

## Arkansas Appeals Gay Foster Parent Ruling

An Arkansas law banning foster parents from having adult "homosexuals" living in their households is now under review by a state appellate court, where the state filed written briefs Nov. 17.

Last year the law was struck down in an opinion that is now under appeal.

The American Civil Liberties Union and their clients will respond in 30 days. Enacted in 1999 by the Child Welfare Agency Review Board, the provision describes a homosexual as "any person who voluntarily and knowingly engages in or submits to any sexual contact involving the genitals of one person and the mouth or anus of another person of the same gender."

Such people, in turn, were not allowed to live in the home where a foster child had been placed, and obviously were not allowed to take on the responsibility of being a foster parent.

Judge Timothy Fox ruled last December that the Child Welfare Agency Review Board did not have the authority to lay down moral regulations, but could only dictate matters that affected the "health, safety and/or welfare" of the children in the foster system.

Based on trial testimony, Judge Fox went on to determine that the gay men and lesbians

who might be expected to pass the standard foster parenting investigation would pose no danger to a child's health, safety or welfare.

As such, he concluded, the board exceeded its mandate under state law, and the provision was illegal. Praised by civil rights advocates at the time simply because the law itself was struck down, Judge Fox nonetheless ruled that, in theory, the state Legislature could indeed outlaw gay and lesbian foster parents on moral grounds alone.

While it might be beyond the jurisdiction of the board in question, the state itself retains the constitutional right to base a law on public morality as long as no fundamental rights are at stake and no protected class of individuals are harmed. Judge Fox relied on the federal appellate opinion upholding Florida's ban on gay and lesbian adoptive parents as the basis for his conclusion.

Ironically, while Florida allows gay foster parents and restricts adoption, Arkansas allows gay men and women to adopt, while their ability to be a foster parent remains in limbo.

For now, there are no restrictions on foster parenting, although that could change if the state appellate court reverses the lower court.

## Greg Louganis to Headline 2006 Gaymes

The board of directors of the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center has announced that Greg Louganis will be the special guest for the Fourth Annual Memphis Gaymes.

Greg Louganis is a three-time Olympian and quite possibly the world's greatest diver. Louganis won his first Olympic medal — a silver medal on the platform — in 1976 at the age of 16. He went on to win gold medals in both the platform and springboard events in the 1984, making him the first person in 56 years to win two gold medals in diving.

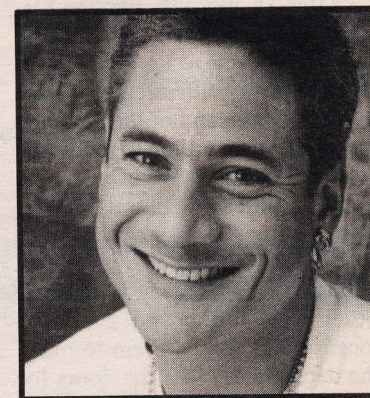
In 1988, he became the first person in history to win double gold medals for diving in two consecutive Olympic Games.

His 1988 Olympic performance was especially memorable. Despite hitting his head during the springboard compe-

tion, he still won the gold medal.

Several years later, Louganis revealed that he was secretly HIV-positive at the time of the 1988 Olympics. On a *Barbara Walters Special*, he later revealed that he is living with AIDS.

Retired from professional diving, Louganis is the author of two books: *Breaking the Surface* and *For the Life of Your Dog*. In addition, his résumé boasts an extensive list of television, film and theatre credits. Louganis will be on hand for the final weekend of the annual Gaymes Competition for fundraising events for the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center; to speak to the Memphis Community honoring National Coming Out Day 2006 and to award the gold, silver and bronze medals to Gaymes winners at the closing



Greg Louganis

ceremony on Oct. 8, 2006.

The Memphis Gaymes is an annual competition organized by the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center to honor National Coming Out Day. In recent years, former National Baseball League player Billy Bean and former National Football League player Esera Tuaolo, have served as special guests.

## Rep. Ford's Fund-raising Efforts Hampered by Anti-Gay Marriage Vote

By Allen Cook

Rep. Harold Ford Jr.'s (D-Tenn) vote for a constitutional amendment barring gay marriage is coming home to roost.

A fundraiser for his 2006 Senate race scheduled for Dec. 3 in San Francisco was postponed when Mayor Gavin Newsom and others there got wind of his stance on the issue.

According to a Nov. 30 story in *The Commercial Appeal*, Newsom encouraged Ford to cancel the event after learning that Ford had voted for the amendment.

Newsom had previously agreed to co-chair the event along with former San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown and District Attorney Kamala Harris.

Newsom and Harris said they had been unaware of Ford's position when they signed on as honorary co-chairs of the event.

Ford indicated that instead of

cancelling the event, it had been moved back to mid-January.

According to Ed Walsh a journalist for the *Bay Area Reporter*, a San Francisco weekly gay newspaper, supporting a politician who voted for the amendment could be "political poison" in the Bay Area.

"A lot of people would accuse (Mayor Newsom) of being a hypocrite," Walsh said.

Mayor Newsom is probably best known outside of San Francisco for having personally performed gay marriages before California banned them outright.

"How could he be so strongly in favor of gay marriage and raise money for someone who banned it? It would definitely be looked upon as a negative," Walsh said.

According to *The CA*, Ford said, "It came to my attention that there were a few people in San Francisco concerned about my opposition to gay mar-

riages... Out of concern for local politicians, we decided to push the event back to mid-January."

Ford was among 36 Democrats in the House of Representatives who voted for the amendment which failed to meet the two-thirds majority to pass.

Ford said he hasn't talked with Newsom and wasn't concerned about the mayor's decision to back away from his campaign.

"He's not a voter for me," Ford is quoted as saying. "Gavin Newsom has his politics in San Francisco and I have mine in Tennessee."

Ford indicated he has no trouble raising money for his Senate race. His campaign office said he has raised about \$3 million or about 25 percent of his stated goal.

The postponed event was one of dozens held around the country in support of his candidacy.

## Knoxville Declines to Ban Anti-Gay Discrimination

The members of the Tennessee Transgender Political Action Committee (TTPAC) have expressed their disappointment with the Knoxville City Council.

On Nov. 22, the Knoxville City Council approved a watered down "dignity" resolution instead of a strong, anti-dis-

crimination ordinance.

Knoxville missed an important opportunity to join a growing list of municipalities which have stated that discrimination against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons is unacceptable in its community. Such discrimination is a real

part of people's lives in Knoxville, and protection against such discrimination is badly needed according to TTPAC.

"It is time that discrimination against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons in Knoxville, and across Tennessee, is explicitly outlawed,"

TTPAC said in a press release. TTPAC encouraged those who supported anti-discrimination legislation which would have covered all people, to continue the work of educating and advocating for fully inclusive legislation.

The Tennessee Transgender Political Action Committee

(TTPAC) is an organization designed to educate and advocate on behalf of transgender-related legislation at the federal, state and local levels. TTPAC is dedicated to raising public awareness and building alliances with other organizations concerned with equal rights legislation.

## Family Flavors Video Rental Store Closing

After 14 months, Family Flavors: Movie Rentals & Pride Essentials will close its doors — at least for now. With its current lease expiring at the end of the year and the landlord unwilling to renew the lease, the owners have been unable to find a suitable location to move into.

The need to move to a new location but the inability to find another well-suited and available location has forced them to make the decision to close the doors for the time being.

Family Flavors is the first and only GLBT movie rental store in Memphis and the Mid-South area. The store is stocked entirely with gay and lesbian-themed movies, along with many mainstream movies that have GLBT actors and/or characters.

The store is also unique because

it does not carry any “adult” films, which are often the only types of film associated with the GLBT community. They are also home to the “5th Free Rental.”

Family Flavors offered weekly movie nights at MGLCC and occasionally the store would show a movie on the side of its building. They have partnered with *Family and Friends* magazine to offer preview showings of soon-to-be released popular movies, and they have helped sponsor several GLBT events throughout the year, including Outflix and a softball team. All movies were provided free of charge to the community, and some events even included complimentary concessions.

Fri., Dec. 23 will be the last day the store is open for business.

All remaining merchandise will be drastically reduced for sale. Also

available for sale will be the video shelving and fixtures and clear video boxes. If you are in need of any of these items, stop by the store; there are plenty available.

Family Flavors and its owners greatly appreciate every customer who ever stepped through the front door of their establishment. Much gratitude is extended to the GLBT community for its continued support throughout their endeavor.

Family Flavors is located at 18 North McLean Boulevard, near the corner of Madison Avenue. The store is open seven days a week; Monday–Thursday, 1–10 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 1 p.m.–11 p.m., and Sunday, 1–7 p.m.

The store also has a website, [www.FamilyFlavors.com](http://www.FamilyFlavors.com), and can be reached by phone: 901-725-0313, or e-mail: [Family\\_Flavors@yahoo.com](mailto:Family_Flavors@yahoo.com).

## Initiative: Fairness Meets with Talk Host Leon Gray

Initiative: Fairness (I:F), the political committee of the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center (MGLCC), invited Leon Gray, host of *The Leon Gray Show* on Progressive Talk AM 680, to an informal discussion at the community center on Thurs., Nov. 3.

The on-air invitation from I:F followed a week of controversial comments about tolerance and civil rights made by Gray on both his web log and call-in radio show.

Gray, two of his regular callers, various members of the Memphis Gay and Lesbian community and heterosexual allies attended the meeting.

The dialogue addressed issues of social and spiritual identity, civil rights, equality and social progress.

After the very open and honest

discussion, members of I:F agreed that it was a very positive and productive experience.

Initiative: Fairness will continue its mission to inform the Memphis LGBT community on local, state and national issues, educate public officials and figures, and unite the Mid-South LGBT community.

For more information, contact Tommy Simmons (901-409-5655) or Katie Messmer (901-497-5093), I:F co-chairs, at [if@mgccc.org](mailto:if@mgccc.org).

The Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center is a nonprofit 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.

## MGLCC Board Announces *Triangle Journal* Funding Campaign

On Sunday evening, Nov. 13, the board of directors of the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center (MGLCC) approved a fundraising campaign to create a monetary reserve in anticipation of its acquisition of the *Triangle Journal News* on Dec. 31, 2005.

The MGLCC began a consideration of accepting the gift of the *Triangle Journal News* from current owners and publishers, Allen Cook and John Stilwell, back in August of this year.

After much consideration, the board accepted the gift with the intention of continuing its fine tradition of journalistic excellence and to grow its revenues to support the programs and initiatives of the Community Center for years into the future.

The campaign will consist of letter, phone and face-to-face solicitations by select members of the board of directors. Marty Katz, MGLCC treasurer and chair

of the finance committee, explained the details of the campaign.

“Donors to the Funding Campaign will be recognized in the newspaper on its ‘Masthead of Honor’ for the first 12 issues published by MGLCC. Donors will be recognized for their donations in categories reflecting the size of their donations. Donors of \$1,000 or more will be recognized as Honorary Publishers. Donors giving \$750-\$999 will be recognized as Honorary Editors.”

A full list of the categories can

be found on the MGLCC Web site. Katz continued, “We are greatly honored that Dr. Herb Zeman has offered a challenge grant for the *TJN* Funding Campaign. Herb will match all donations greater than \$250 on a dollar for dollar basis, up to \$2500.”

The campaign was set to begin on Mon., Nov. 21. Funds raised from this campaign will be used to fund the basic expenses related to assuming control of *TJN*. The balance will be held in reserve as a “rainy day” fund to cover any unexpected expenses

that may arise.

“The MGLCC is about to end its fiscal year in the black for the second year in a row,” commented Len Piechowski, the organization’s president. “There was a strong resolve on the board to begin our new business enterprise on a strong footing with little risk to our sound financial position. Our community members have repeatedly demonstrated their generosity in the support of the MGLCC over the last few years. We now turn to them once again to assist us in

this worthwhile effort.”

Information on the campaign is available on the MGLCC Web site at [www.mgccc.org](http://www.mgccc.org) or by contacting Marty Katz at 289-4626. The Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center is a nonprofit 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.

## Group Seeks Funding to Love in Action Documentary

Director Morgan Jon Fox and Sawed-Off Collaboratory Productions have announced two fundraising screenings to seek financial assistance in finishing the production of the new documentary *This Is What Love in Action*

*Looks Like.*

The documentary follows an international news story that unfolded in Memphis this past summer surrounding the controversial “get straight camp” Love in Action, and its teenage program

called Refuge.

The Sawed-Off Collaboratory needs funding to complete this documentary and then promote it around the country for distribution and festival screenings. *What Does Love in Action Look*

*Like: A Preface*, the companion piece to *This Is What Love in Action Looks Like* was awarded the “Ron Tibbett Excellence In Filmmaking” award at the 2005 Indie Memphis film festival.

The screenings will take place Fri., Dec. 16, and Sat., Dec. 17, at the MeDiA Co-op in First Congregational Church at 1000 S. Cooper. Admission is on a “pay-what-you-can” basis.

Friday’s screening will include the preface and other short films beginning at 7:30 p.m. and *Blue Citrus Hearts* at 9:30 p.m.

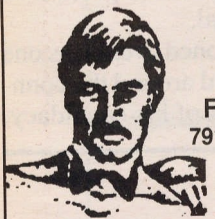
Saturday’s screening will start with *Away (A)wake* at 7:30 p.m. and a repeat of the preface and other short films at 9:30 p.m.

The Sawed-off Collaboratory’s previous films have been screened around the country and are distributed by Ariztical Entertainment nationally on DVD.

All screenings will be accompanied by question and answer sessions.

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## 100 Members of Congress Co-Sponsor Bill to Repeal 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell'

WASHINGTON — One hundred members of Congress now support the Military Readiness Enhancement Act (H.R. 1059), a Congressional bill that would repeal the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" ban on lesbian, gay and bisexual personnel. The bill, introduced in March by Rep. Marty Meehan (D-Mass.), is co-sponsored by Republican and Democratic lawmakers, including nine members of the House Armed Services Committee. Rep. Rahm Emanuel (D-Ill.) recently became the 100th co-sponsor.

"There is historic, bipartisan progress being made in the fight to lift the ban," said C. Dixon Osburn, executive director of Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN). "In just over six months, 100 elected representatives from both parties have come together to call for repeal of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell.' Public support for their effort is strong: 79 percent of Americans support allowing gays to serve openly, and clear majorities of conservatives, churchgoers and junior enlisted personnel believe the time has come to place national defense ahead of federal discrimination."

According to the Pentagon, it has discharged more than 10,000 service members for being gay, including nearly 800 with skills deemed "mission critical" by the Department of Defense. Those who have been discharged include linguists, combat engineers, pilots, medical professionals and others. According to statistician Gary Gates, the armed forces could attract as many as 41,000 new recruits by repealing "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," in addition to the 65,000 lesbian and gay Americans already on duty in the active duty, reserve and national guard forces.

"My husband is a Vietnam combat veteran who probably served with gays while

defending our freedom," said Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-Fla.), a co-sponsor of the legislation. "In fact, one of the army nurses who cared for him after he was severely injured was a lesbian. Did her sexual orientation make her or the guys who served with Dexter less qualified? Of course not. This is an unjust policy that hurts our preparedness." Dexter Lehtinen is a former acting U.S. Attorney. He received a Purple Heart for his service in Vietnam.

Three other Republican lawmakers — Reps. Wayne Gilchrest (R-Md.), Christopher Shays (R-Conn.) and Jim Kolbe (R-Ariz.) — have joined Congresswoman Ros-Lehtinen in co-sponsoring the legislation. "(I)t's increasingly obvious to Congress that the policy doesn't work," Rep. Kolbe recently said.

"Despite shortages in many specialties and a shortfall in recruiting during 2005, Pentagon leaders recently chose to lower academic standards, raise the maximum enlistment age and waive some criminal convictions for new enlistees while continuing to turn away qualified gay Americans who want to serve," said Osburn. "The time has come to repeal 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell.'"

For more information on the Military Readiness Enhancement Act, a complete list of co-sponsors and SLDN's work to repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," visit [www.sldn.org](http://www.sldn.org).

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.

## Australian Military Recognizes Gay Couples

The Australian government has granted same-sex couples in the country's military the same rights and benefits as heterosexual couples. Gay rights advocates see the move as the first step toward full equality in the military.

Defense minister Robert Hill made the announcement, revealing that allowing lesbian and gay service members to have equal rights reflected the government's attempts to ensure all employees were protected from discrimination.

"This is a victory for common sense and for equality, but most of all it is a victory for the military because it makes the ADF a fairer, happier and more effective workplace for troops in same-sex relationships," Tasmanian Gay and Lesbian Rights Group spokesman Rodney Croome said Nov. 1.

"The least this country can do for its servicemen and -women is to treat them and their families equally, regardless of sexual orientation," he said.

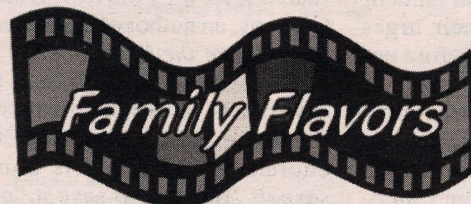
The country's Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission says the change comes after complaints of discrimination from service members.

"It was those complaints which prompted the Commission to take up this issue with the ADF and the government earlier this year," Human Rights Commissioner Sev Ozdowski said. "As acknowledged by the ADF, the elimination of discrimination in the availability of employment entitlements and conditions of service available to employees is not only important to the creation of a workplace which is fair and inclusive for all, but also enhances workplace cohesion and effectiveness," he added.

Although Australia dropped its ban on lesbian and gay people in the military 13 years ago, the change is expected to impact many of those working in the military. The move creates a new category of "interdependent relationship," which will include all same-sex and heterosexual de facto couples. It will offer same-sex couples the same benefits as heterosexual partners in such areas as housing and education assistance, relocation and compensation upon death or injury.

To qualify, a couple must show they have a close relationship and provide each other with financial and domestic support.

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# Vatican Document on Prohibition of Gay Seminarians Released

The Vatican is toughening its stand against gay candidates for the priesthood, specifying in a new document that even men with "transitory" homosexual tendencies must overcome their urges for at least three years before entering the clergy.

A long-awaited "Instruction," due to be released in early December, was posted Nov. 22 on the Internet by the Italian Catholic news agency Adista.

A church official who has read the document confirmed its authenticity; he asked that his name not be used because the piece has not been published by the Vatican. Conservative Roman Catholics who have decried the "gay subculture" in seminaries will likely applaud the policy, because it clarifies what the Vatican expects of seminarians and their administrators.

Critics of the policy warned that, if enforced, it will likely result in seminarians lying about their orientation and will decrease the already dwindling number of priests in the United States.

Estimates of the percentage of gays in U.S. seminaries and the priesthood range from 25 percent to 50 percent, according to a research review by the Rev. Donald Cozzens, an author of *The Changing Face of the Priesthood*.

The document from the Vatican's Congregation for Catholic Education says the church deeply respects homosexuals. But it also says it "cannot admit to the seminary and the sacred orders those who practice homosexuality, present deeply rooted homosexual tendencies or support so-called gay culture."

"Those people find themselves, in fact, in a situation that presents a grave obstacle to a correct relationship with men and women. One cannot ignore the negative consequences that can stem from the ordination of people with deeply rooted homosexual tendencies," it said.

"If instead it is a case of homosexual tendencies that are merely the expression of a transitory problem, for example as in the case of an unfinished adoles-

cence, they must however have been clearly overcome for at least three years before ordination as a deacon."

For many gay-rights activists, the Vatican's distinction between deep-rooted and "transitory" homosexuality is without basis. "For decades now, the scientific and medical community have said that sexual orientation is an immutable trait, what some of us might call a gift from God," said Harry Knox, director of the religion and faith program at the Washington-based Human Rights Campaign Foundation.

"This new policy causes candidates for the priesthood to be deceptive, and that should not be what the church should be about," he said.

Vatican prohibitions on sexually active gays becoming priests are not new, and a 1961 document says homosexuals should be barred from the priesthood. But the issue came to the fore in 2002, at the height of the clergy sex abuse scandal in the United States.

A study by the John Jay College of Criminal Justice found most abuse victims since 1950 were adolescent boys. Experts on sex offenders said homosexuals are no more likely than heterosexuals to molest young people, but that did not stifle questions about gay seminarians.

In addition, some Catholic re-

searchers said "gay subcultures" in seminaries were alienating heterosexuals, prompting them to drop out. The new document underlines that long-standing traditions and church teaching consider homosexual acts "grave sins" and also intrinsically immoral and contrary to natural law.

Thomas Plante, a psychologist who for more than 15 years has conducted evaluations of prospective seminarians for U.S. dioceses and religious orders, said the document would have an "enormous" ripple effect on the future U.S. priesthood if it is followed.

"Sexual orientation in almost all the evaluations I've done over 15 years hasn't really mattered," he said.

"Now what's coming out of the Vatican is that it matters in a big way. That's a real challenge, because we think that there are many, many, many gay men who are fabulous priests."

He questioned how seminary directors would apply the new regulations, and suggested that many may resort to a "don't ask, don't tell" policy. The candidates too, may try to hide their sexual orientation because homosexuality is now a deal-breaker, said Plante, who is chairman of the psychology department at Santa Clara University in California.

The Instruction is only five

pages long, including footnotes. It was signed by the prefect and secretary of the congregation on Nov. 4, and says it was approved by Pope Benedict XVI on Aug. 31.

The text makes no reference to current priests; it's directed instead to people entering seminaries and preparing for ordination.

Its title reads, "Regarding the criteria of vocational discernment regarding people with homosexual tendencies in view of their admission to the seminary and to sacred orders."

The sex abuse scandals have forced an unprecedented introspection into the clergy and how to train future priests. In September, Vatican-directed inspectors started visiting all 229 American seminaries.

Part of their mission has been to seek any "evidence of homosexuality." The Vatican has often visited the issue of homosexuality, reflecting an unbending theological opposition but also an acknowledgment that discrimination based on sexual preference is not justified. In 2003, homosexuality was described as a "troubling moral and social phenomenon" in a document by the powerful Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, then headed by German Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, who became Pope Benedict this year.

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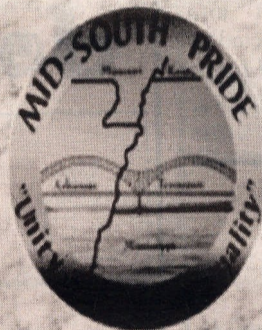
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## Mardi Gras 2006

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# Gay Candidates Win New Seats in Some Tough Territories Successes in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas Signal Progress

WASHINGTON — The Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund announced that of its 55 endorsements of gay and lesbian candidates in 2005, 35 won their races or performed well enough to proceed to a runoff.

The Victory Fund, which works to elect qualified lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender candidates, noted that some of these wins were considered groundbreaking and that the 2005 election year was not free from gay-baiting and outright attacks on candidates' sexual orientations.

In Ohio, a state that went for George Bush last year, four endorsed gay candidates won races.

Three of the wins were for new seats, including Joe Santiago for Cleveland City Council, Nickie Antonio for an at-large Lakewood City Council seat and Joe Lacey for a new seat on the Dayton School Board. Mary Jo Hudson won a seat she was appointed to last year on the Columbus City Council.

In Harrisburg, Penn., Dan Miller garnered 22 percent of the vote, enough to secure a new seat on the Harrisburg City Council. This marks the first time an openly gay candidate was elected in that city.

In Texas, where a statewide vote to ban legal recognition of same-sex relationships passed over-

whelmingly, 33 percent of Houston voters supported Sue Lovell for an at-large city council seat, enough to propel Lovell to a Dec. 6 runoff. Houston is the fourth largest city in the country.

"These candidates bring the skill, talent and passion that the LGBT community has to contribute to our political system and to society as a whole," said Chuck Wolfe, president and CEO of the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund.

"Winning races at the local level and striving for change within the political process is the surest way to achieve true equality for gay and lesbian Americans," Wolfe added.

Anti-gay attacks against Norfolk, Va. city treasurer candidate Vivian Paige appear to have contributed to her loss. In October, fraudulent flyers placed on cars outside an NAACP candidate forum proclaimed that Vivian Paige, a highly qualified candidate and Certified Public Accountant, is a proud lesbian and "doesn't care what people think!"

A group called Christian Leaders of Tomorrow went on TV with an ad the week before the election targeting Paige's sexual orientation.

Full election results are available at [www.victoryfund.org/election](http://www.victoryfund.org/election)

The Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund provides strategic, technical and financial support to openly LGBT candidates and officials. It's the sole national organization committed to increasing the number of openly LGBT public officials at federal, state and local levels of government.

Victory is the nation's largest LGBT political action committee and one of the nation's largest non-connected PACs.

In 14 years, Victory has helped the number of openly LGBT officials grow from 49 to more than 300.

## Maine Voters Reject Gay Rights Repeal

Voters in Maine solidly rejected Christian conservatives' efforts to repeal the state's new gay- and transgender-inclusive nondiscrimination law.

In the past, conservatives were successful in knocking the law off the books with a people's veto in 1998 and in 2000. But this time the law stayed with solid support.

With 86 percent of precincts reporting in, 55 percent of people voted to keep the law, with 45 percent against it. The governor suggested the election outcome was a sign that Maine is a welcoming place for everyone.

The vote "reaffirms the basic values that are intrinsic in Maine," said Gov. John Baldacci. "Mainers don't like discrimination ... if it happens to one person it happens to all of us."

Gov. Baldacci had introduced the law, which the state Legislature quickly passed in March. Conservatives immediately went to work to defeat the measure.

Led by groups called the Christian Civic League of Maine and the Maine Grassroots Coalition, they worked to fulfill a tight 90-day deadline for gathering signatures.

The ballot question read: "Do you want to reject the new law that would protect people from discrimination in employment, housing, education public accommodations and credit based on their sexual orientation?"

In their speeches, opponents of the law drummed up the specter of marriage. They suggested the law was the first step toward creating marriage rights for gay couples. They also argued that such discrimination protection was unnecessary.

To counter that notion, Maine Won't Discriminate, a broad coalition of groups supporting the nondiscrimination law, put together TV spots in which gay men talked about the discrimination and harassment they faced in Maine.

Four political action committees

that supported the discrimination protection out-fundraised their opponents with about \$930,000 in the bank compared to conservatives' \$336,000.

Matt Foreman, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, hailed the national significance of Maine's vote. "After the marriage amendment losses we've experienced over the last 12 months, this is a much-needed victory for our national movement — it proves we can win statewide contests," he said.

Maine was the last New England state to add this discrimination protection to its laws.

## Gay Partygoers to Receive Hormone Injections

Gay men arrested at a same-sex wedding party in the United Arab Emirates are to be given hormone injections as part of their punishment for homosexuality, according to officials in the country.

A spokesperson for the UAE's Interior Ministry said it raided a hotel and arrested 26 men.

According to press reports, the men were attending a wedding party that gave gay couples the chance to celebrate their relationships. Police apparently raided after a tip from a local.

This is not the first time police have raided parties and arrested men in countries where homosexuality is illegal.

Representatives of the UAE

government say the men arrested will be given hormone treatments, as well as up to five years' jail time and lashings, if found guilty of homosexual activity.

Homosexuality is illegal in the United Arab Emirates, where the hormone treatments are used in an attempt to "cure" gay men and turn them straight.

According to the Associated Press, the country's government has used the arrests to urge vigilance by parents against "deviance" among their children.

LGBT rights activists say the comments suggest that authorities fear a new generation will move toward a more gay-friendly, liberal society.

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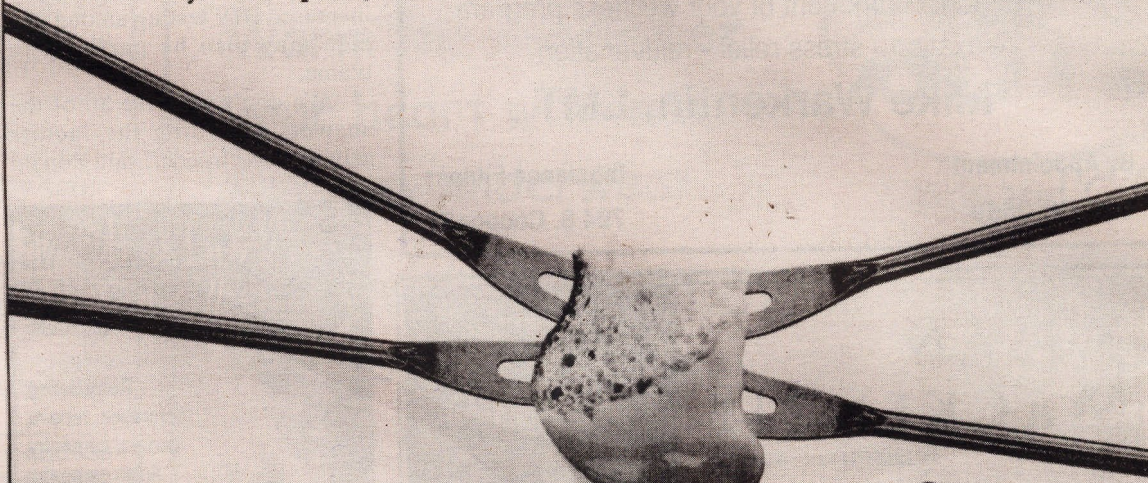
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# Religious Leadership Roundtable Hails Methodist Rejection of Anti-gay Prejudice

National Religious Leadership Roundtable leaders applaud Methodist bishops' rejection of anti-gay prejudice in membership; call for changes in Methodist rules to end discrimination "To all United Methodists and all people of faith and good will, I say, 'Wake up!' Theologies of exclusion lead to spiritual violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people." Rev. Troy Plummer, member of the National Religious Leadership Roundtable and executive director of Reconciling Ministries Network

WASHINGTON — The United Methodist Church Council of Bishops unanimously adopted a pastoral letter yesterday stating that

"While pastors have the responsibility to discern readiness for membership, homosexuality is not a barrier."

The letter was in response to Monday's ruling by the Supreme Judicial Council, the denomination's highest church court, which reinstated a pastor who had been suspended after denying church membership to a gay man.

The Judicial Council also revoked the ordination of openly lesbian minister Beth Stroud.

In the spirit of ecumenical cooperation in opposition to injustice, members of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force National Religious Leadership Roundtable made the following statements: "We are

thankful for the bishop's pastoral statement upholding the right of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people to

be members of the United Methodist Church," says Rev. Troy Plummer, Roundtable member and executive director of Reconciling Ministries Network, an organization that promotes the full participation of lesbian, gay bisexual and transgender individuals in the United Methodist Church.

"But as the bishops verify outrage from the poor decisions of the Judicial Council, we must not let the underlying prejudice in the church's constitution — which states that homosexuality is 'incompatible with Scripture' — remain. To all United Methodists and all people of faith and good will, I say, 'Wake up!' Theologies of exclusion lead to spiritual violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people."

"We are pleased that the Council of Bishops has unanimously adopted a pastoral statement countering the ruling of the Judicial

Council as it pertains to membership of gay people in the church," says Emily Eastwood, Roundtable member and executive director of Lutherans Concerned North America.

"Yet until the church takes official action the Judicial Council's discriminatory ruling stands. The green light for blatant discrimination in membership is on and that is unacceptable. If churches put a clergy bouncer at the door to check sin cards, who will be left in the pews? When a church excludes some believers from the body of Christ, club rules trump the Gospel."

Rev. Rebecca Voelkel, Roundtable member and executive director of the Institute for Welcoming Resources, says, "The bishops have taken a courageous stand, but in a world which so desperately needs a church that offers extravagant welcome, the United Methodist Supreme Judicial

Council's decision upholding anti-gay discrimination against both a potential member and a pastor is a devastating blow to its faithful lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender members. It is a reminder that, too often, our churches extend abuse, oppression and hatred where Jesus extends a hand of kinship and liberation."

First convened in 1998, the National Religious Leadership Roundtable of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force is an interfaith collaboration of more than forty denominations and faith-related organizations. The Roundtable seeks to reframe the public religious dialogue on issues involving the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community by amplifying the voices of LGBT-affirming people of faith, countering religious voices of bigotry and intolerance, and working to advance full equality for all.

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## HIV Rates Rose Among U.S. Gays Last Year

WASHINGTON — The number of HIV diagnoses for U.S. men who have sex with men (MSM) increased last year, according to the latest government report, and experts are unsure of

the cause. An analysis of trends released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found an overall stable annual rate of diagnosis of the AIDS virus, and a five percent drop in the diagnosis rate for African Americans.

But the study also found an eight percent increase in HIV diagnoses among MSM between 2003 and 2004, after several years of relatively stable data.

Analysts suggest increases in high-risk behavior and syphilis may be the cause, but some say increased HIV testing among gay men may also be partially to blame.

"We don't yet have all of the answers regarding the factors driving these trends," said Ronald

Valdiserri, acting director of the CDC's National Center for HIV, STD and TB Prevention.

"Increased diagnoses among men who have sex with men could reflect increased HIV incidents, increased testing or some combination of both." The analysis relies on data from 33 states.

For the first time, New York was included, and the Empire State accounted for 20 percent of new diagnoses from 2001 to 2004. The number of total diagnoses of HIV disease in these states dropped to 38,685 last year, from 41,207 in 2001.

Diagnoses from heterosexual sex and intravenous drug transmissions both declined during that time. The survey found 61 percent of new male diagnoses came from men who had sex with other males, compared to 17 percent of transmissions from heterosexual sex and 16 percent from intravenous drug use.

"What we do know from these and other data is that HIV continues to exact a tremendous toll on (men who have sex with men) of all races, especially (men who have sex with men) of color," Valdiserri said.

Among females, heterosexual sex accounts for more than three-quarters of transmissions. New efforts to expand HIV testing may lead to increased HIV diagnoses, the CDC warns, and may suggest increased infection when it is not necessarily the case. The inclusion of New York may have also affected the results, since the state has seen a sharp decline in infection because of needle exchange programs and educational initia-

tives.

The 33 states were studied because they have conducted confidential, name-based HIV case reporting for the last four years. California and Illinois are among the states that do not provide such accounting.

The AIDS Project Los Angeles urged California to add name-based reporting. A measure to do so failed to reach the state Assembly earlier this fall.

Diagnoses among African Americans in the states fell from 88.7 cases per 100,000 black people in 2001 to 76.3 last year. But the virus continues to disproportionately affect that community. The survey found the rate of infection was eight times higher for blacks than whites, and blacks make up more than half of all HIV diagnoses.

By comparison, there were only nine cases of HIV diagnoses per 100,000 whites last year. Matt Foreman, head of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, was distressed by the statistics related.

"No gay or bisexual person can think that HIV/AIDS is no longer a problem for our own community when nearly two-thirds of new infections among males are from men having sex with other men," he said in a prepared statement.

"Clearly, the Bush administration's de-funding, de-prioritizing and de-gaying HIV prevention programs has been nothing short of a disaster and we call upon Congress to act immediately to begin to address this tragedy."

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## Star Trek Actor Reveals He Is Gay

George Takei, who played Mr. Sulu in *Star Trek*, has revealed he is gay in *Frontiers* magazine, which covers the LGBT community of Los Angeles.

Takei, 68, told the Associated Press that his current stage role as the "very contained but turbulently frustrated" psychologist Martin Dysart in *Equus* was part of what motivated him to disclose his sexuality. The play opened Oct. 28 in Los Angeles.

The other aspect Takei considered was the current political climate.

"The world has changed from when I was a young teen feeling ashamed for being gay," he said. "The issue of gay marriage is now a political issue. That would have been unthinkable when I was young."

The actor said he has been in a relationship with his partner, Brad Altman, for 18 years.

Takei likened prejudice against the LGBT community to racial segregation, saying he grew up feeling ashamed of both his ethnicity and sexuality.

When Takei was four years old, he, along with thousands of other Japanese-Americans, was moved into internment camps while the United States battled Japan in World War II.

"It's against basic decency and what American values stand for," he said.

In 1966, Takei joined the *Star Trek* cast as the starship's helmsman, Hikaru Sulu, a character he played for three seasons on TV and in six films.

In 1986, he received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

*Star Trek* fans, such as Martha Fischer, have posted their feelings on the Internet. "I have to admit that when I read this story I actually experienced a sharp intake of breath, accompanied by a hand raised to my mouth. Yes, it was a horrifyingly stereotypical female reaction of shock," she wrote on [cinematical.com](http://cinematical.com). "George Takei? Gay? Holy crap!"

"Mr. Sulu is, along with his shipmates, really sort of an icon; like it or not, in our weird culture



George Takei

of fandom; what Takei does has a huge impact on *Star Trek* lovers around the world," she added. "It took a lot of balls to do what Takei did," Fischer concluded.

"More power to him, and hearty congrats to the man. Warp speed and all that."

## AOL Hires Mary Cheney in New Post

DULLES, Va. — America Online Inc. has hired Mary Cheney, the daughter of the vice president, for a newly created position. Cheney will report to AOL Vice Chairman Ted Leonsis and assist in managing the advertising, e-commerce and search engines considered AOL's core functions.

Citing employee privacy, company officials would not reveal her salary, when she was hired, where she'll work or when she will start.

Cheney's résumé includes stints heading a gay and lesbian outreach program for Coors Brewing Co. and running campaign-office operations for her father, Vice President Dick Cheney. She received a graduate business degree from the University of Denver.

AOL spokesman Nicholas Graham said Leonsis knows Cheney and hand-picked her for the AOL post.

"Cheney is a very highly organized person who is used to helping run very fast-moving

organizations," Graham said. "She has the skills and talent and experiences that Mr. Leonsis and his staff could use."

Her addition comes as AOL troubles mount. Recently the unit of Time Warner Inc. announced plans to lay off more than 700 employees companywide — the largest layoff for AOL since December 2004.

The increasing popularity of broadband over AOL's slower dial-up Internet service has been blamed for shrinking membership.

As of June 30, AOL had 20.8 million U.S. members, representing a 917,000-member drop from the March quarter and a 2.6 million-member dip from the year before.

The company has 27 million worldwide members. Cheney has lived for years in Conifer, Colo. She recently inked a deal to publish a memoir of her political experiences and her life as a lesbian and Republican.

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by Allen Cook

My apologies to the new owners of Sessions for my apparent brain fart. In the last issue I tried placing them somewhere in the new Midtown Home Depot — a spot which has gay ghosts, but no gay bar.

Just for the record, Sessions is located at the corner of Jefferson and N. Claybrook — 1278 Jefferson to be exact.

While we're correcting that glaring *faux pas*, let me give

them a plug or two.

Sessions opened to a great crowd on Fri., Nov. 4. The opening was a "soft" opening and a grand opening is planned soon.

Sessions is open Wednesday through Sunday from 3 p.m. to 3 a.m. Happy hour is from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Right now the bar is offering movies on Thursday nights at 8 p.m., karaoke on Saturdays at 8:30 p.m.; themed bingo (Sissy Bingo?) at 8:30 on Sundays with a show at midnight.

One of the nice things is that

the bar is going to be plugged in to the local gay community.

Its first event will be a "Sessions Kares for Kids" show for the Blue Suede Bears on Sun., Dec. 4, at 6 p.m. Admission is a new toy or a \$5 donation. Money raised will be used to buy additional toys to be presented to children affected and infected by HIV/AIDS at the annual Feast For Friends Christmas Dinner on Mon., Dec. 19 at St. John's Methodist Church.

Things are winding down for me at *TJN*. As you may know, my partner John Stilwell and I are giving the paper to the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center at the end of the year.

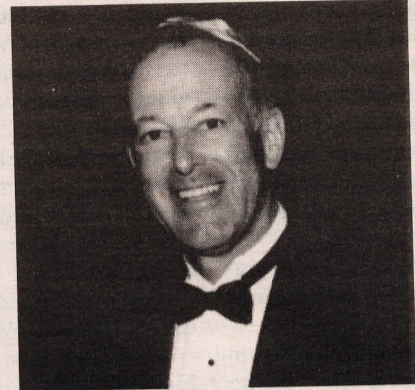
I won't lie — I have lots of mixed emotions about this.

On the plus side, I get a new room in my house and a chance to get rid of 25 years of clutter associated with the newspaper. On the down side, I get more time to surf the Net. Some would say that's a "plus," but you can waste an enormous amount of time there.

It is gratifying to know that Holy Trinity Community Church is donating a room in their church complex for the near future to house the newspaper's office.

I will be working as a consultant for about three months to "break in" a new editor.

## Community Leader Spotlight: Dr. Arnold Drake



Dr. Drake and his wife Myrna joined PFLAG in 1987 when they formed the Memphis chapter after attending the Sixth Annual PFLAG conference in Washington DC. He still serves as the local president.

He served on the national board from 1996 to 2002, and was president from 1998 to 2000.

The local PFLAG Web site is [www.pflagmemphis.org](http://www.pflagmemphis.org). PFLAG meets on the first Thursday of every month from 7-9 p.m. at the Benjamin Hooks Central Library at 3030 Poplar Ave.

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### Employment Opportunity at MGLCC TJN Editor (Part-time Position)

**Duties, functions, responsibilities and requirements:** Editorial functions include writing, editing, layout design, deadline and production management, publication and distribution, and establishing and implementing editorial policies.

Revenue generating responsibilities include producing advertising sales (locally & nationally) to help cover publication expenses (including salaries), marketing and administrating allocation of revenues in conjunction with the board.

Financial management includes budgeting, P&L and stewardship of assets.

People skills include coordination of part-time and volunteer support staff, establishing and maintaining business relationships with vendors. Assist in providing public and community relations as it relates to the journal and the community center.

**Education:** College degree preferred.

**Career Experience:** Editing and layout experience preferred. Experience with Macintosh is a plus. Must be a great writer and storyteller. Must be able to get along well with others. Sales experience is also a plus. Reports to MGLCC Board of Directors.

**Application:** Interested applicants should submit a current professional résumé with a cover letter that addresses the desired qualifications to Len Piechowski at MGLCC, 892 South Cooper St., Memphis, TN 38104, no later than 5 p.m. on Fri., Dec. 9, 2005.

Make no mistake, there will be changes — positive changes I am convinced.

If you are interested in having my job as editor, there is an ad outlining the qualifications at the bottom of this page.

I have one more issue to do as editor and after more than 25 years of gay journalism I plan to go out with a bang, not a

whisper.

Let me eat some humble pie. I apologize to *TJN*'s competition (you know who they are) for the jibes I've sent their way over the years and most recently in last month's issue — not because they weren't deserved, but because I've been guilty of doing the same kind of things over the years. They will learn, as I have, that it doesn't pay to be spiteful in print — sounds and feels good when you're writing it but ultimately it's not a good thing.

If you're looking for a non-smoking, non-alcoholic venue for New Year's Eve, check out the MGLCC New Year's Eve Reception which starts at 8:30.

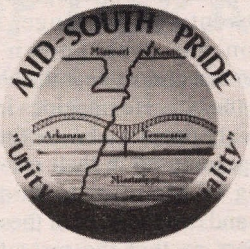
Charles Billings will be featured along with some friends singing an evening of show tunes. May I humbly suggest "Seasons of Love" from *Rent*?

When I first saw *Rent* at the Orpheum several years ago, I almost walked out after the first act. Fortunately for me, I stayed for the second.

The film of *Rent* is a must-see. For me, the movie is much more comprehensible and — softer that I am — I nearly lost it in a couple of places.

The DVD will be out in a couple of months and will be on my short list of movies I want to own, although it is hardly a promotional piece for living in New York.





## Pride Points

### Mid-South Pride Announces Pride 2006 Logo Theme Contest

#### PRIDE! A Bridge to Equality

Equality... that is what every member of the Mid-South GLBT community would like to have. Pride 2006 will focus on this desire for equality by giving us all the opportunity to show that our equality can be gained when we take pride in who we are. Show pride and take a stand, step out and take part in our community. Have pride in supporting MSP, and the other community groups in the Mid-South. Take pride in being who we are and gaining our equality. Equality will only be gained when each of us steps up, takes a stand and shows that we are proud, and with that pride we can bridge the gap and gain our equality. MSP is ask-

ing everyone to join with us and let's walk across that Bridge to Equality.

#### Mardi Gras

Mardi Gras is coming soon and Mid-South Pride will be there. We are inviting the community to join us for the Mystic Krewe of Pegasus - Memphis, Mardi Gras Gala to be held Feb. 18, at the Central Train Station. Between now and Jan. 21, become a Friend of Pride with a donation of \$250 or more and receive the following in return: Two VIP tickets to the ball with seating at the MSP Friends of Pride Table, Your name listed on the MSP Friends of Pride site, two tickets to the VIP tent during this year's Pride

Festival, your name listed in the *Pride 2006 Guide*. Your contribution of \$250 or more will give you that priceless feeling of supporting three community organizations, Mid-South Pride, Krewe Pegasus, and its charity, The Memphis Child Advocacy Center. Mail your contribution to MSP, or complete the online form and pay using Pay Pal at our Web site, [www.MidSouthPride.org](http://www.MidSouthPride.org)

#### Grand Marshall Nominations

Nominations for Pride 2006 Grand Marshals are now open, and you are asked to submit an e-mail or letter nominating the person or persons who have done the most to build the Mid-South GLBT community... to, take that stand and walk across that Bridge to Equality. Nominations should be 500 words or less, tell about the person(s) that you are nominating and why they should be selected as the grand marshal for Pride 2006. Nominations may be sent in by U.S. mail to MSP, or submitted by going to our Web site at [www.MidSouthPride.org](http://www.MidSouthPride.org). Nominations need to be received no later than Sat., March 11, 2006.

#### Pride 2006 Art Contest

Pride! A Bridge to Equality — what visions does that idea give to

you? Share your vision with MSP, and your art could become part of the advertising for Pride 2006. MSP is giving the community the opportunity to design a logo or advertising poster that make use of the Mid-South Pride's theme for Pride 2006. The winner of this contest will have their logo or poster used in Pride 2006 advertising, on the MSP Web site, and in the *Pride 2006 Guide*. Complete information on the Pride 2006 contest can be found at the Mid-South Pride Web site or you may call MSP and re-

quest that information be mailed to you. All entries become the property of Mid-South Pride.

To stay up to date on all the details and events going on with Mid-South Pride, visit our Web site and sign up for our newsletter, *Pride Points*, and have it delivered directly to your e-mail. Interested in working on a Pride 2006 committee, or in volunteering for MSP, visit our site or e-mail us at [volunteer@midsouthpride.org](mailto:volunteer@midsouthpride.org). Happy holidays!

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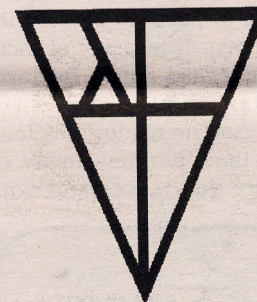


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### Man Seeks to Bar Gay Partner's Testimony

A gay man charged with helping his lover loot a wealthy school district has asked a judge to rule that state law protecting spouses from having to testify against each other also applies to same-sex partners.

Stephen Signorelli, fighting charges that he stole at least \$219,000 from the Roslyn, N.Y., school district, is seeking to bar testimony by his longtime companion, Frank Tassone, the district's former superintendent.

Auditors say that in all, \$11.2 million was taken from the Long Island district. It is considered among the largest thefts from a U.S. school system.

Tassone pleaded guilty this year to stealing \$1 million between 1996 and 2002. As part of

his plea bargain, he agreed to testify against other defendants in the case, which meant he might have to take the stand in Signorelli's trial.

In a motion filed before a judge in Nassau County, Signorelli sought to bar such an appearance, saying he and Tassone deserved the same protection as a heterosexual couple.

"Mr. Tassone and I have been loving partners for 33 years," Signorelli said in an affidavit, adding that the two had participated in "a solemn religious ceremony" conducted while they were on a Caribbean cruise, "to memorialize our relationship and love for one another."

The two also registered as domestic partners in New York

City, where they live, in 2002. "It's our position that the statute should be read gender-neutral," Signorelli's attorney, Kenneth Weinstein, told *Newsday*.

"If a heterosexual couple can assert marital privilege, then a homosexual couple should be able to do the same," Signorelli is charged with helping in the theft of at least \$219,000 by submitting phony and padded invoices for the printing of school handbooks.

Weinstein and an attorney for Tassone did not immediately return phone messages left at their offices Nov. 25. Prosecutors have yet to respond to the motion and Judge Alan Honorof has not indicated how he might rule.

### Blue Suede Bears Staging Toy Drive

The Blue Suede Bears is holding what is billed as its first annual toy drive now through Dec. 18.

The group is asking that new, unwrapped toys be dropped off at Sessions, 1278 Jefferson by Sun., Dec. 18.

The Bears suggest that toys include coloring books, crafts, stuffed animals and games.

The toys will be presented to children affected by HIV/AIDS at Friends For Life's annual Christmas Feast for Friends on Mon., Dec. 19.

In conjunction with the toy drive, Sessions will present a "Sessions Kares for Kids" show on Sun., Dec. 4.

Admission to the show is \$5 or a new, unwrapped toy for the drive. Proceeds will be used to buy more toys.

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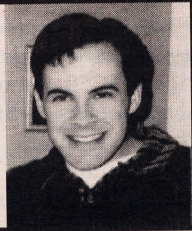
News

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# WHAT ABOUT IT?

by Shannon Yarbrough



On a routine Sunday night in the summer, I sat on my sofa with my partner, John, anxious for another episode of the last season of *Queer As Folk*. A commercial about AIDS played out on the television just before the show. Peter Paige, the actor who played Emmett on *QAF*, stated that by the year 2010 there would be more than 50 million people infected with HIV. What a staggering, but believable figure, I thought! For some strange reason, a creative spark enlightened my mind with an idea for my next novel, and by the end of the *QAF* episode I had an entire storyline plotted out. What if it was the other way around? What if there were less than 1,000 people infected and even the possibility that the disease was gone forever by then?

Oh what a celebration that would be, you are probably thinking. Freedom from AIDS would have its price though. This may sound like a ludicrous idea, but it may not be too far from reality. Testing has become quite the regular requirement for a few situations, including first-time pregnant mothers and even for marriages in some states. Hospitals, communes, prisons or wherever you are just might be your final destination. What if we actually woke up, paid closer attention to our health, and stood

by waiting for those who "had it" to pass away? This is the premise of my new novel.

The novel is called *A Day That Ends in Why*, and touches on the history of AIDS all the way back to 1963 until present day and into the future. It follows the lives of a few characters and what they share in common, besides being touched by the disease in some way. And one of those characters, with a voice, happens to be the very disease itself... AIDS. And here, for the first time anywhere is a sneak peek at my new novel, *A Day That Ends in Why* which is due out next year:

This isn't the beginning, far from it actually. And as a matter of fact, it's almost the end. The end of my existence. I think I was born somewhere in the 70s, which is probably where we should begin. But for now, I think it's important that we take a glimpse of where we are right now. After all, my own story has many parts and many characters, all of which would take thousands of pages to cover. I introduced myself to many of them during their mad search for love, and some others came in search of me first. And no matter how long or short their journey, many of them were very successful with

finding exactly what they were looking for. Finding love, finding me, or finding both. And then there are those who I was introduced to by mistake. Yes, most introductions in life are unintentional, but there are still those who went years with me by their side before they ever looked me in the face. A lot of them became very bitter about my presence in their lives, even giving up their own will to live just to not have to know me anymore. But, then there are those who kept on going. Besides involving me, a lot of their lives are alike in many ways, so we'd find ourselves being quite repetitive if we tried to cover them all. But like patches on a quilt, everyone I have ever known was very different, very unique in that they each had their own story to tell. But there have been so many, and so little time to listen. So instead, let's take a glimpse of these last few days before the end, my finale, and then we'll travel back to the beginning and find out how you and I both got here.

Although he can't see me, like all those others, Preston knows that I am here. He's known me for about ten years now. Back then, he paid quite a bit of attention to me, but lately it seems he has gone out of the way to ignore me. He always

secretly wished that I would go away, and although he knows that isn't possible, it has been happening. Slowly but surely over the past two years, I've been going away. Not by choice, but because everyone agreed that they didn't want to know me anymore. Even Preston. But for now, Preston sits alone in a darkened room in a small Midtown bungalow. He sips hot tea in front of the television waiting for the news to come on. He is wrapped tightly in a blanket as if it was the dead of winter, even though it is a hot summer day outside.

Daylight is not something Preston enjoys anymore. The blinds are closed and the curtains are drawn, and he hasn't even turned on a light in the house for weeks now. Outside, the world waits patiently because the end is near, the end of their worries, the end of their fear. The end of me. But inside Preston's house, there is no celebration. He feels alone, as if the rest of the world has forgotten about him. And it has. The clock on the wall chimes at the top of the hour and Preston stops his channel surfing to tune into the nightly news he's been waiting for.

There are only six prisoners left today in the Federal Medical Penitentiary located in Springfield, Missouri. Only six. Two years ago there were over four thousand, even more across the country in other prisons, but today only six. Six infected prisoners that Preston and the rest of the country are watching, waiting for all six to die. Two of them are bedridden and are expected to go any moment now.

One of them has been in prison for over twenty years, longer than Preston has even known me. Preston can almost hear the cheers across the city. He imagines impatient angry people, who are tired of waiting, jumping in their cars and driving to Missouri to raid the prison and end the lives of these six prisoners so that the rest of the country can stop holding their breath. So it will all be over. Or will it? For the rest of America, it will be over, but for Preston the last day in the life of that last Prisoner will be the first day of the rest of his life. I hope.

Preston thinks back to when he would watch the news and it seemed like a daily countdown. There were hundreds of thousands for the first year, and he never thought he'd see the day when there was less than ten. Will he make it to the day when the last infected one closes his eyes and his heart stops beating, and a thousand cheers of happiness echo across the country because the end has come? It seems still so far away, although it could even happen overnight. The end of it teeters on six beating hearts, six lives that mean nothing to anyone anymore except the end of it all. The end of what, you ask? The end of AIDS.

Shannon Yarbrough lived in Memphis for six years. He now lives in St. Louis, Mo. He is the author of the book, *The Other Side of What*. His next novel, *A Day That Ends in Why*, is due out next year. Questions or comments? Email Shannon at [misteryarbs@msn.com](mailto:misteryarbs@msn.com).

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## Elton Becomes Gay Games Ambassador

SAN FRANCISCO — The Federation of Gay Games has announced that Sir Elton John has become a Gay Games Ambassador.

Sir Elton said, "I am thrilled to be involved with the Gay Games. For more than two decades the Gay Games have turned a well-deserved spotlight on athletic and cultural performances by members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and

transgender community and their friends from around the world."

The Gay Games Ambassadors are an international group of prominent individuals supporting the goals and principles of the quadrennial Gay Games. First held in 1982, Gay Games VII takes place in Chicago, from July 15-22, 2006.

Music has always been at the center of the Gay Games, from

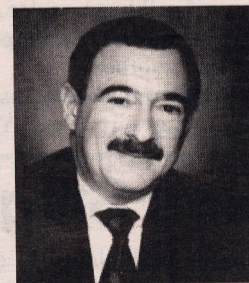
band and choral events to the always-inspirational opening and closing ceremonies, plus numerous pop, classical, jazz, R&B, country and other styles featuring prominently in other performances throughout a Gay Games week.

The broad range of musical disciplines showcased at every Gay Games makes support of the event a natural fit for a legendary talent such as Sir Elton John.

"Thousands of musicians have participated in the cultural festivals of the Gay Games," said Sir Elton. "I'm proud of them and what they have accomplished at the Games and in their home communities. Along with the athletic participants, they challenge the stereotypes from which oppression grows and consequently bring the world closer together."

John's career has spanned more than 35 years as one of the world's most successful touring artists and one of the top-selling solo artists of all time. He has sold close to a quarter of a billion records worldwide, with more than 100 U.S. Hot 100 chart singles, 12 multi-platinum, 23 platinum and 33 gold U.S. albums.

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# Queer Notes

By Jim Maynard

I'm glad that Progressive Talk 680 AM's Leon Gray has been meeting with leaders of the Memphis gay community to learn more about gay and lesbian issues. Gray had made anti-gay comments on his local radio program, questioning the very concept of gay "civil rights." Like many religious conservatives in the African-American community, Gray has accused gay activists of using blacks and the civil rights movement for racial equality to advance the cause of gay and lesbian civil rights. Gray was very unprogressive because of his inability to see the "common ground" of all oppressed social minorities: prejudice and discrimination. For those of us who were excluded from Initiative: Fairness's closed meeting with Gray, there is an opportunity to talk with him at the January PFLAG meeting (Jan. 5, 7 p.m. at the Benjamin Hooks Central Library on Poplar Ave.).

Harriett Meirs withdrew her nomination for the Supreme Court

after increasing opposition from conservative groups who questioned her conservative credentials. In her place Bush nominated another corporate lawyer, Samuel Alito. Alito is so conservative he has been nicknamed "Scalito" because of how much he agrees with the right-wing ideology of ultra-conservative Supreme Court Justice Scalia.

**Opinions expressed in bylined columns are those of the authors.**

Court Justice Scalia.

Like John Roberts, Bush's pick for chief justice to replace William Rehnquist, Alito was part of the Reagan administration's assault on civil rights, labor rights and the environment. He boasted in some of his own writings of working with the Reagan justice department to restrict civil rights and reproductive rights for women. He wrote that there is no constitutional right to abortion, which means there is no constitutional right to privacy. According to the *Washington Post*, Bush administration officials contacted anti-gay groups like Concerned Women for America and the Family Research Council to get

their support for Alito.

Something else to think about, Alito will be the fifth Catholic on the Supreme Court, giving the world's largest anti-gay organization a majority voice on the highest court in the country. It would be nice to have some justices on the Supreme Court who shared some of the founding fathers' distaste of mixing church and state.

Dick Cheney's chief advisor "Scooter" Libby was indicted last month and there is a good chance Bush advisor Karl Rove is still in the cross hairs of the special prosecutor for his role in the leaking of CIA agent Valerie Plame's name to the press. There is also some talk of Karl Rove being gay. He would not be the first anti-gay homocon, but maybe if Rove would perform fellatio on George Bush in the White House the Republican Congress would finally begin impeachment hearings.

Just in time for the 2006 elections, the Republicans in Congress are reintroducing Bush's anti-gay Federal Marriage Amendment to energize the Republican's Christian Right base. They'll need the Christo-fascists to save the Bush presidency from its political deathbed.

While Maine voters rejected an anti-gay discrimination ballot initiative, Texas voters joined with the KKK in their state to approve a ban on gay marriage in Bush's former domicile. So far anti-gay marriage amendments have passed in every state where they have been put to

voters.

The Kansas school board voted to reject the scientific theory of evolution and require the teaching of "Intelligent Design" (i.e., creationism) in public schools. "Intelligent Design" has absolutely zero support within the legitimate scientific community, has not been supported by any research published in real scientific journals. It has the support of George W. Bush, who is empirical evidence against the concert of "Intelligent Design."

This is why George Bush continues to have the support of the 30 percent of the public who are religious fanatics. Only a religious fanatic could blindly follow a misleader like George W. Bush after 9-11, the illegal invasion of Iraq, and hurricane Katrina. Bush can count on the support of religious fools who care more about unborn fetuses and stopping gays and lesbians from marrying than taking care of poor people.

Democrats are finally waking up and showing some backbone. They invoked a seldom-used House rule to force the House of Representatives into a closed session to begin an investigation of the Bush administration's misuse of intelligence information to get Congressional support for the Iraq war. Rep. John Murtha, a conservative hawkish Democrat with a strong record on military issues (and a 30-year marine himself), eloquently challenged Congress and Bush to end the Iraq war and bring our troops home.

While Bush and Cheney continue to use the military and sol-

diers to support their illegal war based on lies, many Democrats who actually served in the military are joining anti-war activists and speaking out against the Iraq War. If Bush truly supports the military, he should bring them home and stop cutting veterans benefits.

The repugnant Republicans showed their true colors last month by voting to cut food stamps, Medicaid, student loans and many other social programs. While they claimed to be cutting \$50 billion from the federal budget, they pushed another \$70 billion in tax cuts mainly benefiting the top one percent of taxpayers.

Former president Jimmy Carter has a great new book entitled *Our Endangered Values: America's Moral Crisis*, which focuses on how conservative political and religious groups have undermined the traditional American values of equality and social justice. I've been reading Bill Clinton's *My Life* too, and it presents a startling contrast to what we have as president now.

I don't think The Shrub could write a book one-third the size of Clinton's amazing autobiography. While I had many problems with Clinton's moderate political views and his tendency to compromise with Republicans, he was one of the most intelligent, compassionate and successful presidents in our history. His articulate intelligence is a stark contrast to the idiot in the White House now.

You can contact Jim Maynard at [www.jimmymaynard.com](http://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](mailto:memphisTJN@aol.com). Ads deemed too explicit may be edited.

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**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](mailto: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.

**Seeking a Bi or Gay man** for quality time outside of the bar scene. Check out this WM, 36, 5'10", 165# sandy hair, hazel eyes. Avg. good looks, versatile and HIV free. Call Jim at 901-466-9822.

Short, thick, masculine black top seeks plump/large, slightly fem black bottom for long term, intimate, discreet relationship. E-mail me at: [blacktopinmemtn@yahoo.com](mailto:blacktopinmemtn@yahoo.com)

**Gay black female, 50,** would like to meet someone 40-55 to enjoy traveling, plays and poetry. If interested, call 901-355-9766. Ask for Syl.

To place your free ad in this column, e-mail it to [MemphisTJN@aol.com](mailto:MemphisTJN@aol.com) or send it to P.O. Box 11485, Memphis, TN 38111. Ads may be edited for explicit content.

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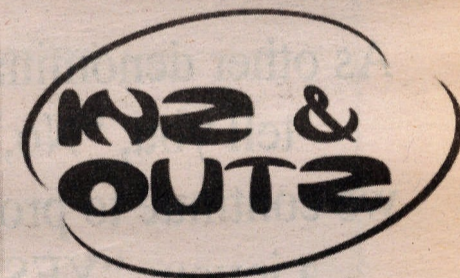
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## Man Sues ABC Over Gay Wife Swap

An Oklahoma man is suing for more than \$10 million after the show *Wife Swap* exchanged his wife with a gay man.

Jeffrey D. Bedford of Haileyville filed his \$10,225,000 suit in Muskogee's U.S. District Court, claiming that ABC Television misled him by not sending a woman from a heterosexual family to his home.

In his suit against Walt Disney (the parent company of both ABC and the show's producers, RDF Media), Bedford claims that when he conducted a Bible study for the Haileyville Baptist Church in his home, his gay "wife" invited a gay group as well.

But Bedford's suit does not focus solely on his queasiness about homosexuality. He also claims the producers of the show repeatedly told him his wife was leaving him, threatening not to reveal his wife's location if he did not participate.

Bedford said he became emo-

tionally distraught, to the point of becoming physically and mentally ill, as a result.

He also blamed the producers of the show for forcing him out of a college class.

Bedford's suit seeks \$5 million for mental distress that he claims caused him medical bills, public humiliation, embarrassment and undue grief.

He seeks another \$5 million for punitive damage and \$225,000 for other legal issues, including breach of contract.

ABC spokeswoman Annie Fort insisted the producers did not mislead Bedford.

"The show is meant to challenge a family's norms. Moreover, the agreement between the plaintiff and RDF specifically stated that the swapped spouse could be either male or female," Fort wrote in an e-mail to the *Muskogee Phoenix*.

Fort claimed there is no scheduled date for the unaired episode.

## Anglican Bishops Urge U.S. Church Split

PITTSBURGH — An international panel of Anglican bishops called upon a gathering of their conservative American counterparts Nov. 11 to split from the rest of the U.S. Episcopal Church.

"Yes, we will stand with you as long as you remain faithful, biblical, evangelical and orthodox," said Bishop Datuk Yong Ping Chung, who represents South East Asia.

The seven bishops from Africa, the West Indies and Asia spoke at the Hope and a Future Conference organized by the Anglican Communion Network.

The network is headed by Pittsburgh's Episcopal Bishop Robert W. Duncan. He helped form the group in 2003 after the Episcopal Church in the United States consecrated an openly gay priest, Gene Robinson, as bishop of New Hampshire and gave tacit approval to blessing services for same-sex couples.

Although Duncan's group represents a minority of Episcopalians in the 2.3 million-member American church, his group's views are shared by a majority of bishops in the 77 million-member worldwide

Anglican Communion, said Douglas LeBlanc, spokesman for Duncan's Anglican Communion Network. Duncan opened the conference, which ran through Nov. 12, by drawing a line between the beliefs held by his group and the leaders of the American church.

"These departures are a symptom of a deeper problem, which is the diminution of the authority of Holy Scripture," Duncan said.

Supporters of church policy on gays, meanwhile, have labeled Duncan and his backers as "neo-Puritan" Protestant fundamentalists.

## Gay American Idol Reject Kills Attacker

The family of a Philadelphia gay man charged with voluntary manslaughter with a pocket knife says he was just trying to defend himself from an anti-gay attack.

Lucas Dawson, 21, was on his way Oct. 29 to meet friends in downtown Philadelphia to discuss his *American Idol* tryout, which ended the previous day after three rounds, the *Philadelphia Daily News* reported.

On the way to the bus he reportedly saw four teens, who rushed him.

"One of them punched him in the mouth," David Dawson, Lucas' stepfather, told the *Daily News*. "They knocked him to the ground. They kicked him. They stomped him. They called him faggot."

David Dawson says Lucas waved a small pocket knife to get the kids to back off and then tried to run.

One of the teens, 17-year-old Gerald Knight, chased after and grabbed him. In the scuffle, Dawson fatally stabbed Knight in the chest.

Dawson is currently in jail charged with voluntary manslaughter. His family could not raise the money to meet his \$30,000 bail. Even if he is acquitted of the charges, his family remains worried for his safety.

They said the three remaining teens threatened to shoot Dawson. Basil Lucas, coordinator of the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs' hate crimes unit, called the attack unusual.

"The math works out about right

for a typical gay-bashing — multiple attackers going after a lone gay individual. That doesn't usually give the victim of a gay-bashing a chance to fight back," Lucas said.

"But I think this is an even deeper tragedy than a simple gay bashing because one young man is dead and another is in jail. But a person certainly has the right to defend themselves if this is the way it happened."

Lucas hopes that this will be an opportunity for Dawson's community to step in and make sure these kinds of attacks don't happen again.

Across the country, reports of anti-gay violence were up four percent in the NCAVP's latest anti-gay violence survey.

Dawson's family members said they have received a number of calls of support from people in the neighborhood. If convicted, Lucas Dawson could face up to 30 years in prison.



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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@holyltrinitymemphis.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@holyltrinitymemphis.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

- Tea Dance - Metro - 4pm
- **Brothers & Sisters Bowling League - Winchester Bowl - (901) 722-5236 or MemphisGayBowling@aol.com - 6pm**
- **Pool Tournament - Pumping Station - 6pm**
- **Bingo - Sessions- 8:30 m**
- **After Park Set Sundays - Paragon - 9pm**
- **Lights Out, Everything Goes - J-Wag's - 10pm**
- **Drag Show - Backstreet - 11pm**
- **Drag Show - Sessions- Midnight**

### MONDAYS

- **Monday Night at the Movies - Sponsored by Holy Trinity Community Church - Bartlett Cinema 10 - 6:45pm - Details at www.HolyTrinityMemphis.org**
- **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**
- **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**
- **Lights Out - Come Party in the Dark - Metro**

### THURSDAYS

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

## DECEMBER 2005 COMMUNITY CALENDAR

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                  |                                                            |                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                  |                                                            |                                                                                                                                             | <b>1</b><br>• Family Flavors Evening at the Gaiety Film Series, MGLCC, 7pm <i>Melissa Etheridge: Live &amp; Alone</i> | <b>2</b><br><i>See regular Friday events</i><br>• Cafe Q, Coffee House MGLCC, 7pm featuring JenEster Brown                                                                                 | <b>3</b><br>• Bicycle Club, MGLCC, 2pm<br>• Alliance Club Night, Pumping Station, 10pm<br>• Blue Suede Bears Bar Night, Sessions, 10pm |
| <b>4</b><br>• Initiative: Fairness, MGLCC, 4pm<br>• Brothers and Sisters Bowling, Winchester Lanes, 6pm<br>• Sessions Kares for Kids Benefit Show, Sessions, 6pm (Sponsored by Blue Suede Bears)                 | <b>5</b><br>• Feast for Friends, St. John's Methodist, 6pm<br>• Bluff City Sports Assn., MGLCC, 6pm<br>1                               | <b>6</b><br>• The Caring Group, HTCC, 7pm<br>• Phoenix AA, 1720 Peabody, 8pm                                                     | <b>7</b><br>• Men's Potluck, MGLCC, 6:30pm                 | <b>8</b><br>• Family Flavors Evening at the Gaiety Film Series, MGLCC, 7pm <i>Holiday Heart</i>                                             | <b>9</b><br><i>See regular Friday events</i><br>• Cafe Q, MGLCC, 7pm featuring Skinny White Chick                     | <b>10</b><br>• Bicycle Club, MGLCC, 2pm<br>• Blue Suede Bears Bar Night, Pumping Station, 10pm<br>• Lavender University, MGLCC, 2pm Digital Photography<br>• Alpha Chi Upsilon, MGLCC, 7pm |                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>11</b><br>• Lavender University, MGLCC, 2pm Digital Photography<br>• Brothers and Sisters Bowling, Winchester Lanes, 6pm<br>• Lambda Professionals Board Meeting, MGLCC, 6:30pm<br>• WAC, First Congo, 6:30pm | <b>12</b><br>• Friends for Life Coffee House, 6-8pm, Call 272-0855 for location<br>• Perpetual Transition, MGLCC, 6:30-7:30pm          | <b>13</b><br>• The Caring Group, HTCC, 7pm<br>• Phoenix AA, 1720 Peabody, 8pm<br>• Bear Ball, Sessions (See bluesuedebeards.com) | <b>14</b>                                                  | <b>15</b><br><i>TJN January Advertising Deadline</i><br>• Family Flavors Evening at the Gaiety Film Series, MGLCC, 7pm <i>Hebrew Hammer</i> | <b>16</b><br><i>See regular Friday events</i><br>• Cafe Q, MGLCC, 7pm featuring Robert Allen Parker                   | <b>17</b><br>• MLPA Business Meeting, MGLCC, 2pm<br>• Bicycle Club, MGLCC, 2pm<br>• MGLCC Volunteer Appreciation/Birthday Potluck, MGLCC, 6pm                                              |                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>18</b><br>• Brothers and Sisters Bowling, Winchester Lanes, 6pm                                                                                                                                               | <b>19</b><br>• Feast for Friends, St. John's Methodist, 6pm (Annual Holiday Dinner)<br>• Blue Suede Bears Business Meeting, MGLCC, 7pm | <b>20</b><br>• Integrity Meeting, Calvary Church, 6:30pm<br>• The Caring Group, HTCC, 7pm<br>• Phoenix AA, 1720 Peabody, 8pm     | <b>21</b><br>• Women's Monthly Potluck, MGLCC, 6:30pm      | <b>22</b><br>• Family Flavors Evening at the Gaiety Film Series, MGLCC, 7pm <i>24 Nights</i>                                                | <b>23</b><br><i>See regular Friday events</i><br>• Cafe Q, MGLCC, 7pm Featuring L'il Ryan D.                          | <b>24</b><br>• Bicycle Club, MGLCC, 2pm                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>25</b><br><i>Christmas Day</i><br>MGLCC Closed                                                                                                                                                                | <b>26</b><br>• Friends for Life Coffee House, 6-8pm, Call 272-0855 for location<br>• Perpetual Transition, MGLCC, 6:30-7:30pm          | <b>27</b><br>• The Caring Group, HTCC, 7pm<br>• The Drum Circle, MGLCC, 7pm<br>• Phoenix AA, 1720 Peabody, 8pm                   | <b>28</b><br>• MGLCC Volunteer Appreciation, MGLCC, 6:30pm | <b>29</b><br>• Family Flavors Evening at the Gaiety Film Series, MGLCC, 7pm <i>P.S. Your Cat is Dead</i>                                    | <b>30</b><br><i>January TJN Due Out</i><br>• Cafe Q, MGLCC, 7pm Game Night                                            | <b>31</b><br>• Bicycle Club, MGLCC, 2pm<br>• New Year's Eve Reception, MGLCC, 8pm. An Evening of Show Tunes featuring Charles Billings and Friends                                         |                                                                                                                                        |

- Movie Night, Sessions, 8 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
- Amateur Show - Metro - 11:30pm

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

Larry Timmerman

Bill Johns

## Antique Warehouse Mall

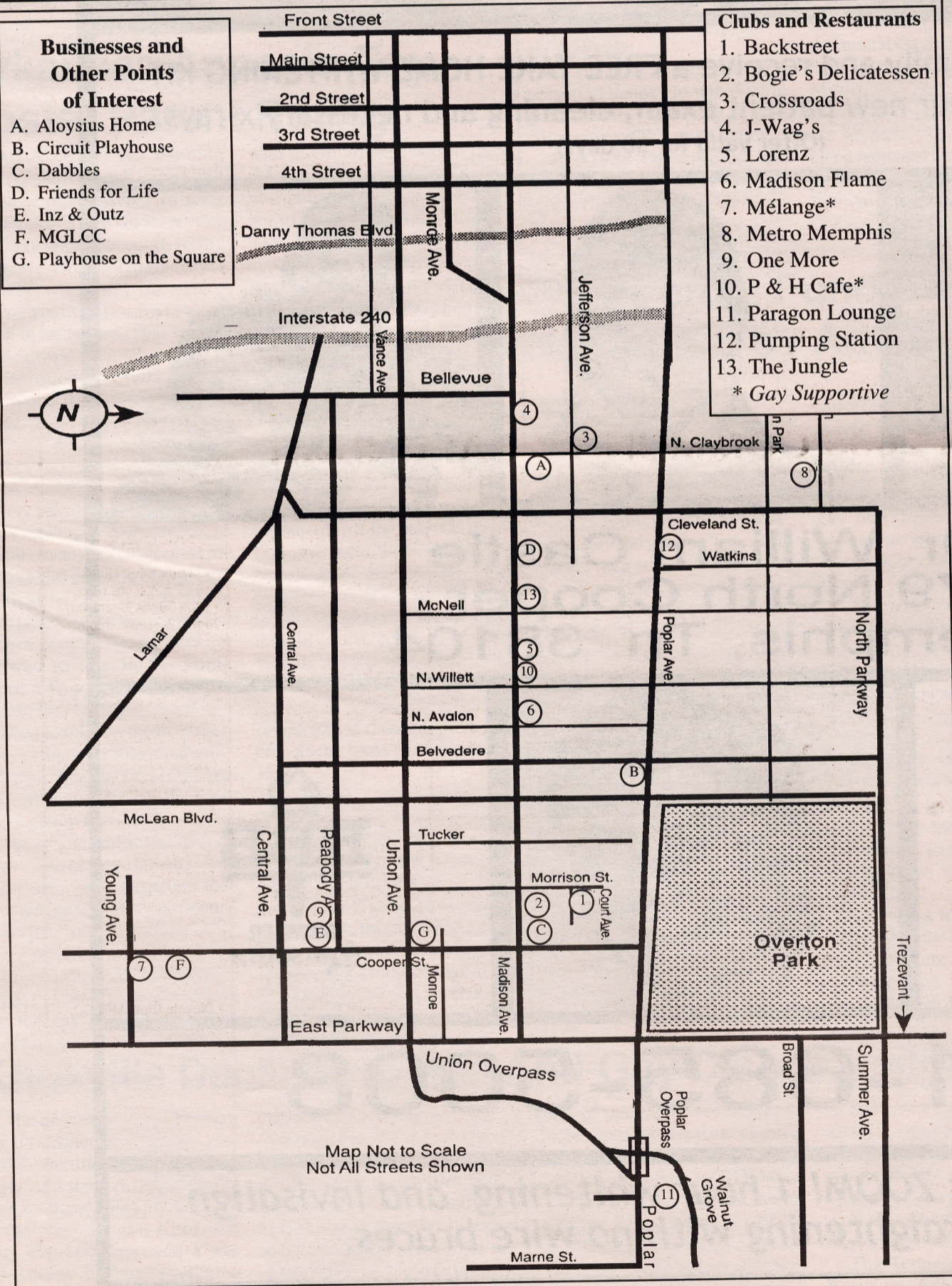
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(901)323-0600

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- Businesses and Other Points of Interest**
- A. Aloysius Home
  - B. Circuit Playhouse
  - C. Dabbles
  - D. Friends for Life
  - E. Inz & Outz
  - F. MGLCC
  - G. Playhouse on the Square

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



Map Not to Scale  
Not All Streets Shown

**Weekly Schedule**

**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

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

- 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
  - Karaoke- Sessions 8:30 p.m.
  - Drag Shows - Allusions Entertainment Center - 10:30pm & 12:15pm



**Stephen Pair**

Licensed  
Massage Therapist/  
Certified Personal Trainer

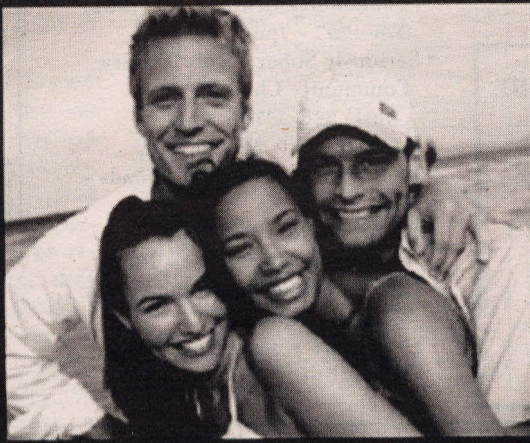
By Appointment Only

- Sports
- Therapeutic
- Relaxing
- Swedish

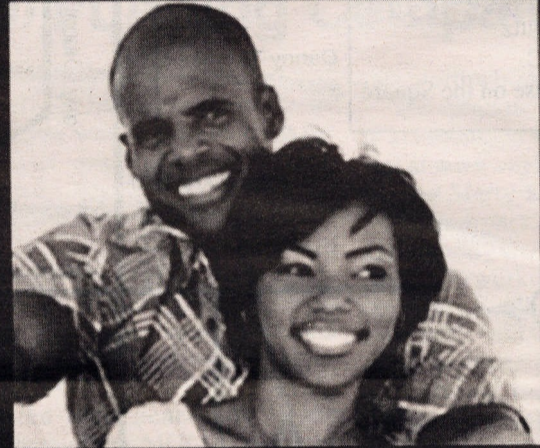
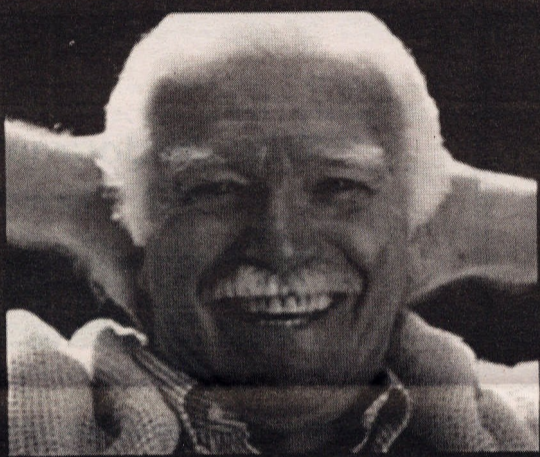
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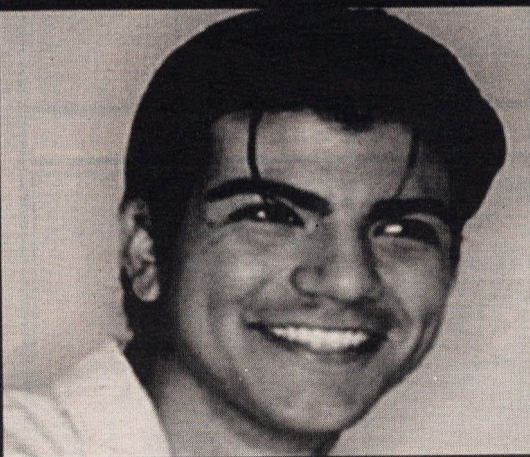
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