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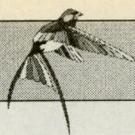
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TAYLOR HUNTINGTON:
Miss Gay Memphis 2000 will wear the crown into the 21st century.

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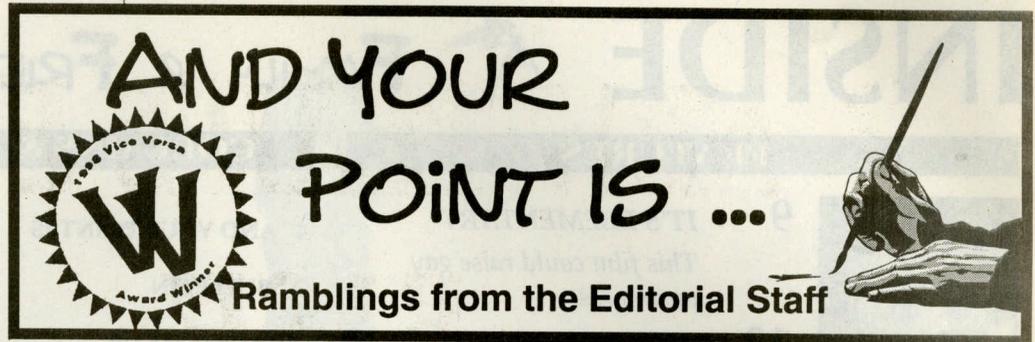
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Ramblings from the Editorial Staff

We were talking with a corporate executive recently when he said, "It's so easy to get caught up in here (the corporate world) and forget that there are real people out there. People who aren't as fortunate as we are."

How right he was and is.

This year in particular it seems the holidays, Valentine's Day, Easter, Thanksgiving, etc., have come and gone without much hoopla. It seems the entire community, the g/l/b/t community included, has been so caught up in politics, power struggles, job changes, competitiveness between organizations, gossip mongering and mud slinging, that perhaps it has forgotten to remember who the people are that make up the community.

Sometimes it's very easy to get caught up in our own lives and forget there are those people who are less fortunate than we are. We get up in the morning, shower, shave and brush our teeth without so much as a thought of those people in our community who might not have soap, shampoo, a razor or a toothbrush.

We put on clean clothes every morning without realizing that somewhere in our community, people are putting on dirty clothes because they didn't have laundry detergent.

We eat breakfast while others have so little food they skip the most important meal of the day. We leave the homes we take for granted (there are those who have no place to live) and head for work while others in our community have no job to go to perhaps because they have AIDS and can't find employment.

Now that we are entering into the gift-giving season of the year, we make time in our hectic schedules to go shopping for gifts to give our children, friends and relatives for the holidays, most of the time without even giving a second thought to those children who may not know what it's like to get up on Christmas morning to several presents under the tree.

We think it's time for the entire community to stop for just a moment and reflect on those who may not enjoy life the way we do.

For a \$10 donation to Friends for Life's Food Pantry, you can provide a sack of personal hygiene items for one person, as well as a few food staples. If you would like more information on helping out those infected with HIV/AIDS, call Butch Valentine at Friends for Life at (901) 272-0855. By the way, the Mystic Krewe of Memphis United recently held a

fundraising show to help raise money for the personal hygiene product sacks distributed by FFL.

And, recently, the community has heard a lot about "Sheila's kids." But who are "Sheila's kids?" Sheila of "Sheila's kids" is Sheila Tankersly, who is the executive director and founder of Loving Arms, an organization dedicated to meeting the needs of women and children infected and affected with HIV/AIDS.

Often times when we think or hear the words "HIV/AIDS" we think of adults who are infected, forgetting that there are children out there who are infected, too, or whose parent or parents are infected. Loving Arms not only helps those children infected, but those who are affected by this disease, as well, because, as Sheila put it, "If we only helped the children who are infected, it might send a message to children who are well that the only way to get the same, loving attention, is to become infected, too."

Sheila has a vision, not of sugar plum fairies dancing in the dreams of "her children," and not of each of her approximate 200 children receiving a toy for the holi-

See Point, page 30

NEW YEAR'S EVE

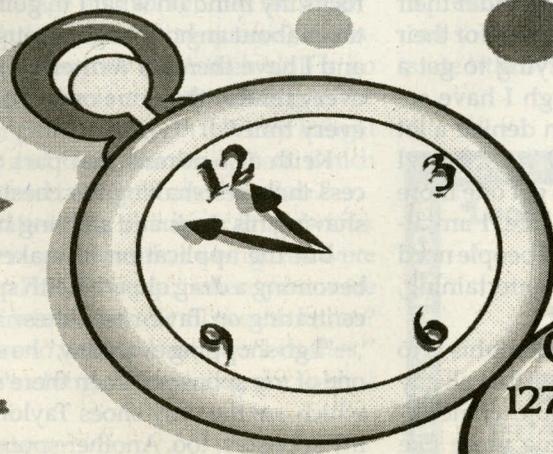
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Miss Gay Memphis 2000

Taylor Huntington takes crown into 21st century

BY LAINE MCNEIL
STAFF WRITER

A hush fell over the crowd as the name of the next Miss Gay Memphis was about to be announced, but it wasn't just any Miss Gay Memphis, the winner would be Miss Gay Memphis 2000, the queen who would lead Memphis' gay community into the new millennium.

After appearing in a stunning cream business suit with bullet button holes, pewter shoes and handbag and Versace sunglasses during the sportswear category of the competition, Taylor Huntington was crowned Miss Gay Memphis 2000 last month.

In addition to the cream business suit, Huntington wore a black velvet evening gown originally designed by the late Versace during the evening gown category, performed Chaka Kahn's "Fever" during the talent portion and wowed judges during the self-expression portion of the contest by wearing "fantasy wear," which consisted of a red and silver Mardi Gras suit, complete with a huge, and heavy, head-dress beautifully adorned with more than 1,500 beads.

The red-headed bombshell that will wear the coveted Miss Gay Memphis crown into the 21st century said, "I am proud of the title that I have won. It is an opportunity of a lifetime. It has already opened doors for myself, such as traveling around doing shows and promoting the Memphis area."

Huntington added that what she will get out of wearing the crown will depend on how much she puts into it.

"As Miss Memphis, I am trying to locate and develop long-term donations through several major corporations that will take Loving Arms and Friends for Life under their arms to help provide the necessary items they need for their clients," she explained. "I also have been trying to get a van donated to these organizations. Although I have accomplished many of these goals, I have been denied a lot of items but I look at it this way, for every 10 'no's' I get, I receive one 'yes,' and that keeps me trying to get one more company for Loving Arms and Friends for Life. I am always available for charity events because those people need a helping hand. And, if I can help them by entertaining, that's what I will do.

"One of the goals that I have as Miss Gay Memphis is to unite the community," she continued. "I believe that all gay persons and businesses, even bars, too, should come together and make Memphis a fun and exciting place like other cities do. Also, I believe that if we all became united together, we would have a bigger voice and a more powerful one in this city."

While trying to raise money and awareness for two very important and worth-while local organizations, Huntington admits there's more to being a drag queen than meets the eye.

When not in drag, Taylor is actually Keith, who lives in Memphis with his committed-relationship partner, Terry.

Family & Friends asked Keith what it takes to be a

drag queen, and more specifically, Taylor Huntington.

"Well, I start with the makeup," he began. "I have to focus my mind on what I'm going to be doing that night. It takes about an hour to go through the 27 steps I go through and I have them all written down. I go through each step every time in the same order so that Taylor looks the same every time."

Keith also admits that part of the transformation process includes shaving his chest down to his belly button, shaving his arms and shaving his fingers.

But the application of makeup is only a small part of becoming a drag queen. Keith spends countless hours concentrating on Taylor's clothes.

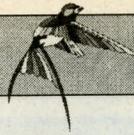
"I go shopping everyday," he said. "I love Gantos. They're one of my sponsors. Then there's my Fredrico Leone shoes, which are the only shoes Taylor wears, and they're one of my sponsors, too. Another sponsor is Mac Cosmetics."

While a lot of Taylor's clothes are bought, some of her



Taylor accepts her crown, roses.

See Taylor, page 7



Taylor

from page 6

outfits also are custom-designed.

"I have some of the outfits made, too," Keith said. "Especially the big costumes and gowns for out-of-town pageants, but that's the hardest part because they're never done on time. To answer the question I am asked most frequently (do you wear the same thing twice?), I try not to, but like anybody, I have a couple of favorite outfits that I like to wear."

But there's more to being a drag queen than just looking good and wearing flawless clothes – they have to be able to perform. So, what does Keith look for in a song when he starts to consider numbers to do for a show?

"I look for something that entertains myself because then it entertains other people," he noted. "Also, I have to be comfortable with the song, too."

Keith first became interested in doing drag after seeing his first drag show in Illinois.

"I saw it for the first time in Illinois and thought it was amazing," he recalled. "Then I started doing drag and it put me through college, well, it paid for a lot of my college."

Although Keith enjoys doing drag, he admits "it's hell" being a drag queen in Memphis.

"The way I feel is that if you're not in a certain clique, you don't fit in in the bars," he said. "It shouldn't be that way because we're all here for the same reason."

"It's very hard to succeed in female impersonation in the Memphis area because of all the bitter talk and 'cat fights' that go on back stage and sometimes on stage," Keith added. "It's bad how they (other drag queens) downgrade other impersonators when they leave their club to go to another one to work. Also, if you are intimidating to the queens, ie. clothes, looks or performance, in this city, hang it up because they will talk and treat you really bad, which makes it hard to get a job entertaining at another club."

While we had Keith's attention, *Family & Friends* took this opportunity to ask a few questions that we figured were on other people's minds. For example, when you were young, did you have a desire to wear your mother's clothes?

"No, I never had a desire to wear my mother's clothes," he said. "But, I did like watching and helping my (older) sister in beauty pageants."

Do you want to be a woman?

"Why no," Keith said laughing. "I like being a male."

So, then what intrigues you about being a drag queen?

"The attention and the excitement of creating the illu-

sion," he explained, "especially for people who haven't seen drag before because they're just amazed at it. And of course, it's fun to be in drag and go down the street and listen to the straight men whistle."

How old were you when you first realized you were gay?

"Oh, I was in the fourth grade when I started liking the same sex, but I didn't act on it until college," he said.

While Keith said the best part about being a drag queen is "traveling and meeting new people because each city's totally different," he said the worst part about being a "queen" is "being outcast or labeled 'crazy' because, after all, it is a man in a dress."

There are a few people Keith, a.k.a. Taylor, would like to thank.

"I would like to thank Lorretta and Crossroads for having the Miss Memphis 2000 Pageant and for keeping the tradition of the pageant," he began. "I also

would like to thank my sponsors, without them I could not do what I do best, and that is to perform. But most of all, I would like to thank my partner, Terry. As he says, I would never live with another drag queen. He has been my biggest supporter and the one who pushes me that extra mile to do what I like to do. If I do bad, I know it by the look he gives me during the pageant or show, which makes me work harder on the next category or number."

Taylor also presently holds the title of Miss Intercontinental USA, and there is a possibility that the Miss Gay Memphis Pageant was

a preliminary pageant to Miss Gay Tennessee. If this turns out to be a reality, then Taylor is in the running for this state title, which she said is exactly the crown she wants.



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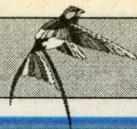
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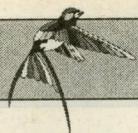
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It's Elementary: a way to raise awareness

**BY ANITA MOYT
MANAGING EDITOR**

It's Elementary: Talking About Gay Issues in School is a documentary about teachers addressing gay and lesbian issues in six public and private schools. Children from first to eighth grade bring up questions and make statements that many an adult would be wise to listen to. As they say, "Out of the mouth of babes."

Director Debra Chasnoff feels that this documentary, first released in 1996, "shows how addressing anti-gay prejudice in the classroom is connected to preventing violence, supporting families and promoting social equality."

Here is a brief synopsis of the documentary.

P.S. 87 New York, N.Y. (Public)

The teacher writes on the board as her fourth-grade students throw out words and phrases that they associate with the phrase "gays and lesbians." "Fancy," "sick," "private," "funny," and "pervert." Turning from the board, the teacher asks the students where they got their information. Family, television and movies are the replies.

"There's a sort of fear that when you're talking about gays and lesbians, you're talking about sex. I don't think that's true. I don't think talking about gay and lesbian sex is appropriate with elementary school kids ... But talking about people in different communities, bias and discriminations, and how that affects people's lives is appropriate," observed their teacher, Cora Sangree.

Manhattan Country School, New York, N.Y. (private)

Eighth graders hold a debate about whether or not gay



"I don't think people should be strict about (gay people), because if they were gay, they wouldn't want to be getting beat up ..." Fourth grader. From *It's Elementary: Talking About Gay Issues in School*.

and lesbian issues should be included in the school curricula.

One student commented, "We hear all these different things from different places, people telling us different things. School needs to give us all the facts so we can decide on our own what to think and what to do."

Peabody Elementary School, Cambridge, Mass. (public)

Principal Ellen Varella displayed, amidst much controversy, the photo exhibit, "Love Makes A Family: Living In Lesbian and Gay Families," at her school.

Varella explained her position, "I felt strongly that children in this community needed to be educated around this topic."

Fifth grade teacher Walter Davis commented, "I think (the students) responded well to it. It made me feel like they are ready for a lot more than I had given them credit for."

**Luther Burbank Middle School,
San Francisco, Calif. (public)**

A gay and a lesbian visited an eighth grade classroom and opened themselves up to questions from the students after a brief introduction. And the kids asked all types of questions.

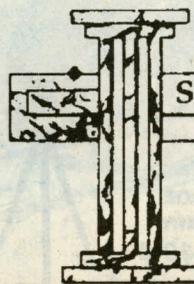
Afterwards, the students summed up the discussion: "Gay people were just like everybody else." Teacher Robert Roth

See *It's Elementary*, page 10

*Season's
Greetings*

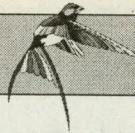


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It's Elementary

from page 9

stated, "You walk out in the halls of this school and the word of choice is 'faggot.' It shouldn't be tolerated in a school environment, but you can't just say, 'Stop.' You have to educate about it. And if you don't educate about it, it won't stop."

Hawthorne Elementary School, Madison, Wis. (public)

Third graders, when presented with the music and art of gay and lesbians, were surprised to learn that their favorite singers were gay.

One student's parent, Terri Strong, gave her reaction to the lesson, "You have to come to the realization that it's in our society, it's a reality ... You don't have to believe in what they do or what they say, but ... the awareness needs to be there for children."

Cambridge Friends School, Cambridge, Mass. (private)

This Quaker School had the most overt lessons of the six schools in the documentary. A story about a girl with two moms, *Asha's Mums*, is read to a first grade class. A third grade class carries on a discussion about name-calling at their school.

One student said, "It's amazing how teachers don't notice all the stuff that's going on. (Kids) don't necessarily use the word 'fag,' but they say 'oh what are you - gay or something?' It makes you feel weird in your stomach."

A gay pride day assembly was held school-wide. Some teachers had problems with this asking, "As a school are we saying kids have to support this?" Another teacher responded, "We have to respect the right of all of us to be who we are."

P.S. 87, New York, N.Y. (public)

A third grade teacher leads his students in a discussion of different types of families that exist at their school.

Principal Jane Hand, responds to the religious opposition to teaching any gay and lesbian issues in schools.

"If I'm going to protect your religious beliefs, if I'm going to respect them, then I'm asking you to respect

the stance we take in teaching about tolerance for others," the principal said.

It should be noted that sex was not discussed at any of the schools. The primary point was to make children and teachers aware of what they were saying, of using words like "gay" and "fag" in a derogatory manner and learning to respect people for who they are and not place value judgments on them because they find themselves loving someone of the same-sex. The children even found out that some of their own friends had same-sex parents.

Ideally, it would be fantastic to let every child in the Memphis and Shelby County school systems watch this movie. However, all of the schools in the documentary are either from the north or from California. Being that we are in the South, chances are the ideal will never happen here, at least not for another five years or so. Education programs and methods overall in the South are not as liberal or forward-thinking as in the North. Even the methods are more rote here in the South.

I had a professor of educational psychology remark how surprised he was at what the city school system called "modern education practices." Other school systems would consider them conservative at best.

However, all is not lost. One place to begin showing the movie would be in education major's classrooms at the college level. The school board could also watch the movie and it could be used for in-service training for all teachers. Another good place to air the film would be national and regional educational association conferences for teachers, school administrators or school counselors. First, let those that teach, learn. Then they can at least be aware of their own behaviors and be more apt to monitor the behavior of their students.

Already aired on many Public Broadcast Stations nationwide, Memphis' WKNO-TV still has not decided to run *It's Elementary*. However, they still have the option to do so into next year.

Hopefully, soon the "g" word will join the "n" word in our school hallways ... a quick suspension for disrespecting another.

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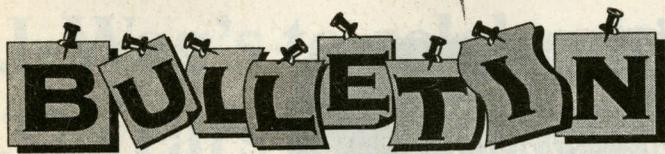
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BULLETIN

Well, there has been a lot of giving in our community in the past month. We at *Family & Friends* first want to thank all of you folks out there that attended an event, dropped a tip or two in the bucket, brought in a toy or spent some time working for your favorite community group.

THE MYSTIC KREWE OF MEMPHIS UNITED held a benefit on Nov. 13, to raise funds for FRIENDS FOR LIFE to purchase personal hygiene products for FFL clients. Raising a total of \$682, the money will be used to purchase 88 bags of necessities we often take for granted. A special "thanks" goes out to TOMMY STEWART for providing J-WAG'S for the event and another special "thanks" goes out to TURTLE, J-Wag's DJ, who worked so hard to keep the show on cue.

Our community again answered the needs of its own when TOM and TRENT at ONE MORE staged a benefit last month for PAM GRAY. More than \$3,000 was raised and given to her prior to her surgery for cancer. According to Tom, she came through the surgery wonderfully and did so well that she bypassed critical care altogether. She is home now healing up. A special "thanks" goes out to TRACY for his work running sound for this and many other events.

BACKSTREET MEMPHIS has taken the bull by the horns and wants to be sure they do all they possibly can to see the little clients at LOVING ARMS have a wonderful Christmas this year. So far, they have raised about \$1,000. Another benefit, sponsored jointly by *Family & Friends* and Backstreet Memphis, will be held on Thursday, Dec. 9, at 10:30 p.m.

And a very special "thank you" goes out to all of the drag queens, including Backstreet's own BEVERLY HILLS, that have given so much of their time to offer their talents to raise money for so many. Without you, there wouldn't have been any shows.

Listen to this. There has been research that basically says that heterosexual couples could learn from successful gay and lesbian couples. Apparently, gay and lesbian couples share more responsibilities or power in the relationship, are more intimate and more flexible.

Last month *F&F* ran an ad for a "Christmas Bizarre Bazaar" that LOVING

ARMS had set for Nov. 21. Unfortunately, the event was called off and we apologize to anyone that may have tried to attend only to find nothing going on. However, Sheila did say that Loving Arms and UNITY CHURCH OF MEMPHIS have scheduled an OPEN HOUSE Dec. 5, from 3 to 7 p.m., at Loving Arms, 1233 Peabody. Please bring a toy(s) for the kids there and put your name on their Christmas tree.

We want to thank PRESTON ARCHER for all his hard work to raise people's awareness about PEABODY HOUSE, a transitional house for homeless individuals with HIV/AIDS. He resigned his position in November and moved to another HIV/AIDS-related job in the city.

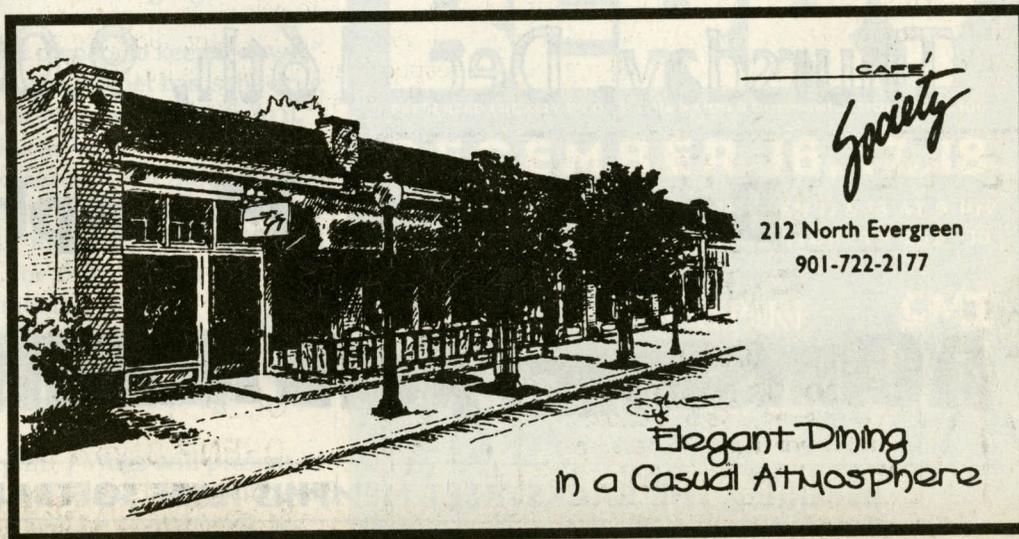
Thanks go to Aphrodite for their show on Nov. 21. They too raised money, the proceeds of which will go to buy Christmas toys for the 214 kids served by Loving Arms.

Fundraisers come in all shapes and sizes. What about passing the hat at your Christmas party and sending a check to the community agency or group that you support? Remember that no amount is too small; it all adds up to benefit people in need and causes to be dealt with.

We understand the PUBLIC EYE restaurant is making progress toward fulfilling their terms of agreement with DEBRA CUNNINGHAM, director of the MEMPHIS CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING, to make their services more accessible to those with disabilities.

We spoke to DANIEL FORREST, chair of MEMPHIS PRIDE INC., recently and found out that apparently VINCENT ASTOR, a.k.a. Lady A, isn't with the *TRIANGLE JOURNAL NEWS* anymore. According to Forrest, he will submit a column for the paper's next issue. If you are indeed retiring Vincent, we say "TA, TA LADY A."

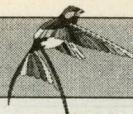
Family & Friends congratulates J-WAG'S on its 32ND BIRTHDAY. And we thank Tommy Stewart, J-Wag's owner, for his leadership and all his help in our community during those 32 years.



CAFE
Society

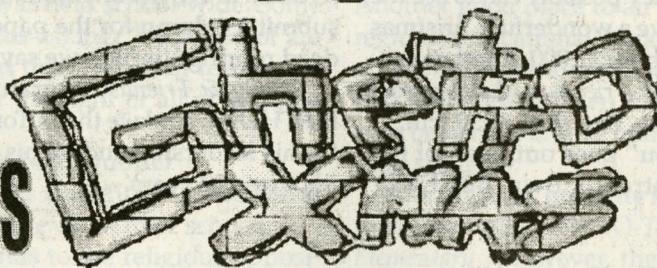
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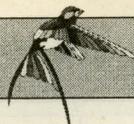
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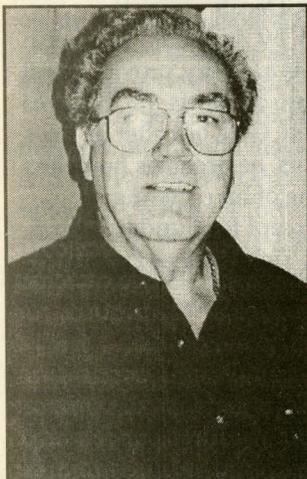
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J-Wag's to celebrate 32 years of business

BY ANITA MOYT
MANAGING EDITOR

Thirty-two years ago Memphian Tommy Stewart purchased a bar. This month J-Wags holds the honor of being one, the oldest, continuous operating bar on Madison Avenue, two, the only 24-hour, seven day-a-week, gay bar operating in Memphis, and three, the oldest gay bar in the state of Tennessee.



Tommy Stewart

Stewart has seen a lot of people and a lot of history walk through his bar. In the past 32 years, Stewart said the bar scene has been most affected and changed by AIDS.

He said, "(There) were more changes as it (AIDS) got worse; with time, people became more aware. The flamboyant party atmosphere slowed up quite a bit and people stayed home instead of partying at a bar. People everywhere became more withdrawn (who did) go to bars."

The gays of this town came to the rescue of their own, hard-hit by a strange new disease, once labeled 'the gay disease.' Stewart was on the original board of directors for the Aid to End Aids Committee and served as president of the organization for five years. This organization was the predecessor to what we know today as Friends for Life.

Stewart felt that drugs have been the single greatest enemy of the gay community.

"It is a constant battle with bar owners to keep it down," he said. "The biggest problem any bar owner has is the drug scene. People are destroying their life (yet) they still do it."

Yet Stewart sees the good side as well.

"I would like to thank the community for the support J-Wags has had over all these years. I would like to take my hat off to all the organizations, including Aphrodite and the new Mystic Krewe of MU, for all the things they have done through the years," commented Stewart.

His final appeal to the community, "Back away from the drugs because it is ruining this community. It would be the best thing for this community for drugs to just go away."

On Saturday, Dec. 11, at 10 p.m., J-Wags will present its 32nd Anniversary Celebration and Show. There will be no cover charge and drink specials will be available all day.



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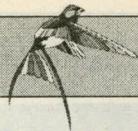
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Gold Strike to host Chicago Rat Pack for New Year's

Gold Strike Casino Resort turns back the clock to 1959, as the Chicago Rat Pack presents "A Tribute to the Rat Pack," Friday, Dec. 31, at 7 p.m. in the Gold Strike Ballroom.

"As a part of our week-long millennium celebration, Gold Strike is offering something special for our older audience," said Randall C. Roberts, general manager of Gold Strike Casino Resort. "We are transforming our ballroom into the Las Vegas of 1959, for a dinner show featuring the country's best impersonators of the famous trio of Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jr. and Dean Martin."

Tickets are just \$65 per person or \$100 per couple. Price includes show, gourmet buffet and non-alcoholic beverages. Doors will open at 6 p.m. for dinner and the show will begin at 7 p.m.



Chicago Rat Pack

"A Tribute to the Rat Pack" is one component of the week-long millennium celebration at Gold Strike. Other millennium events include '80s heart-throb Rick Springfield's last per-

formance of the millennium, "Stayin' Alive: A Tribute to the Bee Gees," Jimi Jamison and Survivor together again for their new record release party, Brett Daniels' millennium performance and much more.

For more information on Gold Strike's millennium events and hotel packages, call (888) 24K-PLAY.

McCoy Theatre to stage *J.B.*

A prosperous American businessman who loses everything for no fathomable reason faces the ultimate test of faith in *J.B.*, on stage at Rhodes College's McCoy Theatre Thursday, Dec. 2, through Sunday, Dec. 5.

This Pulitzer Prize-winning play by Archibald MacLeish tells the story of *J.B.*, a man who owns a factory, provides well for his family and has all the creature comforts. *J.B.* believes that he has a spiritual connection with God, but after he loses all through a series of horrible events, he becomes homeless and begins to search for the meaning of his suffering.

Performances begin at 8 p.m. except for Sunday, Dec. 5, when the matinee begins at 2 p.m. Ticket prices are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students.

Call (901) 843-3839 for reservations.

32nd Anniversary Celebration

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Saturday, December 11

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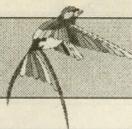
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Project Motion to produce *Holiday Spin*

This December, Project Motion Contemporary Dance and Performance Company is producing *Holiday Spin*, a musical holiday revue with a twist.

Holiday Spin will take place at Theatreworks, 2085 Monroe, Friday and Saturday, Dec. 3 and 4, and Friday and Saturday, Dec. 10 and 11. Showtimes are 8 and 10 p.m. *Holiday Spin* also will be performed in the Memphian Room at Playhouse on the Square, 51 S. Cooper, Friday and Saturday, Dec. 17 and 18, at 10:30 p.m.

This innovative production is a full theatrical experience including classic and contemporary holiday tunes, improvisation, audience participation, humor and reflection, and features five talented actors: Todd Berry, Kim Justis, Sandy Kozik, Jenny Odle Madden and Derek Sprecklemeyer.

Holiday Spin is a unique show where audience participation and interaction make each performance different, fresh and lively. The centerpiece of the show is a large spinning wheel, a "wheel of fortune" labeled "song," "story," "surprise," etc. Audience members may even find themselves as a contestant in a crazy game show competing against Frosty the Snowman and Rudolf the Red Nose Reindeer. In *Holiday Spin*, Santa's bag is stuffed full of songs and surprises

as audience participants spin the wheel and navigate the actors through a whirlwind of unpredictable fun!

Holiday Spin premiered in Chicago at Balliwick Repertory in 1994, and was conceived and directed by Scott Ferguson. In the recent past, Ferguson has been well-received in Memphis and has directed three successful theatre productions at Playhouse

on the Square including *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, *Return to the Forbidden Planet*, and *The Mystery of Irma Vep*.

Advance tickets are \$8. Tickets at the door are \$8 to \$13 for all 8 p.m. performances and \$6 to \$11 for the 10 and 10:30 p.m. performances.



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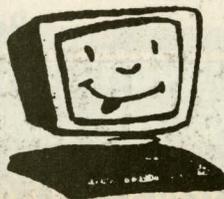
AllAdvantage.com is a new kind of Internet company that pays its members whenever they are online. It's *absolutely free* and takes less than a minute to join (no survey to fill out).

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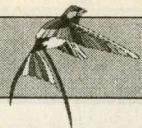
Go to AllAdvantage.com for more information and to sign up.

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* Saturday, Dec. 25, Christmas Day

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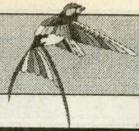
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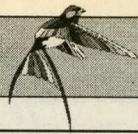
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Question: Two and a half years ago I met whom I thought was my soul mate and I married her. To make a long story short, she turned out to be a user and now I feel so unbelievably lost. She used me by using the old, "I am homosexual and I never want a man again." That was until she drained my bank account.

I had to report domestic violence on several occasions. Because I loved her, I thought something was wrong with me. Our marriage was dissolved via the church, and I got an order of protection from the court. What do you do when a con-artist plays the loving role?

Answer: Although I grieve with you in your loss, your story is not a unique one. Time and time again, I hear men and women, alike, describing how they feel they have been used, abused and left confused by people with whom they have "fallen in love."

Often times, these wounded souls go on to become involved in other relationships without first dissolving or healing the wounds from the previous relationship. Over time, these wounds become so infected and eventually erupt causing major impairment in one or more areas (i.e., mentally, emotionally, and sometimes physically) of their lives.

When this happens, people develop defense mechanisms to help cope with the stress and confusion of it all. Some avoid relationships altogether rather than risk getting "burned" again. Others continually seek out those

who are similar to a lost love, thus, repeating the pattern. Some turn to addictions (i.e., drugs, sex, alcohol and gambling to name a few) in order to meet the needs that aren't getting met.

In answering your question, "What do you do when a con-artist plays the loving role?" I will ask you a question, "What are your options?"

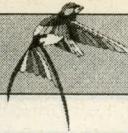
You can seek another relationship to meet your needs. You can avoid relationships altogether and continue to feel lonely and unloved. You can wallow in your sorrow and never get anywhere. I suggest that you pick yourself up, brush yourself off, and take a long look at yourself.

Determine what it is you are really seeking, and develop a personal recovery plan. Take some time to get to know yourself ... the REAL you. I would also suggest that you seek out a professional to assist in re-shaping some of your thought patterns, thus, increasing your self esteem.

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.

Honestly Ethel, by John D. Anderson





World AIDS Day scheduled for December 1

The theme for the 12th annual World AIDS Day, slated for Dec. 1, is "Children & Young People: Listen, Learn, Live." This theme reflects the fact that reaching out to children and young people is considered by many people to be the most promising strategy for reducing the spread of HIV worldwide.

World AIDS Day began in January 1988, at the World Summit of Ministers of Health on Programs for AIDS Prevention. A three-fold goal was established: to open channels of communication, strengthen the exchange of information and experience and forge a spirit of social tolerance. Each year, it is the only international day of coordinated action against AIDS.

In Memphis, you can celebrate World AIDS Day this year at several venues. On Wednesday, Dec. 1, at 7 p.m. Mt. Olive Cathedral CME Church, 538 Linden, will conduct a special service.

There will be an open house at Aloysius Commons, 35 North Claybrook, from 4 to 7 p.m. A candle-lighting ceremony will be held to remember those we've lost to AIDS. Aloysius Commons offers a "Shelter Plus Care" program for HIV-positive people and their families.

And the Memphis and Shelby County Health Department, 814 Jefferson Avenue, will be celebrating World AIDS

Day in a big way. On Dec. 1, from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m., Memphis Mayor Willie Herenton and Shelby County Mayor Jim Rout will sign a joint proclamation recognizing World AIDS Day. Additionally, crosses will be set up on the lawn to remember those who have died from AIDS. There will be a display in the health department lobby, a flag raising ceremony, and a Light of Hope awards presentation.

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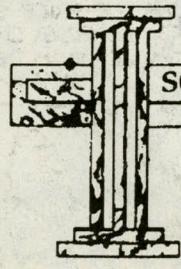
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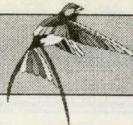


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Romeo, Romeo is typical of good theater at ETC

BY LAINE MCNEIL
STAFF WRITER

If you've never seen an Emerald Theatre Company production at Theatreworks, you've been missing out on one of the best entertainment venues the g/l/b/t community has to offer.

Recently *Family & Friends* attended a performance of the ETC production *Romeo, Romeo*, and we must say that it was one of the best plays we've seen anywhere, and yes, we have been to New York and seen Broadway shows.

Romeo, Romeo, an original play written by ETC Founder Den-Nickolas Smith, masterfully intertwines Shakespearean drama with murder, mystery and intrigue, all cast upon the backdrop of male homosexuality.

As the story unfolded, the audience stepped into the life of Dec (short for December), flawlessly portrayed by Smith, who appeared shy, nerdy and overshadowed by his mother (Lori Finta), whom we only knew as a voice on the phone. It didn't take long for the audience to realize that a semi-alcoholic Dec suffered from a few mental illnesses from being obsessive about neatness to brief psychotic episodes,

which he called "little earthquakes," usually brought on by memories of his father.

Kane, played by a competent Warren J. Cardinal, literally stumbles into Dec's life while Dec is waiting for his all-too-regular pizza delivery. From there, the two begin an almost abnormal relationship, one which takes so many twists and turns it certainly kept the audience's attention.

Brilliantly directed by ETC Co-Artistic Director Hal Harmon, it becomes apparent that one of the two men is the infamous Romeo, Romeo killer, a mad man who stalks, poisons and stabs gay men to death. At first, the audience is certain it is Kane who is the killer, but then too many things start to add up on Dec's side of the equation leading the audience to believe that Dec himself, in spite of his fear of the killer, is the murderer.

It isn't until the words, "I love you" are spoken that the true identity of the killer is revealed, catching the audience a bit off guard.

Romeo, Romeo is typical of the productions presented by ETC in that it is first-class theater presented in an intimate setting. No matter the show, audiences will always find the ETC shows entertaining.

The next production for will be *Boys in the Band* in March 2000.

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Loving Arms is about women, children

BY ANITA MOYT
MANAGING EDITOR

Sheila Tankersly has held many babies since founding Loving Arms in 1991. Today, Loving Arms serves more than 160 women and 200 children infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. But what makes Loving Arms different?

First, it is absent the clinical aura of many of the agencies these women deal with. Loving Arms' facility is a large Midtown home. It is beautiful, it is a "safe place" for the women to come and relax, it is a place offering many services that TennCare and insurance companies just wouldn't consider paying for.

One goal of Loving Arms is to help these women, or rather teach these women, to reach their fullest potential in living with HIV/AIDS. Loving Arms does this through education, personal growth and empowerment. The agency strives to provide services that will promote a healthy balance of body, mind and spirit.

Two weekly support groups let the women air their problems and concerns and help each other realize what power they do have within themselves.

One room of the facility is set aside for massage therapy and another room doubles as a guest room for overnight stays by clients and a nursery.

Vans run on a daily basis to take the clients to their medical and social services appointments. The vans also transport the women and children on recreational outings and even an occasional short out-of-town trip.

Tutors use another large room, equipped with two computers, a table and books, to help some of the children with their studies.

The massive kitchen doubles as a classroom as well where women attend nutritional and cooking classes.

Those clients that need it receive baby items and personal hygiene items, all of which are not covered by food stamps.



Loving Arms is all about helping women and children infected and affected with HIV/AIDS.



Nutrition, cooking skills taught at Loving Arms.

Loving Arms receives money from the Ryan White Fund, which is designated to maintain the vans and pay the salary of the drivers. Recently, they were awarded another grant from the Ryan White Fund that pays the salary of an administrative assistant. Otherwise, all the rest of the funds that operate this facility come from cash contributions and donations of goods and services.

Loving Arms receives referrals from St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Le Bonheur Children's Hospital, Methodist Central Hospital, Shelby County Health Department, Friends For Life and other service agencies.

Many volunteers are the arms that reach out to help so many. And many in our community have donated their talents, time and energy, not to mention money, to help Loving Arms reach out to so many. And that's how it works.

Playhouse to stage *Peter Pan*

Peter Pan takes the stage at Playhouse on the Square, 51 S. Cooper, now through Jan. 9.

Peter Pan is an experience of bumbling pirates, fairy dust and dreams of adventure. Music and dancing will take you into the world of a boy who just won't grow up.

Directed by Shorey Walker, this production features Leslie Lee Lansky and Lindsey Roberts in alternate roles of Peter Pan; Dave Landis is Captain Hook and Lisa McCormick is Wendy.

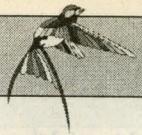
Showtimes are 7 p.m. on Dec. 3, 10, 17, and 21 and Jan 9. Showtimes are 2 p.m. on Dec. 4, 18, 21, 22 and 23, and Jan. 2, 8 and 9.

Ticket prices for adults are \$22 for Friday and Saturday performances and \$20 for Thursday and Sunday performances; ticket prices for students are \$10 for all shows.

Call the Playhouse on the Square Box Office at (901) 726-4656 for tickets or more information.



Leslie Lee Lansky and Dave Landis



Millennium March on Washington slated

Family & Friends received an inquiry from a reader about the Millennium March on Washington (MMOW) scheduled for April 30, 2000. Specifically we were asked if we knew anything about the problems the organizers were having with minorities.

Well, after much research, we are still not aware of any problems specific to minorities. According to MMOW, the board of directors consists of "community leaders from all across the country" who also hold positions in other political organizations including two Latino/a organizations. Duan Cramer, co-chair of MMOW, said, "... the board of directors of this march are now made up of 60 percent people of color, African-American, Native-American, Lantino/a and Asian-American, as well as 60 percent women."

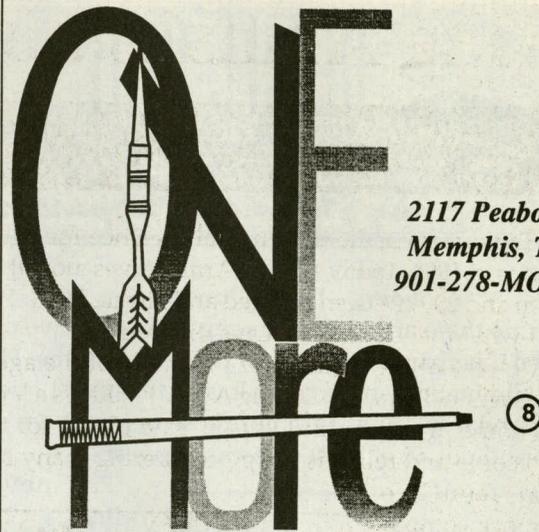
However, what we are aware of is that MMOW has been coated in controversy and division.

Actually, the press releases coming out of the offices of MMOW have not really addressed the march itself other than to say that two of the speakers at the rally (we understand there is no march per se) will be Kate Kendell, executive director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights, and Martina Navratilova, tennis champion, activist and author.

From a print ad in *the Advocate*, we found that to get the information you need to attend the rally you have to call (818) 891-1748 where you can leave your name and address or email address on a voice-mail system. Or you can request the information by email at MMOW2000@aol.com. Additionally, you can visit their website at www.mmow.org, a site maintained by PlanetOut, one of the primary sponsors of the event.

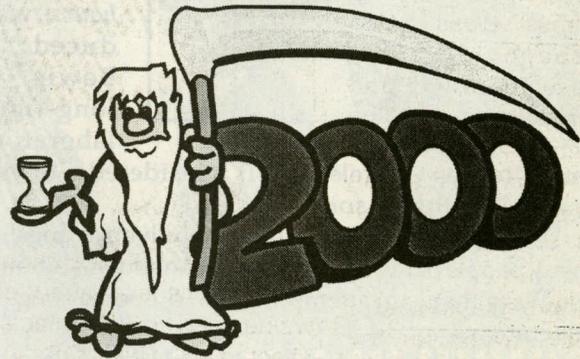


Tanesha Casadine, as seen here performing at Backstreet Memphis, won the Miss Clikque Memphis crown recently at N-Cognito.



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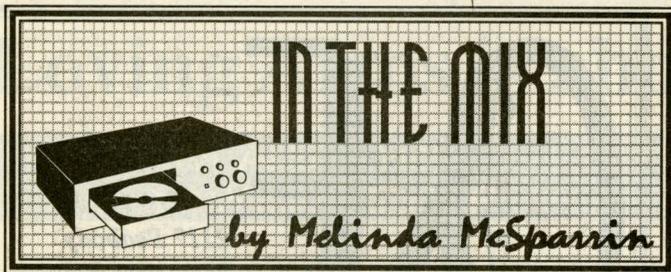
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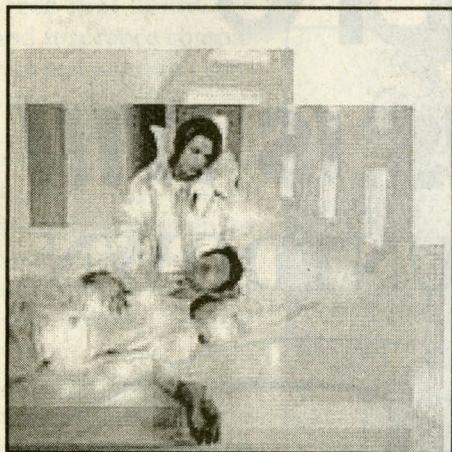
Dancing

PARTY!!



hours – David Bowie

I am sure there are readers among you who have often wondered if perhaps I only review those albums that I like, thereby eliminating artists and albums that don't live up to past standards or reviews. For those of you, I am sure that this will put all of those questions to rest.



The newest release by David Bowie, *hours*, (released Oct. 5), is an album that, in my opinion, should never have been recorded.

Bowie's 23rd solo album, *hours*, was produced by Bowie and long-time collaborator/guitarist Reeves Gabrels, and is considered a "next generation" of Bowie songs.

"I wanted to capture a kind of universal angst felt by many people of my age," Bowie said about his album. "You could say that I am attempting to write some songs for my generation."

I am not disputing Bowie's songwriting abilities, as this album does contain more thought-producing lyrics and more complex melodies than his past work. However, at times throughout this album, Bowie appears to have trouble even keeping his voice in the same key as the music.

I did manage to make it through the entire CD, although it was a huge disappointment. Maybe I was expecting too much from the artist that achieved huge success in the '70s and '80s. Maybe I was expecting to turn on my stereo and be rewarded with songs like "Fame," "Let's Dance" and "China Girl."

In short, maybe I was expecting too much. With all of the hype surrounding this CD's release, the download capability, the cyber-song contest, the ability of the fans to vote on specific releases of the album's lead track and first release "Thursday's Child," it wasn't difficult to have high expectations.

If I had to pick one thing that I did like about the CD, it would have to be the actual music. If Bowie wasn't singing on this CD, it would be a good one. If you are a tried and true Bowie fan who has every single one of his albums in your collection, then I am sure you will buy this one as well. If you aren't really a fan, but liked his earlier work, I would recommend that you listen to this CD on-line before spending money on it.

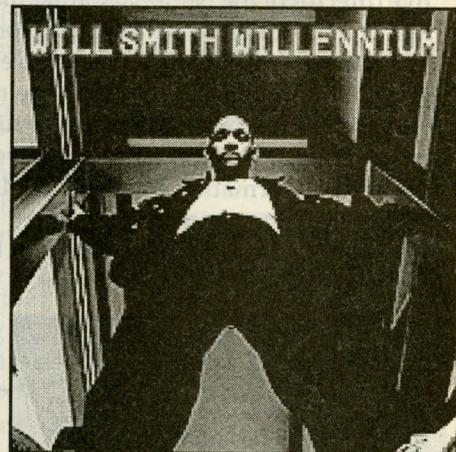
Willennium – Will Smith

Will Smith is back in a big way with his latest release *Willennium* on Columbia records. *Willennium* is the anxiously-awaited follow-up to *Big Willie Style*, Smith's six-time platinum debut solo album on Columbia records. *Big Willie Style* spent 96 weeks on the *Billboard* 200 Best-Selling Albums charts with 72 of those weeks in the Top 40. The album generated several hits including "Just The Two Of Us," "Men In Black," "Miami," and "Gettin' Jiggy Wit It," which became the No. 1 pop and No. 1 rap single in the U.S. Driven by tracks like "Wild Wild West" and the millennium party anthem, "Will 2K," *Willennium* promises to echo the success of its predecessor.

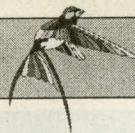
I don't particularly care for rap music. Or should I say MOST rap music. There are a few rap artists that I do like and Will Smith is one of them. His approach to rap is fresh and enjoyable, not like some of the "Gangsta" rappers who sometimes sound like they have a mouth full of oatmeal and are hard to understand.

Most rap artists sample music from other artists, a fact that has annoyed me to no end. Will Smith is one of those artists, however, his use of samples is almost poetic. One of the samples used on this album is "Rock The Casbah" by the Clash, which is featured on the set's first single, "Will 2K." Other samples of note that are interspersed throughout the album are Diana Ross' "Love Hangover," L.T.D.'s "(Every Time I Turn Around) Back In Love Again," A Taste Of Honey's "Sukiyaki," Peter Brown's "Do Ya Wanna Get Funky With Me," Tito Puente's "Mambo Con Puente," Michael Jackson's "Working Day And Night" and Deniece Williams' "I Believe In Miracles."

This album is a good one. It contains messages for everyone and is a reflection of a fine artist. I predict that this



See In The Mix, page 25



In The Mix

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album will, at the very least, do as good as *Big Willie Style*, and will perhaps surpass the success he had with that album. What a way to usher in the new Millennium, or should I say *Willennium*.

Billboard's Hot 100 (top 10) as of week ending November 20, 1999

- No. 1 - "Smooth" - Santana Featuring Rob Thomas
- No. 2 - "Back At One (*)" - Brian McKnight
- No. 3 - "Mambo No. 5 (A Little Bit Of...)" - Lou Bega
- No. 4 - "I Need To Know" - Marc Anthony
- No. 5 - "Heartbreaker" - Mariah Carey featuring Jay-Z
- No. 6 - "Satisfy You" - Puff Daddy featuring R. Kelly
- No. 7 - "Unpretty" - TLC
- No. 8 - "My Love Is Your Love" - Whitney Houston
- No. 9 - "I Wanna Love You Forever" - Jessica Simpson
- No. 10 - "Steal My Sunshine" - Len

Billboard's Top 10 Dance Tracks as of week ending November 20, 1999

- No. 1 - "Sun Is Shining" - Bob Marley Vs. Funkstar De Luxe
- No. 2 - "Waiting For The Sun" - Ruff Driverz
- No. 3 - "Love Is The Healer" - Donna Summer
- No. 4 - "Better Than Me" - Terry Dexter
- No. 5 - "Was That All It Was" - Hannah Jones
- No. 6 - "New York City Boy" - Pet Shop Boys
- No. 7 - "That's The Way Love Is" - Byron Stingily
- No. 8 - "Rendez-Vu" - Basement Jaxx
- No. 9 - "Keep The Party Jumpin'" - Jeanie Tracy
- No. 10 - "Make It Right" - Christian Falk featuring Demetreus

Melinda McSparrin has been a DJ for the past 18 years. She has worked as the original DJ at the Pendulum and most recently WKRB.

IN THE MIX
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GOLD STRIKE CASINO RESORT PRESENTS

GEORGE WALLACE
THE ULTIMATE FUNNYMAN BRINGS DOWN THE HOUSE

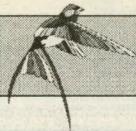
SATURDAY, DEC. 11 AT 9PM

IN THE MILLENNIUM THEATRE • GENERAL ADMISSION TICKETS \$25
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT ANY TICKETMASTER OUTLET OR CALL 1 888 24K-PLAY.



GOLD STRIKE
CASINO RESORT

FM100



Local HIV/AIDS group taking nominations

The Memphis and Shelby County Health Department is seeking nominations to fill vacancies on the Shelby County Regional Advisory HIV Prevention Planning Group.

This group is responsible for (1) assessing the needs of the Memphis and Shelby County community by identifying HIV/AIDS infected High Morbidity Populations (HMPs) and geographical High Morbidity Areas (HMAs); (2) determining the impact that such prevalence has on community resources; (3) determining the quality and quantity of existing resources; and (4) making recommendations to the Tennessee Community Planning Group (TCPG). TCPG is responsible for writing an HIV prevention plan for Tennessee to address the state's un-met HIV/AIDS needs.

Persons may nominate themselves or be nominated by someone else for a two-year term. Nominations must be received by Monday, Dec. 6. A program overview and get-acquainted reception is scheduled for all current members and new nominees on Monday, Dec. 13. Individuals selected to serve will be notified by Friday, Jan. 7. HIV positive persons are encouraged to apply, as well as applicants with community involvement and experience.

To obtain a nomination form or for additional information, contact Delois Bolden, HIV/AIDS education coordinator, at (901) 544-7701.

**Need someone
to talk to?**

M.A.G.Y.

Memphis Area Gay Youth

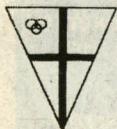
**Peer support
& discussion group**

(901) 335-MAGY



*The Star Still Shines Brightly In The Night—
Will You Rise Up And Follow?
There Is Room At The Manger
For You After All.*

Emmanuel—God Is With Us!

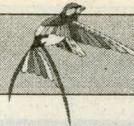


Holy Trinity Community Church
3430 Summer Ave.
320-9376

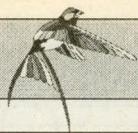
Sunday: 11:00 a.m. Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.

December Events

- 1-*Preparing for the Millenium*. 4-week Wednesday series. 7:00 p.m.
- 5-Advent Party, 7:00 p.m. Bring snacks to share.
- 12-Very Merry Christmas Concert with Mike Scruggs, 7:00 p.m.
- 19-Annual Christmas Dinner, 7:00 p.m. Bring a dish to share.
- 24-Fellowship & Carols, 10:00 p.m.; Candlelight Service, 11:00 p.m.
- 26-Lessons and Carols, 11:00 a.m.



Congratulations!
Love, Terry



Family Album ... Loving Arms Benefit



Alexis Von Furstenburg

Recently, Backstreet Memphis and *Family & Friends Magazine* co-sponsored a benefit show for Loving Arms and "Sheila's Kids." These are pictures from that show. On Thursday, Dec. 9, Backstreet and F&F will again host a benefit show for Loving Arms. The show begins at 10:30 p.m. and the cover is either \$3 or a new toy, both of which will go to buy toys for "Sheila's Kids" this holiday season.

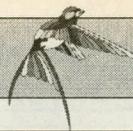


Tu Real

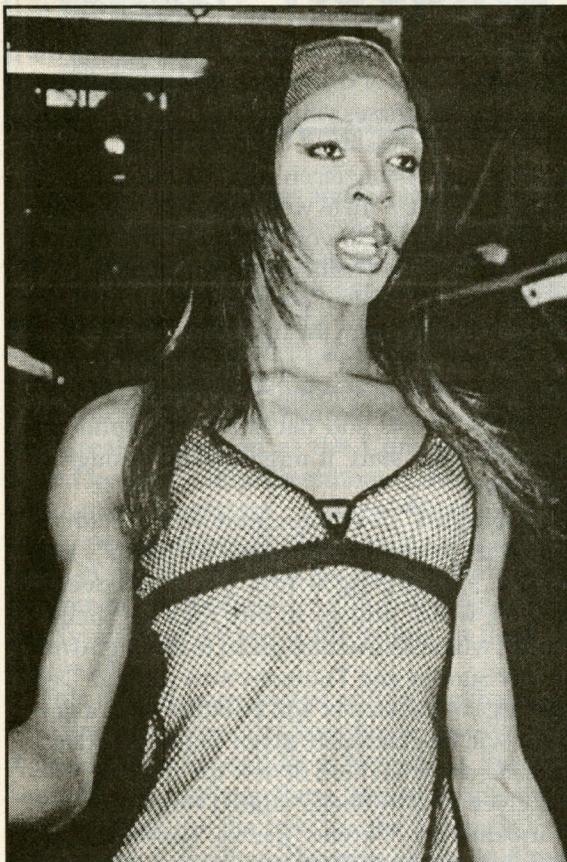


Miss JoAnn

PICTURE YOURSELF HERE!!!!
We want Thursday, Dec. 9, at Backstreet Memphis to be a night to end all nights. The more Queens, Impersonators and performers, the more money we raise for "Sheila's Kids." If you're interested in performing in the benefit show (remember, all tips will go to Loving Arms), call us at F&F, (901) 682-2669.



Family Album ... Loving Arms Benefit



Monica San Angelo



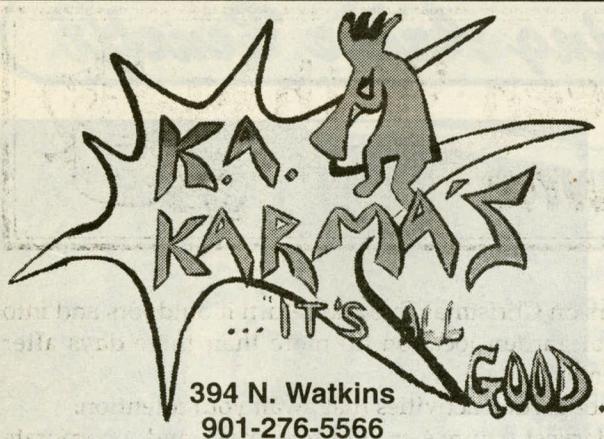
Tanesha Casadine



Beverly Hills



Uvonda Vice



394 N. Watkins
901-276-5566

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WE NOW DELIVER FOOD!
Wed.-Fri., 11:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.

(Limited Delivery Area)

Karaoke Every Thursday!
LIVE MUSIC

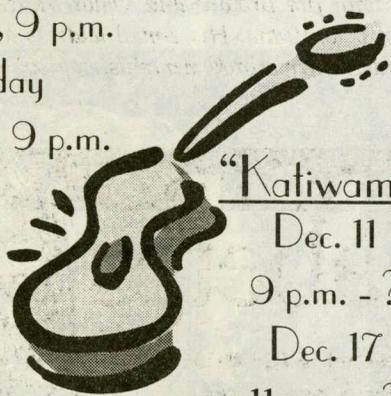
"Sierra Tango"

Friday

Dec. 10, 9 p.m.

Friday

Dec. 17, 9 p.m.



"Katiwampus"

Dec. 11

9 p.m. - ?

Dec. 17

11 p.m. - ?

"Undecided"

Dec. 4, 8 p.m. - ?

Dec. 18, 8 p.m. - ?

COMING IN JANUARY

A surprise all the way from Los Angeles, Calif.
Stay tuned for details

Point Is

from page 4

days. Instead, Sheila's vision is that each and every one of these bright-eyed children whose faces beam with wide smiles have the same kind of Christmas as other children.

Think about the Christmases you had as a child. Did you only get one present for Christmas? Chances are the answer is, "No." Instead, you probably received a few nice gifts lovingly left by Santa, and then there were even more presents, lovingly wrapped and given to you by family and friends. This is the kind of Christmas Sheila wants her children to experience, and they can, but only if every one of us opens up our hearts and gets in touch with the true spirit of Christmas.

Aphrodite recently has, just as in year's past, held its Christmas show to raise money to buy toys for Sheila's kids. But we at *Family & Friends* and Backstreet Memphis felt that while it was a great start, it might not be enough to fulfill Sheila's vision.

Backstreet Memphis, in conjunction with *Family & Friends*, will hold its second benefit show for Sheila's kids on Thursday, Dec. 9, beginning at 10:30 p.m. The cover to get in is either \$3, which will go to buy toys for Sheila's kids, or a new toy, which also will be given to Loving Arms. In addition, every Sunday and Thursday now through Dec. 20, the cover charge at Backstreet will be either \$3 or a new toy, all of which will be graciously given to Loving Arms.

If you're at a loss for what kind of new toy to bring, here are a few ideas given to us by Sheila: stuffed animals, Beanie Babies, African-American Barbies, games, remote control cars, Tonka trucks, Matchbox/Hot Wheels cars, footballs, basketballs, volleyballs, Legos, art sets, jewelry making kits, books, radios, tape players and hand-held games.

In addition to the benefit shows and cover charge alternatives, you can purchase a paper Christmas tree at Backstreet Memphis for just \$1. You can put your name on this tree and it will be hung up at Backstreet for all to see.

For those of you who do not get out to the bars or benefit shows, you can always make a donation to Loving Arms by calling Sheila at (901) 725-6730.

Finally, *Family & Friends* wants to issue a challenge to all g/l/b/t-owned or operated businesses in the Mid-South ... donate as much as you can to these two worth-while organizations because, our point is, 'tis the season to give to those less fortunate.

Friends For Life Food Pantry Wish List

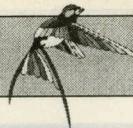
Toilet Tissue • Paper Towels

Razor Blades • Shaving Cream

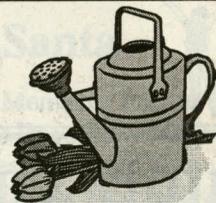
Toothpaste • Toothbrushes • Bar Soap

Drop off at Friends For Life, 1384 Madison Ave.

For more information, call (901) 272-0855



Keeping It Green With Jim Browne



I can be fanatical. Trees and shrubs that I add to my garden are treated well from the point of purchase. When using an open bed truck, I stay off the interstate and follow back roads to my home. The not-too-happy motorists trailing behind me wonder why this green mass of stems and leaves is only going 20 to 30 miles per hour. Answer: To protect my investment from desiccation (drying out).

In April 1987, the palm trees destined for the Rameses the Great exhibition at the Convention Center were stored in commercial greenhouses in the east Memphis/Germantown area for 10 days. When installation day came, nearly every flat-bed trailer and large open bed truck in the city fleet hauled our tropical cargo in a long quarter-mile procession. At 20 miles per hour, it took us nearly an hour to move the palms to their downtown destination.

This month many of you will be purchasing live or cut Christmas trees to adorn your home. These trees have been in transit since the middle of November. Every precaution has been taken to keep these trees as supple with moisture as is possible. At the tree lot, the sap-sealed tree base is often re-cut to facilitate the trees ability to draw moisture into its trunk when you get home. The trees are often times netted at the nursery to reduce the surface area, thereby reducing water loss through its tissue. They are placed on top of your car with the trunk facing forward, again to reduce desiccation.

Unfortunately, some of us then drive home at 70 miles per hour and the damage is done. The brisk winds across the needled evergreen dries out the Christmas Tree. In the house, the forced-air heating system makes the tree dry, brittle and, potentially, a fire hazard.

After making your way home slowly with your cut holiday tree, place it outdoors in a bucket or wash tub of fresh water. Keep it out of direct sunlight and on the cool side of the house. Wetting it down with the garden hose wouldn't hurt either. Do not move it indoors until just before Christmas. Once inside, either reduce heat in the house, close heating vents in the room or, at the least, make sure that there is no direct heat on the tree.

For live Christmas trees, look around the neighborhood. Are there any Douglas or Noble Firs growing in the area? No! Perhaps they can't handle the heat of the summertime in Memphis. Then don't expect one to make it outdoors in your Memphis garden. If available, try the Deodora Cedar or the familiar red cedar. With live Christmas trees, move it

indoors on Christmas Eve and return it outdoors and into its final garden location no more than three days after Christmas.

Other garden activities that await your attention:

- Harvest nature's crop of tree leaves and incorporate them into your compost pile.
- Repot Amaryllis into fresh potting soil and begin to water early in month. Provide bottom heat, if possible. They should be blooming for the holidays.
- Keep Poinsettias out of drafts. Do not allow water to stand in the saucers under their pots.
- Give gift memberships as a holiday remembrance to your special friends from the Zoo, the Pink Palace, Children's Museum or the Memphis Botanic Garden.

After the holidays, donate your Christmas tree to Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park. For more information, call (901) 876-5215.

Jim Browne, Director of Public Relations for the Memphis Botanic Garden, writes the "Gardener's Checklist" for the Commercial Appeal's Home and Garden section. He co-hosts "In the Garden with Jim Browne and Vador Vance" on AM 600 WREC from 8 to 10 am. His e-mail address at the Memphis Botanic Garden is jamerbro@memphis.magibox.net

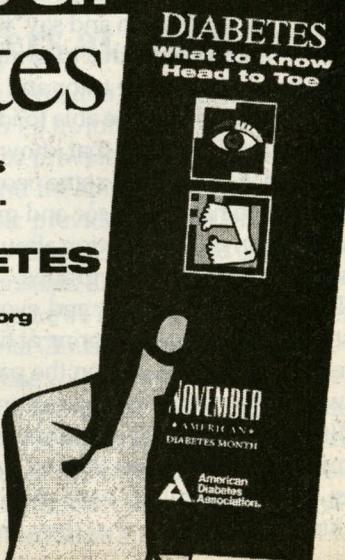
**Get a Grip on
Diabetes**

Start with this
free brochure.

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1-800-342-2383
<http://www.diabetes.org>

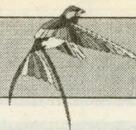
a program of
**American
Diabetes
Association.**

DIABETES
What to Know
Head to Toe



NOVEMBER
• AMERICAN •
DIABETES MONTH

**American
Diabetes
Association.**



Parents-R-US



Tutors can help even the brightest students

When homework and tests lay heavy on the minds of students of all ages, they spend countless hours studying and trying to grasp any number of difficult concepts. Some of those students may run into trouble, and when they do, tutoring may be a solution.

"Tutoring can help students confirm what they already know, figure out what they don't know or misunderstand, and learn and understand new information," said Ardessa Minor, director of the Office of Student Disability Services at The University of Mississippi.

"If a student knows the information but feels unsure, a little tutoring can reaffirm that they really understand it," Minor said.

"Tutoring also can help a student learn to edit homework or look for mistakes," she said. "Students can be shown how to develop the skills they have and enhance them through editing."

Tutoring is most widely used, however, to teach new information and make it more understandable.

"By definition, tutoring means the reteaching, reviewing and reevaluation of information," Minor said. "Tutoring comes mostly for the purpose of enhancing an individual's knowledge of information and specific learning styles and skills."

According to Minor, tutoring is not just sitting down and showing a student how to work a problem. It's also helping the tutee understand why a problem is worked the way it is and what other problems are worked in that manner. "An effective tutor," she said, "will teach a student independent thinking skills and how to apply information when the tutor is not there to help.

"Many students go in and say 'work my problem or write my paper' and consider that tutoring, but you must have communication between the tutor and the tutee," Minor continued. "The tutor should be able to identify the tutee's particular learning style and use that knowledge to help that student understand. For example, some people are visual learners and need an aid to help them see and grasp a concept."

A common misconception about tutoring is that it is only for students making low grades.

"Tutoring is for anyone and everyone," Minor said. "The A+ student might need tutoring at times just as much as the D student. Tutoring is based on the particular need of a student and where they think the gaps are in their understanding."

Minor suggests that students may need tutoring if they are missing information in class, feel unsure about certain areas, don't test well or have difficulty taking good notes.

If students perceive that they are not "good" in a subject

based on their own skills, they may need a tutor to help them comprehend the information and apply it.

"Many students go into a classroom and understand what is being said, but when it comes test time, they have trouble identifying with the information," said Minor. "It depends on the complexity of the information."

Tutoring works best when students learn not only new ways to learn information but also how to "undo" their old ways of learning. "Many students think memorization is the best way to learn things, but it may work for some subjects and not others. We often have to teach them to stop doing things the old way and try a different learning style," Minor said.

"Because children haven't yet learned to do things the 'wrong' way, the best time for parents to consider using a tutor may be when their children are young," she said. At that time, they can be taught several ways to learn information, then choose which style fits them the best.

"Tutoring not only enhances the knowledge and application of information but also the education process itself, because students feel good about themselves," Minor said. Good grades, high self-esteem, independence and new ways of learning information are just a few of the many benefits that can come from using a tutor at all ages.

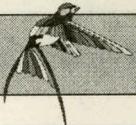
Parents wondering if a child would benefit by assistance from a tutor should watch for several signs:

- Poor study habits – If a student doesn't want to study or do homework, a tutor might be able to help develop better study habits or introduce a new learning style.

- Poor attitude – If a child doesn't have anything positive to say about school or is unhappy about a class because he or she is not doing well, parents might consider obtaining some form of support. "Chances are that if a student is not doing well in the classroom, he or she is not going to be a happy person, because that is where he or she gets a chance to shine," Minor said.

- Poor performance – Poor report cards, low test grades and parent/teacher conferences also are signs that assistance is needed to help a student reach his or her academic potential. "Parents often can look at a child's work and know that it is not the quality it should be," said Minor. "They should be able to recognize the signs that something is wrong and get their child some help."

Tutoring programs are available in many communities, from the college campus down to the elementary level. Check with local schools and community organizations to determine what is available in your area.



FOR YOUR KIDS

Kids to look at solar system

The Sharpe Planetarium at the Memphis Pink Palace Museum, 3050 Central Ave., invites children, ages three to eight, to visit during December. "Sol and Company" is an entertaining look at the Solar system as visitors are led by "Sol" (a cartoon character of the Sun) and his sidekick, "Astro," through a tour of the planets. Showtimes now through Dec. 18, are Saturdays only at 10:30 a.m., and showtimes for Dec. 26 to 31 are Monday to Saturday at 10:30 a.m. Admission is \$3.50 for adults and \$3 for seniors and children. For information, call (901) 320-6362.

Caterpillar Club to recycle

The Caterpillar Club, for ages five and under, will teach about "Trash to Treasures - Holiday Style" on Tuesday, Dec. 14, 10 to 11 a.m. and again on Wednesday, Dec. 15, from 11 a.m. to noon. Kids learn about a "green" Christmas as they make gift-wrap, cards, ornaments and presents.

Cost is \$4 per session (MBG members: \$3; Caterpillar Club members: free)

Enrollment is limited and pre-registration is requested. Call (901) 685-1566, extensions 102, 110 or 116 to register. The Caterpillar Club is held at Memphis Botanic Gardens located in Audubon Park.

Kids can cook holiday treats

The Children's Museum of Memphis, 2525 Central Avenue, invites kids age four to 12 to "Yummy Holiday Treats," a cooking class on Saturday, Dec. 11, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. As children discover how to cook, they learn math skills, use all their senses and appreciate new foods.

They will decorate holiday cookies with caterer Mary Ellen Varnell and then decorate chef hats while their creations cook. An adult companion will need to accompany the child. Cost is \$10 for one adult-child pair. Advance reservations are required. For more information call (901) 458-2678.

Have breakfast with Santa

Enjoy Breakfast with Santa at the Memphis Zoo on Saturdays Dec. 11 and 18, and Thursday, Dec. 23. Old St. Nick will make early-morning appearances at 8 and 9:30 a.m. as children and their parents have breakfast and visit with Santa. Cost is \$15 (\$10 for members). For more information, please call (901) 725-3409.

Letters to Santa to be taken

Children of all ages can send a letter to Santa and participate in a craft program at the Germantown branch of the Memphis & Shelby County Libraries, 1925 Exeter, on Saturday, Dec. 4, at 10:30 a.m. For more information, call (901) 754-3702.

Celebrate Kwanzaa at library

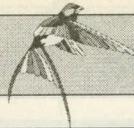
All ages are invited to celebrate Kwanzaa with songs, stories and history at the Parkway Village Branch of the Memphis & Shelby County Libraries, 4655 Knight Arnold Road, on Saturday, Dec. 11, at 11 a.m. Call (901) 363-8923 for more information. A second chance to celebrate Kwanzaa will be on Thursday, Dec. 30, at the Gaston Park Branch, 1040 South Third. Children and young adults are invited to hear Master Storyteller Isha Echols. Call (901) 942-0836 for more information.

McGruff to visit storytime

McGruff the Crime Dog will be the special guest at the storytime for ages three to five at the Highland Branch of the Memphis & Shelby County Libraries, 460 South Highland, on Wednesday, Dec. 15, at 11 a.m. Call (901) 452-7341 for more information.

Holiday characters at Orpheum

All children and adults are invited to The Orpheum Saturday on Dec. 11, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for a free event. Refreshments and face painting will be provided by holiday elves in the lobby of The Orpheum and the spirit of the holiday season will be felt through music provided by the Mississippi Boulevard Christian Academy Choir. Carolers and characters from Theatre Memphis' *A Christmas Carol*, as well as characters from Playhouse on the Square's *Peter Pan* will be present to share in the merriment. Santa Claus promises a special appearance and at 11 a.m. everyone will retire to view the showing of the classic holiday film, *Miracle on 34th Street*. While there is no charge for admission to this event, tickets (limit six per family) must be picked up at the Orpheum Theatre Box Office before Saturday, Dec. 11, to ensure admittance. All children must be accompanied by an adult.



Family Album ... One More



Jennifer and Tom



Kay and Carry



Betty



Ben and Jenny



Karen and Carry



Rick



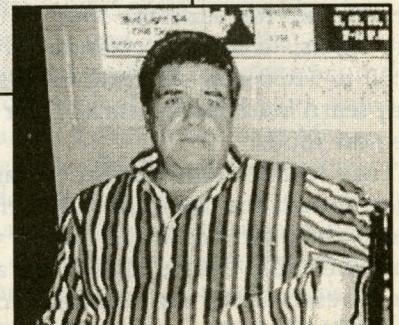
Ann and Jan



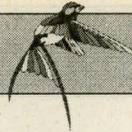
Carol and Myra



Debbie and Patty



Tracy



Women to be surveyed

The Women in Memphis Development Center, through a grant from the Women's Foundation for a Greater Memphis, is compiling the first-ever database of women-owned businesses in Memphis and Shelby County.

A woman-owned business is defined as a business that is 51% owned and controlled by a woman or a group of women.

The database research is being conducted by Delta Consulting Group Inc. who will be conducting telephone interviews during the next three months.

The database, which is scheduled for use by spring of year 2000, will be housed at the Women In Business Development Center, a non-profit economic development agency that specializes in providing technical assistance to women in business and entrepreneurs. The survey is being conducted to gather accurate information on the state of women-owned businesses in this area. The results of the research will be used by these agencies to help foster economic opportunity and entrepreneurship among women.

For more information on how to be included in the survey, call the Women In Business Development Center at (901) 374-0396 or Delta Consulting Group Inc. at (901) 525-0552.

THEATRE MEMPHIS



A Christmas Carol

DECEMBER 2-23

FOR TICKETS CALL 682-8323

Seessel's
BY ALBERTSON'S

American Tuxedo



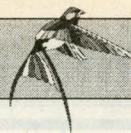
- Free Groom's Tuxedo Program
- Over 100 Styles Available
- 30% Off Wedding Invitations
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- Best Place in Town ... Guaranteed!

4730 Riverdale
(across from Wal-Mart)

901-753-8897

4722 Poplar Avenue
(next to Bronx Bagel Bar)

901-761-2848



Ask the CIS

How important are yearly mammograms?

Q: My daughter says I should have a mammogram every year. How important is this test?

A: A mammogram - an x-ray of the breast - is the best way to find breast cancer early, when it is easiest to treat. Studies show that having regular mammograms reduces breast cancer deaths among women between the ages of 50 and 69 by about 30 percent. For women in their 40s, there is recent evidence that having regular mammograms reduces the chances of dying from breast cancer by about 17 percent.

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) recommends that women in their 40s should have a mammogram every one to two years. Women who are at a higher risk for the disease should talk with their doctor about how often to have mammograms.

Women can get mammograms in breast clinics, hospitals, mobile mammography vans and doctors' offices. All mammography facilities are required to display a U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) certificate showing they meet strict guidelines regarding equipment, staff and

recordkeeping.

Mammograms generally cost between \$50 and \$150. Most states require insurance companies to pay for all or part of the test. Medicare also helps pay for annual mammograms.

For information on free and low-cost mammograms and on FDA-certified mammography facilities in your area, call the NCI's Cancer Information Service toll-free at (800) 4-CANCER.

Ask the CIS is distributed 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 toll-free at (800) 4-CANCER between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. local time.

Women's Health Center offers mammograms

While recently our nation set aside a special month in which to raise awareness for breast cancer, Memphis Pride Inc. wants to remind everyone that this is a year-round issue.

The gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community, and indeed the entire community at large, has lost more than its fair share of women to this disease.

Early detection is the key to survival and getting yearly mammograms is an important part of detection.

While beginning the planning process for its Wellness HealthFair 2000, which is tentatively scheduled for April 2000, MPI learned about the Women's Health Center and its mobile mammography unit program.

Throughout the year, the unit visits local businesses and organizations throughout the Mid-South, making the process of getting a mammogram more convenient for area women.

The mobile mammography unit is an integral part of an outreach program that provides screening mammograms, follow-up care and breast cancer education for women in the Mid-South.

"We want to be all over town and reach those women who want and need a mammogram," said Kelley Moore, spokesperson for the center's Mobile Mammography unit.

Those wishing to utilize the services offered by the mobile mammography unit must have an appointment. The cost of the breast cancer screening is \$75. For appointments, please call the corresponding phone number listed below.

The unit will make the following stops:

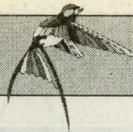
Dec. 7: Baptist Medical Center, (901) 226-5907; Dec. 13: BMH Minor Med in Collierville, (901) 226-5907, and Dec. 28: DeSoto Family Medical Center, (662) 895-4949.

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You need more than a degree to get a job

When is a college education more than an academic degree? That question takes on real meaning in the job market when graduates of colleges and universities learn that getting ahead takes more than an impressive grade-point average.

"Students should understand early in their college careers that employers hire individuals and not just majors," said Susan Massing, academic advisor at The University of Mississippi's Academic Support Center.

A well-rounded "invisible curriculum" - in addition to a degree and good grades - may give one college graduate the edge over another.

The Center has published a new "Academic Advisor Handbook," which not only includes specific information about the academic curriculum but also general information regarding extracurricular activities - or the invisible curriculum. The handbook, which can be accessed at the Internet address <http://www.olemiss.edu/depts/asc/>, includes information to help explain the importance of adding extra value to a college career, such as the following:

- A strong component of the invisible curriculum is community volunteer work. "Volunteering adds so much to a resume, as well as offers insights into careers," Massing said. "You would be amazed at what you are allowed to do as a volunteer. It demonstrates a person's work ethic and offers rich social and technical experiences that are highly valued by employers."

- Specific experiences make a resume stronger and more

individualized. Whether as a volunteer or part-time jobber, you can gain valued experience in budget management, counseling and interviewing, graphic design, writing, event planning and coordination, public speaking, research and sales.

- On the academic side, as well, students can go beyond what is required. Get involved in classroom projects, departmental functions and clubs. As you progress within your major, take independent study courses, serve internships and participate in research projects.

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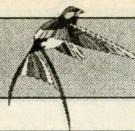
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ABOUT TOWN



Sharpe plans holiday show

A fun holiday treat for all, the "Holiday Laser Spectacular" in the Sharpe Planetarium features fanciful laser images dancing on the star-filled dome to traditional holiday music. Admission is \$3.50 for adults and \$3.00 for seniors and children (age three to 12). Showtimes on Friday, Dec. 3, 10 and 17, is 7 p.m. and Dec. 31, both 3 and 7 p.m. Showtimes on Saturdays are 3 and 7 p.m. and on Sundays, at 3 p.m. only. Additionally, "Holiday Laser Spectacular" will be shown Monday through Thursday, Dec. 27 to 30, at 3 p.m. The Sharpe Planetarium is located in the Memphis Pink Palace Museum, 3050 Central Avenue. Call (901) 320-6333 for information or (901) 320-6362 for tickets.

Enjoy old-fashioned Christmas

Enjoy an old-fashioned Christmas now through Dec. 31 in old-world style at the Magevney House holiday exhibit, "A Candle at the Window: Christmas at the Magevneys." Magevney House, located at 198 Adams Avenue, is specially decorated for the holidays as the Magevney family might have done for an 1850s Christmas. Displays of clothing and toys of the period add to the visitor's sense of the season a century and a half ago. Admission is free. Hours are Tuesday to Fridays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tours are offered every 30 minutes. For more information, call (901) 523-1484.

Workshop set at Pink Palace

On Saturday, Dec. 4, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Memphis Pink Palace Museum, 3050 Central Avenue, Museum curator Edna Bomar will hold a workshop on how to take care of your treasured textiles and clothing using museum pieces as examples. Participants will get a special tour of the Pink Palace's Historic Textiles and Conservation Lab and lots of handouts to help with ideas on caring for and preserving textiles at home. The cost of this workshop is \$12 (\$10 for members) and registration is required. For information and registration, please call (901) 320-6362.

Book group schedules meeting

On Dec. 7, the Integrity Book Group will meet to discuss John Boswell's *Same Sex Unions in Premodern Europe*. The discussion group meets monthly at a member's home. Copies of the present month's book can be purchased at a 15 percent discount at Davis-Kidd Booksellers. For more information contact jonathantn@aol.com.

Learn to make holiday wreaths

The Lichterman Nature Center, 1680 Lynnfield Road, invites you to learn to make your own holiday decor from fresh greenery and berries on Saturday, Dec. 11 from 1 to 3 p.m. Make a holiday door wreath using materials provided by the Nature Center. Bring your own clippers and gloves and any extra decorative items to add to the wreath. The cost is \$30 per person (\$25 for Museum System members) and reservations are required by Tuesday, Dec. 7. For reservations or more information, call (901) 767-7322.

Free admission to Brooks

The Memphis Brooks Museum of Art will offer free admission Wednesday, Dec. 1, as well as on the first Wednesday of every month from 5 to 8 p.m. Entertainment is provided. Call (901) 722-3500 for more information.

Integrity plans meeting

Integrity-Memphis welcomes members, friends and guests to the monthly meeting on Dec. 21. This special holiday meeting will include a brief worship service led by Rev. Doug Bailey. After dinner Rev. Bailey will speak on the topic, "Sexual Identification as a Gift From God." Dinner is free to first-time guests. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. at Calvary Episcopal Church, 102 North Second Street.

OM to present Christmas carols

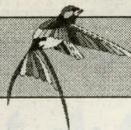
Opera Memphis will present a program of Christmas carols on Wednesday, Dec. 15, at 3 p.m. at the Gaston Park Branch of the Memphis & Shelby County Libraries, 1040 South Third. For more information, call (901) 942-0836.

TM to stage *Lord of the Dance*

Michael Flatley's *Lord of the Dance* will be at The Orpheum Theatre, 203 South Main, on Friday, Dec. 10, for two shows at 3 and 7:30 p.m. Tickets range from \$35 to \$45 (plus applicable service charges). Charge by phone at (901) 743-ARTS.

Carol Plunk to perform

Carol Plunk will sing her songs at The Flying Saucer, 130 Peabody Place, on Dec. 3 and 18, 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m., and at One More, 2117 Peabody Avenue, Dec. 5, from 6 to 8 p.m. and Dec. 12, from 5 to 7 p.m.



Cafe Society offers elegant, casual dining

Looking for a great place to eat in Midtown? Well, look no further than Cafe Society, located at 212 North Evergreen.

Billed as "elegant dining in a casual atmosphere," Cafe Society offers a wide variety of scrumptious soups and salads, as well as mouth-watering entrees.

Guests at Cafe Society can start their meal off right with a choice of three soups, seafood bisque, French onion or the soup du jour. If a salad is more to your liking, there are three of those to choose from. The salad offerings include a house salad, herb-crusted shrimp over bibb lettuce with a lemon vinaigrette or mixed greens with roasted red peppers, walnuts, goat cheese and a bacon vinaigrette.

The entrees listing at Cafe Society includes a daily special and a daily pizza special, both of which are the chef's choice for the day and are created using the freshest ingredients available.

In addition to daily specials, Cafe Society also offers a wide variety of entrees, sure to please even the most discriminating tastes. Entree selections include sauteed ruby red trout with a lobster ragout; cannelloni pasta filled with spinach, ground beef, ricotta and parmesan cheese and baked in bechamel and marinara sauce; smoked salmon crepe with a green tomato cream sauce; prosciutto and chicken pasta with artichokes, peas and tomatoes in a white wine tarragon butter sauce; parmesan-crusted chicken served with a pesto sauce; grilled salmon fillet with a mini aioli, and sauteed pork medallions, which are served with a banana and mango chutney and grilled pineapples.

If these entrees aren't enough to get your taste buds watering, the entree selections continue with pistachio-crusted sea bass with a tomato vinaigrette; walnut and brown sugar-crusted grouper served on a bed of julienne vegetables with a balsamic vinaigrette reduction; crusted

salmon with sesame and poppy seed crust and shrimp biscayne; braised lamb shank with a pear brandy and walnut glaze; canard a l'airelles rouge,

grilled duck breast with rosemary and sun-dried cranberry sauce; sauteed chicken breast with sherry, fresh thyme and lemon; beef and cabbage stuffed gyozas with a smoked corn salsa and sweet and sour sauce; sauteed veal tenderloin with mushrooms and scallions in a cognac cream sauce; veal piccata, veal scallopini sauteed with white wine, lemon, butter and capers; veal gorgonzola, escalopes of veal sauteed with artichoke hearts, red peppers and gorgonzola cream; grilled veal medallions with a pomegranate and tangerine mole' sauce; filet of beef with a choice of bearnaise or cognac sauce, or stuffed with bleu cheese with a mushroom sauce; paella, mussels, shrimp, chicken and andouille sausage served over yellow rice, and soft-shelled crab with

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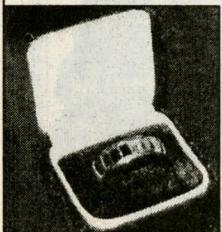


See Cafe Society, page 40

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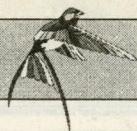
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Cafe Society

from page 39

wilted spinach in a pancetta butter served over penne pasta.

Make sure and save room for dessert at Cafe Society because the dessert offerings would tempt anyone with even the slightest of sweet teeth. Desserts include Belgian chocolate mousse, brandy Alexander, home-baked cheese-cake du jour, chocolate decadence and creme brulee, which is billed as "simply the best in Memphis."

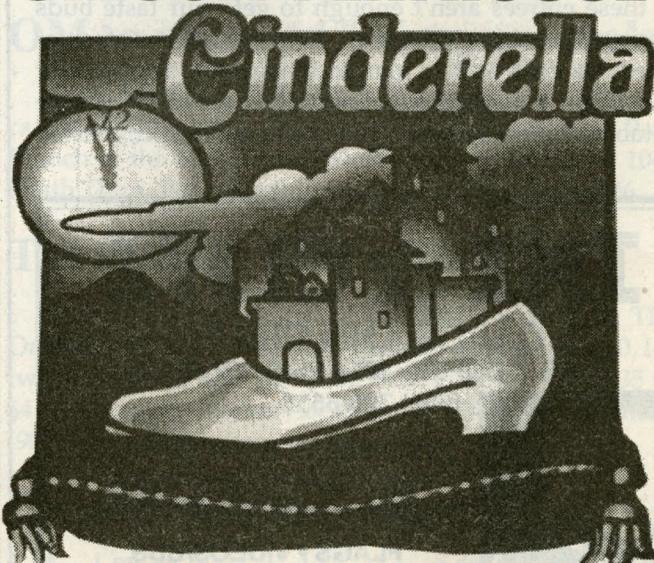
Perhaps a coffee drink is more to your liking as the perfect ending to the perfect meal. If so, Cafe Society has plenty to choose from including Cafe Special, Italiano creme, Irish coffee, Kookee coffee, Jemokee coffee and Spanish coffee.

Open from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. for lunch Monday through Friday and for dinner from 5 to 9 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and from 5 to 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, reservations are highly recommended at Cafe Society. To make your lunch or dinner reservations, call (901) 722-2177.

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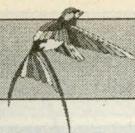
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TM present *A Christmas Carol*

Theatre Memphis, 630 Perkins Extended, invites you to celebrate the holiday season with the 21st annual performance of *A Christmas Carol* Dec. 2 through 23.

This classic Christmas tale by Charles Dickens and adapted by Michael Fortner and James Schroeder, is a holiday tradition for all ages.

The cast of *A Christmas Carol* takes you to London during the 1800s. Everyone is getting into the Christmas spirit; everyone that is, except Ebenezer Scrooge, played by Tim Greer. Scrooge takes a Christmas Eve journey into the past, the present and the future in order to learn the

error of his ways.

Along the way, Scrooge is greatly influenced by the life of his employee, Bob Cratchit, and his family. Scrooge's discovery of the true meaning of Christmas is sure to brighten your holiday season.

Bob Cratchit is played by Arlyn Mick; Mrs. Cratchit is played by Theresa Brignole; Tiny Tim is played by Wilson Good and Austin Hall; Ron Gordon reprises his role of Marley from TM's 1998 production, and Steve McManus takes the role of the Ghost of Christmas Present.

And if you attend an opening weekend perfor-

mance of *A Christmas Carol* on Friday, Dec. 3, or Saturday, Dec. 4, you will be able to experience "A Dickens Christmas Weekend."

Dickens carolers, a Dickens Christmas shoppe, a Wassail Cart and a surprise visit from Santa are all planned. Dickens activities begin at 7 p.m. and continue during intermission of these two performances. Bring your camera and get a few shots for the picture album for Christmas 1999.

Adult ticket prices are \$19 on weekdays and \$22 on weekends. Tickets for

See TM, page 49

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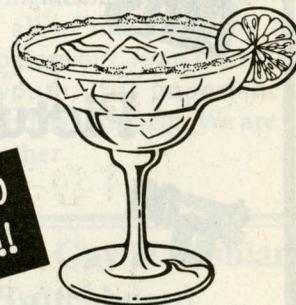
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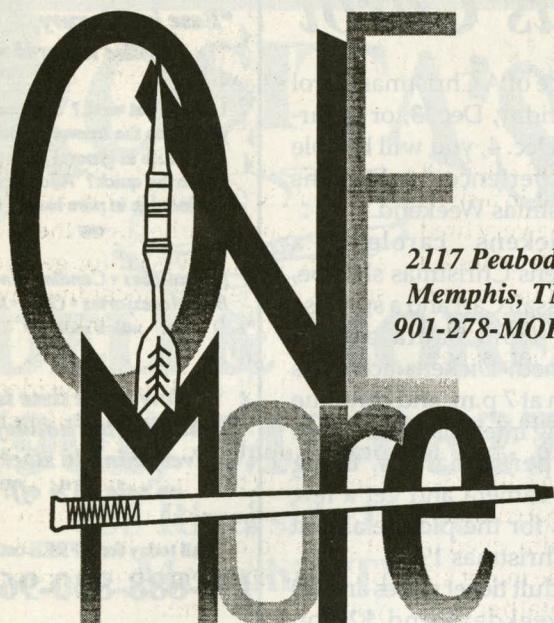
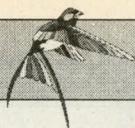


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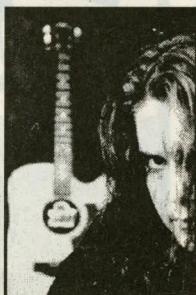
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LOVE THY NEIGHBOR

BY MICHAEL H. MOORE
GUEST WRITER

I myself am gay. I am also a young adult. So this is my view on being young and gay in Memphis.

First of all, I have to give a background of myself to explain my view point. So, I will start off with school.

School for me was not very fun. The years spent in school were not the best years of my life. Starting from as early as elementary school, I was emotionally abused by my peers. At that time, I was being called your basic effeminate boy names, such as "girlie-boy," "sissy," "Michelle," etc. I had a constant feeling of inadequacy at an early age – an isolation of being the only one who felt so different and so alone.

I had a fear of telling my mother for fear she would be embarrassed or disappointed in me. These were the beginnings of a time in one's life that were supposed to be innocent, not a time of great isolation from the entire world.

As the years passed by, things gradually got worse. Middle and high school were a complete hell! The names of torture I underwent every day worsened, such as: "faggot," "sweet breed" and "gay dude." Some of these names I can look back on now and laugh at, but at the time it caused me great humiliation.

It got worse than just name-calling. I had been punched so many times that I was brought to my knees crying for the mercy of the violators. I was always too embarrassed and ashamed to speak up to anyone. Pushed into lockers, tripped and then I was told I was worth nothing. I never came out at school for fear that if I did, I would be murdered.

I really only had a few friends and my family was not affirming of me as a human being. I fell into a deep de-

pression. I felt there was no hope for me. I gained a lot of weight in a short period of time. I was getting very tired and losing my mind. I left school. I couldn't take it anymore. I had a year and half left until graduation and it was a great tragedy that I left school so close to being finished.

I had many, many problems at home going on at the same time. I had an abusive stepfather. He was 10 times worse than any kid at school could be, and I had a great fear of him, even to the point that I was afraid he might kill me. The fear of my stepfather was powerful enough that I started wearing my shoes when I went to bed.

My mother was trapped in a web of abusive relationships. She was not ready to see the light at this time. So, I basically did a hit and run. I came out and moved in with my sister right away. I lived with her for a year and I worked to support myself. Things didn't work out right with my sister so I moved out. From there, I jumped around from house to house for a while, but I was basically homeless.

While I was living with my sister I started to attend MAGY (Memphis Area Gay Youth) meetings. I found an euphoric freedom that I had never experienced before. The diversity of the group was a great power. Everyone was so different yet, so alike. I made great friends who pretty much became my family. I found a home with a friend from MAGY. His family took me under their wing for over a year and took great care of me. I love this family very much and would do anything in the world for them. During this time I got my GED and grew a lot as a person. I learned a lot about myself. Now, I am living with my Mom again, minus the psychotic stepfather. I hope to attend college someday soon and major in some form of political science.

Memphis has a decent-sized gay community even though a lot of it is

closeted, which is fine. People should come out in their own time. People are coming out at earlier ages these days so there is a great need for gay youth support outlets. We, including myself, need to work harder on taking care of our gay youth.

One third of all teen suicides are committed by gay youth. If 10 percent of the population is g/l/b/t, you do the math. School harassment, troubles at home, etc – we have all been there at some point in our lives, or at least probably someone that is special to you has been there.

Let us all rally together in support of our youth. They are the future civil rights activists, lawyers, ministers, lobbyists, and even the first openly gay president. They all deserve the same respect and treatment as any other kid.

If we all give a little to our youth whether it is time, money, effort or even just a shoulder to lean on, we will receive 10 times more back. You may even save a life. Help such great organizations as MAGY whenever you can because its members will lead the way.

I know all of this probably has been said before but, from the words of a gay youth, it is important to speak up and ask for help. We are all in this together

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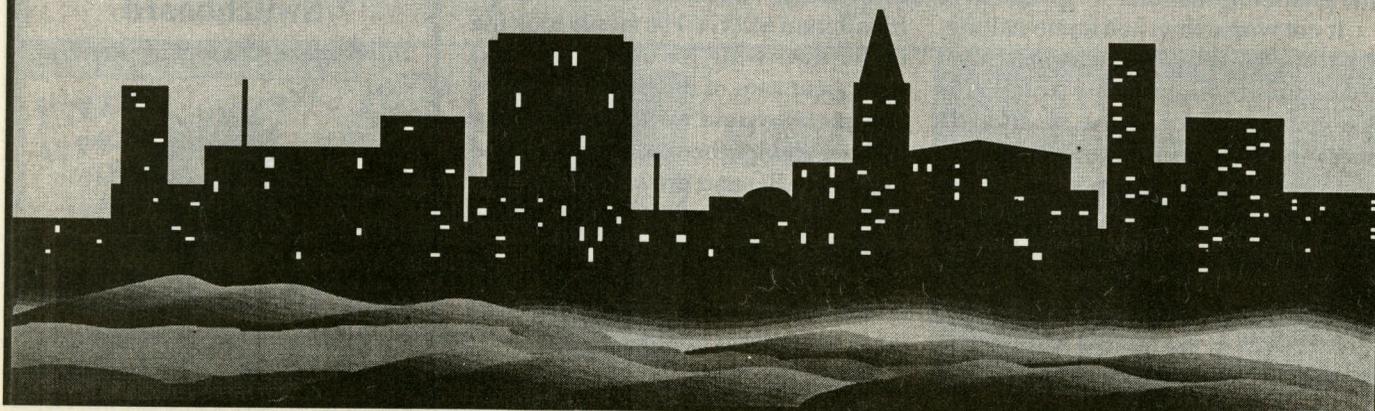
- Friends for Life, 1384 Madison Ave.
- The Lambda Center, 1488 Madison Ave.
- First Congregational Church, 246 S Watkins
- Holy Trinity Comm. Church, 3430 Summer Ave.
- Living Word Christian Church, 340 N Garland
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- Safe Harbor Church, Jackson, Miss.
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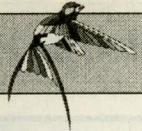
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- Star Restaurant, Jackson, Miss.





Quote

Unquote

"I have no problem with my sexuality. I have a problem getting laid."

—Comedy writer and Hollywood Squares star Bruce Vilanch writing in the Nov. 9 issue of *the Advocate*.

"Who am I to tell someone they can or cannot serve their country? I couldn't care less if the person next to me is gay as long as he gets the job done."

—Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura to *Playboy* magazine, November

"If unwanted sexual advances were an excuse to murder people, there wouldn't be a straight man left alive in America."

—Syndicated columnist Dan Savage on ABC's "Politically Incorrect," Oct. 28

"I have been hit on by gay guys, not that frequently because I'm not that good looking. But I did experience what I would call a panic ... This was years ago when we were first starting out as comics in New York, and a guy — I did a set — and a guy came up to me after and was like: 'Hey, great set. I want to talk to you.' And I was so stupid, I didn't realize. 'Hey you want to go somewhere?' 'Sure, come on.' About half hour into it, I realized, 'I'm on a date.' And I panicked."

— "Politically Incorrect" host Bill Maher on the Oct. 28 broadcast

"I write about love between people of the same sex without any prejudice attached to it. I simply explore it as if it were normal. It's normal in *The Tale of the Body Thief* that Lestat loves David Talbot. It's normal to write about his love for Gretchen, the woman he runs into. It would be abnormal for me to make one more important than the other. And I think that's something embraced by gay readers. They probably like to have a breather in their fiction from the more passionate discussions of prejudice, persecution and self-loathing. There's none of that in my work. Instead people are making alliances based on the heart."

—Author Anne Rice to the Montreal publication *Hour*, Nov. 4

"There's a rumor going round that I outed George Michael — he's a grown man, I'm not responsible for what he does. I think he's a great singer, I think he's a great artist — and if I've been bitchy about him, I'm sorry. I often open my mouth before I think."

—Singer Boy George as quoted by *Yahoo! News*, Nov. 6

"The first thing I would do differently than Ellen [DeGeneres did on her TV show] is I would make sure my writers wrote funny for me. I also wouldn't give a rat's ass what the gay community told me was right or wrong to say, which is something that I've always done anyway as a stand-up. I've never been a conformist."

—Actress/singer/comedian Lea DeLaria to Miami's *The Weekly News*, Oct. 28

"With homosexuals in the government, lesbians popping up in beer commercials, members of boy bands coming out with the support of the tabloids and even the Tories accepting gays in their ranks, homosexuality is fast becoming, well, normal."

—Commentator Gareth McClean writing in Edinburgh's *The Scotsman*, Oct. 29

"One thing that really pisses me off is that the church — that is supposed to represent the teachings of Jesus Christ, who never said a word about homosexuals and whose teachings are about equality and loving each other, and doing unto others — and you have the institution of the church preventing homosexuals from becoming ministers to help and love people. It's just a perversion of the teachings to me."

—Singer Emily Saliers of the Indigo Girls to Atlanta's *Southern Voice*, Sept. 30

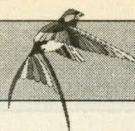
"We have looked very carefully at and will look more carefully in the future at any kind of rhetoric in our writings or preachments or whatever that might lead someone to have hostility toward anybody, and that includes gays and lesbians."

—Fundamentalist Christian leader the Rev. Jerry Falwell to the TV program "Religion and Ethics Newsweekly," Oct. 21

"I wouldn't say I was a slut but around 16, 17, I used to have sex with basically all of my friends, both male and female, sometimes at the same time! It was the early '70s, and we were all obsessed by decadence! It was David Bowie, Lou Reed, *Cabaret* ... divine decadence, darling."

—The Pet Shop Boys' Neil Tennant to Atlanta's *Etcetera* magazine, Oct. 22

Quotes compiled by Rex Wockner, who has reported news for the gay press since 1985. His work has appeared in more than 200 gay publications. He has a B.A. in journalism from Drake University, started his career as a radio reporter, and has written extensively for the mainstream media as well.



Family Album ... Mystic Krewe of MU



Laura Lee Love



Fi Fi



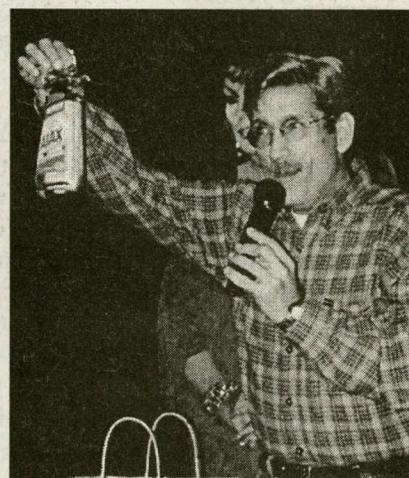
Ruby



"And Many More"



Melanie



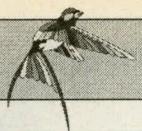
Friends for Life's Butch Valentine explains the personal hygiene products to the audience.



Ashley



The cast of the show during the closing number.



Family Album ... Mystic Krewe of MU



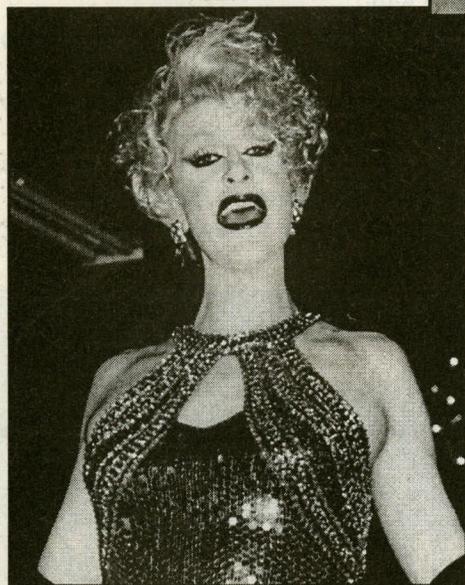
Miss Kat



Laura Lee Love and Betty



Regina



Allison



Barbara



Christina



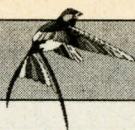
Chuck



Tu Real



Melba



MEMPHIS RESTAURANT GUIDE



Cooper Street Bar & Grill

948 South Cooper
(901) 272-9400
Sun., 11 a.m. to 1 a.m. (kitchen closes at midnight)
Mon., 11:30 a.m. to 1 a.m. (kitchen closes at midnight)
Tues.-Saturday, 11:30 a.m. to 3 a.m.
(kitchen closes at 2 a.m.)

The Chicago Steakhouse

Gold Strike Casino Resort - Tunica
(601) 357-1225
Sun. -Thurs., 5 p.m. to 11 p.m.
Fri. & Sat., 5 p.m. to midnight
Reservations Suggested

Cafe Society

212 North Evergreen
(901) 722-2177
Lunch: Mon.-Fri., 11:30 a.m. till 2 p.m.
Dinner: Mon.-Sun., 5 p.m. till 10 p.m.
Reservations suggested

Hard Rock Cafe

315 Beale
(901) 529-0007
Open 11 a.m.-midnight, Sun.-Thurs., 11-1 a.m. Fri. & Sat.

Cafe Ole'

2127 Young Avenue
(901) 274-1504
Mon.-Thu., 11 a.m. till 10 p.m.
Fri., 11 a.m. till 11 p.m.
Sat., 11:30 a.m. till 11 p.m.
Sun., 11:30 a.m. till 10 p.m.

The Bourbon Street Cafe

(In the French Quarter Suites)
2144 Madison
(901) 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
(901) 726-4372
Mon.-Sat., 11 a.m. till 2 a.m.,
Sun. noon till 2 a.m.

In the Grove

2865 Walnut Grove
(901) 458-9955
Sunday, 5 p.m. till 1 a.m.
Mon.-Thur., 5 p.m. till 1 a.m.
Fri.-Sat., 5 p.m. till 2 a.m.

K.A. Karma

394 N. Watkins
(901) 276-5566
Mon.-Fri., 11 a.m. till 2 a.m.
Sat.-Sun., 4 p.m. till 2 a.m.

Molly Gonzales' La Casita Mexican Restaurant

2006 Madison Ave.
(901) 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

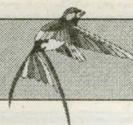
1835 Madison Ave.
(901) 278-NEIL
Open 11 a.m. to 3 a.m. seven days a week, year-round.

P & H Cafe

1532 Madison
(901) 726-0906
Closed Sun
Mon.-Sat., 11 a.m. till 3 a.m.

Bogie's Delicatessen

2098 LaSalle Place (behind Paulette's)
(901) 272-0022
Mon.-Fri., 7 a.m. till 6 p.m.
Sat., 8 a.m. till 5 p.m.



Friend of community dies

Early in Aphrodite's holiday show, which took place on Nov. 21, Tom and Trent, owners of One More, and their staff took the stage to make an announcement.

Just hours before the show, Tom and Trent had been summoned to the hospital bedside of a "dear friend," Floyd, only moments before he died of an apparent heart attack.

According to Tom, Floyd, a "street person," was always there to help out at One More and pitch in any way he could to help during fundraisers.

Tom, Trent and the staff of One More then made a \$1,000 donation to Loving Arms in memory of Floyd.

TM

from page 41

youths age 18 and younger are \$10 anytime.

Showtimes for *A Christmas Carol* are 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday; 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 2 and 7 p.m. Sunday. There will be one Monday performance at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 20.

Call the Theatre Memphis Box Office at (901) 682-8323 for ticket reservations or more information.

**"Love The Hair.
Hope You Win."**

Pipeline

Join the Drillers - Official softball team of the Pipeline

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Members of NAGAAA - North American Gay Amateur Athletic Association

FAMILY & FRIENDS

and

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present

2 benefit shows for Loving Arms

to collect, buy holiday
toys for Sheila's kids

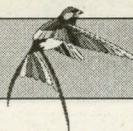
Thursday

Dec. 9, 10:30 p.m.

Cover: new toy or \$3

Also, help us turn
Backstreet into an
enchanted forest!
Put your name on a
Christmas tree for
\$1 for Sheila's kids
now through Dec. 20





Tanya Tucker to 2-step into Sam's Town

Sam's Town Hotel & Gambling Hall will host one of country music's biggest stars, Tanya Tucker, on Friday, Dec. 10, at 9 p.m.

Tucker started singing at the age of six and recorded her first hit, "Delta Dawn" at age 13. She enjoys competing in cutting horse contests and rides a hot pink Harley-Davidson motorcycle.

Ever since gracing the cover of *Rolling Stone* at the age of 15, courtesy of her hit song "Delta Dawn," Tucker has been one of Nashville's greatest stars.

But she has also been known as one of its most troubled, with a life as full of hard knocks, tumultuous affairs and wild living as any country music ballad.

Born in 1958, into dire poverty in Texas, Tucker inherited a love of country music from her parents. She and her sister became budding singers at a young age and their father, Beau, was determined to see them succeed. Going from one Nashville recording studio to another, they refused to be stopped, barging into executive offices with demo tape in hand. The family then relocated to Las Vegas, where Beau kept pitching his daughter's tapes, until Billy Sherill signed Tucker to her first recording contract at age 13 and gave her the song "Delta Dawn," which became her anthem and a huge runaway hit. Today, Tucker remains one of country music's biggest stars.

She is the youngest woman in pop or country history to have a boxed set of her music available to the public.

In addition to her own albums, Tucker has contributed her talents to a number of tribute projects in the past few years. She performed at the World Cup Opening Ceremonies and did the half-time show at the Super Bowl in 1994.

Tickets to see Tucker are \$29.50 and \$24.50 and may be purchased at the River Palace Arena Box Office, online from TicketMaster at www.ticketmaster.com or by calling Sam's Town at (800) 456-0711 to charge by telephone.

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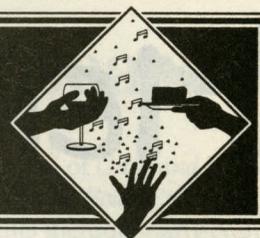
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Playhouse on the Square

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(901) 278-9839
Mon.-Thur. 5 p.m. till 2 a.m.
Fri & Sat 5 p.m. till 3a.m.
Sun. 4 p.m. till 2 a.m.

Pipeline Memphis

1382 Poplar
(901) 726-5263
2 p.m.-3a.m., 7 days a week

Crossroads

1278 Jefferson
(901) 276-8078
Noon till 3 a.m. 7 days a week

The Jungle

1474 Madison
(901) 278-4313
3 p.m. till 3 a.m. 7 days a week.

Metro

1349 Autumn Street
(901) 274-8010

Backstreet

2018 Court Street
(901) 276-5522
Mon., Wed., Thurs. & Sun.,
8 p.m. to 3 a.m.
Fri. & Sat., 8 p.m. to 6 a.m.

Crossroads 2

111 North Claybrook
(901) 276-8078

One More

2117 Peabody
(901) 278-MORE
7 a.m. to 3 a.m. 7 days a week

N-Cognito

338 S. Front @ Vance
(901) 523-0599
Thur. & Fri. 10 p.m.-3:30 a.m.
Sat. 10 p.m.-5 a.m.
Sun. 4 p.m.-midnight

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

J-Wag's

1268 Madison
(901) 725-1909
Open 24 hrs, 7 days a week

Lorenz

1528 Madison
(901) 274-8272
Mon.-Sat. 11 a.m. till 3 a.m.,
Sun. 9:30 a.m. till 3 a.m.

SOCIAL CLURS

Memphis Area Gay Youth (M.A.G.Y.)

P O Box 241852 Memphis
TN 38124
(901) 335-6249
Website: <http://www.gaymemphis.com/magy>

Peer support group for 13- to 21-year-olds dealing with gay and gender issues.

Integrity Memphis

Meets at Calvary Episcopal Church
102 North Second Street
Memphis, TN 38103
(901) 525-6602
Christian community and fellowship for the lesbian & gay community in the Episcopal Church. Meets 3rd Tues of Every Month at 6:30 p.m.

Cotton Pickin' Squares-Memphis

(901) 272-2116
Meets Thursday Nights, 7:30 p.m., at Prescott Memorial Baptist Church
Walker & Mynders (Near University of Memphis)
Square dancing social group.

Memphis Bears

P O Box 11094 Memphis TN
38111-1094
(901) 756-1073
Meets the 2nd Sat of every month, 10:00 p.m., at the Pipeline, 1382 Poplar Ave. Men only.
E-Mail: Fuzthing@aol.com

Tsarus Memphis

Levi-Leather club meets the 3rd Saturday of every month, 10 p.m., at Pipeline, 1382 Poplar Ave. Men only.

Parents Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P.F.L.A.G.)

(901) 761-1444
Support meetings for parents, family & friends
Webpage: <http://www.starbase21.com/pflagmemphis/>
E-Mail: amdrake@mem.po.com

U of M Students for Bisexual Gay and Lesbian Awareness (B.G.A.L.A.)

(901) 678-5719
Webpage: <http://www.people.memphis.edu/~bgala/>
BGALA is open to anyone including students, faculty, staff of The University of Memphis.

Black and White Men Together Memphis, Inc. (BWMT)

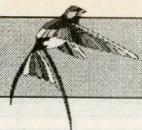
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P O Box 41803 Memphis, TN
38174-1803
(901) 682-9928
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Fax Us
(901) 685-2234
E-Mail Us
FamilyMag@aol.com



MEMPHIS



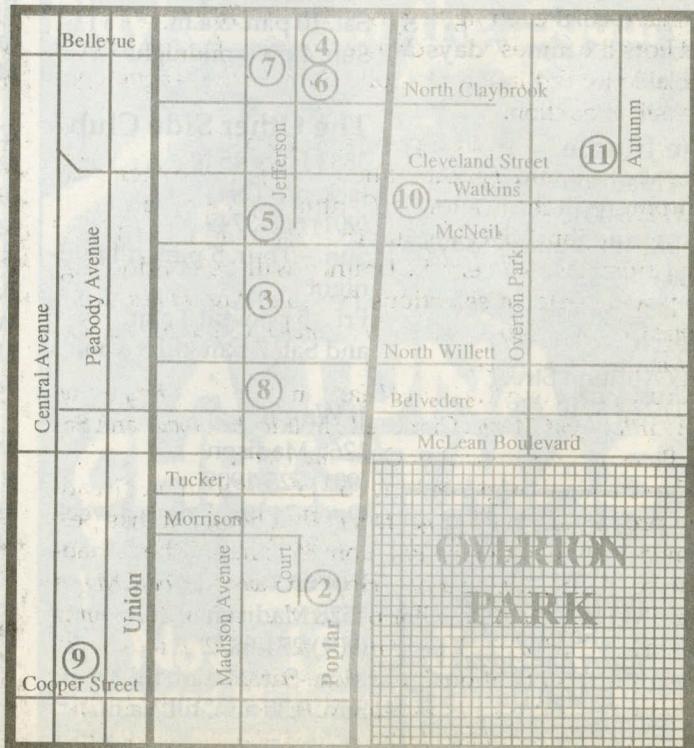
BAR GUIDE

1. **Amnesia**
2866 Poplar Avenue
(901) 454-1366
2. **Backstreet**
2018 Court Street
(901) 276-5522
3. **Lorenz**
1528 Madison Avenue
(901) 274-8272
4. **Crossroads**
1278 Jefferson
(901) 276-8078
5. **The Jungle**
1474 Madison Avenue
(901) 278-4313
6. **Crossroads 2**
111 North Claybrook
(901) 276-8078
7. **J-Wags**
1268 Madison Avenue
(901) 725-1909
8. **Madison Flame**
1588 Madison Avenue
(901) 278-9839
9. **One More**
2117 Peabody Avenue
(901) 278-MORE
10. **Pipeline**
1382 Poplar Avenue
(901) 726-5263
11. **Metro Memphis**
1349 Autumn Street
(901) 274-8010

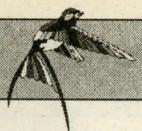
NOT ON MAP

N-Cognito

338 S. Front @ Vance
(901) 523-0599



Maps not to scale, not all streets shown



MSO plans 2 shows for holiday season

The Memphis Symphony Orchestra offers two musical opportunities for you to enjoy the holidays this month.

Come "Home for the Holidays" with the Memphis Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, directed by Maestro David Loebel, on Saturday, Dec. 11, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 12, at 2:30 p.m.

Start your holiday season with this exciting MSO annual tradition. Hear holiday favorites including "Hark the Herald Angels Sing," "Let There Be Peace on Earth" and a special "Christmas Medley" arranged by composer-in-residence James Richens. The orchestra and chorus also will present pieces by Vaughan Williams, Bizet and Rimsky-Korsakov.

These concerts will be held at Eudora Auditorium, 4684 Poplar at Perkins. Tickets range in price from \$20 to \$30. To order tickets by phone with a Visa or MasterCard, call the Symphony Box Office at (901) 324-3627 or visit the MSO office located at 3100 Walnut Grove Road, Suite 501 (9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays). Tickets also may be ordered through TicketMaster at (901) 525-1515 or by visiting any TicketMaster outlet.

•••

The Memphis Symphony Orchestra also invites you to one of the most exciting New Year's Eve celebrations of the millennium at the "Once in a Thousand Years, The Memphis Symphony Orchestra's New Year's Eve Concert and Gala Celebration" on Friday, Dec. 31, at the Germantown Performing Arts Centre, 1801 Exeter.

This special evening begins at 7 p.m. with champagne and hors d'oeuvres and a chance to peruse fabulous items available for bid in the Memphis Symphony League's annual silent auction.

At 8 p.m. Broadway stars Kim Crosby, Cris Groenendaal and Timothy Shew will join the Memphis Symphony Orchestra for "A Century of Song," an exciting production that celebrates the best songs from Broadway musicals. Vincent L. Danner will be conducting. They will perform selections from *Les Miserables*, *Rent*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Man of La Mancha*, *Chicago*, *The Music Man* and *Carousel*.

Crosby has sung the role of Maria in *West Side Story*, Anne in *A Little Night Music*, Cinderella in *Into the Woods* and Sarah Brown in the revival of *Guys and Dolls*.

Groenendaal originated the role of Andre in the Broadway production of *The Phantom of the Opera*, and has performed the title role of the Phantom 860 times. Other Broadway credits include Anthony Hope in *Sweeney Todd*, Major Rizzolli in *Passion*, Miles Gloriosus in the revival of *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, and the role of Father in the recent national tour of *Ragtime*.

Shew presently stars as Jean Valjean in *Les Miserables*, and also has appeared in the Tony Award-winning produc-

tions of *Sunset Boulevard* and the revival of *Guys and Dolls*. Additionally, he has performed in *Show Boat*, *Evita*, and *South Pacific*. Shaw's television credits include many commercials and the role of Johnny Ryan on "Ryan's Hope."

Following the concert, at 10 p.m., the three performers of the evening's concert will join patrons in the ballroom for the gala of the millennium. Marvell Thomas will provide spectacular music for your listening and dancing pleasure. Ann Barnes and Just Catering will prepare scrumptious culinary creations including baby lamb chops, miniature chicken Wellington, oysters Rockefeller casserole, and snow peas stuffed with herbed cheese.

Then, usher in the new millennium at the stroke of midnight with a champagne toast and a special surprise.

Tickets are \$250 per person for this once-in-a-lifetime event and include the auction, concert and gala. This event is black tie optional.

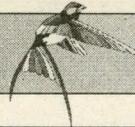
To order tickets by phone with a Visa or MasterCard, call the Symphony League Office at (901) 323-0060 or visit the MSO office located at 3100 Walnut Grove Road, Suite 501 (9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays).

**We Have A
Straight Guy
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(But He Throws Like A Girl.)



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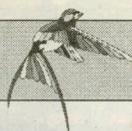


Family Album ... Miss Gay Memphis



Many contestants turned out last month for the Miss Gay Memphis 2000 Pageant, held at Crossroads. The winner of the pageant was Taylor Huntington, top left corner.





Family Album ... Miss Gay Memphis





NEW YEAR'S 2000

**CELEBRATE THE NEW
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**WITH THE BIGGEST DANCE
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BACKSTREET

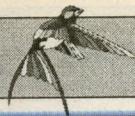
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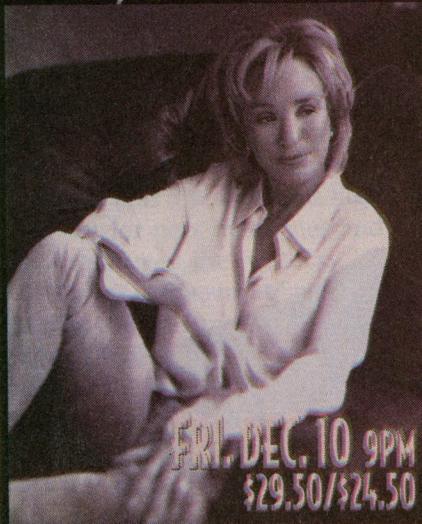
SAM'S TOWN

HOTEL & GAMBLING HALL

2000

CASINO STRIP RESORTS JUST SOUTH OF MEMPHIS

LIVE AT THE RIVER PALACE ARENA



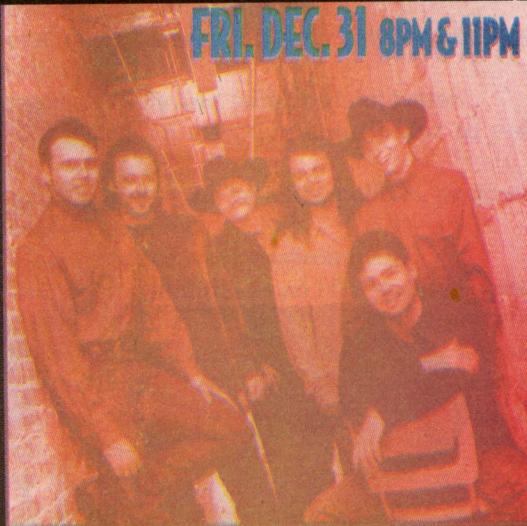
FRI. DEC. 10 9PM
\$29.50/\$24.50

**TANYA TUCKER
HOLIDAY PACKAGE**
December 10
\$99 Per Night Includes Room,
2 Tickets to Tanya Tucker Show and 2 Buffets*

**DECEMBER 1 - 24
SEASON OF FUN PACKAGE**
\$39 Per Night (Sun.-Thurs. only)
Includes Room and 2 Buffets*

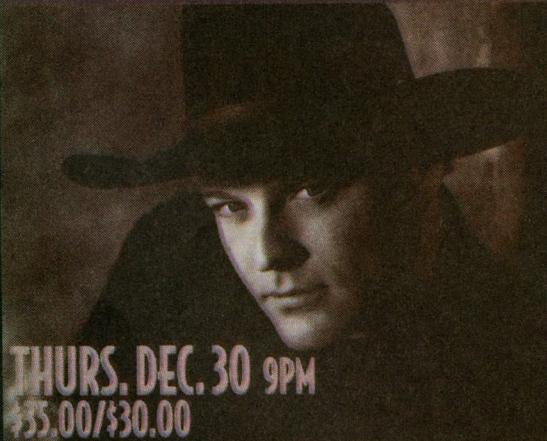
**DECEMBER 17 & 18
WEEKEND FUN PACKAGE**
\$59 Per Night Includes Room and 2 Buffets*
*Excludes Seafood Buffet

TANYA TUCKER



FRI. DEC. 31 8PM & 11PM

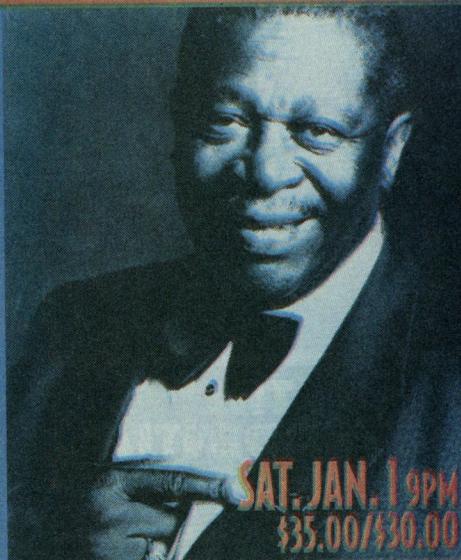
RICOCHET



THURS. DEC. 30 9PM
\$35.00/\$30.00

JOHN MICHAEL MONTGOMERY

B.B. KING



SAT. JAN. 1 9PM
\$35.00/\$30.00

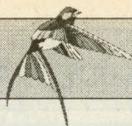
For Tickets call TicketMaster or Sam's Town. Get your tickets in the "Sweet Seats" available only at TicketMaster.



For Information or Hotel Reservations, call
800-456-0711
Website: www.samstowntunica.com

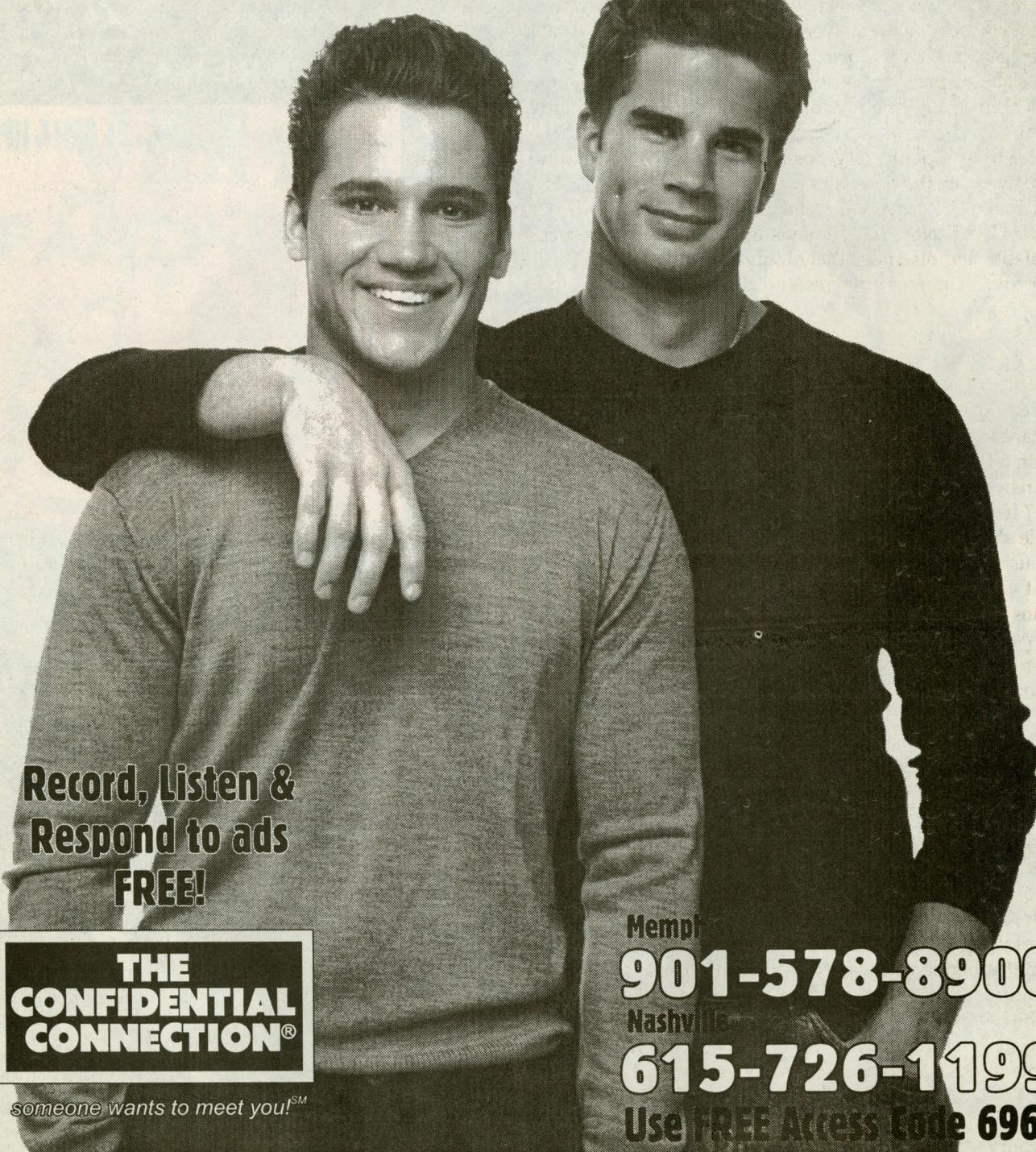


Must be 21 or older to attend concerts at the River Palace Arena.



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Still haven't found who you're looking for?

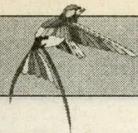


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**BY GIP PLASTER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER**

If you are HIV-positive and considering changing jobs, you're forced to be more careful when planning for the transition. If you don't, you could be denied a job or lose your health coverage. Some laws protect you, but you have to know your rights and responsibilities to take advantage of them.

"We live in a time in which the epidemic is constantly changing. The sand is shifting under our feet," said Paul Crockett, an openly HIV-positive lawyer in Florida who literally wrote the book on legal issues involving HIV. His 1997 book, *HIV Law: A Survival Guide to the Legal System for People Living with HIV*, remains one of the few resources available that discusses this highly-specialized field.

If not for new medicines and drug combinations that have improved the health of many HIV-positive people, HIV issues in the workplace would not be nearly as important. But the treatments that have helped some but not others add to the uncertainty of people living with HIV. Because of that uncertainty, Crockett said it is even more important to stay on top of your legal rights.

"In a time when there are so many questions that can't be answered, it is important that we answer the ones we can," he said.

He said that workplace issues are particularly important because American society forces us to identify ourselves by what we do. The changing nature of our culture, however, means that we rarely keep the same job for a lifetime.

"We are a culture in which people tend to define themselves by what they do," Crockett said.

For some, the scariest part of going back to work is the job interview.

Crockett said that while the rules on exactly what employers can ask about your health during a job interview are complex, there are three periods of the interview process and each has its own rules.

No health questions – or at least not any that are not asked of everyone – can be asked in the pre-employment, pre-offer phase. Once an offer of employment has been made, additional questions can be asked or the employee can request accommodation for a disability. Most people with disabilities will want to wait to discuss accommodations until the final stage when they have begun to work for the company.

In many cases, the law is on the side of HIV-positive people in the workplace. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other laws "have a great deal to say about that," Crockett said. According to ADA rules clarified by the courts, people with HIV – even ones who aren't sick – are considered disabled and are allowed the accommoda-

tions that the ADA requires employers to make if asked.

If you are an employee living with HIV, you have both rights and responsibilities. The rights include the following, according to the National AIDS Fund's Workplace Resource Center (www.aidsfund.org):

- To have medical information kept confidential.
- To request reasonable accommodation when you need it (But you cannot abuse that right. The ADA is intended to level the playing field for people with HIV, not give disabled employees an unfair advantage.)
- To be evaluated based upon your performance, not your health status.
- To be treated equally and fairly, but not better.
- To be treated as an effective contributor to your workplace.
- To have full access to the benefits, policies, programs and events of the company.
- To have an accessible work environment.

Among your responsibilities as an HIV-positive person is the duty to educate yourself about your disease and your employer's benefits packages and policies. You are also responsible for notifying your employer if you need an accommodation, but you may or may not need to reveal the nature of your illness. Keep in mind that you are not allowed to ask for an accommodation that creates undue hardship on the employer. Seventy-eight percent of accommodations, according to government statistics, cost less than \$1,000 and most cost nothing. They can include a four-day workweek to allow more time to rest on weekends or a device to make lifting heavy objects easier.

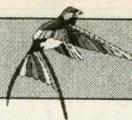
Some employers may not want to know about your medical condition because the employer then could suffer legal ramifications from knowing, including actions that can be brought if they fail to keep your medical status private.

For many people with illnesses who are considering changing jobs, insurance is the biggest issue. If you are covered under your employer's health plan, changing jobs means changing health insurance. That could result in costly exclusions for pre-existing conditions. But if a few precautions are taken, the law is again on your side.

"You cannot delay between jobs," Crockett said.

The magic number is 63. As long as the gap between jobs is less than 63 days, you will get month-for-month credit for pre-existing condition exclusions on your new policy. That means that if your exclusions for pre-existing conditions have already expired at your previous job, you can be fully-covered from the first day on your new job. If, for example, you had already made it through half of an exclusionary period, you could pick up where you left off with your new insurance plan.

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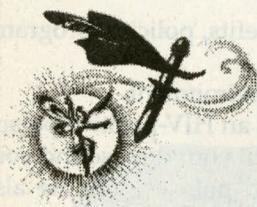
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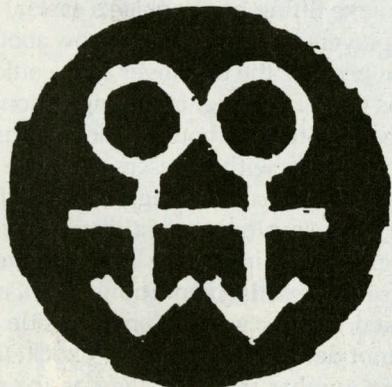
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**STUDENTS FOR BI-SEXUAL, GAY,
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Changing Jobs

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If the gap between jobs will likely be more than 63 days, Crockett said it is essential to take the optional, and often expensive, temporary COBRA insurance offered by your old employer. COBRA insurance is available to all employees for up to 18 months, but people with disabilities including HIV, are eligible for 29 months of coverage.

Health insurance is not the only concern, either. For people with terminal illnesses, life insurance becomes a commodity that could get you cash. If your new employer offers life insurance coverage, accept it. Then, look into the possibility of viaticating it, Crockett said. Through viatication, terminally-ill people can sell their life insurance for a portion of its face value, often between 50 and 80 percent. The investors who purchase the policy through a viatical company become the beneficiaries of the policy and get the full face value upon the employee's death.

Crockett adds that is important to "take care of business properly where you came from and do your homework on where you're going."

Crockett admits that all the extra work getting things in order causes more stress during the transition.

"An additional burden is placed on HIV-positive people in this situation, as in all others, to empower themselves with additional information," Crockett said. "Open your eyes. Take a look around. Paranoia is not required, but time and effort are required. It's another measure of self-respect."

And do not let an illness keep you from changing jobs just because it complicates matters, Crockett said.

"Don't make your dreams any smaller because of the virus within you," he said. "But HIV does raise some additional challenges."

Updates to Crockett's book and other materials are available at Crockett's website, www.hivlawtoday.com.

Gip Plaster is an independent writer and journalist whose work appears in gay and lesbian publications around the world.

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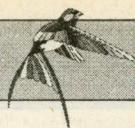
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HOROSCOPES

Sagittarius (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — High on your agenda during the month are romance and social activities. Your career and business ties could be improved by joining a business-related organization. Your career should improve as the new year nears.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan.20) — There's sure to be an older person in your life as the end of the year unfolds. The stars indicate that romance and creativity are ready to happen, especially where an older person is concerned.

Aquarius (Jan. 21-Feb. 19) — If you're involved in the travel business then get ready because the stars indicate that things will go in your favor during the month. Focus on a domestic endeavor. Also, you may find yourself attracted to someone in a faraway place.

Pisces (Feb. 20-March 20) — If you're looking to impress the right people this month, try putting a new angle on an old idea. Always keep your eyes open for new opportunities.

Aries (March 21-April 20) — Finding investors for a new idea you've had for sometime now should be much easier as the new year approaches. With the turn of the century around the corner, the sky's the limit and keep your chin up.

Taurus (April 21-May 21) — If you consider yourself a romantic, now is the time to put yourself in the most likely of places to find romance, otherwise, your dreams may not become realities. Now is the time to focus on new horizons.

Gemini (May 22-June 21) — Now may be the perfect time to turn your talents into real money-makers. Things

should go well for all those who seek romance and social good times. If you're overdue for a raise or reward, it could happen now.

Cancer (June 22-July 23) — December is a great time to focus your talents on making your wishes come true. You might even be in line to increase your financial status since the full moon is moving through your sector of hope as the year ends.

Leo (July 24-Aug. 23) — Conversation will abound during the next month, and the subject will be you and your special abilities and talents. The sun is moving through your romance and creativity sector.

Virgo (Aug. 24-Sept. 23) — With the new cycle approaching, now is the time to go after all that you have dreamed about in the past. Don't let others rain on your parade because the focus of the month is on romance and your creative talents.

Libra (Sept. 24-Oct. 23) — The full moon is certainly showing a focus on your financial and personal status as the month begins. Improve your well being and you might find your talents bringing in additional money.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — It's time to stop dreaming and start putting those ideas of yours into concrete form, but consider sleeping on your ideas for a day or two before acting on them. There also is a strong possibility of a new romance on your horizon.

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

CELEBRITY QUOTE

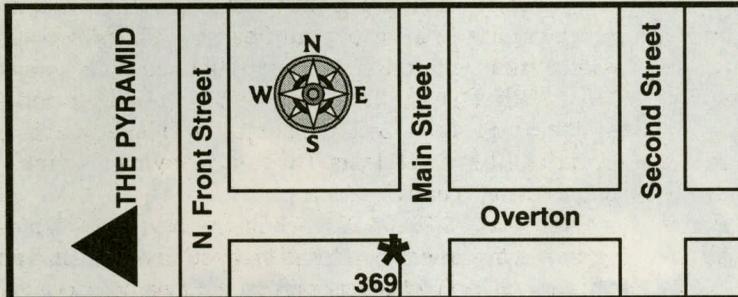
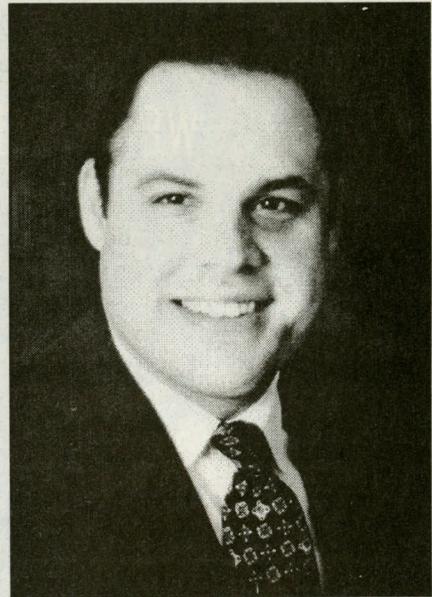
"I would never, ever, ever change and be straight if I could. It was always a blessing in my mind. It gave me an understanding of what it's like to be a woman, what it's like to be black, what it's like to be handicapped — you know, any situation other than what it means to be a white man."

— Makeup artist and writer Kevyn Aucoin as quoted in SOMA.

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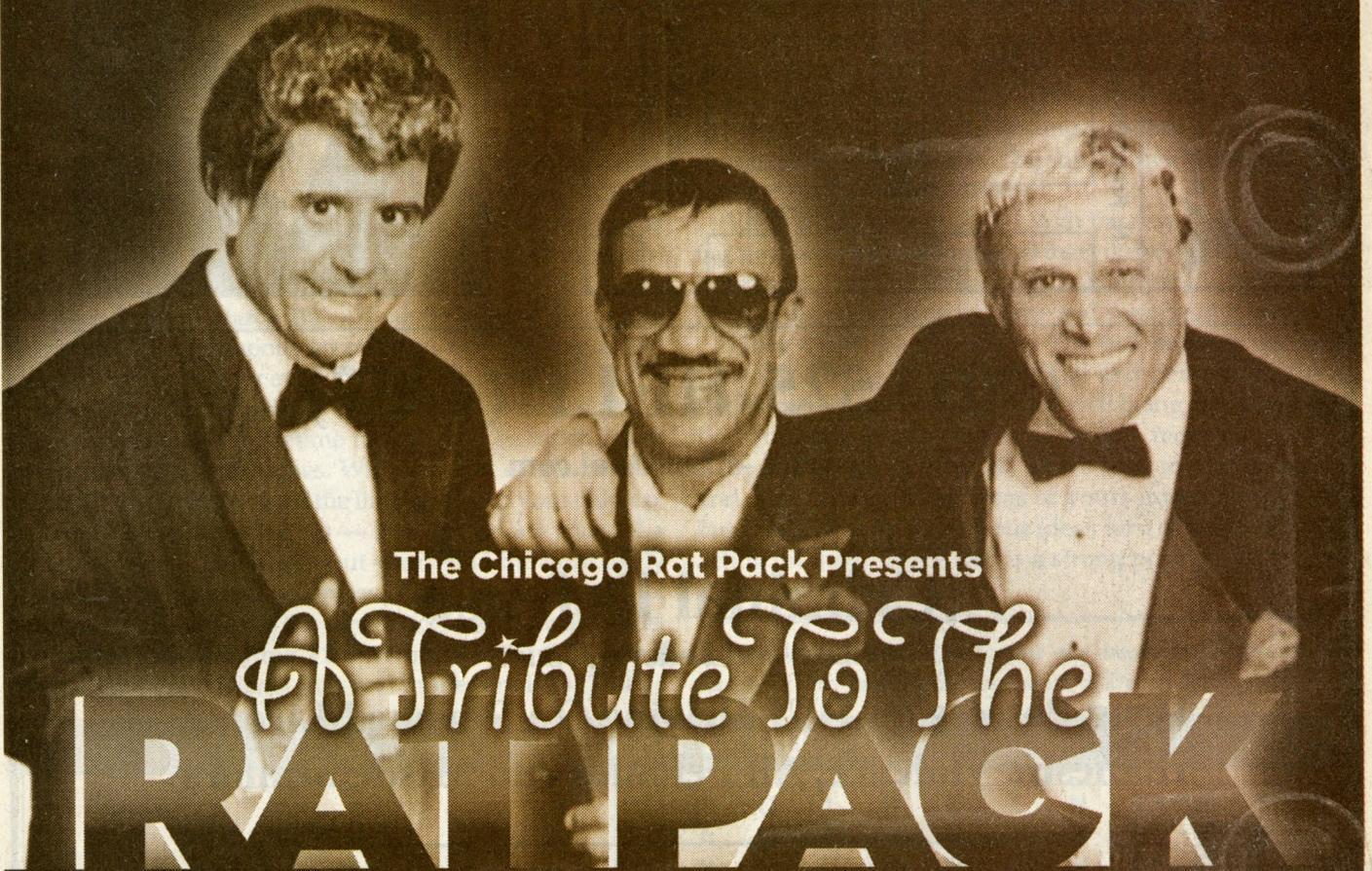
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