerships Act, which comes into force on Dec. 5.

The statement reaffirms the Church's teaching on both marriage and sexual intercourse.

"Sexual intercourse, as an expression of faithful intimacy, properly belongs within marriage exclusively," the statement says. Marriage, it states, "is a creation ordinance, a gift of God in creation and a means of his grace. Marriage, defined as a faithful, committed, permanent and legally sanctioned relationship between a man and a woman, is central to the stability and health of human society."

The statement notes that the new legislation makes no change to the

law in relation to marriage and that the Government has stated that it has no intention of introducing "same-sex" marriage.

Rather strangely, the statement goes on to say that the Civil Partnership Act leaves "entirely open the nature of the commitment that members of a couple choose to make to each other" and, because of this, "it would not be right to produce an authorised public liturgy in connection with the registering of civil partnerships."

"In addition, the House of Bishops affirms that clergy of the Church of England should not provide services of blessing for those who register a civil partnership." The statement makes it clear that

lay people who have registered civil partnerships should not be asked to give assurances about the nature of their relationship before being admitted to baptism, confirmation and communion.

"What needs to be recognized," says the House of Bishops' statement, "is that the Church's teaching on sexual ethics remains unchanged."

The Rev. Richard Kirker, General Secretary of the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement said the Bishops' statement was "perfectly consistent with the Church of England's policy of double dealing, duplicity and disregard for decency"

"Its recommendations will be

ignored by those who wish to affirm lesbian and gay families and blessings will happen throughout the country regardless. While the fundamentalists will continue to refuse baptism to lesbian and gay people and block the baptism of their children," Kirker said.

"At a time where lesbian and gay people — let alone lesbian and gay Christians — are looking to the Church to affirm their families and to help build stability and provide a safe space for them, the church spits in their faces.

"The Bishops' Statement betrays contempt, once more, for lesbian and gay relationships and should be rejected as unloving, unpastoral and unworkable."

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Arson

Continued from page 1

gay club in Fayetteville, Ark. in what police there also are calling arson. Studio 716 was destroyed by the blaze.

The club was fully engulfed in flames when fire crews arrived and investigators said it appeared the fire was set inside the building. It was the second at the club. A June 26 fire damaged an exterior wall of the building and also has been ruled as arson.

On July 9, fire damaged a gay-positive church in Middlebrook, Va. Police said the arsonist had scrawled a message on the exterior of St. John's Reformed United Church of Christ saying that UCC members were sinners.

The United Church of Christ endorsed a resolution July 4 endorsing same-sex marriage. The resolution was not binding on the denomination's 1.3 million members.

Global Anger Grows Over Teen Executions in Iran

International human rights organizations are calling for action to be taken against Iran after officials publicly executed two gay teenagers last week.

The two boys, who were identified only by their initials, were executed for having sex with each other. Homosexuality is illegal under the Sharia law, which allows execution of children as young as 9 years of age.

The teens were also charged with raping a 13-year-old boy, although the majority of news services say this charge has been trumped up by the Iranian state in a bid to avoid international criticism.

Activists believe the boys gave

their "confession" after weeks of torture. They were detained and subjected to beatings by local police for up to two weeks before their death.

Now, international groups are calling for stronger action to be taken against Iran. In Tehran July 23, children's rights activist Shirin Ebadi said that the hangings violated the terms of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Ebadi, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2003, told the Associated Press that her campaign to outlaw the execution of minors had "fallen on deaf ears," but vowed that her Center for the Protection of Human Rights would step up the

fight.

In the United States, the Human Rights Campaign is calling for Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to denounce the executions.

"As we have seen in recent weeks, the barbarous punishments for sexual acts in these countries run contrary to the letter and the spirit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights," the HRC stated in a letter to Rice. "For that reason, these acts must be condemned."

In the United Kingdom, Peter Tatchell of the London-based LGBT rights group OutRage! criticized the Labour party for trying to forge closer ties with the government of Iran.

"Britain's Labour government is pursuing friendly relations with this murderous regime, including aid and trade," Tatchell said. "We urge the international community to treat Iran as a pariah state, break off diplomatic relations, impose trade sanctions and give practical support to the democratic and left opposition inside Iran."

Tatchell also said the country had become a "prison," with the ultraconservative state blocking any movement toward a more liberal, democratic society.

Elsewhere, activists are calling for their governments to publicly criticize the Iranian-sanctioned executions. In Sweden, the Swedish Federation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Rights (RFSL) has called on the government to update its asylum policy so that lesbian and gay people are not deported back to Iran.

"I think the Swedish government is extremely cynical when it sends gays and lesbians back to Iran," Soren Andersson told the AFP news agency.

"They keep looking for excuses to send them back there, but it is dangerous for homosexuals in Iran," he added. However, Iran is standing firm on its decision to kill the two young men.

Ultraconservative deputy Ali Asgari stated that the punishment "served them right."

Landmark Gay Novel Reissued

Out of print for almost 30 years but not out of mind with many gay and lesbian readers, *Song of the Loon*, a popular, racy, gay-themed book from the '60s, has been reissued by a Canadian publisher.

The reprint of the book, written by a former San Jose resident and teacher, is being hailed by historians as a reclamation of "an integral part of gay pop culture history."

Literary and cultural critic Michael Bronski said the book, though not of the literary caliber of the works of James Baldwin or Jean Genet, is "popular literature" on the order of *The Wizard of Oz* or *Gone with the Wind*.

Written by Richard Amory, nom de plume for Richard Wallace Love, *Song of the Loon*

marked an important point of gay and lesbian history in the United States.

"It's a boy's adventure story, part Walt Whitman, part Mark Twain and part *Moby Dick*, only in a forest, not a boat," said Bronski, who teaches gay and lesbian studies at Dartmouth College.

"It taps into a very deep core of homoerotic writing."

At a recent book party in San Francisco at the GLBT Historical Society, gay historian and English professor James Brogan said *Song* anticipated the message of self-love and empowerment espoused in the gay liberation movement of the '60s.

"You can look at it as a kind of coming out of the closet," said Terence Kissack, executive director of the historical society. "It had erotic content and it signaled the emergence

of a new acceptance of gays and lesbians."

Song, published in 1966, was an immediate hit. Its depiction in fantasy of gay couples in loving, albeit non-monogamous relationships struck a resonant chord in the country's gay community, Brogan said.

"It's almost an allegory of self-hating homosexuals encountering self-respecting homosexuals," Brogan said. "That was startling at the time."

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2005 OutFlix Film Festival Lineup

MGLCC's OutFlix film festival will take place Thurs. - Sun., Aug. 11-14 at the Media Co-Op Theatre at First Congregational Church, 1000 S. Cooper. Tickets are \$5 per night or \$15 for the entire festival. The following descriptions were provided by OutFlix.

The Betsy Wetsy Timebomb Effect

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2005 USA 22 minutes (Short-Drama)

"A short film about a middle-aged couple arguing over whether or not to have a child."

Gaydar

Director: Terry Ray & Larry Lafond

2002 USA 20 minutes (Short-Comedy)

"Randy has a huge crush on hunky Jack at work, but he can't figure out if Jack is gay or straight until he discovers a gaydar gun that changes everything."

www.gaydarthemovie.com

Fish Can't Fly

Director: Tom Murray
2005 USA 83 minutes (Documentary)

"Fish Can't Fly explores the lives of gay men and women as they struggle to put their sexual & spiritual lives in harmony after 'ex-gay' experiences."

www.fishcantfly.com

Freedom to Marry

Directors: Laurie York & Carmen Goodyear

2004 USA 55 minutes (Documentary)

"This [film] highlights a momentous, historical milestone when San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsome engaged in groundbreaking civil disobedience as he allowed same-sex couples to marry at San Francisco City Hall."

www.freedomtomarry.tv

Ginger Snaps Back: The Beginning

Director: Grant Harvey
2004 Canada 94 minutes (Feature-Horror)

"Brigitte & Ginger find refuge in a small traders' fort on the edge of the known New World...the girls' sanctuary turns out to be a confine of terror when they discover the fort is under siege by savage werewolves."

The Graffiti Artist

Director: James Bolton
2004 USA 80 minutes (Feature-Drama)

"...follows the life of Nick, a young solo tagger expressing himself through spray paint on an urban canvas of brick whose life is ruptured by the friendship of another young tagger."

www.thegraffitiartist.com

Latter Days

Director: James Bolton
2003 USA 107 minutes (Feature-Drama)

"Christian, a hunky 20-something, West Hollywood party boy, gets more than he bargained for when he tries to seduce 19-year-old Elder Aaron Davis, a sexually confused Mormon missionary who moves into his apartment complex." www.latterdaysmovie.com

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Menstrual Monsters: The Ginger Snaps Trilogy

Directors: Howard Martin & Xavier Mendik

2004 Great Britain 19 minutes (Documentary)

"...examines representations of female sexual identity in the popular Ginger Snaps trilogy...to argue that the series contains feminist and lesbian subtexts absent from other Hollywood productions."

The Moment After

Director: Gerald McCullouch
2002 USA 14 minutes (Short-Drama)

"A poignant longing for what might have been permeates *The Moment After* in which Tracey marks his birthday by making a terrifying choice from which there's no turning back."

www.themomentafter.net

The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green

Director: George Bamber
2005 USA 88 minutes (Feature-Comedy)

"Based on the hit underground comic strip, this hilarious gay romantic-comedy follows the story of Ethan Green, an adorable 26 year-old professional 'assistant' looking for love in all the wrong places. Kitchy and fun, sexy and outrageous." www.ethangreen.com

Never Rob a Bank with Someone You Love

Director: Jill Maxcy
2005 USA 10 minutes (Short-Comedy)

"Joan Sloan and Candy Price had the perfect life together. That was, until Candy spent all their money and they ended up in jail."

NightShadows

Director: JT Seaton
2004 USA 16 minutes (Short-Horror)

On the eve of his 30th birthday, Matthew invites David—a young man Matthew meets in a chatroom—over to his home... Has your past ever come back to haunt you?"

silenceofmind

Director: Anthony Flessas
2005 USA 72 minutes (Feature-Drama)

"*silenceofmind* is a dark drama, which tells the story of a young man haunted by childhood memories of an abusive father who lurks in his nightmares. Not certain of that which is dream and that which is reality, he must confront his past in order to find hope for his future."

Twenty Gay Stereotypes Confirmed

Director: Jason Bolicki
2003 USA 10 minutes (Short-Comedy)

"A tongue-in-cheek look at gay stereotypes using the director's childhood home movies"

We Are Dad

Director: Michel Horvat
2005 USA 71 minutes (Documentary)

"The film chronicles the Lofton-Croteau family's struggles during the horrendous early years of the AIDS pandemic and sets the fight for equality within a historical framework as Lofton vs. The State of Florida reaches all the way to the US Supreme Court."

www.tavrofilms.com

Whatever Happened to Peaches Christ?

Director: Joshua Grannell
2004 USA 19 minutes (Short-Comedy/Horror)

"...finds a drunken Peaches desperately trying to hang on to a career in show biz while her sidekick and ex-friend Martiny's rise in popularity eventually sends Ms. Christ over the edge."

See schedule on page 5 for show times.

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Savoring the Culture of Black Gay Pride

Commentary by Jeffrey Curbo

In his *New York Times* bestseller *Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking*, Malcolm Gladwell uses statistical research and an anecdote about a student taking a Implicit Association Test (IAT) to show that Americans tend to associate the words bad and African-American more quickly than the words bad and European.

He concludes that this association arises from our constant bombardment with negative images in the media and society linking the words together — images such as the villain in a movie dressing in black or the news media portraying African-Americans as the instigators of the majority of the crimes in our society.

Gladwell suggests these associations carry over into everything we do, inherently making most every American at least a little prejudice against African-Americans. (If you're interested in learning more, check out www.implicit.harvard.edu).

In order to disassociate the words African-American and bad, he proposes changing the association by surrounding ourselves with positive images that contain African-Americans. This weekend I

was surrounded by such images.

This past weekend (*the third weekend in June*. —Ed.) I attended several of the Memphis Black Gay Pride events — most notably the picnic on Sunday afternoon at Te-To-Tam Ranch.

As one of just a handful of Caucasians to attend any of the events (and someone who ranks relatively neutral on the IAT race test), several questions loomed in my mind. How will the Black gay community receive me? Will I feel out of place? Exceeding any possible expectations, Memphis's Black gay community exemplified Southern hospitality. Numerous people introduced themselves, offered assistance, explained the cultural significance of the activities, etc., generating a reception far more welcoming and sincere than I would expect from anyone.

One of the most entertaining events that I attended was the "J-setting" competition at Te-To-Tam Ranch.

For those unfamiliar with this tradition, "J-setting" involves choreographed dancing by members of various teams. The competition arises from several teams, arranged in a circle, attempting to outshine one another with hot dance moves, glitzy costumes and lots of attitude

to the sounds of today's hottest music being spun by a live DJ. Besides performing moves that would make the likes of Janet Jackson jealous, the "J-setting" teams dealt with an interruptive observer by showing up his stunts with a series of tumbling passes that would put to shame most cheerleading squads. Although I left after "only" watching the five teams dance intensely for about an hour and a half, I left with a renewed interest in taking hip-hop dance lessons and with a commitment to attend next year's events.

After such a successful weekend, several new questions lingered in my mind. If the roles were reversed, would an African-American in a group of several hundred gay Caucasians feel as welcomed as I did? Were the African-Americans that attended the Pride parade/festivities the prior week on Cooper Street as awe-inspired as I was? Do gay Caucasians have any specific traditions like "J-setting"?

Many people have questioned why Memphis and many other cities have a Gay Pride celebration and a Black Gay Pride celebration. They propose that combining the two would benefit the GLBT community by presenting a larger pool of people and therefore demanding

a greater presence in the overall community.

While this reasoning is valid, several factors prevent the events from being combined. Who would be responsible for the event(s)? Would one segment of the GLBT community become the dominating voice? How do you maintain the sanctity of the traditions of both communities?

While I agree that on some level the GLBT community would benefit from combining these events, the cultural loss could far exceed any benefit. It's very similar to Wal-mart opening a superstore in a small town. The community may benefit from lower prices, but the new store will adversely affect many of the local-owned businesses and thus will detract from the uniqueness of the local culture (not to mention the social and human rights controversies associated

with Wal-mart).

Our society will probably not fully realize the value of this local flavor until it's too late. However, given the impact that a unified GLBT community could have, I hope the people responsible for planning Pride events in Memphis will consider other viable options. Something as simple as having both Prides on the same weekend could have a profound impact on unifying our community and making the GLBT presence in Memphis more noticed, while maintaining the traditions of both groups.

Jeffrey Curbo, a native Memphian, is vice-president of the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center and treasurer for Front Runners Memphis. Professionally, he works in the financial industry, and in his free time studies ballet and sings.

Stonewall Democrats Urge Bush to Fire Karl Rove, Architect of Anti-Gay Policy

WASHINGTON — On July 13, the National Stonewall Democrats (NSD) urged President Bush to dismiss White House Deputy Chief of Staff Karl Rove from his taxpayer-funded position. The organization urged the action in order to allow Bush to keep his promise to the American public.

It was recently revealed that Rove, the chief architect of White House anti-gay policy, endangered the life of an operative of the Central Intelligence Agency by leaking her status to the press. More than a single case, the event is representative of a larger ethical problem within the White House.

"This situation is much larger than Karl Rove, and is dramatically symptomatic of the abuse of trust that has been repeatedly wielded by the Bush Administration," said Eric Stern, NSD executive director. "President Bush has continually promised to promote an inclusive agenda within an honest administration. He has failed miserably on both accounts. The president should keep his word and fire the individual who has lied to the American public, and who remains the chief architect of White House anti-gay policy." He has since revised his promise to that of firing anyone who was convicted of "committing a crime."

In October 2003, President Bush promised to "take care of" the administration official who dangerously leaked the identity of CIA operative Valerie Plame to the public. At the time, the President characterized the leak as a "criminal action." Since then, notes from *Time* magazine reporter Mathew Cooper have revealed Karl Rove as a source of the leak. For almost two years, Rove has denied any involvement in the matter.

Karl Rove, a longtime aide to President Bush, is reported to have first begun running anti-gay attacks for the Bush gubernatorial campaign in Texas during the mid-1990s. During the 2004 presidential campaign, it was Rove who closely coordinated White House political matters with leading anti-gay advocates such as the Family Research Council and Dr. James Dobson of Focus on the Family. Regular meetings between these parties and the White House were meant to keep social conservative advocates abreast of anti-gay measures taken by the White House that benefited the Bush/Cheney presidential campaign.

In the summer of 2004, Ohio Secretary of State Kenneth Blackwell, a Republican, told reporters that the White House was encouraging Republicans in the

state to support an anti-marriage amendment to the state constitution. According to Blackwell, White House political aides, such as Karl Rove, argued that supporting such amendments would benefit turnout for the Republican ticket.

Shortly after the 2004 elections, Karl Rove appeared on the television program *Fox News Sunday* to discuss White House plans to push for a federal anti-marriage amendment. Appearing on the program on Nov. 7, 2004, Rove enthusiastically backed the measure, promising that the president would "absolutely" push for it. Rove also noted that President Bush was committed to nominating individuals to the federal judiciary that held similar views on the matter.

"We might not be calling for this action if this was a single event limited to Karl Rove," said Stern. "The Bush administration is crippled by ethical and moral problems. Just as it is unethical to lie to the American public, it is immoral to use the Constitution of the United States as a weapon against its citizens. Firing Karl Rove would bring the White House closer to its initial promise of establishing an administration that the American people deserve."

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Queer Notes

By Jim Maynard

Project due 12:30

As expected, George Bush nominated an ultra-conservative to replace Sandra O'Connor on the Supreme Court — John G. Roberts. Roberts has limited judicial experience. He served on the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia since 2003. Bush's nomination of Roberts is being praised by the anti-gay Family Research Council and the anti-abortion group Operation Rescue. His record is disturbing.

He is hostile to women's reproductive rights and has sought to have the Supreme Court overturn *Roe v. Wade*. In a brief for the government in 1991 he wrote that there

is no constitutional right to abortion and that *Roe* should be overruled. This means that he does not believe in a constitutional right to privacy, the legal basis of *Roe v. Wade* and *Lawrence v. Texas*, which overturned the Texas sodomy law. Say goodbye to affirmative action, reproductive rights and your rights to privacy in your bedroom.

Opinions expressed in bylined columns are those of the authors.

What did you expect from the leader of the Christian Right — George W. Bush. That's right, according to many religious right leaders, Bush is the de facto leader of the religious right in the United States. In fact, Bush called upon Jerry Falwell, founder

of the Moral Majority, for advice on who to nominate for the Supreme Court. Falwell declined, stating that because of Bush's record appointing conservative judges "I am willing to sit back and trust him and pray for him."

Falwell continues to have a lot of influence over the Republican Party. He was one of the first religious leaders to support Ronald Reagan, who shared Falwell's homophobic and anti-feminist views. Falwell is a regular speaker and prayer-giver at the Republican National Convention.

Back in June, George W. Bush spoke to the Southern Baptist Convention to reaffirm his commitment to the anti-gay Federal Marriage Amendment and to restricting women's reproductive rights. It is payback time for the Christo-fascists who elected George W. Bush. Bush will give the Christian Right what Reagan and poppy Bush failed to deliver — the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*.

The real damage to our constitutional rights has already been done. According to a recent AP story, Bush has already made a substantial mark on the federal judiciary by appointing dozens of conservative appeals court judges, which may have more of an impact on constitutional rights than the Supreme Court.

The Bush administration has already undermined the civil rights of gay and lesbian federal employees. Bill Clinton signed an executive order in 1998 stating that it is unlawful to discriminate against federal employees based on sexual orientation, but Bush's Office of Special Counsel Director Scott Bloch says he will not enforce it, or include sexual orientation under the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978. Bush has yet to repudiate him or confirm a policy that covers sexual orientation. We are stepping backwards folks!

Anti-gay homophobe, and third-ranking Republican in the U.S. Senate, Rick Santorum opened his idiotic mouth again. He wrote on a Catholic Web site that liberalism is to blame for the Catholic church's pedophile scandal and that "it is no surprise that Boston, a seat off academic, political, and cultural liberalism in America, lies at the center of the storm." Actually, most of the priests accused of molesting boys are in conservative states, but the facts never got in the way of Santorum's big mouth.

You may remember that Santorum, a devout Catholic, is an outspoken opponent of gay rights, gay marriage and women's reproductive rights. He criticized the Supreme Court decision in *Lawrence v. Texas* to overturn the Texas sodomy law, claiming that there is no constitutional right to engage in sodomy, and compared homosexuality to bigamy, polygamy and incest.

This brings us to this month's Uncle Tom Republican — Robert L. Traynham, the senior spokesman for Sen. Rick Santorum is gay. Traynham was outed by Mike Rogers, publisher of PageOneQ.com, who recorded a phone conversation in which Traynham confirmed that he was out to the senator. When asked how he could work for an anti-gay senator, Traynham stated, "Senator Santorum is a man of principle. He is a man who sticks up for what he believes in. I strongly support Senator Santorum." He added that Santorum is a "family man," and that he is very proud to be with him. (Remember, "cognitive dissonance"?)

Republicans continue to use gay marriage to mobilize evangelical Christians nationwide. Republican Texas Governor Rick Perry signed a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriages while at an evangelical school, Calvary Christian Academy, in June even though his signature was not even required. Tony Perkins of the anti-gay Family Research Council also attended the ceremony to attack "activist judges" who support the "gay agenda." What happened to the separation of church and state?

The good news is that Bush's brain, Karl Rove, is in serious legal troubles. Rove is a master of dirty politics. When former Ambassador Joseph Wilson published an editorial in the *New York Times* which concluded that "some of the intelligence related to Iraq's nuclear weapons program was twisted to exaggerate the Iraqi threat," Rove leaked to two reporters (Robert Novak and Matthew Cooper of *Time*), that Wilson's wife, Valerie Plame, was a CIA agent. It is a federal crime to leak the identity of CIA agents.

Rove committed treason and should be fired. Bush said he would fire anyone who was involved in the leak, but it remains to be seen if he will keep his word and fire his longtime friend and political strategist.

The *New York Times* published a controversial article in July headlined "Straight, Gay or Lying? Bisexuality Revisited," that reported on a study by Dr. J. Michael Bailey, a psychology professor at Northwestern that claims that bisexual men are not truly attracted to both sexes and that there really is no bisexual arousal. The study was embraced by many in the gay community as another scientific study confirming that sexual orientation is determined by genetics. However, it was attacked by major gay rights organizations and bisexuals for questionable scientific methods and small samples. Bailey co-authored an article in 2001 that argued that if it became possible for parents to determine the sexual orientation of their fetus, "selecting

for heterosexuality seems to be morally acceptable." He went on to claim that selection for heterosexuality would have many benefits for parents and children with little potential for harm.

It turns out that Bailey has some connections to "ex-gay" groups that advocate "converting" gays. The gay community should not embrace research that promotes the genetic elimination of homosexuality! We should not be deceived into thinking scientific evidence of a biological explanation of homosexuality will liberate us from oppression. The Nazis also embraced this biological explanation and were prepared to use science to eliminate us.

I personally prefer the more radical "social constructionist" approach. Human sexuality cannot be explained by biology alone, there are complex psychological and sociological factors at work. Like Kinsey and Freud, I embrace the human bisexual potential. Kinsey and Freud both rejected biological determinism and championed sexual liberation from the rigid heterosexual norm. The real question is why are people "straight"? Is it a choice? Can straight people change? I want to see a scientific study addressing those questions.

The father of "Zach," the Bartlett gay teen who was forced into a Memphis "Love in Action" indoctrination program by his parents, defended his actions in an interview on the Christian Broadcasting Network. Joe Stark told CBN he did nothing wrong and wanted to steer him away from a "destructive lifestyle." If "family values" includes forcing children into religious indoctrination camps to be brainwashed on how to be a good heterosexual I want nothing to do with them.

Reading the seven-page "interview" with Love in Action's director John Smid in *Family & Friends* made me want to vomit. Smid is a sick, homophobic religious fanatic. I don't understand why a gay magazine would give him seven pages to spout his religious nonsense. I debated Smid several years ago on a local radio program. When I first met him I thought he was as queer as a three dollar bill. Love In Action is a religious cult and John Smid is making a living at promoting homophobia.

Maybe I should start a program to help unhappy sexually repressed straight men embrace their "bisexual" potential and liberate them from oppressive heterosexual "family values."

Canada and Spain have now joined Belgium and the Netherlands to give gays and lesbians the right to marry. So much for the United States being the leader of the "free world."

For more Queer Notes, visit www.jimmymaynard.com

Free Classifieds

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, 50, 5'11", 240 lbs. needs GBM who likes stout guys as your companion/roommate. I want to move to Memphis in July or August. Retired Navy can afford to pay up to \$400 toward rent and expenses. All interested, write to John White, 710 Rushing Rd., Michie, TN 38357.

Southwind Area: Near Hacks Cross and Winchester. GWM has HUGE room for rent in very nice 2 story home with inground pool and hot tub in big backyard. Room has enough space for sitting area, computer desk, etc. Full access to entire house with laundry room. Wireless RoadRunner internet connection. Rent is \$560 a month (furnished or unfurnished) and includes rent, utilities, digital cable and wireless internet. Home is in a quiet cover, nice neighborhood. If interested, contact SouthwindRoomie@aol.com (pic of house available in AOL profile).

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

GWM seeks roommates

for a 4000 sq. ft. house on a 250-acre lake in Desoto county. It's actually a furnished two bed room apt. with its own private driveway and private entrance. Completely furnished., hard wood floors and walls, even has the dishes, pots, and pans. Comes with a 27-inch tv — Direct TV already hooked up and has a TiVo unit with it. Washer and dryer available for use. Located about 15 minutes from Memphis line, it's very quiet and it includes utilities except for phone. Call 662 449- 5196 or 901 487-0320. Rent is \$800 month includes utilities and cable. Deposit plus first months rent. Must sign a sign month lease after month-to-month. Must give month notice to get back deposit.

WANT TO MEET

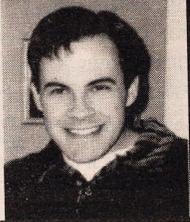
GWM, mid -50s would like to meet other GWMs 40-50 for friendship, doing things together, good quality time spent developing into possible LTR. Interested parties can reach me at jopilkingt@aol.com.

GWM, 50, 6', 240 lbs interested in meeting gay and bi males for fun, good times and possible friendship. Write to Dean, P.O. Box 384, Pope, MS 38658.

Gone Country! Kick off your booths and lay back with this GDLKG-Loving-GWM. 35, 5'11", 170#, Brown/Green. Open-minded, smoke, drink, HIV- and waiting. 40 mins. NE of Wolfchase. Jim D. (901-466-9822). U want some. Giddy up!

WHAT ABOUT IT?

by Shannon Yarbrough



Soapbox

I am writing this particular article on a balmy day here in St. Louis with the new LOGO network playing on the television beside me. Not to rub it in for those of you in Memphis who are yet to enjoy the channel, but it was a good feeling to be sitting in front of my television back on June 30th watching the final countdown to the launch of the network.

Although the online blogs have been cutting it down due to the repetitiveness of its shows, I have come to its defense because I see it as once in my life where I actually feel like I've witnessed history. History that, unlike a war on terror or events like 9/11, actually makes me smile and reminds me of why I should be proud to be gay. Why I am proud.

For when reality steps in and I find myself hating the driver on the road in front of me, angry at my job and going through the motions to get to Friday, hanging up on telemarketers and frowning at the news on the television, I realize how much progress that GLBT society has made outside of all the hate and anger that exists in this world. And I stop and smile at that.

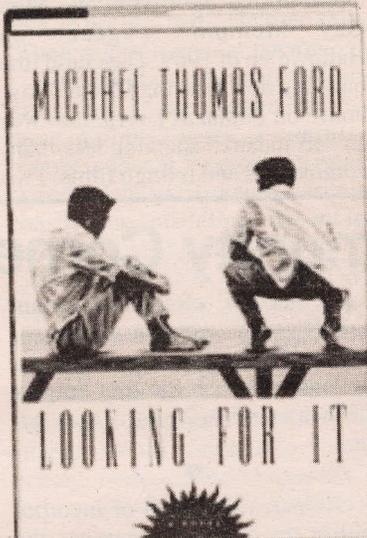
A hetero friend at work was eager to be supportive but frowned at the lack of advertising to promote LOGO. "How come I didn't know about this," she asked. "For once, and not to offend, this wasn't about you," was my answer. "There's no such thing as *straight* television," another quipped at me. To avoid a heated battle I simply replied, "It's called TBN (Trinity Broadcasting Network)!"

And to the online little teenage bloggers who aren't even out and yet think they know everything about being gay, I simply say, "MTV was not built in a day!" Give it a chance. And rather than me spending more of my space here praising LOGO, check it out for yourself at www.logoonline.com.

Looking For It

With his acclaimed and bestselling first novel *Last Summer*, Michael Thomas Ford brought us a passionate, emotional novel about the complex lives of gay men, while still retaining his witty style. This summer, he does it again with *Looking For It*.

In a small, upstate New York town, a community of gay men is slowly coming together, mostly over drinks at a bar called The Engine Room. Bartender Mike, while searching for his own happiness, hears the dreams, hopes, and problems of his patrons. Stephen is an



accountant who is beginning to think life would just be easier if he married a woman. Pete is a closeted mechanic who fills the void of loneliness with anonymous sex.

John and Russell are the perfect couple everyone idealizes, but things are about to fall apart. Father Thomas Dunn feels his sexual longings (gay?) undermining his vows of celibacy. And old queen Simon Bird mourns the loss of his longtime lover while struggling with a culture that worships youth. Mike is a good listener, but he is finding himself yearning for the same happiness his patrons want. Their stories weave together to great effect in this emotion-packed read.

Affectionate Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner gatherings are an excuse for discussions about family ties, religion, gay marriage and the allure of country life. Meanwhile, the friends are pairing off: love blossoms between Mike and Father Thomas, and Russell and John try to fix Stephen up with their friend Greg.

Wary Stephen, however, runs off to an adult cinema and gets violently pummeled by a self-loathing closeted mechanic named Pete, who later nearly kills Greg after a bad Internet hookup. And that's just half of it! Ford handles his broad, diverse cast with aplomb, and his knowing sense of humor and emphasis on the positive make this novel as warm and inviting as a group hug.

The Killers "Hot Fuss"

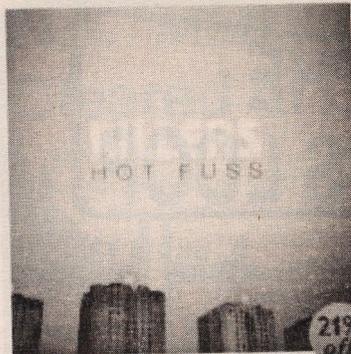
There are so many "the" bands — the Strokes, the White Stripes, the Rapture, the Hives — and so many garage rock/dance-rock tunes perfectly stylized and glamorous for the pop kids in the city and in the suburbs of new-millennium America. What's nice about these "the" bands is how they strive so desperately to individualize themselves. On a commercial level,

they do quite well in delivering catchy pop hooks. When it comes to having actual talent, a select few actually do possess attention-worthy ability.

But there are others who don't, and they disappear from the American consciousness after a brief flirtation with success. Such ruminations, however, are best left up to the individual music fan. So let's put that aside for a moment to experience the decadent pop world of the Killers. The Las Vegas foursome introduce a perfectly tailored new wave-induced art rock sound on their debut, *Hot Fuss*. They wooed MTV audiences and modern rock followers with the success of *Somebody Told Me* during summer 2004.

This chunky-riffed single loaded with androgynous mystery and a dalliance with new romantic energy not only captures the infectious delivery of the Killers as a band, but it's a genius song in how frivolous it is. Vocalist/keyboardist Brandon Flowers does his best Simon LeBon imitation; the sex appeal and the boyish charm are perfectly in place as guitarist David Keuning, bassist Mark Stoermer, and drummer Ronnie Vannucci accent his rich, red-hotness just so.

"Jenny Was a Friend of Mine" and "Mr. Brightside" are equally as foxy as the album's first single, affirming that a formula is indeed in motion. It feels so good and so



fresh, and it works. It's hard to deny the sparkle and fade of Depeche Mode beats and the sensual allure of Duran Duran. After 25 years, those sounds still hold up; by 2004, however, it's an incredible task to pull this kind of thing off without selling yourself to the tastes of the masses. Interpol and the Walkmen have pulled it off brilliantly; Franz Ferdinand and Hot Hot Heat have potential.

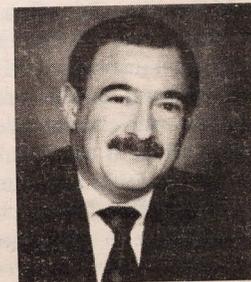
The difference with the Killers is that the dynamic doesn't firmly hold together. The gospel/rock

jaunt of "All These Things That I've Done" doesn't quite fit around the Cure-inspired synth reveries of "Everything Will Be Alright" and "Believe Me Natalie." "Midnight Show," as much as it plucks from Duran Duran's "Planet Earth" and "Is There Something I Should Know?," does show promise for the Killers.

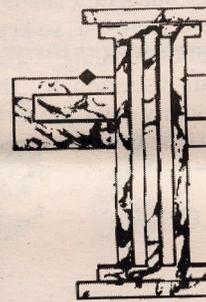
"Hot Fuss" came at the right time because the pop kids needed something to savor the summer with, and "Somebody Told Me" served that purpose. Now pull out your Duran Duran records and dance like no one is watching, at least until LOGO comes to a cable network near you.

Shannon Yarbrough lived in Memphis for six years. He is the author of the book, *The Other Side of What*. He now lives in St. Louis, MO and is working on his second novel. Questions or comments? E-mail Shannon at misteryarbs@msn.com.

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In Loving Memory

His Journey's Just Begun

Don't think of him as gone away —
his journey's just begun,
life holds so many facets —
this earth is only one

Just think of him as resting
from the sorrows and the tears
in a place of warmth and comfort
where there are no days and years.

Think of how he must be wishing
that we could know today
how nothing but our sadness
can really pass away

And think of him as living
in the hearts of those he touched...
for nothing loved is ever lost — and he
was loved so much.

— Ellen Brenneman



Johnny Frederick Taylor

Sept. 6, 1970 –
July 10, 2005



GLBT Community Events Compiled with Opinions

This month's MGLCC major event is the Outflix Video Festival. It will truly be a neighborhood event as it is sponsored by the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center and will be held at the Media Co-op Theatre in the basement of First Congregational Church.

Outflix was founded by former MGLCC President Brian Pera back in the days when the Center was still in storage. Its original title was Twinkie Museum and its original selection was varied but tended toward adult films. It has developed into a respected regional film festival with something for everyone and continues in its eighth year.

Outflix runs Thursday evening, Aug. 11, through Sunday afternoon, Aug. 14. Admission is \$5 each night with the entire festival available for \$15. The films come

from around the world. The centerpiece Saturday night will be *The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green*, taken after the witty comic strip by Eric Orner (www.ethangreen.com). Other titles include *Fish Can't Fly*, *20 Gay Stereotypes Confirmed*, *We Are Dad*, *Gaydar*, *Freedom to Marry* and *Whatever Happened to Peaches Christ*. For additional information and the complete schedule visit www.outflixfestival.org.

As a perennial recorder of local GLBT history it gives me the greatest of pleasures to note that MGLCC now owns its building at 892 S. Cooper outright. (There is still a mortgage, however, so keep those contributions coming.) Other organizations founded by the GLBT community own property but MGLCC is the first, to my rec-

ollection, which is an "of, by and for the GLBT people" organization to own its own building. Consider me supremely verklempt. For details go to www.mglcc.org.

As always, somebody is gonna want an event announced. It's so simple, just e-mail this writer at tjnevents@bellsouth.net.

Footnote from the Past

Well, you probably couldn't call it a festival but, a surprisingly long time ago, there was a late

night event at the Guild Theatre on Saturday nights each week. It was a very late show called the Underground Cinema or (for those in the know) the Lavender Cinema or the Purple Picture Show. Bill Kendall, manager of the Guild, had been very active in gay circles for years, gaining notoriety early on when the Guild hosted the first public Miss Gay Memphis pageant on Hallowe'en of 1969. The Guild (the building now housing Circuit Playhouse on Poplar at Evergreen) was an "art theatre" showing less-than-commercial and foreign films. Two

of the early gay films shown exclusively at the Guild were Mart Crowley's *The Boys in the Band* and the less classic *Boys in the Sand*. It was one of those few gathering places outside the bars where people socialized.

Bill Kendall is alive and well and living in Atlanta. I couldn't manage to talk to him in time for this column but I promise to tell the entire tale next time. I would also like to hear other reminiscences about these shows, email me at tjnevents@bellsouth.net, or, I'm in the book, sister.

MGLCC Community Corner

MGLCC's OutFlix Festival runs August 11-14th. Visit www.outflixfestival.org for more information.

The Center will be closed August 11-14th to allow volunteers to attend the MGLCC OutFlix Festival. One exception is the Stonewall Democrats meeting scheduled for Sun., Aug. 14. It will proceed as scheduled.

Are you green? The MGLCC announces the formation of a Lavender Greens chapter. The Lavender Greens are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Queer Greens organized as a Caucus with the purpose of promoting LGBTIQ issues within the Green Party. The Green Party platform supports: same-sex marriages, medical marijuana and needle exchange, low-cost AIDS drugs, equal rights, ending anti-gay bias in the military, abortion rights, civil liberties, universal health

care, election reform and instant runoff voting, and non-violent solutions to conflict. The Lavender Greens will meet the first Sunday of each month at 2 p.m. at the Center.

As part of its goal of incorporating the entire community, the MGLCC is seeking bilingual individuals to volunteer at the center. Individuals semi-fluent in any language in addition to English are encouraged to volunteer.



In addition to seeking multilingual individuals, the MGLCC has begun a monthly diversity meeting called Children of

the Rainbow. Held the first Wednesday of every month from 7-8 p.m., the meeting focuses on increasing sensitivity to and inclusiveness towards people of all cultures, religions, genders, sexual orientations, etc. to truly make the

Center welcoming to the entire Mid-South community.

The MGLCC held its annual membership meeting on July 10th. The membership elected a new board of directors including: Jeffrey Curbo as vice-president, Marty Katz as treasurer and Sonia Garner, Tommy Simmons, Daniel Slover, James Williams, Janet Watson, Robin Yow, and Charlie Weatherall as members-at-large. Len Piechowski and Tuffy Keenan will continue to serve in their roles as president and secretary, respectively, as they both have a year remaining in their terms.

Speaking of the MGLCC annual meeting, the membership also ratified and adopted a new constitution and set of by-laws. The new versions provide much needed changes more in line with the current size and goals of the MGLCC.

On Mon. July 18, the MGLCC Board of Directors closed on the property at 892 South Cooper! The community center expects to save between \$2,000 and \$4,000 dollars per year as a result of this transaction.

Sheridan Lambe, LCSW

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Regular Mail:

P.O. Box 11485

Memphis, TN 38111

Fax: (901) 454-1411

HOUSEMATE WANTED - \$560/mo. Southwind Area Near Hacks Cross and Winchester



GWM has HUGE room for rent (furnished or unfurnished same price) in very nice two-story home with in-ground pool and hot tub in big backyard. Room has enough space for sitting area, computer desk, etc. Full access to entire house with laundry room. Wireless RoadRunner internet connection. Rent is \$560 a month and includes rent, utilities, digital cable and wireless internet. Home is in a quiet cove, nice neighborhood. Contact SouthwindRoomie@aol.com.

More pictures of house are available in AOL profile.

Out & About

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
Fantasy 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.
Bogle'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.
Lorenz/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 Cleaning 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 Gay and Lesbian Republicans(MGLR): groups.yahoo.com/group/MidsouthGLR/

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, neilg@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: btage9a@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.
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. Gullede, 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: Swedish/Deep tissue - Hot stone massage ☎ 761-7977. e-mail: tompitmanmemphis@yahoo.com

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.

Balnea 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: vtadmin@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.

Triangle Journal News



Box 11485, Memphis, Tennessee 38111-0485
 Phone (901) 454-1411 Fax: (901) 454-1411
 E-mail: MemphisTJN@aol.com
 Web site: www.memphistrianglejournal.com

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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
- Tea Dance - Metro - 4pm
- **Brothers & Sisters Bowling League - Winchester Bowl - (901) 722-5236 or MemphisGayBowlin@aol.com - 6pm**
- **Pool Tournament - Pumping Station - 6pm**
- 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**
- **Phoenix AA - Open AA group - Grace-St. Luke's Church, 1790 Peabody - 8pm**
- **The Caring Group - Relaxation and de-stressing by subtle energy practices - Holy Trinity Community Church - (901) 320-9376 - 7pm**
- **Phoenix AA - Open AA Meeting with outreach to GLBT community - Grace-St. Luke's Church - 1720 Peabody - 7pm**
- **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**

JULY 2005 COMMUNITY CALENDAR

	1	2	3	4	5	6
	• Feast for Friends , First Congo, 6pm	• The Caring Group , HTCC, 7pm • The Drum Circle , MGLCC, 7pm • Phoenix AA , 1720 Peabody, 8pm	• Let's Meet and Chill (Intercultural Discussion Group), MGLCC, 7pm	• Thursday Night at the Gaiety Film Series , MGLCC, 7pm	<i>See regular Friday events</i> • Cafe Q , MGLCC, 7pm featuring The Drum Circle	• Alliance Club Night , Pumping Station, 10pm • Healthy Lifestyle Support Group , MGLCC, 1pm
• Lavender Greens , MGLCC, 2pm • WAC , First Congregational Church, 6:30pm	• Friends for Life Coffee House • Plus Support Group , MGLCC, 7:30pm	• The Caring Group , HTCC, 7pm • The Drum Circle , MGLCC, 7pm • Phoenix AA , 1720 Peabody, 8pm		• Outflix Film Festival , First Congo Media Co-Op Theatre, 1000 S. Cooper, 7pm • MGLCC closed for Outflix	<i>See regular Friday events</i> • Outflix Film Festival , First Congo Media Co-Op Theatre, 1000 S. Cooper, 7pm • MGLCC closed for Outflix	• Blue Suede Bears Club Night (See bluesuedebears.com) • Outflix Film Festival , First Congo Media Co-Op Theatre, 1000 S. Cooper, 6pm • MGLCC closed for Outflix
• Outflix Film Festival , First Congo Media Co-Op Theatre, 1000 S. Cooper, 1pm • Stonewall Democrats , MGLCC, 2pm	• Feast for Friends , First Congo, 6pm • Plus Support Group , MGLCC, 7:30pm	• Integrity Meeting , Calvary Church, 6:30pm • The Caring Group , HTCC, 7pm • The Drum Circle , MGLCC, 7pm • Phoenix AA , 1720 Peabody, 8pm	• Women's Potluck Dinner , MGLCC, 6pm	• GLBT Parenting Group , MGLCC, 6pm • Women's Potluck , MGLCC, 6:30pm • Thursday Night at the Gaiety Film Series , MGLCC, 7pm	TJN March Advertising Deadline <i>See regular Friday events</i> • Cafe Q , MGLCC, 7pm	• Healthy Lifestyle Support Group , MGLCC, 1pm • Dead Elvis Fun Bowl , Bartlett Lanes, 1pm • Tsarus Club Night , The Pumping Station, 9pm
• Mid-South Gay and Lesbian Republicans , MGLCC, 1pm • Unity Pagans , MGLCC, 3pm	• Friends for Life Coffee House • Plus Support Group , MGLCC, 7:30pm	• The Caring Group , HTCC, 7pm • The Drum Circle , MGLCC, 7pm • Phoenix AA , 1720 Peabody, 8pm		• GLBT Parenting Group , MGLCC, 6pm • Thursday Night at the Gaiety Film Series , MGLCC, 7pm	<i>See regular Friday events</i> • Cafe Q , MGLCC, 7pm	• Healthy Lifestyle Support Group , MGLCC, 1pm
• I:F (Initiative Fairness) , MGLCC, 5pm • Bowling League Sign-up , Winchester Lanes, 6pm • WAC , First Congregational Church, 6:30pm	• Plus Support Group , MGLCC, 7:30pm	• The Caring Group , HTCC, 7pm • The Drum Circle , MGLCC, 7pm • Phoenix AA , 1720 Peabody, 8pm	• MGLCC Volunteer Appreciation Potluck , MGLCC, 6pm	• GLBT Parenting Group , MGLCC, 6pm • Thursday Night at the Gaiety Film Series , MGLCC, 7pm	July TJN Due Out , <i>See regular Friday events</i> • Cafe Q , Drumming, MGLCC, 7pm	• Healthy Lifestyle Support Group , MGLCC, 1pm

- THURSDAYS**
- Thursday Night at the Gaiety - GLBT Film Series, MGLCC, 7 p.m.
 - 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

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Memphis, TN 38112
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FRIDAYS

- First Congo Films - First Congregational Church - (901) 278-6786 - 7pm & 9pm
- MGLCC Coffeehouse Nights - Community Center - (901) 278-4297 - 7pm
- Seriously Sober - Holy Trinity Community Church - (901) 320-9376 - 8pm
- Karaoke - One More - 8pm
- Pool Tournament - Crossroads - 8pm

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

HOLY TRINITY COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

Weekly Schedule

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

- Ladies Night - Allusions Entertainment Center - 10pm
- Late Nite Beer Bust - Pumping Station - 10pm
- Drag Show - Backstreet - Midnight
- 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

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Stephen Pair

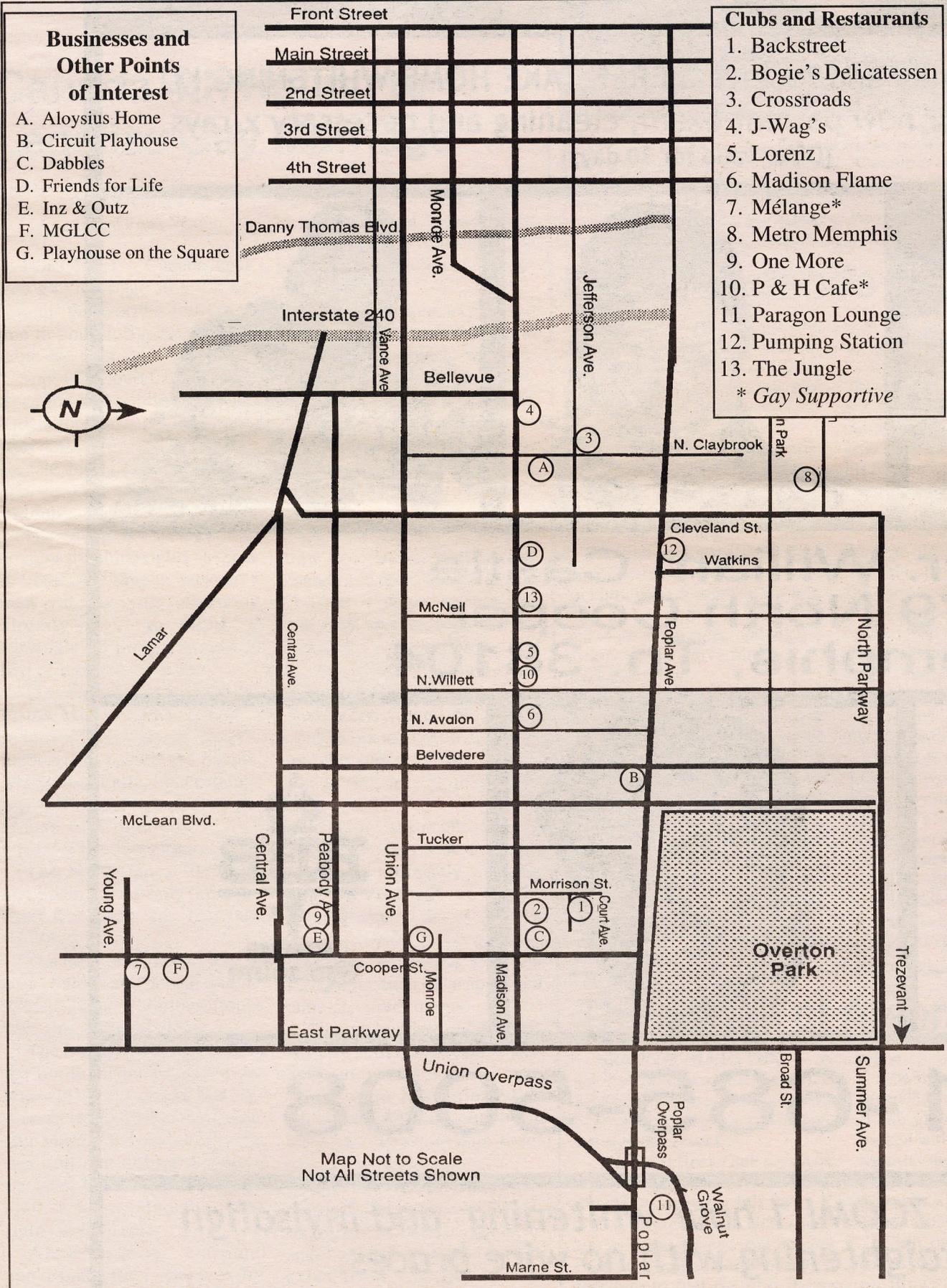
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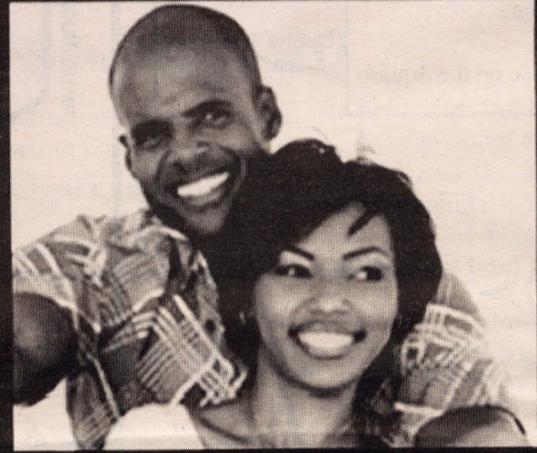
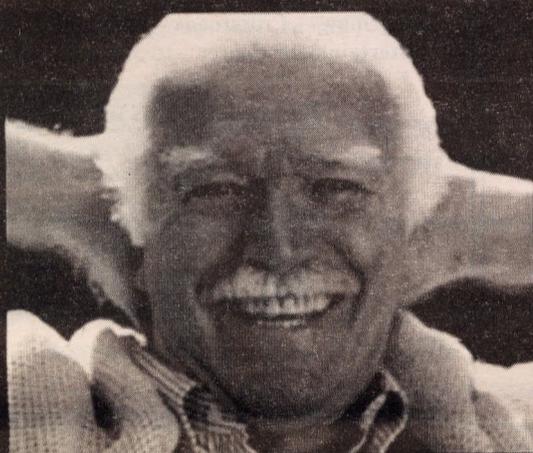
Out & About



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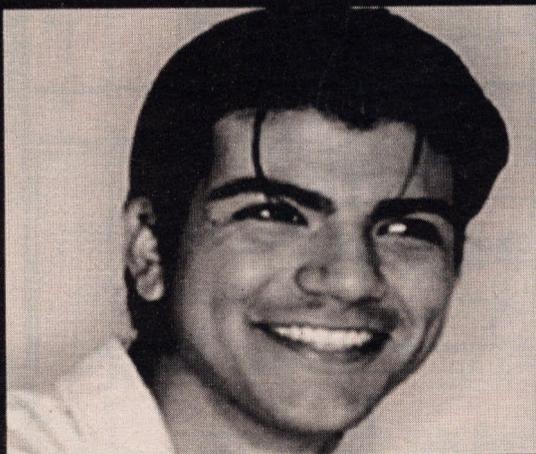
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