

# Triangle Journal

News

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JANUARY 2006

## U.S. Surveillance Moves Rile LGBT Groups

Several groups are criticizing the Pentagon after press reports claimed it has been spying on civilian groups, including student groups opposed to the military's "don't ask, don't tell" ban on lesbian, gay and bisexual personnel.

In December Lisa Myers of NBC News reported Pentagon investigators had records citing a February protest at New York University, with the law school's LGBT advocacy group OUTlaw classified as "possibly violent" by the Pentagon.

The news report also uncovered surveillance of military-ban protests at the State University of New York at Albany and William Patterson College in New Jersey during April. In addition, a "don't ask, don't tell" protest at the University of California at Santa Cruz that featured a gay kiss-in was labeled by the Pentagon as a "credible threat" of terrorism.

"To suggest that a gay kiss-in is a 'credible threat' is absurd, homophobic and irrational," said C. Dixon Osburn, executive director of Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN).

"The Pentagon is supposed to defend the Constitution, not turn it upside down."

"Every high school civics class is taught that the United States does not spy on its own citizens," said John Marble, spokesman for the National Stonewall Democrats.

"The fact that gay student groups are being spied on shows just how loopy the Bush administration is. They are acting like the Nixon administration."

The new reports of civilian surveillance come right after the *New York Times* revealed the president personally approved spying on American civilians without a court order. The president admitted to approving the

spy measures and, on Dec. 19, added he had nothing to be sorry about.

"Do I have the legal authority to do this? And the answer is, absolutely," said President Bush.

"I've reauthorized this program more than 30 times since the September the 11th attacks, and I intend to do so for so long as the nation faces the continuing threat of an enemy that wants to kill our American citizens," he added.

But Marble is not convinced with the president's reasoning.

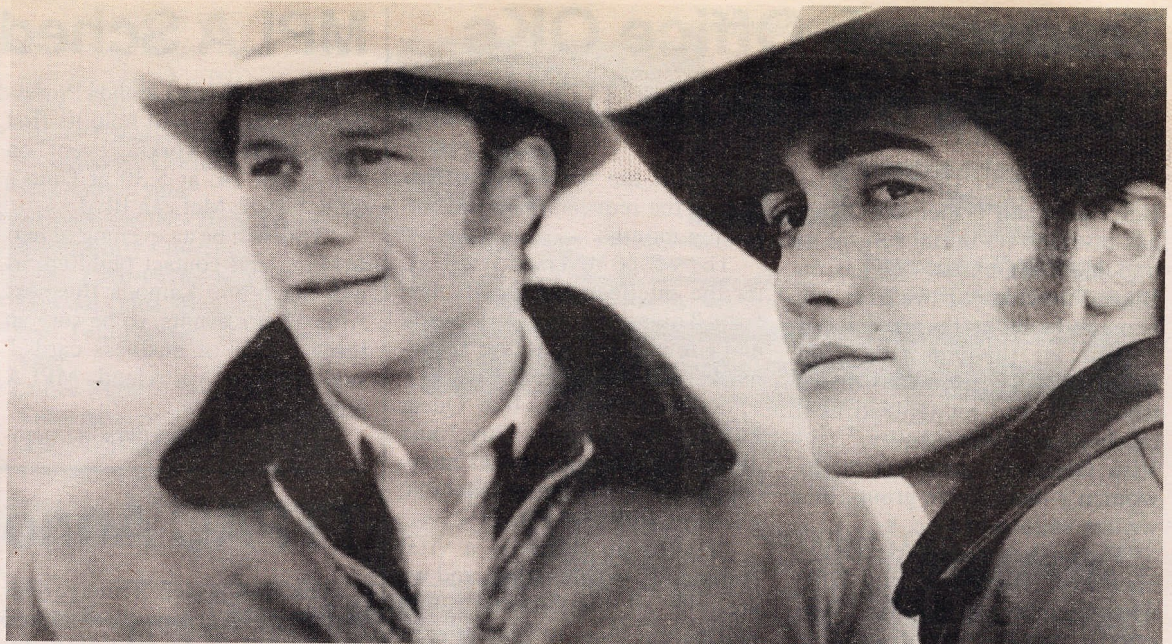
"That was a key reason why we fought a cold war for 50 years: Spying on our citizens is something that communist countries do. It is not something the Bush administration should be doing."

"If what is described is true, it's outrageous. It raises various legal and constitutional questions," said Michael Adams, director of education and public affairs for Lambda Legal, about the reports that the Pentagon has been spying on civilian organizations.

"There needs to be an investigation to find out who's behind this and those people need to be held accountable."

"The Pentagon, by its own rules, cannot be keeping information about people that are not threats to the military," Ben Wizner, staff attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) national legal department, said.

While Wizner would not predict the next steps Congress would take with the president regarding an investigation, he added, "If the claims that President Bush authorized spying on civilians without a court order are substantiated, it could possibly be an impeachable offense."



Heath Ledger (L) and Jake Gyllenhaal star in *Brokeback Mountain*, a same-sex love story that could be an all-time award-winner. Although an Oscar® is considered to be a long shot, *Brokeback* could be the first gay-themed movie to win that award.

## Brokeback Mountain Hits Record, Wins Awards and Nominations

The acclaimed film *Brokeback Mountain*, about two cowboys who fall in love, broke a box office record over the Dec. 9-11 weekend and picked up a few more critics' awards.

Opening in only five theaters — in New York, San Francisco and Los Angeles — the film made more than half a million dollars, with a per-screen average of \$109,000, the highest of any film released in 2005, according to Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc.

The Los Angeles Film Critics Circle honored *Brokeback Mountain* on Dec. 10 as the best film

of the year, with director Ang Lee named best director. Actor Heath Ledger, one of the two male stars in *Brokeback*, received runner-up honors for best actor. The winner was Phillip Seymour Hoffman, who stars as gay author Truman Capote in *Capote*.

On Dec. 11, *Brokeback* received eight nominations — the most of any film — for the Broadcast Film Critics Association's annual Critics' Choice Awards.

In addition, the American Film Institute selected *Brokeback* as one of the 10 outstanding films of 2005.

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance against Defamation applauded the film's success during its opening weekend.

"*Brokeback Mountain* is truly a remarkable event, and its journey and impact are just beginning," said GLAAD President Neil G. Guiliano. In September, the film won the best-picture prize at the Venice International Film Festival.

*Brokeback Mountain* is scheduled to open Fri., Jan 13, in an exclusive engagement at Malco's Studio on the Square.

## Gay Groups Oppose High Court Nominee

WASHINGTON — Gay rights groups are starting early in voicing opposition to the nomination of Samuel Alito to the U.S. Supreme Court.

A coalition of gay rights groups announced their opposition to Alito Dec. 12, several weeks before he is to be vetted by the Senate Judiciary Committee.

The organizations said Alito "would spell disaster" for gay Americans.

"Alito's record indicates that he would not protect all families equally," said Jody Huckaby, executive director of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG).

"As parents, family members and friends, we know that there is too much at stake now to leave LGBT rights in the hands of Alito."

The organizations said they were concerned about his record on civil rights and anti-discrimination matters, as well as his views on reproductive rights and

the separation of church and state.

Specifically, Alito authored a 2001 opinion that struck down a school district's policy against harassing students based on sexual orientation.

The announcement is a departure from the nomination of Justice John Roberts for U.S. chief justice, when several gay rights groups chose to wait until after his confirmation hearings before speaking out.

Gay rights leaders said that while little was known about Roberts when he was nominated for the high court, Alito comes to the table with a long record that already raises concerns.

"In this case, he has an extensive track record of court decisions and other materials that lend insight to his philosophy," said Kevin Cathcart, executive director of Lambda Legal.

Joining Lambda Legal and PFLAG was the Human Rights Campaign, the National Lesbian and Gay Task Force and the National Center for Lesbian Rights.

The National Association of People with AIDS announced its opposition to Alito last month, largely for his role in authoring policy that supported legally firing people with AIDS and HIV because of "fear of contagion whether reasonable or not."

The LGBT rights advocates said Alito's work in the Justice Department and on the bench shows an open hostility to diversity and enforcing nondiscrimination protections.

"In striking down an anti-harassment law and arguing for a narrow interpretation of our Constitution's guarantee of liberty, Judge Alito has proven himself to be the wrong choice to replace moderate Justice Sandra Day O'Connor," said HRC President Joe Solmonese.

"We also share our allies' concerns about his record on reproductive choice and the separation of church and state."

Alito's confirmation hearings are slated to begin Jan. 9.

## Trademark Office OKs "Dykes on Bikes"

SAN FRANCISCO — The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office has reversed its initial refusal to trademark the phrase "Dykes on Bikes," paving the way for the name to be federally protected.

"We are thrilled 'Dykes on Bikes' will be protected under trademark and recognized as a celebration of our identity," said Vick Germany, president of the women's motorcycle group, in a written statement Dec. 8.

The push to trademark "Dykes on Bikes" started in July 2003 when members of the San Francisco nonprofit group discovered that a Wisconsin woman was considering starting a leather clothing line with "Dykes on Bikes" as its label. The group filed for trademark protection immediately.

The trademark office rejected the group's application in February 2004 and again in October 2004, claiming the name "Dykes on Bikes" was disparaging to lesbians.

Legal groups such as the Brooke Oliver Law Group and the National Center for Lesbian Rights fought back in April 2005 with the help of scholars, linguists, psychologists and activists to show how the word "dyke" has evolved to become a positive

term. But the trademark office denied the request again the following month.

The office reversed itself after the intellectual property law firm Townsend and Townsend and Crew appealed to the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board.

"Given trademarks like 'Queer Eye for the Straight Guy,' any other decision simply was unacceptable," said Gregory Gilchrist, a lawyer with that firm.

"Dykes on Bikes is a vital community organization, and we are relieved that the final ruling will permit them to protect their name and reputation," said Shannon Minter, legal director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights.

"There will be a waiting period of 30 days where people can voice their complaints, but otherwise we're good to go," said Calla Devlin, a spokeswoman for the rights group.

Pablo Manga, associate attorney for the Brooke Oliver Law Group, believes other organizations will benefit from the decision.

"Passing the registration sets a strong precedent for several other 'dyke' applications that have been refused on the same grounds."

## ETC Sets Audition Date

Emerald Theatre Company will hold open auditions for its upcoming production of *Jeffrey* on Mon., Jan. 9, at Theatreworks, 2085 Monroe.

*Jeffrey* was written by Paul Rudnick and will be performed Mar. 31 - Apr. 6.

Principal and supporting roles will be cast using cold readings from the script. Both male and female roles are available.

Terrified of dying from AIDS,

but even more afraid of living with it, the title character of this romantic comedy—a gay actor/waiter makes the ultimate safe choice: to give up sex entirely.

*Jeffrey* is an audacious and moving romantic comedy with a difference—one in which the quest for love and really fabulous clothes meet, and where unflinching humor prevails even when tragedy might be just around the corner.

## MPLA Schedules After-Hours Event

The Mid-South Lambda Professionals Alliance will hold its first "after-hours networking event" on Tues., Jan. 24, at 5:30 at Dino's Grill, 645 N. McLean Blvd.

"This will be an evening of networking and contact building, as will our future Lambda Business After-Hours events, so be sure to bring plenty of business cards," said Andrew Strickland, MPLA president.

There is a \$5 per person (mem-

bers and non-members) cover charge for this event that will be paid at the event table.

There is a \$5 per person (members and non-members) cover charge for this event that will be paid at our event table.

The social hour will begin at 5:30 p.m. with appetizers provided by MLPA. There will be beer, iced tea and soft drinks available to purchase from Dino's. You can bring in a bottle of your favorite wine

with no corkage fee.

There will be a short program at 6:30 p.m. to provide the basic information about the organization and unveil its new logo.

After that, a dutch-treat dinner for those wishing to dine is available, or you may continue to network.

MPLA requests an R.S.V.P. by Tues., Jan. 17, to know how many appetizers to plan for. Call (901) 278-9127 to R.S.V.P.

## TTPAC Announces Membership Meeting

The Tennessee Transgender Political Action Committee (TTPAC), an organization designed to educate and advocate on behalf of transgender related legislation at the federal, state and local levels, will hold a statewide

membership meeting on Sat., Jan. 28, in Nashville.

TTPAC is dedicated to raising public awareness and building alliances with other organizations concerned with equal rights legislation.

For more information and directions, contact: Tennessee Transgender Political Action Committee (TTPAC), P.O. Box 92335, Nashville, TN 37209 or e-mail TTGPAC@aol.com

## Anti-gay Group Targets New NBC Drama

A television drama about an Episcopal priest, set to debut next week, has prompted protest from right-wing religious activists — in part because the show features a gay character as the priest's son.

The American Family Association is urging members to send letters of protest to NBC about the show, *The Book of Daniel*, which the group believes is not a favorable depiction of Christian people.

The series centers on a priest named Daniel Webster and his family. According to the AFA, Webster's family includes "a 23-year-old homosexual Republican son, a 16-year-old daughter who is a drug dealer and a 16-year-old adopted son who is having sex with the bishop's daughter."

The show is scheduled to air Fridays beginning Jan. 6. In a plot device reminiscent of *Joan of Arcadia*, the priest has visions of Jesus and frequent conversations with him.

The AFA termed the show's depiction of Jesus "very unconventional."

On Dec. 19, the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation called *The Book of Daniel* a "witty and unconventional family drama" and applauded the show's gay character, played by Christian Campbell, as one of four noteworthy LGBT characters being introduced on TV in January.

"This is an offbeat, inclusive series — inclusive of people of faith and inclusive of gay and bisexual people," Damon Romine, GLAAD's entertainment media director said.

"It doesn't surprise me that the AFA would be afraid of this series — it shows a family that's both deeply religious and loving and accepting of their gay son."

Aidan Quinn, who plays the priest, called the series "wholesome" in an Associated Press interview.

"I honestly don't think it's going to be nearly as controversial as some people may now be afraid of," Quinn said. "It just has the courage to deal with some of the real issues that go on in people's lives."

The series' openly gay creator, Jack Kenny, told the AP that the show is not about religion. "The show is about a family," he said.

"The fact that Daniel is a priest is secondary. The church is the backdrop. This is no more about religion than *Six Feet Under* was about mortuaries."

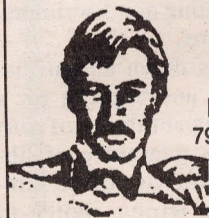
## No Feast for January

There will be no Feast For Friends for the month of January.

Friends For Life will resume the semi-monthly dinners on the first Monday of February.

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# Frist AIDS Charity Paid Consultants More Than \$450,000

By Jonathan M. Katz  
and John Solomon  
Associated Press Writers

Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist's AIDS charity paid nearly a half-million dollars in consulting fees to members of his political inner circle, according to tax returns providing the first financial accounting of the presidential hopeful's nonprofit.

The returns for World of Hope Inc., obtained by The Associated Press, also show the charity raised the lion's share of its \$4.4 million from just 18 sources. They gave between \$97,950 and \$267,735 each to help fund Frist's efforts to fight AIDS.

The tax forms, filed nine months after they were first due, do not identify the 18 major donors by name.

Frist's lawyer, Alex Vogel, said that he would not give their names because tax law does not require their public disclosure. Frist's office provided a list of 96 donors who were supportive of the charity, but did not say how much each contributed.

The donors included several corporations with frequent business before Congress, such as insurer Blue Cross/Blue Shield, manufacturer 3M, drug maker Eli Lilly and the Goldman Sachs investment firm. World of Hope gave \$3 million it raised to charitable AIDS causes, such as

Africare and evangelical Christian groups with ties to Republicans — Franklin Graham's Samaritan Purse and the Rev. Luis Cortes' Esperanza USA, for example.

The rest of the money went to overhead. That included \$456,125 in consulting fees to two firms run by Frist's longtime political fundraiser, Linus Catignani.

One is jointly run by Linda Bond, the wife of Sen. Christopher "Kit" Bond, R-Mo.

The charity also hired the law firm of Vogel's wife, Jill Holtzman Vogel, and Frist's Tennessee accountant, Deborah Kolarich. Kolarich's name recently surfaced in an e-mail involving Frist's controversial sale of stock in his family founded health care company.

That transaction is now under federal investigation. Jill Holtzman Vogel, who is raising money for a run for the state Senate in Virginia in 2007, has received thousands in contributions this year from Catignani & Bond and from her husband, among numerous other sources, according to data released by the Virginia Public Access Project.

Alex Vogel said Frist picked people to work on his charity whom he trusted and knew, such as Vogel's wife, and was proud that overhead costs amounted to less than \$1 of every \$5 raised.

"It's leaner than the average charity," Vogel said.

Frist is listed as the charity's

president and his wife was listed as secretary. Neither was compensated.

Political experts said both the size of charity's big donations and its consulting fees raise questions about whether the tax-exempt group benefited Frist's political ambitions.

"One of the things people who are running for president try to do is keep their fundraising staff and political people close at hand. And one of the ways you can do that is by putting them in some sort of organization you run," said Larry Noble, the government's former chief election lawyer who now runs the nonpartisan Center for Responsive Politics that studies fundraising.

Kent Cooper, the Federal Election Commission's former public disclosure chief, said the big donors' motives are also suspect.

"These tax-deductible gifts were earmarked through Senator Frist," Cooper said. "They were raised in the political arena at the 2004 Republican Convention and the natural question is were they given to the Senate majority leader to gain favor or were they given for true charitable purposes?"

Cooper said the consulting fees were "excessively high" and the fact that they were "paid to primarily political consultants also raises questions about the long-range strategic benefits for the 2008 presidential race."

A charity could lose its tax-exempt status if it is found to be involved with political activity, said Marcus S. Owens, a former director of the Internal Revenue Service's Exempt Organizations Division.

"If the IRS were to conduct an examination, what they would look for would be the relationship between the organization and any incumbent politician or candidate," Owens said.

"They'd be particularly interested in transactions of money or assistance of any kind being provided." Frist formed the charity in 2003.

It drew attention in August 2004 when it held a benefit concert in New York during the Republican National Convention at which President Bush was nominated for re-election.

The group's 2004 tax return was due April 15, 2005, but it filed for two extensions and only reported its activity to the IRS last month.

The tax forms show at least 11 of the charity's 18 biggest donors gave \$97,950 each, that one gave \$100,000 and that the rest gave more than \$245,000 each.

Vogel said Catignani was paid the fees because he helped arrange the New York concert that featured country stars Brooks & Dunn, handling both the event arrangements and fundraising. The tax forms show Catignani's fundraising firm, Catignani & Bond, was paid a total of \$276,125 and his event-plan-

ning arm, Consulting Services Group, was paid \$180,000.

The amount Catignani was paid by Frist's charity in 2004 is roughly the same as what his firms received over the past three years for work for Frist's political action committee, Volunteer PAC.

The firm collected \$523,666 in fees from the PAC since 2003, FEC records show.

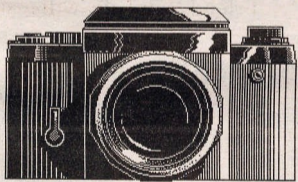
World of Hope's beneficiaries include evangelical Christian groups with Republican connections. Cortes, Esperanza USA's president, is an influential evangelical leader who hosted Bush at this year's National Hispanic Prayer Breakfast.

Frist has worked and traveled extensively with Samaritan's Purse in Africa as well as during the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

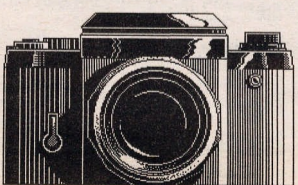
Franklin Graham is the son of the Rev. Billy Graham. Weeks before Frist's convention fundraiser, the senate leader traveled to Chad, Sudan and Kenya on a trip underwritten by Samaritan's Purse, Senate records show.

Samaritan's Purse spokesman Jeremy Blume said the \$490,000 that World of Hope donated to Samaritan's Purse in 2004 was spent on AIDS programs in sub-Saharan Africa. The recipients of the charity's money were Africare, Samaritan's Purse, Esperanza USA, Nashville's Meharry Medical College, Taso-Uganda and Save the Children.

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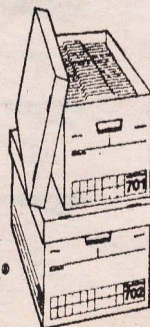
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# First Gay Civil Partnerships Sealed in United Kingdom

By Shawn Pogatchnik  
Associated Press Writer

BELFAST — (AP) Two lesbians became the first gay couple in the United Kingdom to win legal recognition under a civil partnership Dec. 19, a ceremony that attracted scorn from evangelical Christian protesters but praise from gay rights activists.

Grainne Close, a social worker from Northern Ireland, and Shannon Sickels, a playwright from New York, were the first of several hundred gay couples exchanging vows nationwide — including Elton John and his longtime partner David Furnish.

"We are delighted. Here's to many more," Sickels said after she and Close became the first public celebrants of a legally binding gay partnership at Belfast City Hall.

Northern Ireland, which in 1982 was the last region in the United Kingdom to legalize homosexuality, is now the first to grant gay couples the same legal protections as married heterosexuals.

Scotland was to follow on Dec. 20, and England and Wales on Dec.

21. The measure is already in force in many other European countries.

In the United States, more than a dozen states recognize some form of domestic partnerships or civil unions, but 11 states voted in November to ban gay marriage.

After a 30-minute ceremony featuring such songs as Dolly Parton's "Touch Your Woman," Sickels and Close posed for photographers displaying matching commitment rings of diamond and platinum, then dashed off for a reception.

Scores of family, friends and gay rights activists tossed flowers and rainbow-colored ribbons in their path.

"This is about making a choice to have our civil rights acknowledged and respected and protected as any human being," said Sickels, 27, who met her 32-year-old partner in New York four years ago.

But in keeping with the exceptional conservatism of Northern Ireland society, their landmark festivities also drew a few dozen Protestant evangelicals who sang Gospel hymns and waved "Sodom is sin" placards.

Gay rights activists countered with their own bullhorn-assisted chants of support. A few wearing Hitler-style mustaches shadowed the evangelical crowd waving satirical placards that read, "Earth is flat" and "Bring back slavery."

Some lesbian couples who arrived as guests suffered verbal harassment from the protesters, who called them "abominations" and warned of their impending damnation.

"The fact is that God instituted human marriage in the Garden of Eden, and it was one man with one woman. God has not changed that," said the Rev. Ian Brown of the Free Presbyterian Church of Ulster.

Brown, a protest leader, said most people in Northern Ireland opposed what he called "sodomite propaganda" and homosexuals' "perverse lifestyle."

Such views are more widely held in Northern Ireland than in other parts of the United Kingdom. Here, Roman Catholics and Protestants sometimes overcome their political hostility to protest jointly on traditional family issues.

Northern Ireland's police force

in May reported a surge in hate crimes against gays over the past two years.

As Close and Sickels arrived at Belfast City Hall, an informal poll on Radio Ulster in Belfast registered about 70 percent opposition to civil partnerships. But the protesters were heading off for lunch and Christmas shopping by the time the second civil partnership couple, Christopher Flanagan and Henry Kane of Belfast, arrived in matching white morning suits — and a pink stretch limousine.

Flanagan said the new law would protect them, ensuring that if one died, the other would inherit their property rather than relatives hostile to their relationship.

"It's given us legal status behind our relationship, if anything goes wrong," he said.

Although Dec. 20 marked the first day for public civil partnership ceremonies, English judges have granted several gay couples this legal protection citing emergency circumstances.

One beneficiary was Matthew Roche, 46, who died of lung cancer the day after he and his part-

ner, Christopher Cramp, were legally bound together Dec. 5 in Brighton, England.

On Dec. 21, the General Register Office in England says 687 same-sex unions will gain legal recognition. By far the most intensely watched ceremony was for Elton John and his partner of 12 years, Canadian filmmaker David Furnish.

They confirmed their civil partnership at the Guildhall in the royal London suburb of Windsor, where Prince Charles wed Camilla Parker Bowles in April.

The ceremonies come more than a year after the British Parliament approved the law in November 2004.

Northern Ireland was first because it has a shorter registration deadline in matrimonial law than do other regions of the United Kingdom.

Denmark in 1989 became the first country to legislate for same-sex partnerships. Several other European Union members have followed suit: Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain and Sweden.

## Gay & Lesbian Switchboard 278-4297

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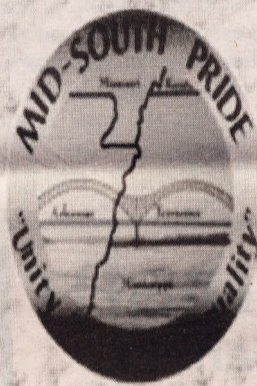
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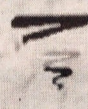
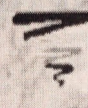
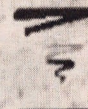
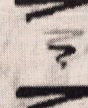
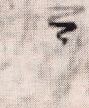


## Mardi Gras 2006

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## Ford to Resume Ads in Gay Publications

Ford Motor Company has reversed its decision to pull some ads from gay publications after rumors that it had done so in a "secret deal" with a conservative Christian group led to sharp condemnation from rights groups.

"It is clear there is a misperception about our intent," Ford said in a letter to seven rights groups Dec. 14.

"As a result we have decided to run corporate ads in these targeted publications that will include not only Jaguar/Land Rover but all eight of Ford's vehicle brands."

The controversy placed the struggling automaker in the midst of a debate on social values it had hoped to avoid and which observers said it could not win.

Ford, which has a solid record on supporting gay rights, was targeted earlier this year for a boycott by the American Family Association, which recently made headlines for forcing U.S. retailers to hang "Merry Christmas" signs.

The association — which had created a now-defunct website castigating Ford's ads in the gay press — claimed a victory on December 1 saying "our concerns are being addressed." The story soon spread from blogs and the gay press into the mainstream media.

Ford denied that any deal had been made and insisted that the decision to cease advertising its Jaguar and Land Rover brands in gay publications was part of a broad restructuring of the advertising budgets of the two struggling luxury brands.

It also noted that its Volvo brand would continue to advertise in the gay press. But a number of rights organizations asked Ford to reaffirm its commitment to gay rights. Ford's chairman did just that on Dec. 12, issuing a statement which said: "We value all people — regardless of their race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, and cultural or physical differences."

On Dec. 17, Ford extended that

commitment by stating it would continue to support non-profit groups and events in the gay and lesbian community. It also said it would not place creative restrictions on the way its brands advertise to gay and lesbian audiences.

A day after the Ford Motor Co. reversed its decision to halt some ad campaigns in gay magazines, the anti-gay American Family Association lashed back at the auto giant, threatening a new boycott and claiming that Ford reneged on an agreement.

Justin Nelson, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, praised LGBT leaders for urging Ford's latest move and suggested that AFA's threats were likely to backfire with the automaker and with other corporations.

"AFA is an unprincipled group," he told the PlanetOut Network. "Are gays and lesbians not supposed to drive cars? Corporations market to gays and lesbians to cultivate loyal customers and gain market share. I'm glad that Ford has done the right thing, and I praise the LGBT groups for urging them to reaffirm their commitment."

Nelson also suggested that any agreement with AFA probably didn't come from the top. "If there was an agreement, it was probably done in haste. And given the Ford chairman's verbal recommitment to the LGBT community, that agreement may have been reached by a lower level of executives. It's a case of the left hand not knowing what the right hand is doing."

## Bullied Kansas Teen Wins \$440K Settlement

A small-town teenager who was bullied for years by classmates because they believed he was gay was awarded \$440,000 in a settlement, his lawyer said.

The settlement Dec. 23 ended a long-running battle between the Tonganoxie School District and 18-year-old Dylan Theno, who sued in May 2004 claiming he was harassed with homophobic slurs from seventh grade until he quit school his junior year.

Under the terms, the school district and its insurance company will pay Theno \$440,000, said his attorney, Arthur Benson. "I expect this case will have profound effects nationwide in dealing with schoolyard bullying and harassment," Benson said.

"Insurance companies will have a very powerful economic incentive to see that districts' anti-ha-

arrassment policies are aggressive and effective."

Theno's lawsuit had argued the district enforced its sexual harassment policy when a female student was harassed, but didn't in Theno's case.

Tonganoxie, 20 miles west of Kansas City, has about 2,700 residents.

A federal jury in August had found in Theno's favor, but the district appealed and a judge ordered a federal mediator to try to settle the dispute. Theno, who testified that he isn't gay, recently earned his GED and attends a vocational technical school in Kansas City.

"I feel great," he said about the settlement. "I mean, you have all that lifted off your shoulders at once. The school district has finally been held accountable for their actions."

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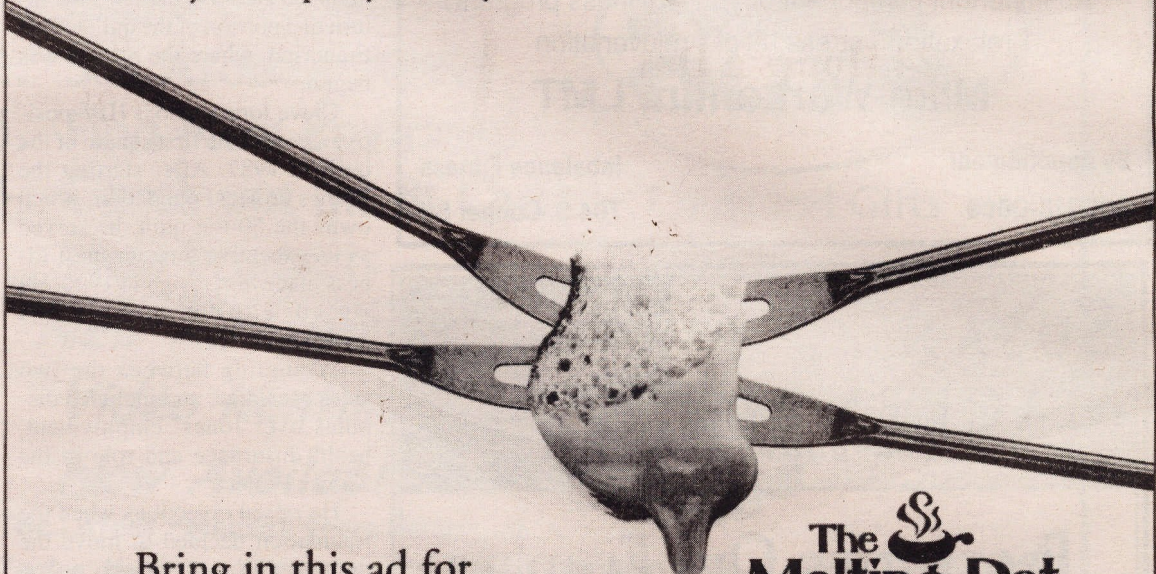
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# Mother Challenges Pentagon About Assault on Gay Soldier

The mother of a soldier whose anti-gay murder at a U.S. military base shocked the nation is calling for accountability from the Pentagon after hearing that another soldier endured anti-gay harassment and assault on an Army base.

"My husband Wally and I are outraged to learn that yet another Army private has been the target of harassment and violence at the hands of a fellow soldier," Patricia Kutteles said in a prepared statement released Dec. 23.

Kutteles is the mother of Barry Winchell, who was a private first class at Fort Campbell, Ky., in 1999 at the time of his death. Winchell was attacked in his sleep by fellow soldiers because they perceived he was gay. She ex-

pressed concern about Pvt. Kyle Lawson, 19, who was attacked by a fellow service member in October at Fort Huachuca, Ariz. He had his nose broken and claims he was threatened when soldiers discovered he is gay.

Lawson is leaving the Army, while the soldier accused of attacking him remains unpunished.

"The attack on Pvt. Lawson is inexcusable, as is the Pentagon's failure to train its personnel, hold attackers accountable and treat every service member with the dignity and respect they deserve," Kutteles said.

"In 2000, following Barry's

murder, the Pentagon announced it would take concrete steps to curb anti-gay harassment in our military and to hold accountable those who harass and condone harassment," Kutteles said. "Nearly six years later, Pentagon leaders have failed to keep their promise. The time has come for them to do just that, or for Congress to hold them accountable if they do not."

She cited a newspaper report in which Lawson's mother said she cries herself to sleep and is afraid for her son's life.

"I understand her pain," Kutteles said. "Private Lawson's mother told the *Arizona Daily Star*

that she has been crying herself to sleep and is afraid for her son's life. I understand her pain. 'Don't ask, don't tell' impacts every service member — gay and straight alike — by creating a weapon to end careers and endanger service members through accusations, finger-pointing and rumor. Unless Pentagon leaders finally get a clue and lead the way in combating harassment and discrimination, I fear that attacks like these will continue to make headlines," Kutteles said.

The Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, a national group fighting the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy, re-

leased Kutteles' statement. "I think (Kutteles) was very shocked, and I think she was very angry," said the legal defense group's Steve Ralls, noting it was mainly because of her work that the military adopted an anti-harassment action plan — one Kutteles believes the military is not serious about implementing.

The murder of Barry Winchell was dramatized in a 2003 Showtime movie, *Soldier's Girl*.

According to Ralls, Pvt. Lawson is home with his family for the holidays while the military is processing his discharge.

## Spokane Mayor Ousted in Gay Sex Scandal

SPOKANE, Wash. — Mayor James E. West must leave office at the end of December after voters recalled him in a special election sparked by allegations he used a city computer to woo gay men over the Internet.

West, 54, was forced to leave his position when the election results were certified Dec. 16. He has not been charged with a crime, but FBI agents seized computers from his home as part of an investigation.

"I said I'd abide by the will of the voters, obviously, and they've spoken," West told The Associated Press Dec. 6.

"I'm at peace with their decision and disappointed."

The recall election was launched by a local resident, Shannon Sullivan, who said she felt

vindicated by the results.

West, a former Boy Scout executive and sheriff's deputy, was elected mayor in 2003 after serving more than two decades as a conservative Republican in the state Legislature, where he voted against gay-friendly bills.

A little more than half of the 110,000 ballots mailed to voters were counted in the first batch of results released Dec. 6.

Of those, 38,718, or 65 percent, voted to recall West, while 20,681, or 35 percent, voted to retain him.

The recall campaign began after the *Spokesman-Review* newspaper reported in May that West was a closeted homosexual who visited gay chat rooms using his city-owned laptop computer, and offered internships and other favors to young men with whom he hoped to have sex.

Sullivan, a single mother with a high-school education and no legal background, shepherded her petitions for a recall vote through superior and state high court challenges brought by the mayor's

lawyers.

"It's been a long, hard seven months," she said. "Elected officials need to be held to higher standards."

Shannon has said she started the campaign after finding herself at a loss to explain newspaper reports of West's behavior to her 9-year-old son. West has denied any wrongdoing.

In a newspaper ad, he acknowledged making "personal mistakes" but insisted he had "never done anything to harm our city."

## San Francisco to Get AIDS Quilt Section

After a two-year battle and two prior settlements, the creator of the AIDS Memorial Quilt has settled his legal fight with the foundation that owns the memorial to AIDS casualties.

The latest settlement, announced Dec. 14, involves the return of a portion of the quilt to San Francisco, where the project was begun.

Cleve Jones, who is HIV-positive, created the first square of the quilt in 1987. After starting the Names Project Foundation, which owns the 50-ton quilt, he served as its executive director until illness made him resign in 1990. He stayed with the group as its spokesman.

Wrangling between the two sides escalated, and included disputes over Jones' employment, health insurance and role in the Names Project.

He raised objections when the foundation decided to move the quilt from San Francisco to At-

lanta in March 2001 over financial difficulties.

In January 2004, Jones sued the Names Project in San Francisco Superior Court for wrongful termination, breach of contract and emotional distress.

In May, San Francisco Superior Court Judge James Warren dismissed Jones' charges of wrongful termination and breach of contract.

Warren said the foundation had grounds to fire him because he demanded control of the organization and made comments suggesting the foundation's leader was ineffective.

In September, Jones and the Names Project announced a settlement. Jones agreed to drop the claim that the foundation intentionally caused him emotional distress, provided that he was given the power to nominate four finalists for two positions on the foundation's board of directors each year.

Those settlement talks collapsed when the foundation refused Jones' request to bring to the city the very

first panel of the quilt, which he made in honor of his best friend, Marvin Feldman.

"What happened was, we went to the judge and settled," Angela Alioto, Jones' attorney, said. "And then the Names Project started adding all sorts of material facts that weren't in the original agreement."

Charles Thompson, an attorney for the Names Project, related a different version to the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

"The Names Project Foundation agreed to cooperate with the initial settlement of the case once Mr. Jones withdrew demands that Names did not believe were part of the original agreement. Had he stuck with the original agreement, perhaps there would not have been a delay in returning more of the quilt to San Francisco," Thompson said.

Under the new settlement, the Names Project in Atlanta agreed to send Jones 35 blocks of the quilt, including the first quilt Jones stitched in Feldman's memory. Jones will be allowed to create a nonprofit organization to display the quilt.

He told the *Bay Area Reporter* he would begin the process of filing for nonprofit status next month. Warren was expected to approve the settlement Dec. 23. Confirmation of the settlement was not made public at press time.

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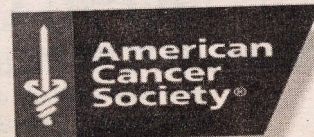
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# Law Schools Fight Military in High Court

The U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments Dec. 6 in a case that pits military recruiters against a coalition of law schools.

The law schools, collectively known as the Forum for Academic and Institutional Rights, have sought to limit recruiting on campus to those employers who do not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation or other factors.

The American Association of Law Schools added sexual orientation to its anti-discrimination policy in 1990, and the vast majority of law schools now protect against gay bias on campus. As such, the schools have been hard pressed to abide by an addition to the fiscal 1995 defense appropriations bill, the Solomon Amendment, which barred Defense Department funds from any university that refused to cooperate with military recruiters.

For several years, an uneasy

truce allowed recruiters to promote the military on campus, while law schools withheld their formal assistance and facilities.

After Sept. 11, 2001, the amendment was revised to force law schools to grant the military full access and "treatment equal to that afforded other recruiters."

Further, the threatened loss of federal funds was expanded to encompass all federal money with the exception of student loans, and this penalty was held over the head of the parent institution as well as the law school.

For Yale or Harvard, for example, the loss of federal assistance would amount to roughly \$300 million, too high a price to pay for a dispute on principle.

In a federal suit that last year reached the Third Circuit of the U.S. Court of Appeals, the law schools claimed that the Solomon Amendment violated

their right to freedom of expressive association and speech, and went beyond the constitutional limits of Congress' power to restrict money.

A split three-judge panel agreed in November, ruling that the government had shown no compelling interest that would justify the loss of First Amendment rights.

The majority relied in part on the 2000 high court decision that allowed the Boy Scouts to reject gay scouts and troop leaders.

In the Dec. 6 arguments, the Supreme Court seemed inclined to reverse the Third Circuit's decision.

Writing for the *Los Angeles Times*, David Savage reported that at the end of the hour "there was little doubt the Supreme Court would reverse the decision of the lower court and uphold the Solomon Amendment."

According to Savage and

other commentators, justices from both sides of the ideological spectrum asked questions that suggested they believed the Solomon Amendment was not a burden on speech or expressive association, and that the law schools remained perfectly free to maintain their opinions while adhering to its provisions.

Although the case tangentially involves gays in the mili-

tary, legal analysts consider that it centers on the tension between Congress' power of the purse and the First Amendment rights of those who rely on federal funds.

As for "don't ask, don't tell," the military's anti-gay policy is under direct scrutiny in a different case, *Cook vs. Rumsfeld*, argued in July 2005 before a federal court in Boston.



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by Allen Cook

There's always a tendency when someone ends an endeavor that's taken up a large part of one's life to look back at what you've accomplished. When I announced that John and I were giving the *Triangle Journal News* to the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center, a number of people asked if I was going to do a "restrospective."

Since Oct. 1990, when *TJN* premiered, we've published 184 issues. Based on an average is-

sue being 20 pages, that's 3680 pages of material — way too much stuff to wade through.

As most of you know, John and I edited *Gaze* for the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Coalition for almost 11 years before *TJN*. That makes 26 years of doing either this paper or another one just like it.

We've had a good run and now it's time to let another generation take up the gauntlet.

Beginning next month, MGLCC will be publishing *TJN* and with that one era ends and another begins. I have great con-

fidence in MGLCC and will do my best to make its efforts succeed.

By editing a gay and lesbian newspaper for this long, I have gained a certain perspective about our community — where it has come from and where it's going.

When I came out at age 27, I was terrified I would lose my job because I am gay. I was sure someone would tell my boss and my job would be history.

A lot of that fear disappeared when I ran into my boss at The Front Page, a gay club that used to be near Methodist Hospital in a space now occupied by a parking garage.

To be sure young gays and lesbians today still have some of those fears, but there is a lot more support for them today.

It's difficult for younger people of today to imagine a world without positive gay and lesbian images.

In those days there was no *Will & Grace* (much less *Queer as Folk* or *Six Feet Under*) on TV and nothing even approaching *Brokeback Mountain* coming out of Hollywood.

In those days, you couldn't dress out of your gender in public without fear of arrest. You could be jailed if caught having consensual sex with a person of your same gender. You could be disqualified from serving in the

military for being gay — well, some things still haven't changed.

Taken as a whole, though, things are a *lot* better today than they were 15 or 25 years ago, despite the radical and religious right's efforts. There's still a long way to go, but it's better.

One of the reasons I am giving up doing the paper is that with more pressing obligations (like caring for my partner John after his stroke while still making a living), I find myself unable to attend and cover a lot of the functions that should be covered.

This past month alone, I missed the installation of the AIDS Memorial Marker Project at First Baptist Church and the opening of Friends For Life's new building. Both events came off without me being there and the world did not end. We hope you enjoyed them.

From all accounts Sessions — formerly Crossroads — is a success. The new owners have kept many of the things that made the bar popular and seem to be developing ideas which will make it a "destination" bar.

Unfortunately, some of the popular drag queens that used to populate their weekend shows have moved on. I am sure their replacements will build with time.

Everything I write in this column seems to evoke memories... Just thought I would mention a few of the great Memphis Drag Queens of Yore: Michelle Marie, Trixie Thunderpussy and Renée Richards... and the incomparable Miss Joanne.

If you're looking for a non-alcoholic venue in which to celebrate New Year's Eve, let me recommend the event MGLCC has scheduled.

Charles Billings, former WKNO-FM personality, will be performing show tunes with some of his friends. The reception starts at 8:30 p.m. I once worked with Charles in a deep dark past and he's always been a positive role model (I bet he'll hate to hear that) for our community.

Just a reminder for those of you who attend the semi-monthly Feast for Friends: There will be no Feast for Friends during the month of January. Don't despair — the dinners will resume in February. They are free and held at St. John's United Methodist Church on Peabody on the first and third Mondays starting at 6:30 p.m.

Congratulations to Chris Sinnock for garnering the "Light of Hope" award for 2005 given by the Memphis and Shelby County Health Dept. She received the award at a MSCHD press conference on Dec. 1, World AIDS Day. Chris has worked in the field of pediatric AIDS for many year in her role at St. Jude. She is the partner of Shelia Tankersley, former executive director of Loving Arms.

You probably don't know this, but this column is usually the last thing written for the newspaper every month.

In the space I have left I want to thank all of the people who have helped make *TJN* the success it has become. A newspaper isn't produced by just one or two people.

I would especially like to thank Bob Dumais.

Over the years Bob has not only served as the best proof-reader in the world (OK, maybe he's only one of the top two), but has served as a confidant, a voice of reason when I get on my high horse and the best friend a guy with a lover could ever have. Thank you, Bob.

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## First U.S. Civil-union Couple Calls it Quits

The first gay couple to gain legal status for their relationship in the United States are following the course of many American marriages — they're ending in divorce.

Carolyn Conrad and Kathleen Peterson's relationship became official just minutes after civil unions for gay couples became the law of the land in Vermont on July 1, 2000. The two had been together five years prior to their ceremony. They had met on a hiking trip.

Conrad and Peterson refused to comment on why they were asking the Brattleboro court to dissolve their union. However, court records show that Conrad had filed for a protective order against Peterson this week, and that the judge granted it.

The record states that Conrad feared for her own safety after Peterson threatened to hurt a friend. She also punched a hole in the wall during an argument this summer. Peterson must now stay at least 100

feet away from Conrad at all times.

Peterson, who was representing herself in the case, did tell a Vermont newspaper, the *Rutland Herald*, "All I want to say is that the civil union was a big source of pride for me, and now it's not."

The two were the first of many gay couples to seek a legal stamp of approval on their relationships, but they are in the minority when it comes to seeking dissolution of their civil union.

As of 2004, 7,549 gay couples have had official civil unions. A little more than 1 percent, or 78 couples, are on record as having asked a court to end those relationships, according to the latest statistics available.

In comparison, roughly 50 percent of heterosexual U.S. marriages end in divorce.

Divorce has been a tricky issue for gay couples. Most people granted Vermont civil unions are from out of state; just 15 percent

of those in civil unions are actually from Vermont. But only Vermont residents can officially end such relationships.

In one case in 2002, Glen Rosengarten and Peter Downes, who lived in Connecticut at the time, sought to end their legal ties to each other, but since they were not residents of Vermont the courts there could do nothing about it.

However, a judge in Iowa granted a divorce in 2003 to two women who had been joined in a Vermont civil union.

Conservatives appealed the decision all the way to the state Supreme Court, saying the ruling was meaningless because the state does not recognize same-sex marriage.

The high court, however, this spring refused to hear the case.

So far, the Iowa case is an exception. In general, to dissolve a Vermont civil union, couples have to live there for at least a year.

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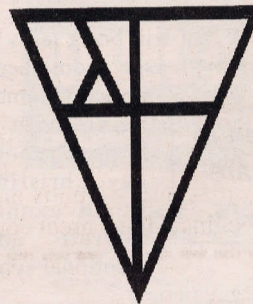


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## Report Points To "Gay Generation Gap"

A growing generation gap exists in the LGBT community, posing a challenge for social workers and activists, according to a new publication by the Institute for Gay and Lesbian Strategic Studies in Amherst, Mass.

"A generation turns around in five years now," said Janis Bohan, a co-author of the study. The experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people growing up have changed in such a radical way that it is difficult for people five years older to fully understand what has happened to the previous generation, Bohan found.

"In interviews with LGBT youth and adults, we found a noticeable gap in communications across generations," noted Glenda Russell, another co-author.

"LGBT adults tend to project their own experiences onto today's young people, when in fact the lives of today's young people are often quite different."

One example of this generation gap, noted in the study, was the alternative proms organized by LGBT adults for their counterparts among high school youth. The researchers believe these proms are actually designed to meet the needs of the adult organizers who missed their own proms rather than those of today's young people.

The researchers believe LGBT adults tend to focus on the suffering and isolation of LGBT youth, even though many such teens are actually doing

well.

"The only youth adults only see are the ones in trouble. What we're not noticing is the youth who are not struggling, who have support groups . . . and are doing just fine," said Bohan.

Bohan noted that young LGBT people sometimes complain that no one is doing anything about discrimination, unaware of the decades of prior activism. Russell said that the study is important because "if we don't pay attention to both sides of this age spectrum, we are in danger of losing important continuity of who we are as a people and losing the lessons that only come from the continuous understanding of history."

"The good news is that both sides can learn from each other," Bohan said.

"LGBT adults should be willing to follow the lead of young people, and young LGBT people should be willing to use adults as mentors."

Young people often provide a fresh perspective on issues that is both less constrained by past strategies for problem solving and less reliant on older — and perhaps incorrect — assumptions about the degree of homophobia, the report notes.

It concludes that LGBT adults have greater experience and resources and are more familiar with the historical roots of the LGBT movement.

The challenge, the researchers note, is to create intergenerational contact. Among their suggestions is the creation of youth panels that feature positive stories of coming out.

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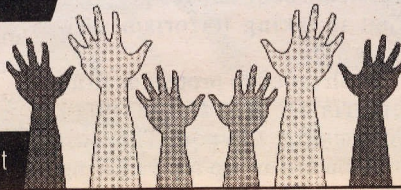
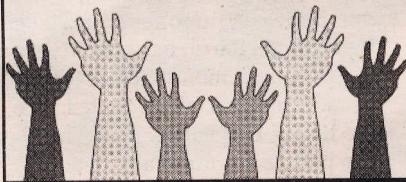
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# Queer Notes

By Jim Maynard

project due 12:30

This is the last issue of TJN before the new ownership of MGLCC takes into effect next month, and this will be my last Queer Notes column.

Every month I worry about having enough to write about, and every month I struggle with cutting out a lot of things I would like to address from a long list of notes I make from the month's queer news. The Christian/Republican Right and the Gay Right usually provide plenty of things to piss me off.

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

The Christo-fascists at the American Family Association (down the road in Tupelo) thought they had scared Ford Motor Co. into stopping their advertising in gay magazines, and based on AFA chairman Don Wildmon's boasting on their website it looked like Ford had caved into their demands. The AFA claimed that they had an agreement with Ford that said they would stop advertising in gay magazines and quit supporting gay groups and events.

Ford confirmed that they would stop advertising its Jaguar and Land Rover brands in gay publications, but insisted it was a business decision, and they denied having a secret agreement with the AFA. After hearing from many GLBT organizations, Ford released a statement affirming their support for gay and lesbian equality and boasted of the benefits Ford provides for gay employees.

Meanwhile, Focus on the Family announced it was withdrawing its funds from Wells Fargo because of the bank's support of gay organizations. Wells Fargo, the fifth largest U.S. bank, provided a \$50,000 grant to support the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. Chris Hammond, VP of business development, affirmed that Wells Fargo was proud to be a diverse organization and was proud of their support of the GLBT community. Strike Two.

It seems that the Christo-fascists, who continually whine about how much they are "persecuted" by liberal, secular humanists (and gays), are actually the ones persecuting anyone who does not uphold their narrow-minded religious delusions. It would be somewhat understandable if conservative Christian groups wanted to boycott businesses that actually did harm-

ful things to them, but they want to boycott any business that treats gay people with dignity and respect!

The Christo-fascists are already getting their panties in a knot over the critically acclaimed movie *Brokeback Mountain*, which commits the abomination of showing two men falling in love, with beautiful country scenery and a soundtrack that will bring tears to the eyes of mothers, grandmothers, and any human being with a heart. The anti-gay Christian Reich cannot tolerate any emotional sym-

pathy for gay people.

Why is it that our society can tolerate, even celebrate, men killing each other, or beating the crap out of each other in a wrestling or boxing ring, but cannot stomach seeing two men showing any affection or (gasp) kissing! What is the sociological explanation for Western "Christian" society's homophobic hatred of same-sex love, especially between men? (I tried to write a dissertation on this.) I don't understand why anyone, even straight men, would not want to lick every inch of Heath Ledger's body! What could be more "natural"?

The largest anti-gay organization in the world, the Catholic Church, under their new fascist Pope, is launching another inquisition against gay priests. The Vatican is sending out investigators to search all U.S. seminaries for "evidence of homosexuality." In a new directive, the Vatican demands that even men with "transitory" homosexual tendencies must overcome their urges for at least three years before entering the clergy. If the Catholic Church throws out every gay priest, the institution will have to shut down, which may not be a bad idea.

It looks like Harold Ford Jr. may pay a price for his cowardly support of the Republican anti-gay marriage amendment. The mayor of San Francisco, along with other liberal Democratic Party leaders in California, urged Ford to cancel a fund raising event there last month. Ford may find it difficult to raise money among the liberal elite in the Democratic Party. Of course, distancing himself from liberal

Democrats may help him in Tennessee, which is why his campaign actually boasts of his opposition to gay marriage, as well as his support of restrictions on abortion rights and his support of Bush's illegal invasion of Iraq.

Yes, I'm still angry with Jr., but compared to the alternative, he may be the best we can hope for in Tennessee politicians. While he did vote with a few other Democrats to support the anti-gay marriage amendment, he had the best record on GLBT issues of any representative from Tennessee! Among other things, Harold Ford Jr. was an enthusiastic supporter, and co-sponsor, of the Employment Non-discrimination Act. In response to my write-in campaign against him in 2004, he issued a statement that although he could not support gay marriage, he affirmed his support for laws protecting gays and lesbians from discrimination. So, like most politicians, he is a mixed bag.

As much as I would love to run for Congress in 2006, I just am not able to commit the time and resources to a serious campaign this year. Hopefully we can find a candidate we can support and do everything we can to help the Democrats take back control of the government before the Busheviks complete their fascist takeover of the government.

Last month, George Bush spoke at a \$1,000 plat luncheon to raise money for U.S. Representative Marilyn Musgrave (R-Colorado), the sponsor of the anti-gay Federal Marriage Amendment, which helped Republicans win the last election. Bush praised Musgrave as a "strong supporter of the sanctify of marriage, who supported the constitutional amendment to make sure that activist judges do not redefine traditional marriage." Bush said he was proud to support that amendment.

It is hard to believe that gay Republicans voted for this idiot! I keep hearing Uncle Tom Republicans justify their support of Bush, and they almost all claim that Bush was the best candidate to fight terrorism. How can anyone make the claim that George W. Bush took terrorism seriously? George Bush was president, not Bill Clinton or Al Gore, when terrorists attacked this country. Where was The Shrub when terrorists flew planes into New York (just as he was warned in a report a month earlier!)? He was reading a children's book about a pet goat! That is taking terrorism seriously?

Bush failed to protect us from terrorism! Read the 9/11 Commission's Report! They just issued a follow up report giving

the Bush Administration failing grades on protecting us from terrorism.

The American dictator, George W. Bush, not only lied to Congress and the world to justify his illegal invasion of Iraq, he has now been caught violating the Constitution again with secret spying on U.S. citizens without any judicial authority. Dick Cheney defended this and the unpatriotic "Patriot Act" as necessary to increase the executive powers of the president, which he laments, has been weakened since Nixon. Like Hitler and the fascists in Germany, the Republican Reich is using terrorism to justify the dismantling of constitutional rights.

Bush is worse than Nixon! Nixon's crimes in "Watergate" pale in comparison to the crimes Bush has committed. Let us hope, pray, whatever it takes, to get the Democrats back in control of Congress and push them to what they must do to protect us from the Busheviks — impeach Bush and Cheney! This should be the Democratic Party's campaign theme!

Great Britain joined a growing number of European countries in granting gay and lesbian couples the legal rights of civil unions. Elton John finally "tied the knot" with his partner before the world. While countries like England, Switzerland, Denmark, Spain, Canada, and even Germany, are moving forward by allowing civil unions and marriage rights for gays, back here in the "land of the free" we are going backward. Only one state, Massachusetts, was forced by the courts to allow gays to marry, and that will probably be voted down by the people as it has in every other state where people can vote on the issue.

In the United States we are fighting a state-by-state battle to win or keep the few legal benefits won for gay and lesbian couples. In the next few years, the majority of states will approve constitutional amendments banning gay marriage. In some states, even civil unions and domestic partnerships will be voted out.

I'm not optimistic folks! I hate to say it, but we are in deep political trouble in this country. The focus on gay marriage, largely by our political opponents and the Republican Party, has actually set the gay movement back at least a decade in the United States. We are losing this battle. The American people are not ready to accept "gay marriage." As long as gay marriage provides the Republican Party with political ammunition to shoot down any liberal Democrat, especially in the South and West, not even supportive Demo-

crats can take a political risk on this issue, and no gay supportive Republican (the few there are) has a chance as long as the Republican Party is controlled by the Christian Reich.

What can we do? How do we get out of the political trap we are in? Are gay Republicans right that the Democratic Party is no better than the Republican Party? It's hard to take that claim seriously when you just read the party platforms and listen to the anti-gay rhetoric from the leaders of the GOP. On the other hand, the Democrats, while more supportive and moving in the right direction, have not shown the political courage they showed in defending the civil rights of African-Americans. Like many people, part of me is fed up with both parties and the political system. But I know that we have no choice.

The only way to win political power is to be politically organized and active. Nothing will change if we are not involved in the political system, and no political party is going to support us if we do not support it. It's a catch-22 situation. We can choose to get politically active and organize to fight our opposition, or we can party, dance, drink and celebrate while our enemies organize and gain more political power.

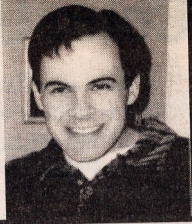
As I stated earlier, I am not too optimistic right now. I have been a "gay activist" for over 20 years. I've been involved with or a leader of more than five gay organizations, starting in college trying to organize gay student groups. I formed the Lesbian & Gay Coalition for Justice, which died from lack of community support, leaders or membership. I helped form Equality Tennessee which also did not get much support and disintegrated from internal divisions on the board. I tried to organize a chapter of Stonewall Democrats, with little support.

But there is hope. My generation has failed, but we have new leaders coming along. They are energized and optimistic. I hope they will learn from our mistakes. I will offer some advice from what I have learned from my mistakes. The gay community, and gay political organizations in particular, usually fail because they lack (a) leadership and (b) members. Leaders must have support, and people need leaders to organize and lead them. They need each other. They must support each other or they will fail. We need to nurture and encourage gay political leaders, and we need to support gay political organizations by joining them, giving them all the financial help we can, and doing our part to help them succeed. And we need to learn from our mistakes.

Keep in touch:  
www.jimmymaynard.com

# WHAT ABOUT IT?

by Shannon Yarbrough



## Lines I Wish I Had Written

If homosexuality is a disease, let's all call in queer to work: "Hello. Can't work today, still queer." ~ Robin Tyler

I'd rather be black than gay because when you're black you don't have to tell your mother. ~ Charles Pierce

Dear Abby, In response to a reader who complained that a gay couple was moving in across the street and wanted to know what he could do to improve the quality of the neighborhood. "You could move." ~ Abigail Van Buren.

The one bonus of not lifting the ban on gays in the military is that the next time the government mandates a draft, we can all declare we are homosexual instead of running off to Canada. ~ Lorne Bloch

Why can't they have gay people in the army? Personally, I think they are just afraid of a thousand guys with M16s going, "Who'd you call a faggot?" ~ Jon Stewart

My lesbianism is an act of Christian charity. All those women

out there praying for a man, and I'm giving them my share. ~ Rita Mae Brown

Soldiers who are not afraid of guns, bombs, capture, torture or death say they are afraid of homosexuals. Clearly we should not be used as soldiers; we should be used as weapons. ~ Letter to the Editor in the Advocate

You don't have to be straight to be in the military; you just have to be able to shoot straight. ~ Barry Goldwater

Why is it that, as a culture, we are more comfortable seeing two men holding guns than holding hands? ~ Ernest Gaines

My own belief is that there is hardly anyone whose sexual life, if it were broadcast, would not fill the world at large with surprise and horror. ~ W. Somerset Maugham

Drag is when a man wears everything a lesbian won't. ~ Author Unknown

If male homosexuals are called

"gay," then female homosexuals should be called "ecstatic." ~ Shelly Roberts

My mother took me to a psychiatrist when I was 15 because she thought I was a latent homosexual. There was nothing latent about it. ~ Amanda Bearse

It always seemed to me a bit pointless to disapprove of homosexuality. It's like disapproving of rain. ~ Fran Maude

The only queer people are those who don't love anybody. ~ Rita Mae Brown

The Bible contains six admonishments to homosexuals and 362 admonishments to heterosexuals. That doesn't mean that God doesn't love heterosexuals. It's just that they need more supervision.

*Editor's Note: This is Shannon's last column for TJN. We would like to thank him not only for his insight into books for the last few years, but for his consistency, professionalism and loyalty to the both TJN and the Memphis GLBT community even after his move to St. Louis.*

Rhonda Manning Hidaji, LCSW

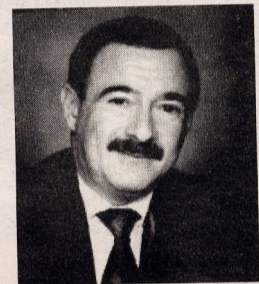


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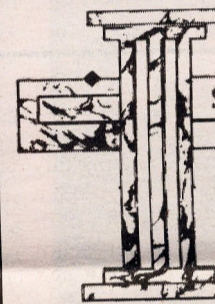
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**GWM, mid-50s** would like to meet other GWMs 40-50 for friendship, doing things together, good quality time spent developing into possible LTR. Interested parties can reach me at jopilkingt@aol.com.

**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

**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 or send it to P.O. Box 11485, Memphis, TN 38111. Ads may be edited for explicit content.

## New Year's Resolutions

1. Climb Mt. Everest
2. Sail Around World
3. Find New Boyfriend
4. Check out Inz & Outz

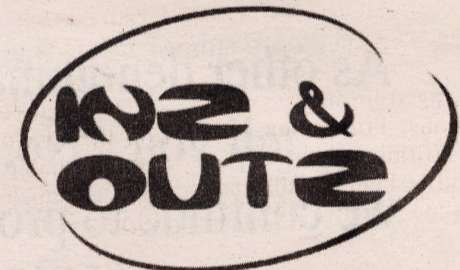
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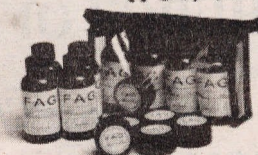
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# 10 Reasons Why Gay Marriage is Doomed to Failure

Satire via the Internet

1. Being gay is not natural. Real Americans always avoid unnatural things like eyeglasses, polyester, and air conditioning

2. Gay marriage will encourage people to be gay in the same way that hanging around tall people will make you tall.

3. Legalizing gay marriage will open the door to all kinds of crazy behavior. People may even wish to marry their pets because a dog has legal standing and can sign a marriage contract.

4. Straight marriage has been around a long time and hasn't changed at all — women are still property, blacks still can't marry whites and divorce is still illegal.

5. Straight marriage will be less meaningful if gay marriage were allowed. The sanctity of Britney Spears' 55-hour just-for-fun marriage would be destroyed.

6. Straight marriages are valid

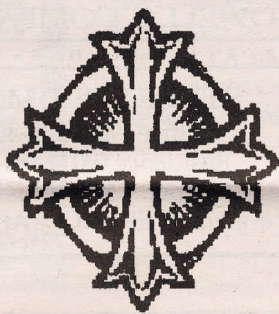
because they produce children. Gay couples, infertile couples and old people shouldn't be allowed to marry because our orphanages aren't full yet, and the world needs more children.

7. Obviously gay parents will raise gay children, since straight parents only raise straight children.

8. Gay marriage is not supported by religion. In a theocracy like ours, the values of one religion are imposed on the entire country. That's why we have only one religion in America.

9. Children can never succeed without both a male and a female role model at home. That's why we as a society expressly forbid single parents to raise children.

10) Gay marriage will change the foundation of society; we could never adapt to new social norms. Just like we haven't adapted to cars, the service-sector economy or longer life spans.



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# Court Upholds New Orleans' Partner Policy

A state appellate court in Louisiana has upheld a domestic partner plan and registry instituted by the city of New Orleans in the late 1990s.

According to Lambda Legal, New Orleans started offering health insurance to the partners of gay and lesbian city employees in 1997.

Two years later, the City Council set up a registry allowing same-sex couples throughout its jurisdiction to formally record their partnerships.

In 2003, a group of citizens sued the city, claiming that their status as taxpayers gave them the right to challenge the policies in court.

Usually, a disinterested third party is not allowed to challenge a law or intervene in a suit that does not have a direct impact on their lives. Indeed, a lower court dis-

missed the suit last May, ruling that the group lacked legal standing to sue.

The Fourth Circuit state appellate court agreed.

The petitioners were represented by the conservative Alliance Defense Fund (ADF). There is no indication yet whether the ADF plans to appeal the decision to the Louisiana Supreme Court.

The conservatives claimed that the domestic partner plan violated the state's law against same-sex marriage, a statute that has since become embedded in the state Constitution.

This same argument has also been advanced in Michigan, where the ACLU is fighting to clarify the scope of the Michigan marriage amendment, and in Ohio, where Lambda is confronting an attack on Miami University's domestic partner plan on the same grounds.

Marriage and partner opponents also sued in Utah after the mayor of Salt Lake City authorized benefits by executive order earlier this fall.

In rejecting the Louisiana case, the 2-1 appellate majority ruled that the plaintiffs "have not established the minimal requisite interest, and therefore lack the requisite interest sufficient to afford him a right of action."

In a dispatch, the Associated Press reported that the ADF attorneys suggested to the court that state law allows taxpayers to contest any public actions that increase government costs, regardless of the amount in question. Their view was accepted by dissenting judge Patricia Rivet Murray, who nonetheless acknowledged that the cost of the benefits had a "minuscule" impact on the city budget.

# Oral HIV Testmaker Addresses False Results

In response to growing concern over the accuracy of OraQuick Advance Rapid HIV antibody test, the test's manufacturer has begun its own investigation into a high number of false-positive results in three cities.

Early in December, the San Francisco Department of Health stopped using the popular test at its two clinics after a large number of positive results later turned out to be negative after using traditional screening methods.

Also, the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center discontinued use of the oral version of the rapid OraQuick HIV test after 13 people who took the oral test at the center falsely registered as HIV-positive.

Health officials in New York are also monitoring a number of false positives, which shot up inexplicably in November, but they have not discontinued the test.

The test maker, OraSure Technologies, said that it has initiated

a "scientific and systematic evaluation of each situation" and is working in collaboration with affected customers, health care officials and government agencies, including the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Food and Drug Administration, to determine the causes for the unexpected results.

In addition, the company says it has been contacting customers throughout the country to learn if they are experiencing similar results with the test. OraSure would not respond to requests for interviews, but encouraged people to learn more about the test at [www.orasure.com](http://www.orasure.com).

The FDA approved the OraQuick Advance HIV test for professional use in March 2004. It is now used throughout the country as a first step to detect antibodies to the virus that causes AIDS. It uses fluid swabbed from the mouth and can produce results in 20 minutes.

Klein said that the irregularities

found in test results in three cities are puzzling but not necessarily a reason to stop using the test.

"When the test was approved in 2004, it had a 98.6 percent specificity, which means you could expect about two false positives out of a thousand results," he said.

"Now the results from Los Angeles and San Francisco are showing approximately nine false positives out of a thousand, which the FDA still considers good specificity."

No other HIV testing facilities outside New York, San Francisco and Los Angeles have yet reported a high rate of inconclusive or false-positive results.

"If the public loses confidence in the reliability of HIV tests, they're just going to stop testing, and we can't allow that to happen" said Quentin O'Brien, director of health and mental health services at the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center.

He added that no irregularities have been reported with the rapid "finger-stick" test.

Klein contended that it is important for the company to find out why the test is coming back with an increased number of false positives, but also emphasized that users need to have a better understanding of the test's limitations.

"It is more sensitive than accurate, which means it can react to other antibodies that are similar to HIV.

Clinics always need to confirm positive results with a more specific test like the Western Blot. So patients would end up waiting on those results regardless of which screening tool (oral or finger-stick) is used."

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

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

# Out & About

## REGULAR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

### SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICES

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

### WEDNESDAY CHURCH SERVICES

- Taizé - First Congregational Church - (901) 278-6786 - 6pm
- **Holy Trinity Community Church - Fellowship Supper and Bible Study - (901) 320-9376 - office@holytrinitymemphis.org - 6pm & 7pm**
- **Living Word Christian Church - Worship Service - (901)**

452-6272 - 7pm

- Open Heart Community of Faith - "A Course in Miracles" - Study Group - North End of First Congregational (1000 South Cooper) - (901) 323-3514 - 7:30pm

### SUNDAYS

- Tea Dance - Metro - 4pm
- **Brothers & Sisters Bowling League - Winchester Bowl - (901) 722-5236 or MemphisGayBowlin@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.**

## JANUARY 2006 COMMUNITY CALENDAR

<b>New Year's Day 1</b> • MGLCC Closed	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> • Men's Potluck, MGLCC, 7pm	<b>5</b> • Family Flavors Evening at the Gaiety Film Series, MGLCC, 7pm <i>Home for the Holidays</i>	<b>6</b> <i>See regular Friday events</i> • Cafe Q, Coffee House MGLCC, 7pm featuring Jen and Kim	<b>7</b> • Alliance Club Night, Pumping Station, 10pm
<b>8</b> • Initiative: Fairness, MGLCC, 4pm • Brothers and Sisters Bowling, Winchester Lanes, 6pm • MGLCC Board Meeting, MGLCC, 6-8pm	<b>9</b> • Bluff City Sports Assn., MGLCC, 6pm • Perpetual Transition, MGLCC, 6:30-7:30pm • Blues Bash Meeting, MGLCC, 7pm	<b>10</b> • MGLCC Night at the Grizzlies, FedEx Forum • The Caring Group, HTCC, 7pm • Phoenix AA, 1720 Peabody, 8pm	<b>11</b> • Men's Potluck, MGLCC, 6:30pm	<b>12</b> • Family Flavors Evening at the Gaiety Film Series, MGLCC, 7pm <i>Cowboys and Angels</i>	<b>13</b> <i>See regular Friday events</i> • Cafe Q, MGLCC, 7pm featuring Skinny White Chick	<b>14</b>
<b>TJN January Advertising Deadline 15</b> • Brothers and Sisters Bowling, Winchester Lanes, 6pm • WAC, First Congo, 6:30pm	<b>MLK Birthday 16</b> • Friends for Life Coffee House, 6-8pm, Call 272-0855 for location • Blue Suede Bears Annual Business Meeting, Location TBA, 7pm	<b>17</b> • Integrity Meeting, Calvary Church, 6:30pm • The Caring Group, HTCC, 7pm • Phoenix AA, 1720 Peabody, 8pm	<b>18</b> • Women's Monthly Potluck, MGLCC, 6:30pm	<b>19</b> • Family Flavors Evening at the Gaiety Film Series, MGLCC, 7pm <i>De-Lovely</i>	<b>20</b> <i>See regular Friday events</i> • Cafe Q, MGLCC, 7pm, Salsa Dancing presented by Adelante	<b>21</b> • MLPA Business Meeting, MGLCC, 2pm • Monthly Potluck and Birthday Party, MGLCC, 6pm • Tsarus Club Night, Pumping Station, 10pm
<b>22</b> • Brothers and Sisters Bowling, Winchester Lanes, 6pm • Lambda Professionals Board Meeting, MGLCC, 6:30pm	<b>23</b> • Perpetual Transition, MGLCC, 6:30-7:30pm	<b>24</b> • The Caring Group, HTCC, 7pm • Phoenix AA, 1720 Peabody, 8pm	<b>25</b> • MGLCC Volunteer Appreciation, MGLCC, 6:30pm	<b>26</b> • Family Flavors Evening at the Gaiety Film Series, MGLCC, 7pm <i>Prom Queen</i>	<b>February TJN Due Out 27</b> <i>See regular Friday events</i> • Cafe Q, MGLCC, 7pm featuring Li'l Ryan D.	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> • Brothers and Sisters Bowling, Winchester Lanes, 6pm	<b>30</b> • Friends for Life Coffee House, 6-8pm, Call 272-0855 for location	<b>31</b> • The Caring Group, HTCC, 7pm • Phoenix AA, 1720 Peabody, 8pm				

- 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 Coffeeshouse 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

**Welcome**

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

Website Address: [www.holytrinitymemphis.org](http://www.holytrinitymemphis.org)  
Email Addresses:  
Church Office: [office@holytrinitymemphis.org](mailto:office@holytrinitymemphis.org)  
Pastor: [Minister@holytrinitymemphis.org](mailto:Minister@holytrinitymemphis.org)

**HOLY TRINITY COMMUNITY CHURCH**

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

**Weekly Schedule**

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

- 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

Larry Timmerman

Bill Johns

**Antique Warehouse Mall**

2563 Summer Avenue  
Memphis, TN 38112  
(901)323-0600

AUNTIQMEM@AOL.COM

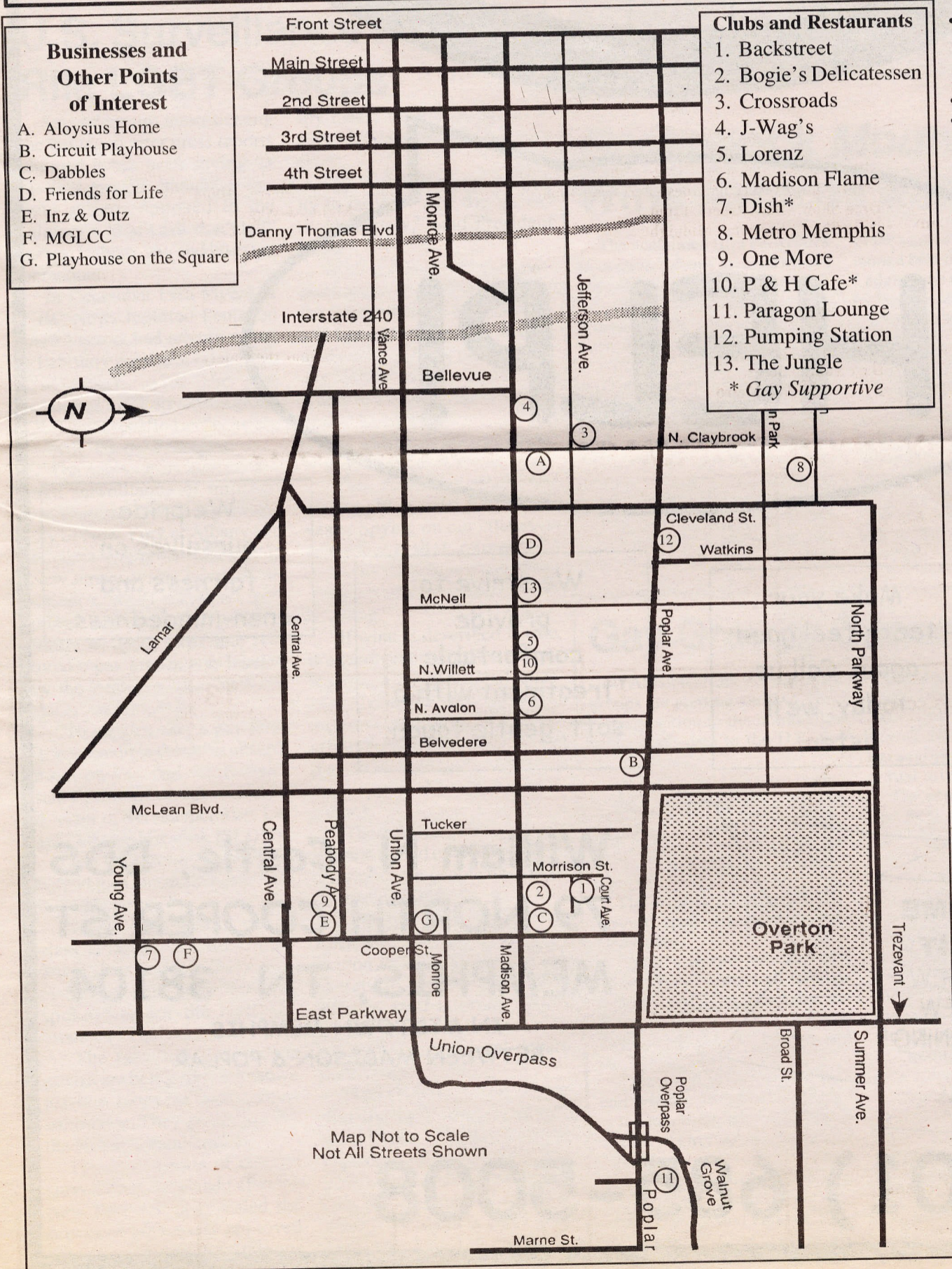
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**Businesses and Other Points of Interest**

- 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. Dish\*
  8. Metro Memphis
  9. One More
  10. P & H Cafe\*
  11. Paragon Lounge
  12. Pumping Station
  13. The Jungle
- \* Gay Supportive



**Stephen Pair**

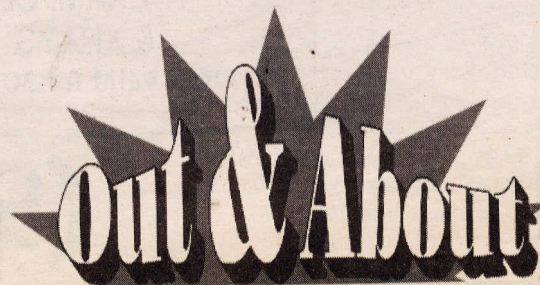
Licensed  
Massage Therapist/  
Certified Personal Trainer

By Appointment Only

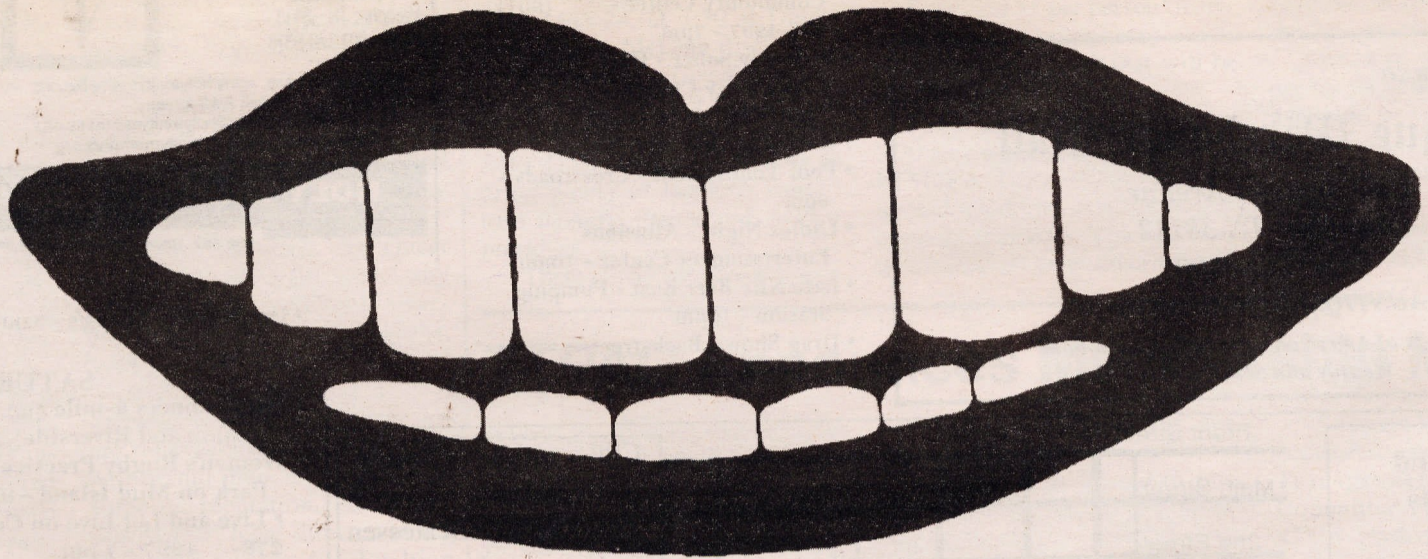
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- Therapeutic
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- Swedish

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