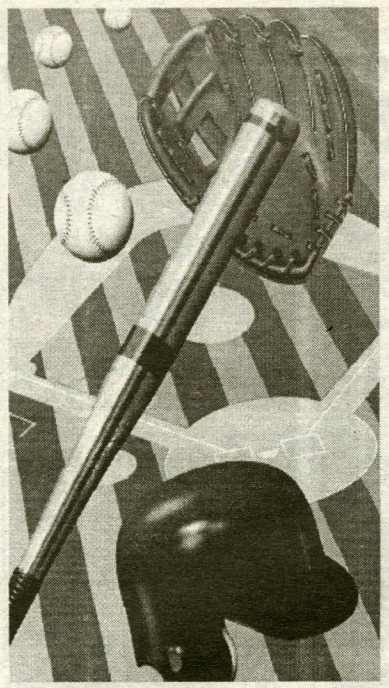

Triangle Journal NEWS

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AUGUST 2003

Inside

On Infallibility 2
Photo Features: Images of Black Pride ..... 5,7,& 11
Quick Clips 4
NCOD Theme Announced 9
HIV Infection Rates Rising 12
Gay High School Set to Open In NYC 15
Don't Rush to Canada 18
Michael Savage Fired 19
How I Learned to Snap - Book Review 20
Out and About 21-23

Faction Denounces Election of Gay Bishop

By Rachel Zoll
Associated Press Writer

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — A conservative faction of the Episcopal Church denounced the election of the denomination's first openly gay bishop and called on Anglican leaders worldwide to intervene in what it called a "pastoral emergency."

The Aug.5 confirmation of the Rev. V. Gene Robinson by the Episcopal General Convention — delayed after last-minute misconduct allegations — risked a possible exodus of conservatives, who said their grief over the decision was "too deep for words."

Robinson was cleared of the misconduct allegations just before the vote.

With his daughter, Ella, and his partner of 13 years, Mark Andrew, watching nearby, Robinson expressed his love for the church.

"God has once again brought an Easter out of Good Friday," he said.

But Robinson acknowledged that many in the church would be upset by the decision, saying, "That is the only thing that makes this not a completely joyous day for me."

Presiding Bishop Frank Griswold, head of the church, said the bishops voted 62-45 to confirm Robinson's election. Two bishops abstained, but their ballots under church rules were counted as "no" votes.

Immediately after results were announced, more than a dozen conservative bishops walked to the podium of the House of Bishops, surrounding Pittsburgh Bishop Robert Duncan who read a statement saying he and the others felt "grief too deep for words."

Some convention delegates who opposed Robinson left the meeting in tears.

"This body willfully confirming the election of a person sexually active outside of holy matrimony has departed from the historic faith and order of the Church of Jesus Christ," Duncan said. "This body has divided itself from millions of Anglican Christians around the world."

The American Anglican Council, which represents conservative Episcopalians, planned a meeting

See **Gay Bishop** *on page 9*

Vatican Launches Campaign Against Gays

By Nicole Winfield
Associated Press Writer

VATICAN CITY (AP) — The Vatican urged Catholics and non-Catholics alike July 30 to unite in campaigning against gay marriages and gay adoptions, seeking to stem the widening legal recognition of same-sex unions and the increasing acceptance of homosexual lifestyles.

Catholic politicians have a "moral duty" to oppose laws granting legal rights to gay couples, and non-Catholics should follow their lead since the issue concerns "natural moral law" and not just Roman Catholic teaching, said the Vatican's orthodoxy watchdog, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, in its latest effort to rally public opinion on the issue.

The 12-page document, which was issued in seven languages, was immediately criticized by gay groups across North America and Europe, where politicians — including some conservatives — are

See **Vatican** *on page 8*

Trend Toward Accepting Gay Rights Seems Stalled After Court Ruling

By Will Lester
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Supreme Court decision that struck down a Texas law banning gay sex may have caused a backlash that at least temporarily reversed a gradual shift toward more public acceptance of gay rights, pollsters suggest.

The change in polls showed up in recent weeks in CNN-*USA Today*-Gallup polls.

One Gallup poll released this week shows people are now about evenly divided about whether homosexual relations should be legal. In the poll, taken July 25-27, 48 percent said such relations should be legal and 46 percent said they shouldn't.

That's a significant change from early May, when 60 percent said that such activity should be legal and 35 percent said it should not.

And a poll taken by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press in late June and early July found that opposition to gay legal rights had been declining in recent years. Those who strongly opposed gay marriage had declined from 41 percent in 1996 to 30 percent, and those who supported it had increased from 27 percent to 38 percent.

Members of the Lesbian and Gay Coalition for Justice and the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center celebrated the recent favorable Supreme Court decision by throwing a party at the center.

Pollsters are trying to determine what's affecting the shifts.

The Gallup data showed those who were changing their views recently tended to be conservatives, moderates and people who attend church.

Pope John Paul II has been speaking out for months against legislative proposals to legalize same-sex marriages. The Vatican released a document that outlines a course of action for politicians and other lay people to oppose extending to homosexual couples marriage rights accorded to traditional couples.

One explanation for the shifts could be the political debate sparked by the Supreme Court decision in June and the reaction of some conservative leaders, said Andrew Kohut, director of the Pew Research Center.

"As this has become more of an issue, there appears to be some backlash against it as (conserva-

See **Trend** *on page 4*

Arkansas School District, Student Settle Lawsuit; He Was Punished

By Caryn Rousseau
Associated Press Writer

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — A teenager disciplined by his school district for talking about being gay will get $25,000, an apology from school officials and his disciplinary record cleared.

Thomas McLaughlin, 14, of Jacksonville settled his lawsuit against the Pulaski County Special School District, which disciplined him for speaking to his junior high classmates about his sexual orientation.

In a statement issued through his secretary, Superintendent Don Henderson said the school district was satisfied with the settlement.

The American Civil Liberties Union filed the lawsuit in April, alleging teachers disciplined McLaughlin for his remarks as well as preached to him from the Bible and told his parents that he was gay.

A general condition of the settlement requires that the school district not disclose a student's sexual orientation or punish a student for talking about his or her sexual orientation outside the classroom.

On Fallibility

By Allen Cook

"Things are seldom what they seem. Skim milk masquerades as cream." — W.S. Gilbert

Those of you who are awaiting Round Two of what might have developed into a raucous bitch-fight might as well stop waiting — it ain't gonna happen.

Being personally attacked in print is a sobering experience; none of us is so clean and pure that he/she can afford to throw stones at someone else. But for those who believe what was said, no amount of protestation on my part will change their minds. Conversely, for those with an opposite view, no amount of attacking will change theirs.

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

All I intend to say in response is "consider the source and their motivation." End of discussion.

My partner John and I have now been publishing a GLBT publication for almost 25 years and if there is one thing we have learned, it's that no one is right all of the time. We all make mistakes, some more grievous than others. More often than not, there are errors of omission — we're all human and we all forget things on occasion.

Throughout my years as editor of *Gaze* and then of the *Triangle Journal News*, the staff has always been small. In the early days, it was relatively easy to cover every gay event this town had to offer because there were so few. Today, it's not so easy.

Because of our small staff, we rely on people within various organizations to keep us informed of special events and benefits. Friends for Life, Memphis Pride and the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center have figured this out and do a really good job in this regard. They have realized that they don't need to necessarily buy an ad to get coverage of their event in these pages.

In the past five years however, we've noticed that some organizations seem to be granting exclusives to our competition. Whether or not that is true is irrelevant because doing so really hurts those organizations more than it hurts us. Coverage of an event or story has never been contingent on buying advertising from us — *never*. Yes, we would like the advertising revenue, but it's certainly not a requirement. The blame for lack of pre-publicity for an event often lies with the organizers.

We were criticized for not covering Black Pride events this year... one of those grievous errors of omission on our part. The reality is that there was a huge miscommunication internally on our part (communication in communication businesses is the worst) resulting in no one from our staff attending those events. We sincerely apologize.

We hope we've made up for that in this issue thanks to Corey Kitchens who took quite a number of photos and who graciously is allowing us to print them. We've been asking folks to share their photos of community events for some time and we sincerely appreciate the time, and effort he took to get those photos to us.

In all fairness though, we were never directly approached or ever directly informed of Black Pride events. Yes, we knew they were happening, but all we knew of them, we learned from other than official sources.

In actuality there are lots of things we don't cover for a wide variety of reasons — mostly time and personnel constraints — but here's a tip: if you don't see us there, give us a call or an e-mail with some information. We'll be glad to pat you on the back for a job well done and give you the credit you deserve. And if no one from *TJN* was there to take pictures, offer us some of yours as Corey Kitchens did.

A few months ago, we hired Ranetta Jackson as an advertising representative. Today, she doubles as a photographer attending as many events as she can throughout the month to provide pictures for these pages. A fact which has no bearing on anything as far as I can tell is that Ranetta is black. She is, perhaps, the most visible member of our staff in the community, and I feel she is doing a great job.

The reason she is on our staff is because she expressed an interest and has followed through. She probably doesn't get paid nearly what she is worth, but, hey, when the economy turns around, she will. To be labeled as a "token" is not only wrong, it's unconscionable and irresponsible — especially when it is done without any fact-finding. She is neither the first — nor hopefully the last — black person to be on our staff.

The *Triangle Journal News* is operated as a *community* newspaper. It was born out of a controversy almost 15 years ago and has survived the people and organizations that tried to kill it.

To be honest, if profit was our primary motive, the paper would have folded long ago.

Why do we continue? Quite frankly, it's something we love to do. We have no agendas, no axes to grind. We're here to serve the community.

TJN depends on the community for the news and information it contains.To a large extent, it depends on its readers to provide its material. People are what make a community and people are what make the *Triangle Journal* viable.

Triangle Journal NEWS

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Quick Lips

by Allen Cook

Readers beware! The following column may contain personal references, opinions, asides and stuff that's probably only interesting to me. It should be read skeptically. Sometimes I will make attributions and sometimes not. Don't like it? Tough! It's my perogative as editor and columnist. What this column will ***not*** *contain is personal attacks.*

With that caveat, let's begin...

▼

First, let me apologize for *TJN* being a week late. If you live in Memphis you already know why. If you live outside of Memphis, let's just say laptop computer batteries don't last nearly long enough!

▼

As long as we are apologizing, let me apologize to Black Pride for our lack of coverage in the last issue of their events over Father's Day weekend. In fairness, we received no information directly from the group about its events. However, Corey Kitchens has graciously supplied us with some pictures of the various soireés, many of which you will see in the following pages. As usual the color versions (as well as many not printed for lack of space) appear on our website: www.memphistrianglejournal.com.

If the Good Lord doesn't call, I *will* be in attendance at some of the Bobby Blake Birthday Bash events Aug. 8-10 — and no, I will not be wearing sackcloth and ashes.

▼

Wasn't it nice to have a good piece of news from the Supreme Court during Gay Pride Month? When they released the Hardwicke decision years ago (which their recent decision overturned), it was during June as well. The fact that they waited until the last week of the month had me worried. I guess they just wanted to avoid the mass celebrations the announcement would have created at the late June Pride events around the country.t

The Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center and the Lesbian & Gay Coalition for Justice celebrated the right way — they had a party!

▼

Speaking of MGLCC, it's just amazing what getting a building to work out of has done for the organization. Already they are in danger of outgrowing their space. More and more organizations are electing to meet at the center. The attendance at their monthly potluck/birthday parties is growing by leaps and bounds. New volunteers have been trained and open hours have expanded. They even have a Saturday night movie night.

And for the barflies... it's all usually over in time for the bar!

Seriously, if you are not a contributor to the center, consider it. It's money well spent.

▼

I went to the MGLCC annual meeting on July 13 and found out that although the *individuals* suing *Family & Friends* have dropped out, the $750,000 lawsuit brought by MGLCC is still ongoing. The likelihood is that the matter will go to arbitration for settlement. MGLCC says it is ready to sit down and talk... guess who won't?

▼

Memphis' own Bobby Blake will be celebrating his 46th birthday with a three-day, mostly free, party Aug. 8-10 open to anyone.

Friday starts with a party at the Ramada Inn at 1837 Union Ave. DJ Chris Johnson from L.A. will be spinning the tunes, and there will be free food and drinks. An after- party will be hosted by Atlanta's Men of Jaguar.

On Saturday the party will continue at The Premiere Palace, 629 Monroe. There will be no cover and free food and beverages. An afterparty will be hosted by Men of Jaguar and Detroit's DNA Productions.

Sunday night will bring "The Black Party" to The Paragon, 2865 Walnut Grove. The evening will feature the St. John Family and "Who Wants to be a Star" sponsored by the Pardoux Corporation for a $10 cover.

Every night there will be male dancers from across the U.S. as well as porn luminaries J.C. Carter and Bam. And if you ever really wanted to be a porn star, film producer/director Edward James will be searching for men and women for video and internet work. Only the hot, hot, hot need apply.

▼

Oh, my God!!! Have you seen *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy?* and *Boy Meets Boy* on Bravo? If Time Warner doesn't add this channel to its line-up, I would definitely be in the market for a satellite dish. Having worked for Time-Warner in the past, I wouldn't hold my breath (although the company *does* have a policy which prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation). Find someone who is willing to record these shows for you!

Queer Eye gets another stab at fame on its big sister network NBC on Aug. 14 when a second half hour version will be presented following *Will & Grace*. The Fab Five guest on the *Tonight Show* Aug. 14 and 15 where they will do a makeover on Jay Leno, band members and the set — sounds like a hoot to me.

For the distaff (is that still a politically correct word?) side, *The L Word* is set to premiere on Showtime in January. It stars Jennifer Beals as one of the West Hollywood "L"s in the title and promises to be the female version of *Queer As Folk.*

Some other gay-themed programs in the offing:

• *Gay Hollywood* (AMC, Aug. 11) looks at five gay guys looking for their big break in Tinseltown.

• *It's All Relative* (ABC this fall) a guy from a conservative Irish Catholic family gets engaged to a cultured Harvard gal with two dads.

• *Mr. and Mr. Nash* (ABC, 2004) Interior decorators by day, they sleuth at night — sort of a gay *Hart to Hart.*

▼

Question of the month: Why does karma take so damned long to work?

Human Rights Cammpaign Expresses Profound Disappointment at President Bush's Call to Codify Discrimination

WASHINGTON — The Human Rights Campaign expressed profound disappointment in remarks made by President Bush during a press conference July 30 in which he said he supported codifying marriage in the United States as being between one man and one woman.

"We are very disappointed that the president is trying to further codify discrimination into law. The deeply discriminatory 1996 Defense of Marriage Act already denies gay and lesbian Americans basic rights like the ability to take time off work to care for a sick partner. We ask the president to explain to the American people why DOMA does not already meet the objective he set this morning," said HRC Political Director Winnie Stachelberg.

Answering a question on the morality of homosexuality, the president said, "I think it's very important for our society to respect each individual, to welcome those with good hearts, to be a welcoming country. On the other hand, that does not mean that somebody like me needs to compromise on an issue such as marriage. And that's really where the issue is headed here in Washington, and that is the definition of marriage. I believe in the sanctity of marriage. I believe a marriage is between a man and a woman. And I think we ought to codify that one way or the other. And we've got lawyers looking at the best way to do that."

The president's remarks are in contrast with Vice President Dick Cheney's statements during a vice presidential debate prior to the 2000 election.

"People should be free to enter into any kind of relationship they want to enter into. It's really no one else's business, in terms of trying to regulate or prohibit behavior in that regard," said Cheney. "I think different states are likely to come to different conclusions, and that's appropriate. I don't think there should necessarily be a federal policy in this area...I think we ought to do everything we can to tolerate and accommodate whatever kind of relationships people want to enter into."

A recent study of the 2000 Census by the Urban Institute showed that gay and lesbian Americans live in 99.3 percent of the counties in this country. The study also showed the average American same-sex couple is, statistically speaking, a mirror image of the average married American couple. For example, the average same-sex couple with children in Ohio is raising 1.79 children, while the average heterosexual couple is raising 1.93 children. Also in Ohio, 75.1 percent of same-sex couples own their homes, and 82.2 percent of other couples own their homes, which have the same median value of $112,500.

In January, 2002, the president signed a Washington, D.C. appropriations bill that grants domestic partners of city employees access to health benefits. In June 2002, the president also signed the Mychal Judge Act, which provides a federal payment to the beneficiaries of public safety officers killed in the line of duty, including same-sex or opposite-sex domestic partners.

"On the one hand, we have seen the president act with compassion and tolerance by signing important bills like the Mychal Judge Act into law. At the same time, he also seems to be working to strengthen laws that deny more than 1,000 federal rights, benefits and protections to law-abiding, tax-paying gay and lesbian Americans who are now being faced with new forms of codified discrimination. That is just wrong," said Stachelberg.

The Human Rights Campaign is the largest national lesbian and gay political organization, with members throughout the country. It lobbies Congress, provides campaign support and educates the public to ensure that gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Americans can be open, honest and safe at home, at work and in the community.

Trend

Continued from page 1

tive) leadership has taken up the cudgels," Kohut said, referring to efforts to block additional gay rights such a proposed constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage.

"The issue has become politicized," Kohut said. "But there is still a long-term trend toward liberalization of views."

Frank Newport, executive editor of the Gallup Poll, said, "The trends had clearly been moving up in terms of public acceptance of the legality of homosexual relations and also on other gay and lesbian measures in the polls." But in two separate polls in July, Gallup surveys detected shifts against gay rights.

The Gallup poll showed that those who say homosexuality should be acceptable had dropped from 54 percent in May to 46 percent, and the number who thought it should not had increased 6 points to about half.

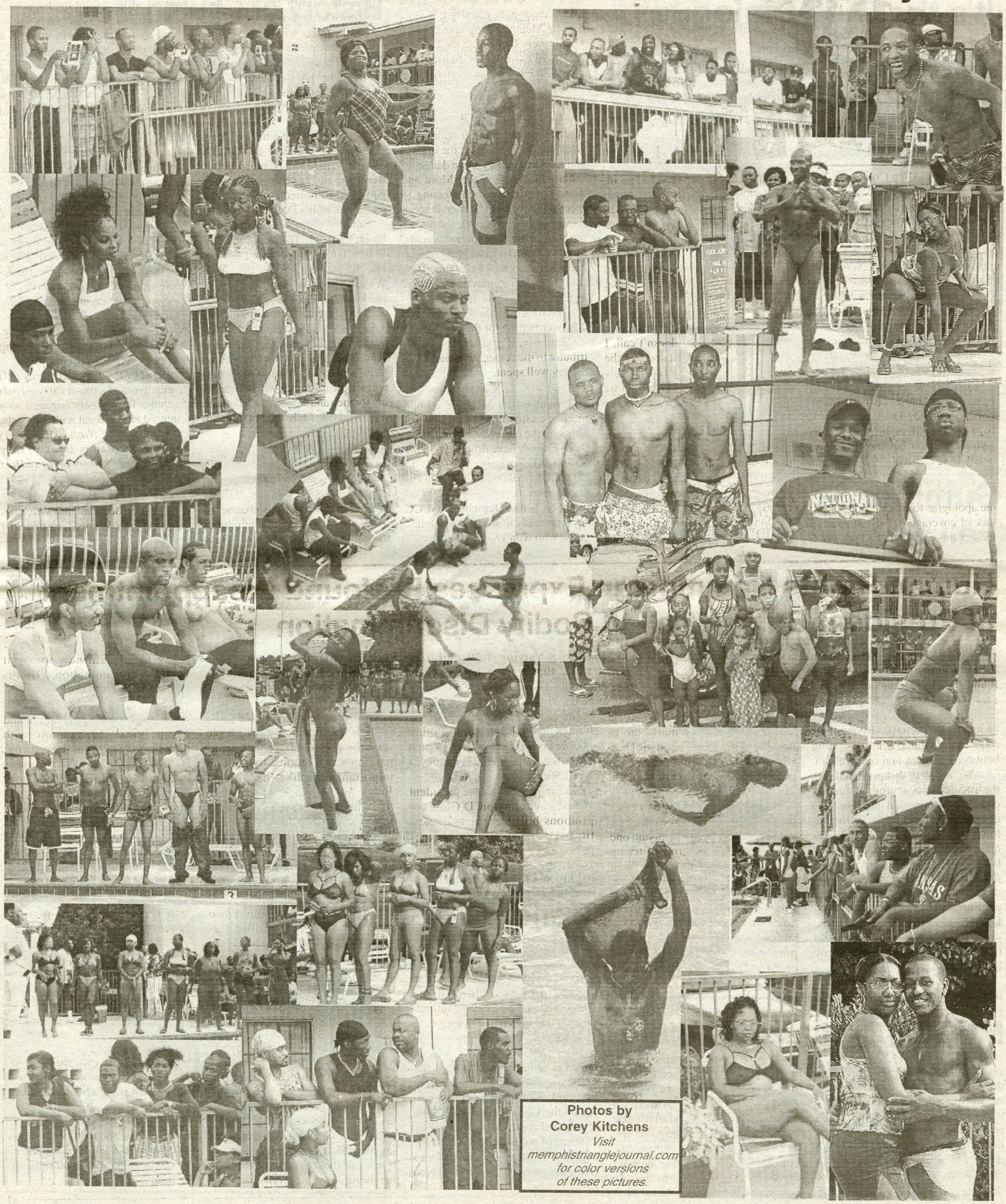
Newport cautioned the poll data offered no specific reasons for the shift. But he noted the timing.

The two most recent Gallup polls were taken after the 6-3 ruling in which the Supreme Court threw out the Texas law prohibiting homosexual activity, saying such a statute violates privacy rights under the Constitution.

Supporters of gay rights predicted the decision could eventually lead to the legalization of gay marriage, although few predicted when that might happen. Meanwhile, the television industry has been producing more shows with gay themes — such as *Boy Meets Boy* and *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy* — as well as more mainstream shows with plots about gay characters.

The Supreme Court decision, Newport said, focused attention on the possibility that gays and lesbians might gain more legal rights in the future.

Images of Black Pride 2003 — The Pool Party



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Move Over *Vagina Monologues*, It's the Dick Dialogues

By Allen Cook

No, it's not the gay man's answer to the *Vagina Monologues*, it's a conciousness raising weekend for gay and bisexual men slated for October 24-26 in Natchez Trace State Park.

According to the organizers. the weekend is about meeting other guys and developing healthy intimacy.

"It's about understanding the variations within our community. "It's about an awakening of our spirits. It's about exploring what it means to be a man and how to live in community," states the event brochure.

The gay and bisexual men's weekend is planned to provide guests with a wide variety of opportunities. Guests do not have to attend every event and activity, but are asked to attend the four group dialogues.

Among the opportunities during the weekend are community discussions, films and videos, meditation sessions, outdoor sports, a party on Saturday night, and evening bonfire as well as hiking, walking, and sleep and relaxation.

The setting for the weekend will be Natchez Trace State Park about 40 miles northeast of Jackson, Tenn., and 90 miles southwest of Nashville.

Guests will be staying at the newly renovated Five Point Group Lodge, which consists of five cottages, a bunkhouse and a conference center used for meetings and dining.

Each cottage sleeps 12 (six to a room) and has two bathrooms each with a tub and shower. The bunkhouse sleeps 16 (eight to a room) and has two showers and six basins.

The weekend is limited to 76 people. Registration before Sept. 3 is $100 ($125 after). The fee includes room, board and access to all camp events and activities. The fee does not include transportation, the rental of any equipment or horseback riding.

For more information on registration, call (615) 391-9033 or e-mail info@dickdialogues.org.

Integrity Meeting to Feature History of Church

The next regular monthly meeting of Integrity-Memphis will be held on Tues., Aug. 19, at 6:30 p.m. at Calvary Episcopal Church, Second at Adams.

The meeting will begin with a worship service led by Rev. Tim Meadows. Dinner will follow at a cost of $10 for members, free for first-time guests.

At 7:30 p.m., Meadows will present a program on the history of the church from its beginnings to the present.

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. There are members of many faith traditions and visitors are always welcomed.

Integrity meets the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 at Calvary Church, followed by dinner and a program. For more information, visit the website at http://www.geocities.com/integrity_memphis/main.html

Memphis LGCJ Fills Board Positions

At a special open board meeting Sat. July 19, the Memphis Lesbian & Gay Coalition for Justice added several new board members and filled two vacant officer positions.

The existing officers were Jim Maynard, co-chair, and Tim Johnson, treasurer.

The newly added officers are: Star Adams, co-chair, and James Williams, secretary.

Also joining the board were: Glenn Ramsey and Justin Cint.

The board will be focusing on registering new voters for the important upcoming city elections, and continuing work to get a city non-discrimination ordinance introduced after the election.

Monthly board meetings are open to anyone and will be held on the third Saturday of each month at 2 p.m. at the Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center, 892 S. Cooper. The next meeting is Aug. 16.

The Memphis Lesbian & Gay Coalition for Justice is grassroots organization working to fight prejudice and discrimination, and defend the civil rights of, GLBT people.

For more information visit online at www.geocities.com/mlgcj or e-mail mlgcj@yahoo.com

Summer Softball Tournament, Fall SeasonAnnounced

Time is still available to get your team ready to play fall softball with the Bluff City Sports Association.

The fall season will begin on Sun., Sept. 7, and continue through October. Games will be played on Sunday afternoons at Tobey Fields.

The BCSA is a competitive league that is also recreational. The league is open to anyone wanting to play.

There are teams that need people, or if you have enough players to start a new team, BCSA can help you find people to play and businesses to sponsor you. Contact the group @ www.bluffcitysports.net or e-mail commish@bluffcitysports.net.

BCSA Softball Tournament for the summer season will he held on Sun., Aug. 10, at 1 p.m. at Toby Fields. The BCSA is having a double elimination softball tournament with the teams from its summer league, with the final game to be played at 6 p.m. All games are played at Tobey Fields Park, Fields #2 and #3.

Toby Fields Park is located at Central and Hollywood.

BCSA to Stage Softball Clinic

Ever wondered if you would have fun playing softball? Do you play softball now, but really want to focus on improving a specific skill. Come out to the "Brush up on the Basics" Softball Clinic.

Some of the best softball players in the Bluff City Sports Association have gotten together to teach anyone who wants to learn, what they want or need to learn.

There will be clinics on batting, pitching, catching, fielding, throwing and game basics. The clinic is open to anyone with an interest and there is no charge. The only thing you'll need to bring is your interest.

If you are interested contact commish@bluffcitysports.net or call 901-301-7091 for more information. The clinic will be Sun., Aug. 24, 1 p.m. at Tobey Field #1.

MGLCC Elects New Officers, Board Members

The following individuals were elected to the MGLCC Board of Directors at its annual meeting on Sun., July 13:

Vice President - Heidi Williams

Secretary - Jim Maynard

Treasurer - Hunter W. Johnston

Members at Large - Chuck Bohannon, Jon Devin, Kevin Dugan, Skyler Goldman, John Heizer, Wes McComas and Mickey Scott.

Len Piechowski remains as president since that position has a two-year term which expires next year.

See photo feature on page 14.

MLGCJ Organizing Voter Drive

The Memphis Lesbian & Gay Coalition for Justice is organizing a voter registration drive to encourage everyone to register to vote for the upcoming Memphis city elections in October. In order to vote people need to be registered 30 days prior to the election.

Mail-in voter registration forms can be picked up at the Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center, 892 S. Cooper, Inz & Outz and other participating businesses.

Anyone wishing to help distribute registration forms can pick them up at the Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center, contact MLGCJ at mlgcj@yahoo.com or call Jim at 327-2677

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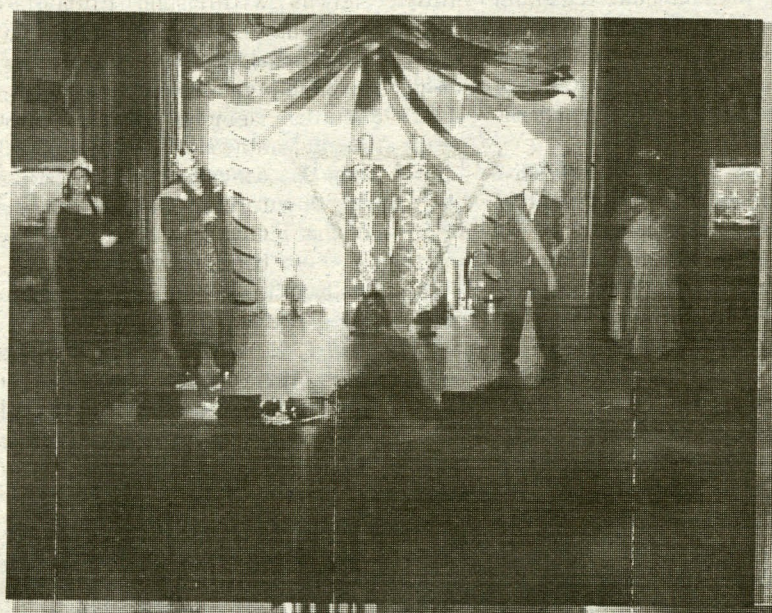

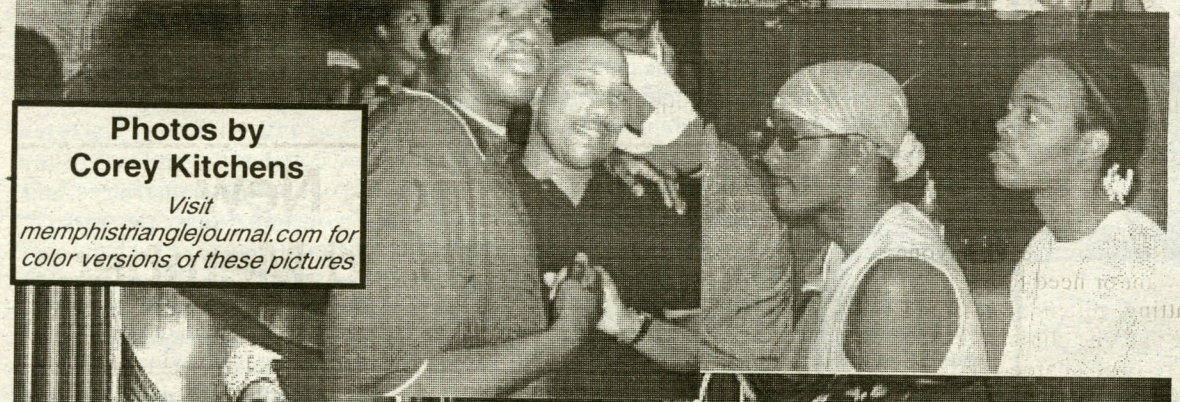

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Activists Seek Law in Anti-gay Minister's Hometown

By John Hanna
Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — Outsiders often assume this community is a conservative place where social change occurs slowly.

After all, a Kansas law specifically criminalizing gay sex remained on the books this year, after most other states had repealed theirs. And among the Kansas capital's 122,000 residents is a minister whose church has offended people across the nation with anti-homosexual pickets and signs with slogans like "God hates fags."

But Topeka also is home to activists seeking an ordinance that would protect gays and lesbians from discrimination.

The City Council narrowly rejected such a proposal last year, and a national group has made enacting an ordinance its priority. Activists, cheered by a recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling that invalidated state laws against gay sex, plan to revive their proposal, perhaps this coming fall.

The activists face a reluctant council and more than a few Topeka residents who find the anti-gay picketing offensive but also view homosexuality as morally wrong. Yet supporters of a gay rights ordinance believe they can enact protections against discrimination.

"We think what is happening here in Topeka is incredibly important for our movement for equal rights across the country," said Matt Foreman, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

Talk of another attempt at enacting an ordinance does not surprise Dan Walker, spokesman for the Family Action Network, a non-denominational group that opposes the idea. He said gays and lesbians are seeking special rights and are working toward legalizing gay marriages.

"The endgame in all of this is acceptance of homosexuality in Christianity," Walker said. "That's never going to happen. There's always going to be a remnant that adheres to the Scriptures."

The vote last September was 4-5 against an ordinance, described as an anti-discrimination or human rights proposal by its supporters and as a broad special rights enactment by opponents.

The ordinance's sponsor, council member Lisa Hecht, lost her seat in an April municipal election, largely over that single issue. That dampened other council members' interest in taking up the issue.

Council member Duane Pomeroy, who voted for the ordinance last year, said it polarized the community and recalled his advice to supporters: "Don't bring it up unless you're fairly confident you have the votes or can get the votes."

A council member who voted no, Harold Lane, said he would not be surprised if the issue arose again but, "I haven't heard anyone bring it up."

That's in sharp contrast to what Foreman and other activists said is the interest in pursuing the ordinance among his group, gays and lesbians, and others. Activists have started raising money and going door-to-door to build support; they hope a proposal will be introduced to the council in November.

The U.S. Supreme Court's ruling June 26 in a Texas case, striking down that state's anti-sodomy law, undercut one argument against the proposed Topeka ordinance, that the city should not extend protection to residents who are likely violating Kansas law. State officials said the court ruling invalidated the Kansas law as well.

"Why should someone be discriminated against just because of who they are?" said Bill Beachy, spokesman for Concerned Citizens of Topeka, a group formed by both gay and straight Topekans to answer the anti-gay picketing in the city.

But Walker said: "Homosexuality is a choice. It's not a sexual orientation. It's a sexual preference."

Enacting an ordinance in Topeka might not be as important to the national task force were it not for the Rev. Fred Phelps Sr., pastor of the Westboro Baptist Church.

For more than a dozen years, church members, many related to the pastor by blood or marriage, have picketed, becoming fixtures outside funerals for AIDS victims, venues for major events and other churches — including Walker's — believed to be too quiet about "the sodomite agenda."

Phelps has been interviewed repeatedly, most recently by *Hustler* magazine. Playright Moises Kaufman portrayed Phelps — unfairly, the pastor said, but accurately, others thought — in *The Laramie Project*, about the 1998 murder of gay University of Wyoming student Matthew Shepard. Phelps' church flies the American and Canadian flags upside down — the Canadian on top because of that nation's acceptance of gay marriages.

And Phelps relishes another battle in Topeka, saying, "It'd just be fun."

"They know that whatever they do, here we are, saying it is a monstrous sin in the face of God," Phelps said. "They know if they can't break us in this place, they've lost the war, no matter what the successes elsewhere."

Foreman said that some of his fellow activists outside Kansas assume that Phelps shows "nothing pro-gay can happen" in Topeka.

"We're going to show it can — and will," he said. "By winning in Topeka, it gets easier everywhere."

Vatican

Continued from page 1

increasingly granting homosexual couples the same legal status as heterosexual couples.

"This new document is intended to intimidate public officials across the globe into doing what the Vatican has not been able to do on its own — stem the growing tide for justice," said Marianne Duddy, executive director of Dignity USA, an organization of gay Catholics. "It is a tremendous shame that the leaders of our church are becoming the vocal proponents for intolerance and continuing discrimination."

The document, *Considerations Regarding Proposals to Give Legal Recognition to Unions Between Homosexual Persons*, sets out a battle plan for politicians confronted with legislation legalizing same-sex unions and also rails against gay adoption, saying children raised by same-sex parents face developmental "obstacles" because they are deprived of having either a mother or a father.

"Allowing children to be adopted by persons living in such unions would actually mean doing violence to these children, in the sense that their condition of dependency would be used to place them in an environment that is not conducive to their full human development," it said.

The document says Catholic politicians must vote against laws granting recognition to homosexual unions. If the laws are already on the books, politicians must speak out against them, work to repeal them and try to limit their impact on society.

"There are absolutely no grounds for considering homosexual unions to be in any way similar or even remotely analogous to God's plan for marriage and family," the document said.

"To vote in favor of a law so harmful to the common good is gravely immoral," it added, although it didn't provide for specific penalties for Catholics who fail to oppose such laws.

It wasn't clear what impact, if any, the new document would have on Catholic lawmakers grappling with demands from gay groups for equality in issues such as inheritance rights and being allowed to make health care decisions for incapacitated partners.

Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien, who is Catholic, has supported a proposed law that would conform to court rulings in defining marriage as a union between two people, rather than a man and a woman.

"As prime minister of Canada, he has the moral responsibility to protect the equality of Canadians," a spokesman, Thoren Hudyma, told the *Globe and Mail* newspaper in explaining that Chretien's duty was to the public, not his church.

In June, an appeals court in Ontario ruled that Canada's definition of marriage as only between a man and a woman was unconstitutional, paving the way for legalized gay unions there.

Vermont has a "civil union" law, giving same-sex couples the rights and responsibilities of traditional marriages, and the highest court in Massachusetts, is weighing whether to legalize such unions.

In reaction, some Republican lawmakers in Washington are calling for a constitutional amendment that would ban gay marriages nationwide, despite recent polls showing that opposition to gay marriage had diminished in recent years.

Over the past two years, the Netherlands and Belgium extended marriages rights to all couples, no matter the partners' gender. Germany, France, Sweden and Denmark also have "civil union" laws.

In the Netherlands and Belgium, the proposals were backed by conservative Christian Democrat parties, which stressed that they respected the Vatican's viewpoint but had decided that its teaching on the issue wasn't appropriate.

On July 30, President George W. Bush weighed in on the issue, telling a press conference that marriage was defined strictly as a union between a man and a woman and that he wants to "codify that one way or the other."

Government lawyers are exploring measures to enshrine it into law, the White House said.

HRC Foundation's National Coming Out Project Launches 2003 Theme: 'It's a Family Affair'

WASHINGTON — "It's a Family Affair" — celebrating gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender families — is the theme for this year's National Coming Out Project, the Human Rights Campaign Foundation announced July 24.

To promote awareness of GLBT families living honest and open lives, the HRC Foundation will offer resources to GLBT couples, parents and their children as well as straight friends and relatives.

"There's immeasurable power in simply being visible," said Candace Gingrich, HRC's National Coming Out Project manager.

"As the national discussion on GLBT families progresses, it's more important now than ever to live openly and honestly. We've got to spread the message that — under current law — Americans can share the same hopes and dreams but can't share the same legal protections."

National Coming Out Day is celebrated every Oct. 11 to mark the anniversary of the 1987 march on Washington for gay and lesbian equality.

Each year since, thousands of GLBT people and allies have celebrated National Coming Out Day in schools, churches and businesses nationwide through workshops, speak-outs, rallies and other events aimed at showing the public that GLBT people are everywhere.

"Studies of the most recent census show that GLBT couples live in nearly every county in the United States, and, in many ways, we mirror the makeup of heterosexual families," said Lisa Bennett, deputy director for HRC FamilyNet (www.hrc.org/familynet), the most comprehensive resource on GLBT family issues.

"What sets our families apart, however, is the absence of legal rights and protections. When we come out, we bring to light those inequities."

In conjunction with the National Coming Out Project, Absolut Spirits Co. last month announced an advertising campaign celebrating the contributions of the GLBT community.

The campaign features a traveling billboard, national print advertising and online auctions featuring items from celebrity closets, including Madonna, Elizabeth Taylor, k.d. lang, Christina Aguilera and Gus Van Sant.

In addition, HRC's National Coming Out Project will be a beneficiary of profits from a DVD entitled "Coming Out Party," slated for release Oct. 11.

The DVD will feature gay and lesbian stand-up comics telling their coming out stories. The comedians, who include Bob Smith, Sabrina Matthews and Terry Sweeney, were taped live in June. The DVD is being produced by Creative Light Entertainment, advertising pioneer Howard Bragman and Un-Cabaret Multi/Media.

For more information on National Coming Out Day, call 1-800-866-NCOD or visit www.hrc.org/ncop. Resources and action items for GLBT people and their friends and family are also available there.

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Cathedral of Hope Leader Submits Resignation Letter to Congregation

DALLAS (AP) — The head of the world's largest gay and lesbian church has said he will resign if conflicts within the church are not lessened in the next few months.

Michael Piazza, the leader of the Cathedral of Hope in Dallas, is taking a three- to six-month sabbatical away from accusations concerning management of the church's health insurance, the capital campaign fund and Piazza's personal expense account.

Piazza was not accused of stealing money and has said he is innocent.

The letter allows the Rev. Mona West, the church's pastor, to remove him "for the good of the church."

The church was under investigation by the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches until the congregation overwhelmingly voted to disaffiliate from the organization July 28.

That day Piazza e-mailed church dissidents announcing the letter of resignation.

"You have publicly humiliated me and my family ... How much more do you need of me?" he wrote.

Piazza has been with the church for 16 years. Earlier, he gave up his ministry credentials but continued his role as dean and co-pastor of the church, which has more than 3,000 members.

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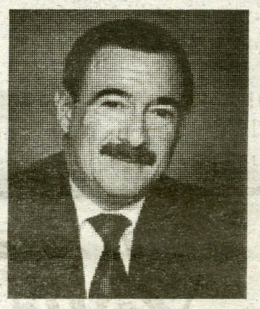

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MLS

Gay Bishop

Continued from page 1

in Plano, Texas, in October to decide their next move.

Gay rights advocates, meanwhile, claimed Robinson's confirmation as a major victory. The Rev. Michael Hopkins, president of Episcopal gay advocacy group Integrity, said he was "grateful to God" for the vote.

"This is a strong message to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons that the Episcopal Church does, indeed, welcome you," Hopkins said.

The church has been debating the role of gays for decades. In 1998, a worldwide meeting of Anglican leaders approved a resolution calling gay sex "incompatible with Scripture," but the denomination has no official rules — either for or against — ordaining gays.

Some Episcopal parishes already allow homosexual clergy to serve, but Robinson is the first clergyman in the Anglican Communion to live openly as a gay man before he was elected bishop.

Robinson, a 56-year-old divorced father of two, will be consecrated in the New Hampshire Diocese in November.

If conservatives do decide to break away, it was unclear what that would mean for the Episcopal Church. Some parishes could split from their dioceses and refuse to recognize clergy who support homosexuality, but stop short of a complete separation.

A full schism would trigger, among other things, bitter fights over parish assets and undercut the global influence of the U.S. church.

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The Community Corner

In July, MGLCC was still cleaning up from a fabulous Fourth of July picnic (attended by more than 60 people) when the overwhelming news came in that the U.S. Supreme Court had struck down sodomy laws in 13 states and affirmed gays and lesbians right to privacy. Of course Tennessee's sodomy laws were struck down years ago, but the Memphis community had a real reason to celebrate. This is after all, the first time any branch of the federal government has made any kind of affirmation of gays and lesbians as deserving of everyday rights.

A party was put together on the spur of the moment at the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center at 892 S. Cooper, and was well attended despite the hasty invitations. Some joked that the cake, which read, "With Liberty and Justice for All," should have said, "We Messed with Texas!"

Our reaction as a community center, though, is many-sided. In one sense, it feels like a splash of cold water waking us to the realization of newfound hope. On the other hand, it's a bit like having the government give you permission to wash behind your ears. How much money has been wasted in needlessly criminalizing people?

In any case, finding out that we do indeed have some friends on the Supreme Court has inspired us to celebrate those who have long been our friends in Memphis by providing gay-affirming resources to the community. When asked, "Who are some our best friends?" members of the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center responded with these suggestions and others:

1. First Congregational United Church of Christ and Neshoba Unitarian and Universalist Church, which are known within their respective denominations as an "Open and Affirming Congregation" and a "Welcoming Congregation." Both churches have elected to perform and honor same sex marriages, and offer support to other churches interested in opening their doors to members of the GLBT community.

2. Barnes & Noble has long celebrated Gay Pride Month in June by featuring special GLBT reading selections. This year, they stood firm in the face of harsh criticism over gay author Michael Schiefelbein's book-signing.

3. Melange has become a popular night spot for gay folks with a penchant for great martinis. Their warmth has been extended from a friendly environment to gay-themed entertainment. Young Ave. Deli also gets a nod for sponsoring gay softball teams.

4. *The Memphis Flyer* provides weekly news, entertainment and sports without gagging over words like "sexual orientation." Their cut-to-the-chase reporting has provided more in-depth information on GLBT-related stories than any other non-gay print media in town.

5. Karen Borth has been serving as the MAGY (Memphis Area Gay Youth) "Mom" for 10 years, and is the only remaining co-founder of the organization still working with the group. Describing herself as a "compulsive baker," this straight grandmother from Cordova has provided unconditional love and carrot cake to hundreds of gay teenagers.

6. First Baptist Church and its pastor, Rev. Dr. Kenneth Corr, got a mention for leadership in providing space and manpower for Friend's for Life's annual monument to those in Shelby County who have died of AIDS.

7. Dr. W.W. Herenton is the first mayor of Memphis to open a direct line of communication to the GLBT community and was notably present at MGLCC's ribbon-cutting ceremony in February.

8. WKNO has been showing biographies and other programming such as Mark Jones' local film, *Eli Parker Is Getting Married?* making public in the *CA* its belief that good programming is more important than a few paltry complaints.

9. Playhouse on the Square and Circuit Playhouse under the leadership of Jackie Nichols not only slate plays of interest and importance to the GLBT community such *The Laramie Project* and *Love! Valour! Compassion!*, but also provide singing contingents of highly amusing actors for Memphis' annual Pride Parade including this year's *Bat Boy* troupe.

10. The Cooper-Young Neighborhood rounds out our Top Ten in acknowledgment of the warm and safe environment which community leaders have worked so hard to create by welcoming gay and lesbian residents, businesses and organizations.

The newly elected board members of the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center invite you to stop by the center at 892 S. Cooper during our new extended hours: Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays: 6-10 p.m.; and Saturdays and Sundays 2-10 p.m. Call 278-GAYS for more information on weekly scheduled events.

MGLCC Board members elected on July 13, 2003:

- Vice President: Heidi Williams
- Secretary: Jim Maynard
- Treasurer: Hunter W. Johnston
- At-Large: Chuck Bohannon, Jon Devin, Kevin Dugan, Skyler Goldman, John Heizer, Wes McComas and Mickey Scott

August Calendar

Sundays, 8 p.m. – AA Meeting.

Mondays, 7:30 p.m. – Plus Group.

Fridays, 7-9 p.m. – Coffeehouse nights.

Saturdays, 7 p.m. – "Saturday Nites at the Gaiety" Movie (call 278-GAYS for movie schedule).

Fri., Aug. 8 & 22, 9:30 p.m. – Motely Blue.

Sat., Aug., 16, 6 p.m. – MGLCC Potluck and Birthday Bash.

Sun., Aug. 17, 2 p.m. – Log Cabin Republicans.

Sun., Aug. 17, 6-8 p.m. – MGLCC Board of Directors Meetings (open to public).

Sun., Sept. 7, 2-4 p.m. – Town Hall Meeting, Topic TBA.

All events take place at 892 S. Cooper unless otherwise indicated. For more information or to schedule an event, call Kevin Dugan at 314-0915.

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CDC Cites Troubling Rise of HIV Cases Among Gay and Bisexual Men

By Daniel Yee
Associated Press Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — The number of newly diagnosed cases of HIV among gay and bisexual men rose in 2002 for the third straight year — a disturbing turnaround from the 1990s that health officials say reflects growing complacency about the dangers of AIDS.

"If we let down our guard even a little bit this is the kind of thing that can happen," said Dr. Ronald Valdiserri, a CDC deputy director.

HIV diagnoses among gay and bisexual men rose 7.1 percent in 2002 in 25 states with long-standing HIV-reporting procedures, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said. The number represented an increase of nearly 18 percent since 1999.

That is disturbing, because the number of newly diagnosed HIV cases per year fell steadily throughout the 1990s, even among gay men.

The increase in HIV cases can be blamed on a younger generation that does not remember the devastation of the AIDS epidemic, lack of concern because of the advent of life-extending AIDS-treatment drugs and burnout from years of safe-sex warnings, health officials have said.

"We continue to sound this warning note to communities and state and local health departments that we need to redouble our efforts," Valdiserri said.

New cases also continue to rise because people are not diagnosed early enough and pass the infection to others before they know they have HIV, the CDC said. Officials also said it is difficult for people to adhere to complex HIV drug regimens.

The CDC reported 42,136 AIDS diagnoses in the United States last year, a 2.2 percent increase from the previous year. There were 16,371 AIDS deaths in 2002 — a 5.9 percent decline from 2001.

"I don't think we're losing the war, but we're certainly not finished with the war," Valdiserri said.

The statistics highlight the need for more prevention efforts aimed at gay and bisexual men, said David Ernesto Munar of the AIDS Foundation of Chicago.

The CDC plans to provide money to community groups in large cities that have had outbreaks of sexually transmitted diseases, such as syphilis and AIDS, Valdiserri said.

The report on HIV among gays and bisexuals does not include New York, California or Florida — areas of high HIV activity in the past. Also, the report does not indicate whether the new diagnoses are new or old infections; CDC officials recently unveiled a system that will be able to detect new infections starting in 2004.

Discharged Gay Vet Hopes Supreme Court Decision Bolsters His Case

By Leslie Hoffman
Associated Press Writer

ALBUQUERQUE (AP) — When Stephen Loomis enlisted in the Army nearly four decades ago, he hoped to follow in the footsteps of his military family.

To a degree, he succeeded, rising to the rank of lieutenant colonel and becoming a decorated Vietnam combat veteran who received the Purple Heart and two Bronze Star medals for valor.

But his career ended in bitterness on July 14, 1997 when the military discharged him "under other than honorable conditions" because he is gay.

Now, Loomis, who fought the Army's decision and lost, has been given new hope by a Supreme Court decision that struck down a Texas sodomy law. The high court said in its decision last month that what gay men and women do in the privacy of their bedrooms is their business and not that of the government. Loomis and his lawyer believe those rights also should apply to military personnel.

They are challenging the constitutionality of the military's sodomy statute and its "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

"I think the reasoning behind (the Texas decision) is extremely valid in terms of the discrimination the military has advanced in implementing 'on't ask, don't tell,'" said Loomis's attorney, David Sheldon.

Loomis' suit, filed July 7 in Washington, is the first to test the reach of the historic civil rights ruling, said Jon Davidson, senior counsel for Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund in Los Angeles. Several other suits citing the Supreme Court's decision were filed subsequently.

Loomis, who now runs a land development company in Albuquerque, said he wants the courts to acknowledge "that 'don't ask, don't tell' is unfair, and it's not working for the military."

Under the "don't ask, don't tell" policy, gays and lesbians are supposed to keep quiet about their sexual orientation, while enjoying freedom from harassment or unprovoked investigations. They can be discharged for speaking publicly about being gay or engaging in homosexual acts.

Since the policy was implemented in 1993, more than 8,500 servicemembers have been discharged, according to the Pentagon.

Loomis' homosexuality was a secret among his military colleagues until an August 1996 arson fire at his home near Fort Hood, Texas. An Army private who admitted to starting the fire said he was trying to destroy nude pictures and videos he had posed for.

During the ensuing arson investigation, a videotape depicting Loomis having sex with men made its way into the hands of military officials.

With the videotape and testimony from the Army private in hand, a military board of inquiry recommended Loomis' discharge "under other than honorable conditions" on grounds that he had engaged in homosexual acts and conduct unbecoming an officer.

Loomis said the discharge meant he was ineligible for retirement and other benefits estimated at more than $1 million.

He appealed, citing, among other things, board members' personal opinions against homosexuality voiced at his hearing. The Army Board for the Correction of Military Records declined to reinstate Loomis' benefits and upheld his discharge, but upgraded it to "under honorable conditions."

Loomis said he had always been well aware of the "don't ask, don't tell" policy and was careful to keep his homosexuality a private matter.

"It was never an issue of conflict between private life and my work," he said, pointing out he'd gotten promotions and favorable job performance reviews by superiors.

But if a cautious senior officer can be caught by "don't ask, don't tell," Loomis said, "what is happening to our young men and women affected by this policy?"

"It's not proper, particularly when they're good soldiers doing as good a job as their buddy next to them," he said.

Egyptian Appeals Court Grudgingly Acquits 11 Men in Gay Trial

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — An appeals court grudgingly acquitted 11 men of debauchery for alleged homosexual activity, one of their lawyers said July 21.

As the three-member panel issued its ruling, Judge Mo'azer El-Marsafy condemned the men even while clearing them of criminal charges, said the lawyer, Helmi Al-Rawi.

"We are so disgusted with you, we can't even look at you," the judge said. "What you did is a major sin, but unfortunately the case has procedural errors and the court had to acquit all of you."

The 11 men were convicted in April and sentenced to up to three years in prison in one of several such cases that have drawn denunciations from international human rights groups.

The main defendant was arrested in February after his telephone had been bugged for more than a month by officials acting on a tip.

Egypt's criminal code makes no specific mention of homosexuality, but the country uses a wide range of laws covering obscenity, prostitution and debauchery to prosecute of homosexuals.

Egyptian police monitor restaurants considered gay hangouts as well as web sites catering to homosexuals.

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Court Rejects New Trial For Convicted Killer Who Inspired *Boys Don't Cry* Movie

By Scott Bauer
Associated Press Writer

LINCOLN, Nebraska (AP) — A man condemned to die for a murder that inspired the movie *Boys Don't Cry* will not get a new trial or reduction of his death sentence, the Nebraska Supreme Court ruled.

John Lotter was convicted of murdering a 21-year-old born as a woman but who lived as a man.

Lotter's attorney argued that his client's sentence should be reduced because of a 2002 U.S. Supreme Court ruling calling for juries — not judges — to decide when the death penalty is warranted.

Nebraska's high court said that ruling didn't apply retroactively to Lotter, who was also convicted of killing two other people. Lotter was sentenced in 1996 by a three-judge panel rather than a jury.

Nebraska Attorney General Jon Bruning welcomed the opinion, saying it was a landmark decision for Nebraska. "It is a huge victory for the state and the victims of these crimes and their families," Bruning said.

Lotter's attorney, James Mowbray, said he was not surprised with the decision.

Lotter and Marvin Nissen were convicted of killing Brandon Teena, who was born a woman with the name Teena Brandon, but lived as a man in southeast Nebraska and dated a female friend of the men.

Prosecutors said Teena was killed because he told the local sheriff he was raped by Lotter and Nissen after they discovered his biological identity. The men also killed Lisa Lambert, 24, and Philip DeVine, 22, who had witnessed Teena's death. Lotter claims that Nissen killed the three.

The killings outraged gay activists and inspired the 1999 movie *Boys Don't Cry*, as well as several documentaries.

Both men were convicted of murder. Nissen, in a deal with prosecutors, testified against Lotter and was sentenced to life in prison. Lotter received three death sentences and awaits execution in Nebraska's electric chair.

Lotter has another appeal pending before the state Supreme Court in which he argues that DNA tests would prove Nissen actually killed Brandon.

Scouts Excluded from Charitable Campaign Because of Anti-gay Policy

A federal appeals court ruled that the State of Connecticut may exclude the Boy Scouts of America from the State Employee Charitable Campaign because of the Boy Scouts' anti-gay policy.

Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD), which intervened in the matter at the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, (along with the Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund and the Connecticut Coalition for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Civil Rights), applauds the ruling.

GLAD senior staff attorney Jennifer L. Levi commented, "This ruling confirms that as long as the Boy Scouts retain their anti-gay policy, they may not receive special privileges from the state. We are proud of Connecticut for standing behind its non-discrimination law and, in so doing, protecting all its citizens, including and especially gay youth."

This case resulted after the Connecticut comptroller, who oversees the charitable campaign, took action to exclude the Boy Scouts following the United States Supreme Court ruling that the organization has the right to discriminate against gay leaders in the case of Dale v. BSA.

The motivation behind the Comptroller's action excluding the Boy Scouts was to ensure proper and robust administration of the state Gay Rights Law, a law that prohibits use of state facilities in furtherance of discrimination, including any based on sexual orientation.

The federal district court upheld the exclusion and, the appeals court agreed.

Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD) is New England's leading legal rights organization dedicated to ending discrimination based on sexual orientation, HIV status, and gender identity and expression.

Friend Testifies Older Brother Initiated Fight

GREENSBURG, Pa. (AP) — A teenage boy who was allegedly killed by his brother because he disapproved of the brother's girlfriend and because the brother thought he was gay started the fight that killed him, a girl testified.

Rebecca Ballew told a jury that Ian Bishop's older brother, Adam, made the first move in their fight. The 18-year-old was struck at least 18 times in the head with a hammer and club, authorities said.

Prosecutors say Ian Bishop, who was 14 at the time, killed his brother at their home in Hempfield, Westmoreland County, last April. He then put his brother's body in a bathtub and bragged about it to his friends, prosecutors said.

Arguing that Bishop is innocent, defense attorney Tom Ceraso has suggested it was another boy, Robert Laskowski, now 16, who struck most of the fatal blows. Laskowski also is charged with first-degree murder in connection with Adam Bishop's death.

Ballew, 16, said Ian Bishop told her during a conversation at a mall shortly after the attack that Adam Bishop disapproved of Ian's girlfriend, Keri Borg. The boys' parents had prohibited Ian Bishop from seeing her, and his brother apparently supported that decision.

"He said Adam was running after Ian because they got into a fight about Keri Borg," Ballew testified.

Ballew said Ian Bishop confided to her about his dislike of his parents and brother, whom he believed was gay.

The defense team questioned 11 witnesses trying to show it was the older Bishop who initiated the fight. Attorneys also filed notification that they might tell jurors Ian Bishop was mentally ill and under the influence of drugs.

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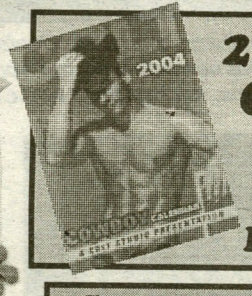

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HRC Denounces Senator Frist's Attack on Gay Families

WASHINGTON — The Human Rights Campaign denounced remarks made by Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., on ABC's *This Week*, in which he criticized the Supreme Court decision banning state sodomy laws, saying that it could lead to increased prostitution and drug dealing.

He went on to say that he endorsed an amendment to the U.S. Constitution to ban legal marriage for gay and lesbian couples in long-term, committed relationships. The U.S. Constitution has never been used to restrict rights or single out a group of Americans for discrimination.

"The Supreme Court, in its wisdom, has affirmed that the Constitution provides equal protection under the law to gay and lesbian people by protecting the privacy of all Americans from government intrusion," said HRC Political Director Winnie Stachelberg. "Senator Frist's remarks echo Senator Santorum's discriminatory and disdainful statements that outraged so many Americans earlier this spring. If Senator Frist had read the opinion in the Lawrence case, he would know that this case is first and foremost about affirming every American's right to privacy and equal protection under the law. It would be wrong to write discrimination into the Constitution and erase the right to privacy."

Frist's comments about prostitution and drug abuse and the impact of the Supreme Court ruling in the Lawrence v. Texas case were misleading. In his majority opinion in Lawrence v. Texas, Justice Anthony Kennedy specifically addressed the issues raised by Frist. "[This case] does not involve persons who might be injured or coerced or who are situated in relationships where consent might not easily be refused. It does not involve public conduct or prostitution," wrote Kennedy. "The petitioners are entitled to respect for their private lives. The State cannot demean their existence or control their destiny by making their private sexual conduct a crime."

Speaking on the subject of gay marriage and a proposed constitutional amendment prohibiting gay marriage, Frist went on to say, "I very much feel that marriage is a sacrament, and that sacrament should extend and can extend to that legal entity of a union between — what is traditionally in our Western values has been defined — as between a man and a woman. So I would support the amendment."

"Entering into a life-long relationship and raising a family is an integral part of the American dream. In supporting the deeply discriminatory anti-marriage amendment, Senator Frist is essentially saying that he believes that some loving, committed couples and their families are not worthy of the same protections and recognition that most Americans take for granted," said Stachelberg. "Senator Frist is marginalizing an entire group of American families, and that is wrong."

A recent study of the 2000 Census conducted by the Urban Institute showed that, statistically speaking, same-sex couples in committed relationships were almost identical to heterosexual married couples in terms of the number of children being raised in child-rearing households, income level and property value.

"The biggest difference between same-sex couples and other American couples is the number of rights and protections that gay couples and their children are denied," said Stachelberg. "We sincerely hope that Senator Frist will rethink this unwise policy for our country and support every American's basic right to equality."

A Gallup Poll released in May showed that six in 10 Americans support granting same-sex couples the legal rights of marriage, including health care and Social Security survivor benefits. The same study also showed that the country is evenly split, 49 percent in favor and 49 percent against, allowing gay and lesbian couples to enter into legally recognized unions. Support for civil marriage for same-sex couples — which would bestow legal rights and responsibilities without affecting religious doctrine — in the United States has grown steadily over the last several years.

"...Our founders declared that 'all men are created equal.' By that standard, it makes perfect sense that every couple in this country would have access to the same rights and protections. This debate is about valuing and protecting each and every American couple and family. It is shocking that Senator Frist, or any other patriotic American, would support an effort to use the Constitution — a document designed to protect the rights of all Americans — to single out a group of Americans for discriminatory treatment," said Stachelberg.

The Human Rights Campaign is the largest national lesbian and gay political organization with members throughout the country. It lobbies Congress, provides campaign support and educates the public to ensure that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Americans can be open, honest and safe at home, at work and in the community.

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MGLCC Board Elections

On July 13, the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center held its annual elections. Each candidate was asked to speak to the assembled voters. Two candidates came right from a softball game (so the sweat is not from nervousness, but from exertion). Clockwise from the top left are Hunter Johnston, Skylar Goldman, Wes McComas, John Heizer, Jim Maynard, Jon Devin, Kevin Dugan, Heidi Williams, Mickey Scott and Chuck Bohannon. See memphistrianglejournal.com for color versions of these pictures.

Kentucky School Board Sets New Policies Concerning Gay Group

SUMMIT, Ky. (AP) — A gay rights student group whose existence has drawn the ire of some parents and students at an eastern Kentucky high school will be allowed to meet after school hours under a new set of policies by the school board.

The Boyd County school board introduced and voted on the new set of policies on July 22. They would allow the Gay-Straight Alliance group and other non-curricular groups to meet after school.

The policy limits access to school property during school hours to groups related to academics, an attempt by the board to comply with federal equal access laws.

"No student groups or student organizations of any kind shall meet on school premises until after the regular school day unless participation results in academic credit for a school course or is in connection with activities permitted for excused absences," a statement from the school board said.

In April, a federal judge ruled that the school district must treat the group no differently than the Bible club, whether reading announcements over the intercom or publishing meeting times in the campus newspaper.

The board must vote on the new policies a second time before it is adopted.

The school board said clubs and activities that would be allowed under the policies must be defined as "educational, curricular, extracurricular academic enrichment, or of an academic or athletic competitive nature which provide opportunities for higher-education scholarships."

Athletics, including cheer-leading, and academic teams would be included as school-sponsored activities under the policies.

Other clubs and activities would be lumped in with a community use policy, which allows use of the school after hours.

The Gay-Straight Alliance currently is allowed to meet during school hours under a temporary injunction granted by U.S. District Judge David Bunning. The club, with the help of the American Civil Liberties Union, sued the district in January, alleging violations of federal and state law.

The gay-straight group would fall into the non-curricular category, board member Teresa Cornette has said.

The school's council will decide which other clubs fall outside the policy's definition of curricular, she said.

The group's meetings at the school have upset some students and members of the community.

In November, more than 2,000 people gathered in a church parking lot to protest a vote that permitted the group to meet at the high school. That month, nearly half of the school's 990 students skipped school in protest of a school council's decision to allow the group to meet.

Public Gay High School to Open in NYC City This Fall

NEW YORK (AP) — New York City is creating what is described as the nation's first public high school for gay, bisexual and transgender students.

The Harvey Milk High School will enroll about 100 students in a newly renovated building in the fall. By fall 2004, enrollment will increase to 170 students, the Department of Education said July 28.

The school is named after San Francisco's first openly gay city supervisor, who was assassinated in 1978.

"I think everybody feels that it's a good idea because some of the kids who are gays and lesbians have been constantly harassed and beaten in other schools," Mayor Michael Bloomberg said. "It lets them get an education without having to worry."

Pedestrians walk past the site of what will become the nation's first public high school specifically for gays in New York City.

The school is an expansion of a two-classroom public school program that began in 1984. A gay-rights youth advocacy group, the Hetrick-Martin Institute, has managed and financed the program since its inception.

The principal, William Salzman, told the *New York Post* in July 28 editions that the new school will be academically challenging and will follow mandatory English and math programs. It also will specialize in computer technology, arts and culinary arts.

State Conservative Party Chairman Mike Long criticized the creation of the school.

"Is there a different way to teach homosexuals? Is there gay math? This is wrong," Long told the *Post*. "There's no reason these children should be treated separately."

The Hetrick-Martin Institute's web site says the school will give its students "an opportunity to obtain a secondary education in a safe and supportive environment. ... We believe that success requires the ability to respect and value the diverse human community."

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Same-sex Partners Cite Health Insurance Inequities at UK

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — The University of Kentucky is losing faculty because it has yet to adopt a policy offering health insurance benefits to domestic partners.

Two UK committees have recommended implementing such a program. But a plan developed by an ad-hoc work group formed by UK President Lee Todd last fall to start a domestic-partner benefits program has stalled.

Earlier last year, four Republican lawmakers warned Todd in a letter "to not embark on such a treacherous journey."

Laura Kaplan earned a doctorate in social work at UK and was considering seeking a clinical research job there.

Instead, she'll become a professor at the University of Northern Iowa this fall because that school offers health benefits for her partner.

"In the end, of the choices of jobs I looked at, the partnership benefits made a big difference," said Kaplan.

A small, but growing number of universities and colleges offer domestic-partner benefits.

Nationwide, 186 universities and colleges offer such benefits, according to the Human Rights Campaign, a Washington-based gay-rights group that maintains a database on such schools. Two years ago, the number was 158 schools.

The only Kentucky schools that offer domestic partner benefits are Centre and Berea colleges, two private liberal-arts schools. Both schools' policies are open to same-sex and opposite-sex partners.

Proponents of the idea say Kentucky universities will have to go along to compete in the job market.

Opponents say such benefits should go only to married couples and that defining a domestic partner can be legally tricky.

In May 2002, four Republican state senators urged Todd in a letter not to implement domestic-partner benefits.

The letter was signed by Sens. Richard Roeding of Lakeside Park, the president pro tem in the Senate; Katie Stine of Fort Thomas; Jack Westwood of Crescent Springs; and Vernie McGaha of Russell Springs.

"As members of the legislature, we hope the University will not design a benefit package that will place it at cross purposes with the majority of the General Assembly (or) require it to make policy statements that most Kentuckians would find repulsive and unpopular," the senators said in the letter.

Carolyn Bratt, a UK law professor and a member of the ad-hoc group, said she asked Todd about the issue in the spring of 2002. She said he told her to discuss it with Tom Samuel, a health management professor who was leading a study of health-care benefits at the university.

Bratt, Samuel, UK staff trustee Russ Williams, Human Resources Director T. Lynn Williamson and Benefits Director Joey Payne discussed the issue later that year — after the senators had sent their letter to Todd.

The group drafted a policy, Samuel said.

But by the fall, Bratt became convinced the university wouldn't implement it, and she resigned in December as chairwoman of UK's Commission on Women, which supported benefits for domestic partners.

"I finally came to the conclusion that we weren't going to be getting these benefits," she said. "The university now allows me to buy insurance for my dog and I can't purchase health insurance for my partner. What kind of institution would value pet insurance over partner insurance?"

When Todd was a UK presidential candidate in 2001, he told staff and faculty that such a benefits policy worked well at his previous employer, Lotus Development Corp.

The task force he appointed to study work and life issues recommended in March the implementation of domestic partner benefits within five years.

Its report said that by not offering such benefits, the university "does not meet the spirit of (its) own equal opportunity policy."

A UK health-care study led by Samuel also recommended implementation of domestic partner benefits.

Williamson said UK's human resources department could be ready to do that within two months.

Bratt said she doesn't expect that to occur.

"I'm very discouraged and disappointed. I don't think it's going to happen," she said. "There will always be a handy excuse to put out there as to why now is not the right time."

UK pays a portion of health-care coverage for spouses and children.

Williamson said he doesn't know how many university employees would take advantage of domestic partner benefits but that some employees have asked about such a program for the last 10 years.

Feast For Friends' 14th Anniversary Dinner

Photos by Ranetta Jackson

Visit memphistrianglejournal.com for color versions of these pictures.

Alison Tate's Christmas in July Benefit

Photos by Ranetta Jackson

Participants Needed for Groundbreaking Study of African-American Lesbian Health

WASHINGTON — The Mautner Project is seeking Black lesbian and bisexual women, age 18 and older, to participate in the first comprehensive national survey of African-American lesbian health.

Led by Mautner Project Health Promotion and Research Director Cheryl Pearson-Fields, the groundbreaking Spirit Study is designed, implemented and evaluated by African-American lesbians and draws on partnerships with national and community-based organizations serving Black women who partner with women.

"As members of two medically underserved populations, African-American lesbians may face double jeopardy in terms of mortality and morbidity from cancer and other diseases," says Fields. "But because Black women who partner with women have not been well represented in health studies, very little is known about our health status and health needs. Our hope is that the Spirit Study will help bridge the information gap preventing Black lesbians from receiving the health services they need and deserve."

Spirit Study outreach is being conducted throughout the country through community partners, including African-American and LGBT publications, newsletters, social groups, sports teams, churches and internet sites, as well as community health centers, Pride events and projects.

Among the organizations partnering on the Spirit Study are the Zuna Institute, United Lesbians of African Heritage (ULOAH), Unity Fellowship Church, Women in the Life, National Black Lesbian and Gay Lesbian Leadership Forum, Sophisticated Lady Productions and *Venus* magazine.

The study is being guided by a Scientific Advisory Committee made up of noted African-American lesbian and allied health researchers, clinicians and educators, including Former Assistant Surgeon General Dr. Marilyn Gaston, MD; Lucille Adams-Campbell, MD, director, Howard University Cancer Center; Alicia Matthews, PhD, director, Psychosocial Oncology Program, University of Chicago; Lisa Bowleg, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Psychology University of Rhode Island; Nicole Cozier Boyd, MBA/MS, public education director, Ovarian Cancer National Alliance; and Joyce Hunter, DSW, director of Community Liaison Programs, HIV Center for Clinical and Behavioral Studies, New York State Psychiatric Institute.

This innovative research project is partially supported by a grant from the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, which is funding the breast health segment of the study.

"It is one of the Komen Foundation's highest priorities to empower all women in the fight against cancer by providing them with the resources and information they need to make educated decisions about their health," says Komen's Director of Public Policy, Diane Balma.

Founded in 1990, the Mautner Project is the national lesbian health organization. Its mission is to improve the health and well-being of women who partner with women and their families through direct services, education, research and advocacy.

The Spirit Study is completely confidential. Participants may complete the survey at their convenience online at www.spiritstudy.org or can request copies by phone/TTY (202-332-5536), e-mail (mautner@mautnerproject.org) or postal mail (Spirit Study, 1707 L Street NW, Suite 230, Washington, DC 20036). The Mautner Project includes a postage-paid return envelope with every survey requested.

For more information about participating in the Spirit Study or if your organization is interested in joining as a community partner, call 202-332-5536 or e-mail cfields@mautnerproject.org.

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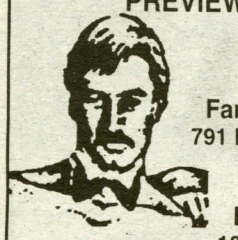

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Gays Seeking Wedlock Cautioned Not to Rush to Canada

SEATTLE (AP) — Leaders in the gay and lesbian civil-rights movement are advising same-sex couples to consider possible negative consequences before rushing off to get married in Canada.

They're also discouraging couples from filing lawsuits independently seeking to have such marriages recognized in the states where they live, saying the wrong case could set back efforts to legalize same-sex marriage in the United States.

"We are cautioning people against filing lawsuits as political acts," said Jon Davidson, senior counsel of Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund, a national gay- and lesbian-rights organization. "We don't think courts would respond well to that."

British Columbia has granted same-sex couples the same rights to marry as heterosexual couples. Gay Americans have already been married in Ontario, where same-sex marriage has been legal for a month. Eventually, all of Canada will allow same-sex marriages, as do the Netherlands and Belgium.

Canada's new stance on gay marriage, along with a recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling that overturned the nation's remaining anti-sodomy laws, has heartened those fighting for gay rights in America.

And a decision is expected soon by Massachusetts' highest court that could enable same-sex couples to marry there, which would be a first in the United States. A similar case is pending in New Jersey.

"A lot of stuff is happening right now," said Davidson, based in Los Angeles. "We need to give the country a chance to have this all sink in."

Despite his calls for caution, Davidson told *The Seattle Times* that he is buoyed by the recent developments and has started calling his partner of 12 years his fiance.

After careful consideration, Marla Meislin and Anita Dietrich of Seattle, together for six years, have decided to get married in Vancouver, British Columbia, as early as September. The couple had a commitment ceremony four years ago.

"For us, this is a statement to ourselves that we are asserting the permanence of our relationship," Meislin said. "It satisfies more of an emotional need than a legal one. We aren't trying to change the world."

John Wilkinson and David Davenport of Seattle, together for 33 years, have decided against a Canadian marriage but say they'll wed in Massachusetts if that state allows it.

"At least with Massachusetts, we'd be able to say that in one state in this country, we are recognized as married," Wilkinson said.

The federal government and 37 states — including Washington — have enacted laws that ban same-sex marriages and prohibit recognition of such marriages sanctioned in other jurisdictions.

Wilkinson has concerns about other possible ramifications — such as his employer's requirement that he notify the company of a change in his marital status.

"Do I notify them? How will they handle that? What changes will they make? What if I fail to notify them?" he asked.

Also, what happens to those who file their federal income tax jointly to receive a tax advantage? Will the Internal Revenue Service go after them?

Still, he understands why some couples don't want to wait.

"It's a natural thing to go with your heart, especially for people who have waited for decades to have their relationships legally recognized," he said.

Lambda and three other leading gay and lesbian legal-advocacy groups issued a joint statement in June urging couples to "absolutely not race across the border just to set up lawsuits (as) the wrong cases could set us back for years."

"Those kinds of groups have proven themselves very good at understanding what the legal issues are that judges are looking for and in finding cases that tend to bring those issues out," said Roger Winters, president of Legal Marriage Alliance of Washington, a gay civil-rights education group.

"We as a community should leave it up to them to figure out if a particular lawsuit is a good idea."

State Rep. Ed Murray, D-Seattle, said he worries that a same-sex couple might file a lawsuit in Washington state without coordinating it with such a group.

"The minute someone files a lawsuit here, there will be a pretty strong reaction and organized effort to fight it, and Washington state's gay and lesbian community lacks the political infrastructure to take on that battle," he said.

An ideal test case could take many forms.

Venue will be taken into account as some states are more sympathetic toward same-sex couples, Davidson said. An ideal case also would likely involve a couple able to show real harm due to their marriage not being recognized.

He offered a hypothetical case as an example: A married same-sex couple from Canada is driving in Washington state when one of them is killed in an accident involving a drunken driver. The survivor files a wrongful-death case in Washington against the drunken driver, seeking the same rights as any surviving spouse.

Such a case could raise the issue of same-sex-marriage recognition, while not specifically challenging the state law barring same-sex marriage.

LETTERS

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

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Thanks From Alison Tate

Dear Friends,

Ain't Mother Nature a bitch?! Even though she may have turned the lights out on hundreds of thousands of us here in the Memphis area, she couldn't turn the lights out on the Christmas spirit of all who attended my Christmas in July show sponsored by the Mystic Krewe of Pegasus Memphis.

Due to the generosity of all who attended, tipped, bought raffle tickets and Jell-o shooters, Pegasus Memphis was able to raise $1389 to benefit the Matthew Shepard Foundation.

My heart-felt thanks go to Shane Trice and the staff of Metro Memphis for not only the donation of the venue and all their help, but also for their kind cash donation.

To all my fellow entertainers, words cannot express my awe and appreciation of your talents and your friendship. Getting in drag in the dark is not easy, and I thank you for the efforts more than you know.

To my brothers and sisters of the Mystic Krewe of Pegasus Memphis, you are all why I am a member. Thank you for all your hard work and indulging me in this benefit.

Thanks also to Bobby Blake for gracing us with your beauty and presence and to all in the audience — we do this for you! Thanks for your continuing support.

Finally to TJN, thank you for your support and kind donation.

Keep watching for upcoming events,and thanks again to one and all.

Much Love,

Alison Tate
Memphis

P.S. Take that, Mother Nature!

Boss Crump May Not Have Been Spinning, After all

Please forgive me, but I just got around to a cover to cover reading of the July issue of *The Triangle Journal News*. I had given it a "once over" when it first came out, but saved it for a good complete reading while enjoying a cup of coffee and a danish on a morning when I could enjoy them all. Today was just such a morning and I got a good laugh when I read that some people thought E. H. Crump might be spinning in his grave as the Gay Pride Parade passed by his statue in Overton Park.

I may be wrong, but I bet old Boss Crump would be proud too. He was not one to abide stupid laws that infringed on individual rights. He is said to have publicly taken a drink of alcohol while he was Mayor of Memphis; just to show that he did not approve of Prohibition.

Also, he had at least one distant relative in that Pride Parade. Mayor Crump was my fifth cousin, twice removed. Certainly not close kin, but here in the South we still count that as family ties. I would like to think he would raise a glass to our Pride and that his bronze statue in Overton Park even managed a grin as the citizens of his city celebrated being proud of who they are.

In respect to protecting our right to express pride in ourselves and our community, I might remind people of Mr.. Crump's "unofficial" motto, "Vote early, and vote often."

Hunter W. Johnston
Memphis

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Michael Savage Fired After Anti-gay Comments

By David Bauder
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — MSNBC fired Michael Savage for anti-gay comments.

The popular radio talk show host who did a weekend TV show for the cable channel referred to an unidentified caller to his show as a "sodomite" and said he should "get AIDS and die."

"His comments were extremely inappropriate and the decision was an easy one," MSNBC spokesman Jeremy Gaines said.

There was no immediate comment from Savage, according to a spokesman at his office in California.

The brash, tough-talking Savage is one of radio's hottest jocks. His Paul Revere Society advocates closing borders, deporting illegal immigrants, mandating health tests for immigrants and eliminating entitlement programs.

The televised version of *The Savage Nation* began March 8 despite the protests of such advocacy groups as the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.

Aired at 4 p.m. Saturday, Savage didn't translate into a television hit. He increased the ratings for the time slot marginally, according to MSNBC.

The incident that resulted in his firing began innocently enough. Savage was taking viewer phone calls about airline horror stories, and a male caller began talking about smoking in the bathroom.

"Half an hour into the flight, I need to suggest that Don and Mike take your ..." the caller said, before he was cut off and his words became unintelligible.

"So you're one of those sodomists. Are you a sodomite?" Savage asked.

The caller replied: "Yes, I am."

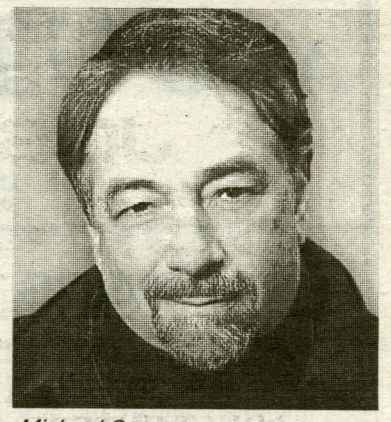
"Oh, you're one of the sodomites," Savage said. "You should only get AIDS and die, you pig. How's that? Why don't you see if you can sue me, you pig. You got nothing better than to put me down, you piece of garbage. You have got nothing to do today, go eat a sausage and choke on it."

He asked for another phone caller who "didn't have a nice night in the bathhouse who's angry at me today."

These bums "mean nothing to me," he said.

GLAAD spokeswoman Cathy Renna said of Savage's firing: "It's about time.

"This latest attack made the clearest case for why Savage has no place on any reputable news network. MSNBC witnessed firsthand exactly the kind of verbal assaults GLAAD's been warning them about for the past five months, and to their credit, they backed up their promises to hold Savage accountable."



Michael Savage

Beals Hopes To Break Lesbian Stereotypes on TV

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jennifer Beals didn't think twice about playing a lesbian in the upcoming Showtime television series *The L Word.*

"One of the most important things for me was the fact that it could be so impactful and that it could be so helpful in terms of breaking down stereotypes," she told the Television Critics Association. "Somebody might tune into the show for one reason and then come away having learned something that they had never even considered."

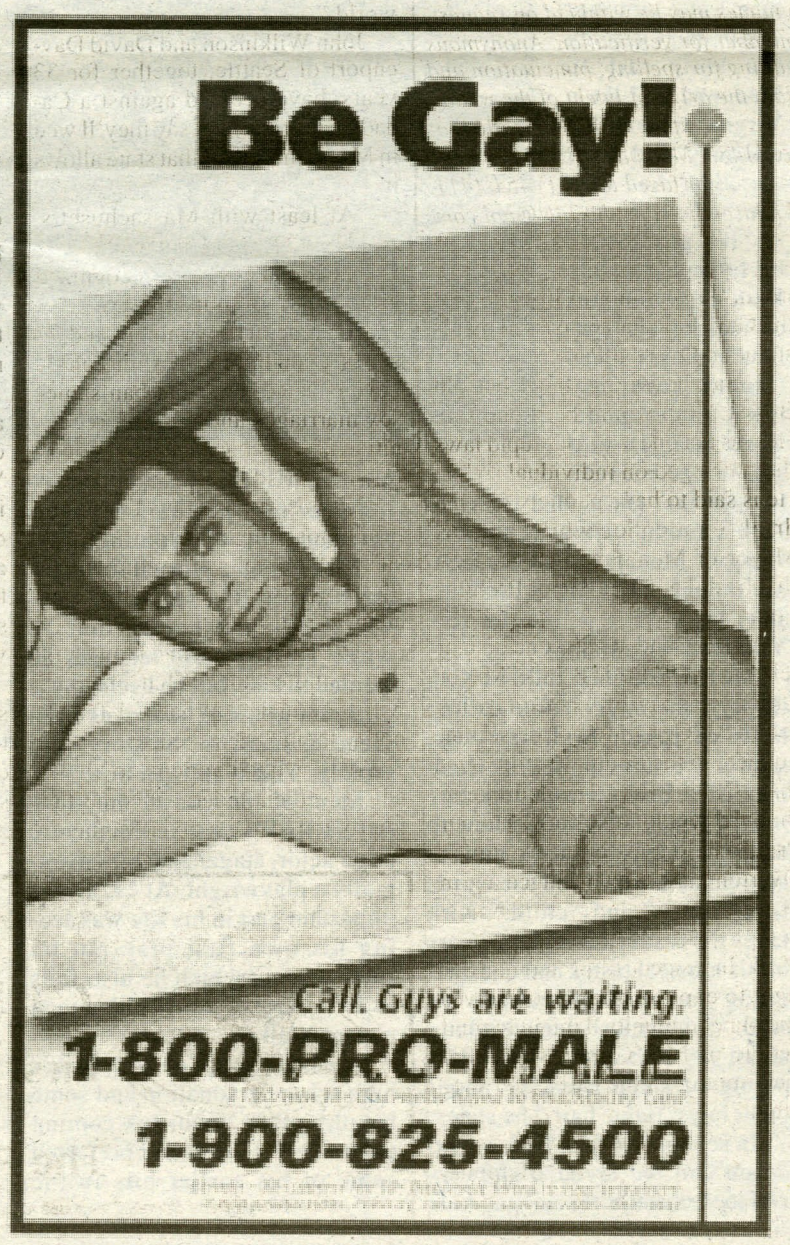
Beals describes herself as a "biracial heterosexual woman." She said the question of her sexuality has come up since the show started filming.

"What becomes interesting is to think about how easy it is for a heterosexual actress or actor to play someone who is homosexual, how that's somehow permissible, but for a homosexual to be out and portray a homosexual character it becomes sort of much more problematic for an audience to accept," she said. "As a species, we're so fixated and curious about this mystery of sexuality."

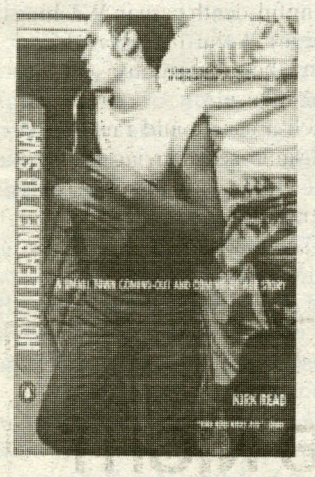
The series about the lives and loves of a group of West Hollywood, Calif., women, many of whom are lesbians, also stars Pam Grier and Mia Kirshner. It debuts in January.

Beals gained fame in the 1983 movie *Flashdance*. Last year, she appeared in the independent movie *Roger Dodger.*

Jennifer Beals



ABOUT BOOKS



PAGE 20

Free Personals

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

My name is Luis Lee. I would like to meet a guy between the ages of 45 to 60 years of age. I am a gay male.... brown hair and eyes, 6 ft 1 in.,285 lbs. I live in the West Tennessee area. My address is P.O. Box 41, Kenton, TN 38233. I will answer all letters. (731)-665-6644. If no one answers, leave name and number and I will return your call.

WF, 26, in search of friends to go to movies, theatre, clubs, and just have great conversations. If you are interested in meeting a new friend, e-mail me at MidSummerNiRain@cs.com.

DHM, 5'6" tall, 159 lbs., brown eyes, black hair. I would like to meet a Hispanic lady between 24-33 years old for friendship or long-term relationship. If this is you, then e-mail me at vivega10082@hotmail.com or call (901) 849-6049. Ask for Victor.

GWM, airline worker, 36, 6', 195 lbs, 6+", hairy, buzz cut, versatile top or bottom Tired of bar scene. Like BBQing, beer, shooting pool, movies, bowling, dining out. Seekinbg same (GWM) for casual get togethers (maybe LTR). No fats, fems or drugs. HIV-. Call John (901) 452-0411. Leave message.

Professional, dominant, GWM, 39, into spanking, bondage, shaving, endless sex, toys and more. I enjoy casino gambling, shooting pool and fine dining. ISO obedient 18-22 Y/O GWM smooth body with boyish looks and mannerism about 140 lbs. No fats, femmes or drag queens, no diseases. Skinny a plus. Serious inquiries only, please. Mr. Paul 870-0457.

I'd like to meet a gay female between 35-50 years old. I am a soft femme. I'd like to meet a female with a good sense of humor who can make me laugh; has intellect; likes to travel; go dancing; attend plays; likes poetry and art; has days free, likes the outdoors. If this is you then e-mail me at tedjds@ bellsouth.net

GWM - Age 47, 6' 1", 278 lbs, brown eyes, brown hair. I like watching TV and I like to cook. Would like to meet someone between the ages of 47–55 for friendship and/or long term relationship. Send mail to Lewis Lee, P. O. Box 41, Kenton, TN 38233 or e-mail me at LilGayBoyTn69@aol.com (subject) Lewis.

ABOUT BOOKS

by Shannon Yarbrough

Two Snaps Up!

Have you ever read a book that made you laugh out loud? Did you stop and compare the characters to real people in your own life? Did you catch yourself thinking, "That is so me!"? Did you love its one-liners so much you had to go back and underline them for future reference? Did you tell all of your friends to read it or buy them copies as gifts? I have, and all from one book!

Kirk Read's *How I Learned to Snap*, just released in paperback from Penguin Books, is a humble look at Kirk's southern upbringing in West Virginia. Kirk's quick chapters and chatty commentary are broken up by a small symbol of a hand, the fingers snapping. As if telling the reader, "snap here," and that's just what you will want to do.

Kirk's sense of humor will have you not only laughing out loud, but dog-earing the pages so you can share his words with friends later. Think about every conversation you've ever overheard from drama queens at a bar, think about the loud obnoxious barfly whose laughter is always booming over everyone at a party, then think about your own coming out experience. Put it all together and you've got more than 200 pages that read like a stage monologue at open mic night!

"You haven't lived until you've bowled next to a pack of rednecks on homemade speed" is just the first of many quotes I had to underline in pencil in this book. The author also touches on sassy topics like the first time he ever visited a porn shop, the time he beat up a straight boy at summer camp, and humping the stair rail to Madonna's "Like a Virgin" to send his military dad over the edge. And boy, does he!

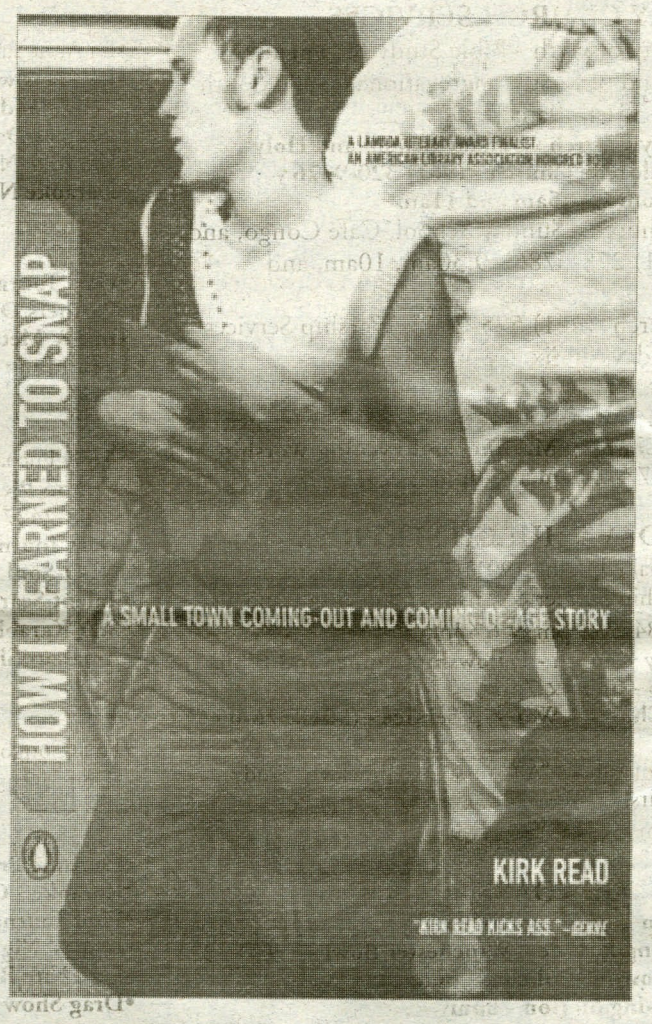
"Be gracious," his father torts while Kirk concentrates on making one particular player bleed from the knees during a soccer game. There is an 18-year gap in age between his parents. Once, dad refers to Kirk's bright yellow sweater as "faggy." Mom is a southern hostess though. "It's his color," she spits back. "It's your color too. You are both autumns."

Most of the book follows Kirk through the angry name-calling halls of junior high and high school. He hides in the pink shadows of a Boy George-like boy named Jesse, who knows how to dance and teaches Kirk how to appreciate his hair and use words like "fierce" and "child." Kirk takes the reader through 10 years of his musical tastes and concert-going and through puberty as well. "I never lost sleep thinking about my pubic hair, but I lost plenty of sleep thinking about other boys' pubic hair," he states.

In school, we face Kirk's gym coach and the dreaded showers and locker rooms that all gay kids face, along with the discussion of homosexuality in sex education class.

"The coach's definition was very clinical, and it sounded nothing like the homosexuality I was getting every chance I could. It sounded nothing like the homosexuality I'd had up my butt the night before," he quips.

Quick crushes, all-night parties and political arguments with dad are all here too! Kirk even becomes an animal rights activist to avoid having to dissect a frog in biology class and tackles the school board over "same sex dates at proms" to try to get an interview with Barbara Walters! The book reads like the diary of the gay kid we all wanted to be, but you will find yourself recalling your own precious moments that made you who you are today.



Kirk keeps a journal throughout his teen life, recording conversations and poetry that he wrote for boys and teachers he wanted to kiss, but he keeps these glimpses quick as he moves from scene to scene in the story very rapidly. You won't get bored!

Most of the end of the story covers Kirk's time in the theatre as an actor, stagehand, and eventually a playwright. At 17, a very important part in his life was seeing his own first play put on stage, during which he also falls in love with a much older man named Walker.

The book wraps up with Kirk's high school graduation and some lengthy prose about his coming out process. However, I preferred some of his earlier bits in the story on the same topic: "There were epiphanies along the way, but it's not like I heard Judy Garland's voice and said, 'Oh, yeah, I must be gay.' There was no such watershed. Just when I thought I'd come out, I ended up doing it again and again. Coming out is never finished." And too bad I finished reading the story when I did. I wanted more!

In a telephone interview, Kirk stated that he is a much different person today than he is in the book, even more different than three years ago when he first sat down to write it. "Cultural recognition changes the way people relate to you, it changes the way you even relate to yourself," he said.

Kirk is a long way from home-town Virginia today, living in San Francisco. "I'm still struggling to find time to sit and write and pay the rent, and still doing open mic stand-up in basement bars," Kirk said. He is also in the middle of a huge book tour and writing a second book.

Kirk still keeps a journal today, but his entries are much more extreme than his high school poetry and crushes. Today, he focuses on anti-war themes, political statements, and his material for his stage performances. "Writing is better than loving" a man tells Kirk in the book. When I asked Kirk his feelings on this today he stated, "Writing is a way of loving myself. If I don't write on a regular basis, I become a neurotic sketchy disaster."

But the book has been far from a disaster. Kirk has received praise from several authors and literary presses. The book was also honored by the American Library Association, and it was a Lambda Literary Award Finalist. *How I Learned to Snap* may come to a close the night of Kirk's high school graduation and end up leaving the reader to wonder what comes next, but that was a long time ago for Kirk.

"The book is just a snapshot of that moment in my life," Kirk says. "The rest of my life has definitely kept going!" And it is definitely a snapshot you, the reader, will want to look at again and again!

Shannon Yarbrough lived in Memphis for six years. He now lives in St. Louis, Mo.. He is the author of the book, The Other Side of What, *now available on line at Xlibris.com or at your local bookstore. You can contact Shannon at MisterYarbs@msn.com.*

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If any of these issues are important to you and you want to become an active vehicle for change, join the

WOMEN'S ACTION COALITION

WAC meetings are held every second and fourth Sunday night at 6:30 PM at First Congregational Church, 1000 S. Cooper, Memphis, TN 38104 (park in the back off Blythe)

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, E-MAIL AMULLNS1@MEMPHIS.EDU

Advertising space donated as a public service of the Triangle Journal News

Feast for Friends

Mon., Aug. 4
Mon., Aug. 18
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.

Advertising space donated as a public service of the Triangle Journal News

Calendar Listings in Bold type take place at GLBT venues or are specifically GLBT-related
Calendar Listings in Non-bold type take place at GLBT-friendly venues or are of interest to the GLBT community

Out & About

The Triangle Journal Calendar of Events

AUGUST 2003

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICES

•Open Heart Community of Faith - Bible Study & Worship Celebration - North End of First Congregational (1000 South Coooper) - (901) 323-3514 - 9am
•Holy Trinity Community Church - Sunday School and Holy Worship Service & Children's Church - (901) 320-9376 - HTCCMemphis@aol.com - 9:45am and 11am
•First Congregational Church - Sunday School, Café Congo, and Worship Service - (901) 278-6786 - 9:30am, 10am, and 10:30am
• Calvary Episcopal Church -(901) 525-6602 Worship Services 7:30 and 10 a.m.; Sundays at Six, 6 p.m.
•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

WEDNESDAY CHURCH SERVICES

•Taizé - First Congregational Church - (901) 278-6786 - 6pm
•Prescott Church - Fellowship Dinner & Christian Life Study and Discussion - (901) 327-8479 - 6pm & 6:45pm
•Holy Trinity Community Church - Fellowship Supper and Bible Study - (901) 320-9376 - 6pm & 7pm
•Living Word Christian Church - Worship Service - (901) 276-0577 - 7pm
•Open Heart Community of Faith - "A Course in Miracles" - Study Group - North End of First Congregational (1000 South Cooper) - (901) 323-3514 - 7:30pm

SUNDAYS

•Tea Dance - Metro – 4pm
•Brothers & Sisters Bowling League – Winchester Bowl – (901) 722-5236 or MemphisGayBowlin@aol.com - 6pm
•Pool Tournament - Pumping Station - 6pm
•After Park Set Sundays - Paragon - 7pm
•AA Meeting - Community Center - 278-4297 - 8pm
•Sissy Bingo - Crossroads - 8pm
•*Queer As Folk* - Metro - 9pm
•Lights Out, Everything Goes - J-Wag's - 10pm
•Drag Show - Backstreet - 11pm

MONDAYS

•Plus Support Group - Community Center - (901) 278-4297 - 7:30pm
•Pool Tournament - The Jungle - 7:30pm
•Dart Tournament - Pumping Station - 7:30pm
•Karaoke Night - Metro - 10pm

TUESDAYS

•Di Anne Price - Wang's Mandarin House (Park Place Mall) - 6pm
•Lesbians with Breast Cancer - Support Group - YWCA (766 South Highland) - 7pm
• Singles Dart Tournament - Crossroads - 7:45pm
•Karaoke Night - Metro - 10pm
•Karaoke Night - J-Wag's - 11pm

WEDNESDAYS

•Dart Tournament - The Jungle - 7:30pm
•Partners Dart Tournament - Crossroads - 8pm
•Ink & Metal Nite - Show your tats and piercings for specials - Pumping Station - All Day

THURSDAYS

• Holy Eucharist &Healing Service - Calvary Episcopal Church - 12:05 p.m.
•Cotton Pickin' Squares - Holy Trinity Community Church – (901) 438-2427 – 7:30pm
•Dart Tournament - J-Wag's - 8pm
•NEO-Soul Night - Karaoke - Paragon - 10pm
•Talent Search Night - Allusions Entertainment Center - 10pm
•Star Karaoke - Crossroads - 10pm
•Amateur Show - Metro - 11:30pm

FRIDAYS

•First Congo Films - First Congregational Church - (901) 278-6786 - 7pm & 9pm
• MGLCC Coffeehouse Nights - Community Center - (901) 278-4297 - 7pm
•Di Anne Price - Cielo - 8pm
•Karaoke - One More - 8pm
•Pool Tournament, 8 pm, Drag Show Midnight - Crossroads
•Ladies' Night - Allusions Entertainment Center - 10pm
•Late Nite Beer Bust - Pumping Station - 10pm
•Drag Show - Backstreet - Midnight

SATURDAYS

•Camp Fire USA - First Congregational Church - (901) 327-0438
•Live and Let Live on Cooper Street - Community Center - (901) 278-4297 - 6pm
•Saturday Nites at the Gaiety - Movie Night - MGLCC- 7pm
•Di Anne Price - Cielo - 8pm
•Pool Tournament - J-Wag's - 8pm
•Supershows - Allusions Entertainment Center - 10:30pm & 12:15am
•Saturday Night Bounce Night & Cabaret Show - Paragon - Midnight
•Pool Tournament, 8 pm, Drag Show Midnight - Crossroads
•Drag Show - Backstreet - Midnight & 3am

SPECIAL EVENTS

Friday, August 1st

•Catholic Mass with Special Invitation to GLBTs - St. Patrick's Cathedral - 7pm

Saturday, August 2nd

•First Saturday Club - First Congregational Church - (901) 278-6786 - 2pm

Sunday, August 3rd

•MGLCC Board Meeting - Open to the public - Community Center - (901) 278-4297 - 6pm

Monday, August 4th

•Feast for Friends - Hosted 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

Tuesday, August 5th

•Gay Parents' Group - Community Center - (901) 278-4297 - 6pm

Wednesday, August 6th

•2xLambda - First Wednesday Outing - Movie Night - Community Center - (901) 223-3331 - 7pm

Thursday, August 7th

•PFLAG - Prescott Memorial Baptist Church - (901) 761-1444 - 7pm

Friday, August 8th

•Motley Blue - Community Center - (901) 278-4297 - 9:30pm

Saturday, August 9th

•Buddhist Meditation Group - Community Center - (901) 327-2677 - 2pm
•Memphis Bears Club Night - Pumping Station - 10pm

Sunday, August 10th

•2xLambda - Second Sunday Social - (901) 223-3331
•WAC (Women's Action Coalition) - First Congregational Church - 1000 South Cooper - amullns@memphis.edu - 6:30pm

Tuesday, August 12th

•Lambda Circle - First Congregational Church - (901) 278-6786 - 6:30pm

Thursday, August 14th

•Parents Together - Support Group for GLBT Parents - Holy Trinity Community Church - (901) 320-9376 - 7pm

Friday, August 15th

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Email Addresses:
Church Office: office@holytrinitymemphis.org
Pastor: Minister@holytrinitymemphis.org
Weekly Schedule
Worship Service
11:00AM
Wednesday Night Study
7:00PM
Thursday Evenings
Cotton Pickin' Squares
HOLY TRINITY COMMUNITY CHURCH
THE REV. TIMOTHY MEADOWS, M.DIV., PASTOR

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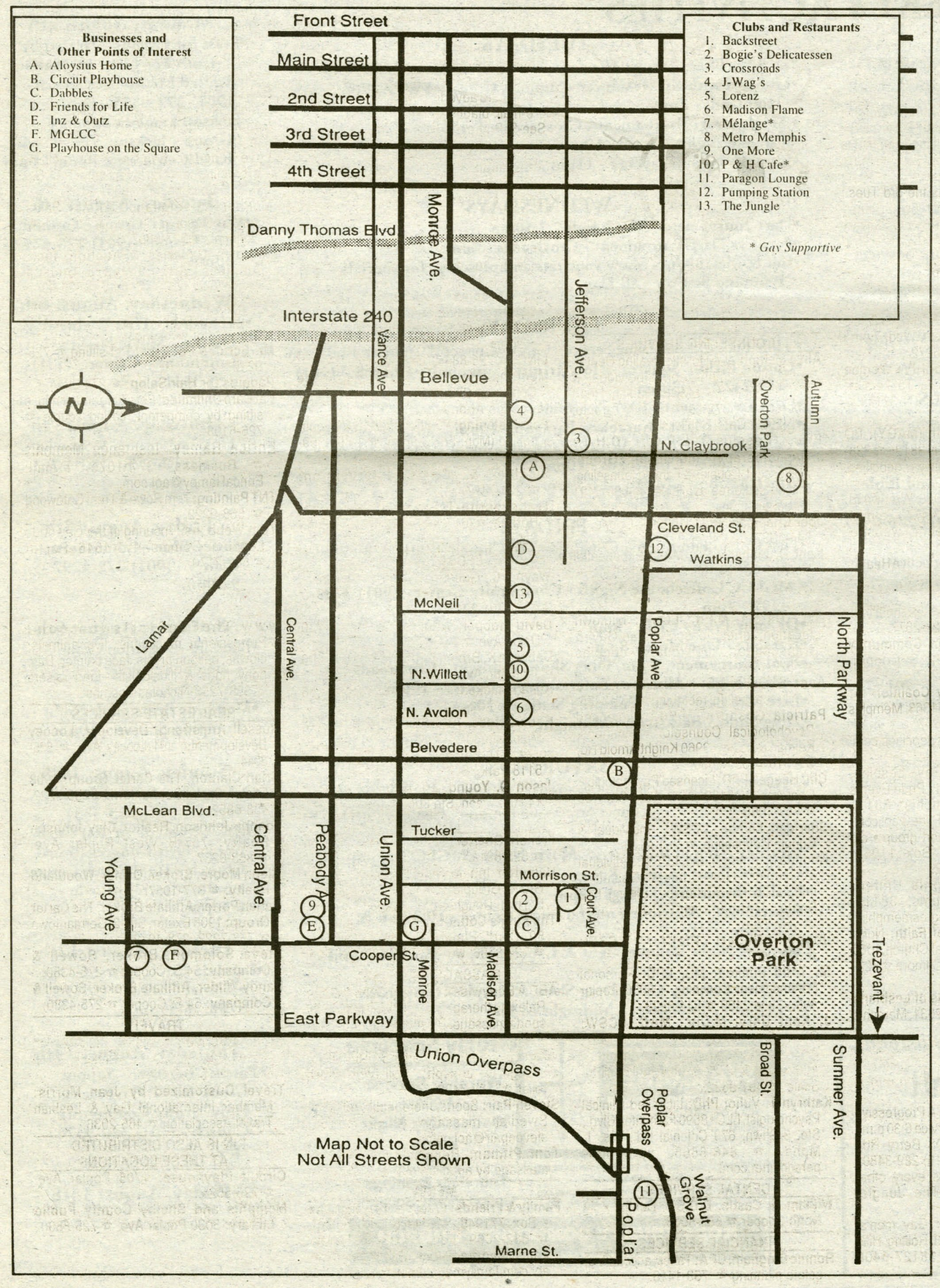
Saturday, August 16th

- 1st Annual Dead Elvis Bowling Tournament - Bartlett Lanes - (901) 722-5236 - Noon
- MGLCC August Birthday Potluck Dinner - Bring a dish to share - Community Center - (901) 278-4297 - 6pm
- Mirror Image - TG/TS Social & Support Group - Holy Trinity Community Church - MirrorImage_TG@yahoo.com - 8pm
- Tsarus Club Night - Pumping Station - 10pm

Sunday, August 17th

- Log Cabin Republicans - General Meeting - Community Center - (901) 278-4297 - 2pm
- GALAH (Gay & Lesbian Atheists and Humanists) - Community Center - (901) 327-2677 or MemphisGALAH@yahoo.com - 2pm
- MGLCC Board Meeting - Open to the public - Community Center - (901) 278-4297 - 6pm



- WAC (Women's Action Coalition) - First Congregational Church - 1000 South Cooper - amullns@memphis.edu - 6:30pm

Monday, August 18th

- Feast for Friends - Hosted by Friends For Life - St. John's United Methodist Church - (901) 272-0855 - 6pm

Tuesday, August 19th

- AIDS Consortium Meeting - United Way Building (Union Avenue) - 11:30am
- Integrity Worship, Dinner, and Program - $10 - Calvary Episcopal Church - (901) 278-8915 or (901) 374-9484 - 6:30pm, 7pm, & 7:45pm

Wednesday, August 20th

Ad & Copy Deadline for the September 2003 TJN

- HIV/AIDS Support Group - Jonesboro - 7pm

Thursday, August 21st

- Gay & Lesbian Book Club - Community Center - (901) 680-9218 or (901) 278-4297 - 7pm

Friday, August 22nd

- 2xLambda - Fourth Friday Fun - (901) 223-3331 - 7pm
- Motley Blue - Community Center - (901) 278-4297 - 9:30pm

Saturday, August 23rd

Submissions deadline for the September 2003 Out & About Calendar - tjncalendargirl@yahoo.com or (901) 268-4675

Sunday, August 24th

- 19th Annual Brothers & Sisters Bowling League - Registration Night - Winchester Bowl - 3703 South Mendenhall - (901) 722-5236 or (901) 465-4371 or MemphisGayBowlin@aol.com

Friday, August 29th

September 2003 TJN Due Out

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Mid-South Community Resources

Out & About

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

ADULT BOOKSTORES

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

BARS / RESTAURANTS

Allusions Entertainment Center*: 3204 N Thomas St. ☎ 523-0599.
Backstreet*: 2018 Court Street ☎ 276-5522.
Bogie's Delicatessen: 2098 La Salle Place ☎ 272-0022.
Buns on the Run*: 2150 Elzey Ave. 38104 ☎ 278-2867 (278-BUNS).
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.
Lorenz/AfterShock*: 1528 Madison ☎ 274-8272.
Madison Flame*: 1588 Madison ☎ 278-9839.
Mélange: 948 South Cooper ☎ 276-0002.
Metro Memphis*: 1349 Autumn ☎ 274-8010.
One More*: 2117 Peabody ☎ 278-MORE (6673).
Overstuffed Deli & Caterers: 3003 Airways Blvd. #701 ☎ 396-1969, 3727 South Mendenhall ☎ 362-2989, 7716 Poplar Ave., Germantown ☎ 757-1212.
Paragon Lounge*: 2865 Walnut Grove ☎ 320-0026
P & H Cafe*: 1532 Madison Ave. ☎ 274-9794.
Pumping Station*: 1382 Poplar Ave. ☎ 272-7600.
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.
GGS Gourmet: ☎ 278-6218 or on the web at GGSGourmet.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

Alliance: Leather/levi club • Box 42174, Memphis 38174.
Aloysius Home, Inc.: (See Friends for Life).
American Gay Atheists (AGA) Memphis: Box 41371, Memphis 38174-1371.
Aphrodite: 3430 Summer Ave, Memphis 38122.
BGALA (Students for Bisexual, Gay & Lesbian Awareness): University of Memphis, c/o BGALA, 2522 Campus Postal Station, Memphis, TN 38152-2521, e-mail: bgala@memphis.cc.edu, website: www.people.memphis.edu/~bgala.
Bluff City Sports Association: Box 41803, Memphis 38174-1803 ☎ 726-4342, email: memphisgaysoftball@yahoo.com .
Brothers & Sisters Bowling League: ☎ 465-4371 - Richard Andrews.
Cotton Pickin' Squares: Gay/Lesbian Square Dance Club • Meets Thurs., 7 pm Holy Trintiy • 685 S. Highland, 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.
Equality Tennessee: P.O. Box 330965, Nashville, TN 37203, www.equalitytennessee.org.
4F: Leather/Levi group • 698 Pope Dr., Bartlett 38112.
First Congregational Church: Worship Service: Sun. 9:30 & 10:00 am, Wed. 6 pm • 1000 South Cooper ☎ 278-6786.
First Presbyterian Church: Sun. School, 9:30 am; Coffee & fellowship, 10:30 am; Worship, 11 am • 166 Poplar ☎ 525-5619.
Friends For Life—HIV Resources: HIV/AIDS Service Organization • 1384 Madison, Memphis 38104 ☎ 272-0855 or ☎ 278-AIDS.
Holy Trinity Community Church*: Worship Service: Sun. 9 & 11 am; Bible study: Wed. 7 pm; 685 S. Highland, Memphis 38111 ☎ 320-9376, e-mail: office@holytrinitymemphis.org.
Integrity Memphis: Meets the 3rd Tues., Healing Service/Eucharist, 6pm; Dinner, 6:30pm; Meeting 7:30pm • c/o Calvary Episcopal Church, 102 N. 2nd ☎ 525-6602.
Jackson Lambda Support Group: Memphis Lambda Center ☎ 901-427-1500 for information.
Living Word Christian Church: Worship Service Sun. 10 am & 6pm, Wed. 7 pm • 2489 Broad Ave ☎ 452-6272
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 Atheists & Humanists (GALAH): www.geocities.-com/memphisgalah ☎ 327-2677.
Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center (MGLCC): 892 S Cooper, Memphis 38104 ☎ 278-4297.
Memphis Lesbian & Gay Coalition for Justice (MLGCJ): Box 241363, Memphis 38124 ☎ 327-2677, e-mail: mlgcj@yahoo.com, www.geocities.com/mlgcj.
Memphis Pride, Inc.: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, & Transgendered Pride Events • Box 111265, Memphis 38111 ☎ 32-PRIDE, e-mail: MphsPride@aol.com.
Mirror Image: TV/TS support group • c/o Barbara Jean Jasen, Box 11052, Memphis, TN 38111-0052.
Mystic Krewe of Memphis United: 41 S. Century, Memphis, 38111. www.geocities.com/mardigrasmemphis
Open Heart Community of Faith: North end of First Congregational Church, 1000 South Cooper, Rev. John Gilmore ☎ 323-3514.
Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (P-FLAG): 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
Stonewall Mission Church: A Progressive Christian Church • Sun. Service 6:30 p.m., meets at the Center, 103 Berry Rd., Nashville, TN 37204 ☎ (615) 269-3480.
Sunshine Travelers: Meets every other Tuesday at 7 pm at The Jungle, ☎ 788-4PLA (4752)
Tennessee Leather Tribe: Gay men's/women's leather org. 1568 Rolling Hills Dr., Memphis, TN 38127-5409 ☎ 357-1921.
The Mid-Towners Bowling League: ☎ 323-3111 - Linda Etherton, 342-4630 - James Bailey.
Transexuals Memphis: Support group for transexuals (male to female) ☎ 272-3278 or e-mail: joannacamilla@netzero.com
Tsarus: Leather-Levi club • Box 41082, Memphis 38174-1082.
Univ. of Miss. Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Assoc.: GLBA, PO Box 3541, Univ., MS 38677 ☎ 662-915-7049, email: glba@olemiss.edu, website: http://www.olemiss.edu/orgs/glba.
UT-Martin ALLIES: Campus and community. Alternate Weds. 5 p.m. Info 131F Humanities Bldg., Martin 38238, neilg@utm.edu ☎ 587-7301.
WAC (Woman's Action Coalition): PO Box 1203, 3566 Walker, Memphis 38111

☎ 678-3339.

COUNSELING SERVICES

Alive Memphis! A Holistic Healing Center, www.alivememphis.com, Individual & Couples Therapy, EMDR, Radiant Heart Therapy. ☎ 372-2991, Susan Taranto; 372-2593, Carol Schlicksup.
Eric Cassius, L.P.C., C.H.T.: Hypnotherapy, Individual, Group, Adolescent, Couples & Family Counseling. Sliding scale fee available. ☎ 685-5491 for appointment.
Joel Chapman, PhD: 1000 S. Cooper ☎ 844-4357.
Kent D. Fisher, LPC, MAC: Experiential Healing Center, 1713 Lockett Place ☎ 372-0710. EMDR, group, individual, couples & family therapy.
Gary Gardia, M.Ed., LCSW: Midtown location; grief, loss; Lesbian,Gay & transgender; individuals, couples ☎ 527-1098.
Anne S. Gillis, MS: Individual, couple & family counseling, rebirthing ☎ 761-3435.
Patricia Goshorn, M.Ed.: Licensed Psychological Counselor • Simmons, Kelman & Assoc., 3960 Knight Arnold Rd, Ste 316 ☎ 369-6050.
Cliff Heegel, PhD: Licensed Psychologist • Centerpoint, 5180 Park Ave. Ste 150 ☎ 767-1066.
Sheridan Lambe, LCSW: Individual & Couple Counseling, ☎ 761-9178.
Rhonda Manning Hidaji, LCSW: Individual & Couples. Goal-Oriented Gestalt & Integrative Psychotherapy, Sliding Fee Scale, Germantown/Cordova area ☎ 757-7706.
Joseph Robert Pfeiffer, LCSW: ☎ 578-9107.
M. Todd Puckett, MS, LPC: Personal Enhancement Coaching. • 5050 Poplar Ave., Suite 2400 ☎ 844-6228.
J. Kent Usry, M.Div., MAC, LCSW: Counseling Individuals, Couples, Children, & Families. Specialties: Trauma, Addictions, Grief & Sexuality. Sliding Fee Scale. ☎ 491-8632.
Kathryn T. Vullo, PhD: Licensed Clinical Psychologist, LLC • 8590 Farminton 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: 5100 Sanderlin Rd. ☎ 761-2110.
Karen B. Shea: Financial Consultant, Smith Barney Inc., 1661 International Dr., Ste. 200 ☎ 818-4134, 800-227-4146, fax: 818-4233.
Sarah A. Washington: Investment Advisor ☎ 466-3588, website: www.lpl.com/sarah.washington, e-mail: sarah.washington@lpl.com.

FLORISTS

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

GRAPHICS/PHOTOGRAPHY

ABC/A2Z: Digital Photography/Videography. By Appointment ☎ 377-7701.
Graffiti Graphics: 1985 Madison #7 ☎ 278-5002.
It's Done!: Typing, word processing/printing service-resumés, 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: btag69a@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 & transexuals).
Gay & Lesbian Youth Hotline: ☎ 1-800-347-TEEN (Thu.-Sun., 7pm-11:45pm.).
Gay & Lesbian Switchboard: ☎ 278-4297 • 24-hrs.
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-Transexual National Hotline: ☎ (617) 899-2212 (8-2am, Mon.-Sat.).

LEGAL SERVICES

Wayne C. Gulledge, Attorney at Law: 6041 Hwy 4 W, Senatobia, MS 38668 ☎ (662) 301-2014 or (662) 292-0823.
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.

LODGING

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.

MASSAGE SERVICES

ABC A Bodywise Company Guesthouse: Relaxing therapeutic, full-body massage/sports massage. By appointment. ☎ 377-7701.
Massage by Jim: ☎ Pager 541-0579.
Massage by Joseph: Full body stress relief ☎ 358-7438.
Steven Pair: Sports, therapeutic, relaxing, Swedish massage ☎ 277-1705, stevenpair@aol.com
Tom Pitman: Rejuvenating full-body massage by appointment. ☎ 761-7977.

MEDIA

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

MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES

Antique Warehouse*: 2563 Summer ☎ 323-0600.
Balnea Blue Hair Salon: 2111 Madison ☎ 726-0090.
Bereavement Express: A unique way to express your sympathy to family, friends, co-workers, clients. ☎ 578-9107; www.LandscapesPublishing.com
Christian Funeral Directors: 2615 Overton Crossing ☎ 358-0062
Dabbles Hair Co.: 19 N. Cooper ☎ 725-0521.
Girls Work: Incudes: *House Doctors, Intimate Occasions, Lunch to Go, BasketGrams & Everyday Services* ☎ 276-1935, email: grlswrk@hotmail.com, http://www.webspawner.com/users/girlswork/index.html.
Bob Hughes, EdD: Yoga, relaxation & meditation classes ☎ 682-0855.
Bonnie's Doggie Day Care: 885 S. Cooper, ☎ 726-1300.
Love Song Greeting Cards: Specializing in greeting cards for lovers only • P.O. Box 676, Horn Lake, MS 38637-2165.
McPherson Appliance Clinic: Sales, service & repair, Heating & A/C. • 1447 National, ☎ 327-6887, 327-7395.
Midtown Galleries & Auction, Inc.*: Antiques, Art, Painted & Unusual Furnishings • 2228 Central ☎ 725-0049.
Midtown House Cleaning Service: 15yr. exp., ref., onsight est., • ☎ 274-0281 evenings or weekends.
Mr. Scruff's Pet Care: Pet sitting ☎ 725-9216.
Paggios for Hair Salon: ☎ 274-3944.
Pet Care Unlimited: Pet sitting and/or house sitting by competent, caring couple ☎ 726-6198.
Enrica Ramey: Insurance Memphis ☎ Business: 377-1075, e-mail: EnricaRamey@aol.com.
TNT Painting: Tom Rowe & Trent Gatewood ☎ 568-9222.
Tom Webb Ins.: Insuring in the Gay and -Lesbian Community, 4646 Poplar ☎ 682-2170.
Vantek: Internet Services • Box 11187, Memphis 38111-0187 ☎ 324-4999, e-mail: vtadmin@vantek.net.
www.TheFunStartsNow.com: Professional magicians, live animals, clowns, balloon artists, face painter, DJs, pony rides & illusionists—fund raisers ☎ 358-7258-Nicholas Toombs.

REAL ESTATE SERVICES

Russell Armstrong, Developer, Looney Developments: 194 Looney Ave. ☎ 525-3044.
Brian Clanton, The Carter Group: 1908 Exeter, Ste. 2, Germantown ☎ 753-7222, 458-3852.
Joanna Johnson, Realtor, Clay Johnson Realty: 757-B West Poplar Ave. ☎ 853-0237.
Glenn Moore, Broker, Owner, Woodland Realty: ☎ 377-1057.
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

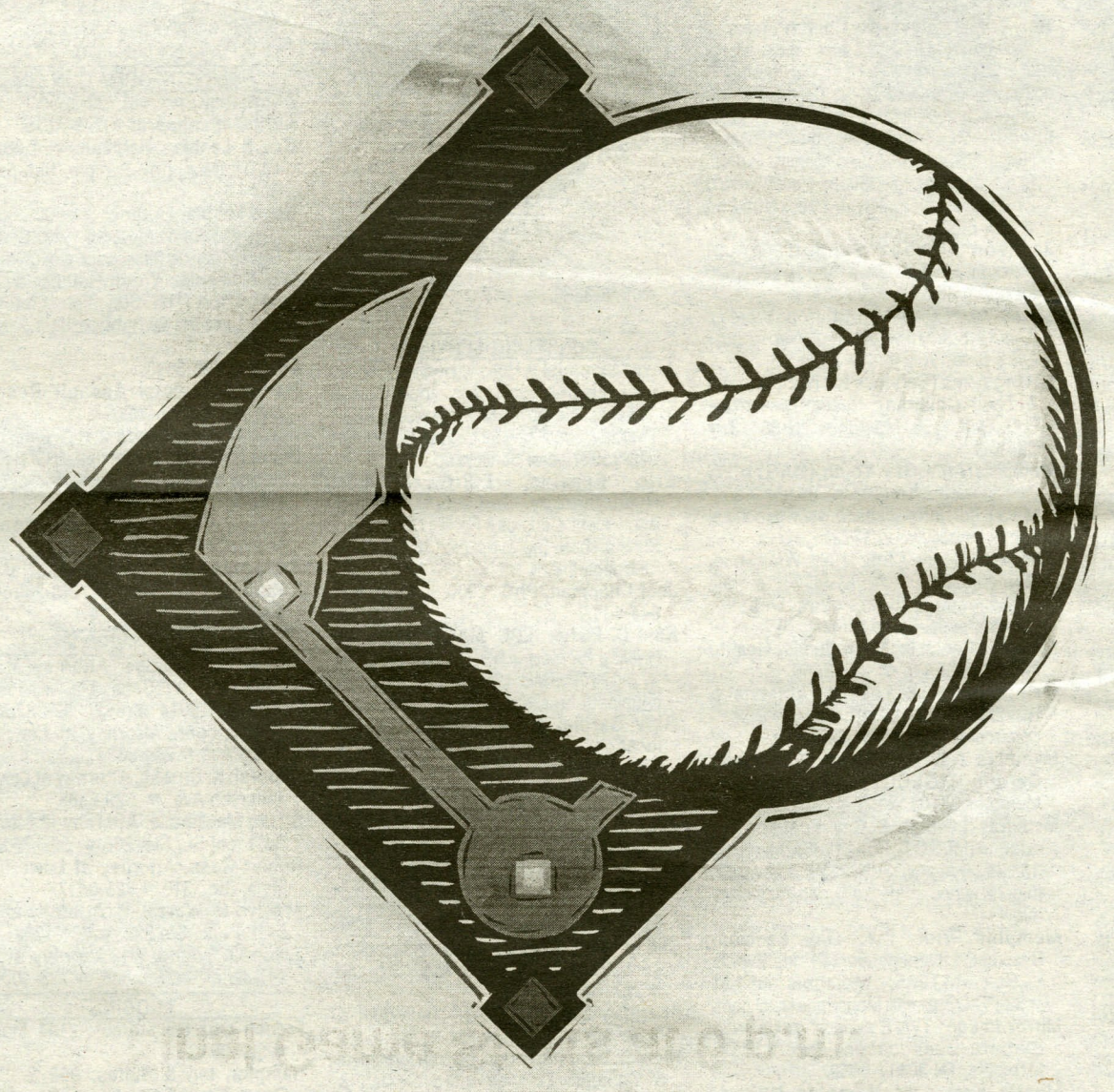
Circuit Playhouse: 1705 Poplar Ave. ☎ 726-5521..
Memphis and Shelby County Public Library: 3030 Poplar Ave. ☎ 725-8800.

Bluff City Sports Association

Softball Tournament

Sunday, Aug. 10, 1 p.m.

Tobey Fields Park - Fields #2 and #3
(Central and Hollywood)
Final Game Starts at 6 p.m.



"Brush Up on the Basics"

Free Softball Clinic

Sunday, Aug. 24, 1 p.m.

Tobey Field #1

Batting, Pitching, Catching, Fielding, Throwing and Game Basics

Call 901-301-7091 or e-mail commish@bluffcitysports.net for information