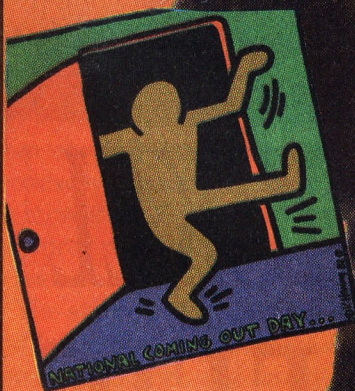


Uniting the Gay, Lesbian
& Trans community
of the Mid-South

OCTOBER 1998

FREE

FAMILY
& FRIENDS



Come On
Out!

IT'S FRIGHTFUL
IT'S DRAG
IT'S HALLOWEEN



EVERY
SUNDAY



NICKEL
BEER!

2866 POPLAR AVE.
MEMPHIS, TN.38111
901 454-1366

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FAMILY & FRIENDS

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ON THE COVER

IT'S FRIGHTFUL, IT'S DRAG, IT'S HALLOWEEN: With the scariest holiday just around the corner, Family & Friends talked to Memphian Lenny Bullard about why he enjoys dressing in drag one day a year, Halloween. See page 19.

Story by Patricia Pair
Pictured are Lenny Bullard, left, and Mark Cheeks of Colorado. Hair and makeup by Mark Campbell.

NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY: This year marks the 10th anniversary of this project. To find out what this special day is all about; how celebrities feel about their decision to "come out," and to get the low-down on how Memphis will celebrate one of the community's biggest days, see page 24.

Playhouse stages *The Who's Tommy*

Playhouse on the Square is presenting *The Who's Tommy* from now till Oct. 18. *Tommy* won 5 Tony's in 1993 for its Broadway production. *Tommy* has existed in various forms for more than 25 years as concerts, recordings, a movie and the "final performance" at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York in 1970.

The story is of a boy who is traumatized in childhood and becomes blind and deaf, is shunted from one abusive family to another, and finally rescues himself to become a superstar through his triumphant mastery of pinball!

The dazzling assault on the audience's senses is unparalleled. *Tommy's* visual spectacle is matched by the passionate throb of the music. The show features such classics as "Pinball Wizard," "Tommy Can You Hear Me" and many more.

Shorey Walker, a New York-based director who came to Memphis to direct the 1997 Playhouse production of *Peter Pan*, has returned to take the helm of *Tommy*. David Patrick Ford has arrived to assume the title role in this blockbuster musical.

The Who's Tommy is sponsored by Broom Corn Fabrics and media sponsored by Time Warner Communications. Showtimes are Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. For more information and tickets, call (901) 726-4656.

**Reach More Than
5,000 Readers**

Advertise in *Family & Friends*

Call (901) 682-2669

VOL. 1, NO. 5



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AND YOUR POINT IS ...

Ramblings from the Editorial Staff



This is the fifth issue of *Family & Friends Magazine*, and not that we're arrogant or anything, but we seem to be doing pretty well.

We're not sure very many of you have every heard of the Vice Versa Awards, but they are national awards given out to gay and lesbian publications across the country. Well, as it turns out, with only two issues under our belt, *Family & Friends* received an award this year. That's right, we are now an award-winning publication. The magazine received second place overall in the Best Editorial category for the "And Your Point Is ..." column we ran in the June 1998, issue telling those boycotting folks about other companies that also value diversity. It's an award the entire staff, as well as the entire community, can be proud of. We have put the Memphis area on the gay/lesbian map.

Other great things are happening as well.

Not only have we enlarged the size of the magazine as well as the number of pages in it every month, we also are constantly increasing our distribution. This means the magazine is reaching the community and is now available in lots more places. For a list of where to pick up *Family & Friends*, see page 26.

If all of this wasn't enough, we have received great response to our questionnaire, and are trying ever diligently to include the things you, our readers, have suggested we include. In addition, this issue of *Family & Friends* marks the beginning of a every-month comic strip entitled, "A Couple of Guys." For more on the comic strip, see page 22.

We also are about to embark on National Coming Out Day. While this is an annual event, *Family & Friends* is proud to say that this year may mark the first year a Memphis-area publication has been a national sponsor. That's right, *Family & Friends* is a national sponsor of National Coming Out Day, which is Oct. 11.

While we completely understand the importance of people in our community "coming out," (more exposure, better rights and a chance at changing legislation) *Family & Friends* also understands that "coming out" is a very personal decision and choice. Unfortunately, we live in a very close-minded, almost homophobic society, and therefore, for some people "coming out" poses a real, honest-to-goodness threat of losing their jobs, their children and their privacy. We know this to be true because in our quest to

take pictures from time to time, some of you have refused to have your picture taken offering the excuse, "I'm not out at work."

We at *Family & Friends* understand your individual position on this subject and respect your privacy, because, after all, survival is the ultimate goal as well as basic human nature.

Good news for our community ... there are a lot of major changes going on at several of our local clubs. In an effort to tell you about these changes, *Family & Friends* is beginning a column in this issue called Bulletin. It's more than just news, it's an inside, first-hand look at what's going on in our community. For an up-to-date look at what's going on here at home, read Bulletin on page 8.

And our point is ... the community is growing and getting better all the time!

**Let Us
Know What
You Think**

Call Us

(901) 682-2669

Fax Us

(901) 685-2234

E-Mail Us

FamilyMag@aol.com

'Great Rate' offered for potential homeowners

The Tennessee Housing Development Agency just announced its "Great Rate" and is pleased to announce the mortgage interest rate just got better.

THDA's Great Rate program, part of its Homeownership Choices, now has an interest rate of 5.98 percent, the lowest homeownership rate in THDA's 25-year history.

"Our 6.1 percent rate was a good one for families trying to get into their first home," said THDA Executive Director Jeff Reynolds. "But 5.98 percent saves a few more dollars every month."

THDA sells the state's allocation of tax-exempt mortgage revenue bonds to provide affordable mortgage capital primarily for first-time homebuyers. However, the state has 58 counties where the first-time homebuyer requirement is waived. Acquisition and income limits apply for THDA programs and vary among counties.

Families ready to purchase a home are encouraged to contact a local lender or real estate professional.

THDA's newest homeownership choice is named "Great Start." The Great Start mortgage offers a 6.875 percent interest rate, slightly higher than the 5.98 percent "Great Rate" program. In return, the borrower receives funds equal to four percent of the mortgage amount to use for

downpayment and closing costs. If borrowers do not have money for the downpayment and closing costs, this four percent assistance can make homeownership possible. If borrowers have some savings, they can keep some of it to use for other expenses of homeownership.

"These programs give borrowers a choice: a great low interest rate mortgage, or a slightly higher but still affordable interest rate with assistance to pay most of the initial costs," Reynolds added.

THDA strives to offer affordable mortgages to families of low and moderate incomes. Brochures for families investigating homeownership are available. Additionally, classes on homebuying are offered in many locations by lenders, real estate professionals and other agencies. Borrowers are encouraged to contact a real estate professional or lender for the brochures, classes and to make application for THDA's Great Rate and Great Start mortgages.

The brochures and a general outline of the programs are available by calling (800) 228-THDA or (615) 741-2400.

Advertise in *Family & Friends*
Call (901) 682-2669



2117 Peabody
Memphis, TN
901-278-MORE

(8)

HALLOWEEN NIGHT

COSTUME CONTEST

DREAM FAMILY

\$100 1st Prize

PARTY FOR THE HELL OF IT!

Saturday, Oct. 10
5 p.m. until ?

JELLO SHOOTERS

\$2 BEER BUST

FLAMINGO BAR OPEN

Special Bartender

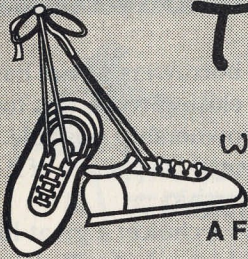


DARTS
EVERY TUESDAY
8 p.m.
1st, 2nd, 3rd prizes

SOFTEST LIPS CONTEST
SUNDAY, OCT. 18, 4 p.m.
\$100 cash for 1st place
2nd, 3rd prizes, too!



MONDAY MADNESS HAPPY HOUR, OPEN TO CLOSE



TAKE A WALK WITH STEVEN BRADFORD

A First-Hand Look at the Trans Community

Steven is on vacation this month and "taking a walk."

F&F is honored

The Mid-South's newest gay, lesbian and transgendered publication, *Family & Friends*, is now an award-winning magazine with less than five issues under its belt.

Family & Friends was notified recently that the publication had been awarded second place overall in the Best Editorial category of the Vice Versa Awards, awards given annually to gay and lesbian publications across the country.

The award-winning editorial "And Your Point Is ..." was published in the June 1998 edition of the magazine.

The editorial column brought awareness to the many national companies that also value diversity among its employees and customers. The focus of the column was to alert the Southern Baptist Convention, which recently issued a boycott of Walt Disney Inc. for its policies regarding its extension of health insurance benefits to same-sex partners of its employees, that there are other companies worthy of their so-called "boycott."

"You should feel very good about your accomplishment, given the fact that more than hundreds of entries were received," the notification read.

One judge of the journalistic competition said the column "uses humor to make an important point."



HUMAN
RIGHTS
CAMPAIGN
FOUNDATION

Join the Human
Rights Campaign
Foundation
in celebrating
ten years of
National
Coming Out Day
on October 11!

National Coming Out Day

The power and importance of coming out has remained unchanged since NCOD began in 1988. Many thanks and congratulations to those who have opened that closet door during the past decade — lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgendered people, and non-gay allies alike. We *cannot* achieve equality from the closet. Commemorate a decade of National Coming Out Day by taking *your* next step — with pride.

For free copies of the Resource Guide to Coming Out (available in English and Spanish) call

800/866-NCOD

or e-mail us at ncop@hrc.org
visit our website www.hrc.org

LANZA • NIOXIN • PAUL MITCHELL • SEBASTIAN

Dare to be Different!

DABBLES
HAIR COMPANY

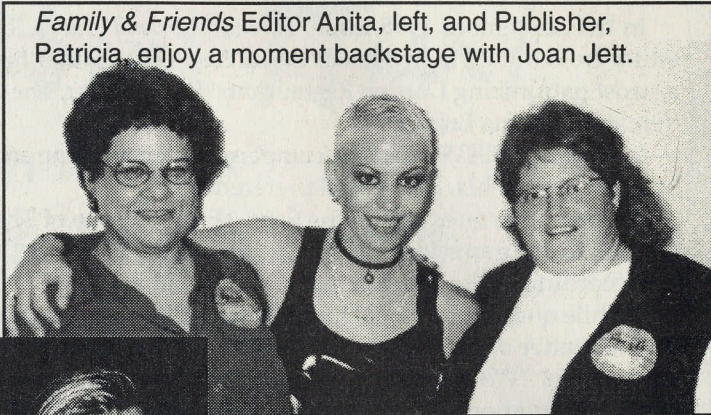
MON 9-6 TUE-FRI 9-7 SAT 9-5

WALK-INS WELCOME TOTAL HAIR & NAIL CARE

• 19 N. COOPER • 725-0521 • MEMPHIS, TN •



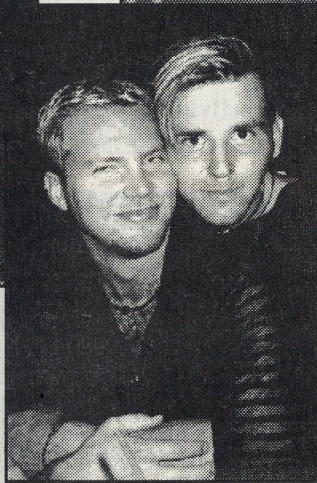
Family Album



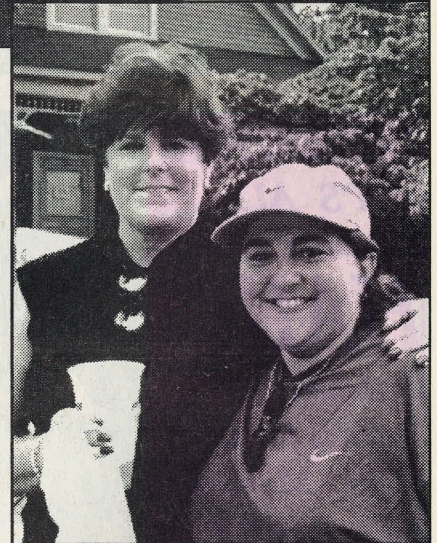
Family & Friends Editor Anita, left, and Publisher, Patricia, enjoy a moment backstage with Joan Jett.



ABOVE: Chris, left, and Sherri pose for the camera while at Amnesia. LEFT: Byron shows off his moves on the Amnesia dance floor.



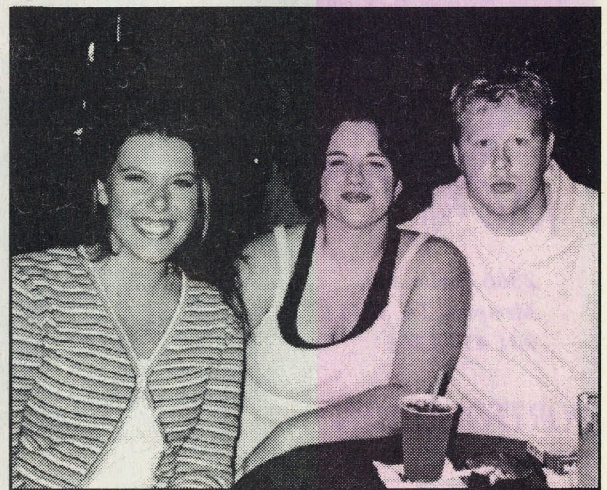
Visiting Amnesia from Reno, Nev., are Jason, left, and Ritch.



Carolyn, left, and Kelli enjoyed browsing at Cooper-Young.



Taking a break from a busy night at Backstreet are employees, from left, Michael, Chrissy, Adam and Eric. They were catching a cool breeze on Backstreet's patio.



This trio enjoyed the hot music and cool drinks at Amnesia. They are, from left, Heather, Chelsea and Jason.

Darden rethinks view

In the September 1998 issue, *Family & Friends* ran a letter to the editor from Bill W. In this letter, the author took a rather harsh stance against patronizing Darden Restaurants' Red Lobster, The Olive Garden and Bahama Breeze.

In his letter, Bill W. cited the company for terminating an employee based solely on his/her sexual preference.

According to an article in the Sept. 15, 1998, issue of *The Advocate*, Darden Restaurants Inc. has changed its tone.

According to the article, Darden issued an apology.

"While questions of legal jurisprudence are complex, our position on the matter of human rights is not," stated Andrew Dun, Darden spokesman. "We absolutely do not tolerate discrimination based on sexual orientation. We respect and value the gay and lesbian community and understand the importance of its individual members."

BULLETIN

Hats off to HAL HARMON, DEN-NICKOLAS SMITH and the entire cast of the EMERALD THEATRE's production of *Safe Sex*. It was not only a great play, but thought-provoking as well. Their next production, set for March 1999, is *Black and White Are Neutrals*, about an inter-racial gay couple facing the realities of life.

Welcome to CHAOS, located at 60 South Front. Owned by MIMI and open for five weeks, this new bar caters to gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and transgendered members of the community.

Construction continues at AMNESIA. Among the renovations is a new stage area. DAVID and FRANK say once the renovation is complete, Amnesia will take guests into the new millennium.

RON and KEVIN have done a fantastic job with ARIZONA. They have completed their move from North Watkins to 903 South Cooper in the Cooper-Young Historic District. The ambiance of their new place will make your dining experience all that more pleasurable.

Completion is on the horizon for construction projects at BACKSTREET. Improvements and additions include a store, BACKSTREET'S ETC..., which carries a vast assortment of pride merchandise, cards, Jocko Sportswear and novelties including Billy dolls. Hours of operation are the same as the bar. Also recently added are a new dance floor and new walls which give the club a spicy, New Orleans flavor.

Veteran bar owner SHARON WRAY, owner of Madison Flame, recently purchased the former DAVID'S at 1474 Madison. It is now called THE JUNGLE.

THANKS go out to SHERRY HILL at THE OTHER SIDE in Jackson, Tenn., and GREG MAUCEL at FAIRVIEW LIQUOR STORE in Greenville, Miss., for making *Family & Friends* a honest-to-goodness Mid-South publication. The magazine is available in both locations.

By the way, if you need any graphic design work done, give GRAFFITI GRAPHICS a call at (901) 278-5002. They are a major supporter of the community.

OCTOBER 24TH
"IT'S ALL ABOUT THE HAIR"
 A Benefit for Friends for Life
 7:30 - Midnight
AMNESIA
 Memphis
 2866 Poplar Ave.
 Memphis, Tn. 38111
 901 454-1366
 PORTFOLIO MEN
 RETURN
 OCT.16
 www.amnesiausa.com

ALEC POWERS
 OCT.30

NINE INCH MALES
 OCT.9

It's All About Hair!

The 7th Annual
**High Heels High Hats
 Costume Ball**
 Benefiting
Friends for Life AIDS Resource Center
starring: The Bouffants

Saturday, October 24, 1998
8 p.m. - 12 midnight

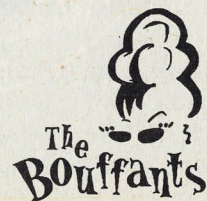
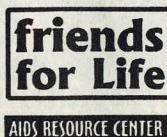
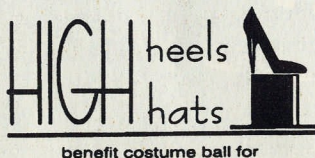
at the newly renovated Amnesia.
 Costume prizes awarded for
 Best Individual, Best Group and People's Choice.

Tickets available at:
Friends for Life, Amnesia, Star Search Video,
Chapman & Company, & Dabbles
\$25 in advance \$30 at the door

for more information call

278-0855

The Day After Brunch
(Sunday Oct. 25) at Cafe Society: call 278-0855 for reservations





MEMPHIS RESTAURANT GUIDE



Arizona

903 South Cooper
272-9000
Closed Monday
Lunch: Coming soon
Dinner: Sun.-Thur., 5 p.m. till 10 p.m.
Dinner: Fri. & Sat., 5 p.m. till 11 p.m.

The Bourbon Street Cafe

(In the French Quarter Suites)
2144 Madison
728-4000
Breakfast: Mon.-Sat., 7am-10am
Champagne Brunch: Sun., 11:30 a.m. till 2 p.m.
Dinner: Sun.-Thur., 5 p.m. till 10 p.m., and Fri. & Sat., 5 p.m. till 11 p.m.

Huey's-Midtown

1927 Madison
726-4372
Mon.-Sat., 11 a.m. till 2 a.m.,
Sun. noon till 2 a.m.

In the Grove

2865 Walnut Grove
458-9955
Lunch: 11 a.m. till 2 p.m., 7 days a week
Dinner: Mon.-Thur., 5 p.m. till 1 a.m.
Dinner: Fri.-Sun., 5 p.m. till 3 a.m.

La Montagne

3550 Park Ave.
458-1060
Lunch: 11 a.m. till 2:30 p.m., 7 days a week
Dinner: Sun.-Thur., 5:30 p.m. till 10 p.m., and Fri. & Sat., 5:30 p.m. till 11 p.m.

Molly Gonzales' La Casita Mexican Restaurant

2006 Madison Ave.
726-1873
Lunch and Dinner: Mon.-Thur., 11 a.m. till 10 p.m.; Fri., 11 a.m. till 11 p.m.; Sat., noon till 11 p.m., and Sun., noon till 10 p.m.

Neil's

1835 Madison Ave.
278-NEIL
Open 11 a.m. to 3 a.m. seven days a week, year-round.

P & H Cafe

1532 Madison
726-0906
Closed Sun
Mon.-Sat., 11 a.m. till 3 a.m.

Hard Rock Cafe

315 Beale
529-0007
Open 11 a.m.-midnight, Sun.-Thurs., 11-1 a.m. Fri. & Sat.

Church to host exhibit, donate to Aloysius Home

"Sacred Space," a photography exhibit by Bruce Meisterman, will open Thursday, Oct. 1, and run through Nov. 2 at the Neshoba Unitarian Universalist Church in Germantown. A geographically broad body of work, "Sacred Space" represents sacred land and locations from as far west as the Canadian Rockies to the other extreme of Eastern Europe.

From cathedrals and churches in France and 13th century Transylvania, to the hoo-doo's in Alberta province, Canada, to the new age mystical and spiritual center of Sedona, Ariz., "Sacred Space" explores those locales, both natural and man-made, to which people feel spiritually drawn.

Meisterman has travelled extensively across the United States and in Europe.

He has exhibited in numerous galleries and published in a number of national magazines and newspapers.

Of note, the proceeds from this exhibition will be donated to Aloysius Home, a housing and supportive service for people with HIV/AIDS. Neshoba Unitarian Universalist Church is located at 8580 Cordes Circle in Germantown.

For more information,

call (901) 756-5433 or (901) 737-3588.

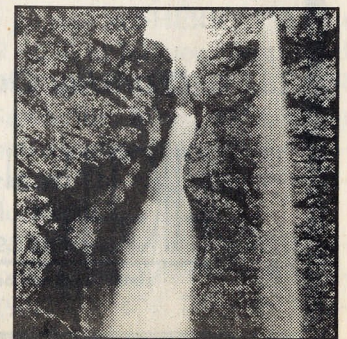
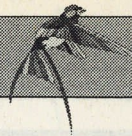


Photo on exhibit.



Dabbles to present World of Passion fashion, hair show

Dabbles Hair Company will present its seventh benefit auction and performance of World of Passion on Sunday, Oct. 11, beginning at 7 p.m. All proceeds will benefit Friends For Life.

The night will hold a fashion show, music, dancing, theatricals and fantasy. There also will be both a silent and live auctions. The event will be held at 629 Monroe at Marshall across from Six-One-Six.

Tickets are \$20 each for chair seating or \$40 each for table seating and may be purchased in advance at Dabbles Hair Company, 19 North Cooper or at the door. A cash bar will be available.

Models will include Dabbles clients and other volunteers. Betty's Resale will be donating fashions for the show and Graffiti Graphics is donating its graphic services. Tom Prestigiacommo, FM100 radio DJ, will once again offer his services to the community as he hosts the auction.

For more information, call Dabbles Hair Company at (901) 725-0521.

BACKSTREET'S very own ETC...

Designed With You In Mind



**Featuring gay pride items,
cards and Jocko Sportswear**

Open at Backstreet During Bar Hours

IT'S TIME FOR A CHANGE . . .

Starting Oct. 9 at 8 p.m.



2865 Walnut Grove

458-9955



ABOUT TOWN



Preservation Picnic is planned

Join Memphis Heritage at a Preservation Picnic for families on Sunday, Oct. 4, from 2 to 6 p.m. at historic Davies Manor. Highlights will include music by Sid Selvidge and the Stanleys, tours of the Davies Manor house, games and more. Bring a picnic and a blanket. Admission is \$7 for adults and \$4 for children over age two. Call 529-9828 for more information.

Brown Bag Lunch series is slated

The Memphis Botanic Garden will continue its Brown Bag Lunch series on Wednesday, Oct. 7, from noon to 1 p.m. at the gardens. The event is free and no reservations are required. The program will be "Natives That Provide Outstanding Fall Color," to be given by Ronnie McCarty.

Great Chefs' Tasting Party is set

United Cerebral Palsy's 13th Annual Great Chefs' Tasting Party will bring more than 25 of Memphis' best chefs to the Memphis Adam's Mark Ballroom on Sunday, Oct. 25, from 1 to 4 p.m. Tickets are \$20 each. For tickets and a menu, call UCP at 761-4277.

Red Cross to note Oktoberfest

Mid-Southerners are invited to an Oktoberfest celebration at the Breckenridge Brewery, 145 South Main, on Thursday, Oct. 22, at 5:30 p.m. This event will benefit the Mid-South Chapter of the American Red Cross. For more information, call Katie Lowe at 726-1690, ext. 139.

MBG to be site of rose show

The Dixie Rose Club will hold its annual rose show on Oct. 4 at the Memphis Botanic Garden. The show is open to the public from 1 to 5 p.m. at no charge with free parking. This is the time of the year that America's number one flower presents its largest blooms and most vivid colors.

ADD/ADHD group to meet

A local ADHD/ADD support group is scheduled to meet at Collierville High School in room 100, 1101 North Byhalia Road, on Tuesday, Oct. 13, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. The Oct. 13 topic will be "Special Education Opportunities for ADD Students," presented by Scott Beebe. For more information, call Margaret Stewart at 853-7294.

Brooks announces show house

The Brooks Museum League has announced the Decorator Show House XIV will be open Oct. 2-25 at Beverly Hall, 1560 Central Avenue. It will be open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Sunday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. It will be closed on Mondays except for group tours. Advanced tickets are \$10, and are available at the Brooks Museum Store and participating firms. Tickets at the door will be \$12 for adults and \$10 for seniors age 65 and older and children ages eight to 18. For more information and group tours, call 274-6840.

Tiger Trek race, fun walk slated

The 11th annual homecoming Tiger Trek 5K run and 2.5 fun walk will be held Oct. 24 at The University of Memphis. Pre-registration is \$10 for UofM Alumni Association members, students, faculty and Memphis Runners Track Club members and \$12 for all others. After Oct. 21, registration is \$15 for everyone. For more information, call 678-2586.

MTV festival comes to Memphis

MTV announced that A Tribe Called Quest, Rob Zombie and DMX are the first artists slated to perform on the diverse musical lineup during the 1998 MTV Sports & Music Festival in Memphis. Jamie Foxx, who stars on UPN's "The Jamie Foxx Show," will host the festival.

The Figure of a Woman to open

"The Figure of a Woman," a multi-media show by Deborah Fagan Carpenter, is planned. The artist's reception and open house is Friday, Oct. 9, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Viewing is set for Saturday, Oct. 10, from noon to 8 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 11, from noon to 5 p.m. The show runs through October by appointment. Call 384-9132 for more information, directions and to schedule appointments.

MAAG hosts 3-D mix of artwork

Madison Avenue Art Gallery is showcasing an eclectic 3-D mix of conceptual stone sculpture by Shona tribesmen of Zimbabwe; forged metal pieces by Marc Menefee, and hydrocol life-castings by Birney Hand and Catherine Freeman. These works will be featured through Oct. 17. MAAG is located at Carrefour Mall at Poplar and Kirby Parkway.

FOR A GOOD TIME CALL ...



Amnesia

2866 Poplar Ave
454-1366
Closed Mon-Wed
Thur.-Sun. 8 p.m. to 3 a.m.

Autumn Street Pub

1349 Autumn
274-8010
Closed Mon.-Tues.
Wed.-Sun. 1 p.m. till 3 a.m.

Madison Flame

1588 Madison
278-9839
Mon.-Thur. 5 p.m. till 2 a.m.
Fri & Sat 5 p.m. till 3 a.m.
Sun. 4 p.m. till 2 a.m.

Lorenz

1528 Madison
274-8272
Mon.-Sat. 11 a.m. till 3 a.m.,
Sun. 9:30 a.m. till 3 a.m.

Crossroads

1278 Jefferson
276-8078
Noon till 3 a.m. 7 days a
week

The Jungle

1474 Madison
278-4313
3 p.m. till 3 a.m. 7 days a
week.

501 Club

111 North Claybrook
274-8655
Noon till 3 a.m. 7 days a
week

One More

2117 Peabody
278-MORE
Mon. & Wed. 11 a.m. till 2 a.m.
Tues., Thur.-Sat. 11 a.m.-3 a.m.
Sun. noon till midnight

Chaos

60 South Front Street
578-VIBE
Mon. 8 p.m. till 1 a.m.
Tues.-Wed. Closed
Thur. 9 p.m. till 2 a.m.
Fri. 11 p.m. till 3 a.m.
Sat. 11 p.m. till 6 a.m.
Sun. 9:30 p.m. till 2 a.m.

Backstreet

2018 Court Street
276-5522
Mon. 8 p.m. till 3 a.m.
Closed Tues. & Wed.
Thur. 8 p.m. till 3 a.m.
Fri. & Sat. 8 p.m. till 6 a.m.
Sun. 8 p.m. till 3 a.m.

The Other Side Club

3883 Hwy 45 N
Jackson TN
901-668-3749
Sun. - Thur. 5 p.m. till mid-
night
Fri. 5 p.m. till 3 a.m.
and Sat. 7 p.m. till 3 a.m.

J-Wag's

1268 Madison
725-1909
Open 24 hrs, 7 days a week

Pipeline Memphis

1382 Poplar
726-5263
2 p.m.-3a.m., 7 days a week

Broadway's *Chicago* to 'blow' into Orpheum

This drop-dead Broadway musical is the winner of six Tony Awards and the "hottest ticket on Broadway." *Chicago* is set in the famous "windy-city" during the roaring '20s when Chicago was a hot bed of gangsters and fun.

Eight performances are scheduled Oct. 13 to 18. Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday; 8 p.m. on Friday; 2 and 8 p.m. on Saturday, and 2 and 7:30 p.m. on Sunday.

Tickets range from \$10 to \$60 each.

For tickets call TicketMaster's charge-by-phone at (901) 525-1515 or visit any TicketMaster outlet. Tickets may also be purchased at the Orpheum Store in the Oak Court Mall and the Orpheum Box Office.

The Orpheum Theatre is located at the corner of Main and Beale in downtown Memphis.

Call the Orpheum Theatre at (901) 525-3000 or visit their webpage at orpheum-memphis.com for more information.

C.H.A.O.S

60 South Front Street
Memphis, Tennessee 38103
(901) 578-VIBE

THURSDAY - FREE Admission 'Til Mid-
night, Talent Night w/\$50 cash prize.

FRIDAY - Reggae, Hip Hop Dance Night w/
Nappy Spinning.

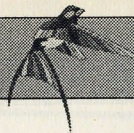
SATURDAY - Beer Bust 11 p.m. to 1 a.m.

MONDAY - Happy Hours 8 p.m. to Mid-
night, Show at Midnight, FREE Admission,
25¢ Hot Wings, \$1.75 Longnecks.

FOR HOURS, SEE ABOVE

Must Be 21 To Drink • B.Y.O.B.

**For booking information,
contact Pebbles at 578-VIBE**



MEMPHIS

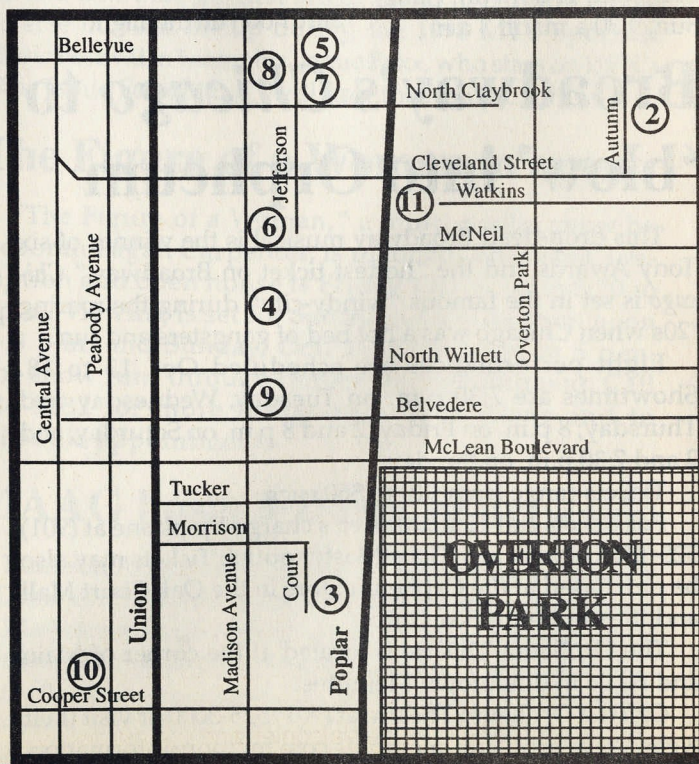
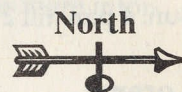
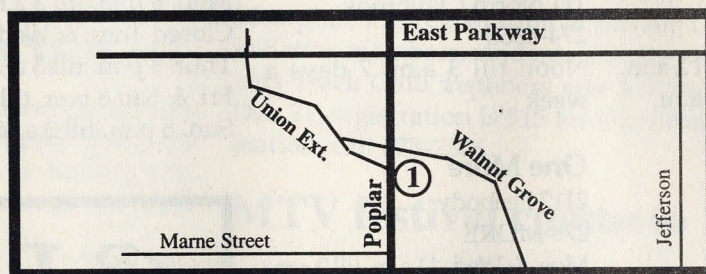
BAR GUIDE



1. **Amnesia**
2866 Poplar Avenue
454-1366
2. **Autumn Street Pub**
1349 Autumn
274-8010
3. **Backstreet**
2018 Court Street
276-5522
4. **Lorenz**
1528 Madison Avenue
274-8272
5. **Crossroads**
1278 Jefferson
725-8156
6. **The Jungle**
1474 Madison Avenue
278-4313
7. **501 Club**
111 North Claybrook
274-8655
8. **J-Wags**
1268 Madison Avenue
725-1909
9. **Madison Flame**
1588 Madison Avenue
278-9839

10. **One More**
2117 Peabody Avenue
278-MORE
11. **Pipeline**
1382 Poplar Avenue
726-5263

12. **Chaos**
60 South Front Street
578-VIBE
(Not On Map)



Maps not to scale, not all streets shown

There's plenty of gay history in New Orleans

Those who are considering a trip during the months to come should seriously consider visiting New Orleans.

Founded in 1718, New Orleans was named after the French Duc d'Orleans, a man infamous for his libertine outlook on everything. Therefore, it seems more than appropriate that a city bearing his name is now a main attraction for people who live outside the lines.

Although there is certainly much to see and do in New Orleans, no trip would be complete without a visit to the French Quarter.

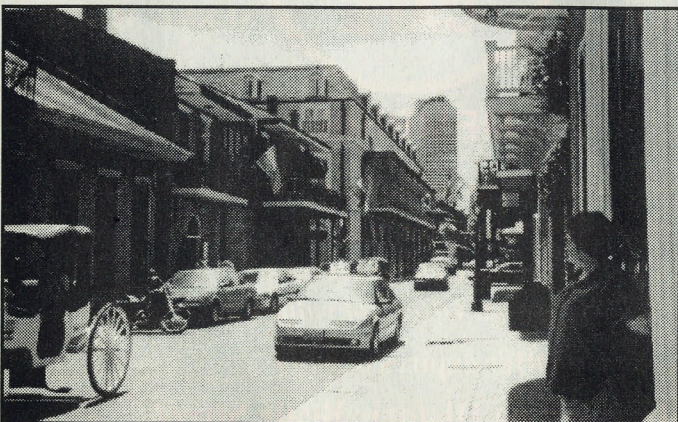
Family & Friends recently visited New Orleans' French Quarter. We began the day with brunch at Brennan's. This experience, although a bit pricey, is one not to be missed. The food, as well as the atmosphere, was amazing and set the mood for a day of walking among the old homes.

It is smart to find a place to park in the French Quarter. Although visitors may be aghast at the prices to park (\$10), it is well worth it and we recommend you only park once and walk everywhere else.

Family members will certainly not want to miss the "gay area" of the French Quarter. No tour of the city actually points out the sites of the city's "gay history," but with use of the Internet, we located several points of interest, one of which is said to be the oldest continuously operating gay bar in North America, Cafe Lafitte-in Exile.

Cafe Lafitte-in Exile, located at the corner of Bourbon and Dumaine streets in the gay end of the French Quarter, is said to have been a favorite and frequent watering hole of Tennessee Williams during his journeys to New Orleans.

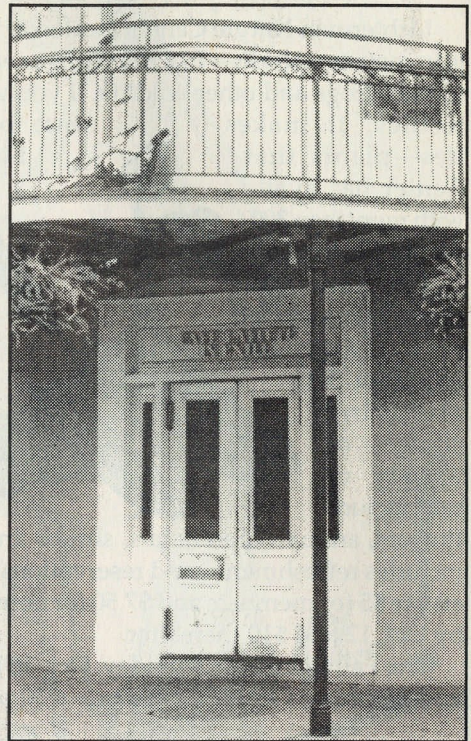
"Local legend has it that the bar's lengthy formal name is the result of a dispute with an unfriendly landlord, who evicted Lafitte's operators because he didn't like their clientele," the research pointed out. "Owners of the gay bar subsequently moved it down the street and, since their former landlord decided to keep the name of their bar to himself, they added the 'cafe' and 'in-exile' in retaliation.



The gay area of New Orleans' French Quarter isn't hard to find. Pride flags hang from the balconies and line the streets.

There is still a bar on Bourbon Street called simply Lafitte's - a straight piano bar."

Family & Friends stopped by Cafe Lafitte-in Exile and found the bartenders, as well as patrons, to be very friendly offering much advice on where to visit next. One gentleman even provided a pamphlet that included directions and a map to the remaining gay bars in the Quarter.



Cafe Lafitte-in Exile

Also while at Cafe Lafitte, we saw a piece of history. In the main room of the bar stands an old, iron lantern. According to *Over the Rainbow*, "back in the days when subtlety about such matters was a necessity, standing behind the lantern meant that one was 'looking.'"

With more than a dozen gay bars in the Quarter, we happened into another long-time gay landmark, located just across the street from Cafe Lafitte-in Exile, the Clover Grill. Many of the locals agree that this place serves up "the best burger you ever put in your mouth."

Other bars we happened into during our excursion of New Orleans included Charlene's, 940 Elysian Fields (world-famous women's nightclub and former stomping grounds of Ellen DeGeneres), and Rubyfruit Jungle, 640 Frenchmen (high-energy dance bar, mostly women).

Billed as New Orleans' "gayest neighborhood," Faubourg-Marigny, located just to the west of the French Quarter, is filled with gay-friendly bookstores and cafes, the research said and we found to be true.

"Though New Orleans is festive at any time, the gayest party times of the year are Mardi Gras in February and Southern Decadence, a gay street party held every Labor Day weekend."

Our research source for New Orleans was *Over the Rainbow*, a division of Planet Out, located at <http://www.planetout.com/travel> and has proven to be a great help more than once.

Lichterman to hold annual fall plant sale

Lichterman Nature Center, located at 5992 Quince Road, is in metamorphosis—like the changes experienced by butterflies, frogs and other wildlife. If you want to attract butterflies, it makes sense to plant their favorites—plants that

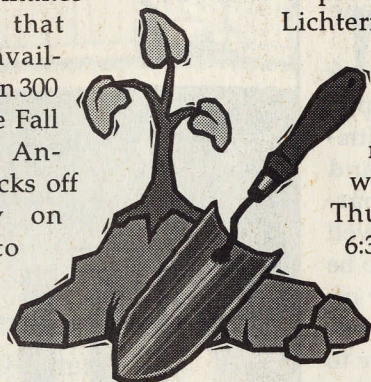
Lichterman Nature Center has available, along with more than 300 kinds of plants for the Fall Plant Sale. The annual Fall Plant Sale kicks off with the Preview Party on Thursday, Oct. 15, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Those attending will get first choice of the wide variety of plants on sale, including

flowers, annuals, perennials, shrubs and trees. The party includes refreshments, and reservations are required. Tickets are \$5 for members and \$7.50 for nonmembers if bought by Oct. 12 and \$10 thereafter.

The Fall Plant Sale is Friday, Oct. 16 (9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.) and Saturday, Oct. 17 (9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.). Admission is

free. Metamorphosis is the focus of this year's sale, featuring plants like Seashore Mallow, Tall Garden Phlox, Beard-tongue, Spigelia, Phlox, Stonecrop, Narrow Leaf and Maximillian Sunflowers, Wild Petunia, Wood Poppies and many more that Mid-South gardeners shouldn't miss. There also will be related items from the gift shop available.

For Preview Party reservations, call (901) 767-7322. For information on available plants, call (901) 680-9756.



Memphis Gay & Lesbian Switchboard

Information, Counseling, Referral

A service of the Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center, a non-profit organization.



24 Hours a Day

NOW AVAILABLE

Hard Rock BEER

Beer That Strikes a Chord
Ask Your Server!

Been a long time since you rock n' rolled?



MEMPHIS

Please present this ad for a Complimentary Collectible Souvenir with an entree or merchandise purchase.

Limit one per guest. Offer not valid with groups.

Offer expires 6/30/99

Located on Historic Beale Street
(901) 529-0007

Cafe Society to host 'Day After' Brunch

Following on the heels of High Hats, The "Day After" Brunch is another exciting way to reach out and help the community and continue the fun at the same time. This is the third annual brunch and it will get underway at Cafe Society on Oct. 25 at 11 a.m. Reservations are required and can be made every half-hour until 2 p.m.

Chef Michel of Cafe Society promises a delectable three-course meal. Cafe Society has graciously donated not only its restaurant for this event, but the staff of Cafe Society is donating their time and effort to serve you. All proceeds of the liquor sales also will be donated.

Entertainment will be provided by concert violinist Charles Freidman. Special table arrangements are the work of Ed Hammett of Botanica.

The cost of this great event is \$30 per person. All proceeds are designated for the Hearth and Home Emergency Fund.

Again, seating is by reservation only and may be made by calling Butch Valentine at Friends for Life (901) 272-0855 or paging him at (901) 547-3671. Don't delay ... seating is limited.

Calvary Episcopal plans healing service

The 10th Annual Ecumenical Service of Prayer and Healing in a Time of HIV/AIDS will be held on Sunday, Oct. 11, at 6 p.m. at Calvary Episcopal Church, located at Second Street and Adams Avenue in downtown Memphis.

The service is for everyone, not just those with HIV and AIDS, because the impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic has touched every segment of our society.

The service includes the laying on of hands and prayers for healing of all people affected by HIV and AIDS, including people living with HIV/AIDS, their caregivers, families and friends.

The ecumenical nature of this service allows clergy of many area churches and denominations from throughout Memphis to participate in the service including the laying on of hands and prayers for healing.

The sermon will be delivered by the Reverend Douglas Bailey, rector of Calvary Episcopal Church. Singer Naomi Moody will be the featured soloist. A reception will immediately follow the program.

The entire service will be signed for the hearing-impaired and is accessible for the physically-challenged.

For more information, call Calvary Episcopal Church at (901) 525-6602.



Arizona!

*Now Located in the Cooper-Young
Historic District at
903 S. Cooper
Dinner seating beginning at 5 p.m.
daily
Closed Mondays
Reservations preferred
Lunch starting soon
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STRAIGHT UP BUT NOT STRAIGHT

Advice on everything, and we mean EVERYTHING!



I'm a 25 year old gay man, and have known all my life that I am gay. At the age of 22, I was able to finally accept my sexuality. I wonder if I have what it takes to be a gay man. It has been my experience that in the gay community you are judged solely by your appearance. I am an average looking man, but get the impression that if you aren't a flawless model, or well endowed, then you have no business being gay. I love the pleasures of the flesh, but gay men seem to be obsessed with having as much sex as seemingly possible. I have decided that I can no longer handle being gay, and I regret ever having come out. I wonder if there are any men out there who are truly looking for a relationship.

Of course you have what it takes to be a gay man. You just don't have what it takes to be a shallow, self-centered, and arrogant gay man. Yes, there are many gay men who are concerned more with their appearance and how many guys they can get into bed than being with well-rounded individuals or finding lasting relationships. There are just as many heterosexuals who suffer the same problems. While there is nothing wrong with having a great body, or a lot of (safe) sex, many people—gay and straight—hide behind their looks or condescending attitudes because it prevents them from getting hurt. For every guy who thinks that the only important things in life are looking great and getting laid, there's one who is interested in more substantial pursuits. The trick is finding people you want to be friends with and not caring what others think. Once you surround yourself with a network of people you trust and like, you'll find yourself becoming more comfortable with your life.

I'm a lesbian, that much I am sure of. But everyone around me says I should come out to my parents and family. I'm really not sure if I should and don't quite know how to do that. My grandparents are old and not in good health and are very religious. My parents, I fear, also will not understand. What should I do?

Coming out is an on-going process that all people experience when they allow themselves and/or others to discover who they really are. Recognizing your own sexual orientation and accepting yourself as a lesbian is one of the first steps in coming out. There are things you should think about when considering "outing" yourself to friends or family. One of the things to consider when coming out to your parents is, "Why now?" Consider your motives for disclosing your sexual orientation to your family. Is it because you feel pressured by your friends, or is it because you are sure about your sexual orientation and don't want

to live your life hiding in a closet?

You need to also look at the reality of your situation. Are you financially dependent on your parents? If they are responsible for paying your college tuition or you live at home, you may want to wait until they no longer have this to hold over you.

When deciding to disclose, think ahead about what you want to say, where you want to say it and exactly to whom you want to say it. It can be less intimidating if you choose to tell a family member you feel emotionally close to, and believe would be the most liberal and accepting of your sexual orientation. Be prepared for an initial negative reaction. It took you time to come to terms with your own sexuality, give the other person time to process this new information. Don't give up hope if you don't get the reaction you wanted. It may take time and explaining yourself over and over to the person you have told for them to come to terms with what they have heard.

I can't tell you what to do ... you have to decide if "coming out" to your parents is something you really want to do. Deciding to "come out" is a very emotional decision, and it's my opinion that you should look at why you want to disclose, what are your family's possible reactions, and if you are prepared to live with the consequences. It's usually our family's anticipated reactions that cause the most stress. While many are able to adjust positively to their child's self-disclosure, other families may be completely unprepared and react in a very unpredictable, negative manner. Just remember not many of us have disclosed our homosexuality and had this announcement celebrated.

Coming out may be one of the most difficult tasks lesbians and gay men confront in their lives, but it can also be one of the most rewarding. Coming out is one way of affirming your dignity and asking others to accept you for who you really are. Only you, however, can determine the right time. This is your family, your life, and your decision. Well-meaning friends will respect your right to choose how you wish to handle it.

Questions are answered by two people, a gay male and a lesbian, in an attempt to get the best and most fair answers possible. Each person has a bachelor's degree in the counseling field and are pursuing their master's degrees in counseling. The opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the magazine. For serious problems, seek professional help. Send questions to Family & Friends, P.O. Box 771948, Memphis, TN 38177-1948, or e-mail them to FamilyMag@aol.com.

Halloween is a great time to dress in drag

BY PATRICIA PAIR, PUBLISHER

The time has come again for ghosts, goblins and things that go "bump" in the night - Halloween - that wonderful day set aside for "dressing up."

Family & Friends found an individual who just loves to dress up, or rather dress in drag, for Halloween, 33-year old Lenny Bullard of Memphis.

Bullard told *F&F* that he only dresses up in drag once a year, Halloween night.

"I've been doing this for about 10 years," he said recalling the first time he dressed in drag. "Mark (Campbell, a hairdresser at Gould's) was doing drag all the time and shows and one night he said 'Lets do our hair and makeup and see how it looks.' That's all it took."

Although Bullard said he really enjoys dressing in drag, he has never done a show.



It was a frightful Halloween night when these three dressed up. Pictured are, from left, Lenny Bullard of Memphis (Jenna Bradshaw-Thorpe), Bryan Waddell of Atlanta and Steve Cossitt of Memphis (Alice N. Wonderland). *Hair and makeup by Mark Campbell.*

"I don't want to be a drag queen," he said laughing. "I have never done a show. If I did, I would probably like it and have to do it all the time. It (dressing in drag for Halloween) is a tradition, that's what it is."

For Bullard, dressing in drag is "fun."

"It's fun to see the transition," he noted. "Shaving my chest is a real pain, but it's fun to see what you can look

See Halloween, Page 22

SUNDAY NIGHT AT BACKSTREET JUST GOT EVEN BETTER

25¢
LONGNECKS
'TIL
MIDNIGHT
EVERY
SUNDAY

BACKSTREET MEMPHIS

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Parents-R-US



How to encourage girls to play sports

(Adapted from the Canadian Association for the Advancement of Women and Sport and Physical Activity)

Photograph your child being active

- Enlarge the photo •Frame it •Be proud of it!

Actively support your daughter's involvement in physical activity

•Buy her good equipment - not her brother's hand-me-downs •Come and watch her games •Consider volunteering •Drive her to and from practices •Make sure your daughter has time in her life to be active - don't make your daughter sacrifice her involvement in sports so she can baby-sit or do housework.

Take your daughter to the park and be active with her

•Help her to learn the fundamental skills of running, throwing, catching and kicking.

Be an active role model yourself

•Mom's participation in sports increased participation rates of her child by 22 percent. •Dad's participation in sports increased participation rates of his child by 11 percent.

•Emphasize fun and fitness rather than competition and slimness

•Encourage your daughter to try a variety of new activities, and help her acquire the skills and equipment she needs to participate. •Avoid comments about your daughter's body size and shape. •Love and support her just the way she is. •Don't undermine her confidence, and take the joy out of playing, by telling her she "throws like a girl." Help her to learn the skills she needs to enjoy sports.

Introduce your daughter to active women.

All too often women in sports are viewed as cheerleaders, water girls or chauffeurs. Your daughter needs to be exposed to women who are athletes, coaches, officials and leaders in sports.

•Buy sports books about women athletes •Watch women's sports events on TV with your daughter •Take your daughter to women's sports competitions in your community •Read the sports pages with her and follow the performances of America's great athletes (such as Jackie Joyner-Kersey, Shannon Miller, Mia Hamm, Monica Seles, Gail Devers, Kristi Yamaguchi, Rebecca Lobo, Janet Evans, Muffin Spencer-Devlin and Martina Navratilova).

Plan Active Vacations or Weekend Excursions

- Try hiking, cross-country skiing, rafting

Zoo Boo offers fun

Zoo Boo '98 will be the most thrilling and chilling Halloween event ever!

Once again, creepy creeps are in store for boys and ghouls at the 10th annual frightful "fun"-d-raiser for the Zoo. Fun and spooky activities provide girls and boys a howling good time: The Union Planters Not-So-Haunted House, costume contests, story-telling, face painting, spooky arts and crafts, the creepy Once Upon a Farm, pumpkin painting, the terrifying Askew Nixon Ferguson Architects Haunted House and trick-or-treat spots galore.

And, don't forget to bring some old clothes to make scarecrows. The Zoo will supply the hay, but admission to this area of Zoo Boo will be one set of cloths for your scarecrow!

The witching hours for Zoo Boo are 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Oct. 23, 24 and 25. Advance ticket prices are \$8 for members and \$9 for non-members; after Oct. 22, tickets are \$12 for everyone. Tickets are going fast, so call (901) 725-3407 to order by phone.

Kids can 'dive' into museum's water exhibit

Dive into the unique and sometimes baffling properties of water in the Wonder Water exhibit at The Children's Museum of Memphis now through Jan. 31.

Did you know that water is the only substance on the planet that exists in all three states (solid, liquid and vapor)? Did you know that ice is lighter than water? Find out interesting water facts like these as you carry a squishy Moroccan water bag, make it "rain" at the "Water Cycle" area and "boil" water by speeding up its molecules.

Sponsored by Memphis Light, Gas & Water Division, Wonder Water is divided into five sections covering physical, biological and chemical properties of water, including environmental issues, biological adaptation, culture, climate and delivery systems.

The Children's Museum of Memphis is a discovery museum for children and their families. The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. Admission is \$4 for children, \$5 for adults and free to museum system members

'Elmo's Coloring Book' comes to Memphis

Sesame Street Live returns Oct. 8-11 with a brand new show to the MidSouth Coliseum for seven fun-filled performances of "Elmo's Coloring Book."

Dance and sing along with everyone's favorite *Sesame Street Live* friends as Professor Art's Guzzinta 2000 machine makes the pages of Elmo's Coloring Book come to life.

Prairie Dawn becomes Cleopatra, Telly Monster dons King Tut's crown and Oscar the Grouch takes on the role of a nice and friendly monster (don't worry, it's only temporary!). It's a story of adventure

where children learn that friends like them best when they just be themselves.

Performances are Thursday, Oct. 8, at 7 p.m.; Friday, Oct. 9, at 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Saturday, Oct. 10, at 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m., and Sunday, Oct. 11, at 1 and 4:30 p.m.

Tickets are available at the Mid-South Coliseum Box Office or any TicketMaster location. Tickets also can be purchased on-line at www.ticketmaster.com. Regular price tickets are \$14 and \$12. Discounts may apply for children and groups on selected performances. For more information, call (901) 525-1515.



Sesame Street Live to present "Elmo's Coloring Book," featuring Elmo & Zoe.

Pink Palace plans crafts fair at Audubon Park

Join the festivities and family fun at the Pink Palace Crafts Fair set for Oct. 8-11 at Audubon Park. Ranked as "one of the nation's best crafts fairs," the Pink Palace Crafts Fair has grown in size and reputation over the years.

The fair features a wide array of crafts available, with more than 250 juried craftsmen participating, crafts demonstrations and a wide selection of food vendors. There will be children's activities—the Kid's Crafts Corner delights children with face-painting, spin art and sand art. There is a wide variety of live entertainment from pop to country and reggae to jazz, and the Friends of the Pink Palace will be making their delicious donuts from dawn to dusk.

Gates open daily at 10 a.m. and close at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. Hours extend to 9 p.m. on Friday. The Crafts Fair's location in Audubon Park is in the east end of the park between the lake and Perkins Road.

Advance tickets, available only at the Pink Palace Museum Ticket Office through Oct. 7, are \$4 for adults, \$3 for seniors, \$2 for children, and a two-day pass is available for \$7. At the gate, tickets will be \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors, \$3 for children and a two-day pass for \$8. A Special Seniors Afternoon on Thursday, Oct. 9, features \$1 admission for seniors.

Parking for the Crafts Fair is \$2 on the grounds and a free shuttle bus also will run from the Oak Court Mall. For further information, call the Friends of the Pink Palace at (901) 320-6408 or (901) 320-6365.

Zoo plans dinner with bats

A dinner with the bats? Definitely an original idea of the Memphis Zoo.

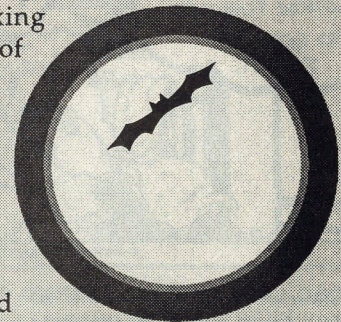
On Oct. 17, from 7 to 9 p.m., you can enjoy a relaxing dinner in the Animals of the Night exhibit while watching some of the most fascinating animals in the Zoo.

A bat chat by one of the Zoo's knowledgeable keepers will draw you into the bats' world

of darkness. After dinner, the guests will adjourn to the education classroom for dessert, coffee and an interesting discussion about bats from around the world.

Bob Benson, the public information manager for Bat Conservation International, will be the featured speaker.

The Zoo reminds you that you will enter into the animals' environment, featuring its own unique sights and aromas! But definitely different. Cost for members is \$30, non-members \$40. For more information call (901) 725-3400, ext. 3316.



Halloween

from page 19



A Couple of guys
The Cast of Characters

like. I don't see how women do it ... the heels, the hose."

Every Halloween, about 10 of Bullard's friends and himself get together and dress in drag with the help of Campbell.

"To get ready I shave my chest and shave my face about 10 times," he explained. "I don't shave my legs because I'm blonde anyway. The whole process takes about two hours."

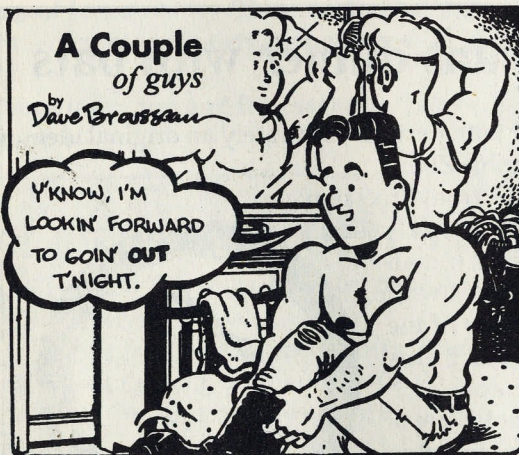
Once the "girls" are ready for their Halloween night on the town, "We go out to every bar, and I mean every bar, including The Peabody. You'd really be surprised at the response we get," Bullard added.

"My mom and my twin sister had a fit," Bullard, who also is hairdresser employed at Regis in Wolfchase Galleria, said. "They couldn't believe how good I looked."

In addition to dressing in drag, Bullard and his friend, Steve, also chose names for their "characters." Bullard is Jenna Bradshaw-Thorpe and Steve is "Alice N. Wonderland." "I stole my name from 'Guiding Light.'"

Since Bullard is "out everywhere," F&F asked him if he had any advice for people considering "coming out" on National Coming Out Day Oct. 11.

"Closets are for clothing, and not for me," he said with a smile.



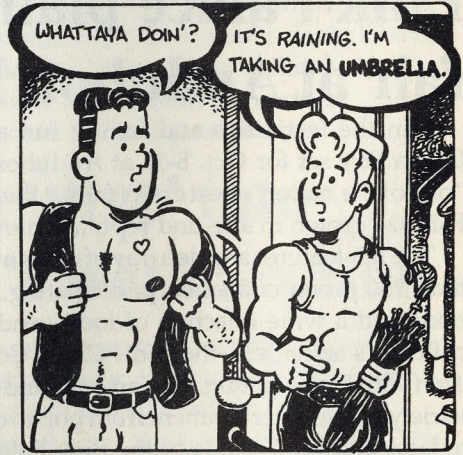
A Couple of guys
by Dave Brassau

Y'KNOW, I'M LOOKIN' FORWARD TO GOIN' OUT T'NIGHT.

e-mail: acplfogs@aol.com



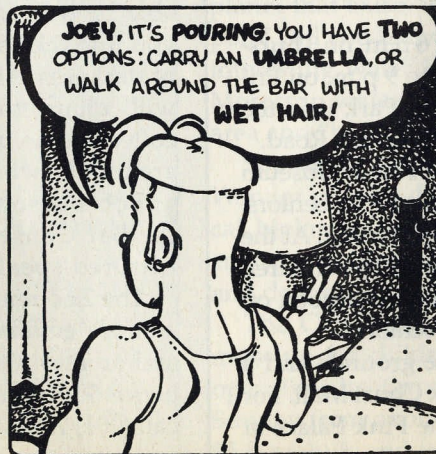
YEAH. I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. WE'RE BOTH FREE, AND IT'S SATURDAY NIGHT!



WHATTAYA DOIN'? IT'S RAINING. I'M TAKING AN UMBRELLA.



ERIC, WE'RE GOIN' TO A LEATHER BAR. YOU CAN'T CARRY AN UMBRELLA INTO A PLACE LIKE THAT, DRESSED LIKE THIS.



JOEY, IT'S POURING. YOU HAVE TWO OPTIONS: CARRY AN UMBRELLA, OR WALK AROUND THE BAR WITH WET HAIR!



LIVE, FROM NEW YORK! IT'S SATURDAY NIGHT!

©1998 Dave Brassau

The "Day After" Brunch

At
CAFE

Society

212 North Evergreen

Sunday, October 25

\$30 per person

Seatings every half hour from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

The Menu

as created and prepared by Chef Michel

Mozzarella Caprese Salad

Roma tomatoes, fresh mozzarella with extra virgin olive oil and balsamic vinegar, topped with a basil chiffonade and served with pecorino romano and crostini

Boneless Chicken with Shitake

sauteed to delectable perfection, then served with garlic potatoes and sauteed fresh green beans with almonds

Baked Apple with Lemon Sorbet

baked in brown sugar and spices, the perfect dessert for a fall afternoon

Coffee or Tea

Cash Bar Available After 12 Noon

**vegetarian entree available with advance notice*

Entertainment by Concert Violinist Charles Friedman

Flowers by Ed Hammett of Botanica

Prepaid reservations required through Friends For Life only at 272-0855

HIGH heels
HATS hats



October 11 is National Coming Out Day

Get ready to kick that closet door wide open on Oct. 11, as the country celebrates National Coming Out Day.



This year marks the tenth anniversary of National Coming Out Day, a day when people all across this great country are urged to make a very important decision, a decision that will forever change their lives. It is a decision to "come out" or tell family and friends alike of their sexual identity.

"The aim of National Coming Out Day specifically and the National Coming Out Project in general is to encourage queer and queer supportive people to come out, be visible and educate those around them," explained Candace Gingrich, activist and associate manager of the NCOP. "We accomplish this goal by coordinating NCOD events in all 50 states, providing coming out resources including the *Resource Guide to Coming Out*, conducting educational and outreach campaigns in the queer and non-queer press, and acting as a resource for all people at various stages of coming out."

Since this is a national celebration and since *Family & Friends* is a national sponsor of National Coming Out Day, we wanted to share some celebrities' stories and views on coming out.

"Everyone thinks they're the only ones who have these feelings," Gingrich said. "But that's not the truth. There are people who came before you, and people who will come after you."

Actor Wilson Cruz, who played Ricky on TV's "My So-Called Life," said he was fortunate. "There was a group of us who had been friends since junior high school. I think we all knew everyone else was gay, but we never said anything to each other."

"Then, in the beginning of our senior year, we all started to come out to each other," he continued. "I came out first, and they were relieved that I told them and then they were relieved to tell me. It was very cool because by the end of the year, we had an incredible support group and didn't

care what anyone else thought."

Writer and lecturer Brian McNaught mirrored Nabozny's thoughts.

"I found strength in Christ's message about being true to yourself," he said, "in loving yourself, being willing to suffer for the sake of what you know is right, and trusting that a power greater than myself loved me just the way I was."

- "Coming out was the best thing I ever did ... It took all the fears away," K.D. Lang, singer.

- "(People) think they'll lose everything if they come out. This did not happen to me at all. In fact, everything came back tenfold," Melissa Etheridge, singer.

- "For me, (coming out) has been the most freeing experience because people can't hurt me anymore," Ellen DeGeneres, actress.

- "...To me, it was like being in a black-and-white movie that suddenly converted to color," Andrew Sullivan, writer.

- "The goal is not to tell for the sake of telling, but not to hide. The more people you can find and be honest with, the better you'll feel. Almost everyone I know has had a better experience coming out than they thought they would," Barney Frank, U.S. Congressman.

- "When you allow your fears to dominate how you think, act and feel, the result is an inability to move forward and to explore what is in your true nature. To put off living and loving in a way that's right for you because of fears - real or imagined - means you take away from who you are and how you'll grow emotionally, physically and spiritually," Amy Dean, writer.

- "It's no wonder we know how to dress; we've spent centuries in closets," Isaac Mizrahi.

- "I don't think homosexuality is a choice. Society forces you to think it's a choice, but in fact, it's in one's nature. The choice is whether one expresses one's nature truthfully or spends the rest of one's life lying about it," Marlo Thomas.

- "No government has the right to tell its citizens when or whom to love. The only queer people are those who don't love anybody," Rita Mae Brown, writer and activist.

Memphis Pride to celebrate NCOD

Memphis Pride Inc. invites you to join them in celebrating National Coming Out Day. Bring the picnic baskets, the coolers and your pets to the 2nd annual Pride Picnic and Pet Show at Plough Park in Shelby Farms on Saturday, Oct. 10, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The event will be located at pavilion #4 behind the stables. There will be lots of fun for the whole family. All pets are welcome.

The pet show will award prizes in several categories including best personality, best of show and best dog & owner look alike.

Also, there will be an animal blessing for the little ones we care so much about. But no guarantees about miraculous house-breaking.

So come on out (no pun intended) and have fun. It's a freebie for the whole community.

- "I don't think homosexuality is a choice. Society forces you to think it's a choice, but in fact, it's in one's nature. The choice is whether one expresses one's nature truthfully or spends the rest of one's life lying about it," Marlo Thomas.

- "No government has the right to tell its citizens when or whom to love. The only queer people are those who don't love anybody," Rita Mae Brown, writer and activist.

National gay group to begin Memphis chapter

There will be an organizational meeting to form a Memphis chapter of the Lesbian & Gay Coalition for Justice (LGCJ), Saturday, Oct. 17, at 2 p.m. at the First Congregational Church, 246 South Watkins.

The LGCJ has existed for about five years in Nashville and is working with the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force and the Federation of Statewide LGBT groups to organize gays and lesbians on a broad array of political issues of concern to lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgendered persons.

The purpose of the LGCJ is to combat laws, policies and attitudes that segregate, discriminate, or foster prej-

dice against people based on sexual orientation. They advocate the adoption and implementation of legislation, regulations and practices that guarantee and protect the civil rights of every person and promote respect for diversity. They engage in the activities that promote awareness, understanding and respect concerning lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgendered persons.

LGCJ pursues these goals as they relate to family life, the workplace, economic security, mental and physical health and personal safety. This organization is community-based and committed to achieving these goals through mainstream

activism and the electoral process. LGCJ is particularly committed to writing, speaking and voting for the election and appointment of public officials who are openly lesbian or gay or who support equal rights for lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgendered persons.

The Memphis chapter is being formed to provide a local and statewide grassroots political organization to fight for and defend equality for gays and lesbians and work in coalition with other progressive groups fighting for social justice.

The Co-Chairs of the Nashville LGCJ, Bill Turner and Rhonda Carter, are planning to attend the meet-

ing to share the history, goals and suggestions of the LGCJ. Everyone interested in joining the political organization is invited to attend and participate in the formation of the Memphis Gay & Lesbian Coalition for Justice.

For more information, contact Jim Maynard at jmaynard2@earthlink.net or call (901) 327-2677.

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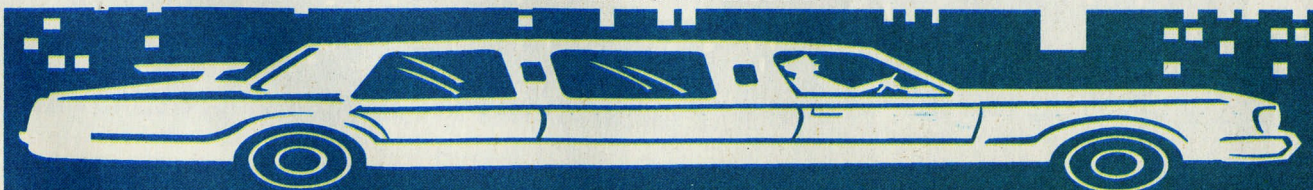
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We would like to thank these businesses and organizations for being a distribution point for *Family & Friends*. Please visit them and let them know you appreciate their support.

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- Backstreet, 2018 Court St.
- Chaos, 60 S. Front St.
- Crossroads, 1278 Jefferson
- David's, 1474 Madison
- J-Wag's, 1268 Madison
- Lorenze, 1528 Madison
- Madison Flame, 1588 Madison
- One More, 2117 Peabody
- Pipeline Memphis, 1382 Poplar
- The Other Side, 3883 Hwy 45 N., Jackson, Tenn.

BOOKSTORES & LIBRARIES

- Barnes & Noble Booksellers, 6385 Winchester
- Barnes & Noble Booksellers, Wolfchase Galleria
- Borders Books & Music, 6685 Poplar Ave.
- Davis-Kidd Bookseller & Cafe, 387 Perkins Extd.
- Deliberate Literate, 1997 Union Ave.
- Memphis Main Public Library, 1850 Peabody

RESTAURANTS

- Arizona, 903 S Cooper
- The Bourbon Street Cafe, in French Quarter Suites, 2144 Madison
- In the Grove, 2865 Walnut Grove
- Neil's, 1835 Madison Ave.

GROUPS & ORGANIZATIONS

- BGALA (U of M Students for Bisexual Gay and Lesbian Awareness)
- Friends for Life, 1450 Poplar Ave.
- MAGY (Memphis Area Gay Youth)
- Memphis Pride Rap
- The Lambda Center, 1488 Madison Ave.

CHURCHES

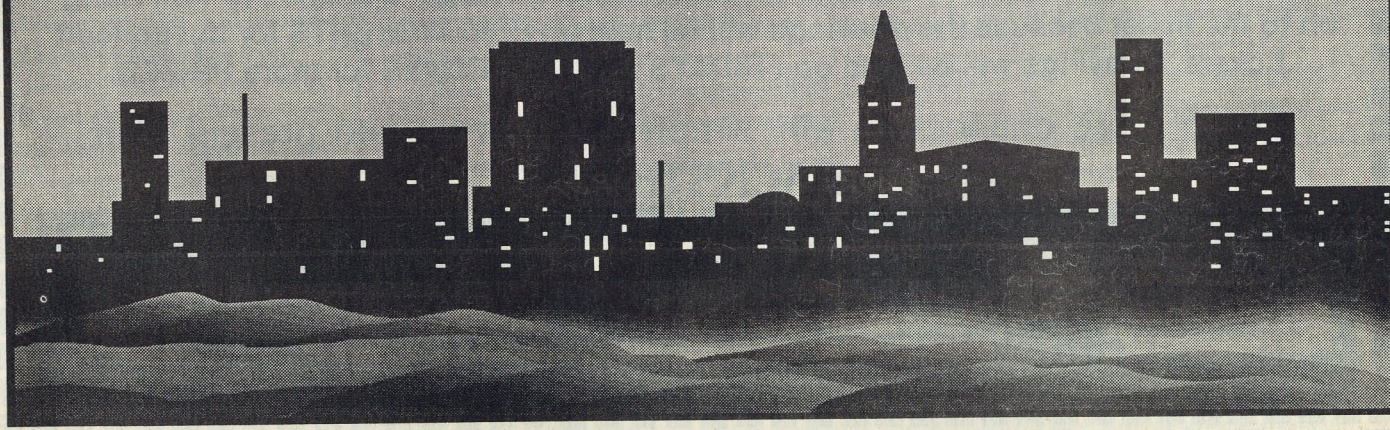
- First Congregational Church, 246 S Watkins
- Holy Trinity Comm. Church, 1559 Madison Ave.
- Living Word Christian Church, 340 N Garland
- Neshoba Unitarian Universalist Church, Cordes Circle, Germantown, Tenn.
- Safe Harbor Metropolitan Community Church, Good Shepherd Chapel, Union Ave. United Methodist Church, Cooper & Union

RETAIL

- Dabbles Hair Company, 19 N Cooper
- Fairview Liquor Store, 739 East Reed Rd., Greenville, Miss.
- Gateway Travel, 2090 Overton Square Lane
- Star Search Video, 1411 Poplar Ave.
- Wild Oats Market, 1801 Union Ave.

THEATRES

- Circuit Playhouse, 1705 Poplar Ave.
- Playhouse on the Square, 51 S Cooper
- Theatreworks, 2085 Monroe Ave.





Have You Heard the One About ...

Air Force One was approaching Washington and the captain came on the intercom and said: "Mr. President, please fasten your seat belt and put the stewardess in an upright position."

•••

One Helluva Headache

Joe was moderately successful in his career, but as he got older, he was increasingly hampered by remarkably painful headaches. When his personal hygiene and love life began to suffer, he sought medical help. After being referred from one specialist to another, he finally came across a doctor who solved the problem. The doctor said, "I have good news, and I have bad news. The good news is that I can cure your headaches, the bad news is that it will require castration. You have a very rare condition that causes your testicles to press up against the base of your spine. The pressure creates one hell of a headache. The only way to relieve the pressure is to remove the testicles." Joe was, of course, both shocked and depressed. He indeed wondered if he even had anything to live for at this point. Yet, he immediately decided he had no choice but to go under the knife.

When he left the hospital his mind was at long last clear, but naturally he felt like he was missing an important part of himself. As he walked down the street, he felt like an entirely different person. He walked past a men's clothing store and thought, "I'll buy a new suit. Maybe that will cheer me up!"

He entered the shop and told the salesman, "I'd like a new suit." The salesman eyed him briefly and said, "Let's see ... size 44 long." Joe laughed, "That's right, how did you know?" "It's my job," said the salesman. Joe tried on the suit, and it fit perfectly. As Joe admired himself in the mirror, the salesman asked, "How about a new shirt?" Joe thought for a moment and then said, "Sure...." The salesman eyed Joe and said, "Let's see ... 34 sleeve and ... 16 neck." Joe was once again surprised, "That's exactly right. How did you know?" "It's my job," said the salesman, very matter-of-factly. Joe tried on the shirt, and it fit perfectly. As Joe adjusted the collar in the mirror, the salesman asked, "How about new shoes?" Joe was on a roll by this point and said, "Well, sure." The salesman eyed Joe's feet and said, "Let's see ... 9D ... wide." Joe was astonished, "That's right. How did you know?" "It's my job," said the salesman. Joe tried on the shoes and they fit perfectly. Joe walked comfortably around the shop and the salesman asked, "So,

how about a new hat?" Without hesitation, Joe said, "Sure." The salesman eyed Joe's head and said, "Let's see ... 7 5/8." Joe was incredulous. "That's right. Man, how can you tell all of this?" "It's my job," reiterated the salesman. The hat fit perfectly. Joe was feeling great, when the salesman asked, "How about some new underwear?" Joe hesitated for a second and said, "Sure." The salesman stepped back, eyed Joe's waist and said, "Let's see ...size 36." Joe laughed, "No, I've worn size 34 since I was 18 years old." The salesman shook his head, "No, you can't wear a size 34. It would press your testicles up against the base of your spine and give you one hell of a headache!"

•••

What is "gaydar?"

Gaydar is "gay radar" – an internal sensing device common to gay men and lesbians. While it is most often used "lesbian to lesbian" or "gay man to gay man," it is not uncommon for lesbians to pick out gay men and visa versa.

Many conditions can jam gaydar. Not being out to oneself renders gaydar inoperative and at least one man has noted that bisexuality throws gaydar out of whack.

Some people experience bi-level gaydar. As gaydar expert Peter Holden explains, there is the low-level "yup – there's one" alert and then there's the "OH MY GOD, I want to have your children!" full body electroshock whammy that hits upon eye contact.

For this second level gaydar to occur, not only must both parties' gaydar waves intersect simultaneously, but their hypothalamus glands must also be vibrating at the same frequency.

This joke is from Who Cares If It's A Choice: Snappy Answers to 101 Nosy, Intrusive and Highly Personal Questions about Lesbians and Gay Men by Ellen Orleans/ Laugh Lines Press."

M.A.G.Y.

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& discussion group

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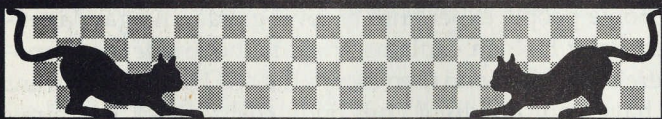
Circuit Playhouse to stage *Travels With My Aunt*

Travels With My Aunt, starring Kevin Jones, Dave Landis, Art Oden and Ken Zimmerman, is being presented Oct. 2 to Nov. 1 at Circuit Playhouse, 1705 Poplar.

These four stalwart actors will assume a total of 25 roles among them—16 men and nine women, including but not limited to old women, Spanish gentlemen, taxi drivers, Cockney detectives, Third World military police, loud-mouthed ugly Americans, prim Englishmen, and even a 14-year-old Peruvian girl!

Adapted from Graham Greene's classic novel, the story concerns Henry Pulling, a retired, middle-aged British banker, more than a bit stuffy, who meets his eccentric Aunt Augusta at his mother's funeral. She pulls him almost bodily out of his conventional rut and whisks him off to adventures in Asuncion, Istanbul, and beyond. Henry exchanges his plodding routine for a whirlwind existence involving his aunt's numerous lovers, smuggling, political intrigue and even CIA espionage!

Performance times for *Travels With My Aunt*, which is sponsored by Lulu Grille and Huey's, are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Pay What You Can night will be Thursday, Oct. 8, at 8 p.m. For tickets, call the Circuit Playhouse box office at (901) 726-4656.



The House of Mews

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To find out about adopting a cat, call TODAY

Operating on donations of money and supplies, the House of Mews is a community service feline sanctuary run by a group of volunteers called the Puddy Tat Protectors. Part of their mission is to rescue, care for and adopt homeless cats in the area. Since it was begun, they have found homes for more than 1,900 cats.



Race for the Cure to raise funds for cancer research

The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation's sixth annual Memphis Race for the Cure, a 5K women-only race and a one-mile fun run/walk for the entire family, is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 17, at 8 a.m. at The Shops of Saddle Creek North, Poplar and Farmington, in Germantown. Registration deadline is Oct. 16.

The registration fee of \$15 includes race registration and a Memphis Race for the Cure T-shirt. Children are invited to participate for \$5. Walk-up registration will be held on Thursday, Oct. 15, and Friday, Oct. 16, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Storefront in the Shops of Saddle Creek, North (next to Ann Taylor).

Shuttle buses will run regularly on race day from four pick-up points to decrease traffic. Pick-up points are: The Forum, 6750 Poplar; the RV lot at Agricenter International, 7777 Walnut Grove Road.; Germantown United Methodist Church, 2331 South Germantown Road., and Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church, 8151 Poplar.

The 1998 race has several events that will entertain even non-athletic participants. The Bouffants will again provide the after-race music, several informational booths will be set up for browsing and food for tired race participants will be provided.

Race for the Cure functions annually to heighten awareness about the importance of early breast cancer detection as well as raise funds for breast cancer research, education, screening and treatment. Race for the Cure was conceived, designed and implemented by The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. Seventy-five percent of the proceeds raised from the event will remain in the Memphis area to provide education, screening and other programs for Mid-South women, including medically underserved women.

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*Ask the CIS***NCI studies AIDS, cancer treatments**

Question: Is the National Cancer Institute studying any natural substances for cancer treatment and diagnosis?

Answer: The National Cancer Institute's Natural Products Branch (NPB) studies natural substances in plant, sea life, soil and water samples collected in countries around the world. Its goal is to discover substances that may be used to develop new treatment for cancer and AIDS.

NPB coordinates the collection and study of these substances, and helps produce new drugs based on promising research findings.

Several dozen major U.S. and foreign research and nature organizations cooperate with the National Cancer Institute in this work. Because more than half of all plant species found on earth come from tropical forests, NPB concentrates its efforts in these areas.

NPB presently is storing samples of more than 600,000 natural substances from several dozen countries.

Along with plants and sea life, NPB is interested in microorganisms – one-cell organisms found in water and soil – and how they can be used to fight cancer and AIDS.

A number of cancer drugs based on microorganisms are used today in chemotherapy treatments.

However, of the 20,000 natural substances tested each year, 98 percent do not show any promise as anti-cancer or anti-AIDS treatments. Since 1960, only six drugs developed from natural substances have received Food and Drug Administration approval for use as a cancer treatment. Another five natural substances are in the early stages of testing as a treatment for AIDS.

To show its appreciation to countries that have allowed researchers to study their natural resources, NPB has invited foreign scientists to receive technical training and to work with American cancer researchers studying natural substances. Since January 1998, 26 scientists from 17 foreign countries have been invited to National Cancer Institute laboratories.

Ask the CIS is produced by the Region 9 Cancer Information Service (CIS), which serves Kentucky, Arkansas and Tennessee. The CIS is a program of the National Cancer Institute. Call the CIS between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. local time at (800) 4-CANCER.

TALENT NIGHT

EVERY THURSDAY
AT 11 P.M.

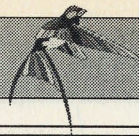
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HOROSCOPES

Libra (Sept. 24-Oct. 23) - Happy birthday to all. The year ahead should bring romance, creative endeavors and overall happy times. If you have a hidden talent, flaunt it, who knows what might happen.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) - Those who search for something might find it by joining in groups. Doors shall swing open for scorpions and more money may be coming your way.

Sagittarius (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) - Strongly focus on career and family life now and a balance between them could be possible. Those who have been contemplating ideas should move to make them reality.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 20) - In the coming weeks, social gatherings could lead to new and interesting introductions. Special career focuses should be on travel, education and desktop publishing.

Aquarius (Jan. 21-Feb. 19) - Those who are eligible may find themselves involved in a surprise love affair during the coming month. Positive changes are on the way, just make sure you're listening.

Pisces (Feb. 20-March 20) - When it comes to activities this month, the focus should be on those that are mixed with business or social groups. Express yourself through all special relationships, including those that center around family and friends.

Aries (March 21-April 20) - Now is the time to further career interests. Being nice and showing others affection

should be playing a much more important part in your life as the new moon enters.

Taurus (April 21-May 21) - If you don't put things off, great things are possible now. In the coming month, bulls should find ways to express their creativity and affection for others.

Gemini (May 22-June 21) - The possibility of a new relationship is extremely strong as the month begins. Highlights in the coming month are on speculation, love, social and creative endeavors. Take a deeper look inside.

Cancer (June 22-July 23) - Contacts are high on the agenda. Mix those that center around close relationships, joint financial matters and career for a great month. Good relationships with neighbors are highlighted.

Leo (July 24-Aug. 23) - Your special talents could lead to more money when negotiations begin this month. Artistic and creative lions will gain much. Explore new interests and money could be pouring in. A new love could be on the horizon.

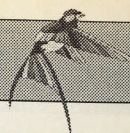
Virgo (Aug. 24-Sept. 23) - Be careful what you wish for because now you may get it. Make wise choices. Those who can roll with the punches will stand to benefit during this new sector. Those involved in education, can stand to benefit from more time spent with books.

Editor's Note: Horoscopes are meant for entertainment purposes only and are for the month of October.

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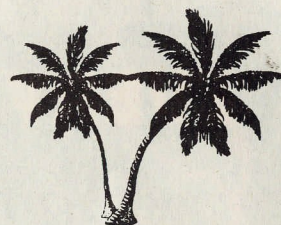
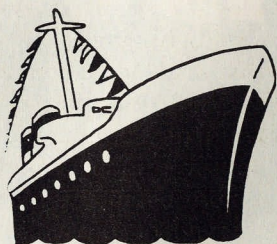
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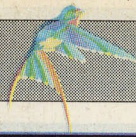
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