

Celebrate Spring



VOLUME 12, NUMBER 7

APRIL 2002

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Ark. HIV/AIDS Policy Task Force Up and Running

LITTLE ROCK — Arkansas' first statewide HIV/AIDS Task Force had its first meeting Mar. 13 in Little Rock at the Arkansas Department of Health.

The group represents the voice of people with AIDS in Arkansas and is dedicated to increasing an awareness of the needs of those who suffer from the deadly disease. Members will build a statewide advocacy infrastructure beginning at local and regional levels working with local and regional issues.

The task force will be addressing statewide issues through the Arkansas HIV/AIDS Service Council, the Arkansas Department of Health HIV/AIDS Prevention and Intervention Section and statewide forums. Through information sharing, task force members will

help People Living With AIDS (PWA) become more aware of resources and services.

Task force members recruit consumers by spreading the word through flyers, newsletters or personally inviting community or regional representatives to attend local, regional or statewide meetings. Task force members will network by building relationships with peers, local service providers, state and local department of public and/or community health and task force members from other regions.

The next meeting of the HIV/AIDS Policy Task Force will be in May at the Arkansas Department of Health Little Rock Arkansas. Phone Rick L Ramsey at 501-666-3662 for more details.

Nancy Fletcher Honored as 'Man' of the Year by Tsarus

By Allen Cook

Nancy Fletcher, lauded as "the mother of a lot of brothers and sisters in our community," was presented the Tsarus Man of the Year Award at the Tsarus annual banquet held on Mar. 12 at Crossroads.

Fletcher asked that the \$500 donation which is presented in honor of the recipient be split between two Friends For Life programs — the Feast For Friends and the FFL Food Pantry. She also was recently named Friends for Life's Volunteer of the Year.

A long-time volunteer, Fletcher has been solid in her commitment to the gay community, especially to people with HIV and AIDS.

According to Matthew Presley, who praised her for her work, "Nancy has been at the bedsides and at the funerals" of uncounted numbers of people with AIDS. In point of fact, she was the caregiver of a man with AIDS who died the day before the awards program.



Nancy Fletcher

Presley said that she is so involved that her neighbors must wonder about the number of "good-looking men traipsing in and out of her house."

In addition to providing an ad hoc shuttle service for people needing to attend the Adult Special Care

Clinic at The Med, she has worked with the Friends for Life food pantry and its bi-weekly Feast For Friends. Furthermore, she has worked on the annual Friends for Life Auction and other fundraisers.

Alabama Chief Justice Speaks Out on Gays

LEEDS, Ala. (AP) — Chief Justice Roy Moore said homosexuality is an "inherent evil," not necessarily the people who practice it.

Moore, publicly defending himself for the first time since criticizing homosexuality in an Alabama Supreme Court ruling, said his 35-page ruling had been distorted.

"I think the biggest confusion people have is putting the person with the act," Moore said while attending an event at Leeds Memorial Park honoring the city's three Medal of Honor winners. "The person can be separated from the act and in Alabama law indeed is."

Moore described homosexuality as "abhorrent, immoral, detestable" in a unanimous Alabama Supreme Court ruling last month denying a lesbian mother custody of her three children.

Several gay rights groups rallied against Moore and said he couldn't act as a fair judge, particularly when he noted that Alabama criminal laws prohibit sodomy. He

added later that the state "carries the power of the sword ... to prohibit conduct with physical penalties, such as confinement and even execution."

That was simply a statement of the state's range of powers — not an endorsement of using the death penalty or imprisonment against people because of their sexual orientation, Moore said.

"We never said anything like that, never intended anything like that," Moore said.

Homosexual acts are criminal under Alabama law, but Moore said he wasn't calling for a change in the law to make punishments more severe. The crime known in many states as sodomy is called sexual misconduct in Alabama. It is a misdemeanor banning acts of oral or anal sex between adults not married to each other.

"What the law is, is what I must go by," Moore said. "There is a specific legislative punish-

See Alabama Judge on page 6

Rosie's Candor on Sexual Orientation Resonates Well with Americans

ROCHESTER, NY. — Three-quarters (75%) of all Americans — heterosexual, gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered — who are also aware of Rosie O'Donnell's disclosure that she is a lesbian, agree that it has no effect on their feelings towards her, according to a new national Witeck-Combs/Harris Interactive study.

Respondents were also asked whether O'Donnell's disclosure had an effect on their likelihood to purchase brands that she endorses. Eight out of 10 (80%) of all Americans said it made no difference, with 2 percent reporting they were more likely and 18 percent saying they were less likely to purchase endorsed products. Almost nine out of 10 gays and lesbians (88%) said it made no difference, while 9 per-

cent said it would make them more likely to purchase.

Among Rosie's most popular audience, namely American women between the ages of 35 and 44, when asked specifically if the disclosure about O'Donnell's sexual orientation would have a better, worse or would not change their opinion at all about her, 73 percent of women between ages 35 and 44 said it made no difference. Ten percent (10%) said it improved their opinions, while 18 percent said their opinions of Rosie O'Donnell had worsened.

When 35- to 44-year-old American women were asked whether the disclosure changes their feelings about O'Donnell's product endorsements, a full 85 percent said it made no difference, while 12

percent said they would be less likely to change their opinions; and 3 percent said they would be more likely to purchase products endorsed by Rosie.

These are the highlights of a nationwide Witeck-Combs Communications/Harris Interactive study of 2,017 adults surveyed online between Mar. 12-14, 2002, of whom seven percent (7%) self-identified as gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender (GLBT). The survey was conducted online by Harris Interactive, a worldwide market research and consulting firm, and Witeck-Combs Communications, Inc., a marketing and communications firm with special expertise in the GLBT market.

See Rosie on page 10

Strange Dinner Conversation

By Mubarak Dahir

I'm having dinner with four friends, all of us gay men, and I can't help but be disturbed by the circular conversation.

What's most strange—and most disturbing—is how none of my dinner companions seem to notice how the varied topics of conversation about fanatics, lesbians, leathermen and the transgendered are not only tied to each other, but how they literally circle around on each other.

It's as if it is a blind circle.

And I can't help but wonder—worry, really—if the surreal dinner talk is reflective of our larger community. The conversation starts off innocently enough with a discussion about the health of the religious right since September 11.

Who can forget Jerry Falwell's and Pat Roberston's now infamous

blunder of saying America somehow "deserved" the attacks of September 11 because we've strayed from God, and how certain factions of the population—including homosexuals—are partly to blame.

My dinner companions seem to believe this big foul-up has dealt a serious blow to the religious right, as most Americans realize it is fanaticism in any form that is the enemy much more than Osama bin Laden.

Personally, I never underestimate the power of the religious

lunatics of any stripe, including the Christian ones we have in this country. But the difference in our assessments of the longevity of Christian fundamentalism isn't what starts making me uncomfortable.

It's talk about lesbians that does. I don't remember how we got from our little tirade against

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



Box 11485, Memphis, Tennessee 38111-0485
Phone (901) 454-1411

Fax: (901) 454-1411 E-mail: MemphisTJN@aol.com
Website: www.memphistrianglejournal.com

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Publishers/Editors

Allen Cook • John Stilwell
(MemphisTJN@aol.com)

Columnists/Contributors

Paula Martinac • Butch Valentine • Romeo San Vicente • Robyn Johnson
Shannon Yarbrough • Angela Lamb • Wayne Beson

Out and About Editor

Angela Lamb (tjncalendargirl@yahoo.com)

Production

Allen Cook • Bob Dumais • John Stilwell

Advertising Sales

Bob Dumais • Allen Cook

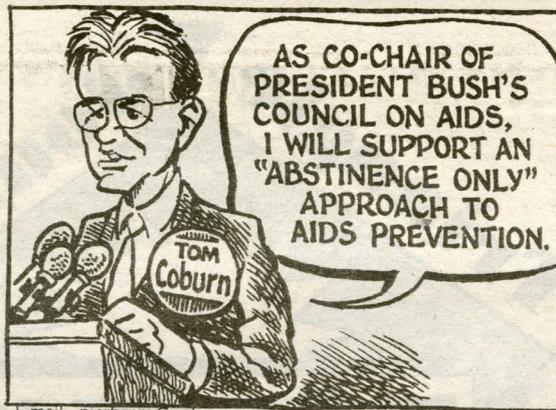
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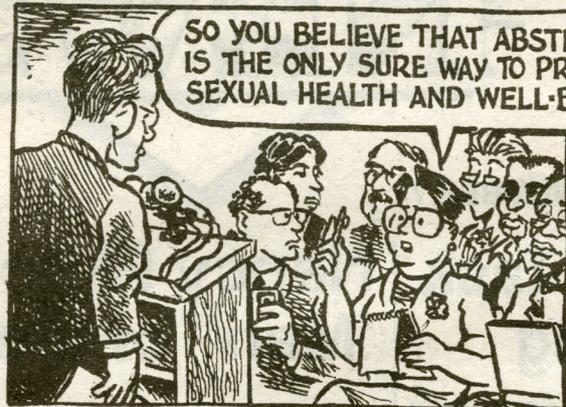
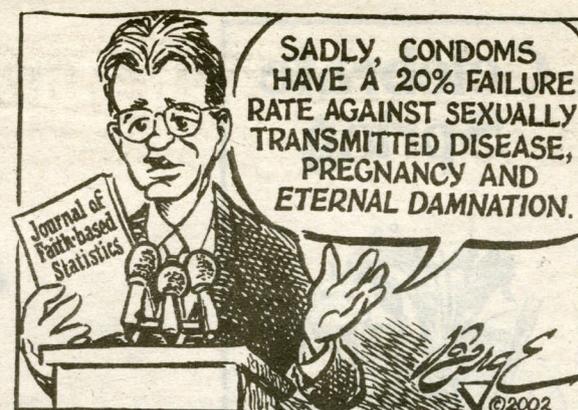
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E-mail: pierberge@aol.com



the ugly stereotyping of gay people by the religious right to a campy comparison between the brothers and sisters of same sex love, but we did.

What I do remember is how fast the conversation seemed to turn from poking good-spirited fun at both sides, to a shockingly shallow (and worryingly serious) attack against lesbians. It started with the typical stereotypical jokes about flannel shirt-wearing bull dykes vs. mincing Martha Stewart wanna-be queens.

But before I knew it, my dinner companions were hauling out their laundry lists of "what I hate about lesbians."

But this time, they weren't joking. They have no sense of style. They are ugly. They are politically correct extremists. They are ugly.

Suddenly, what had turned into poking fun at ourselves as a community turned into a clear demarcation of "us vs. them." I couldn't help but wonder if there was a group of lesbians somewhere having the same, reverse conversation about gay men: They're sissies.

They're shallow. They swish when they walk. They have too much anonymous sex. And they wear make-up.

Make-up—believe it or not—turned out to be the next round of table talk.

To be more precise, the feeling was that transgender women need to wear more of it and get some prettifying tips from a few good drag queens.

Because, as one of my dinner guests put it, "you can always tell."

Tell what? I wondered. If someone is gay?

That suggestion, of course, would have gotten hoots from the fellows at dinner.

But the thought that transgendered women were obvious and lesbians are ugly seemed frighteningly accepted fact. Without boring you with all the details of the dinner gab that evening, let it suffice to say that the forked tongue soon turned in on the gay community itself.

Leathermen, it was decided, were immature and an embarrassment.

Bears were lazy and fat.

Twinkies were hot, but almost

always users out looking for an unsuspecting sugar daddy. And so on.

As I sat there somewhat stunned by the weird topics of conversation, I was struck by my companions' inability to see just how similar they were to the stereotyping, homo-hating Christian fundamentalists who had been the beginning of the dinner talk.

And this comes from college-educated, world-traveled, well-to-do gay men (all white, needless to say). As I sat there floored by the conversation, I was somehow reminded of my first years of coming out.

I was in college then, and there was very little gay life to speak of, save a single, tiny bar in my college town.

The bar was so small, it had literally been a newsstand in a previous business life. But if the place was small, the number of out gay men and lesbians who would frequent it was even smaller.

Because the bar was on the main strip of the college town, lined with straight bars and right across the street from campus, very few of us dared to venture into it. But those of us who did felt a real connection to one another.

Looking back, I'm sure we weren't a very sophisticated crowd, as the gay and lesbian community goes. I'm not sure many of us knew what a leatherman was, or a diesel dyke or a twinkie or a lipstick lesbian, for that matter. But we knew that, despite our differences, we were all in this thing together.

As Jerry Falwell and Pat Roberston so coldly reminded us after September 11, we still are. I wish my dinner companions—and the rest of us—would keep that in mind.

Mubarak Dahir receives e-mail at MubarakDah@aol.com

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Twinkie Museum Film Festival Announces New Committee, Changes Name, Dates

by Douglas Campbell

It's April, the time of spring, of Easter and of the Twinkie Museum Film Festival! Well, not quite. For the last five years the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center's Twinkie Museum Film Festival has taken place in April, but for 2002 the festival moves to October, coinciding with National Coming Out Day. Tentative dates for the festival are Oct. 10-13, 2002.

Many other changes are also planned for the festival. More people than ever before volunteered to take part on this year's film festival committee. This

year's members are: Douglas Campbell, John Heizer, Herb Zeman (Co-Chairs), Adam Black, Charlie Green, Skip Howard, Barbara Jean Jasen, Mark Jones, Steve Knight, Juan Rodriguez, Mike Robertson, Chris Robinson and Patty Pair. Herb Zeman is the only member from last year's committee returning. All other members of this year's committee are new to the festival.

Angela Lamb and Jason Crockett, who chaired the last two years on the committee, decided to bow out this year, but will make themselves and their vast experience available in an advisory capacity.

In years past, the film festival has been held at the University of Memphis Psychology Auditorium, and for the 2001 fifth anniversary festival, the event was held at Malco's Studio on the Square in midtown. The committee hopes to provide a wider variety of films and a greater number of venues for the film festival this year.

Also, as part of an effort to increase the attendance and visibility

of the festival, the Film Festival Committee and the MGLCC Board elected to change the name of the festival, opening the name selection process to the whole community. See the sidebar below for more details on the name change and how you can submit your entry. MGLCC and the film festival committee will announce festival venues and films as it then becomes available.

MGLCC Film Festival (aka Twinkie Museum Film Festival) Name Competition

In an exciting move to increase the visibility of its annual film festival, the board of the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center and the Film Festival Committee have elected to change the name of the festival to better reflect the festival's goals.

As always, the film festival strives to show documentaries, film shorts as well as full-length features that have not been widely seen in this region, and reflect the vast diversity of the Memphis area GLBT community.

The Film Festival Committee wants your ideas for a new name for the film festival. This year's committee wants to make this and future festivals bigger and better than ever and take its place as a cornerstone of Memphis' and the Mid-South's GLBT community.

To enter the competition, mail in your suggestion along with your name, phone number and/or ad-

dress where you can be reached to: MGLCC Film Festival Competition, P.O. Box 41074, Memphis, TN, 38174 or e-mail the required information to twinkiefilmfest@yahoo.com. All entries must be submitted online or postmarked by June 1, 2002.

The Film Festival Committee will select three finalists from all the entries received. The winning name will be determined by a donation vote at the MGLCC booth at the Pride Festival June 8. The entry with the most donations at the end of the festival will be the new name for the film festival.

The new name for the festival and the name of the person submitting the winning entry will be announced at the festival and the winner will receive two MGLCC t-shirts and two free passes to this year's film festival.

April Integrity Meeting

The next regular monthly meeting of Integrity-Memphis will be held on Tues., Apr. 16, at 6:30 p.m. at Calvary Episcopal Church (Second at Adams). A short worship service will be followed by dinner and a program.

This month's meeting is especially important, as new members of the Integrity board will be elected for the upcoming year. This is your chance to become involved either by considering membership on the board yourself or just by exercising your right to vote for the person of your choice.

Integrity-Memphis is the local chapter of a national organization, Integrity-USA, which serves within the Episcopal Church. Its mission is to promote understanding between the gay community and the church. Regular monthly meetings host a variety of programs, covering a wide range of topics of interest to GLBTs.

Integrity has members of many faith traditions and visitors are always welcomed. Integrity Memphis meets on the third Tuesday of the month. The short worship service begins at 6:30 p.m. Dinner follows at 7 p.m. (\$5 donation), and the program begins at 7:45 p.m. Calvary Episcopal Church is located at 102 N. Second. Call 525-6602 or see the website at www.geocities.com/integrity_memphis/main.html for more information.

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website: www.gaymemphis.com/magy/

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Not-Your-Typical Drag Show and Grudge Match

Do you know Angela Lamb and Patty Pair? Do you dislike them? If so, here is your chance to let them know once and for all how you really feel.

The Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center has planned a Drag Show and Grudge Match for your entertainment.

In an effort to help raise awareness and funds for the upcoming free Pride Festival and Parade, Angela and Patty have a challenge for the GLBT community. They dare you to raise \$5,000 for the festival. If the community is successful, then they have put their hair on the line, meaning that one of them will shave her head if the money is raised.

A grand total of \$5,000 must be raised before any hair goes flying. But here is the kicker... whoever raises the most money, either An-

gela or Patty, will get to shave the other one's head live and in person for everyone who attends the drag show.

Send all donations to MGLCC Grudge Match at P.O. Box 41074, Memphis 38174-1074. MGLCC accepts cash, check or charge. Please designate who you are in support of — Angela or Patty. Also, remember, the more you donate, the more you can deduct from your taxes.

The Not-So-Typical Drag Show is scheduled for Sun., May 19, at Playhouse on the Square. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. and the show kicks off at 8 p.m. sharp. MGLCC is looking for performers and volunteers for the show. E-mail MemphisGayCenter@yahoo.com or call 324-4297 if you are interested.

EQTN's Quarterly Update

By Randy Cox, Chair
Equality Tennessee

Equality Tennessee (EQTN) held its quarterly meeting Mar. 2 in Kingsport, Tenn. Not only were the board members in attendance, but there were nine attendees from the Tri-City Area — most of whom became members during that meeting.

There were lively discussions and a lot of excitement was generated in the Upper East Tennessee area. This is another positive step in continued efforts to communicate to Tennessee that there is a statewide LGBT organization designed to work for LGBT rights.

The business of the meeting generated much discussion about activities EQTN will be doing throughout for the remainder of the year. This is a very exciting time for EQTN and Tennessee's LGBT persons. The feedback has unanimously been that there is a great need in our state for an organization like EQTN.

It's the membership — you — who will determine if a statewide civil rights organization is successful in Tennessee. The board of directors of Equality Tennessee appreciate your assistance, commitment, contributions and participation.

The following are brief descriptions of some of the upcoming EQTN activities:

If you see something that is of interest, contact your local vice-chair for more information. Contact information is below.

EQTN will be participating in the Pride events throughout the state in June. These events are an excellent way to introduce the organization and to meet LGBT folks throughout the state. They are also a great way to make new friends and learn about activities happening in other cities in Tennessee.

Equality Tennessee, along with the Rainbow Community Center, is completing a book project entitled *Pride and Progress: A History of LGBT Tennessee*. If you have a story to contribute or know someone, contact us at prideandprogress@aol.com or call 615-342-3838.

Watch for information about an upcoming Lambda Student Conference. This is a seminar designed to educate and network statewide college Lambda organizations. This will be EQTN's first student project and the group plans to make it an annual event.

EQTN is in the process of compiling its "on call" network of professionals throughout the state who can assist LGBT persons who have been the victim of a hate crime, discrimination or other unfair treatment. This is a huge project and is a core piece of EQTN's mission. In the few weeks, there have been three incidents of someone from

the LGBT community being harassed, fired, or abused because of their sexual orientation. EQTN is assisting these LGBT persons with getting the necessary resources to assist with each particular incident.

Coming soon — a house party in your area! EQTN is in the process of planning additional house parties throughout Tennessee for the remainder of the year. More on

the speakers and locations as they are confirmed.

If you are interested in volunteering for any of these activities, contact the vice-chair in your region. You can access more information about EQTN and your area contact through the website at Equality TN Home Page or www.equalitytn.org.

The EQTN Mission is to pro-

mote the equality of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons by educating the citizens of Tennessee about LGBT life, history, social issues and civic responsibility. The promotion of equality is meant to include the elimination of prejudice and discrimination and the defense of human and civil rights.

MGLCC Plans Topic for April Town Hall Meeting

In January the board of directors of the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center agreed to schedule the Town Hall Meetings quarterly instead of monthly due to declining attendance.

The second one for the year is scheduled for Sun., Apr. 7, from 6-8 p.m.

The meeting will take place inside Friends For Life's Positive Living Center, which is located on the bottom floor of First Congregational Church, 1000 S. Cooper St.

This month's topic for discussion will be "HIV 101" presented by Daniel Cole, a member of the MGLCC board of directors and Friends For Life HIV/AIDS

educator.

You will have the opportunity to learn the basics of HIV education, including the ways you can and cannot "catch" HIV. There will be a proper usage condom usage demonstration, too.

You will also learn about a new way of being tested without the use of needles. Safer sex kits will be on hand, along with plenty of informational brochures.

Join the MGLCC for an information-filled and fun evening of condoms, dental dams and lubricants. If you would like more information or would like to speak to Daniel Cole before the meeting, feel free to call him at 832-1131.

Into The Light

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Alabama Judge

Continued from page 1

ment for sodomy and that's in the Code of Alabama. All I did was cite the law and they took a comment out of context. If we killed everybody that was committing sin, we'd all be dead, wouldn't we?"

Moore maintains he can still be fair toward gay people even though he doesn't approve of their lifestyle.

"A person is never biased by abiding by the law," Moore said. "The law in Alabama says that sodomy is against the law."

Moore is a former Etowah County circuit judge who was elected to the Supreme Court after posting a wooden plaque of the Ten Commandments in court and fighting opponents in court over the display.

Last year, he placed a washing machine-sized monument to the Ten Commandments in the rotunda of the Alabama Judicial Building as a testament to the "moral foundation" that American justice is based on.

On Mar. 21, a state judicial

panel dismissed a complaint against Moore. The Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund filed the complaint claiming Moore would be biased against homosexuals in his rulings.

Moore said he didn't do anything wrong in quoting the Bible in his argument against homosexuality.

"The United States Supreme Court quotes the Bible," Moore said. "I've got a series of cases back in the office where the United States Supreme Court quoted the Bible. Courts have forever quoted the Bible."

Belle Curves Plan Reunion Apr. 27

Flash back to the old Poplar Lounge during the mid-1990s. Chances are on the weekends you'd find a female acoustic duo singing there called The Belle Curves. Laura Hanley and Carol Plunk played a lot in Memphis and drew standing-room-only crowds. Hanley was the lead singer and bass player.

The duo broke up in November 1996 so that Hanley could move to Ohio and be a surrogate mother for my aunt and uncle and then go to law school. Carol Plunk still plays regularly in Memphis, and Laura Hanley is currently a lawyer in Houston.

Plunk and Hanley are planning a Belle Curves Reunion on Sat., Apr. 27. It will be at the *new* Poplar Lounge in Memphis. They packed the old Poplar Lounge every Thursday night for about three years. The old Poplar Lounge is now no more, and the new Poplar Lounge is (interestingly) the building where the Belle Curves held their final gig (the old "Changes" bar at 2586 Poplar).

"From what we were told, at our final gig, there was a line out the door that snaked around the block and that people were being turned away," Hanley said.

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MGLCC to Host Moving Yard Sale

The Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center has plans for a "Moving Yard Sale" thanks to the great mind of Butch Valentine.

Mark your calendars for Sat., Apr. 20, from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m.

A "Moving Yard Sale" is very similar to a regular yard sale except with movement. The movement comes in when you visit your first yard sale and receive a list of the other participating households.

MGLCC has plans for 10 to 15 participating yard sales in the Midtown area. All money raised at the multiple yard sales will directly benefit MGLCC, and therefore can be a tax-deduction for you!

After the yard sales, all the different hosts and their guests are invited to join MGLCC for a cook-out and pool party at the home of Herb Zeman, one of MGLCC's board of directors.

At the cook-out and pool party, we will tally all of the proceeds from the yard sales, and the house bringing in the highest amount will win a prize.

If you are interested in hosting one of the yard sales in your front yard or have items that you would like to donate to the "Moving Yard Sale," contact Angela at 268-4675 or cantsee3d@yahoo.com.

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Equality Tennessee Urges Fort Campbell's Military Officials to Implement Defense Dept. Anti-Harassment Action Plan

NASHVILLE — On Mar. 14, the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN), an independent military watchdog and legal aid group, released "Conduct Unbecoming," its 8th annual report on "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

As a result of the report's findings, the SLDN openly criticized the Pentagon and White House leaders by citing a record number of discharges and harassment complaints by gay and lesbian service members during 2001.

"The discharge and harassment numbers are an affront to liberty, unity and military readiness," said C. Dixon Osburn, executive director of SLDN. "As lesbian, gay and bisexual service members are fighting to protect our country from terrorism, they should not be denied

their freedom at home. Congress should repeal 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell.'"

Department of Defense figures revealed that the Pentagon fired a record 1,250 men and women in 2001 for being lesbian, gay or bisexual — the highest number of discharges since 1987, seven years prior to the implementation of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

The report finds that the discharges were mostly due to record high anti-gay harassment. According to the report, 1,075 anti-gay harassment incidents were cited in 2001, compared to 871 in 2000.

In July 2000, the Pentagon adopted the "Anti-Harassment Action Plan" which called for annual, rank-appropriate training for all personnel, among 12 other recom-

mendations aimed specifically at curbing harassment. The Action Plan was initiated in response to PFC Barry Winchell's murder at Fort Campbell in July 1999.

The report states that the Bush Administration has failed to implement the Action Plan, giving implicit approval for the continued harassment of gay, lesbian and bisexual service members.

The SLDN report finds that, despite Winchell's murder, Army officials have failed to implement changes in improving harassment of discharge numbers. In fact, the report documents a record 513 incidents of anti-gay harassment in the Army during the past year, the highest of any military branch.

The Army also took the lead over all other branches for anti-gay

discharges. In 2001, 616 men and women lost their jobs with the Army. Of those discharges, Fort Campbell totaled 222, more than any other Army installation, equaling 36 percent of all Army discharges.

"It is a sad thing for our country to know that brave young men and women based at Fort Campbell and now fighting in Afghanistan will face an increasingly hostile environment when they return to base," says Carter H. Witt, V., vice-chair for the Middle Tennessee region of Equality Tennessee.

"It is time for the command officials at Fort Campbell to implement the Action Plan to help prevent harassment in the military," Witt said.

"Until military officials are held accountable for harassment and until their jobs are on the line, lives will continue to be ruined," the SLDN report cautions.

"Sadly, it is reasonable to foresee that, as the current administration continues to do nothing and bury its head in the sand, there could be yet another anti-gay murder in our armed forces."

According to the report, the United States must join the rest of the industrialized western nations who have abandoned policies of discrimination. "[This policy] undercuts the very liberties and freedoms our military members fight to protect. It is time for discrimination in our nation's military to go," the report concludes.

Sen. Helms Says AIDS Comments Referred to Africa, Not U.S.

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Sen. Jesse Helms says a comment he made last month that he was ashamed about his inaction on the AIDS epidemic didn't mean he had altered his views on homosexuality or his belief that government spending on AIDS research is excessive compared to spending on other illnesses.

During a Christian conference in Washington in February, Helms (R-N.C.), said he was "so ashamed that I've done so little" and had been "too lax too long in doing something really significant about AIDS."

But on Mar. 6, Helms said those comments were focused on the epidemic in sub-Saharan Africa and didn't apply to domestic AIDS issues involving homosexuals.

"If it had extended to them, I would have said so. That conference was about AIDS in Africa," Helms said.

Helms pledged to work during his remaining months in the Senate to direct more attention and funding to the epidemic in sub-Saharan Africa, where more than 28 million people are infected with HIV or AIDS.

However, he said his views hadn't changed about U.S. funding priorities for medical research.

"We're taking so much money away from scientists looking into heart problems and other medical defects of humanity and dumping it into research on AIDS," he said.

Helms also remained highly critical of gay-rights activists, with whom he clashed repeatedly during the 1990s, and said he still disapproves of the "homosexual lifestyle."

"I don't have any idea on changing my views on that kind of activity, which is the primary cause of the doubling and redoubling of AIDS cases in the United States,"

Helms said.

February's conference on the Christian response to the worldwide problem of HIV and AIDS was organized by Samaritan's Purse, a relief organization led by the Rev. Franklin Graham, son of evangelist Billy Graham. Franklin Graham called for a worldwide

campaign against AIDS.

At the conference, Helms had said: "You can't avoid the seriousness of HIV/AIDS. Whether it be in Africa or in the United States, the treachery is the same. And the treachery is in ignoring it."

"It seemed too good to be true, and I guess it was," said Jacquelyn

Clymore, director for the Alliance of AIDS Services-Carolina in Raleigh. "His compassion for the people in Africa is commendable. It's too bad he doesn't have the same compassion for his own people."

An estimated 40 million people worldwide are infected with HIV or AIDS, according to the World Health Organization. Among them are 850,000 to 950,000 Americans, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

2xλ

2xLambda — a social/service organization for 20-29-year old GLBTs and their friends — meets every Monday.

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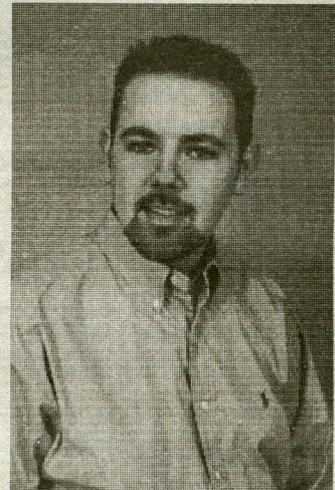
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Major Gay Study: 13 Percent Are Parents; 90 Percent Are "Out to Friends"; 50 Percent Are Partnered

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Almost 13 percent of respondents to a survey of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered households have children under the age of 18 living at home. The GLCensus Partners (www.glcensus.org) 2001 Gay/Lesbian Consumer Online Census reveals that more than three-quarters of those households with children were lesbian households (78.4%). U.S. Census data indicates 29 percent of all U.S. households have a child under 18 living at home.

The 2001 Gay/Lesbian Consumer Online Census, a GLCensus Partners study, is a joint partnership of OpusComm Group Inc., The S.I. Newhouse School at Syracuse University, and media/entertainment company GSociety Inc. It is the most in-depth study to date to explore the consumer patterns of

gay and lesbian people. Of 6,351 respondents, 92.4 percent are from the United States. The survey took nearly 40 minutes to complete on average.

Below are questions from three topic areas from the study: the presence of children, being "out" and gay and lesbian relationships.

Presence of Children

Q: Do you have children under the age of 18 living at home?

Almost 13 percent (12.9%) of respondents had children under the age of 18 living at home. More than three-quarters of these respondents were women (78%). Of all survey respondents, 10.1 percent of females said they have children under the age of 18 living at home while 2.9 percent of males have children under the age of 18 living

at home.

Of all female respondents, 22.7 percent have children under the age of 18 at home while 5.2 percent of male respondents have children.

When looking specifically at female respondents who identified as lesbian, gay or homosexual, there was not a significant difference in the gender of the children. There were, however, some differences in the gender of the children with men who identified as gay or homosexual. Children in female households were about evenly split male to female (49.1% to 50.9%), but children in male households were more likely to be male than female (60.7% boys compared to 39.3% girls).

Amy Falkner of Syracuse University is the lead researcher on the project and makes this observation, "Most commonly, gays and lesbians become parents through a previous heterosexual relationship/marriage or through adoption, artificial insemination or a surrogate. Obviously, the options are more limited for a single gay man or gay male couple, who therefore may need to rely on the adoption method more. Given a choice of gender for their child, they may feel better suited to raising a boy than a girl. Also, for most foreign adoptions, if a person applies as a single parent or if the applicants are a same-sex couple, then the adopted child must be of the same gender."

Of those respondents who said they did not have children under the age of 18 living at home, 1.8 percent said they were a parent of a child under the age of 18 and had joint custody; 1.5 percent said they were a parent of a child under the age of 18 but did not have custody.

Being "Out"

Q: Are you out to your immediate family, friends and/or at work?

Being out to friends was most prevalent with more than 9 out of 10 respondents (91.7%) saying their friends know they are gay. 78.1 percent were out to family members with 64.4 percent out at work. Less than five percent of the respondents were not out (4.8%) at all.

When considering age, the 25-34 year-olds were out to friends in the greatest percentage (93.1%). All groups were near the 9 out of 10 level. The 65+ age group was at the low end of the spectrum, with 87.5% being out to friends.

Nearly eight out of 10 respondents age 25-54 were out to family members. The percentages were lower for 55-64 (74.6%), 18-24 (69.8%) and 65+ (60.4%). The younger and older age groups were also less likely to be out at work with 52.1 percent of 18-24 year-olds out at work compared to 35.4

percent of the 65+ group. In all other age brackets, at least six out of 10 respondents said they were out at work, with nearly seven out of 10 35-44 year-olds (69.1%) saying they were out at work.

GLCensus founder Jeffrey Garber, president of OpusComm Group, offers this explanation, "Most respondents were comfortable being out to friends, but there were age differences when it came to being out to family and at work. Generally, the youngest and oldest age groups were less likely to divulge this information, particularly in the workplace. The youngest workers may still be struggling with their identity and just starting their careers while for the 55+ group, this may be a generational decision. For all groups, being out at work may vary by geography. It is still legal in 39 states to fire people based on their sexual orientation. No federal law protects lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgendered workers from discrimination on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity."

Relationship Status, Living Arrangements and Length of Relationship

Q: What (item) most accurately describes your current same-sex relationship status?

Depending on answer above, respondents received one of the following questions: Q: What is your present living arrangement? Q: Do you and your partner live in the same residence?

The 2001 Gay/Lesbian Consumer Online Census reveals that more than half of the respondents are living in a committed relationship. "Gay men, especially, have long had the reputation for being lone wolves, moving from partner to partner in short-term relationships," Garber said. "Our study shows this is not necessarily the case."

More than half of respondents were in a committed relationship with 49 percent saying they were partnered and 3 percent stating they had a civil union ceremony or were married. (Same-sex marriage was allowed in the Netherlands at the time of the survey.) Of those respondents who were in a committed relationship, 82.5 percent lived in the same residence.

28.1 percent of respondents considered themselves single versus 17.2 percent who said they were single and dating. Of those respondents who said they were single or single and dating, 53.1 percent lived alone while 18.0 percent shared a residence with a member of the same sex; 15.7 percent lived with their parents.

Relationship status varied by gender. Female respondents were more likely to be in partnerships (56.4% of women versus 43% of men) or to have had a civil union or same-sex marriage ceremony (5% of women compared to 1.5% of men). A third of male respondents (33.2%) said they were single while nearly a fifth (19.9%) said they were single and dating.

Of males who identified themselves as gay or homosexual, 44.2 percent said they were in a partnership, 32.6 percent were single and 19.8 percent were single and dating. Of women who identified themselves as lesbian, gay or homosexual, 59.7 percent said they were in a partnership, 20.8 percent were single and 13.1 percent were single and dating.

Of bisexual males (n=153), 22.2 percent said they were in a partnership while 62.7 percent were either single or single and dating. For bisexual women (n=268), 34.7 percent said they were in a partnership and 47.8 percent said they were either single or single and dating. The bases for transgendered (15 for men and 33 for women) were very small.

Garber adds, "Gay characters on TV are more prevalent than before, although they often aren't shown as being in committed relationships, so this information may be a bit of a surprise to some people. Committed relationships makes boring television, but it's the reality in about half of our respondents' households."

Q: What is the length of your current relationship? Q: Have you and your partner had a commitment ceremony?

Of those respondents who said they were in a partnership, 32.9 percent said they had been together 1-3 years and 26 percent had been together 4-7 years. 15.6 percent had been together less than a year, while at the other end of the spectrum, 13.7 percent had been together a dozen years or more.

Of those respondents who said they were in a partnership, there were gender differences. Nearly a third of men in the study were in relationships of at least eight years (32.2%) compared to a fifth (19.2%) of women. Conversely, 80.7 percent of women were in relationships of seven years or less compared to 67.7 percent of men.

Of those in a relationship, 18.1 percent said they had a commitment ceremony, civil union or marriage. Of these 595 couples, the majority (58%) were lesbians, followed by gay men (32.4%), bisexuals (6.6%), transgendered (1.7%) homosexual (.7%) and other self label (.7%). When looking at gender and commitment ceremony participation, 68.3 percent were women; 31.7 percent were men.

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interpolates the data to represent, "A factor in the length of relationship question may be the age distribution of the respondent base. Proportionately, there are more 18-24 year old women in the female base than there are 18-24-year-old men in the male base (19% of women compared to 14.7% of men). Conversely, there is a slightly older skew to the male base (21.3% of male base is age 45+ while 16.6% of the female base is 45+)."

"These numbers significantly change the perception of the average gay or lesbian person," said Cary Gilbert, vice president of GSociety (a gay/lesbian media-based company and partner of the GLCensus study). "The stigma of being gay has been enormously lessened in the United States over the past three decades and gays and lesbians are more open about who they really are, as evidenced by the percentages of people who are 'out'. America may find the profile different than they had anticipated."

Methodology

"2001 Gay/Lesbian Consumer Online Census" A Syracuse University, OpusComm Group,

GSociety Study -2001 © http://www.glcensus.org

The 2001 Gay/Lesbian Consumer Online Census was fielded over the period July 9-August 20, 2001. Survey respondents were recruited through a publicity campaign utilizing both Internet and print media placements, and word of mouth referrals were encouraged. The target population was adults aged 18+ who self-identify as either gay, lesbian, homosexual, bisexual or transgendered and participated in a 40-minute online study.

Entire Survey

Summary: Base for the entire survey is 6,351 respondents. Of those who identified a gender, 3,482 were male (54.8%) and 2,803 were female (44.1%); 1 percent chose not to identify a gender. Respondents ranged in age from 18 to 80 and the median age of the respondent base was 35. Most respondents were U.S.-based (5,869 respondents or 92.4% of base). Canada had the next highest participation level with 194 respondents (3.1%). Overall, there was participation from 51 countries.

Who Conducted the Survey?

GLCensus Partners (www.glcensus.org): "The World's leader in GLBT Consumer Research"

The S.I. Newhouse School at Syracuse University (www.syracuse.edu): One of the world's leading academic and research institutions in the field of communications.

OpusComm Group, Inc. (www.opuscommgroup.com): Innovative advertising, marketing, communication and public relations experts on the gay/lesbian market.

GSociety, Inc. (www.glsociety.com): A media/entertainment company whose reach and distribution channels target the millions of gay and lesbian consumers worldwide.

Full highlights of this study on income, politics, consumer behavior, media habits, relationships and other findings are available at www.glcensus.org

For further information contact Jeffrey Garber, president, OpusComm Group, at (315) 422-6250 or jeff@opuscommgroup.com.



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ACLU Seeks Repeal of Florida Law Banning Adoption by Gays

By Alex Veiga
Associated Press Writer

MIAMI (AP) — Opponents of Florida's ban on adoption by gays and lesbians are urging lawmakers to repeal the measure, citing the support of thousands of state residents.

The American Civil Liberties Union launched a national campaign to repeal the 25-year-old law to coincide with an ABC *Primetime Thursday* segment featuring talk show host Rosie O'Donnell. In it, the actress, who has a Miami vacation home, identified herself as a gay parent op-

posed to the Florida law.

"People need to be judged on their individual fitness as to whether or not they can be adoptive parents," said Matt Coles, national director of the ACLU's Lesbian and Gay Rights Project. "This law is going to come down."

Florida is the only state that prohibits gay people, both couples and individuals, from adopting. It doesn't bar gays from being foster parents. Two other states, Mississippi and Utah, bar same-sex couples from adopting.

A federal judge upheld the ban on gay adoption last year, but

civil liberties groups are appealing to the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta.

Opponents of gay adoption say children are best served when raised by a man and a woman.

Ken Connor, president of the Family Research Council, a Washington-based public policy group, said children who grow up in gay households miss out on the male-female relationships found in heterosexual unions.

"We oppose adoption by homosexuals because it trivializes the contribution that each gender ... makes to the development of

their children," Connor said. "These roles are important to the healthy growth and development (and) maturation of a child."

As part of its effort to overturn the ban, the ACLU has begun an e-mail campaign directed at Gov. Jeb Bush and the state's adoption agency urging the law's repeal. Coles says it has generated 80,000 messages, including about 10,000 from Florida.

Lisa Gates, a spokeswoman for Bush, disputed those figures, saying that the governor's office had received 3,821 e-mails from Florida residents in support of re-

pealing the law. Another 39,997 non-Floridians also wrote in, Gates said.

Bush's office wouldn't disclose his view on the law, referring all questions to the Department of Children and Families. Department spokeswoman LaNedra Carroll, who said the agency is simply doing its job when it refuses to let gay people adopt.

"We have to follow the law, we must comply with the law, which has been upheld by the federal courts and is now on appeal," Carroll said.

Rosie

Continued from page 1

Rosie O'Donnell made national news in her exclusive ABC News interview with Diane Sawyer by speaking up for adoption by gay parents and revealing that she, herself, is a lesbian parent. O'Donnell is a celebrated television figure, actress and publisher of her own trademark magazine targeted to American women. In addition, she is well known for her commercial endorsements and commitment to social and philanthropic causes.

Wesley Combs, president of Witeck-Combs Communications, said, "Rosie O'Donnell may be one of America's most beloved figures who provides an excellent snapshot that aids in understanding the perceptions and the risks of the mar-

ketplace for openly gay celebrities. In general, we find that younger adults and women state a higher degree of acceptance and generally favorable impressions — all critical to Rosie O'Donnell's continued strength in the market."

Combs concluded, "What is most compelling are the overwhelming numbers who say Rosie's public disclosure of her sexual orientation has not really affected their opinion, or their consideration to purchase the products she endorses."

"Not surprisingly, nearly four out of 10 (37%) self-identified gays and lesbians say the disclosure has improved their opinion of the popular television talk show host," stated David Krane, senior vice president, Harris Interactive. "In addition, 5 percent of all heterosexual Americans concur that they

have more favorable views, while 19 percent of heterosexuals said the disclosure has worsened their opinion of Rosie."

Seventy-six percent (76%) of women ages 35 to 44 indicate they hold a favorable impression of her, while only 24 percent said they had an unfavorable opinion. A substantial majority (84%) also said they had seen, heard or read about Rosie O'Donnell's disclosure, while 15 percent said they had not.

Harris Interactive Harris Interactive (Nasdaq: HPOL) is a worldwide market research and consulting firm, best known for The Harris Poll and its pioneering use of the Internet to conduct scientifically accurate market research.

Strengthened by its recent merger with Total Research Corporation, the company now com-

bines the power of technology with international expertise in predictive, custom, strategic research.

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For more information about Harris Interactive, visit www.harrisinteractive.com. To become a member of the Harris Poll Online, and be invited to participate in future online surveys, register at www.harrispollonline.com.

Witeck-Combs Communica-

tions, Inc. (www.witeck-combs.com) is one of the nation's premier strategic marketing communications firm, specializing in reaching the gay and lesbian consumer market. With more than nine years experience in this unique market, Witeck-Combs Communications has developed respected relationships throughout the community and serves as a bridge between corporate America and gay and lesbian consumers.

The Gay Financial Network (gfn.com) has twice identified Bob Witeck and Wesley Combs as two of the nation's twenty-five most influential openly gay business executives.

Five Egyptian Gays Sentenced to Three Years With Hard Labor

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — Five Egyptian men were sentenced to three years in prison with hard labor for engaging in gay sex, judicial officials said.

The men had pleaded guilty to debauchery and running a house for gay sex parties. The Nile Delta Misdemeanor Court handed down their sentence, which also includes three years of probation.

Islam prohibits homosexuality and, although not explicitly referred to in the Egyptian penal code, a wide range of laws covering obscenity, prostitution and debauchery are applied to homosexuals.

Gay cases have shocked conservative Egypt, while prompting in-

ternational attention and support from gay rights activists.

Last year in Cairo, 52 men were tried by an Emergency State Security Court on charges of immoral behavior and contempt of religion after police raided a Nile boat restaurant and accused them of taking part in a gay sex party. Twenty-three were convicted and sentenced to up to five years in prison. The rest were acquitted.

The identities of those convicted Monday were not revealed.

Officials said the group included two government employees who used to invite gay youth to their house in Damanhur, about 90 miles northwest of Cairo, for sex parties.

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St. Patrick's Day Parades Go Red, White, Blue; Key West Bucks Trend in Favor of Pink

By Verena Dobnik
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — St. Patrick's Day celebrations unfolded across the United States, led by the nation's oldest and largest parade which paused for a silent moment to honor the dead in a city healing from terrorism.

As bagpipers played the last chords of "God Bless America," thousands of marchers and hundreds of thousands of spectators along Fifth Avenue on Mar. 16 faced south in silence toward where the World Trade Center towers had stood.

"Many of those who were lost on Sept. 11 would otherwise be marching proudly. We know their spirit marches with us," said Ireland's President Mary McAleese, who joined the New York parade for the first time.

The parade, like others across the country, was filled with small, poignant tributes to the victims, but it also carried the usual sprightly twists of Irish humor.

President George W. Bush marched with politicians and firefighters in Chicago, a city so Irish it dyes the Chicago River green for the occasion.

"People are generally good and fun-loving and they need little reason to show it — this day has a lot of tradition about being a

happy day," said Steve Healey, 33, an engineer who ran in a pre-parade race in Rochester, New York, carrying an Irish flag.

Despite its reputation for treating the day as a beer bash, Savannah, Ga., celebrated by playing up patriotism and toning down the shenanigans. The biggest cheers were reserved for marchers wearing camouflage and police blues.

"We heard St. Patrick's Day is over the top down here, and we've had an unbelievable reception from people," said New York police officer Jack Bishop, pausing for photos and lipstick-smudged kisses from women rushing out of the crowd.

Parade organizers in Wenatchee, Wash., counted on keeping tradition alive with a no-show from their invited grand marshal — Kenneth Lay, former chairman of the failed energy trading giant Enron Corp.

It's a standing joke of the Loyal Order of Hibernians there to choose a national newsmaker who is unlikely to appear. Past no-shows include White House intern Monica Lewinsky and Filipino dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

In a shot at the New York City Hibernians' refusal to allow gays to march in the Manhattan parade, Key West, Fla., bucked the traditional St. Patrick's Day green in favor of "the wearing of the pink." An esti-

mated 300 to 400 people in pink beads and fedoras were expected for its "Pink Paddy Celebration."

Gays in New York held a small protest during the parade there.

In previous years, the controversy has dogged New York politicians who traditionally join the parade. This year, another controversy emerged over how best to honor firefighters. Parade organizers decided against letting a fire engine lead the parade, but agreed to honor the victims with the moment of silence.

By the time the "Fighting 69th" regiment of the New York National Guard took its post at the front of the parade, the controversy had receded to the background.

Among those joining McAleese and Mayor Mike Bloomberg were Sen. Hillary Clinton and former Mayor Rudolph Giuliani. Giuliani spoke of the Irish Americans among the firefighters and police officers lost in the Sept. 11 attacks.

"On that horrific day when special sacrifices were asked of people, nobody exceeded the Irish," he said.

In Boston, where 23 percent of residents report Irish ancestry — the highest percentage in the nation according to the census — the big parade was scheduled on St. Patrick's Day.

"It's important to get out and celebrate," said Terra Larkin, who marched in a parade in Denver, "to know that life will go on."

Military Has Highest Gay Dismissal Rate Since 1987, Report Says

By Nancy Zuckerbrod
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of people kicked out of the military for homosexuality rose last year to the highest total since 1987, military figures show.

About one-sixth were from a Kentucky Army post where a soldier thought to be gay was beaten to death in 1999.

The military dismissed 1,250 people last year for homosexual conduct or for stating their homosexuality, up from 1,241 in 2000, according to figures provided by the service branches to the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, an advocacy group.

Reports of anti-gay harassment increased 23 percent, from 871 in 2000 to 1,075 last year, the organization said in its annual report on the Pentagon's "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

The policy, which went into effect in 1994, allows gay men and lesbians to serve as long as they keep their sexual orientation private and do not engage in homosexual acts.

"This policy undercuts the very liberties and freedoms our military members fight to protect," the organization said. It contended the Pentagon allows an anti-gay atmosphere to pervade its ranks by failing to hold commanders accountable when harassment is reported.

A Pentagon inspector general's report issued in 2000 said anti-gay behavior was common. The Pentagon subsequently announced it was stepping up training to try to eliminate anti-gay harassment and educate personnel about the policy, but C. Dixon Osburn, the advocacy group's executive director, said the military has made few changes.

"When a problem continues to fester,

things get worse," he said.

Lt. Col. James Cassella, a spokesman for the Defense Department, said the Pentagon is conducting a survey to get a better handle on anti-gay harassment. Meanwhile, he said, "We expect commanders at all levels to exercise good judgment in implementing the policy in a manner that is both fair and consistent."

The Army led all branches in discharges with 616, up from 573 the previous year. Of those, 222 came from Fort Campbell, Ky. It was the second consecutive year in which that post had more discharges than any other facility.

It was at that post in 1999 that Pfc. Barry Winchell, 21, was bludgeoned to death by a fellow Fort Campbell soldier who believed Winchell was gay.

The report credits Maj. Gen. Richard A. Cody, who took over Fort Campbell in June 2000, with working to eliminate anti-gay harassment. But the report said other Fort Campbell officers "perpetuate anti-gay attitudes within their units by tolerating hateful anti-gay remarks."

Master Sgt. Kelly Tyler, a Fort Campbell spokeswoman, said soldiers on the post are required to attend sensitivity classes. "I think Fort Campbell puts a special emphasis on it," Tyler said.

The Navy followed the Army in number of gay discharges last year with 314, down from 358 in 2000. The Air Force was next with 191, up from 177, and the Marine Corps totaled 115, one more than in 2000.

The Coast Guard, which is not part of the Defense Department but also abides by the "don't ask, don't tell" policy, reported 14 discharges, down from 19 the previous year.



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Burgeoning Gay and Lesbian Population Challenges School Officials

By Mel Melendez
The Arizona Republic

PHOENIX (AP) — Liz Skaggs is only 17. But she has already spent four years shouldering insults from Gilbert High schoolmates, who yelled "lesbo" and obscene slurs while hurling drinks and garbage at her from school buses and cars.

Her family has been supportive since Skaggs came out as a lesbian at 14. Some of her classmates haven't been as lucky, she said.

One gay friend dropped out of school after being picked on and chased daily around the school parking lot by school bullies. Another gay schoolmate with a troubled home life attempted suicide, she said.

"He had to almost die for his mom to say 'I'd rather have a gay son than a dead one,'" Skaggs said, pushing back a blond lock of hair. "Why does it have to be that way? Why can't parents just accept their

kids for who they are?"

It's a question more parents now struggle with as a growing number of gays and lesbians opt to come out of the closet while in their teens. The trend is forcing school districts to grapple with the challenges of serving this burgeoning population of students. Studies show gay and lesbian students often face bias at schools that can contribute to higher absenteeism, soaring dropout rates and even suicide.

"Kids are coming out a lot earlier these days because being gay is more accepted in society now," said Steve Kanner, a guidance counselor at Hamilton High School in Chandler. "But many still feel very isolated." A recent study conducted by the University of North Carolina estimates that 5 to 6 percent of students 17 or younger are gay, lesbian or bisexual.

"That means that more than two million students fall into this category, when compared to census data," said Penny Kotterman, presi-

dent of the Arizona Education Association and head of the National Education Association's Task Force on Sexual Orientation.

The task force reviewed various gay youth studies, including a 1989 study by the U.S. Department of Health that showed gay teens are two to three times more likely to attempt suicide than straight kids.

Based on its findings, the task force will encourage association members to help create safe school environments and to assist in strengthening the laws that prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identification, Kotterman said.

"Anything with the word

'sexual' in it is always a hot button issue," she said. "And it shouldn't be. We're talking about saving children's lives."

"Hatred in the Hallways," a 2001 Human Rights Watch report, details how gay students face obscene language and graffiti, unwelcome sexual advances, mock rapes and physical attacks.

Overwhelmingly, gay students turn to Gay-Straight Alliances (GSAs), said Skaggs' mother, Amy Culver, president of PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) Phoenix.

School districts often fight GSAs because they view them as advocacy groups, said Joyce

Laffel, senior counselor at Chandler High School and adviser to the school's 8-year-old Gay, Lesbian and Straight Supporters group.

More school districts — including Chandler Unified and Scottsdale Unified — now include sexual orientation in their anti-harassment policies, because of the number of lawsuits filed by gay students, said Jill Harter, a Gilbert High guidance counselor and GLASS facilitator.

Recently, a Pennsylvania court awarded 19-year-old Timothy Dahle \$312,000 to compensate for anti-gay abuse supposedly faced at school. "They (school districts) know they need to protect these kids or it could cost them," Harter said.

Bishop: Catholic Parents of Gays Must Follow Their Conscience

By Dylan T. Lovan
Associated Press Writer

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — An outspoken Detroit bishop said Catholic parents must understand that there is nothing wrong with their homosexual child, despite church teachings that say the contrary.

Bishop Thomas Gumbleton, an auxiliary bishop who has long preached for the Catholic Church to accept gays, said that parents should look to their conscience for philosophical answers.

"We must follow a conscience that (sometimes) takes us away from the teachings of the church," said Gumbleton, who in 1994 became the first high-ranking Catho-

lic clergyman to speak out against the Vatican's teaching on homosexuals.

His speech came on the first day of a weekend conference addressing gay and lesbian issues and the Catholic Church. The Vatican issued a denunciation of the gathering, which is sponsored by Maryland-based New Ways Ministry.

The church teaches that God intends sex to be expressed only in heterosexual marriage.

Gumbleton told a gathering of parents of gay and lesbian children that though the church is opposed to a homosexual lifestyle, gays and lesbians "can love God and be loved by God in the same way" as heterosexuals.

Gumbleton pointed to Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia's statement that Catholic judges who follow their church's teaching that capital punishment is wrong should resign. He said Scalia, a Roman Catholic, is making a decision of conscience, despite the church's anti-death penalty stance.

New Ways plans to issue a 12-point document outlining the need for more dialogue and education on homosexuality in all aspects of the church, spokesman Frank DeBernardo said.

After Gumbleton's speech, some parents at the conference admitted they felt inner turmoil when they learned their child was gay.

"I was devastated," said Jerry Black, whose daughter, Meg, told him she was a lesbian about seven years ago. "I was always taught that it's not normal."

Black said he reacted to the news the way the church had taught him to: by telling his daughter he loved her but he didn't agree with her lifestyle.

Gumbleton, whose interest in gay issues was sparked after learning his brother was homosexual, said it's exactly those teachings that must be re-examined.

"We have to find the truth that's being spoken inside the scripture; you can't always take it literally, but you can't disregard it," he said.

It was easier for Marilyn Cass, whose son, Todd, came out to her in a tiny, handwritten note 18 years ago.

"Mostly, I was scared for him," said Cass. She said she feared AIDS and that he wouldn't be accepted as a gay man. But she said she never thought of her son as a sinner.

"Eighteen years ago, we didn't have TV sitcoms and newspaper articles like we do now," Cass said. She said she has started a support group for parents of gay children at her church.

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A Handy 4-Page Pull-Out
Reference to Bars, Restaurants and
Other Mid-South Resources

Out & About

The Triangle Journal Calendar of Events APRIL 2002

Friday, March 29

Good Friday

- First Congo Films - First Congregational Church - (901) 278-6786 - 7pm & 9:30pm
- Pool Tournament - Crossroads - 8pm
- Drag Show - J-Wag's - 3:30am

Saturday, March 30

- Camp Fire USA - First Congregational Church - (901) 327-0438 or CampFireMemphis@yahoo.com - 10am
- Congo Conga - Ballroom Dancing - First Congregational Church - (901) 278-6786 - 3pm & 4pm
- Drag Show - J-Wag's - 3:30am

Sunday, March 31

Easter

- Holy Trinity Community Church - Early Worship, Adult Study, and Holy Communion & Children's Church - (901) 320-9376 - 9am, 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) 276-0577 - 10am and 6pm
- Safe Harbor MCC - Worship Service - (901) 458-0501 - 10:30am

- All You Can Eat Dim Sum - Lilly's Asian Bistro - 903 South Cooper - (901) 276-9300 - 12noon
- Brothers & Sisters Bowling - Cordova Lanes - (901) 458-6312 - MemphisGayBowlin@aol.com - 6pm
- Sissy Bingo hosted by Ida Claire - Memphis Muddy Waters - 6pm
- Sissy Bingo - Crossroads - 8pm
- Queer As Folk - Metro Memphis - 9pm
- Lights Out, Everything Goes - J-Wag's - 10pm
- Karaoke - Backstreet - 10pm

Monday, April 1

April Fool's Day

- Feast for Friends - Sponsored by Friends For Life - St. John's United Methodist Church - (901) 272-0855 - 6pm
- Jackson Lambda Support Group - Jackson, TN - Davis-Kidd Conference Room - 6pm
- Karaoke Night - Metro - 6pm
- 2xLambda - A social group for 20-29 year old GLBTs - (901) 223-3331 - 7:30pm
- Pool Tournament - The Jungle - 7:30pm
- Karaoke Night - Backstreet - 8pm
- Ab Fab - The Pumping Station - 8pm
- Undie Monday - J-Wag's - 10pm

Tuesday, April 2

- Karaoke Night - Metro - 6pm

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- Lesbians with Breast Cancer - Support Group - YWCA (766 South Highland) - 7pm
- Pool Tournament - J-Wag's - 7pm
- Dart Tournament - Crossroads - 7:45pm
- BGALA - University of Memphis - 8pm
- Karaoke Night - J-Wag's - 10pm

Wednesday, April 3

- Taizé - First Congregational Church - (901) 278-6786 - 6pm
- Fellowship Dinner & Christian Life Study and Discussion - Prescott Church - (901) 327-8479 - 6pm & 6:45
- Fellowship Supper and Informal Discussion - Holy Trinity Community Church - (901) 320-9376 - 6:30pm
- Worship Service - Living Word Christian Church - (901) 276-0577 - 7pm
- Dart Tournament - The Jungle - 7:30pm
- Midtown Round-Up - Country Dance Night - Crossroads - 8pm
- Tops Off Night - J-Wag's - 10pm

Thursday, April 4

- PFLAG - Prescott Church - (901) 761-1444 - 7pm
- Bible Study - Safe Harbor MCC - (901) 458-0501 - 7pm
- Cotton Pickin' Squares - Prescott Church - 7pm
- Congo Conga - Ballroom Dance Reinforcement Class - First Congregational Church - (901) 278-6786 - 7pm
- Friends and Will & Grace - Metro - 7pm
- Star Karaoke - Crossroads - 10pm
- Queer As Folk - J-Wag's - 11pm

Friday, April 5

- Catholic Mass with Special Invitation to GLBTs - St. Patrick's Cathedral - 7pm
- First Congo Films - First Congregational Church - (901) 278-6786 - 7pm & 9:30pm
- 3rd Annual Take Back the Night 5K Run/Walk to End Sexual Violence - www.racesonline/takebackthenight.com or (901) 272-2020 - 7:30pm
- Pool Tournament - Crossroads - 8pm
- Drag Show - J-Wag's - 3:30am

Saturday, April 6

- Camp Fire USA - First Congregational Church - (901) 327-0438 or CampFireMemphis@yahoo.com - 10am
- First Saturday Club - First Congregational Church - (901) 278-6786 - 2pm
- Congo Conga - Ballroom Dancing - First Congregational Church - (901) 278-6786 - 4pm
- Memphis Maulers Independent Women's Football League - Home Game - Oakhaven High School - www.MemphisMaulers.com or (901) 219-4470 - 6pm
- Drag Show - J-Wag's - 3:30am

Sunday, April 7

Daylight Savings Time Begins

- Holy Trinity Community Church - Early Worship, Adult Study, and Holy Communion & Children's Church - (901) 320-9376 - 9am, 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) 276-0577 - 10am and 6pm
- Safe Harbor MCC - Worship Service - (901) 458-0501 - 10:30am
- All You Can Eat Dim Sum - Lilly's Asian Bistro - 903 South Cooper - (901) 276-9300 - 12noon
- MGLCC Town Hall Meeting - Positive Living Center (inside First Congregational) - Topic: HIV 101 - (901) 324-4297 - 6pm
- Brothers & Sisters Bowling - Cordova Lanes - (901) 458-6312 - MemphisGayBowlin@aol.com - 6pm
- Sissy Bingo hosted by Ida Claire - Memphis Muddy Waters - 6pm
- Sissy Bingo - Crossroads - 8pm
- Queer As Folk - Metro - 9pm
- Lights Out, Everything Goes - J-Wag's - 10pm
- Karaoke - Backstreet - 10pm

Monday, April 8

- Karaoke Night - Metro - 6pm
- 2xLambda - A social group for 20-29 year old GLBTs - (901) 223-3331 - 7:30pm
- Pool Tournament - The Jungle - 7:30pm
- Karaoke Night - Backstreet - 8pm
- Ab Fab - The Pumping Station - 8pm

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Sunday: 9:00 &
11:00 a.m.
Wed.: 7:00 p.m.

Holy Trinity Community Church

•Undie Monday - J-Wag's - 10pm

Tuesday, April 9

- Karaoke Night - Metro - 6pm
- Lambda Circle - First Congregational Church - (901) 278-6786 - 6:30pm
- Lesbians with Breast Cancer - Support Group - YWCA (766 South Highland) - 7pm
- Pool Tournament - J-Wag's - 7pm
- Dart Tournament - Crossroads - 7:45pm
- BGALA - University of Memphis - 8pm
- Karaoke Night - J-Wag's - 10pm

Wednesday, April 10

- Taizé - First Congregational Church - (901) 278-6786 - 6pm
- Fellowship Dinner & Christian Life Study and Discussion - Prescott Church - (901) 327-8479 - 6pm & 6:45
- Fellowship Supper and Informal Discussion - Holy Trinity Community Church - (901) 320-9376 - 6:30pm
- Worship Service - Living Word Christian Church - (901) 276-0577 - 7pm
- Dart Tournament - The Jungle - 7:30pm
- Midtown Round-Up - Country Dance Night - Crossroads - 8pm
- Tops Off Night - J-Wag's - 10pm

Thursday, April 11

- Parents Together - Support Group for GLBT Parents - Holy Trinity Community Church - (901) 320-9376 - 7pm
- Bible Study - Safe Harbor MCC - (901) 458-0501 - 7pm
- Cotton Pickin' Squares - Prescott Church - 7pm
- Congo Conga - Ballroom Dance Reinforcement Class - First Congregational Church - (901) 278-6786 - 7pm
- Friends and Will & Grace - Metro - 7pm
- Star Karaoke - Crossroads - 10pm
- Queer As Folk - J-Wag's - 11pm

Friday, April 12

- First Congo Films - First Congregational Church - (901) 278-6786 - 7pm & 9:30pm
- Pool Tournament - Crossroads - 8pm
- Drag Show - J-Wag's - 3:30am

Saturday, April 13

- Camp Fire USA - First Congregational Church - (901) 327-0438 or CampFireMemphis@yahoo.com - 10am
- Mississippi Pride 2002 - Smith Park (Downtown Jackson, MS) - (601) 6507316 or MississippiPride-Owner@yahoogroups.com - 1pm
- Congo Conga - Ballroom Dancing - First Congregational Church - (901) 278-6786 - 4pm
- Memphis Maulers Independent Women's Football League - Home Game - Oakhaven High School - www.MemphisMaulers.com or (901) 219-4470 - 6pm
- Memphis Bears Club Night - The Pumping Station - 10pm
- Drag Show - J-Wag's - 3:30am

Sunday, April 14

- Holy Trinity Community Church - Early Worship, Adult Study, and Holy Communion & Children's Church - (901) 320-9376 - 9am, 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) 276-0577 - 10am and 6pm
- Safe Harbor MCC - Worship Service - (901) 458-0501 - 10:30am
- All You Can Eat Dim Sum - Lilly's Asian Bistro - 903 South Cooper - (901) 276-9300 - 12noon
- Memphis Pride Annual Spring Picnic - Overton Park (Near the Doughboy Statue) - 1pm
- Brothers & Sisters Bowling - Cordova Lanes - (901) 458-6312 - MemphisGayBowlin@aol.com - 6pm
- Sissy Bingo hosted by Ida Claire - Memphis Muddy Waters - 6pm
- Sissy Bingo - Crossroads - 8pm
- Queer As Folk - Metro Memphis - 9pm
- Lights Out, Everything Goes - J-Wag's - 10pm
- Karaoke - Backstreet - 10pm

Monday, April 15

Tax Day - Your taxes are due today at midnight! Ad & Copy Deadline for the May 2002 TJN

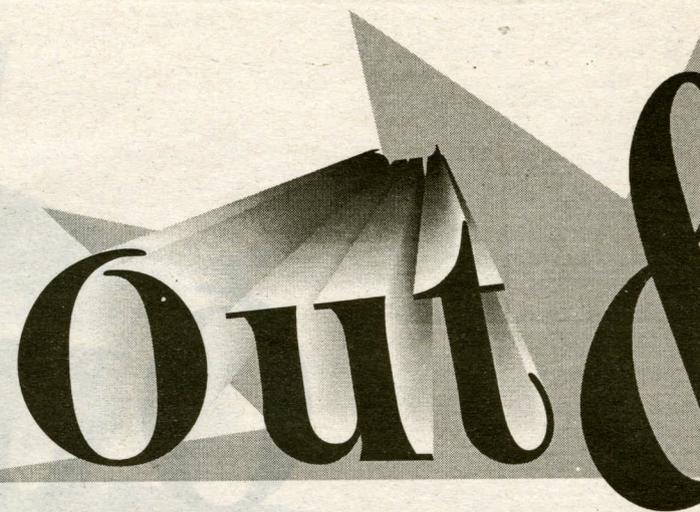
- Feast for Friends - Sponsored by Friends For Life - St. John's United Methodist Church - (901) 272-0855 - 6pm
- Karaoke Night - Metro - 6pm
- 2xLambda - A social group for 20-29 year old GLBTs - (901) 223-3331 - 7:30pm
- Pool Tournament - The Jungle - 7:30pm
- Karaoke Night - Backstreet - 8pm
- Ab Fab - The Pumping Station - 8pm
- Undie Monday - J-Wag's - 10pm

Tuesday, April 16

- AIDS Consortium Meeting - United Way Building (Union Avenue) - 11:30am
- Karaoke Night - Metro - 6pm
- Integrity Worship, Dinner, and Program - \$5 - Calvary Episcopal Church - (901) 278-8915 or (901) 374-9484 - 6:30pm, 7pm, and 7:45pm
- Lesbians with Breast Cancer - Support Group - YWCA (766 South Highland) - 7pm
- Pool Tournament - J-Wag's - 7pm
- Dart Tournament - Crossroads - 7:45pm
- BGALA - University of Memphis - 8pm
- Karaoke Night - J-Wag's - 10pm

Wednesday, April 17

- Taizé - First Congregational Church - (901) 278-6786 - 6pm
- Fellowship Dinner & Christian Life Study and Discussion - Prescott Church - (901) 327-8479 - 6pm & 6:45
- Fellowship Supper and Informal Discussion - Holy Trinity Community Church - (901) 320-9376 - 6:30pm
- Worship Service - Living Word Christian Church - (901) 276-0577 - 7pm
- HIV/AIDS Support Group - Jonesboro - 7pm



The Triangle Journal

Welcome to the *Triangle Journal News* Calendar. We try to provide as many upcoming events in the GLBT community as possible. If you would like to add your event or need to update an existing event, please e-mail our Calendar Editor, Angela Lamb, at cantsee3d@yahoo.com Thank You.

- Dart Tournament - The Jungle - 7:30pm
- Midtown Round-Up - Country Dance Night - Crossroads - 8pm
- Tops Off Night - J-Wag's - 10pm

Thursday, April 18

- Bible Study - Safe Harbor MCC - (901) 458-0501 - 7pm
- Cotton Pickin' Squares - Prescott Church - 7pm
- Congo Conga - Ballroom Dance Reinforcement Class - First Congregational Church - (901) 278-6786 - 7pm
- Friends and Will & Grace - Metro - 7pm
- MGLCC Potluck Dinner - (901) 324-4297 or www.MemphisGayWeb.org - 7:30pm
- Star Karaoke - Crossroads - 10pm
- Queer As Folk - J-Wag's - 11pm

Friday, April 19

- First Congo Films - First Congregational Church - (901) 278-6786 - 7pm & 9:30pm
- Pool Tournament - Crossroads - 8pm
- Drag Show - J-Wag's - 3:30am

Saturday, April 20

- MGLCC Moving Yard Sale - www.MemphisGayWeb.org or (901) 324-4297 - 8am
- Camp Fire USA - First Congregational Church - (901) 327-0438 or CampFireMemphis@yahoo.com - 10am
- Congo Conga - Ballroom Dancing - First Congregational Church - (901) 278-6786 - 4pm

- MGLCC Moving Yard Sale, Cookout and Pool Party - www.MemphisGayWeb.org or (901) 324-4297 - 5pm
- Mirror Image - TG/TS Social & Support Group - Holy Trinity Community Church - MirrorImage_TG@yahoo.com - 7pm
- Casablanca Grand Opening - Formerly Impulse and In the Grove
- Tsarus Club Night - The Pumping Station - 10pm
- Drag Show - J-Wag's - 3:30am

Sunday, April 21

- Holy Trinity Community Church - Early Worship, Adult Study, and Holy Communion, Children's Church & Revival Service - (901) 320-9376 - 9am, 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) 276-0577 - 10am and 6pm
- Safe Harbor MCC - Worship Service - (901) 458-0501 - 10:30am
- All You Can Eat Dim Sum - Lilly's Asian Bistro - 903 South Cooper - (901) 276-9300 - 12noon
- Brothers & Sisters Bowling - Cordova Lanes - (901) 458-6312 - MemphisGayBowlin@aol.com - 6pm
- Sissy Bingo hosted by Ida Claire - Memphis Muddy Waters - 6pm
- Sissy Bingo - Crossroads - 8pm
- Queer As Folk - Metro - 9pm



Welcome Home.
Box 41074
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Space donated as a public service of The Triangle Journal News.

About

Calendar of Events

- Lights Out, Everything Goes - J-Wag's - 10pm
- Karaoke - Backstreet - 10pm

Monday, April 22

- Karaoke Night - Metro - 6pm
- 2xLambda - A social group for 20 - 29 year old GLBTs - (901) 223-3331 - 7:30pm
- Pool Tournament - The Jungle - 7:30pm
- Karaoke Night - Backstreet - 8pm
- Ab Fab - The Pumping Station - 8pm
- Undie Monday - J-Wag's - 10pm

Tuesday, April 23

- Karaoke Night - Metro - 6pm
- Lesbians with Breast Cancer -

Larry Timmerman

Bill Johns

Antique Warehouse Mall

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Support Group - YWCA (766 South Highland) - 7pm

- Pool Tournament - J-Wag's - 7pm
- Dart Tournament - Crossroads - 7:45pm
- BGALA - University of Memphis - 8pm
- Karaoke Night - J-Wag's - 10pm

Sunday, April 28

- Holy Trinity Community Church - Early Worship, Adult Study, and Holy Communion & Children's Church - (901) 320-9376 - 9am, 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) 276-0577 - 10am and 6pm

•Safe Harbor MCC - Worship Service - (901) 458-0501 - 10:30am

•All You Can Eat Dim Sum - Lilly's Asian Bistro - 903 South Cooper - (901) 276-9300 - 12noon

•Brothers & Sisters Bowling - Cordova Lanes - (901) 458-6312 - MemphisGayBowlin@aol.com - 6pm

•Sissy Bingo hosted by Ida Claire - Memphis Muddy Waters - 6pm

•Jell-O Shooters - Benefits MGLCC - The Pumping Station - (901) 324-4297 - 7pm

•Aphrodite Spring Show - Madison Flame - 8pm

•Sissy Bingo - Crossroads - 8pm

•Queer As Folk - Metro - 9pm

•Lights Out, Everything Goes - J-Wag's - 10pm

•Karaoke - Backstreet - 10pm

Monday, April 29

•Karaoke Night - Metro - 6pm

•2xLambda - A social group for 20 - 29 year old GLBTs - (901) 223-3331 - 7:30pm

•Pool Tournament - The Jungle - 7:30pm

•Karaoke Night - Backstreet - 8pm

•Ab Fab - The Pumping Station - 8pm

•Undie Monday - J-Wag's - 10pm

Tuesday, April 30

•Karaoke Night - Metro - 6pm

•Lesbians with Breast Cancer - Support Group - YWCA (766 South Highland) - 7pm

•Pool Tournament - J-Wag's - 7pm

•Dart Tournament - Crossroads - 7:45pm

•BGALA - University of Memphis - 8pm

•Karaoke Night - J-Wag's - 10pm

Wednesday, April 24

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

•Fellowship Dinner & Christian Life Study and Discussion - Prescott Church - (901) 327-8479 - 6pm & 6:45

•Fellowship Supper and Informal Discussion - Holy Trinity Community Church - (901) 320-9376 - 6:30pm

•Worship Service - Living Word Christian Church - (901) 276-0577 - 7pm

•Dart Tournament - The Jungle - 7:30pm

•Midtown Round-Up - Country Dance Night - Crossroads - 8pm

•Tops Off Night - J-Wag's - 10pm

Thursday, April 25

•Bible Study - Safe Harbor MCC - (901) 458-0501 - 7pm

•Cotton Pickin' Squares - Prescott Memorial Baptist Church - 7pm

•Congo Conga - Ballroom Dance Reinforcement Class - First Congregational Church - (901) 278-6786 - 7pm

•Friends and Will & Grace - Metro - 7pm

•Star Karaoke - Crossroads - 10pm

•Queer As Folk - J-Wag's - 11pm

Friday, April 26

May 2002 TJN Due Out

•First Congo Films - First Congregational Church - (901) 278-6786 - 7pm & 9:30pm

•Pool Tournament - Crossroads - 8pm

•Drag Show - J-Wag's - 3:30am

Saturday, April 27

•Camp Fire USA - First Congregational Church - (901) 327-0438 or CampFireMemphis@yahoo.com - 10am

•Congo Conga - Ballroom Dancing - First Congregational Church - (901) 278-6786 - 4pm

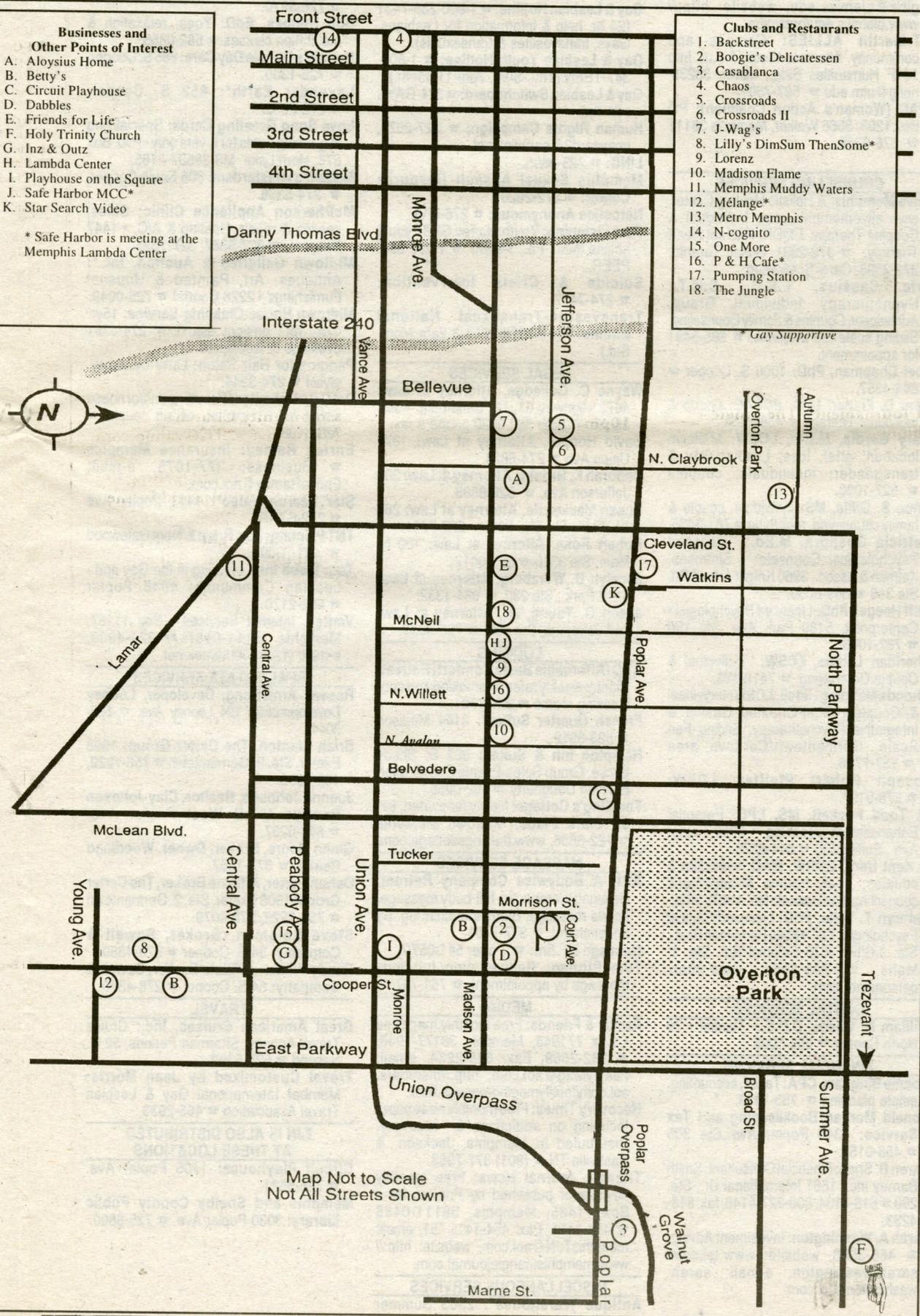
•Belle Curves Reunion - Poplar Lounge

•Full Moon Party - Pumping Station

•Drag Show - J-Wag's - 3:30am

- Businesses and Other Points of Interest**
- A. Aloysius Home
 - B. Betty's
 - C. Circuit Playhouse
 - D. Dabbles
 - E. Friends for Life
 - F. Holy Trinity Church
 - G. Inz & Outz
 - H. Lambda Center
 - I. Playhouse on the Square
 - J. Safe Harbor MCC*
 - K. Star Search Video
- * Safe Harbor is meeting at the Memphis Lambda Center

- Clubs and Restaurants**
1. Backstreet
 2. Boogie's Delicatessen
 3. Casablanca
 4. Chaos
 5. Crossroads
 6. Crossroads II
 7. J-Wag's
 8. Lilly's DimSum ThenSome*
 9. Lorenz
 10. Madison Flame
 11. Memphis Muddy Waters
 12. Mélange*
 13. Metro Memphis
 14. N-cognito
 15. One More
 16. P & H Cafe*
 17. Pumping Station
 18. The Jungle
- * Gay Supportive



Out & About

Mid-South Community Resources

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

ADULT BOOKSTORES

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

BARS / RESTAURANTS

- Backstreet*:** 2018 Court Street ☎ 276-5522.
Bogie's Delicatessen: 2098 La Salle Place ☎ 272-0022.
Bourbon Street Cafe: (In the French Quarter Suites)*, 2144 Madison ☎ 728-4000.
Buns on the Run*: 2150 Elzey Ave. 38104 ☎ 278-2867 (278-BUNS).
Casablanca*: 2865 Walnut Grove Road.
Crossover: 851 Island Road, Columbus, MS ☎ 601-327-0942.
Crossroads*: 1278 Jefferson ☎ 276-8078.
Crossroads II*: 111 N. Claybrook ☎ 274-8655.
J-Wags*: 1268 Madison ☎ 725-1909.
Jake's Place: 356 N. Main ☎ 527-2799.
Lilly's Asian Bistro*: 903 South Cooper ☎ 276-9300.
Lorenz*: 1528 Madison ☎ 274-8272.
Madison Flame*: 1588 Madison ☎ 278-9839.
Mélange: 948 South Cooper ☎ 276-0002.
Memphis Muddy Waters: 1375 Lamar ☎ 276-0027.
Metro Memphis*: 1349 Autumn ☎ 274-8010.
N-cognito*: 338 South Front ☎ 523-0599.
One More*: 2117 Peabody ☎ 278-MORE (6673).
Overstuffed Deli & Caterers: 3003 Airways Blvd. #701 ☎ 396-1969, 3727 South Mendenhall ☎ 362-2989, 7716 Poplar Ave., Germantown ☎ 757-1212.
P & H Cafe*: 1532 Madison Ave. ☎ 274-9794.
Pumping Station*: 1382 Poplar Ave. ☎ 272-7600.
Rumors*: 637 Hwy 145 South, Shannon, MS ☎ 601-767-9500.
The Jungle*: 1474 Madison ☎ 278-4313.
The Other Side*: 3883 Highway 45 North, Jackson, TN ☎ 1-901-668-3749.

CARDS & GIFTS

- Inz & Outz*:** 553 South Cooper ☎ 728-6535.
GGG Gourmet: ☎ 278-6218 or on the web at GGGGourmet.com

CARPET CARE / CLEANING SERVICES

- BJ's Cleaning Service:** ☎ 726-4211.
King's Kleaning Service: Home or Office ☎ 745-3300.
Lee's Carpet Care: Commercial or Residential, 24-hr. service, free estimates ☎ 327-6165.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

- Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACOA):** Memphis Lambda Center ☎ 276-7379.
Al-Anon (Co-dependency): Memphis Lambda Center ☎ 276-7379.
Alliance: Leather/levis club • Box 42174, Memphis 38174.
Aloysius Home, Inc.: (See Friends for Life).
American Gay Atheists (AGA) Memphis: Box 41371, Memphis 38174-1371.
Aphrodite: 3430 Summer Ave, Memphis 38122.
BGALA (Students for Bisexual, Gay & Lesbian Awareness): BGALA c/o Office of Greek Affairs, Box 100, U of M 38152, email: bgala@cc.memphis.edu. ☎ 729-3915.
Bluff City Sports Association: Box 41803, Memphis 38174-1803 ☎ 726-4342, email: memphisgaysoftball@yahoo.com.
Brothers & Sisters Bowling League: ☎ 465-4371 - Richard Andrews.
Coalition for Gay & Lesbian Religious Affairs: Box 11716, Memphis 38111 ☎ 309-9255 - Emily Haire.
Cotton Pickin' Squares: Gay/Lesbian Square Dance Club • Meets Thurs., Prescott Memorial Baptist Church • 2298 Elzey, Memphis 38104 ☎ 272-2116.
Crossroads: African American Gay men's motivation/support/social group. Meets 1st & 2nd Fridays. Conrad R. Pegues, 1902 Freemont Ave., Memphis. 38114, crpegues@aol.com.
4F: Leather/Levi group • 698 Pope Dr., Bartlett 38112.
First Congregational Church: Worship Service: Sun. 9 & 10:30 am, Wed. 6 pm • 1000 South Cooper ☎ 278-6786.
First Presbyterian Church: Sun. School, 9:30 am; Coffee & fellowship, 10:30 am; Worship, 11 am • 166 Poplar ☎ 525-5619.
Friends For Life—HIV Resources: HIV/AIDS Service Organization • 1384 Madison, Memphis 38104 ☎ 272-0855 or ☎ 278-AIDS.
Holy Trinity Community Church*: Worship Service: Sun. 11 am & 7 pm; Bible study: Wed. 7 pm; 3430 Summer ☎ 320-9376.
Integrity Memphis: Meets the 3rd Tues., Healing Service/Eucharist, 6pm; Dinner, 6:45pm, \$4; Meeting 7:30pm • c/o Calvary Episcopal Church, 102 N. 2nd ☎ 525-6602.
Into The Light (Women's AA): Memphis Lambda Center ☎ 276-7379.
Jackson Lambda Support Group: Memphis Lambda Center ☎ 901-427-1500 for information.
Living Word Christian Church: Worship Service Sun. 10 am & 6pm, Wed. 7 pm • 340 N Garland ☎ 276-0577.
Loving Arms (Services for HIV+ Women & Their Children): Shelia Tankersley, P.O. Box 3368, Memphis, TN 38173 ☎ 725-6730.
Memphis Area Gay Youth (MAGY): PO Box 241852, Memphis, TN 38124 ☎ 335-MAGY for info; website: www.geocities.com.westhollywood/1772/.
Memphis Bears Club: 1066 Wrenwood, Memphis 38122 ☎ 323-4773, e-mail: info@memphisbears.com, website: www.memphisbears.com.
Memphis Center for Reproductive Health: 1462 Poplar Ave ☎ 274-3550.
Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center (MGLCC): Box 41074, Memphis 38174 ☎ 324-4297.
Memphis Lambda Center*: Meeting place for 12-step recovery programs • 1488 Madison ☎ 276-7379, 726-6293, 527-1461, or 327-3676.
Memphis Lesbian & Gay Coalition for Justice: Box 241363, Memphis 38124 e-mail: lgcj@gaymemphis.com, web page: http://www.gaymemphis.com/lgcj.
Memphis Pride, Inc.: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, & Transgendered Pride Events • Box 111265, Memphis 38111 ☎ 32-PRIDE, e-mail: MphsPride@aol.com.
Memphis TransGender Alliance: TV/TS support group • c/o Barbara Jean Jason, Box 11052, Memphis, TN 38111-0052.
Mystic Krewe of Memphis United: 41 S. Century, Memphis, 38111.
National Organization for Women (NOW): ☎ 578-3286 or e-mail at memphisnow@hotmail.com.
New Beginnings (Adult Children of Alcoholics): Memphis Lambda Center ☎ 276-7379 or 454-1414.
Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (P-FLAG): Box 172031, Memphis 38187-2031 ☎ 761-1444.
Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (P-FLAG): Jackson, TN 38305 ☎ 1-901-664-6614 for information, e-mail: burtren@aeneas.com
Phoenix AA Memphis Lambda Center ☎ 454-1414.
Safe Harbor MCC: 1488 Madison Ave., Chapel ☎ 458-0501.
Seriously Sober (AA): Memphis Lambda Center ☎ 276-7379 or 454-1414.
Southern Country Memphis: Country

Western Dance Club.

- Southern Sisters:** Support group for transexual women (male to female) ☎ 728-4297, 7:30-11 pm for referral.5
Stonewall Mission Church: A Progressive Christian Church • Sun. Service 6:30 p.m., meets at the Center, 103 Berry Rd., Nashville, TN 37204 ☎ (615) 269-3480.
Sunshine Travelers: Meets every other Tuesday at 7 pm at The Jungle, ☎ 788-4PLA (4752)
Tennessee Leather Tribe: Gay men's/women's leather org. 1568 Rolling Hills Dr., Memphis, TN 38127-5409 ☎ 357-1921.
The Mid-Towners Bowling League: ☎ 323-3111 - Linda Etherton, 342-4630 - James Bailay.
Tsarus: Leather-Levi club • Box 41082, Memphis 38174-1082.
Univ. of Miss. Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Assoc.: GLBA, PO Box 3541, Univ., MS 38677 ☎ 662-915-7049, email: glba@olemiss.edu, website: http://www.olemiss.edu/orgs/glba.
UT-Martin ALLIES: Campus and community. Alternate Weds. 5 p.m. Info 131F Humanities Bldg., Martin 38238, neilg@utm.edu ☎ 587-7301.
WAC (Woman's Action Coalition): PO Box 1203, 3566 Walker, Memphis 38111 ☎ 678-3339.

COUNSELING SERVICES

- Alive Memphis!** A Holistic Healing Center, www.alivememphis.com, Individual & Couples Therapy, EMDR, Radiant Heart Therapy. ☎ 372-2991, Susan Taranto; 372-2593, Carol Schlicksup.
Eric Cassius, L.P.C., C.H.T.: Hypnotherapy, Individual, Group, Adolescent, Couples & Family Counseling. Sliding scale fee available. ☎ 685-5491 for appointment.
Joel Chapman, PhD: 1000 S. Cooper ☎ 844-4357.
Kent D. Fisher, LPC, BCSAC: Group & Individual Therapy ☎ 458-7164.
Gary Gardia, M.Ed., LCSW: Midtown location; grief, loss; Lesbian, Gay & transgender; individuals, couples ☎ 527-1098.
Anne S. Gillis, MS: Individual, couple & family counseling, rebirthing ☎ 761-3435.
Patricia Goshorn, M.Ed.: Licensed Psychological Counselor • Simmons, Kelman & Assoc., 3960 Knight Arnold Rd, Ste 316 ☎ 369-6050.
Cliff Heegel, PhD: Licensed Psychologist • Centerpoint, 5180 Park Ave. Ste 150 ☎ 767-1066.
Sheridan Lambe, LCSW: Individual & Couple Counseling, ☎ 761-9178.
Rhonda Manning Hidaji, LCSW: Individual & Couples. Goal-Oriented Gestalt & Integrative Psychotherapy, Sliding Fee Scale, Germantown/Cordova area ☎ 757-7706.
Joseph Robert Pfeiffer, LCSW: ☎ 578-9107.
M. Todd Puckett, MS, LPC: Personal Enhancement Coaching. • 5050 Poplar Ave., Suite 2400 ☎ 844-6228.
J. Kent Usry, CMSW, MAC: Individual & couples; grief, trauma & addictions counseling. Sliding scale fee. ☎ 491-8632.
Kathryn T. Vullo, PhD: Licensed Clinical Psychologist, LLC • 8590 Farmington Blvd., Ste. 3, G'twn, 670 Colonial Rd., Ste. 1, Mphs. ☎ 848-6666, www.interpersonalnet.com.

DENTAL SERVICES

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

FINANCIAL SERVICES

- Ronnie Bingham, CPA:** Taxes, accounting, estate planning ☎ 753-1413.
Donald Morgan Bookkeeping and Tax Service: 3340 Poplar Ave., Ste 305 ☎ 458-0152.
Karen B. Shea: Financial Consultant, Smith Barney Inc., 1661 International Dr., Ste. 200 ☎ 818-4134, 800-227-4146, fax: 818-4233.
Sarah A. Washington: Investment Advisor ☎ 466-3588, website: www.lpl.com/sarah.washington, e-mail: sarah.washington@lpl.com.

FLORISTS

- Botanica:** 937 S. Cooper, ☎ 274-5767, 1-800-769-5767, fax: 274-5688.
Park East Florist: 6005 Park ☎ 761-2980.
GRAPHICS/PHOTOGRAPHY
Graffiti Graphics: 1985 Madison #7 ☎ 278-5022.
It's Done! Typing, word processing/printing service-resumes, thesis, manuscripts, etc. ☎ 795-4308.
Printers Ink: Box 11485, -0485 ☎ 454-1411.
RK Photo: Black & white photography, processing & printing services. Full color post card advertising. Call ☎ 452-2766 or e-mail: bttag69a@prodigy.com.
See-S: Portraits & photography ☎ 327-3760.

HELP & INFORMATION LINES

- Affirmation:** ☎ (708) 733-9590.
AIDS Switchboard: ☎ 278-AIDS.
Gay & Lesbian Helpline: ☎ 1-888-340-GLBT (Mon.-Fri., 5-10pm, Sat.-Sun., 4-9pm).
Gay & Lesbian Hotline: ☎ 1-800-285-7431 (24 hr. help & information for Lesbians, Gays, transvestites & transsexuals).
Gay & Lesbian Youth Hotline: ☎ 1-800-347-TEEN (Thu.-Sun., 7pm-11:45pm).
Gay & Lesbian Switchboard: ☎ 324-GAYS • 24-hrs.
Human Rights Campaign: ☎ 327-2677, jmaynard2@earthlink.net
LINC: ☎ 725-8895.
Memphis Sexual Assault Resource Center: ☎ 272-2020
Narcotics Anonymous: ☎ 276-LIVE.
Peer Listening: Youth-staffed GLBT youth hotline (Mon.-Fri., 3-9pm) ☎ 1-800-399-PEER.
Suicide & Crisis Intervention: ☎ 274-7477.
Transvestite-Transsexual National Hotline: ☎ (617) 899-2212 (8-2am, Mon.-Sat.).

LEGAL SERVICES

- Wayne C. Gullledge, Attorney at Law:** 4673 Highway 51, N., Senatobia, Miss. 38668 ☎ (662) 562-0030 phone & fax.
David Hooper, Attorney at Law: 1870 Union Ave ☎ 274-6824.
Deborah K. Brooks, Attorney at Law: 200 Jefferson Ave. ☎ 529-8888.
Susan Mackenzie, Attorney at Law: 266 So. Front St., Ste. 206 ☎ 527-7701.
Robert Ross, Attorney at Law: 100 N. Main, Ste 3310 ☎ 525-0417.
Jocelyn D. Wurzburg, Attorney at Law: 5118 Park , Ste 232, ☎ 684-1332.
Jason O. Young, Jr., Attorney at Law: 147 Jefferson, Ste 806, ☎ 728-4000.

LOGGING

- ABC (Affordable Basic Comfort) Retreat:** Nightly/weekly rates on smoking and non-smoking rooms ☎ 377-7701.
French Quarter Suites*: 2144 Madison ☎ 523-8912.
Hampton Inn & Suites: 962 S. Shady Grove, Group Sales-Events Coordinator: E. Ryan Dougherty ☎ 762-0056.
The King's Cottage: Newly renovated, 87-89 Clark Place, Midtown Memphis ☎ 722-8686, www.thekingscottage.com.

MESSAGE SERVICES

- ABC A Bodywise Company Retreat:** Relaxing therapeutic, full-body massage/sports massage. Biorhythm charting. By appointment. ☎ 377-7701.
Massage by Jim: ☎ Pager 541-0579.
Tom Pitman: Rejuvenating full-body massage by appointment. ☎ 761-7977.

MEDIA

- Family & Friends:** Free monthly magazine • Box 771948, Memphis 38177-1948, ☎ 682-2669, Fax: 685-2234, email: FamilyMag@aol.com, http://members.aol.com/familymag/homepage.html.
Recovery Times: Free monthly newspaper focusing on addictions & recovery. Distributed in Memphis, Jackson, & Nashville TN ☎ (901) 377-7963.
Triangle Journal News: Free monthly newspaper published by Printers Ink • Box 11485, Memphis, 38111-0485 ☎ 454-1411, Fax: 454-1411 *51, email: memphisTJN@aol.com, website: http://www.memphistrianglejournal.com.

MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES

- Antique Warehouse*:** 2563 Summer ☎ 323-0600.

Balnea Blue Hair Salon: 2111 Madison ☎ 726-0090.

Bereavement Express: A unique way to express your sympathy to family, friends, co-workers, clients. ☎ 578-9107; www.LandscapesPublishing.com

Biorhythm Charting, Numerology, Tarot Reading, Chinese Astrological Lunar Placement Interpretation and Yin Yang Sticks. Personal consultations by appointment only: ☎ 377-7701.

Dabbles Hair Co.: 19 N. Cooper ☎ 725-0521.

David Gairhan: A/C, refrigeration & appliance repair ☎ 274-7011.

Girls Work: Includes: *House Doctors, Intimate Occasions, Lunch to Go, BasketGrams & Everyday Services* ☎ 276-1935, email: grlswrk@hotmail.com, http://www.webspawner.com/users/girlswork/index.html.

Have Bar Will Travel: Bartending for private functions • Lisa Gray (The Peabody Hotel) ☎ 726-5910.

Bob Hughes, EdD: Yoga, relaxation & meditation classes ☎ 682-0855.

Bonnie's Doggie Day Care: 885 S. Cooper, ☎ 726-1300.

Lavender Earth*: 852 S. Cooper, ☎ 272-2853.

Love Song Greeting Cards: Specializing in greeting cards for lovers only • P.O. Box 676, Horn Lake, MS 38637-2165.

Madam's Amsterdam: 806 South Cooper. ☎ 274-5336.

McPherson Appliance Clinic: Sales, service & repair, Heating & A/C. • 1447 National, ☎ 327-6887, 327-7395.

Midtown Galleries & Auction, Inc.: Antiques, Art, Painted & Unusual Furnishings • 2228 Central ☎ 725-0049.

Midtown House Cleaning Service: 15yr. exp., ref., onsite est., • ☎ 274-0281 evenings or weekends.

Paggios for Hair Salon: Larry Delancey, stylist ☎ 274-3944.

Pet Care Unlimited: Pet sitting and/or house sitting by competent, caring couple ☎ 726-6198.

Enrica Ramey: Insurance Memphis ☎ Business: 377-1075, e-mail: EnricaRamey@aol.com.

Star Search Video*: 1411 Poplar Ave ☎ 272-STAR.

TNT Painting: Tom Rowe & Trent Gatewood ☎ 481-7900.

Tom Webb Ins.: Insuring in the Gay and - Lesbian Community, 4646 Poplar ☎ 682-2170.

Vantek: Internet Services • Box 11187, Memphis 38111-0187 ☎ 324-4999, e-mail: vtdmin@vantek.net.

REAL ESTATE SERVICES

Russell Armstrong, Developer, Looney Developments: 194 Looney Ave. ☎ 525-3044.

Brian Clanton, The Carter Group: 1908 Exeter, Ste. 2, Germantown ☎ 753-7222, 458-3852.

Joanna Johnson, Realtor, Clay Johnson Realty: 757-B West Poplar Ave. ☎ 853-0237.

Glenn Moore, Broker, Owner, Woodland Realty: ☎ 377-1057.

Darian Porter, Affiliate Broker, The Carter Group: 1908 Exeter, Ste. 2, Germantown ☎ 753-7222, 278-4079.

Steve Solomon, Broker, Sowell & Company: 54 S. Cooper ☎ 278-4380.

Randy Wilder, Affiliate Broker, Sowell & Company: 54 S. Cooper ☎ 278-4380.

TRAVEL

Great American Cruises, Inc.: Cruise Travel Agency, Sherman Perkins, 52 N. Second ☎ 525-5302.

Travel Customized by Jean Morris: Member International Gay & Lesbian Travel Association ☎ 465-2936.

TJN IS ALSO DISTRIBUTED

AT THESE LOCATIONS

- Circuit Playhouse:** 1705 Poplar Ave. ☎ 726-5521.
Memphis and Shelby County Public Library: 3030 Poplar Ave. ☎ 725-8800.

County Attorney Asks Investigators Not to Talk to Media About Lesbian Arson Investigation

MISSOULA (AP) — The Missoula County attorney asked police not to talk to the media about the investigation into an arson fire that gutted the home of a lesbian couple in February.

"The nature of the investigation just dictates that there not be public comment about specific theories," said Fred Van Valkenburg. "I think we need to ensure that if there is ever prosecution in this case, it's not tainted by inappropriate pretrial comment."

Local police investigators had been commenting on the case since

the Feb. 8 fire at the home of Carla Grayson and Adrienne Neff. The fire came a few days after Grayson, a University of Montana assistant professor of psychology, and Neff filed a lawsuit charging that the Montana university system was violating the state constitution by not providing health insurance and other benefits to same-sex partners of gay and lesbian employees.

Police spokesmen have said repeatedly that they were investigating two standard arson scenarios — that the fire was started by an intruder or that it was ignited by

someone already in the house.

Van Valkenburg said that he did not tell police to clam up because the investigation had reached a dead end, but he did say that he did not believe there would be any charges filed in the near future.

He said that if there are any breakthroughs in the investigation, his office would release the pertinent information.

"I don't think there will be a 'no comment' policy forever," Van Valkenburg said. "But we are at a stage where there is no reason for public comment. In my judgment,

it would not be in anybody's interest to comment right now."

While the arson investigation is being handled locally, Van Valkenburg said that federal agents are looking into letters that were received by Grayson and Neff and two other women involved in the lawsuit. The letters, which contained a white powder that later tested negative for anthrax, arrived two days before the fire and reportedly threatened the women and made derogatory comments about lesbians.

Celebrate Spring



CDC: Gonorrhea Leveling Off, But Many Cities Hit Hardest by High Infection Rates

By Erin Mcclam
Associated Press Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — Gonorrhea has leveled off in the United States but rates are still rising in many cities hit hardest by the infection, a finding health officials say is unacceptable.

The national gonorrhea rate stabilized in 2000 after rising 9 percent from 1997 to 1999, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported. But the sexually transmitted disease rose in 2000 in 13 of the 20 cities with the highest rates.

Gonorrhea is quickly diagnosed and can be treated with antibiotics. Left untreated, it can facilitate the spread of HIV and cause chronic pelvic pain and infertility.

"The continued health consequences from this completely preventable STD are unacceptable," said Dr. Ronald O. Valdiserri, deputy director of the CDC's prevention center for sexually transmitted diseases.

The national gonorrhea rate in 2000 was 131.6 cases per 100,000 people, down from 132 in 1999.

But the disease rose more than 20 percent in five cities that already had high rates — Kansas City, Mo.; Buffalo, N.Y.; Jacksonville, Fla.; Birmingham, Ala.; and Detroit.

It dropped more than 20 percent in Atlanta, Washington and Chicago. The CDC called for more study to find out which prevention methods worked in the cities.

The gonorrhea figures were pre-

sented at the CDC's National STD Prevention Conference in San Diego.

A separate study released at the conference suggests two in five gay men in America are infected with HPV-16, a sexually transmitted virus that causes most of the world's cervical cancer in women.

Researchers cautioned that the data were preliminary. The study was conducted from 1988 to 1994 and surveyed only 83 men who have sex with men. It found 38 percent were infected with HPV-16 — five times the rate for straight men.

Researchers said they hope the study will spur more research on the impact of HPV-16 on anal and penile cancer in gay men.

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Rev. Martha Brahm, Pastor
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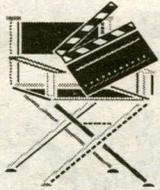
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Deep Inside



HOLLYWOOD

by Romeo San Vicente

Beyond Bisexual

Bisexual babe Angelina Jolie is currently on location with *Beyond Borders*, a romantic epic being filmed on four continents. Jolie plays Sarah, a privileged philanthropist who travels the third world as an international relief worker. While Sarah battles famine, disasters and wars, she falls in love with Nick, a medic played by Clive Owen (*Gosford Park*). Considering that Jolie claims to have a sexual penchant for knives, I'd say Owen will have his hands full. *Beyond Borders*, which is being directed by Martin Campbell (*GoldenEye*), was stuck in development hell last year after its original director, Oliver Stone, dropped out of the project. Kevin Costner, the first choice to play Nick, also backed out of the film, as did his initial replacement, Ralph Fiennes. In spite of these difficulties, however, the recast, resurrected version finally began shooting in December and is slated for an early 2003 release.

Jason Stuart Graces *My Wife and Kids*

Openly gay comedian Jason Stuart will

reprise his role as queer psychotherapist Dr. Stephen Michael Thomas in three episodes of ABC's *My Wife and Kids* this May. Dr. Thomas counsels the show's main characters (played by Damon Wayans and Tisha Campbell-Martin) with their marital problems by citing examples from his own gay relationship. (In a previous appearance on the hit sitcom, Dr. Thomas assured Wayans' and Campbell-Martin's characters, "It's like my lover and I always say, together we can lick anything.") While Dr. Thomas is the epitome of sweetness, Stuart told me that the character he'll play when he guest stars on *Will & Grace* later this season is a gay nightclub owner (also named Stuart — *quelle* coincidence) who prides himself on his manic rudeness.

Monster's Ball Director Does Dallas

Monster's Ball helmer Marc Forster will direct the AIDS-themed film *Dallas Buyers Club* for Universal Pictures. The story focuses on real-life rural electrician Ron Woodroof, once a homophobic heterosexual who became a hero in the gay community.

Woodroof was diagnosed with full-blown AIDS in 1986 and started an underground pharmacy that supplied experimental drugs to AIDS patients in the South. He extended his own life another six years by taking the controversial medicines, and he lobbied the Food and Drug Administration to make these treatments available in the United States. Brad Pitt is reportedly interested in starring in the film, which is being produced by David Bushnell (*Sling Blade*). Forster will also direct *Neverland*, a film that stars Johnny Depp as *Peter Pan* author J.M. Barrie.

Burke Goes to Boarding School

Designing Women fans have reason to rejoice: Delta Burke is coming back to the small screen. Openly gay *Popular* creator Ryan Murphy has recruited Burke to headline his new WB sitcom pilot, *Saint Sass*. Originally titled *Horrid Little Girls*, the show is set in a boarding school full of spoiled young women. Burke plays a fallen socialite who's forced to do community service at the prep school, which happens to be her alma mater. Heather Matarazzo (*The Princess Diaries*) has signed on to play one of the bratty students, and Diane Delano (who played the lesbian gym teacher on *The Ellen Show*) will portray the evil dorm mistress. There's no word yet whether this ensemble cast will have any gay characters. (Come on — what kind of girl's school doesn't have one, single dyke?) Hopefully there will be at least one student who's a lesbian but hasn't figured it out yet — like Jo in *The Facts of*

Life.

Gay Faves Admitted to Hogwarts

A few gay-friendly stars have been added to the cast of *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*. Lesbian actress Miriam Margolyes (who played Sophie in *Cats & Dogs*) will appear in the second installment of the Harry Potter series as Professor Sprout, a magical "herbologist" who teaches young wizards to make potions from plants (sounds like a drug dealer to me). Jason Isaacs, meanwhile, has signed on to play Lucius Malfoy, the evil aristocratic head of the Ministry of Magic. Isaacs (*Black Hawk Down*), who is straight, has portrayed several queer characters in his career, including Charlize Theron's gay friend, Chaz, in *Sweet November* and Louis in the British production of *Angels in America*. *Chamber of Secrets* premieres November 15.

Romeo San Vicente likes his dogs small and feisty, like his men. You can reach Romeo in care of this publication or via e-mail at WriteRomeo@yahoo.com.



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The Community Corner

by Angela Lamb

Bachelor/Bachelorette Speed Dating Auction

WOW! What a success! Despite the terrible weather, we had a great time. With an attendance of 50 or so and 20 beautiful bachelors and bachelorettes up on the Auction Block, the community helped raise more than \$1,200 for MGLCC. Twenty lucky people "won" a date, dinner and tickets to a movie or play. Thanks to everyone who supported the auction, including our hostess and auctioneer, Lady Emma Rae O'Neill and Mr. Vincent Astor. We have already made plans to host the 2nd Annual Bachelor/ Bachelorette Speed Dating Auction next March.



Friends For Life HIV/AIDS educator.

Moving Yard Sale

We have plans for a "Moving Yard Sale" thanks to the great mind of Butch Valentine! Mark your calendars for Sat., Apr. 20 from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. A "Moving Yard Sale" is very similar to a regular yard sale except with movement. The movement comes in when you visit your first yard sale and receive a list of the other participating households. MGLCC has plans for 10 to 15 participating yard sales in the Midtown area.

All money raised at the multiple yard sales will directly benefit MGLCC, and therefore can be a tax-deduction for you.

Not-Your-Typical Drag Show and Grudge Match

Do you know Angela Lamb and Patty Pair? Do you dislike them? If so, here is your chance to let them know once and for all how you really feel. The Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center has planned a Drag Show and Grudge Match for your entertainment! In an effort to help raise awareness and funds for the upcoming free Pride Festival and Parade, Angela and Patty have a challenge for the

GLBT community. They dare you to raise \$5,000 for the festival. If our community is successful, then they have put their hair on the line, meaning that one of them will shave her head if the money is raised. A grand total of \$5,000 must be raised before any hair goes flying. But here is the kicker... whoever raises the most money, either Angela or Patty, will get to shave the other one's head live and in person for everyone who attends the drag show.

For more details, see the article on page 4

Softball

We are thinking about forming a softball team to play in the Bluff City Sports Association, Memphis' own GLBT softball league. But in order to play, we need players. You don't have to have any softball experience. Call Darren Burns, our vice president, at 857-5224 if you are interested in playing or would like more information.

Sixth Annual Twinkie Film Festival

The Film Festival Committee has been formed and plans for this year's festival are already underway. Look for some changes. The two biggest being the month of the festival and the name. The committee, along with the MGLCC Board, have decided to permanently move the annual film festival to October to correspond with National Coming Out Day.

For more details, see the articles on page 4.

2xLambda and the 30-Something Group

Well underway, 2xLambda is a social group for 20 to 29 year old GLBTs and their friends. The group meets every Monday from

7:30-9 p.m. for dinner, bowling, miniature golf, laser tag or some other fun activity. If you are between the ages of 20 and 29 and would like to join the group or would like more information about the group, call RJ at 223-3331.

In the initial planning stages, the concept of a social group for 30 to 39 year olds is on the drawing table. The concept will be very similar, if not identical, to 2xLambda. If you are interested in helping form such a group or becoming a member, call Len at 857-8523.

Potluck Dinners

We still have a monthly potluck dinner on the third Thursday. Please try to join us for the April one, which is scheduled for Thursday, Apr. 18 at Len and Darren's house, 93 North Century, from 7:30 - 9 p.m.

Pride Festival 2002

MGLCC is in charge of recruiting volunteers to help with the Pride Festival (helping coordinate stage entertainment, beverage sales, etc). We would like to schedule volunteers for only 1 or 2 hours so that everyone will have an opportunity to enjoy the festival. That means the more volunteers the better!

MGLCC is also looking for persons interested in serving on the joint committee with Pride which

is planning the Pride Weekend festivities.

Ongoing Needs

Website - We are looking for someone with web design experience to help maintain MGLCC's www.memphisgayweb.org website.

Grant Writing - We are looking for volunteers with grant writing experience to help us apply for monies towards programs, maintaining a building, etc.

PR - We are looking for someone with good writing skills or journalistic experience to help with the press releases and announcements that go out to local media each month.

Board Positions

The secretary position on the executive board is open. The secretary is responsible for taking minutes and keeping MGLCC records and documents. It is preferred that they also be in charge of the Community Corner updates to the local GLBT publications and the Community Calendar on the website.

A member-at-large position is also open, which entails serving on the board of directors in any capacity needed at the time. For example, acting as a committee chair or being in charge of public relations are just a couple of the many possibilities through which your talents could be put to use.

Town Hall Meetings

The second Town Hall Meeting for the year is scheduled for Sun., Apr. 7, from 6 - 8 p.m. The meeting will take place inside Friends For Life's Positive Living Center, which is located on the bottom floor of First Congregational Church, 1000 S. Cooper St.

This month's topic for discussion will be "HIV 101" presented by Daniel Cole, MGLCC board member-at-large and



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Kansas Supreme Court Ignores Scientific Evidence on Sex Change

NEW YORK — The Kansas Supreme Court's ruling against the marriage of J'Noel Gardiner, a transsexual woman, fails to acknowledge scientific and psychological realities as well as the everyday reality of J'Noel's life and marriage as a female.

"The Court relied on a 1970 edition of Webster's dictionary instead of contemporary medical evidence to conclude that J'Noel Gardiner is not female and left her in a legal void. To this court, J'Noel's marriage never existed," said Lambda Legal Staff Attorney

Jennifer Middleton.

J'Noel Gardiner, who long had had strong feelings of female identity, successfully underwent sex re-assignment surgery in the early 90s. She changed all of her legal identification to female, and her husband, Marshall, knew of

her history prior to their marriage. But after his death, his son successfully challenged the couple's 1998 marriage, seeking to block J'Noel's claim to her spousal share of the estate under Kansas law.

Lambda Legal, in its amicus brief to the intermediate court,

argued against the trial court's refusal to recognize Gardiner's sex change. The Court of Appeals undertook a detailed review of the scientific literature about transgender biology and psychology to reject what it called "a rigid and simplistic approach" to determining sex; it ruled that courts must consider a wide range of factors and not focus solely on sex at birth when judging the legal gender of a person.

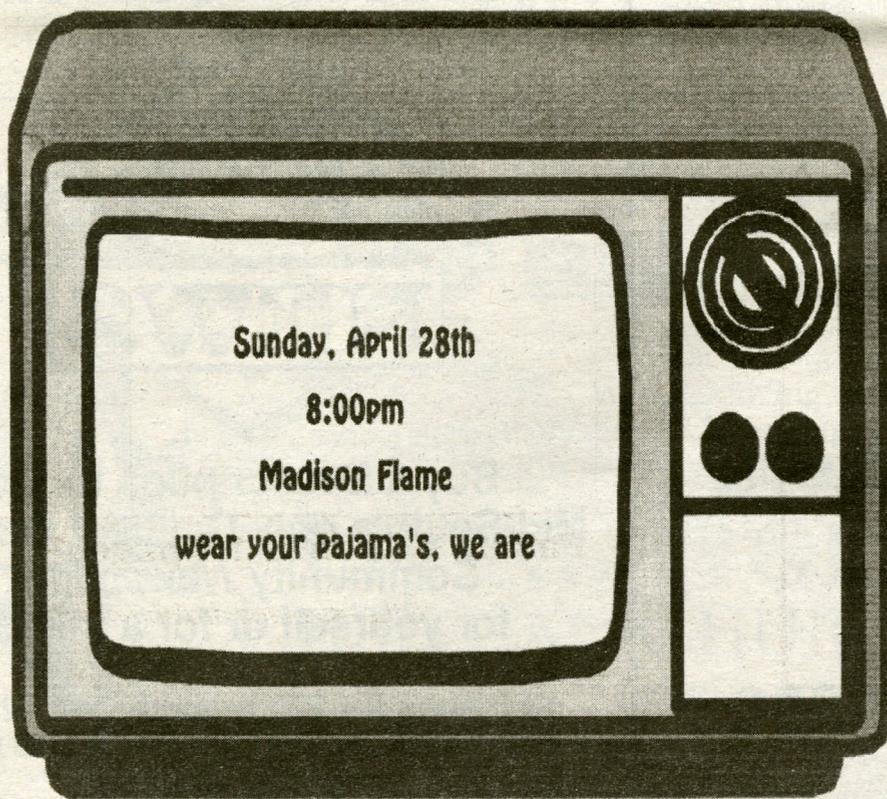
Middleton said of the ruling by the state's highest court, "The court here failed to grapple with the complexity of the many factors that make up a person's sex including, most importantly, psychological identity." The case cannot be appealed.

"It's sad that a loving couple's marriage and life together has been disrespected by a son, and now the court, because they cannot accept what a husband and father lovingly accepted. J'Noel Gardiner, like everyone else, should have the right to marry the person she loves," Middleton said.

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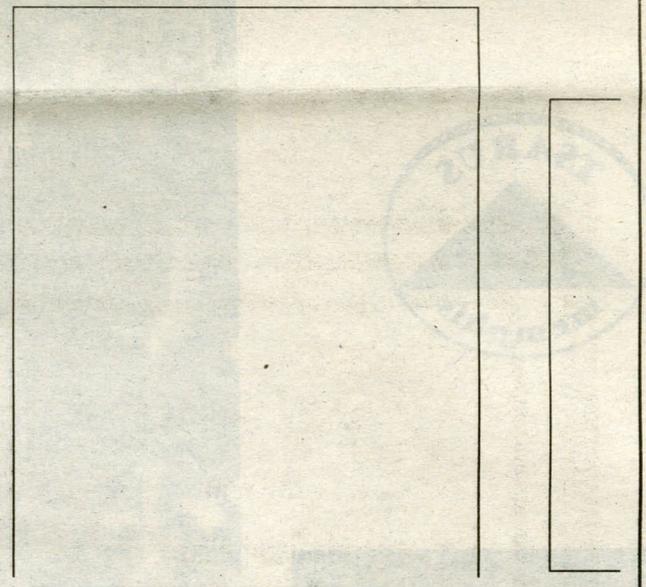
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Tsarus 'Man' of Year Honors Nancy Fletcher



Matthew Presley, Nancy Fletcher, Mark McKinney and Tsarus president Greg Tanner.



Former Man of the Year Vincent Astor presented a plaque to Tsarus from all former honorees. The plaque has the names of all the past honorees as well as space for future winners.



2002 "Man" of the Year Nancy Fletcher with the men of Tsarus.



Former Man of the Year and last year's chef for the dinner, Glenn Jones. Glenn was honored for his work with Friends For Life's Feast for Friends.



Gary Cooper and former Man of the Year, Rev. Ed Hammit. Hammit was honored with Rev. Ethan Pruitt for their work with Holy Trinity Community Church.



Former "Man" of the Year Shelia Tankersley, founder of Loving Arms.

It's Fun to Stay at the YMCA... So What's So Gay About the YMCA?

When the Village People sang about the "fun" young men could have at the YMCA, their lyrics were a nod to the long history of intimate male bonding at this renowned American institution. Almost from its inception in the mid-19th century, the YMCA provided a meeting place for men who sought each other's company, not just for friendship, but for romance and sex.

Founded in 1844 in London, the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) was imported to North America seven years later. As industrialization brought young, single men to urban areas, Christian leaders wanted to steer male youth away from sexual licentiousness and toward "wholesome" activities like Bible study.

The organization's mission gradually included sex education and physical training, too, since keeping the body fit was supposed to ward off "immorality." The popularity of the Y's physical program resulted in the construction of the vast network of gymnasiums and pools with which the YMCA is now so strongly identified.

When the YMCA was in its early decades, the word "homosexuality" had not even been coined. Still, a number of the YMCA's "secretaries" — men who oversaw local programs and facilities — were lifelong bachelors.

Like the many "spinster" social workers of the late 1800s who entered into Boston marriages — intimate domestic arrangements with other women — the Y's male secretaries often coupled off and lived together in passionate friendships that may have been sexual.

Well-known among these couples were Richard C. Morse and Robert R. McBurney, who cohabited for five years in one of the Y's dormitories. (Interestingly, the YMCA in Manhattan's Chelsea

neighborhood, now a gay enclave, was named for McBurney, who never married.) Before sexologists began to study and pathologize same-sex desire in the early 1900s, these bachelor couples were widely revered in Y culture.

But at the turn of the 20th century, there were indications among

"lisp"ing" fairies. Court testimony from the scandal points to a thriving gay culture in Portland at that time, in which men made sexual contacts with each other not only at the Y, but in parks and other public spaces.

Similarly, a scandal in Newport, R.I., a few years later further dem-

onstrated how common it was for men and boys to use the Y for assignations. The port city's Army and Navy YMCA opened in 1911 and was often filled to overflowing when the fleet was in. In 1919, Newport's Naval Training Station — under orders from Assistant Secretary of the Navy Franklin D. Roosevelt — began a campaign to entrap men engaging in homosexual acts. The sting operation resulted in the arrest of three dozen sailors and civilians. The decoys the navy used reported that the Y, as well as beaches and wharves, were hotbeds of same-sex coupling.

But even well-publicized scandals didn't stop gay activity at YMCAs. Cruising was especially heightened from 1940 to 1960. In many cities, the YMCA provided one of the only places where young gay men — who, during wartime, may have been away from home for the first time — could safely meet each other and have sex. Word spread via the gay grapevine that certain Y branches were espe-

cially cruisy, like Sloane House in Manhattan.

When it came to gay cruising, it's likely that many Y officials discreetly looked the other way to avoid the negative publicity that the incidents in Portland and Newport had brought on the hallowed institution. Also, anecdotes from older of staff, Walter Jenkins, was arrested with another man in the bathroom of Washington's G Street YMCA in 1964.

The Village People's tune "YMCA" topped the charts in 1978 and eventually went platinum — in fact, the campy tribute was the group's biggest hit and became a gay anthem. Today, the YMCA still occupies a revered spot in gay culture for its pivotal role in helping to foster gay male sexuality throughout the 20th century.

Paula Martinac is a Lambda Literary Award-winning author of seven books, including *The Queerest Places: A Guide to Gay and Lesbian Historic Sites*. She can be reached care of this publication or at POcolumn@aol.com.

For further reading:

Chauncey, George. 1989. "Christian Brotherhood or Sexual Perversion? Homosexual Identities and the Construction of Sexual Boundaries in the World War I Era." In *Hidden from History: Reclaiming the Lesbian and Gay Past*, edited Martin Duberman, Martha Vicinus, and George Chauncey Jr. New York: Penguin.

Gustav-Wrathall, John Donald. 1998. *Take the Young Stranger by the Hand: Same-Sex Relations and the YMCA*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.



YMCA officials of a growing nervousness about homosexuality within the ranks of counselors and members. Bachelor secretaries were frowned on, and married men began to occupy those respected positions.

One gay historian has discovered official Y pamphlets from that era that discussed "sexual perversion" and "unnameable immoralities." In a 1909 publication, an association leader warned his colleagues about "ladylike" and "lisp"ing" men who preyed on young boys.

In fact, there seems to have been significant homosexual activity at YMCAs by the 1910s, which gay historians have learned about through the records of several well-documented scandals. In 1912, for example, in Portland, Ore., more than 50 men were indicted in a gay cruising scandal at that city's Y.

What so shocked the local citizenry was that most of the arrested men were upstanding, middle-class members of society — doctors, lawyers and businessmen — not

onstrated how common it was for men and boys to use the Y for assignations. The port city's Army and Navy YMCA opened in 1911 and was often filled to overflowing when the fleet was in. In 1919, Newport's Naval Training Station — under orders from Assistant Secretary of the Navy Franklin D. Roosevelt — began a campaign to entrap men engaging in homosexual acts. The sting operation resulted in the arrest of three dozen sailors and civilians. The decoys the navy used reported that the Y, as well as beaches and wharves, were hotbeds of same-sex coupling.

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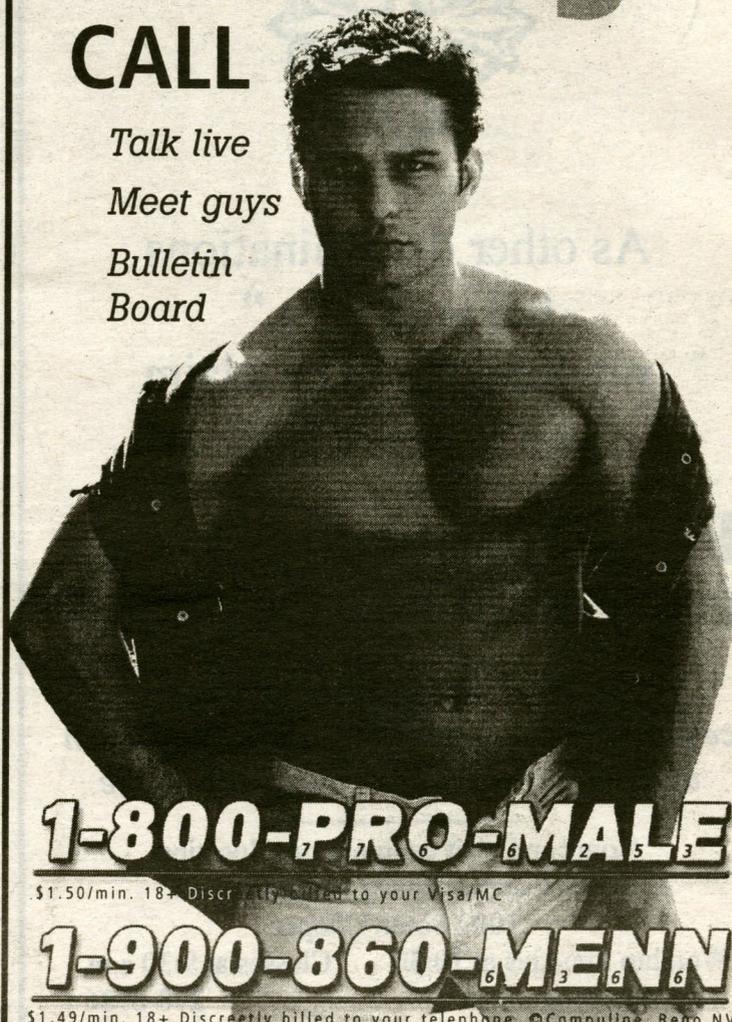
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George Michael Says 1998 Arrest May Have Been Deliberate

LONDON (AP) — George Michael said Mar. 18 that he may have been deliberately attempting to shake up his life when he was arrested for lewd conduct in 1998.

Michael was charged with lewd conduct in a Los Angeles public toilet in 1998. Soon after, he said publicly for the first time that he was gay.

The singer told British Broadcasting Corp. radio that he may have tried to get caught to "make my life about me."

He said he had been grieving after the deaths of his mother and of his former partner, Anselmo Feleppa.

"I think, with hindsight, I did it to myself and I tried to work out why," Michael told BBC Radio 1.

"I'd gone though losing my mother and a partner before that

and my life hadn't been about me forever," he added.

"And suddenly, it was a way of making my life about me. And for six months it worked."

Michael was fined \$810 and ordered to perform 80 hours of community service for committing the unspecified solo act.

He rebounded with the single and video "Outside," which poked fun at the police.

After that, he said, he "sank again" into mourning for his mother.

"I was very impatient with myself all the way through that and thought I should be through it. I couldn't understand why my writing wasn't coming together, was very tough on myself, but actually I think that was what it was about, making my life about me and for



George Michael

that moment in time it worked," Michael told the BBC.

Michael shot to stardom in the 1980s as half of the duo Wham!, whose hits included "Wake Me Up Before You Go-Go" and "Careless Whisper."

Wham! split up in 1986 and Michael went solo with his first album, *Faith*, which sold more than 10 million copies. A 1987 hit, "I Want Your Sex," was boycotted by many U.S. radio stations.

Michael's latest single, "Freeek!" was released in Britain Mar. 18.

Alabama Bill Says No Residents Are Inherently Evil

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — A bill has been introduced in the Alabama Legislature to declare that no class of Alabama citizens is "inherently evil."

State Rep. Alvin Holmes, D-Montgomery, said he introduced the bill Mar. 5 in response to a recent written opinion by Supreme Court Chief Justice Roy Moore that homosexuality is "inherently evil." Moore's declaration was made as the Supreme Court awarded custody of children to a heterosexual father instead of a lesbian mother.

Holmes said he wants to make

sure that some future court does not interpret Moore's opinion to be the law of the state of Alabama.

"This clears up that matter of what's evil," Holmes said.

Moore has said he based his opinion on common law. Holmes' bill says that interpretation should not be considered part of Alabama law.

"Any interpretation of common law or any provision of statutory law that has been or may be cited to declare any class of citizens to be 'inherently evil' is null and void," the bill says.

Station Pulls Episode of Once and Again That Included Same-sex Kiss

LYNCHBURG, Va. (AP) — Gay activists protested the decision by an ABC affiliate not to air an episode of the TV drama *Once and Again* that showed two teenage girls kissing.

"It's clear to us it's simply fear and homophobia in the minds and hearts of the programmers," said Scott Seomin of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, which is urging members to contact station WSET to complain.

Station management has declined to say why it pre-empted the show Mar. 11. In an e-mail to viewers who complained, WSET said there were no plans to air it later.

Randy Smith, president and general manager of the station, did not immediately return a phone call from The Associated Press.

WSET, in the city that is home to the Rev. Jerry Falwell's conservative ministry, played one hour of music infomercials instead of *Once and Again*.

An ABC programming executive, who declined to be identified, said the Virginia station was the only affiliate to pre-empt the show. The station was within its rights to do so, the executive said.

In the episode, a character who is confused about her sexual identity kisses another girl.



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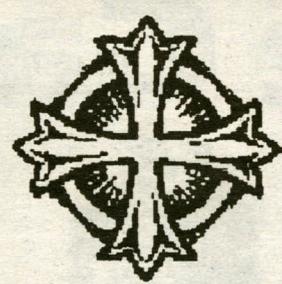
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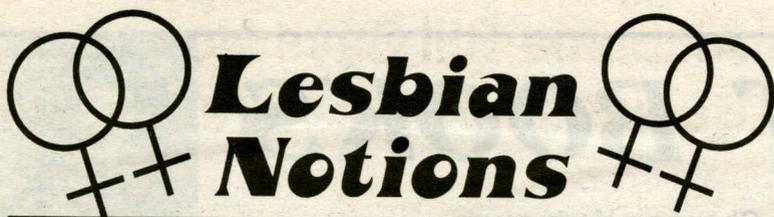


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Lesbian Notions

By Paula Martinac

The Outlook for Lesbian and Gay Literature

Spring is the time of literary awards, from mainstream honors like the Pulitzer Prize to smaller, gay-specific ones like the Lambda Literary Awards. While the lesbian and gay community celebrates its culture with awards, it's also necessary for us to take a hard look at the state of our literature, whose future is far from secure.

Over the past five years, I've written on this topic several times, and each time it has gotten harder to write positively about the outlook for lesbian and gay literature. We've come such a long distance from the late 1980s, when I launched my own writing career with a book of short fiction. At that time, there was a host of vibrant small presses devoted to publishing the writing of lesbians and gay men, whose work had often been ignored by mainstream presses. I received interest in my writing from not just one small publisher, but three.

By the early '90s the mainstream had "discovered" lesbian and gay fiction and nonfiction — like it "discovered" black writing in previous decades and is "discovering" Latino and Asian-American writing now. There followed a brief, heady period in which queer writers were courted and awarded generous royalty advances. Some of us actually

found it possible to earn our livings writing books with queer content. What a novelty for writers, gay or straight, who on average earn just a few thousand dollars a year! And with all these small- and mainstream-press titles, there was an exciting array of queer-themed books available.

But then came Disney, Paramount, and other conglomerates, which began devouring publishing companies like they were popcorn, offering Jim Carrey-league advances to select "star" writers like John Grisham while simultaneously cutting back on the slots reserved for books that would sell in the thousands, not millions.

While this was happening, superstore chains like Barnes & Noble put many independent, gay, and feminist bookstores out of business. This, in turn, wounded small publishers, who depended on the independent stores to keep their books in stock and support their writers with book signings and readings.

All these developments contributed to the current dismal state of lesbian and gay literature. Now fewer and fewer lesbian and gay authors are getting contracts from mainstream publishers to do queer-themed work, which doesn't sell in

large enough numbers to warrant the big presses' time or money. On top of that, we've lost many of the smart, literature-loving, openly gay and lesbian editors who were our advocates at the big publishing houses, including most recently Michael Denny, founder of the Stonewall Inn imprint of St. Martin's Press.

Sure, the work of a handful of "star" gay writers like David Leavitt, Edmund White and Sarah Schulman will continue to be published. But there's an inordinate number of titles like *Drama Queen: The Gay Man's Guide to an Uncomplicated Life* hitting the bookshelves, suggesting a general dumbing-down of lesbian and gay books.

Add to this an even more serious problem — that lesbian and gay presses have been damaged by the corporate shifts in publishing and bookselling. And they, rather than mainstream publishers, have kept our literature alive. Many have gone out of business or been sold — the

demise of Firebrand Books a few years ago was one of the biggest blows to lesbian literature. But more jolts have followed: Recently, the feminist- and lesbian-oriented Seal Press became an imprint of Avalon, a larger, mainstream (though progressive) publisher. It remains to be seen if that sale will affect the books Seal publishes.

Some of our presses have adapted what they publish to stay competitive with the mainstream publishers. But instead of adding to our literary culture, they've produced a bizarre glut of mediocre mysteries, how-to books and collections of erotica to satisfy every sexual, gender and ethnic identity.

There also seem to be more and more reprints cropping up on "new books" lists. Cleis Press, for example, has gone through several savvy transformations in the last decade, most recently reprinting work by canonical queers like Virginia Woolf.

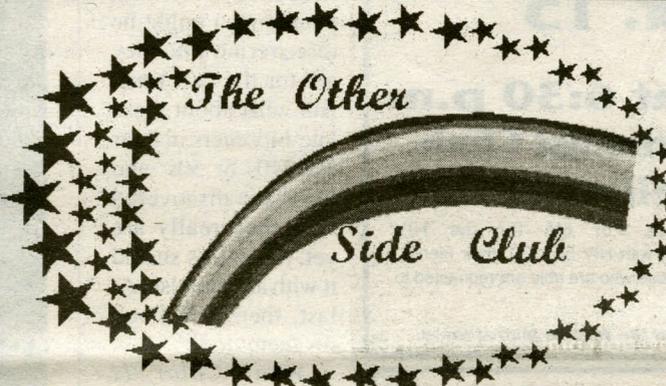
Of course, it's important to keep our literary forebears in print. But

at the same time, every slot on a queer publisher's list taken by a reprint is a slot that won't go to a modern-day lesbian and gay writer struggling to publish in this current harsh climate.

There are a few positive developments from lesbian and gay presses. Perhaps most notably, Alyson Publications, once known almost exclusively for its light, sexy fare by gay male authors, has lately been publishing wonderful literary fiction and nonfiction by both gay men and lesbians — a bold and welcome move.

Alyson is helping to revive the tradition that's been so important to the growth of lesbian and gay literature — publishing books that would never see the light if we waited for mainstream presses to "discover" them again.

Paula Martinac is a Lambda Literary Award-winning author of seven books. She can be reached care of this publication or at LNcolumn@aol.com.



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GWM looking to looking for roomie to move in with. Me.....late 30's; very nice looking, easy going, very outgoing personality, talented and very easy to get along with. Looking to move by July 1st at the latest. If interested, please call 362-3522 or email me at needmphisroomie@aol.com and let me know how to get back touch with you.

WHITE SOUL BROTHER Seeking masculine, fit black guy for passion and pleasure. I'm 6'2", 185 lbs., short hair. Prefer dominant guy, but I'm flexible. Stamina a must. Call 259-1730, after 5 p.m. please.

HOPEFUL ROMANTIC - Attractive, intelligent, thirty-something, GWM, 5'6", 140, blond/green. Likes science fiction and independent movies, liberal/left politics, alternative music, computers, physical fitness. ISO

similar under 40.
Email wallflowertrn@hotmail.com

GWM, 53 (look younger), 5'4", 169 lbs. husky build, brn hair, grn eyes; enjoys reading, TV movies, theatre, conversation; seeking GWMs of similar interests for friendship; possible LTR. Call John (870) 732-2755 — 5 pm-10pm.

Masculine Guy, tall, white and handsome, 40-ish. Looking for well-endowed, dominant brother for passion and pleasure. Call Edward, 259-1730

Masculine Italian looking for masculine husky or chubby guy. Call Gregg at 901-268-1974.

OK, guys and girls... we eliminated the classifieds once before because people weren't using them. Only two of these ads are new this month. So USE THEM OR LOSE THEM. They are FREE, so what's the problem?

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ABOUT BOOKS

by Shannon Yarbrough

What Color Is Your Scarf?

In May, it will have been seven years since I came out to my family. Most of my friends knew before that because they were gay, too. I never expected to do it when it happened, but I am glad that I did. Living in a small rural town, there were no books or resources readily available to help me with the process. It just happened the best way that I knew for it to.

I am amazed at the amount of books and help that are out there today for young people who might be discovering who they are for the first time. But what about those late-bloomers in their 30s, 40s or 50s who have not discovered who they really are yet, much less shared it with anyone else. At last, there is a book for them, too!

What Color Is Your Scarf?, written by Michael S. Brown, is a story of self-discovery by a man in his 40s. Just over 100 pages, it is a quick insightful read published by Creative Works Publishing. Whether you are interested in self-help and trying to discover who you are, or have been comfortable with yourself for years, you will find Michael's book to be quite informative, humorous and entertaining.

I had the pleasure of talking with Michael about his book, which was just released earlier this year. Of course, the first question on my mind was if he had any regrets not coming out until he was 40. Michael believes things happened just when they were suppose to. "I didn't have those comfort

years. I didn't have the tools; no one pushed me to do it. I'm glad I am where I am now," he says.

The title of the book deals with identification. Michael remembered men in the 1980s who wore different color handkerchiefs in the

follow...the tutorial."

With a lot of help and support, he believes he is more comfortable with himself today than ever before. He did not write the book to be a tell-all or simply another autobiography. He covered what he felt he needed to possibly help others along the way.

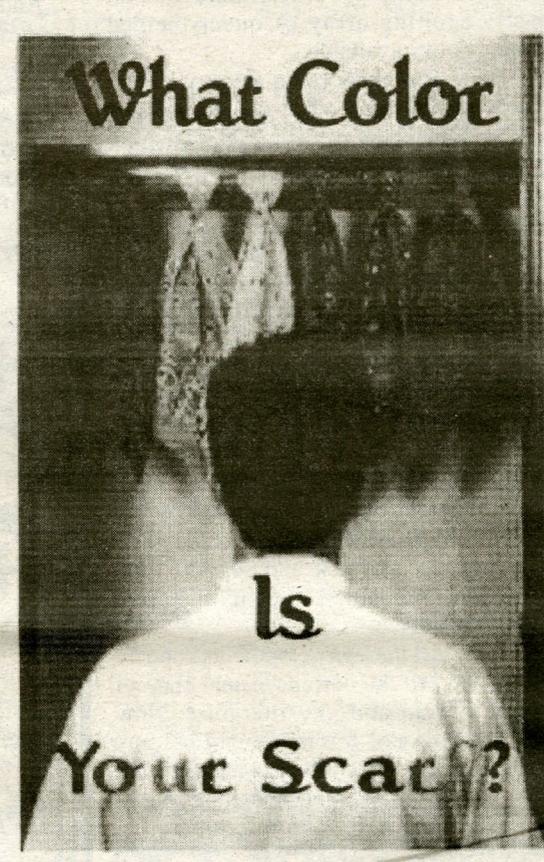
And Michael has done just that. He has heard from tons of readers of all ages, including straight women, who have read his book and found some way to relate to it. My own favorite part of the book is where Michael divides the various components of "gaydom" into sections that all of us are too familiar with. From leather bars to chat room etiquette, to dating services and drug use, Michael covers all genres of gay life that he discovered after identifying himself as a gay man.

So, what color is Michael's scarf, you might ask? He best sums it up near the end of the book. "Perhaps the gay symbol of the rainbow best represents the color of my scarf...I choose to look upon it as the multitude of colors that define me: friendship, love, compassion, humor,

spirit, mind, body and soul. May your scarf be the right color for you."

What Color is Your Scarf? can be purchased at whatcolorscarf.com and you can also e-mail Michael at that site with your comments or questions. Michael was born and raised in Los Angeles and this is his first book. I think you will find it to be an inspiring read no matter what color your own scarf is.

You don't have to take my advice though, read the book!



Michael S. Brown

back pocket of their pants during the *Boys in the Band* days. It became a symbol of identity that some gay men still participate in today.

Michael writes, "while I never used handkerchiefs of any kind, the idea of enlisting an inanimate object to classify one's self became the metaphor for this book."

In the book, Michael goes into great detail about the coming out process to his family and friends. He says, "They knew...we all knew. For me, the hard part was to

Mon., Apr. 1
Mon., Apr. 15

6 p.m., Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
St. John's United Methodist Church
(Peabody & Bellevue)

Feast for Friends is a service of Friends For life for the HIV infected and affected community including people living with HIV or AIDS, their friends, caregivers, family and friends. While the dinner is free, those who are able are requested to make a donation to offset expenses.

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Bible Study: Thursdays, 7:00 PM
Call for Time and Location of Services

ON line **Community Calendar**
mglcccalendar@yahoo.com

The Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center (MGLCC) is giving the community a centralized presence on the web.

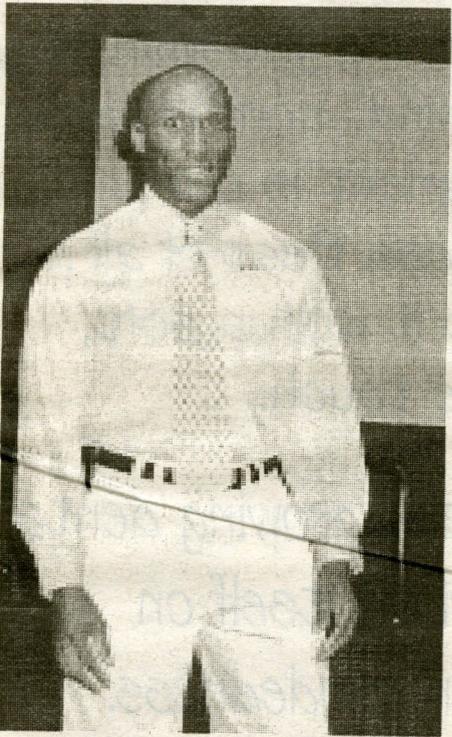
If you are involved in or know of any events missing from the calendar, or if there are changes or additional information for an event already on the calendar, e-mail the group at mglcccalendar@yahoo.com or call 725-1574 and leave a message with the information.

Bookmark the site for future reference and share this information with any lists or persons that might be interested.

MGLCC BACHELOR/BACHELORETTE AUCTION



A date with TJN staffer and community activist Angela Lamb is auctioned off by Lady Emma Rae.



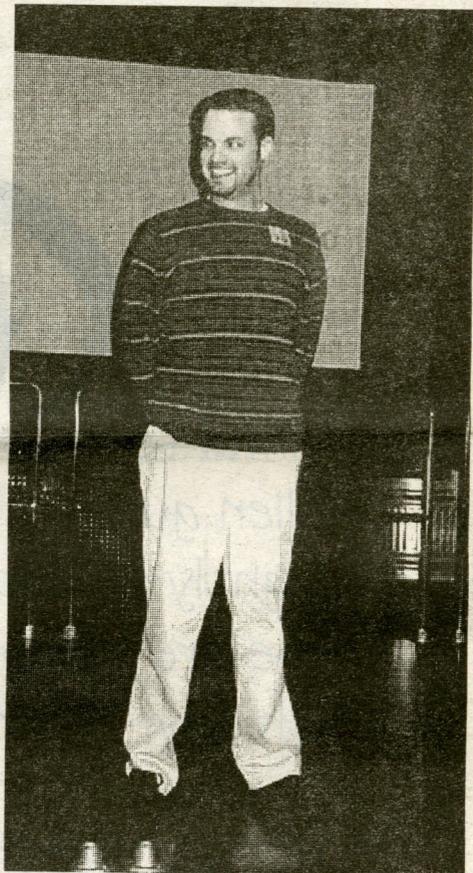
A prize winner for anyone — Darren Burns



(S)he may be known as Lady A around town, but Vincent Astor put on his butch suit for the auction.



B.J. (left) and Herb celebrated their birthdays at the auction — complete with birthday cakes for each!



Ric — Oh, yeah!



Len Piechowski, Lady Emma Rae and Lady A (Vincent Astor).

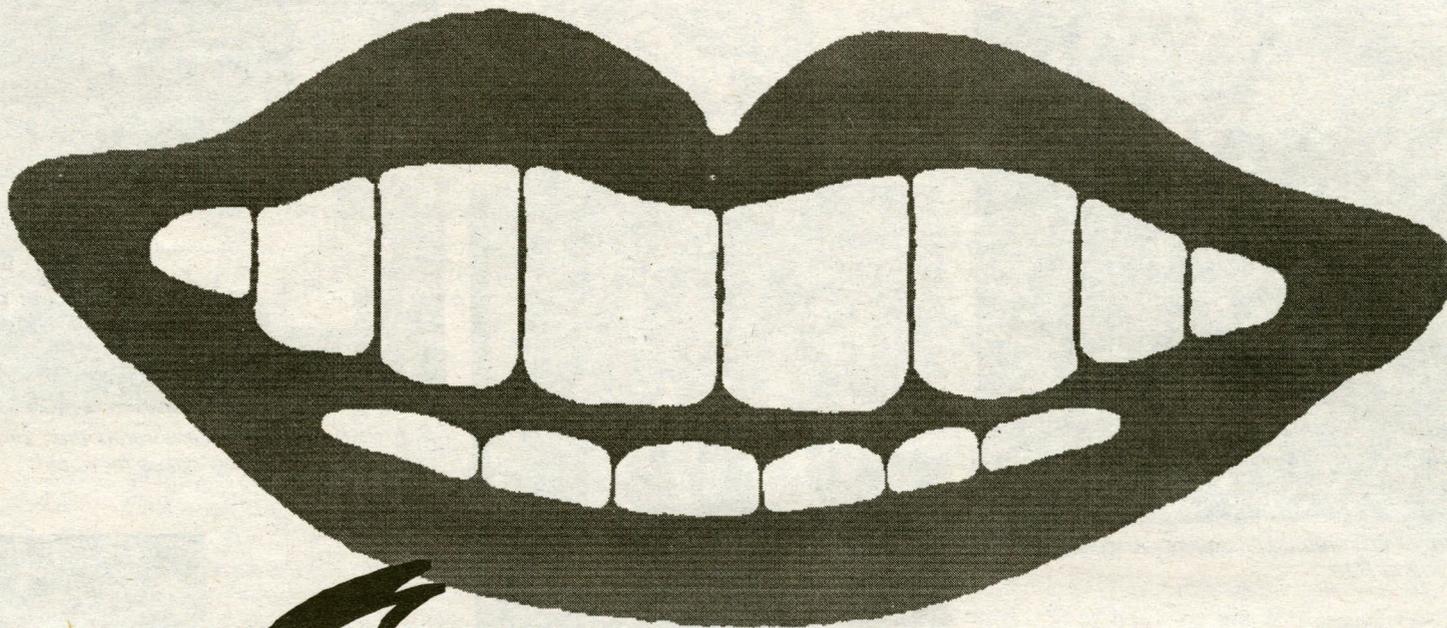


Ranetta and Lady Emma Rae



Nancy and singer Carol Plunk

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