

*Many Thanks!*



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VOLUME 14, NUMBER 2

NOVEMBER 2003

### Editorial Commentary

## Determining What is News and What is Not

By Allen Cook, *Triangle Journal News* Editor

Every month, we are faced with the task of looking at the previous month's body of news and making a determination about what would interest our readers.

Most of the time, this is not a difficult task since major stories tend to surface. Generally, we don't look to our competition to see what we should cover. I assume that they don't look to us for guidance, either.

This month, however, we were faced with two stories based completely on unverifiable accusations. One involved an alleged felony about which there is no public record (no police call, no police report and no complaint by the victim). The second (which in some instances relates to the first) involves what appears to be a smear campaign against an individual.

Along with *The Commercial Appeal*, *The Memphis Flyer*, *Family and Friends* and the Cooper-Young newsletter, *The Lamplighter*, we were given a list of 28 "complaints." To date, only one of those publications has published a word about either story.

Just because someone comes up with a list of allegations does not make them a) true, or b) worthy of further dissemination to the community.

What we *should* have learned in the past year is that one simply can't go around destroying people's reputations without hard evidence to support one's claims. In fact, the person who submitted the list of complaints was one of the victims of this same tactic last year.

Therefore, until we see compelling evidence of wrongdoing, the *Triangle Journal News* will not be covering these stories directly. We will not be used to republish a laundry list of grievances by one individual against another. If that sort of thing interests you, we suggest you look elsewhere.

However, because of the intense interest these stories have created, we *will* publish letters to the editor from our readers on the general nature of the stories. (See pages 2 and 3)

## Congressman Wamp's Anti-Gay Remarks Assailed

WASHINGTON — The Human Rights Campaign has condemned remarks made by Rep. Zach Wamp, R-Tenn., who called homosexuality a "sickness," an "aberration" and a "sin" that needs to be "controlled."

Published in an Associated Press article Oct. 20, Wamp also announced his support for an anti-gay constitutional amendment which would deny same-sex couples any of the more than 1,000 federal benefits and protections that come with a civil marriage license

and wipe out the limited protections that currently exist for some same-sex couples and their families in the United States.

"Representative Wamp's comments are deeply hurtful, inaccurate and should be retracted. He owes an apology to all Americans who believe in fairness and equal rights for everyone in this country," said HRC Political Director Winnie Stachelberg.

"Not only has Representative

See *Wamp's Remarks* on page 8

## Five Years After Beating Death, Laramie Seems More Tolerant of Gays

By Robert W. Black  
Associated Press Writer

LARAMIE, Wyo. (AP) — Five years ago, a gay college freshman named Matthew Shepard was tied to a fence and beaten into a coma.

His death five days later left Peter Moran shaken about the community of 27,000 where he grew up.

"It was the worst possible thing you could hear about your hometown," Moran recalled. "Laramie, Wyo., is a nicer town than this," he remembered telling his wife.

Today, Laramie seems to be more tolerant and understanding of gays. There are seminars on homosexual issues, diversity workshops and an annual walk to raise money for AIDS/HIV organizations.

"In Laramie and throughout the country, it's all gotten better," said Travis, a University of Wyoming senior and executive board member of Spectrum, the campus gay and lesbian group. Travis asked that his last name not be used because he doesn't want his parents to know he is gay.

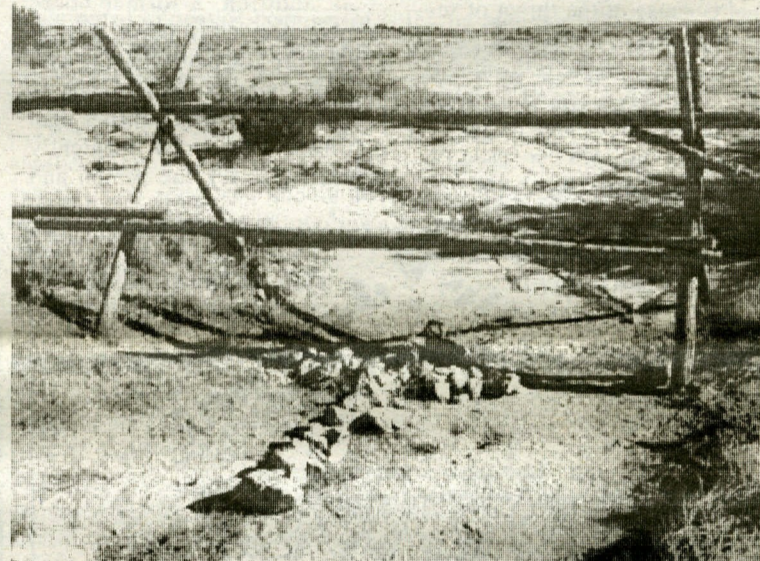
Gay Awareness Week has turned into Gay Awareness Month, and the university is supporting the Rainbow Resource Center, where gay students can hang out.

Credited with creating the more open atmosphere is university President Philip Dubois.

"I wasn't one of the people ... looking to find in Matthew's murder some explanation in the hearts and minds of our community," Dubois said.

"Having said that, I think one has to acknowledge that anti-gay attitudes live everywhere among some people, and I think we've done a reasonably good job here of keeping the dialogue about social justice alive."

Shepard was attacked by two men he met in a bar. They talked him into their pickup truck and drove him to a sheep ranch, where they tied him with clothesline to a



A cross made of stones is placed below the fence in Laramie, Wyo., Oct. 9, 1999, where student Matthew Shepard was tied and beaten into a coma. Shepard died Oct. 12, 1998. Five years later in Laramie, there seems to be a better understanding of gays.

(AP Photo/Ed Andrieski, File)

log fence. Using their fists and the butt of a pistol, the assailants struck Shepard at least 18 times, then robbed him of \$20 and his shoes, so he couldn't walk back to town.

Condemnation of the crime came from around the world. Candlelight vigils were held. Debates ensued over treatment of gays, and measures were passed adding sexual orientation to anti-discrimination laws.

The attackers were caught, convicted and sentenced to life in prison.

In the days and weeks after the attack, Laramie was unfairly portrayed, said Moran, an assistant education professor at the university. He believes the Shepard murder received more attention perhaps because it occurred in a rural area.

"The images that I can conjure up — the fence, the mountain vista beyond — it's not the same as a dirty alley in Chicago," Moran said. "You can still see those images plain as day."

Dee Swanson rejected what she felt were unfair stereotypes about her hometown.

"We're more than just a rural community, which we're portrayed as," said Swanson. "We accept people. ... We're tolerant. The people are more verbal now about being tolerant."

Dan May, a graduate student from Casper — Shepard's hometown — said with Wyoming's small population of 499,000, "you don't get a lot of diversity, so in that sense it made it clear to the people of Wyoming we have diversity, and it's something we need to talk about more."

Some people, though, still haven't gotten the message, said construction worker Kevin Young.

"People still joke about it," Young said of Shepard's death. "I have heard people make bad comments about it. They're already that way and it's going to be hard to break them from it."

# Divided We Fall

By Bob Dumais

In recent times the slogan "United We Stand" has become extremely popular.

Unfortunately, the Memphis GLBT community seems to live by the flip side of that saying — "Divided We Fall."

No matter what the situation or organization involved, it seems we prefer to divide and attack rather than unite and compromise.

Examples abound throughout the history of the Memphis GLBT community:

Why did we end up having three leather clubs and three krewes in Memphis?

Why does the Memphis Gay Coalition no longer exist?

Why was there such a ruckus when Pride festivities were postponed because of the threat of severe weather a few years ago?

The latest example is the attack on the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center and its president in the mid-October issue of *Family and Friends* magazine.

Why? Because the Memphis GLBT community seems more willing to think the worst of its leaders and groups than think that maybe — just maybe — they are doing the best they can.

If you can do it better, join the group and help, don't just tear the present leaders down.

It is a wonder that there are so few outstanding leaders in our community? People who might do a terrific job see what has happened to those already in leadership positions and say,

"The hell with it. I don't need the aggravation."

In the current situation, although no legal charges have been filed or the situation even confirmed, certain parties decided to make an issue of an alleged incident involving one of the groups using the community center.

In addition, a former board member decided to personally attack the president of MGLCC with a list of charges which appear to be more personality conflict than legitimate. That person apparently decided to attack the person and

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



SHOOT-OUT AT THE ANGLICAN CORRAL

organization publicly rather than work out the differences face-to-face or simply accept a vote of the board of the organization.

If you're looking for easy answers to these problems, I'm not sure I have them.

As I've said many times in the past: If the GLBT community was anywhere near as united as our opponents thin we are, we would have all our rights and then some.

This, however, is obviously not the case. My only suggestions are:

- Don't assume everything you read or hear about some situation in our community is accurate. Yes, that even applies to this newspaper. Check into it yourself and make up your own mind. (I know this requires effort and work on your part, but do it anyway.)
- Don't bad-mouth our current leaders without the facts. If you

don't like the job someone is doing, don't tear them down for trying their best. Get in there and help. Try to make things better rather than just destroying them.

- Learn the arts of negotiation and compromise. Change what you can and accept gracefully those things you cannot change. We have enough enemies to our cause without giving fuel to their anti-gay campaigns.



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

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

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**Publishers/Editors**

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

**Columnists/Contributors**

Shannon Yarbrough

**Production**

Allen Cook • Bob Dumais • John Stilwell

**Advertising Sales**

Bob Dumais • Allen Cook

**National Advertising Representative**

RIVENDELL MEDIA

212-242-6863

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## LETTERS

The *Triangle Journal News* welcomes letters from its readers. Letters should 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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Triangle Journal News, P.O. Box 11485, Memphis, TN 38111-0485  
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Our e-mail address is MemphisTJN@aol.com.

### Piechowski Has Support

As founder and chair of the Memphis Lesbian & Gay Coalition for Justice, I have been working to improve the lives of gays and lesbian in the Memphis community for more than five years. I have worked with many great people, one of whom is Len Piechowski, president

of the Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center. I have been privileged to work with Len for more than four years. He has been a supportive friend and comrade in the struggle for social justice and equality.

I am also privileged to serve on the board of the Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center as sec-

retary this year. I have seen an amazing transformation the MGLCC has made the past year thanks to the leadership of Len and the other benefactors and volunteers who are helping to fulfill the mission of the MGLCC. We should all be proud of Len for the work he has done to raise \$72,000 to purchase a community center. Len did something I could never do—go directly to people and ask them for lots of money, and he gave a lot of his own. Many benefactors responded to his requests and helped provide the initial money to purchase a building. I am proud to be part of a great organization and one of the best (and few) gay community centers in this country.

It saddens me to see the vindictive and personal attacks on Len Piechowski by Angela Lamb. Even more, I am angry that someone would actually put forth the effort

### To Whom It May Concern:

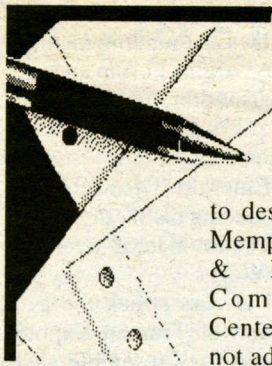
**Angela Lamb  
(Former Calendar Editor)**

and

**Ranetta Jackson  
(Former Ad Sales Representative and  
Staff Photographer)**

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*Triangle Journal News*.**

Continued on next page



## LETTERS

to destroy the Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center. I will not address all of the specifics of her false and misleading accusations, other representatives of the MGLCC board have done so already, but I feel compelled to make a personal statement in response to Angela and others who work to destroy what so many others have worked and sacrificed to build. These views are my own and do not represent the position of the MGLCC board.

I am on the board of two organizations and have organized many others to fight for equality and social justice for gay and lesbian people. I have worked with many other officers and board members. All of us try to do the right things to improve our community. I know of few individuals who intentionally work to harm our organizations. Some of us make mistakes. Sometimes we need constructive criticism. I and the board of MGLCC are open to ideas and suggestions to improve as board members and as an organization. We respond to constructive criticism.

For example, we know we need a more diverse board and are working to recruit board members who represent our community. We believe that past or present accusations of unethical conduct by board members should be taken seriously, and we are creating policies for addressing such accusations.

I chose to ignore Angela's personal attacks on Len Piechowski. They are not worthy of any response except shame. As to her other accusations against MGLCC and the current board, I can assure everyone that (a) the building funds are being used according to the guidelines that she signed on to as a former treasurer and (b) there has been no attempt by this board to hide or cover up any criminal or unethical behavior. Her accusations are false or based on misinformation. None of her charges and accusations justify her request that MGLCC return her donation to the building fund or her campaign to get all other benefactors to demand the same.

If Angela or anyone else thinks that the board and I are blindly following Len Piechowski without question, you are wrong. I have disagreements with Len and I have felt completely free to question and challenge anything he says or does. He is not perfect, neither am I. We have both made mistakes, personal and public. We are all human. It is okay to make mistakes, and it is human to err. It is not acceptable to maliciously make false accusa-

tions, spread misleading information, and try to bring down whole organizations for personal vindication and gratification. There are constructive ways to address issues and concerns without maliciously attacking individuals and organizations one disagrees with.

I am too busy fighting religious and political enemies of the gay community to fight against people in my own community. We must unite and stand together to defend our civil rights and create a brighter future for gays and lesbians. I ask others to join me in supporting the mission of MGLCC to help build a stronger community center, and ignore those with personal agendas at odds with that mission.

Jim Maynard  
Memphis

### To Angela Lamb:

I was on the founding board of the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center (what's more, I went to all those boring bylaws meetings), I am a former president and vice-president, and I was giving my United Way contributions for years when there were no benefactors nor even a location for MGLCC. I resent in the strongest manner possible you dragging the MGLCC through the muck, courtesy of *Family and Friends* magazine and your letter to the benefactors, for what is obviously a lot of personal issues. This puts you, in my estimation, in the same crock with Darren Burns who did his meddling out of pure meanness.

I had to resign from the MGLCC board early on because of over-commitment. Ken Horton, the center's first president, did the same because of stress. Bill Huckaby, the center's second president, also resigned for personal reasons, and later president Mike "Aeyn" Ricks resigned due to a relationship issue. The MGLCC has survived departing board members, almost on a yearly basis; several years with no location; presidents who didn't show up to meetings; one year with a board of two and four people attending the annual meeting; and the late John Prowett. By comparison, this current board has a lot in its favor and the center's programming has never been better.

I, myself, was a president with a strong personality and leadership style who turned to the leather community for support and got it. Many at the time thought it was inappropriate for a drag queen to be in such a position or to accept strong support from the leather community. MGLCC survived me, too. I was also given the grace to step down and back and let others

work toward their vision for the MGLCC, and I did not always agree. I learned from the late Dennis Kijowski, whose broad vision remade Memphis Pride, Inc., not to hold back people of large vision. I learned that a large vision can become a large fact.

Your publication of an individual's problems with alcohol, and an intervention which took place for this reason, puts your respect of confidentiality into question. I find this to be a serious matter. I recall that confidentiality in such matters is critical at that agency. As for the two fund-raisers you mention, I happily participated in both of them and would do so again for the MGLCC. I will also be delighted to participate in a benefit to raise the \$500 you so desperately wish to recover, perhaps to purchase a bus ticket to wherever Darren Burns has got himself to. You can try to wreck some other people's years of work there.

Your efforts on behalf of MGLCC and your leadership during the non-presidency of Ben Mendoza have been zealous and admirable. I don't see why you had to throw all that away because of an obvious personal vendetta. You are not doing the center any good anymore, and I hope that you will take my advice and get out of the way of those who want to see the center thrive, as I do.

With utmost sincerity,

Vincent Astor  
A Fellow Benefactor

### To Allen Cook:

I am writing to you in regard to the attack on the Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center and our president, Len Piechowski, made by your [former] calendar editor, Angela Lamb. As outraged as I am at her behavior, I am equally disgusted by *Family & Friends* for printing such garbage. It was quite clear that there was no professional journalism involved there. (Haven't they learned their lesson yet??)

Anyway, it would appear that her accusations are, as of yet, unfounded and of a personal nature. In fact, the entire article is nothing more than a slanderous attack on one man's character. Perhaps she and Anita Moyt and Patricia Pair could all use a friendly reminder that there are legal ramifications for their actions. She should probably pause for a moment and thank her lucky stars that Len is the intelligent, poised and composed fella that he is.

I guess it's impossible to expect anyone who would publicly trash another human being like this to understand why Mr. Piechowski would take stringent precautions to protect both parties involved in this "alleged" incident. Exercising discretion and confidentiality in a situation like this is by no means

"covering up" or "excusing" the behavior. The editors of *F&F* should be slapped for even asking if Len or the MGLCC condones this type of behavior.

I am so thankful that Len listened to these young people and did not dismiss their concerns. How would Len gain this young man's trust and find out what really happened by betraying his confidence? I believe if these allegations are true, then the person who committed this crime should be held accountable; and I believe he will be.

Len was caught in the middle with a responsibility to both parties as members of the community center. Splattering news like this all over the place is not a safe practice where young people have been violated or individuals with emotional problems are experiencing turmoil. What a huge responsibility to fall on the shoulders of one man.

I guess I am most horrified that she would attack anyone recovering from a disease such as alcoholism. To discourage someone from involving himself in a productive, meaningful endeavor because of illness is to me interfering with that individual's sobriety and subsequent recovery. And how dare she put herself in the position to judge another human being and decide exactly "how long" one should be sober before doing anything... *period*.

Alcoholism is an illness like any other, be it depression, cancer, you name it. There is no morality issue involved with it. We should all view it with the compassion and empathy we afford any other disease. As I understand it, Ms. Lamb is a volunteer and community outreach coordinator with Friends for Life... a position for which these qualities are essential.

Oh well, I think the greatest thing about recovering alcoholics is that they have recognized their problem and are taking the necessary steps to wellness. If more people had as much insight into their own problems what a wonderful world this would be!

The thing to remember is we are all "addicts" in one way or another. We all medicate ourselves, be it with drugs, food, expenditures, people, Prada shoes, *making others look bad*... whatever.

I have a tremendous amount of respect for anyone who can get out

of bed every day and fight that fight. The alcoholic is no stranger to scrutiny, judgment, struggle or discipline. He is not afraid to ask for help or make tough decisions. Why, I can't think of anyone more equipped to be in a position of leadership myself.

Anyway, I want to challenge Angela and the entire gay community. Before you judge anyone on the board of the MGLCC, take a good long look in the mirror and ask what *you* yourself have done lately in the fight for equality. How are *you* presenting yourself as a productive, stand-up member of society? Before you criticize their efforts and decisions, think about what constructive ideas *you* have presented to them and how you have tried to work cooperatively to enhance what they are trying to do for all of us.

It's so easy and safe to sit back and critique everyone else rather get out there and take a chance yourself. Tearing down those brave individuals who are trying their hardest to make this a better place for us and our children is really shooting yourself in the foot. That same foot will lead us limping backward in the wrong direction. If we can't accept each other and appreciate the diversity that exists within our own community then how on earth can we expect any other groups to accept us?

Those of you giving your time and contributions, please do not be discouraged. You are deeply appreciated. Your achievements are by no means overshadowed by petty drama. You are deeply appreciated. Keep up the good work!

At any rate, I trust that you will address this issue swiftly and fairly, Mr. Cook. Your readership depends on it. Your website reaches many people, and I have concerns about Ms. Lamb representing the GBLT community of Memphis. I have never seen smut like this in the *TJN* and I already refuse to ever open another copy of *F&F*. There are a lot of us out there depending on you as we do Len and the other MGLCC leaders.

Thank you sincerely for taking time to read my concerns. Much continued success to your publication.

Bianca Hudson  
Memphis

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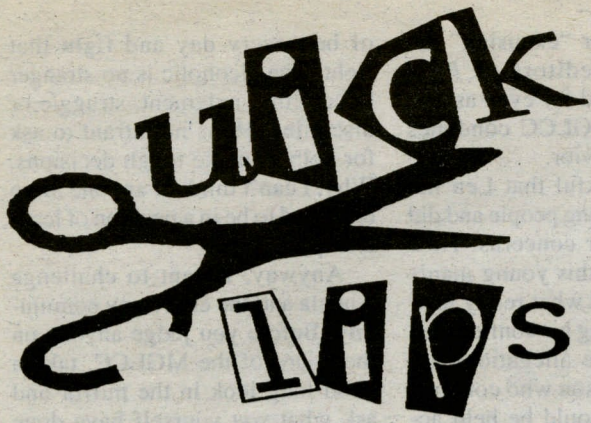
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by Allen Cook

You've just got to wonder how an entity which purports to "bring our community together" can stir up so much crap.

For months we've been seeing activity at the old Amnesia location at 2866 Poplar Ave. In fact, that observation was recently made easier by the removal of one of the

building which blocked the view of the building.

With the addition of signage, we now know that the name of the place is Senses.

The good news is that if all goes well it will open Nov. 21.

The bad news (for some anyway) is that it is not billed as a gay club.

Dennis, the manager of Senses, told me that everyone is welcome

— gay, straight, purple, green, whatever.

The inside has been completely redone with a much larger dance floor area, a completely new kitchen and a DJ/light booth guaranteed to make Woofy one of those green guys Dennis was talking about.

Senses is not planning live entertainment at this time, but will be "DJ driven." Club DJs from out of town will be featured from time to time.

When we visited, there were at least 20 workmen there readying the space. Dennis said they were waiting on final inspections.

In case you're wondering, the pool is gone — we're not going to make another "green" comment here. Dennis said he felt it was too dangerous to have a body of water around folks imbibing liquor. In its place is a beautiful patio bar — in fact, I counted at least four serving bars in the place.

Senses will open at 4 p.m. Wednesdays through Sundays and stay open til 5 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and 3 a.m. on other nights.

Senses is owned by Fantasy Warehouse, owner of several adult bookstores in the area and a major contributor to Memphis Pride in the past.

The National Organization for Women will hold its 2005 national convention in Nashville, an official has confirmed.

Cynthia Bennett, Tennessee president of NOW, said the three-day conference will be held over a weekend in late June or early July.

"I'm very, very excited," she

said. "I've wanted a national conference here for the last five years."

Bennett said she expects at least 1,000 members to attend. The conference will focus on issues of equality for women, domestic violence, racism, gay and lesbian rights, economic justice and reproductive rights. The group also will elect leadership during the weekend.

The organization, billed as the nation's largest feminist organization, started in 1966 and has more than 500,000 members.

Unfortunately, the Memphis Chapter is inactive. We hope it can come back in time to show a Memphis presence at the convention.

Two locally produced movies are having screening at Out Takes, the Dallas gay film festival in November.

*Blue Citrus Hearts* is playing on Mon., Nov. 15, and *Eli Parker Is Getting Married?* is playing on Sun., Nov. 16.

Morgan Jon Fox's *Blue Citrus Hearts* was named best locally produced narrative feature Oct. 25 at the Indie Memphis Film Festival. The movie is a bittersweet love story about a high school student's growing awareness of his sexuality.

Mark Jones, producer/writer of *Eli Parker's Getting Married?*, is thrilled the film is going to Dallas.

"*Eli Parker Is Getting Married?* had a great response in August at the North Carolina Gay and Lesbian Film Festival. Three hundred people came out to see the movie," Jones said.

Howell Pearre is gone, but not

forgotten.

Howell was a founding member of The Playwrights Forum and was a prodigious writer, having a number of his plays produced over the years by the Forum.

Now, Emerald Theatre Company is producing his *Western Park Album* weekends in late November at TheatreWorks.

Howell always struck me as a local version of Truman Capote. Not only did they resemble each other physically, but they wrote in a similar vein, finding quirky characters in the everyday people you could meet on the street.

Howell was never as flamboyant as Capote — he was a short and cuddly sort of curmudgeon with a wry sense of humor that could devastate you.

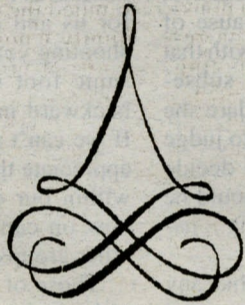
Trust me, I bet the people of *Western Park Album* are worth checking out.

OK, I should have known this but I never really knew that Sigfried and Roy never made a big secret about their being lovers.

I had heard the jokes about them and figured people were making an assumption — a reasonable assumption, but an assumption nevertheless.

According to an article in *The Advocate*, the couple lived together in Las Vegas and "used to be lovers." While the ardor may have cooled over the years, Sigfried said of his connection to Roy, it "is a relationship second to none" in his life.

We all send our best wishes for Roy's recovery from his recent mauling by one of the white tigers in his act.



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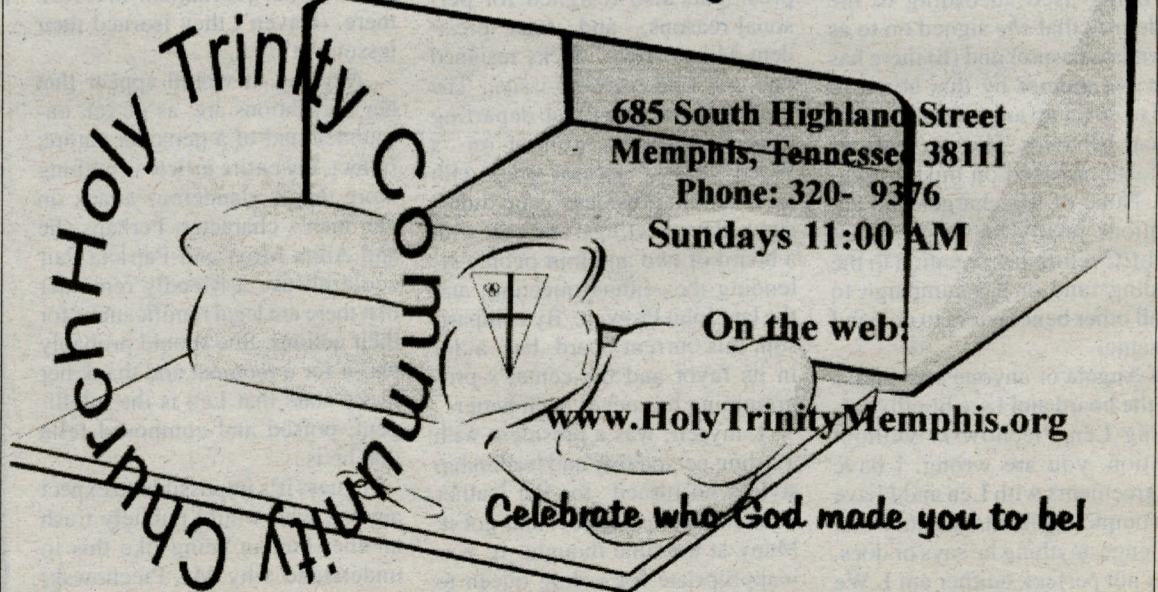
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## ETC to Present Howell Pearre Play

Emerald Theatre Company Presents *The Western Park Album*, a dark comedy written by playwrights Forum co-founding member Howell Pearre.

Welcome to Western Park Tennessee, an apple-pie-leave-your-doors-unlocked-and-say-hey-to-your-fellow-neighbor-at-church kinda town... with a lot of secrets.

Meet the townsfolk of Western Park, among them are the sheriff, the preacher, the homely cosmetics saleslady, the professor, sweet

Bernadette Malloy, the Flying Calumet Sisters, Arthur Benjamin Hadley (the town crazy) and many many more.

The audience is treated to a night of story-telling. Stories about the lives of more than 25 various characters and the colorful (and at times sad) lives they have lived — "lived" being the key word. The setting of this witty folktale takes place in the Eden Valley Cemetery.

*The Western Park Album* is directed by Emerald Theatre Com-

pany Co-Artistic Director Hal Harmon (*Come Back To The Five & Dime Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean, Psycho Beach Party*; and *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*).

Performances are on Fridays and Saturdays, Nov. 14, 15, 21 and 22 at 8 p.m. and Sundays, Nov. 16 & 23, at 2 p.m.

Ticket prices are \$10 general admission. For reservations, call 722-9302.

## Integrity to Feature Music Program

The next regular monthly meeting of Integrity-Memphis will be held on Tues., Nov. 18, at 6:30 p.m. at Calvary Episcopal Church, Second at Adams.

The meeting will begin with a half-hour music program by Calvary Assistant Organist Sumner Jenkins. Dinner will follow at a cost of \$10 for members, free for first-time guests.

At 7:30, Jenkins will present a

program on the history of the Calvary organ and a tour of the instrument.

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 p.m. at Calvary Church, followed by dinner and a program.

For more information, visit the website at [http://www.geocities.com/integrity\\_memphis/main.html](http://www.geocities.com/integrity_memphis/main.html).

## County Commission Asked to Keep Church, State Separate

The Memphis Freethought Alliance, an association of atheists, agnostics and secular humanists, calls upon the Shelby County Board of Commissioners to cease violating the constitutionally mandated separation of church and state.

"Specifically, we formally request of Marilyn Loeffel and the Shelby County Commission to (a) remove the Judeo-Christian 'Ten Commandments' from County buildings and (b) not consider a resolution recognizing 'God as the foundation of our national heritage.' Both of these actions are violations of the Constitution of the United States and the rights of atheists, agnostics and secular humanists to be free from government endorsed or mandated religious be-

liefs," the Alliance stated in a press release.

"We will take whatever legal action necessary to defend the constitution and the rights of the citizens of Shelby County to live free from government endorsed religious beliefs," the release continued.

In a letter to Marilyn Loeffel, current chairman of the County Commission, Alliance President Jim Maynard said, "We recognize, as did the framers of our Constitution and Bill of Rights, the importance of religious freedom, including the freedom of religion but also the freedom from religion. The Constitution dictates, and the courts have upheld consistently, that government and government institutions must be neutral on re-

ligion. To impose a religious belief in 'God' or gods would be a violation of the constitutional rights of citizens who do not believe in God or gods.

"We are asking that you fulfill your obligation to uphold the Constitution and the laws established upon it by ceasing to promote and impose religious beliefs upon citizens in Shelby County. We will take whatever legal action is necessary to defend the Constitution and our rights as citizens of Shelby County and the United States."

Copies of the letter were sent to the American Civil Liberties Union, Americans United for Separation of Church and State, Freedom From Religion Foundation, American Atheists and Atheist Law Center.

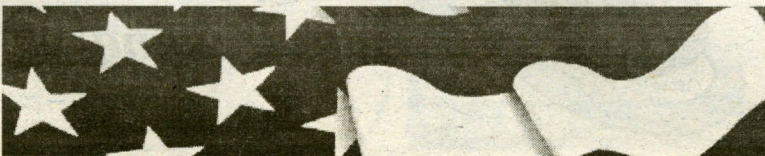
## Stonewall Dems Move Meeting Dates

The monthly meetings of the Memphis Stonewall Democrats will be moving to the fourth Saturdays of the month starting Nov. 22. The group meets at 2 p.m. at MGLCC, 892 S. Cooper.

Anyone interested in joining and forming a local chapter of Stonewall Democrats to help sup-

port LGBT equality and defeat George Bush and the anti-gay right are urged to attend the meeting on Sat., Nov. 22.

For more information about the Stonewall Democrats visit the web site [www.geocities.com/mpsstonewalldem](http://www.geocities.com/mpsstonewalldem) or call 327-2677.



## Church of Christ Meeting Features Lesbian Minister

by Vincent Astor

Rev. Yvette Flunder is founder and pastor of City of Refuge United Church of Christ in San Francisco, Calif. She recently was a featured speaker at the Biennial Meeting of the Missouri Mid-South Conference of the UCC which was hosted by First Congregational, UCC, in Memphis.

Flunder preached a very dynamic sermon to the Memphis audience about activism in churches.

Rev. Flunder was born in San Francisco, to a family who were pioneers in the Church of God in Christ. In 1979, Rev. Flunder began her work with the elderly population and moved into providing direct services by developing a variety of social services for the elderly in residential housing. Her work in this arena received many awards, including the Award of Excellence and the Mayor's Award from the City and County of San Francisco.

In response to the epidemic of HIV/AIDS, Rev. Flunder, along with other members of Love Center Ministries, established An Ark



Rev. Yvette Flunder

of Love, Inc. which opened The Ark House, a communal living facility, the first of its kind to be run by an African-American church in Northern California.

In 1991, Reverend Flunder founded the City of Refuge Community Church in order to unite a gospel ministry with a social ministry. On April 30, 1995, City of Refuge Community Church made a covenant with (became part of) the United Church of Christ. She recently spoke at the General Synod of the UCC in Minneapolis.

*Christopher Radko*

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### CORRECTION

In the last issue, Scott McCormick *did not* answer "yes" on the question about supporting the non-discrimination ordinance, he just said he opposed discrimination but would not give a yes or no answer to the survey presented by the Lesbian and Gay Coalition for Justice. He was e-mailed to ask to give a yes or not answer and he did not.

McCormick was elected to the City Council.



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# Landmark Gay Church Beginning To Win Acceptance After 35 Years

By Nada El Sawy  
Associated Press Writer

WEST HOLLYWOOD, Calif. (AP) — His mission was simple when the Rev. Troy Perry gathered a dozen congregants in his living room one October day in 1968 to sing hymns and take Communion: He wanted them to know God loves gay people as much as everyone else.

"I told them, 'God doesn't play favorites,'" recalled Perry, who had recruited the 11 men and one woman to his apartment in this trendy, gay-friendly city on the edge of Beverly Hills with an ad in the national gay newsmagazine *The Advocate*.

"I knew God loved me, and if God loved me, God had to love other gay people," the excommunicated Pentecostal minister said.

From those humble beginnings was born the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, which marks its 35th anniversary this year. It is the world's largest and, organizers say, first denomination whose mission is ministering to and educating the world about gay Christians.

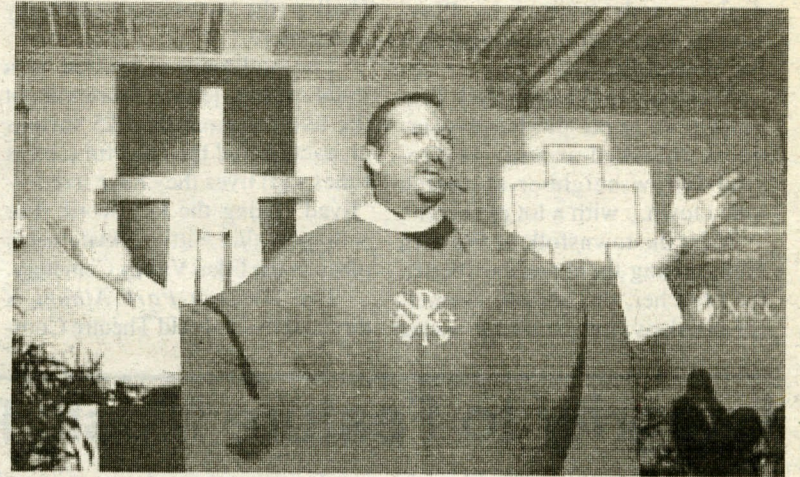
The church, which formed a year before the event widely credited with giving birth to the gay rights movement, the Stonewall riot in New York's Greenwich Village, now claims 44,000 members in 23 countries, including Australia, Mexico, Cuba, Denmark and Great Britain.

Although all people are welcome, the church's primary mission remains providing outreach to the world's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities.

It is a mission that has not come without challenges, say church officials who recount nearly two dozen incidents of arson over the years, among them a 1973 fire in New Orleans that killed 12 people, including the church's pastor and associate pastor. That same year, fires also destroyed churches in Los Angeles, San Francisco and Nashville, Tenn.

Two California pastors have been stabbed to death, one in 1986 and the other in 1999, and earlier this year in Roanoke, Va., two congregants and a pastor were attacked after a Bible study and prayer meeting.

Despite being granted observer status within the World Council of Churches, the UFMCC also contin-



The Rev. Neil Thomas preaches during a Sunday morning service at the Metropolitan Community Church of Los Angeles, Sept. 14, in West Hollywood, Calif. MMC Los Angeles, one of the first gay churches in the country, celebrates its 35th anniversary in October.

(AP Photo/Stefano

Paltera)

ues to be denounced by some in the conservative Christian community.

"Homosexuality and Christianity are polar opposites. The Bible is very clear about this," said the Rev. Lou Sheldon, chairman of the Traditional Values Coalition.

Sheldon, citing the Apostle Paul's New Testament condemnation of homosexual acts as "unnatural," encouraged gay people to change their lifestyle through prayer and counseling.

Other conservative Christians quote from the Bible: "You shall not lie with a man as with a woman; such a thing is an abomination *Leviticus, 18:22.*"

The UFMCC responds with its own 10-page pamphlet titled "What Jesus Said About Homosexuality." Every page is blank.

Gays, meanwhile, are beginning to gain acceptance in many Christian quarters.

In August, the 2.3 million-member Episcopal Church confirmed the first openly gay bishop of a Protestant denomination.

And in June, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a Texas law banning sodomy — a move that has encouraged activists to push for the next step of legalizing gay marriage.

UFMCC officials say they perform more than 6,000 gay marriages annually, and the church led the fight in Canada to legalize gay marriage by challenging the definition of marriage as being between a man and a woman. In June, courts in Ontario and British Columbia ruled the definition was discriminatory.

Since the founding of UFMCC,

"open and affirming" churches that welcome gays have also started up in several Christian denominations, including the United Church of Christ, the American Baptist Churches and the Roman Catholic Church.

"We have forced the established church to put us on their agenda," said the Rev. Neil Thomas, pastor of the Metropolitan Community Church of Los Angeles.

At the same time, there have been setbacks.

President Bush said in June he would push to ban same-sex marriage, and the Vatican recently issued a statement warning that "homosexuality goes against the natural moral laws."

Some large Episcopal dioceses around the country have criticized the national church's decision to confirm the Rev. V. Gene Robinson as its first openly gay bishop, and some have withheld thousands of dollars in donations in protest.

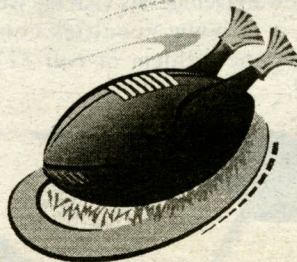
A church scholar, the Rev. Walter Wink of New York's Auburn Theological Seminary, said he believes public opinion is turning in favor of ordaining gay clergy and sanctioning gay marriage.

"Like slavery and women's rights, there's just going to be a major change in the way people think," said Wink, a Methodist minister. "Society is moving in that direction, whether the churches want it or not."

Wink, who is not gay, is the editor of a 1999 collection of essays called *Homosexuality and Christian Faith: Questions of Conscience for the Churches*.

Whatever direction public opinion is headed, Thomas says UFMCC will not abandon its mission.

"We continue to live as a church and as a denomination often in fear of who might come through the doors," he said. "But that doesn't stop us."

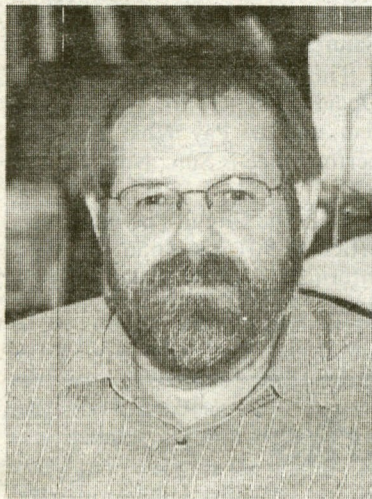


## Happy Thanksgiving

# FFL Names New Client Services Director, Adds Duties for Another Staffer

Friends For Life just keeps on growing to meet the needs of its clients as evidenced by the recent hiring of a director of client services and the additional duties added to an already existing employee of the agency.

Don Akey has joined the Friends For Life staff as director of client services. A Memphis resident since July 1975, Akey comes to Friends For Life after having served as an HIV/AIDS counselor at Family Services of the Mid-South.



Don Akey

Akey earned his bachelor of science in education degree in rehabilitation counseling from The University of Memphis. He also was graduated from the University of Tennessee with a masters in social work.

When asked how he felt about joining the Friends For Life staff, Akey replied, "It was a thrill and I'm very flattered. During the time I worked for Family Services, I worked heavily with a lot of people (staff) here (at Friends For Life). I have similar dreams as Kim Moss for Friends For Life. For Kim to

have the confidence in me was thrilling and scary."

Friends For Life Executive Director Kim A. Moss is equally as thrilled. "Friends For Life is very excited to have someone of Don Akey's caliber serving as director of client services," Moss said.

"He has a long history of providing HIV/AIDS services, is well-known and highly-respected in the community. And, he's a great asset to the Friends For Life family."

As director of client services, Akey's responsibilities include "supervision of the various programs and overseeing the daily activities of the services we provide to our clients," he said.

"Hopefully together, we can solve some of the problems I've seen for years," Akey said explaining the goals he hopes to accomplish in his new position.

"By problems, I mean things the clients need and don't get. In other words, reaching the underserved population."

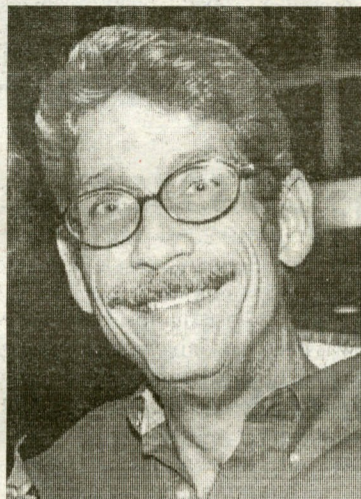
A native Memphian and Friend For Life employee since 1999, Butch Valentine, formerly the agency's director of special events, is now FFL's director of fundraising.

Diagnosed with HIV on Sept. 13, 1993, Valentine began his tenure at Friends For Life by volunteering to answer the agency's telephone and helping out with Feast For Friends. "I had just started receiving my disability

check in 1995, and I started thinking, 'What am I going to do with the rest of my life?'" Valentine recalled.

"Then I read the poem, 'Famous,' and it triggered me. I had been waiting to die, but that poem is what motivated me to begin volunteering in October 1995."

Although Valentine's degree is in respiratory therapy, his background is in advertising and sales, which gave him the perfect tools to raise much-needed funds for Friends For Life. One of



Butch Valentine

Valentine's new duties as director of fundraising is overseeing the agency's capital campaign.


When asked about his goals for his new position he replied, "To get us in our new home PDQ, and try to create new fundraising events

along the way.

"We have wonderful supporters who love us very much and we're going to do this (raise the money for the renovation of FFL's new home) even though the economy is

soft," Valentine added.

For more information about Friends For Life and its various services, call (901) 272-0855 or visit the agency's website at [www.FriendsForLifeCorp.org](http://www.FriendsForLifeCorp.org).



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# Sadaris' Santaland Diaries Tour de Force for Dave Landis

"An elf in SantaLand is one thing. An elf in Sportswear is something else all together."

What was the strangest job you have ever held? Have you ever been so hard up for work that anything looked good? Have you ever looked through the classified section, roared with laughter at the absurdity of an available position, and called to apply anyway?

Award-winning Memphis actor Dave Landis returns as Crumpet the Elf in this wickedly funny look at the absurd side of the holiday season. Gay author David Sadaris, who appeared last month at the Cannon Center, bases his one-man

play on his real-life experiences trading his dignity for an elf costume in Macy's SantaLand.

The writer-turned-elf recounts his elf-training days, and his encounters with surly parents and their greedy children, along with observations on various Santa techniques.

Best-selling author and National Public Radio (NPR) humorist David Sadaris debuted his sidesplitting theatre piece as readings on NPR's *Morning Edition* and *This American Life*.

*The SantaLand Diaries* is a perfect alternative to sticky-sweet Christmas pageantry, guaranteed to (at the very very least) be different from everything else on TV this holiday season. Anyone who has ever been so hard up for work that anything looked good — anyone who "never suspected a green velvet suit in their future" — anyone who ever sat on Santa's lap will identify with Sadaris' flipside view of Santa's land.

Recent winner of the 2003 Ostrander Award for Best Director of a Musical for *Ragtime* and winner of the 2002 Ostrander Award for Best Actor in a Drama for his captivating portrayal of Antonio Salieri in *Amadeus*, Dave Landis embraces his sardonic comedic side as Crumpet the Elf, in one of his strongest performances to date. L

andishas been a resident company member at Playhouse on the Square for ten seasons, as well as the Subscriptions manager and the intern coordinator. He was most recently seen by audiences in *Macbeth* and *Guys and Dolls*, and has received tremendous reviews for his intense and passionate direction in such shows as *Dinner With Friends*, *Hair, Love! Valour! Compassion!* and *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde*.

Directed by long-time Memphis favourite, Ann Marie Hall (*Sylvia; The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told*), *The SantaLand Diaries* will run Nov. 21 - Dec. 21, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 7 p.m. at The Circuit Playhouse. Opening Night is Fri., Nov. 21, at 8 p.m. and the Pay What You Can performance is Sun., Nov. 23, at 7 p.m.

Call The Circuit Playhouse box office at 901-726-4656 for more information or to make reservations.

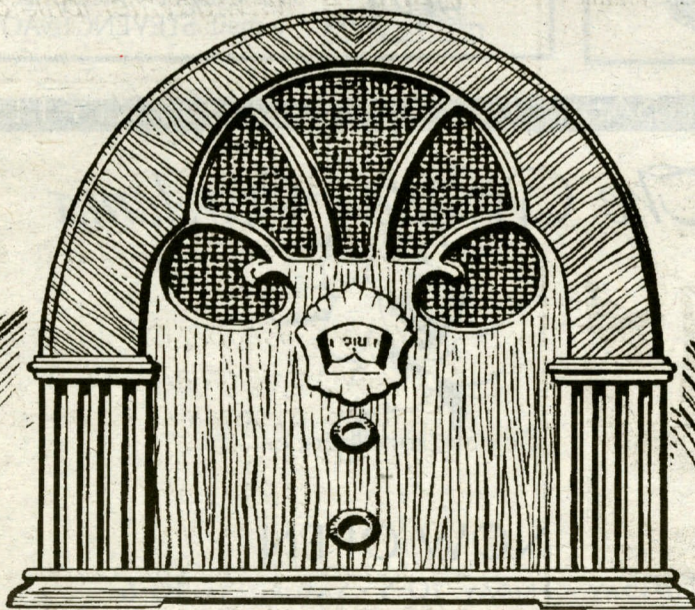


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## Wamp's Remarks

Continued from page 1

Wamp vilified and marginalized millions of Americans, he is advocating amending our nation's most cherished document — the U.S. Constitution — to permanently deny rights to gay and lesbian families."

According to the AP, fellow Tennessee Republican Sen. Lamar Alexander said in a statement that he finds a constitutional amendment "unnecessary."

"We are pleased that Senator Alexander has distanced himself from the views of Representative Wamp and we call on all members of Congress to denounce the congressman's comments," said Stachelberg.

"It's time for our nation's leaders to send a message that such hateful rhetoric has no place in our public dialogue."

The AP also reported that Wamp believes his "view of what policy should be is based on the biblical values from the Old Testament forward."

"People are entitled to their religious beliefs and they should be respected," said Stachelberg. "However one's own religious views should never be used to justify legal discrimination against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people."

In 1973 the American Psychiatric Association removed the word "homosexuality" from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, the handbook that psychiatrists and other mental health professionals use to

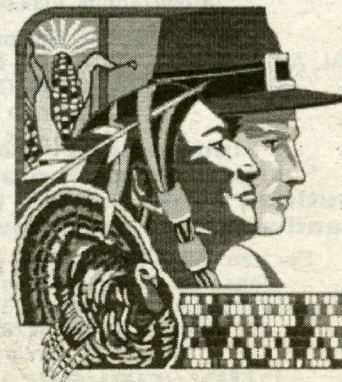
diagnose patients.

Furthermore, the American Psychological Association states, "for nearly three decades, it has been known that homosexuality is not a mental illness. Medical and mental health professionals also now know that sexual orientation is not a choice and cannot be altered."

"Representative Wamp does a disservice to his constituents by attacking gay people, not on what we know to be scientifically true, but based on prejudices and stereotypes," said Stachelberg.

"Gay men and women in Tennessee make valuable contributions to their communities, raise families, own homes, pay taxes and live their lives just like other Americans — and their congressional representatives should be making sure their families are protected like other American families."

According to the 2000 U.S. Census there are more than 10,000 gay and lesbian coupled households in the state of Tennessee.





# Receipes of a Happy Thanksgiving

By John Devin  
MGLCC At-Large  
Board Member

Ah, Thanksgiving — that wonderful time when the air gets crisp, the dogwoods turn scarlet, and it's a joy to break out your favorite wool sweater. It's also the time of year when every major grocery store chain begins airing commercials in which handsome, white families with a yellow lab and 2.5 children (the girls always wear pig-tails and white lace pinafores) surround a laden table. The table itself is an icon of Thanksgiving with its traditional cornucopia centerpiece artistically spilling gourds and fruits, steaming hams, the fluffy green jello, marshmallows over yams, and cranberry sauce all surrounding a roasted, 10-pound corpse. It's such a special image for Americans, but somewhat limiting nonetheless to those who just don't fit the image. Gay people often yearn for it, when perhaps the better option is to take control and make the holiday our own. Suggestion: make peace with the image of tradition by keeping the warmth of gathering with loved ones, while dropping the struggle to mimic Kroger commercials. One way to do that is to put a spiffed-up, gay spin on some traditional recipes. Here are a few ideas for the modern American Thanksgiving table.

## Tom of Finland Turkey Wreath

Two packages (8 oz. each) refrigerated crescent rolls, 1/4 cup mayonnaise, 2 tbsp. honey Dijon mustard, 1 tsp. black pepper, 2-3 cups cooked turkey (ground or chopped), 1/2 cup chopped celery, 3 tbsp. chopped parsley, 1/2 cup dried cranberries, 4 oz. Swiss cheese, shredded, 1/2 cup walnuts,

1 egg separated, mushrooms, sundried tomatoes, olives, leeks, or other favorites to taste until peppers are tender.

## Absolutely Fabulous Praline Bread Pudding with Praline and Vanilla Sauces

Four eggs beaten, 3 cups milk, 1/2 cup sugar, 1 tsp. vanilla, 24-inch, day-old French bread, sliced, 1/2 inch thick, 1/2 lb. butter melted, 1 tsp. cin-

namon

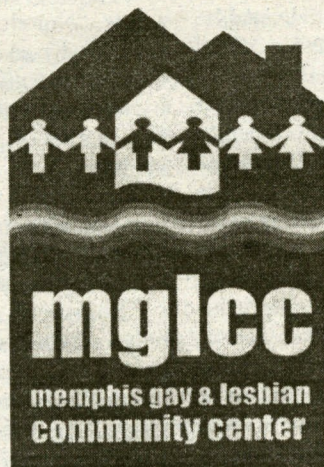
Blend eggs, milk, sugar and vanilla to make cold custard. Baste bread slices in melted butter and sprinkle with cinnamon and sugar. Bake bread on sheet pan at 375 degrees until crisp. Layer bread in a baking pan and pour custard over the bread. Cover pan with foil and place it in a larger pan of water. Bake at 375 degrees for 1.5 hours. Uncover and cool until firm. **Praline Sauce:** Heat 1/2 cup light corn syrup and 1 cup of brown sugar until dissolved. Cook over medium heat until bubbling. Add 3 tbsp. of cream, 3 tbsp. praline liqueur, 1/2 tsp. vanilla, a pinch of salt, and a dash of brandy. Stir well and pour to taste on pudding. **Vanilla Sauce:** Blend 1/3 cup sugar, 2 tbsp. flour, and 1 cup milk. Bring to a boil then simmer until smooth, stirring constantly. Mix two egg yolks, 1 tbsp. vanilla, and 1/2 cup heavy cream. Stir egg mixture into the hot mixture a little at a time. Remove from heat. Stir well and serve in dollops over bread pudding with praline sauce.

Unroll crescent rolls a position on a baking board so that eight of them form an octagon with a central point. Position the remaining eight rolls so that the short sides touch the outer sides of the octagon. It should look like a radiating sun. Combine all other ingredients except the egg in a large bowl and spoon onto the crescent rolls where they touch. Take the central and radiating points of the rolls and pull them across the turkey mixture so that they overlap. Brush rolls with eggs whites. Bake 25-30 minutes at 375 degrees, or until golden. Garnish and serve warm.

## Castro Street Cornbread Stuffed Peppers

1 can of stewed tomatoes separated from juice, 1 cup chopped ham or bacon (optional), 3/4 cup celery chopped, 1 small onion chopped, one 8-inch skillet of crumbled cornbread, 1 tsp. salt, 1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce, 12 drops of Tabasco sauce, 3 bell peppers halved and seeded

Combine tomatoes, ham or bacon, celery, onion and cornbread. Moisten with tomato juice from can. Add salt, Worcestershire and Tabasco. Generously fill pepper halves and place in pan with 1/2 inch of water. Bake 45 min. at 350,



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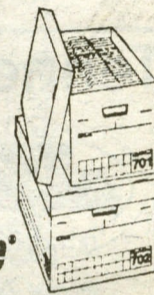
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- Living Word Christian Church - 452-6272
- Neshoba Unitarian Universalist Church - 266-2626
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# Boston Herald Sports Writer Announces He's Gay, Decries Homophobia in Sports

By Jay Lindsay  
Associated Press Writer

BOSTON (AP) — A *Boston Herald* sports writer came out as gay in a column Sept. 30, saying he could no longer tolerate the "unabashed homophobia" in professional sports.

"I just got to the point where I didn't want to be silent anymore," Ed Gray, a 55-year-old reporter who has worked at the *Herald* for about two decades, said in an interview with The Associated Press. "In the sports world, homophobia is tolerated."

He added: "It's the one minority that seems to be fair game."

In his column, Gray cited recent comments by New York Giants tight end Jeremy Shockey, who was quoted calling Dallas Cow-

boys coach Bill Parcells a "homo," and San Francisco 49ers running back Garrison Hearst, who said, "I don't want any faggots on my team." Neither was punished by the NFL. Shockey said he was misquoted and Hearst apologized.

"I'm out because I can no longer, in good conscience, choose to ignore the unabashed homophobia that is so cavalierly tolerated within the world of sports," he said in the column. "I'm out because the silence of a closeted gay man only serves to give his implicit approval to bigotry."

Gray said his hope is that "major league sports address the issue of homophobia and people who make overt homophobic remarks or actions be held accountable."

Gray's primary beat is horse racing, but he has also written

about the Boston Red Sox and the New England Patriots. He said he is not worried about how athletes will treat him after his column.

The column, headlined "Out and Proud," was displayed prominently on the back page of the *Herald*.

"We support Eddie and we just thought it was the right thing to do to give him the platform to express his views," said sports editor Mark Torpey.

The column was discussed at length on local sports talk radio, and opinions were divided over whether Gray's column would make him an outcast. But Torpey said, "We haven't had much reaction one way or another."

"I'm out because I can't come up with a single logical reason why I should have denied myself the right to live and work as openly and

freely as everyone else," Gray wrote. "Nor should anyone find a reason why an openly gay athlete should be denied the right to play a team sport without fear of becoming a target of prejudice or physical harm."

He noted that no active player in major team sports has announced he is gay, though some have done so after retirement.

"Somehow, a gay teammate is only regarded as a threat if he is honest and a stand-up guy, qualities that are usually valued in team sports," he wrote. He added that any frenzy caused by an athlete announcing he is gay could be quickly defused.

"How long would a gay player be such a distraction if all of his teammates rallied around him for the whole world to witness?" he

asked.

Few sports writers are openly gay, and L.Z. Granderson, a gay sports columnist for *Access Atlanta*, the entertainment tabloid of the *Atlanta Journal Constitution*, said the machismo that is part of pro sports extends to journalists.

Granderson said there has been no negative reaction from athletes to his homosexuality. He revealed his own sexual orientation writing about competing in basketball in the Gay Games, and also in response to a group of Atlanta Thrashers hockey players he was with at a bar who asked why he was showing little interest in the women there.

He said Gray's column can help dispel the stereotype that gay people do not fit into the sports world.

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## Seven-year Murder Mystery Begins To Unravel In Federal Court

By Chris Kahn  
Associated Press Writer

STONY MAN MOUNTAIN, Va. (AP) — The thick stands of red oak in Shenandoah National Park open up near the highway to an unmarked and overgrown trail that rangers would like to forget.

It was here in 1996, secluded among the ferns and huckleberry bushes, that Julianne Marie Williams and Laura "Lollie" S. Winans were tortured and slashed to death in an attack that woke nearby campers with dreams of screaming in the night.

The killings on old Bridal Trail sent a seven-year chill through the popular national park, where violence is rare. Rangers warned hikers about the dangers of camping alone. Women's rights groups wondered if it was a hate crime — if Williams and Winans were murdered simply because they were lovers.

The mystery may end soon in Charlottesville federal court. Prosecutors say they've found the killer: Darrell David Rice, a 36-year-old Grateful Dead enthusiast from Columbia, Md., with a history of violence toward women, faces capital murder charges in a trial that begins Oct. 20.

Investigators began to look at Rice in 1997 when he was caught trying to run a female bicyclist off a road in the park. They've entered into the court record a mountain of circumstantial evidence and interviews with jailhouse informants.

But what may become a central issue at trial is a lack of bio-

logical evidence connecting Rice to the slayings.

Defense lawyer Fred T. Heblich said that for such a murder — the women were bound and rebound with duct tape and probably were held captive for hours, according to investigators — the attacker must have left behind some blood, hair or fingerprints of his own.

"But there's no forensic information that indicates Rice," Heblich said.

Heblich said investigators should have removed Rice from suspicion when the FBI found that hair found on gloves at the camp site and on duct tape used to bind Winans did not match either of the victims or Rice.

Heblich said prosecutors should be looking at another man whose hair samples were not excluded in the FBI analysis — suspected child killer Richard Marc Evonitz.

Evonitz killed three girls in Spotsylvania County near Fredericksburg, Va., in 1996 and 1997, according to police. He committed suicide in June 2002 as police surrounded him.

"There are a lot of things to explain why there might not be any forensic evidence — weather conditions ... the amount of time they were out there," Assistant U.S. Attorney Tony Giorno said.

Rice, a computer programmer who grew up in Severna Park, Md., enjoyed making women uncomfortable, prosecutors said in court documents.

While writing computer disks at MCI Systemhouse Inc. in Columbia, Rice verbally abused

women and made lewd gestures behind their backs, prosecutors said. Investigators also interviewed former cellmates of Rice's including Phil Robertson, who said Rice confessed to the murders.

"He tied them up and he said that he hurt the one so that the other one would cooperate," Robertson said in court documents. "I said, 'What did you do to them?' He said he slit their throats."

Williams, 24, of St. Cloud, Minn., and Winans, 26, of Unity, Maine, knew each other from a Minneapolis women's organization, and later moved in together in Burlington, Vt.

Both were experienced outdoorswomen, and on May 19, 1996, they began what was to be an eight-day journey through the overlapping trails of Shenandoah National Park. Their bodies were found 14 days later near a creek-side camp site after Williams' family contacted park officials.

Video cameras recorded Rice entering the park at entrance stations on May 25 and 26, 1996. Authorities checked to see if anyone noticed Rice, and Anthony Coyle, of Boothwyn, Penn., told them he saw a man who looked like Rice on the 25th walking without a backpack about 2-1/2 miles from the murder scene.

Coyle, who was hiking through the national park that weekend, said his girlfriend told him the next morning she'd dreamed about a woman screaming.

"She said she heard people, you know, girls screaming," Coyle said in court documents.



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# AIDS Vaccines Still Elusive, But Trials Now Include Humans

By Paul Elias  
AP Biotechnology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The patient's inoculation was as routine as any Dr. Robert Johnston had seen. Roll up the sleeve, a cotton swab of alcohol on the upper arm and a "this shouldn't hurt much."

What was in the syringe, though, was anything but typical: a genetically engineered Venezuelan equine encephalitis bug laden with pieces of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

As nasty as that shot sounds, the biotechnology brew injected into the volunteer's body that July day was not infectious — it was designed to save lives. In fact, Johnston's research at the University of North Carolina is just one of the latest AIDS vaccine experiments that are moving from the laboratory to human tests.

An increasing number of human experiments, spurred by biotechnology breakthroughs, has added a new word — optimism — to a research field noted more for its failures than its successes over the last two decades.

"I'm certainly more optimistic than just a couple of years ago," said Dr. Robert Gallo, who 20 years ago co-discovered the virus that causes AIDS. "We can see the light at the end of tunnel."

Gallo, who heads the Institute for Human Virology at the University of Maryland, expects to begin testing his own experimental vaccine on humans soon.

Most AIDS researchers agree that vaccines will be the only effective way to control a pandemic that has killed 28 million people and infected 42 million more, most of them in Africa.

Unfortunately, most also agree that things will get worse before they get better. Some five million people were infected last year and another 3.1 million died.

"I tend to stay away from the word 'optimism,'" said Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease. "I see things happening that make me feel better about the process. But I don't want to give an impression that this is a new dawn in America. We still have a long way to go."

AIDS is notoriously wily in beating the body's immune system and so far has survived every drug thrown at it. In February, VaxGen Inc. reported that the world's most advanced human vaccine experiment — involving 5,000 volunteers — had flopped.

Nonetheless, a gathering two weeks ago in New York at the AIDS Vaccine Conference was palpably more upbeat and better at-

tended than years past, attendees said.

"There's cause for optimism," said Dr. Laurence Peiperl, an AIDS researcher at the University of California, San Francisco. "There are more interesting products going into clinical trials."

About two dozen potential vaccines are being tested by 12,000 human volunteers in experiments around the world. Several more human experiments are about to start.

Fauci's federal institute has budgeted \$456 million for HIV vaccine research in fiscal 2004 — up from \$413.6 million in 2003 and \$182 million in 1999. Last month, it awarded \$81 million in contracts to four biotechnology companies for vaccine development.

"A safe and effective HIV vaccine is critical to the control of HIV globally," Fauci said.

At least a dozen drug companies, including Merck & Co., the world's largest, are developing AIDS vaccines. The projects range from the commonplace to the exotic, like Large Scale Biology Corp.'s attempt to grow a vaccine in genetically engineered tobacco plants.

Most of these projects take one of two basic approaches.

One research approach is aimed at provoking the body's immune system to make disease-fighting proteins called antibodies that will forever fight off AIDS infections.

The other approach is designed to train specialized cells, known as cytotoxic T lymphocytes and dubbed killer T-cells, to identify and eliminate infected cells after someone contracts HIV.

The antibody defense is most desirable but the T-cell work has shown more promising results. The vaccine Johnston helped create employs both approaches.

The volunteers in vaccine experiments have not been infected with the AIDS virus when they begin the trials, but some are considered at high risk of infection. Researchers judge the vaccine's effectiveness by comparing the number of their subjects who get HIV against an expected infection rate.

Nearly all vaccine researchers are attempting to provoke immune responses in two ways: by engineering other viruses with bits of HIV or injecting key bits of HIV's genetic material directly.

Ronald Walent of San Francisco has tried both types of experimental vaccines. He volunteered for an experiment three years ago that tested how two vaccines taken in combination would work. Results are expected soon.

In August, the experiment was "unblinded" and participants were told whether they received the combination or placebo. Walent got the combination.

"It's like getting a regular inoculation," said Walent, whose partner died of AIDS. "But initially you do wonder what this stuff is going to do you."

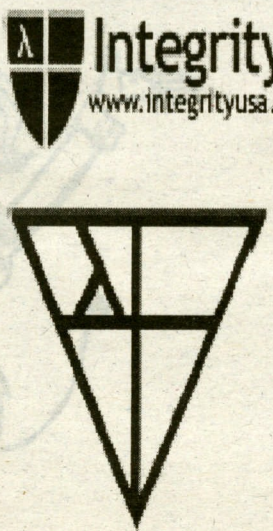
AIDS researchers said Walent, and all other human volunteers, need not worry about contracting AIDS from the experimental vaccines. Because HIV is so unpredictable, vaccine researchers don't use the live virus in human experiments.

Walent said he practices safe sex and has little fear of getting infected. Instead, the 54-year-old registered nurse was motivated on several different levels to act as human guinea pig.

"It isn't just my little gay community that's affected, but huge parts of Africa and Asia," he said. "You get older and a light bulb finally goes off: Now is the time to make a difference."



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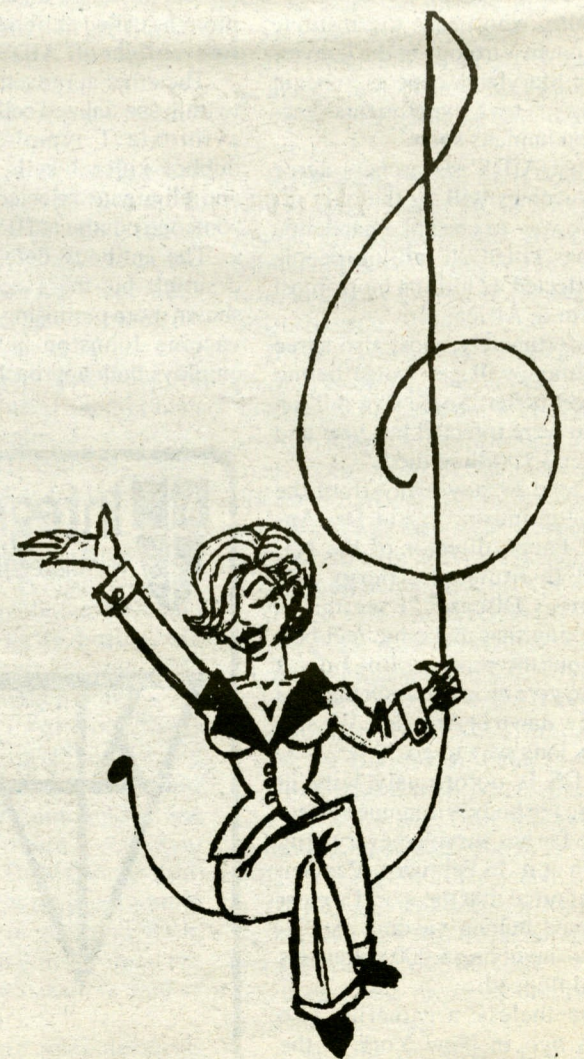
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# Intersex Demonstration Sends a Message

A small band of intersex activists rallied in front of the Connecticut Children's Medical Center (CCMC) in Hartford, Conn., on Sept 26, to protest a gender revision surgical procedure scheduled for an unidentified infant. The "Total Urogenital Sinus Surgical Procedure" was to be observed by participants of a Feminizing Genitoplasty and Total Urogenital Mobilization seminar presented by the hospital.

When Betsy Driver, executive director and co-founder of Bodies Like Ours, was alerted to this event, she quickly gathered a group of supporters to draw attention to the presentation and associated surgery by Dr. Richard Rink of the Indiana University School of Medicine.

Approximately two dozen people picketed the hospital in a peaceful effort to draw attention to what they perceive as nonconsensual genital mutilation. Several protestors are intersexed people whose surgery as children resulted in assignment

to the wrong gender.

Their efforts paid off. Not only did Dr. Rink cancel his appearance, CCMC has also invited Bodies Like Ours to present a program on the perspective of adult survivors of early childhood surgery intended to assign an infant to one gender or the other.

Several of the protestors, including Driver, are intersexed people whose surgery as children resulted in assignment to the wrong gender.

Following the demonstration, Driver said, "This was a great opportunity for intersex activists to come together with our allies across a broad spectrum to publicly and visibly voice our collective outrage at what is occurring in hospitals around the country five times a day to non-consenting children."

Jerimarie Liesegang, chair of the National Transgender Advocacy (NTAC) Activism Committee, supported Driver's demonstration efforts. At the same time, she also worked to

promote a transgender-inclusive governor's Proclamation for Pride Day in Connecticut.

According to Liesegang, this made her deal with the question of why intersex was included as part of our transgender community. The answer, she says, is simple. The transgender community has two embracing commonalities: sexual orientation and gender identity and/or expression.

The intersex community struggles with similar core issues: medicalization of anatomy and the insistence of society to place people in the binary sex model, wherein a man is a man and expresses masculine characteristics, while a woman is a woman and expresses feminine characteristics, and their sexual dichotomy exists for procreation. This model, she feels, goes to the core and oppression of the entire

LGBTIQ community, whether one is lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer or questioning.

"The Connecticut TransAdvocacy Coalition took a proactive role in organizing and coordinating local logistics and Press with Bodies Like Ours for the CCMC action," said Liesegang. "The demonstration at CCMC included lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgender representatives from the Connecticut community. This action was a truly inclusive demonstration of solidarity and support for our intersex sisters and brothers. It is especially heartening that this action came just weeks after our governor included bisexual, transgender and intersex in his Proclamation for Pride day here in Connecticut."

Bodies Like Ours is a non-profit educational organization

dedicated to the elimination of the shame and secrecy associated with atypical genitalia and the elimination of early genital surgery unless medically necessary. The organization seeks to raise awareness of intersex issues resulting from societal and medical misperceptions. There is a broad overlap of social and legal issues faced by intersexed people and transsexuals.

NTAC supports the efforts of intersex colleagues to end nonconsensual genital surgery of intersex infants. Critics often paint the transgender and intersex communities and individuals with the same broad brush of bigotry. Many of the issues are the same, and resources can be shared to great advantage.

Driver notes that the success of the Hartford demonstration has resulted in requests for similar intersex projects in other cities.

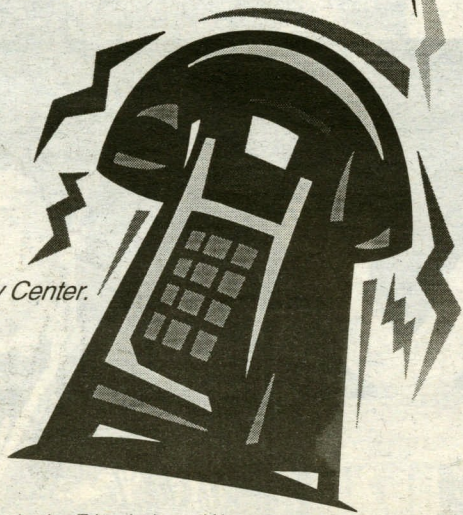
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## 'Ex-gay' Supporters Fuel Debate

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP) — Regina Griggs' son announced he was gay five years ago.

Five years later, she leads an organization that works to make gays go straight.

The group, of which she's the executive director, is Parents and Families of Ex-Gays and Gays, based in Fairfax. Its major tool is "reparative therapy" — counseling focused on converting homosexuals to heterosexuality.

Last month, Griggs sent a letter to Fairfax County Public Schools Superintendent Daniel A. Domenech taking issue with a March event called "Sexual Equality Awareness Week" at James Madison High School. The five-day event, part of a monthlong series organized by students and teachers in a class called "Combating Intolerance," featured many guest speakers and classes discussing homophobia and adoption rights for same-sex couples.

Griggs said the school rescinded an offer to allow PFOX-sponsored speakers share information about gays who have converted to heterosexuality. Domenech said James Madison Principal Mark Merrell offered the organization time to speak but never received a response.

To Griggs, homosexuality is a choice that gays can "overcome" with the help of organizations like PFOX. She said she believes people like her son have a right to

pursue homosexual relationships, and frames her organization as a passive provider of resources for those who are interested.

The 4-year-old group holds monthly support group meetings and an annual conference for parents. Its Web site contains material about reparative therapy and promotes unconditional love for gay children.

"It gives parents an opportunity to sit down and talk to other parents and realize they're not alone out there," Griggs said.

While the organization does not meet the conventional definitions of homophobia, gay rights groups say the underlying premise of its mission is that homosexuality is wrong, a notion they find extremely offensive.

"It's very interesting to me that the people who insist that you can change are those who feel you should change," said Ron Schlittler, director of the Field and Policy Department at the Washington-based Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. "Their world does not have a place for gay people."

Griggs said she is close with her son and his gay friends, and that they know she is "not a homophobe by any stretch of the imagination."

"You can love someone without approving of everything they do," Griggs said. "I don't approve of drinking and driving, drugs and a

whole lot of other things, but that doesn't mean I can't have a relationship with them without approving of everything they do."

Griggs and other reparative therapy advocates think homosexuality is the result of a confluence of environmental causes in childhood, from the absence of a parent to sexual molestation. They note that no scientific study has found a genetic source for sexuality and cite anecdotal evidence for the efficacy of conversion therapy.

But gay rights groups are quick to note evidence supporting reparative therapy is anecdotal and largely unscientific — since the data set predominantly includes subjects who want the therapy to work.

"You can certainly create a situation where someone who's left-handed needs to conform to a right-handed world, but that doesn't make them right-handed," Schlittler said. Ex-gays "are victims of misinformation. They're being sold a bill of goods that they truly want to believe because it makes their world work better."

There is no evidence that same-sex attractions are biologically hard-wired or that they are a choice, said Roger Lancaster, director of the Cultural Studies program at George Mason University and author of the 2003 release "Trouble with Nature: Sex in Science and Popular Culture." He called the evidence of successful conversions offered by ex-gay ministries "very suspicious."

"It's not that surprising that under those intense conditions a certain number of gays could live what for all intents and purposes is a heterosexual life," Lancaster said. "The real question is, 'Why would you want to do that?'"

## Melissa Etheridge Weds Girlfriend in Canada

MALIBU, California (AP) — Grammy-winning singer Melissa Etheridge exchanged vows with her girlfriend, actress Tammy Lynn Michaels, in a weekend ceremony, the singer's publicist said.

"We are so grateful for the blessings from our friends and family as we commence our vows, and begin the rest of our lives together," the couple said in a statement Sept. 21.

The statement described the two as married, although homosexual couples cannot legally marry in California.

Etheridge wore a beaded linen

jacket and crepe trousers in Saturday's ceremony while Michaels wore a white lace coat and a white gown. Their platinum and diamond wedding bands were custom-made, the statement said.

Etheridge, 41, and Michaels, the 28-year-old star of TV's "Popular," met two years ago. They live in Southern California with Etheridge's daughter and son.

Etheridge shares custody of the children with former lover Julie Cypher, who had the children through artificial insemination using a sperm donation from rocker David Crosby.

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# Key West's Fantasy Fest Celebrates 25 Years of Flamboyant Festivals

By Coralie Carlson  
Associated Press Writer

KEY WEST, Fla. (AP) — On a quiet October day in the late 1970s, businessman Joe Liszka showed his partner a main street in this island city that was as deserted as their empty storefront cosmetics shop.



Together, Liszka and Frank Romano concocted a plan to bolster the seasonal economy by luring tourists to Key West in late October with a flamboyant parade, costume contests and extravagant balls that would be known as Fantasy Fest.

The first annual celebration in 1979 attracted 5,000 people. Twenty-five years later, the 10-day festival that ends Sunday is expected to attract about 70,000 people and pour millions into the Keys' economy.

Known for its debauchery — most of the events are adult-oriented and considered a welcome place for gay and straight tourists to let loose — the festival raised more than \$400,000 this year for AIDS Help Inc. Candidates compete to be king and queen of Fantasy Fest by raising money for the charity that provides food and services to HIV-positive Keys residents.

Liszka and Romano said the lavish festival with more than 30 events, including a pet costume contest and displays of body painting art, has far exceeded their plan for a food fair and parade 25 years ago.

"We had no idea it was going to go where it went," said Liszka, 73, from the lush

home he shares with Romano in Key West.

Added the 81-year-old Romano: "We just wanted to bring some tourists down here."

Before the first Fantasy Fest in 1979, Liszka spent a year planning and lining up business sponsors. "I lost him for the first year," Romano said. "He was running Fantasy Fest and I was running the (cosmetics store)."

The parade drew more attention than expected: one local woman rode on top of a Lincoln Continental in the nude, except for some silver body paint.

Some conservatives objected and caused a large public controversy, Romano said — giving the parade just the notoriety it needed to get noticed.

"Very nicely, I think, they made Fantasy Fest here to stay," he said.

Opponents to the festival were a prevalent force for years. Protesters dragged wheeled crucifixes through Mallory Square and prayed out loud, competing for attention with the jugglers and street artists.



Criticism has since muted as Fantasy Fest has expanded.

"It's become known over the years that it is kind of an anything goes type of event, but it is just people having fun," said Harold Wheeler, marketing director for the Monroe County Tourist Development Council.

This year's event, themed "Daze of Futures Past — 25 Years of Fantasy," began Oct. 17 with a Royal Coronation Ball crowning the king and queen of the masked madness. It concludes Nov. 2 with a Mardi Gras-like parade.

King Bill Andersen, a local attorney, and Queen Nadene Grossman, a Key West resort concierge, were among eight candidates who amassed a record \$424,485 for the organization.

And at the pet costume contests, one woman dressed up like her pet skunk, a girl and her dog wore matching scuba suits and a chicken-costumed dog joined a flock of chicken-costumed people who represented "Poultry in Motion."

But the highlight of the festival remains the parade. Romano and Liszka cringe at the comparison with Mardi Gras, despite the excess of plastic beads.

They point to past floats that included a 15-foot tall mechanical King Kong that held a real screaming girl in its arm and a 12-foot high gold foil King Tut pulled by slaves

in loin cloths.

"That's the kind of stuff that really makes this an interesting parade. You won't find that in New Orleans," Liszka said.

For merchants and hoteliers, Fantasy Fest helps keep them afloat during good times and bad, pumping an estimated \$33.5 million into



the Keys.

When tourism was suffering after Hurricane Georges in 1998 and the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, Fantasy Fest still attracted a healthy number of visitors, Wheeler said. "It is an event that kicks off our season each year, and it also has been an event that has helped after a major crisis."

Not only does Fantasy Fest help Key West, Wheeler said, but the event fills up hotel rooms as far up the Keys as Marathon, about 60 miles east.

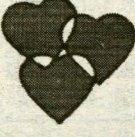
"September's our slowest month, so this gives us a good shot in the arm," said Kelly Summers, co-owner of Lightbourn Inn on Key West, which requires a five-

night minimum stay and charges a higher rate during Fantasy Fest, like most other hotels there. "We wouldn't be able to pay the bills as well without it."


Looking back, Liszka and Romano said the bars, hotels and gas stations have benefited more from the tourists attracted by Fantasy Fest than the storefront shops such as Key West Aloe, which they sold three years ago. Tourists don't make as many purchases, they explained.

But the pair, who celebrated their 45th anniversary this year, acknowledge that they met their goal of extending the tourist season in the Keys.

"That and more, obviously," Liszka said.

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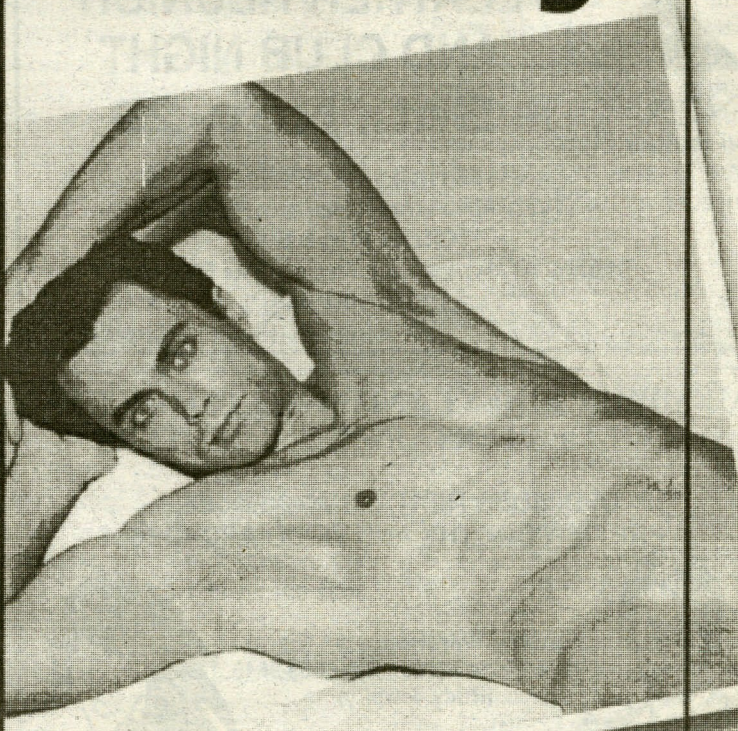
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# ABOUT BOOKS

by Shannon Yarbrough



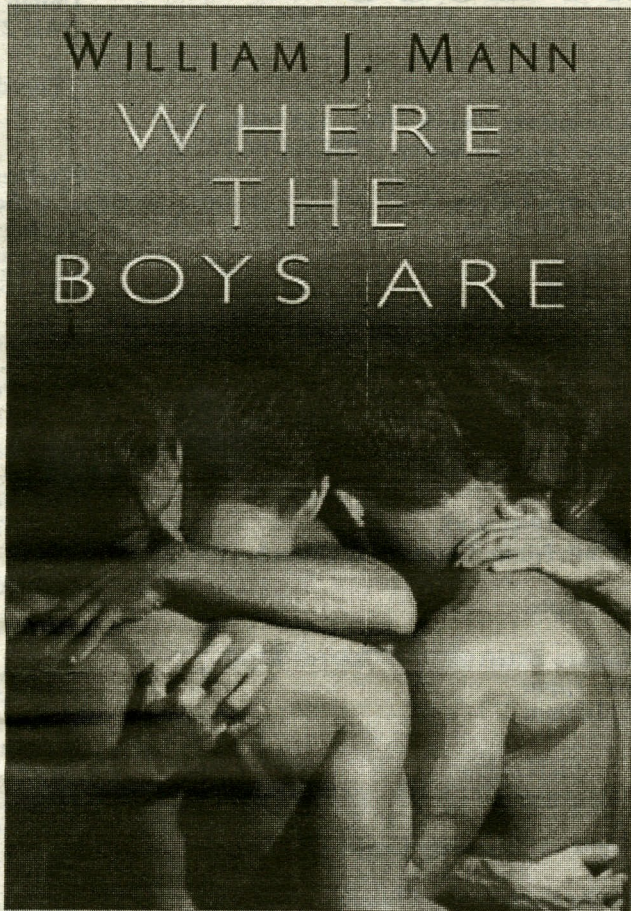
## Where the Boys Are

So I just finished William J. Mann's new book, *Where The Boys Are*, that was supposedly the hot summer read of the year. A follow-up to his acclaimed bestseller *The Men From The Boys* (which I did not read), the book is a deep bass boosted, Whitney Houston re-mixed, X-tripping, body building, selfish and obsessive ride into the lives of a group of circuit boys in search of a dance floor, true love, and the next trick. Drama! Drama! Drama!

Meet Jeff O'Brien. He's a journalist in his 30s with too much money and too much time on his hands. He's still hung up on his ex, Lloyd, who has just bought a guest house in Provincetown with a fag hag named Eva. Jeff is obsessed with bouncing from one party to the next across the country while immersed in the bodies of beautiful boys on the dance floor. He's the plastic Ken doll drinking bottled water and tripping on X while surrounding himself with others just like him who are also probably in love with him.

Speaking of others, Jeff's friend Henry fits that description. He's the puppy-dog in the background, tagging along, who probably looks

better than Jeff anyway. But Henry soon ventures out of Jeff's shadow to discover himself by entering the world of hustling. Go figure! Henry has a tag-along named Shane who



cares about Henry a lot, but Shane is happy with being "on call" to pick up the pieces when Henry needs him. Shane is the smart one of the bunch, although he obsesses over ways to impress people on the

dance floor by using water guns or by drinking blue Gatorade from a Windex bottle.

Then there's Anthony. Anthony is a trick that Jeff met on New Year's Eve at a club and decided to bring home — forever. Anthony is the quiet one who just came out of the closet and provides no background information to Jeff, even though Jeff takes him to all the parties. Anthony eats it up like a child at a theme park. (Jeff even took him to Gay Days at Disney.)

Believe it or not, I actually like Anthony. He's the mystery of the book, as Jeff tries to discover who Anthony really is and where he came from. However, Jeff only ends up pissing Anthony off every time he goes prying for information. Anthony is the one just trying to fit in, even though he is falling in love with Jeff. And he has killer abs which get him a lot of attention! He got my attention!

Meanwhile in Provincetown, Lloyd is having a bad case of fag hag. Eva is psycho, in a nice *Mommy Dearest* sort of way. She is obsessed with Lloyd and jealous of Jeff and tries to prevent any con-

tact between him and Lloyd. She even erases e-mails that Jeff had been sending to Lloyd, and locks Lloyd in his room when he makes plans to see Jeff. Eva had lost a gay husband to AIDS, and now thinks she might be a lesbian. She ends up going to gay bars in drag to try to fit in. We have all met someone like Eva at least once in our lives, haven't we?

Then there's Javitz. Although Javitz is already dead from the very beginning of the book, he is (was) a mentor to Lloyd and Jeff who they lived with. He died of AIDS and left both of them a lot of money (sugar daddy, perhaps?). Anytime there is a quiet peaceful moment in the story in which someone is supposed to think or say something meaningful, it's Javitz. Lloyd and Jeff miss him so much and find themselves in situations in which they have to ask, "What would Javitz do?" To me, Javitz is that older balding guy with glasses from *Big Brother 4*. He was surrounded by gorgeous people and caught up in their sighing lives; and even though he was old and ugly, they accepted him.

By now, you are probably wondering if I even liked this book. It's really hard to say. The book is over 400 pages long, and even though its story did not appeal to me at all, I couldn't help but wonder if those who would find it appealing (circuit boys) would have enough patience or attention span to read it. And there are no steamy sex scenes between these muscle boys to keep your attention, only bumping and grinding on the dance floor.

Truthfully, I tired quickly of Jeff and Lloyd for obvious reasons. I was glad that Henry finally stood up to Jeff in the end, but they kissed and made up anyway. Oh, and by the way, Henry calms down from the hustling scene and finally gets serious with the Windex queen. Eva freaks out and then freaks out some more, disappears, reappears, and sells Lloyd her half of the guest house to settle down in a lesbian relationship. So, what does this tell

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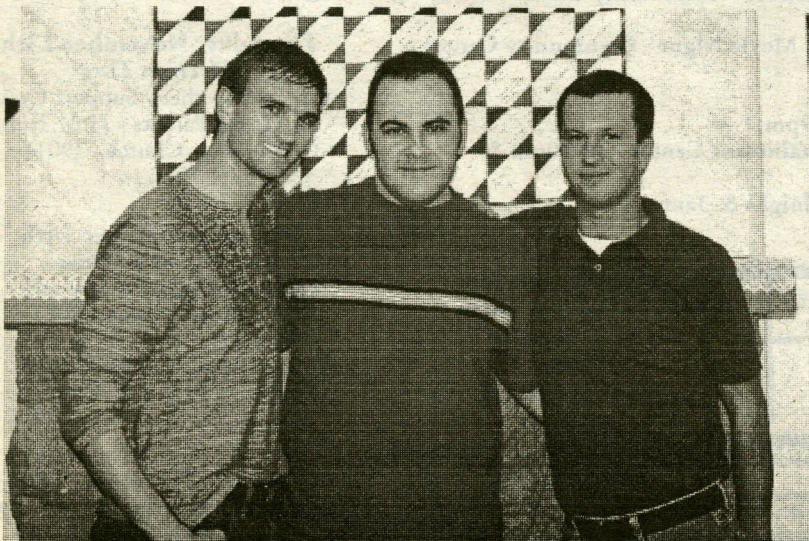
us? Fag hags come and go, but drama is forever!

But at this point in the story, Jeff has screwed up. Anthony had tried so hard to forget about his past and move forward that he is pissed at Jeff for digging it up. He and Jeff part ways. Jeff is sad for a couple of pages, but goes back to Lloyd anyway to forget all about it. Anthony is better off, in my opinion, and he got to go to all kinds of cool parties for free!

To me, the mystery behind Anthony is what drives Mann's book. The circuit parties and drama have all been written about before, and to me, Mann's outlook was no different. Mann's book is described as "ultimately being about the meaning of friendship and the acceptance of self." If you look past the sex, drugs, and nice pecs, and turn down the Thunder Pussy remix, you might find just that, but that is not where the boys are.

Shannon L. 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*. Questions or comments about this book or others you have read? Contact Shannon at [MisterYarbs@msn.com](mailto:MisterYarbs@msn.com).

## MGLCC Book Club Hosts Shannon Yarbrough Oct. 16



Left to right: Robert Germain, author/critic Shannon Yarbrough and Sean Crigger



The book read and discussed by the group for the October meeting was Shannon Yarbrough's *The Other Side of What*.

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 NOVEMBER 2003 WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

### SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICES

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

### WEDNESDAY CHURCH SERVICES

- Taizé - First Congregational Church - (901) 278-6786 - 6pm
- 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) 452-6272 - 7pm
- Open Heart Community of Faith - "A Course in Miracles" - Study Group - North End of First Congregational (1000 South Cooper) - (901) 323-3514 - 7:30pm

### SUNDAYS

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

### MONDAYS

- Monday Night at the Movies - Sponsored by Holy Trinity Community Church - Bartlett Cinema 10 - 6:45pm
- Plus Support Group - Community Center - (901) 278-4297 - 7:30pm
- Pool Tournament - The Jungle - 7:30pm
- Dart Tournament - Pumping Station - 7:30pm
- Dart Tournament - One More - 8pm
- Karaoke Night - Metro - 10pm

### TUESDAYS

- Di Anne Price - Wang's Mandarin House (Park Place Mall) - 6pm
- The Caring Group - Relaxation and destressing by subtle energy

- practices - Holy Trinity Community Church - (901) 320-9376 - 7pm
- Lesbians with Breast Cancer - Support Group - YWCA (766 South Highland) - 7pm
- Dart Tournament - Crossroads - 7:45pm
- Pool Tournament - One More - 8:30pm
- Karaoke Night - Metro - 10pm
- Karaoke Night - J-Wag's - 11pm

### WEDNESDAYS

- Dart Tournament - The Jungle - 7:30pm
- Midtown Round-Up - Country Dance Night - Crossroads - 8pm
- Ink & Metal Nite - Show your tats and piercings for specials - Pumping Station - All Day
- Lights Out - Come Party in the Dark - Metro

### THURSDAYS

- Cotton Pickin' Squares - Holy Trinity Community Church - (901) 438-2427 - 7:30pm
- Dart Tournament - J-Wag's - 8pm
- Karaoke - Paragon - 9pm
- 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
- Seriously Sober - Holy Trinity Community Church - (901) 320-9376
- Di Anne Price - Cielo - 8pm
- Karaoke - One More - 8pm
- Pool Tournament - Crossroads - 8pm
- Ladies Night - Allusions Entertainment Center - 10pm
- Late Nite Beer Bust - Pumping Station - 10pm
- Drag Show - Backstreet - Midnight
- Drag Show - J-Wag's - 3am

### SATURDAYS

- Camp Fire USA - First Congregational Church - (901) 327-0438 or CampFireMemphis@yahoo.com - 10am
- Live and Let Live on Cooper Street - Community Center - (901) 278-4297 - 6pm
- Saturday Nites at the Gaiety - Movie Night - Community Center - (901) 278-4297 - 7pm
- Di Anne Price - Cielo - 8pm
- Pool Tournament - J-Wag's - 9pm
- Supershows - Allusions Entertainment Center - 10:30pm & 12:15am
- Drag Show - Backstreet - Midnight & 3am
- Drag Show - J-Wag's - 3am

## SPECIAL EVENTS

- Saturday, November 1st**
- First Saturday Club - First Congregational Church - (901) 278-6786 - 2pm
  - Halloween at the Movies (Midnight Horror Movies) - Malco's Studio on the Square

### Sunday, November 2nd

- Monday, November 3rd**
- Feast for Friends - Hosted by Friends For Life - St. John's United Methodist Church - (901) 272-0855 - 6pm

### Tuesday, November 4th

- Wednesday, November 5th**
- 2xLambda - First Wednesday Outing - Movie Night - Community Center - (901) 223-3331 - 7pm

### Thursday, November 6th

- PFLAG - Prescott Church - (901) 761-1444 - 7pm

### Friday, November 7th

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

### Saturday, November 8th

- Sunday, November 9th**
- 2xLambda - Second Sunday Social - (901) 223-3331
  - Aphrodite Benefit "On the Radio" - Madison Flame - 8pm
  - Doors Open at 7pm, \$3 cover or new toy for Loving Arms' Shelia's Kids

### Monday, November 10th

- Jackson Lambda Support Group - Jackson, TN - Davis-Kidd Conference Room - 6pm

### Tuesday, November 11th Veteran's Day

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

### Wednesday, November 12th

### Thursday, November 13th Election Day

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

### Friday, November 14th

- The Western Park Album - Emerald Theatre Company - 8pm - Reservations: (901) 722-9302
- Motley Blue - Community Center - (901) 278-4297 - 9:30pm

### Saturday, November 15th Ad & Copy Deadline for the December 2003 TJN

- The Western Park Album - Emerald Theatre Company -

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## HOLY TRINITY COMMUNITY CHURCH

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## Weekly Schedule

Worship Service  
 11:00AM  
 Wednesday Night  
 Study  
 7:00PM

Thursday Evenings  
 Cotton Pickin' Squares

8pm - Reservations: (901) 722-9302

- Sunday, November 16th**
- *The Western Park Album* - Emerald Theatre Company - 2pm - Reservations: (901) 722-9302
- Feast for Friends - Hosted by Friends For Life - St. John's United Methodist Church - (901) 272-0855 - 6pm
- WAC (Women's Action Coalition) - First Congregational Church - 1000 South Cooper - amullns@memphis.edu - 6:30pm

Monday, November 17th

- Tuesday, November 18th**
- 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
- Lambda Circle - First Congregational Church - (901) 278-6786 - 6:30pm

- Wednesday, November 19th**
- HIV/AIDS Support Group - Jonesboro - 7pm

- Thursday, November 20th**
- Gay & Lesbian Book Club - Community Center - (901) 680-9218 or (901) 278-4297 - 7pm

680-9218 or (901) 278-4297 - 7pm

- Friday, November 21st**
- *The Western Park Album* - Emerald Theatre Company - 8pm - Reservations: (901) 722-9302.

- Saturday, November 22nd**
- LGCJ (Lesbian & Gay Coalition for Justice) - General Meeting - Community Center - (901) 278-4297 - 2pm
- Stonewall Democrats - General Meeting - Community Center - (901) 278-4297 - 2pm
- MGLCC November Birthday Potluck Dinner - Bring a dish to share - Community Center - (901) 278-4297 - 6pm



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- Mirror Image - TG/TS Social & Support Group - Holy Trinity Community Church - MirrorImage\_TG@yahoo.com - 8pm
- *The Western Park Album* - Emerald Theatre Company - 8pm - Reservations: (901) 722-9302a
- Alison Tate's "Live By Request" - Metro Memphis - 9 p.m. Benefit for Matthew Shepard Foundation

- Sunday, November 23rd**
- Log Cabin Republicans - General Meeting - Community Center - (901) 278-4297 - 2pm
- *The Western Park Album* - Emerald Theatre Company - 2pm - Reservations: (901) 722-9302.
- WAC (Women's Action Coalition) - First Congregational Church - 1000 South Cooper - amullns@memphis.edu - 6:30pm

Monday, November 24th

Tuesday, November 25th

Wednesday, November 26th

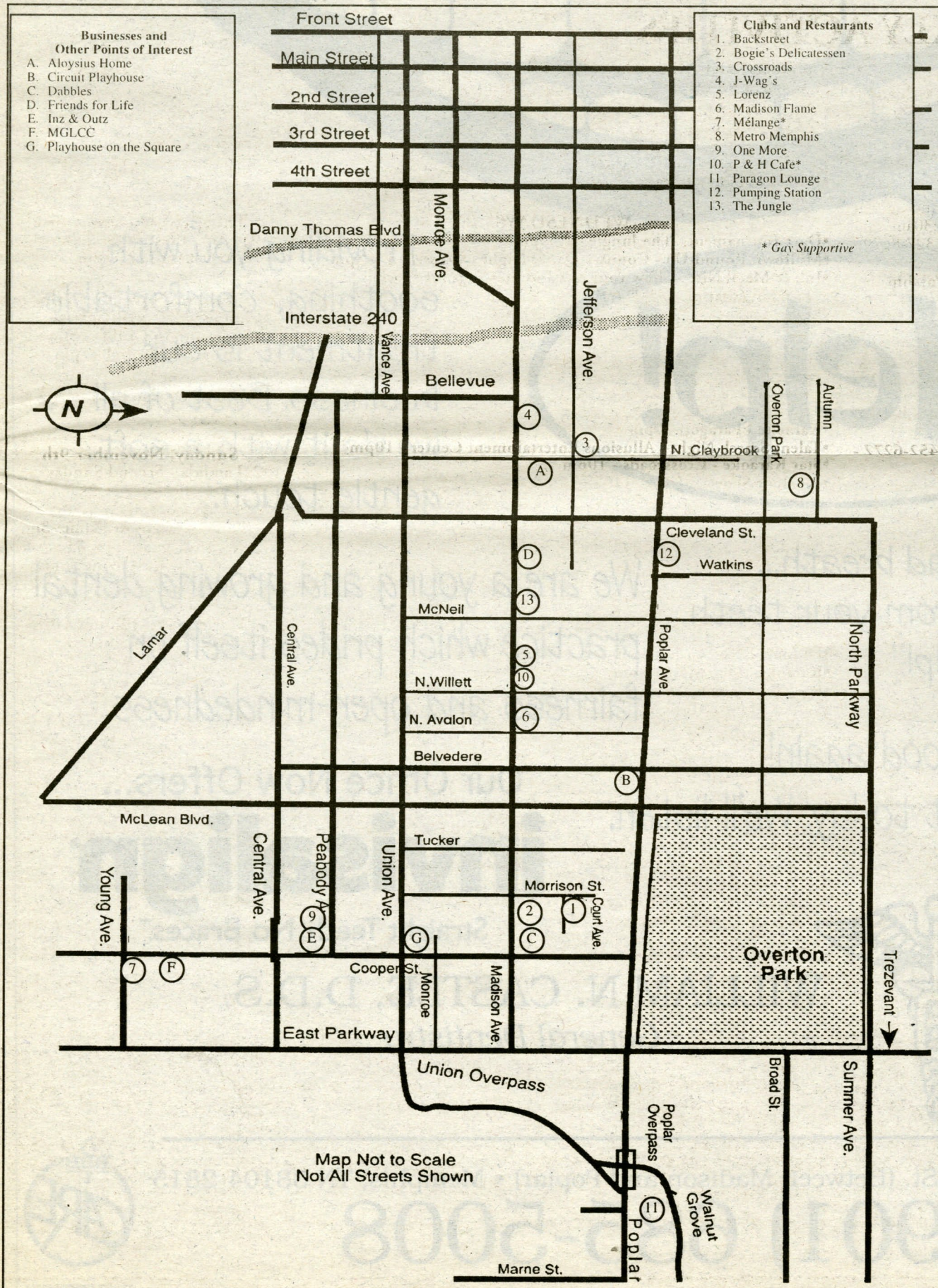
Thursday, November 27th  
*Thanksgiving Day*

Friday, November 28th  
*December 2003 TJN Due Out*

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

- Saturday, November 29th**
- Fourth Annual Leatherman's Reunion Dinner, - XYZ Club (Watkins and Overton Park) - 7 pm
- Tsarus Club Night - Pumping Station - 10pm

- Sunday, November 30**
- GALAH (Gay & Lesbian Atheists and Humanists) - Community Center - (901) 327-2677 or MemphisGALAH@yahoo.com - 2pm



## Stephen Pair

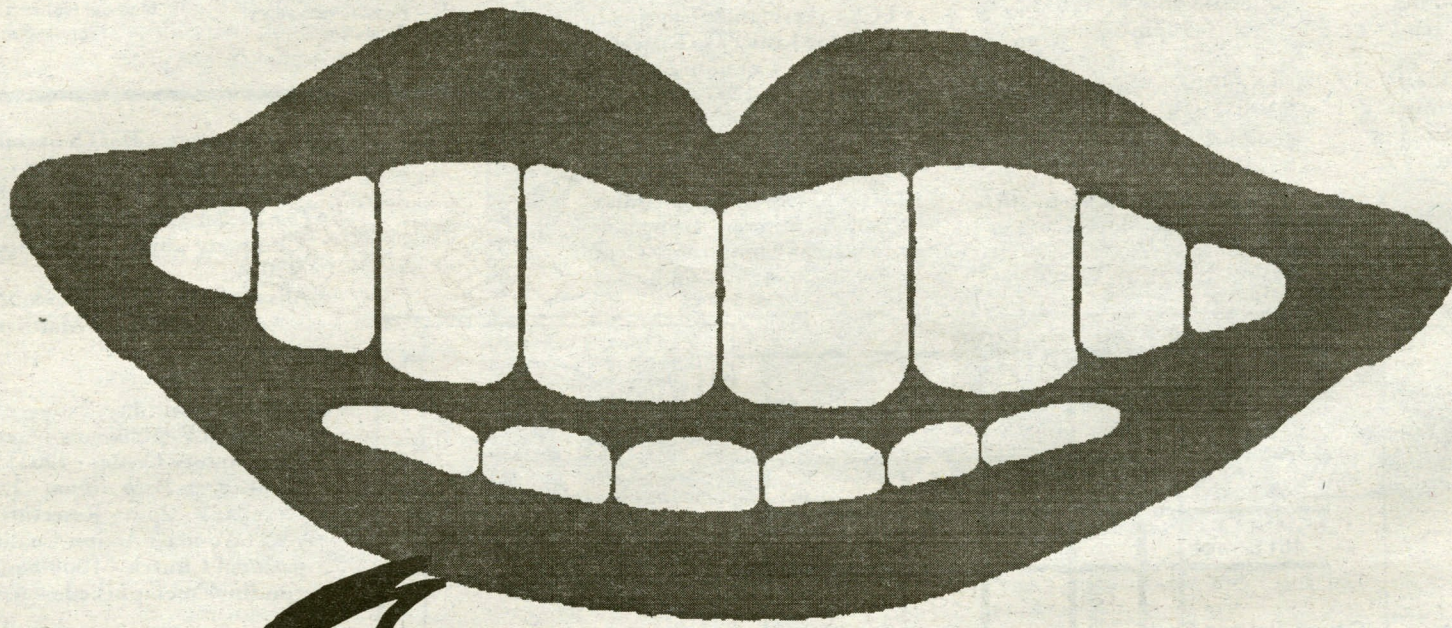
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