

JUNE 2000

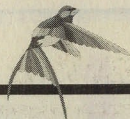
FAMILY

and friends

A man in a rainbow t-shirt is smiling and waving from a parade float. The float is decorated with a large American flag and a rainbow stripe. The background shows a street with trees and other parade participants.

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INSIDE FAMILY & FRIENDS

FEATURES



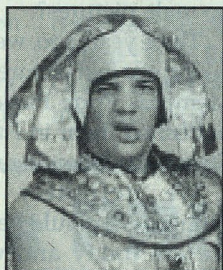
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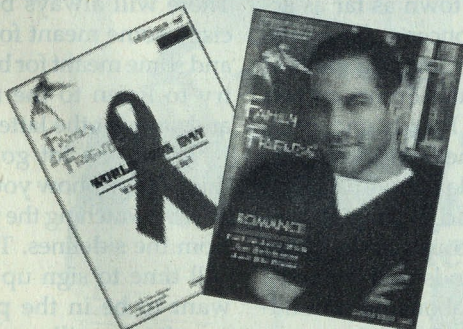
ON THE COVER



The Mid-South is getting ready to celebrate Pride Week - check out all the festivities planned.

Coverage begins on Page 5

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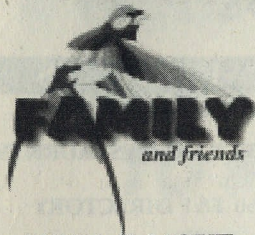
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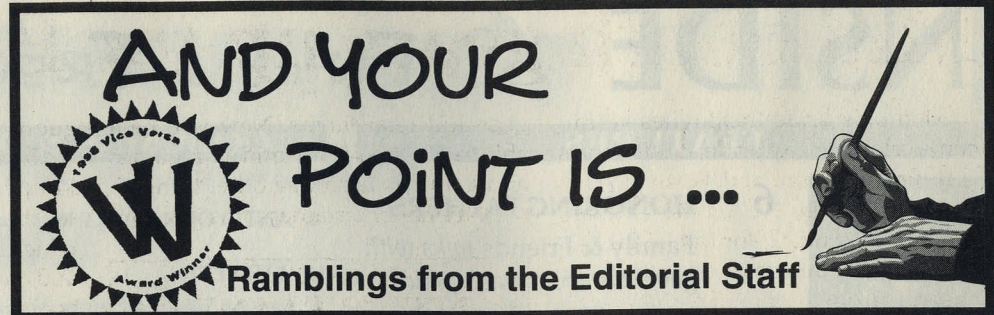
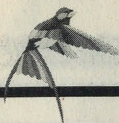
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This will be our fifth year as part of the Memphis Pride Parade. Wow, time does fly.

The first two years, our future editor and one of the future writers for *Family & Friends* rode in the back of a pickup bearing the sign of a local bar, Crossroads, and waved to the crowds. It was hot but it was great. But it wasn't as hot as it was for the queens walking in their heels for the whole route. Our hats went off to them.

It is something to see. All the different faces of our Memphis and Mid-South community walking in unity to tell Memphis we are here, we do exist and we have a face and a voice.

One of the biggest parade staples is the large gay pride flag that 50 or so folks carry over their heads. The children have slowly, over the years, taken their place in the parade, proud of their parents and friends. Folks that are friends of our community, such as PFLAG, have marched in the parade almost since its inception. It would be nice to have the Dykes on Bikes back leading the parade.

We realize that the mainstream press seems to have slacked off its coverage of the parades. The question is, are we no longer the attraction we use to be and they just don't find us newsworthy? Surely, our community

isn't that boring. It was rather humorous to find the *Memphis Flyer*, after last year's parade, printed three pictures of folks at the parade ... all women, or appeared as women. One was a fantastic-looking drag queen that we're am sure fooled the photographer. The point is, why did they run female pictures? Why no male pictures?

Three years ago, we began taking our first pictures of the Memphis Pride Parade and published them in *Family & Friends* the following month.

We definitely never thought we would be where we are today and we are more than thankful to God and our community for blessing us so.

One reason we started this magazine was to let the community know what was going on in town as far as activities, concerts, fund-raising shows, etc. We focused on the annual events, such as the Pride Parade and Festival and the Friends For Life auction. Slowly, we have had more and more doors opened to us; made many, many friends, and learned a whole lot about our community. By sharing with you our words and our pictures, we hope that you, our readers, will become more aware of our little world, whether you are family or friend. Our de-

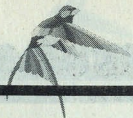
sire was and still is to unite our community.

Another desire was to give our Memphis and Mid-South g/l/b/t community more visibility to the nation. As it were, we wanted the nation to know that Memphis has a g/l/b/t community and some great bars, restaurants and events worthy of their time to come visit. That was the primary reason for putting in our bar map, for out-of-town folks. PlanetOut now has a site for Memphis for those seeking travel information, thanks to one of our staff writers. And this will be our second year to run an ad in the *Damron Men and Women's Travel Guides*.

At the same time, we are realistic and realize we can't please all the people all of the time. If we did, something would be wrong. There will always be criticism, some meant for good and some meant for bad. We try to listen to the former and smile at the latter.

There is a lot going on this month. Show your support by watching the parade from the sidelines. There is still time to sign up if you want to be in the parade; people are still needed as volunteers at both the parade and festival (call Daniel at (901) 327-7433).

Our point is, it is June and time to celebrate!



Mid-South gears up for Pride 2000

Memphis Pride Inc. invites you to come celebrate gay pride at this year's Gay Pride Parade and Festival. This year's theme is, "Color Me Human, Color Me Proud, Color Me Equal."

Whether you are in the parade or cheering from the sidelines, here is the parade route: Begin in Overton Square in the parking lot behind TGI Fridays. The parade will leave the parking lot by turning left on Monroe, go up to Cooper and take a left on Cooper. The parade will then proceed down Cooper to Poplar Avenue. At that intersection, the parade will take another left and follow Poplar to Willett, where the floats will make a right, and the people marching will continue to the next street, Williamson Road, and take a right. Williamson Park is a city-block long and there you will find the Pride Festival.

This year there will be food vendors, beer sales, information booths, pride

gear and retail items. New will be a children's area with midway games and a train ride among other things.

National entertainers this year are

ENTERTAINERS

- Suzanne Westenhoefer
- Linda Regan
- The Gecko Brothers
- Local groups

comedian Suzanne Westenhoefer, musicians Linda Regan, VoxDlux and the Gecko Brothers. Aphrodite will bring their girls and many community

guests to the stage as well.

Cost to enter the festival grounds is \$10 per person. Included in that \$10 will be three tickets, valued at \$1 each, which you can use to purchase food and beverages. There will be ticket booths set up at the festival sight where you can purchase more tickets which are used for food, beverages, beer, and children's rides.

Due to the limited parking at the festival site, *Family & Friends* will be offering a shuttle ride on the *Family & Friends* Pride Trolley. Fare is \$1 one-way and there will be three stop locations: the parking lot in Overton Square behind TGI Fridays (where the parade begins), the parking lot at Avalon and Poplar and at Williamson Park.

This year's sponsors of the Pride Parade and Festival are Backstreet Memphis, Metro Memphis, *Family & Friends* and Aphrodite.

SHOW YOUR PRIDE SATURDAY, JUNE 17

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3 STOPS

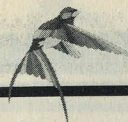
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IN HONOR OF FATHERS:

Family & Friends chats with gay dads

BY ANITA MOYT
MANAGING EDITOR

According to Webster, the word "father" is used to describe "a man who has begotten a child." It is also used, according to Webster, to describe the action of "caring for or looking after someone as a father might."

But what is most important to most is if the man so identified as father, godfather, stepfather or similar label, does care for us and take care of us.

Many gay men out there are so named father. In some cases, there are partners both named father, whether it is his, his, or their children handing out the Father's Day cards this year.

Family & Friends interviewed three men in our community who are fathers, caring for and loving their children, thus truly earning their title.

Rev. Timothy Meadows and Chris Scheuer

Rev. Timothy Meadows and Chris Scheuer have been partners for five years. These two men share caretaking roles with the children's mother every school holiday and all summer long when their son, Parker, age 11, and daughter, Jordan, age nine, come to stay. Meadows, senior pastor of Holy Trinity Community Church, age 38, said their world totally changes and revolves around the children when they are here.

Meadows was married to the children's mother and remembered finding out she was pregnant the first time,

"I was delighted, incredibly excited." Meadows explained his involvement with the child, even before his birth, "I was totally involved; we took Lamaze classes. When he was born I was the first to hold him." Meadows again participated in the birthing of his daughter. "It was awesome and incredible; and terribly humbling, too," Meadows explained of both birth experiences.

Meadows and his now ex-wife eventually divorced as Meadows came to terms with his own sexual identity.

"I struggled with it even before I was married. I viewed it as something I did and as long as I didn't do it I wasn't it (gay)," Meadows said.

Scheuer, a 37-year old flight attendant, was a member of Holy Trinity, where Meadows was pastor. Eventually, they started to date.

"Initially, I was real cautious; (I was) suspicious that Tim was bi," Scheuer said in explaining how he felt about Meadows having been married to a woman. As far as the kids, Scheuer said he was "thrilled - an instant family." Yet, it was a while before Meadows introduced the children to Scheuer. "Tim was very protective of the children."

"Nobody met them when I was dating," Meadows said. "It wasn't a gay thing. I (just) didn't want all the people coming in and out of their lives."

Although Scheuer had seen the children at church whenever they were staying with their father, he hadn't met them. It was two months into their relationship before Meadows introduced the children to Scheuer.

"At first they thought Chris was cool; they liked the airplane stuff," Meadows recalled. "Chris is very nurturing and Chris would cook great gourmet meals." Individually, the children reacted differently as time went on. "Parker is protective of his and Tim's bond; he is very territorial," Scheuer said. It seemed easier for Jordan to accept Chris.

Both Meadows and Scheuer expressed the need for honesty in their relationship with the children. One summer they were on a trip to St. Louis with the children. The children had recently seen the caption "Ellen is Gay" on the cover of a magazine. "Daddy, what is gay?" asked the children. Meadows stressed that if the children ask questions they are ready to talk about the subject. However, answer only their questions and don't prolong the discussion past what they are interested in at that point. Meadows explained "gay" is where two people love each other, even though they both may be boys or both be girls. Out of the mouth of babes Jordan replied, "Daddy, it doesn't matter who is in your life so long as someone is in your life to love."

As the children returned to Holy Trinity and saw the members who represent various segments of the g/l/b/t community, as they developed with age and as they slowly picked up on facts about "gay" the children both came to realize that Meadows and Scheuer's relationship was a gay one.

Chris entered the relationship with no preconceived notions about children. However, he has "learned patience and a deeper form of love ... love through the eyes of a child."

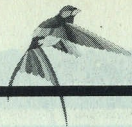
Meadows pointed out the struggles Scheuer has been through.

"It hasn't been easy for Chris but he knows that I'm always going to have them (the children)," Meadows said.

"They come with the package. Those are his children," Scheuer continued. "The children are the center. (Sometimes) I felt like a second or third wheel and the main relationship was Tim and the kids."

Scheuer said his feelings have resolved with time and his relationship with each of the children has improved. Most importantly, "we talk about it and discuss it," emphasizing the communication he and Meadows shares.

See Gay Dads, page 7



Gay Dads

from page 6

Meadows discussed some of the struggles he has dealt with as a father. "My biggest worry is I don't want them to be picked on because of me; because of homophobia," he said. "Second, the distance... (and) third, I worry about them being well-adjusted, which any other parent worries about."

Scheuer's worries are somewhat, yet understandably, different. "How to be a (good) parent with the children."

For Meadows, the joys of being a father include "when we are caressing each other and (the children) say, 'I love you, Daddy.' Once, Parker told me, 'Everybody's got a sweet spot and my sweet spot is you Dad.'" Scheuer's joys are "hearing the laughter from the children; seeing their creative side; the notes and the phone calls." He further noted the joy of seeing the children grow and mature and learn year by year.

Scheuer said he was most touched when he received a postcard from Parker who was on a field trip to Washington, D.C. The postcard was the first one addressed just to him. Scheuer noted that he has always geared Father's Day around Meadows and would help the children pick out gifts or make cards for him.

Meadows said one of his best memories of Father's Day was when his son lip-sync the Backstreet Boy's "As Long As You Love Me."

As far as advice for other men that might be considering entering into relationships with a partner who has children, Meadows said, "(You need) to respect and understand they are his kids. (You) are entering into the equation. It is not easy, not a piece of cake (but) it is worth the struggle to make a family. Remember that you are entering into a relationship with a family and not with an individual."

"The non-dad needs to accept that the other is a dad and nothing will change that," Scheuer added. "You can either be part of that or not. That's the way it is. Be honest, open and upfront. Talk about your fears, both with your partner and with the children."

"There are good times and bad times," they both agreed. They commented that their relationship with the children is continuing to move to another stage. "As the children are growing up, we are able to learn and interact more with the children."

Sometimes dads come in pairs and sometimes they don't.

Kim Moss

Kim Moss, 45, is a single father to two sons; he also is gay. Moss originally entered school and became a Church of Christ minister. He and his wife sought to work on the missionary field. They had two children, Ben and Brandon.

During his years of marriage, though, Moss dealt with depression and suicidal thoughts because of the conflict he felt between what he had been taught about homosexuality and his feelings of attraction to his same-sex. He even sought psychological counseling to "not be gay." The one thought that kept him from carrying out suicide was that "if I killed myself, I couldn't take care of my children." After seven years, he and his wife divorced.

Being a father has always been very important for Moss.

"I had always wanted to have and raise kids and do all that dad stuff (like) fishing and camping," he said. "I knew they (the boys) needed me. I didn't think they would be taken care of properly if I wasn't in the picture."

However, the divorce impacted his time with the boys and he had only limited visitation with the two people who meant so much to him.

"I was always close to the boys; I had made a personal commitment to the best father possible," he added.

When Ben was seven and Brandon was five, Moss felt he needed to be honest with the boys about his sexual orientation so any other family member wishing to create a negative image of him would be powerless. "We always had a lot of communication and a lot of involvement in each other's life," Moss said.

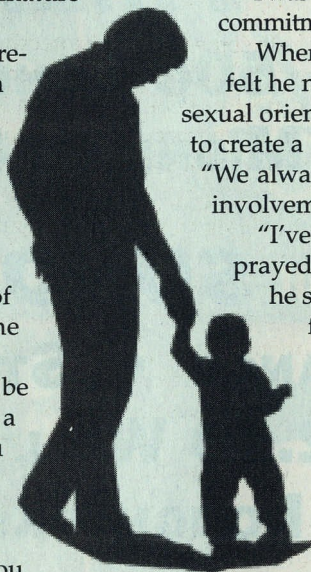
"I've always been a spiritually-minded person and prayed fervently that the boys would come to me," he said. " (I knew) it would be short of a miracle for a gay man to get custody of his children."

Due to changing situations at their mother's house, the chance he had prayed for happened. The door opened so that he would gain not just more visitation rights but actually custody of the children. The courts were open-minded enough to not only look past his sexual orientation but past the fact that he had a partner. They examined the case of two boys needing a parent

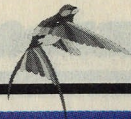
that loved them.

"I had a live-in companion at the time and he (also) had to be evaluated by the social workers and psychologists," Moss said. Their decision, which was accepted by the judge, was that "the boys loved him (Moss' companion) and there was no need for his companion to leave the family." Moss was granted full custody of Ben and Brandon on June 30, 1992. Ben was 11 and Brandon was nine.

Referring to him and his companion, Moss said, "We weren't big party people," explaining that the boys moving under his roof didn't alter his lifestyle too drastically. "When the boys came to live with me, we settled down and made a home together, we traveled together." But, as with Scheuer, Moss' partner still had adjustments to deal with which Moss did not. "The difficulty, as with any step-



See Gay Dads, page 10



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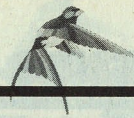
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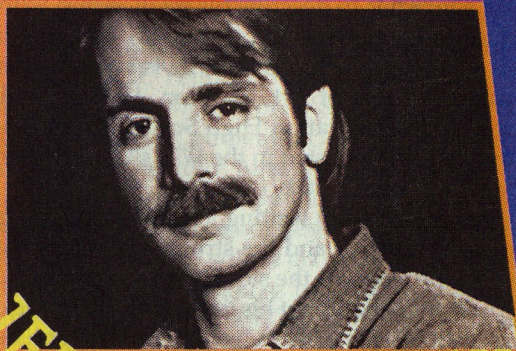
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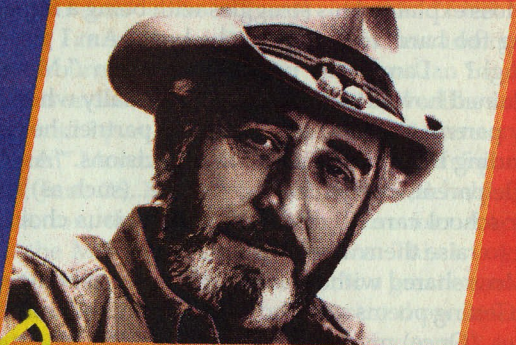
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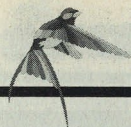
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Gay Dads

from page 7

parent relationship, were issues of the kids not wanting to listen to (him)."

Ultimately, his companion moved from the home and Moss became a single-parent. His companion is still involved in their lives.

Moss explained his struggles with being a father, "Am I being too hard, too strict on the boys? Am I giving them enough? ... I am pretty protective of them ." Moss further explained how decision making, especially when he is the only parent, worries him. Without a partner, he hasn't the sounding board in making those decisions. "As with any single parent, everything falls on me...(such as) arranging after-school care. (But) it was a conscious choice on my part to raise them alone," Moss said.

Moss shared with us some of his joys of being a father.

"Getting poems at birthday times they had written themselves. (Once) my youngest son, Brandon, saw me on TV when I was being interviewed about homeless persons. He turned to me and said, 'It is an honor to be your son.' Ben wrote me the most beautiful poem and had it professionally framed. He gave it to me my past birthday."

"The thing I am most proud of them for is they love me and other people unconditionally. They don't see black or white, straight or gay, they just see people. And it's a joy to see what I taught them come to fruition," the proud dad said.



Josh, left, and Jay await the crowds for Backstreet Memphis' grand re-opening.

The major complaint of those against gays and lesbians being parents is that the children will grow up to be gay.

"Absolutely not," Moss said. "That argument those people like to use is furthest from the truth. It is orientation and not a choice; the choice is what you do with it." Neither of Moss's sons identify as gay.

Moss, who holds a masters degree in counseling, is a consultant to agencies working with the homeless and with persons living with AIDS.

He continues to describe his relationship with his sons as close and protective. Today, Ben is 20 and graduated with a 3.0 average from Kingsbury; he is trying to get into the Chicago Institute of Art. Brandon, 18, will graduate this year from White Station High School with a 3.5 average. Brandon also was listed in the *Who's Who of American High School Students for 2000*.

Moss is presently writing a book about being a Christian and being gay and the struggles he went through. In the book he also tells the story of how he got custody of his children and talks about his life philosophy: "We create our own reality." He hopes to have the book published sometime in 2001.

In closing, Moss offered the following advice to any men that may be wanting to be a father: "Remember, this is for the rest of your life and the rest of the child's life. I believe children deserve to have a safe and loving environment. If you can provide that, continue looking at it. It is a serious matter; your life changes."

"I'll never be truly alone because I have them," Moss concluded.

MGLCC plans big Pride party at Premiere Palace

Welcoming in Pride Weekend, Friday, June 16 to Sunday, June 18, The Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center will host the MGLCC Annual "GLBT Pride" Party on Friday, June 16.

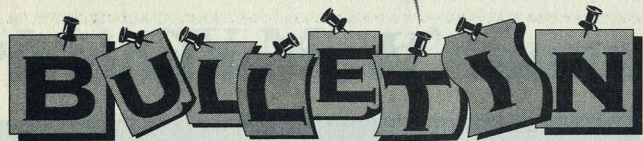
This party replaces the Mississippi Riverboat ride and gala of previous years. Unfortunately, MGLCC is not financially able to have the party on the boat this year.

Instead, the party is being held at Premiere Palace Ballroom, located at Monroe and Marshall, and will begin at 8 p.m.

Tickets are \$15 for individuals and \$25 for couples. You receive one free beverage with each ticket. An appetizer buffet, sodas and alcoholic beverages will be served. Also, door prizes will be given away.

You must be at least 16 years old to attend this event; armbands will be available for those over 21.

There are a limited number of tickets, so reserve yours now by calling either Angela at (901) 324-1018 or Jason at (901) 725-1574. You may also email them at mglccvicepresident@yahoo.com or jrockett@utm.edu, respectively.



BULLETIN

PRIDE WEEK is set for Friday, Saturday and Sunday, June 16 to 18. Many events are planned for celebrating our g/l/b/t community.

The MEMPHIS GAY AND LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTER invites you to its party on Friday, June 16 (see page 10). MEMPHIS PRIDE INC. is the organization responsible for the Parade and Festival on Saturday, June 17 (see page 5), EMERALD THEATRE COMPANY will be producing the works of the winners of its' Second Annual Gay and Lesbian Playwright Competition at Theatreworks on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, June 16 to 18 (see page 22). The fifth Annual N-Cognito Pride Picnic will be Sunday, June 18 (see page 17). Born-again Lesbian Evangelist and Singer MARSHA STEVENS will be in concert at Holy Trinity Community Church on Sunday, June 18 (see page 21).

Congratulations to KAREN BORTH, "MAGY Mom," and DR. AND MRS. DRAKE, leaders of the PFLAG chapter here in Memphis. They are our parade grand marshals for this year (see pages 15 and 13, respectively).

We understand that LOVING ARMS will receive a sizable donation from MAC COSMETICS. The donation will be handed to SHEILA TANKERSLY, founder and executive director, by Mary J. Blige, Mac Cosmetics' celebrity spokesperson in June.

By the way, MARY J. BLIGE, will be appearing at the Mud Island Amphitheatre on Sunday, June 25, at 7:30 p.m.

The MEMPHIS LESBIAN AND GAY COALITION FOR JUSTICE sponsored a media workshop in May. JANE RALPH, educational services manager at the Kansas City office of the GAY AND LESBIAN ALLIANCE AGAINST DEFAMATION (GLAAD), led the seminar attended by representatives of several of our Memphis and Mid-South g/l/b/t organizations.

BACKSTREET MEMPHIS has did some major renovation in May. The newly renovated and redesigned Cabaret lounge will be the site of MS. GAY PRIDE PAGEANT on Thursday, June 8. BYRON BREWER is the pageant coordinator. (See page 20).

Happy Birthday to HOLY TRINITY COMMUNITY CHURCH for their 10 years of service to the g/l/b/t community.

Speaking of HOLY TRINITY COMMUNITY CHURCH, it and PFLAG-Memphis will be two of the sponsors of a series of shows on Channel 10 this month, all of which celebrate the g/l/b/t community. Check out page 44 for more information on the shows.

LOVING ARMS will be holding its annual "Yard Sale" in a couple of months. If you would like to donate your discarded items, new or old, to a great cause, please give them a call at (901) 725-6730. Pick up is available.

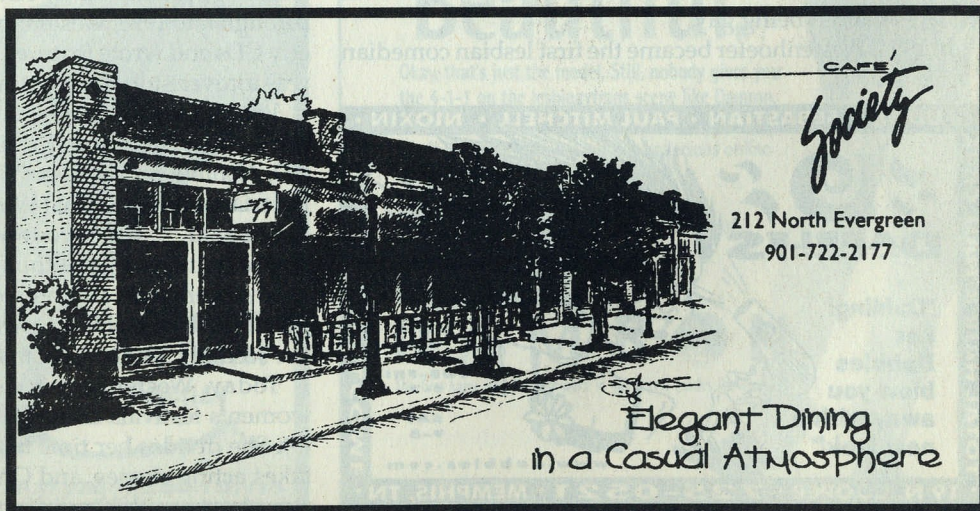
Congratulations to LILLY'S DIMSUM, THEM SUM for being rated "four stars" (extraordinary) overall and for service by *Health and Fitness Magazine* in April. This new addition to the Cooper-Young district will offer "All You Can Eat Dim Sum" specials on Sundays beginning June 4 and will be served from noon until 3 p.m. Also, they are adding "Afternoon Tea and Dim Sum" Monday through Fridays from 3 to 5 p.m.

Sunday, June 25, FRIENDS FOR LIFE will hold their annual auction, the 13th "Swinging Summer Auction Party," at the Memphis Botanic Gardens. This is a great event to get a bargain and give the cost to a great organization to provide many types of services to those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. (See page 46 for more.)

SAFE HARBOR METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH recently lost its meeting place. However, beginning Sunday, June 4, the new temporary meeting place will be at 1488 Madison Avenue. Services begin at 10:30 a.m. For more information, call (901) 458-0501.

PARENTS. FAMILY & FRIENDS OF LESBIANS AND GAYS (PFLAG) also has found a new meeting place at PRESCOTT BAPTIST, corner of Patterson and Mynders near The University of Memphis.

Last month we reported that AMNESIA would complete its renovation project and reopen during May. To our knowledge, as of presstime, Amnesia had not yet opened. We apologize if you made a trip to the bar to find it closed.



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Festival to feature Suzanne Westenhoefer

Suzanne Westenhoefer will be one of the featured entertainers at Memphis' Pride Festival, to be held in Williamson Park, on Saturday, June 17.

How does one go from being raised a little girl in the conservative Amish country of Lancaster County, Penn. to being one of the top lesbian comedians around? Breaking away from the expectations of others and discovering one's true self and natural gift is often a difficult thing to do, but Westenhoefer has done just that.

After graduating from Clarion State College in Pennsylvania with a Bachelor of Arts degree in acting, Westenhoefer moved to New York with hopes of becoming a Broadway actress.

In 1990, while working as a bartender in north New Jersey, Westenhoefer was encouraged to enter a comedy contest at Kelly's Piano Bar in New York City and, though she had never done stand-up before, she won. She quickly became known as the gay girl in straight clubs. It was a year later when Westenhoefer performed at The Duplex in New York that the gay audience found her and she began getting work emceeding drag shows, AIDS benefits and gay pride events.

While performing in a comedy club in 1991, Westenhoefer was approached by the Sally Jessie Raphael talk show asking her to appear. The theme was "Breaking the Lesbian Stereotype: Lesbians Who Don't Look Like Lesbians." She went on and publicly came out on national television.

As a lesbian comedian, Westenhoefer became a pioneer on the stand-up circuit; without changing her material to accommodate the straight audiences, she won them over not only by being funny but by revealing the similarities among people rather than their differences.

Westenhoefer also has taken her unique way of educating into the classroom where she has an open dialogue with teenagers about being gay.

In 1994, Westenhoefer became the first lesbian comedian



Photo by Michael Tighe

Suzanne Westenhoefer

to be given her own HBO comedy special, which went on to be nominated for a Cable ACE Award. She has appeared on many comedy shows, including A&E's "Evening at the Improv," "Caroline's Comedy Hour" and "Politically Incorrect," as well as Comedy Central's "Out There." In addition, she has appeared on such talk shows as "Geraldo," "Joan Rivers," "Ricki Lake," "Arsenio" and "Roseanne."

Her material can be found in the anthology *Out, Loud & Laughing*, published by Anchor books. From early 1997, through late 1998, Westenhoefer reviewed books and comedy CDs and wrote features for *the Advocate* — one of which was a cover story on Martina Navratilova.

With all her successes, it was the GLAMA Award (Gay and Lesbian American Music Awards) for her first comedy CD, *Nothing in My Closet But My Clothes*, on the Uproar Entertainment label, that Westenhoefer especially cherishes.

She said, "...when your own community tells you what you're doing is a good thing, that means a great deal, that means more than anything else." Westenhoefer was again given the Best Comedy award by GLAMA last month for her second CD, *I'm Not Cindy Brady*.

Today, Westenhoefer can be seen at comedy clubs, women's festivals and college campuses across the country. She divides her time between Los Angeles, where she takes acting classes, and Ohio, where she lives in a three-story house with her girlfriend, two dogs and two cats.

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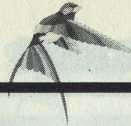
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'MAGY Mom' Karen Borth to lead parade

In keeping with Memphis Pride Inc.'s parade grand marshal theme of "Past and Present," Karen Borth, the unofficial "MAGY Mom," has been chosen to be a 2000 Pride Parade marshal because "she is working with our community leaders of tomorrow," said Daniel Forrest, Memphis Pride Inc. chair.

Although Borth has a son and two grandchildren, she has been a surrogate mother to more than 500 young adults since MAGY's inception almost six years ago.

It all began in 1995 while Borth was a social work student at The University of Memphis.

"I was doing a project for my research class and the statistics showed that 40 to 50 percent of all completed teen suicides were done by gay teens," the Cordova resident explained. "I couldn't understand those statistics. I was actually horrified by them because I had never heard of a gay teen. I kept thinking that what the statistics showed surely couldn't be the case. I became really curious and wanted to find out more (about the trouble gay teens were having)."

Finally, Borth's curiosity and compassion got the best of her and she attended a meeting of The University of Memphis' Students for Bisexual, Gay and Lesbian Awareness (BGALA).

"I went to the BGALA group," she recalled, "and found

out that two teens (Justin and Michael) had just come to BGALA to ask for help and support in beginning a gay youth group."

Borth, the two teens and two others got together and started MAGY in December 1995.

"In the first month we saw everything," she said. "We were picking kids up off the corner who had been thrown out of their homes (for being gay) and who only had the clothes on their backs. We saw substance abuse problems and even an attempted suicide. I was so overwhelmed by the need for a group like this, mostly because gay teens are a 'hidden' population."

Borth provides unconditional love and compassion to each and every youth she meets.

"It (MAGY) is a cohesive, loving group," she explained. "I mainly give hugs, lots and lots of hugs. MAGY provides a safe, comfortable and confidential place for the kids to come to once a week. We also provide lots of information. This (being a part of MAGY) is the most enrichment my life has had in the past 29 years."

"These are the wittiest, smartest, most talented and compassionate bunch of kids and I'm the one who benefits from getting to know and spend time with them," she added, sounding like a real mom.

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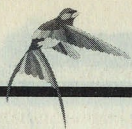
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Linda Regan to perform at Pride festival

BY ANITA MOYT
MANAGING EDITOR

Linda Regan will take the stage with her self-styled music at the Memphis Pride Inc. Festival on Saturday, June 17.

Regan told *Family & Friends*, "I was raised in northern California on a ranch in Pleasant Valley at the foot of the Sierra Nevada mountain range. Growing up with not much around, I grew up with my parent's records." Thus, by the age of seven she was singing along with the great, pure vocalists of our century, including, Sarah Vaughn, Judy Garland, Barbra Steisand and Edie Gorme.

At the age of 15, she began her professional singing career at the great Northern Food and Beverage Company in Sacramento. There she sang Broadway and standards such as "Misty" and "My Funny Valentine." At 17, she spent time singing with a rock band as well as a big band, already showing how versatile she was musically.

Regan said, "I graduated a year early from high school and went to L.A. (to pursue a career). There was a lot of standing in line and open calls."

However, Las Vegas was calling her name. She was hired, actually the last person hired, as a Golddigger, the female troupe that was infamous for backing up the legendary Dean Martin. Not only did the Golddiggers appear with Martin, they took their show around the country opening for many other entertainers. The Golddiggers disbanded in 1991.

"I broke away in between for about a four-year hiatus from the Golddiggers. I had my own nightclub act in Hong Kong and put on events, did commercials and modeled (there)," Regan said. Regan also did some work in South African nightclubs.

Eventually, Regan found her way to Music City.

"I went to Nashville and created my own music and made my own sound and my own thing. You can always do the standards. I went underground and reinvented myself. That is what I do now," Regan explained.



Opening for Linda Regan at this year's Pride Festival will be VoxDlux. She has been a featured vocalist on several different projects for Disney. She was voted Best Female Vocalist by the Independent Record Association in Nashville.

Regan produced and performed in a concert series for two and a half years in Nashville; the production included three headlining acts.

"We wanted to create a platform in Nashville where women could grow musically," she said. "Being artists we could create our own little lives."

Last April in Nashville, Regan put on a three-day event, which included 30 female-fronted bands, known as Les Femmes Qui Rock. Regan also performed at Nashville's Pride celebration in October of 1999.

"I loved it, it was great," she told *Family & Friends*.

As an AIDS activist, Regan wrote a song, "Let the Miracles Begin." She sang the song on the California capital's steps the past three years to start the Let the Miracles Begin AIDS Walk. She wrote the song as a tribute to her best friend who started the Sacramento AIDS fundraiser in the late '80s and whose life was cut short by the disease.

"I totally believe in same-sex love, (but)... I am not going to be labeled. Coming out of the closet is witnessed as an heroic thing," Regan explained. "(The question about my sexuality) made me feel uncomfortable...we all have he/she or ying/yang."

Regan's CD, entitled *Cinematique*, as do her shows, cross over many musical genres including rock, jazz, cabaret and theater. Her shows include costume changes; Regan said the performances are "a visual piece of art."

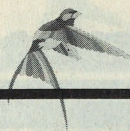
"Exhibiting all of the best of rock cabaret, Linda is a performer first, and she just happens to be an amazing vocalist and an impressive dancer to boot. Her shows are non-stop events ... the most reluctant of listeners will find themselves drawn into her world," said Rebecá Gleaves of *Nashville InReview*.

Describing her shows, Tom Demalon, an MTV local stringer, said, "Linda Regan is a consummate entertainer. She held the crowd rapt with her impassioned vocals, seamless choreography and mesmerizing stage presence. With a devil-may-care attitude, enchanting melodies and a top-notch band, Regan delivered a set that, adhering to the age-old show business axiom, left those in attendance wanting more."

What about Memphis Pride? "I am thrilled to be doing Pride. I am excited about that."



Linda Regan



Dr. & Mrs. Arnold Drake named parade marshals

Dr. Arnold and Myrna Drake have been named grand marshals of the Memphis Pride Parade 2000 along with Karen Borth.

Dr. Drake is president of the Memphis chapter of Parents, Family & Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG).

"The Drakes have done so much over the past 14 years (that Memphis Pride wanted to honor them by making them our Grand Marshals for this year)," said Daniel Forrest, Memphis Pride Inc. chair.

Fifteen years ago their son, Stan, told them he was gay. Dr. Drake said that he and his wife were in shock for a year; the year was 1985. In 1986, the Drakes took a trip to Washington, D. C., to a PFLAG meeting. There they found they weren't the only parents with gay children.

Returning to Memphis, the Drakes started the Memphis chapter of PFLAG in fall 1986.

According to Dr. Drake, there were three members for the first couple of years. The chapter grew to 60 members, mainly because PFLAG was picking up a lot of high school students and others with no other organization to go to that would help them with their sexual identity issues. Ultimately, the high school students were able to establish

their own organization, Memphis Area Gay Youth (MAGY), which PFLAG sponsored early on.

Besides continuing his work with the Memphis chapter, Dr. Drake has served on the national board of PFLAG for the past one-and-a-half years. His son now lives in Washington, D.C., with his partner of 15 years.

Dr. Drake noted how the Pride Parade, which PFLAG has marched in every year since the second parade, has grown.

"People come up to us and tell us how they agree with what we do." He noted how the folks at the parade now seem to be more moderate and not reflecting extreme right or extreme left views.

"We're very, very honored," Dr. Drake said of him and his wife being chosen as one of the grand marshals of this year's parade.

"I think gay pride does a lot of great things ... we are very excited about it," he said. "I hope everyone will come out and support the gay pride parade and maybe someday there won't be a need for PFLAG." He also encourages people to come and stand on the sidewalks along the parade route to show their approval and support.

MYSTIC KREWE OF MEMPHIS UNITED *Congratulates*

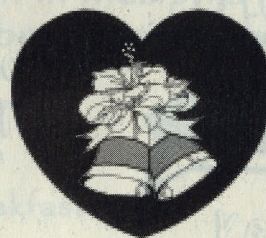
- Dr. & Mrs. Arnold Drake
of PFLAG
- Karen Borth of MAGY



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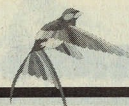
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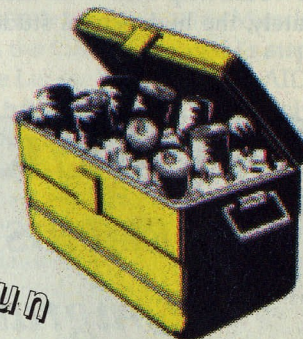
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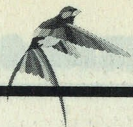


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N-Cognito picnic set to celebrate Pride

The 5th Annual N-Cognito Pride Picnic is set for Sunday, June 18, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. at the Te-To-Tam Ranch, 1161 West Shelby Drive, off Third Street.

All 300 acres of this ranch will be in use by the g/l/b/t community as we take a day off and kick back for a day of relaxation and fun.

Bring the cooler and the grill, the whole setup, and make a day of it. Or make a drive-through run on the way down and stay as long as you can.

Cost is \$10 a person, including horseback riding and a hayride. Bring your fishing poles, the lake is open; there will be a fishing tournament for you to enter your winning catches. There also will be a contest for the Best Picnic Setup and a volleyball tournament. For the brave, there will be the water gun fights. And try your skill at bobbing for apples – you might win a prize.

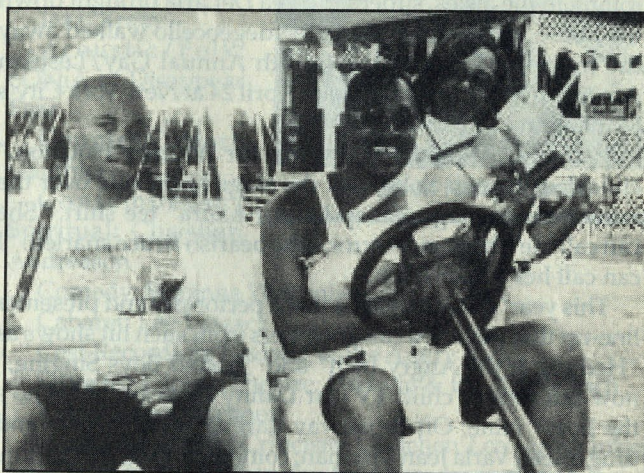
Toward nightfall, there also will be entertainment on stage.

After the picnic, the party continues at N-Cognito, 338 South Front at Vance, where the show begins at midnight. Scheduled show guests include Ms. Continental Tommie Ross, Neshia Dupre, Raquel Lord, Alicia Kelly and many more.

To get to the Te-To-Tam Ranch, go south on Third Street.

Take a right at West Shelby Drive. Look for the sign and entrance on the left side of the road.

For more information, call Alicia Kelly at (901) 521-6922 or (901) 345-3754.



N-Cognito's Terryl gets ready for a water gun fight with Tony and Mac during last year's picnic.

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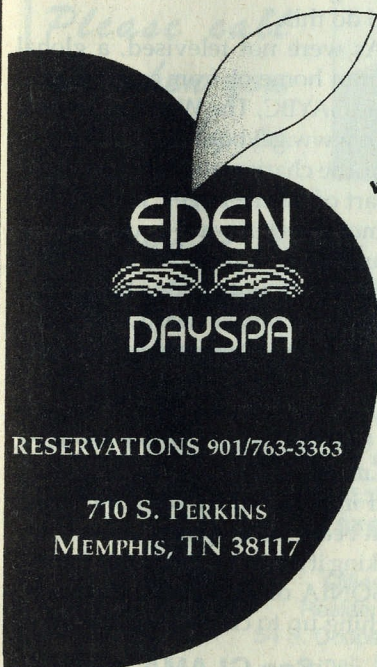
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Star power helps make GLAMA sparkle

BY DANIEL VAILLANCOURT
GUEST WRITER

Host and Hollywood funny boy Bruce Vilanch had 'em rolling in the aisles, superdyke Lea DeLaria brought down the house and mellow Meshell Ndegeocello walked away the biggest winner at the Fourth Annual Gay/Lesbian American Music Awards, held April 24 at New York City's Manhattan Center.

"I'm the last-minute substitute for Whitney Houston," chuckled Vilanch as he took the stage to preside over the festivities wearing a "Stop Doctor Laura" tee shirt. "She can call me a biological error," the bearish Bruce snarled. "I can call her a Nazi bitch."

This year's GLAMAs boasted a performer and presenter line-up that included cast members from such hit shows as "Hedwig & the Angry Inch" and "Naked Boys Singing;" now-out former child TV star Danny Pintauro of "Who's the Boss" fame; Off-Broadway darling David Drake and drag queen Varla Jean Merman; comediennes Kate Clinton, Michele Balan and Marga Gomez, and dance music divas Joi Cardwell and Casey Collins.

But it was the multi-talented Jazz category nominee Lea DeLaria who stole the show with her striking rendition of "Blue Skies" from the soundtrack of the hit indie film *Edge of Seventeen*. Dressed to a tee in a navy blue pinstripe suit, the diminutive DeLaria sauntered on stage flanked by two towering femme goddesses who kissed her good luck before the star crooned her heart out.

The night's big winner was Meshell Ndegeocello, who not only received the Female Artist and Album of the Year awards, but was given this year's Outmusic Award, granted to a recording artist who has advanced gay/lesbian music through their work as an out musician.

The second of GLAMA's high tributes is The Michael Callen Medal of Achievement given to an individual who exemplifies "the traits of the man for which it is named: a life grounded in openness, honesty and service; joyful creativity in the face of oppression, and an unwavering commitment to speak from a place of truth and integrity in a world that often says to make music as an openly gay man or lesbian is not worthy of honor." This year's recipient was openly gay and HIV-positive jazz pianist and composer Fred Hersch.

Founded in 1995, by Michael Mitchell and Tom McCormack, the GLAMAs began with eight categories in 1996. Four years later, the gala boasted 26 categories. "Since 1995, GLAMA has been committed to recognizing and honoring the work of out gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender recording artists," pointed out present GLAMA executive director Mitchell in the evening's welcome. "In building

an out musical community, we feel it is necessary to honor the work of those involved in its creation and nourishment. To that end, we tonight honor for the first time out writers who report and critique out musicians, out producers, out DJs and out live radio broadcasts whose focus is music."

Taking the podium later in the evening to explain the GLAMA process, Mitchell said, "Hundreds of artists submitted over 500 works to be considered for nomination. Scores of judges from all over the music industry judged that work and gave us the nominees.... This is where it gets fun: The second round of judging was carried out entirely online with the invaluable help of our sponsor, GAYBC. Judges were given a web address where they found an electronic ballot with access to hear the music through their computer by way of RealAudio. To my knowledge, we are the first and only music awards program to do this."

Although the GLAMAs were not televised, a global queer audience listened from home or from work thanks to Internet broadcast on the GAYBC, The World's Gay and Lesbian Radio Network, at www.gaybc.com.

Before leaving the stage, the charismatic Mitchell delivered the most poignant part of his message. "Let's have a new soundtrack for our movement toward equal rights," he said. "Let's have a soundtrack that moves our stories forward, that speaks truthfully about the huge human beings we are. Let's have music that breaks hearts, fills souls, that speaks to what we've lost and what we hope to gain. Songs that point to our uniqueness, and, ultimately, what's common between us. I say let's have a soundtrack that sustains us, nurtures us and tells the world that we are alive, that we exist and that we matter."

In accepting her award in the Country category, singer Mary Gauthier said, "It ain't easy for us queers doing country music, but y'all are making it easier by doing this for us."

But perhaps it was SONiA of Disappear Fear who summed it up best. Marching up to claim her prize in the

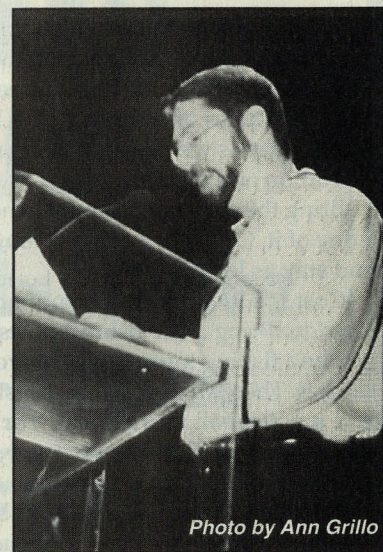
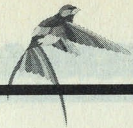


Photo by Ann Grillo

Fred Hersch

See GLAMA, page 19



GLAMA

from page 18

Acoustic/Folk category, she said, "Making music is like making love. It's so strange to get an award for it."

The Complete List of Winners (Album/Song/Label)

- Outmusic Award: Meshell NdegEocello
- Michael Callen Medal of Achievement: Fred Hersch
- Song of the Year: Meg Hentges and Jude O'Nym for "This Kind Of Love"
- Out Song: Catie Curtis for "What's The Matter"
- Out Recording: Melissa Etheridge for "Scarecrow"
- Album: Meshell NdegEocello for Bitter
- Producer of the Year: Indigo Girls and John Reynolds
- Female Artist: Meshell NdegEocello
- Male Artist: Fred Hersch
- Band/Duo/Group: The Butchies
- Debut: Patrick Arena (Night Cap/Arenamusic)
- Pop: Luscious Jackson
- Pop Instrumental: John Boswell
- Dance: Joi Cardwell
- Rock/Alternative: Meg Hentges
- Classical Performance: Theresa Bogard
- Contemporary Classical Composer: Kristina Boerger and

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Jazz: Zrazy
Acoustic/Folk:
SONiA of Disappear
Fear

Country: Mary
Gauthier

Contemporary
Spiritual: Christian
Andreason

- Comedy: Suzanne Westenhoefer
- Cabaret: Lee Lessack
- Cast Recording: Hedwig & the Angry Inch
- Score for Film or Theatre: Hedwig & the Angry Inch
- Video: Peter Martinez
- Music Reporting/Criticism: Gretchen Lee for an inter-
view with Melissa Etheridge for *Curve* magazine
- Live Radio Broadcast: Charlie Dyer, *GAYBC*

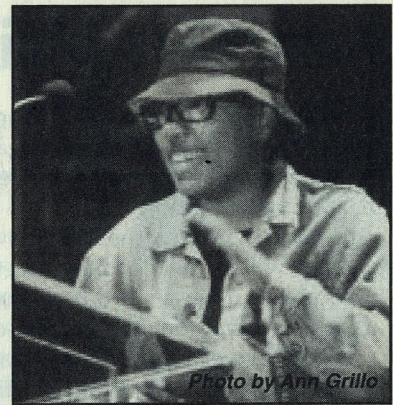
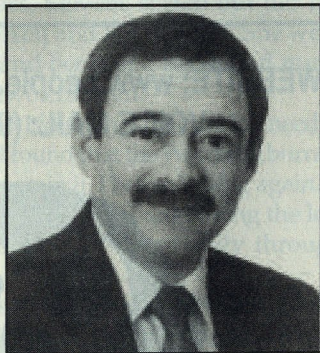


Photo by Ann Grillo

Me'Shell Ndegocello

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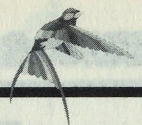


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Ms. Gay Pride 2000 to be crowned June 8

Many events take place during "pride week" here in Memphis. Several different organizations plan events around this one weekend in the year for the common goal to celebrate gay pride.

One such event is the Ms. Gay Pride competition. The pageant will be held at Backstreet Memphis, 2018 Court Street, on Thursday, June 8, beginning at 10 p.m. Doors open at 8 p.m. Admission is \$5 per person.

Byron Brewer, pageant coordinator, said, "What I'm trying to accomplish is to start a tradition." Brewer promises "a night filled with lots of entertainment and special out-of-town guests." Contestants are scheduled from the Memphis and Mid-South area and judges will come from Atlanta, Memphis and Missouri.

The pageant will include different stage settings and be held in the newly-renovated cabaret lounge at Backstreet Memphis.

There will be three categories of competition:

Pride Presentation, which consists of wearing pride gear and telling the audience and judges what pride means to them. The other two categories are evening wear and talent.

Ms. Gay Pride will receive \$500 cash, bookings at

Backstreet during the coming year, \$300 in Mac Cosmetics, an Austrian rhinestone jewelry set, a crown, sash and roses. Ms. Gay Pride also will ride in the Gay Pride Parade on Saturday, June 17.

First runner-up will receive \$200 cash and roses while the second runner-up will receive \$100 cash and roses.

There is still time to sign up. Pick up your application at Backstreet Memphis, Metro Memphis or by calling Brewer at (901) 278-0250 or (901) 458-1759. There is a \$100 entry fee.

Ms. Gay Pride is a Carlisle production in association with Stevens Entertainment.

"I hope everyone will come out and have a good time and support their favorite contestant," Brewer said.

Bookmark It!

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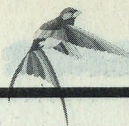
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Marsha Stevens to perform at Holy Trinity

As part of the weekend of celebrating gay pride in Memphis, Marsha Stevens will perform at Holy Trinity Community Church, 3430 Summer Avenue, on Sunday, June 18, at 7 p.m.

Stevens is a Christian singer, songwriter and evangelist. She also is the composer of "For Those Tears I Died (Come to the Water)" a standard of Christian hymnals since 1972.

Stevens also is a lesbian. Yes, a lesbian!

Stevens wrote the folk-hymn "For Those Tears I Died" as a young teenager. This started her Christian singing and songwriting career. At the age of 16 she continued her musical pursuits with a Christian folk group, The Children of the Day, for the next nine years. She also sang and provided backup vocals on several of the *Maranatha* and *Praise* albums.

According to Steven's website at www.balmministries.com, Stevens eventually married and began a family. However, in 1979, something happened. She fell in love with another woman. She divorced her husband of seven years and came out.

"When I came out as a born-again lesbian, I didn't anticipate that people would come unglued the way they did," Stevens said. "Once the church found out, people came over and told me to take the 'Jesus is Lord' sign off my door. People would rip the pages out of their hymnals containing my songs and send them to me with hate mail."

During the next five years, Stevens sorted out her life and the conflict between herself and her religion. She went to school during this time and became a registered nurse to support herself and her two children.

"It was during that time that I found out that I didn't need to come out to God," she said. "I found that the Word still burned in my heart and I could not contain it. I began to sing again."

Stevens now focuses her talents on evangelizing the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community through her gospel music.

"I hope my music breaks through the religious rhetoric we've come to hate and talks about our longing to see pur-

pose in our existence and healing for our hearts."

Stevens is involved in the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches and is the first lay recipient of the prestigious Purple Grass Award for her excellence as an evangelist. She has recorded six solo albums and a concert video on her independent BALM (Born Again Lesbian Music) label. She travels extensively, performing from 150 to 200 concerts a year.

Admission is free to this concert, however, a love offering will be taken.

This event is being sponsored jointly by Safe Harbor Metropolitan Community Church, Holy Trinity Community Church and the Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Religious Affairs.



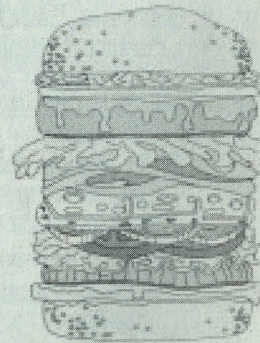
Marsha Stevens

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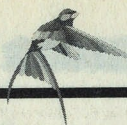
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ETC to produce winning works by playwrights

Emerald Theatre Company will present the winners of the 2nd Annual Gay and Lesbian Playwrights Competition Friday, Saturday and Sunday, June 16 to 18. This event will take place in conjunction with Memphis' gay and lesbian pride weekend.

The winning works, which will be presented, include:

Versus, by Atlanta playwright Cedric Jones. It is a very real and controversial one-act that takes the viewer into the lives of a couple faced with small-town bigotry among

religious zealots.

Memphis fem4fem, by Memphian Laine McNeil, is for all of you "chatroom" lovers. This one is not to be missed!

Bottom Line is by last year's winner, Michael A. Kiggins. The perfect mate? think again.

All three works will be presented in a one-act format. Emerald Theatre Company is housed at Theatreworx, located at 2085 Monroe Avenue behind Overton Square. Admission is \$10 per person and the show starts at 8 p.m. nightly.

For more information or reservations, please call (901) 722-9302.

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June 10—**Birthday Bash/Cookout/Swim Party.** 5:00 p.m.

June 11—**Pentecost Sunday; 10th Anniversary Service.**
11:00 a.m.

June 18—**Faith Family Reunion.** 11:00 a.m.

Holy Trinity Community Church (Nashville) Ensemble; Safe Harbor Family Church (Jackson, MS) Ensemble & The Rev. Pam Walsh, guest preacher. Covered Dish Dinner following the service

Marsha Stevens Concert. 7:00 p.m.

Sponsored by SHMCC and HTCC. Carry-in appetizer reception follows.

Watch WKNO, Channel 10, in June for historical and informative programming for and about the Gay/Lesbian community sponsored by HTCC.



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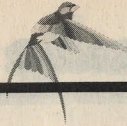
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Pride rally set prior to parade June 17

The Memphis Lesbian & Gay Coalition for Justice (LGCJ) is hosting this year's "Equality Begins at Home Rally" to be held before the Memphis Pride Parade on Saturday, June 17, beginning at 2 p.m. The site of the rally is the Overton Square parking lot behind TGI Fridays.

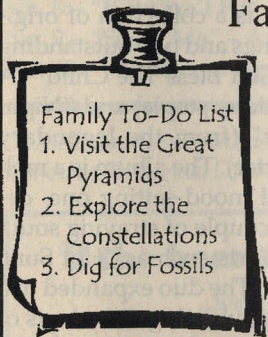
Carol Plunk will entertain you. Speaking will be political candidates Paula Skahan (Criminal Court Judge, Division 9), Shannon Wood (D-U.S. Senate) and Equality Tennessee's Bill Turner and Rhonda White from Nashville. The grand marshals for this year's Memphis Pride Parade will also be presented.

The theme of the rally is "Turning Pride Into Power."

For more information contact LGCJ at lgcj@gaymemphis.com, visit its website at www.gaymemphis.com/lgcj or call (901) 327-2677.

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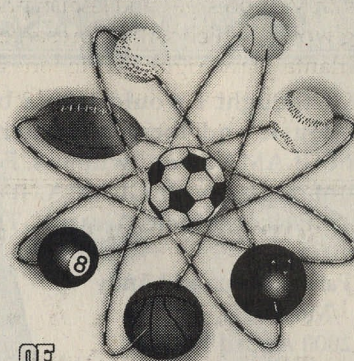
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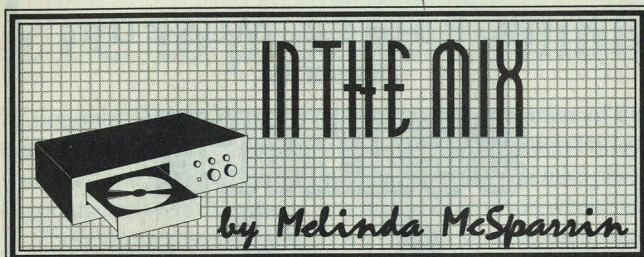
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This month, I thought I would take a break from "mainstream" music and focus my attention on a couple of recent GLAMA award winners. For those of you who are unfamiliar with GLAMA, it stands for Gay/Lesbian American Music Awards. The awards were held April 24.

Night Cap—Patrick Arena and Andy Monroe

**GLAMA 2000 Award Winner
Best Debut Album**

Night Cap is the debut CD for singer Patrick Arena and pianist Andy Monroe with special guest Steve Sandberg. It is the first release by Arena's new production company ARENAMUSIC, and GLAMA's award winner for Best Debut Album. Let me tell you, this one is a real treat. Arena says that he "made this album of relaxing, comforting music so that people could use it to wind down from a busy day."

He adds, "It's perfect for soaking in the tub, putting your feet up, having a quiet dinner or an evening in front of the fire with a special person." He wasn't kidding!!!

The CD is a mix of songs that have stood the true test of time ("Stardust," "Embraceable You" and "Johnny Angel" to name a few) and some original compositions by Arena, "Angel Wants Out Of Heaven" and "Who Knows What Love Will Do?," which blend together to create a superb album.

Arena's personal style of singing has been influenced by many jazz artists of the 1950s: Miles Davis, Ella Fitzgerald and Chet Baker to name a few. One only has to shut their eyes and they can be transported back to the cool jazz era that fathered most of the classics on this CD.

My personal favorite (being a HUGE Gershwin fan), is "Embraceable You." Another favorite is the medley of "Stardust," the old Carmichael classic, and "Goodnight," a classic from the Beatles' *White Album* from John Lennon and Paul McCartney.

Another track worthy of mention here is "Nature Boy," which is a haunting dedication to Matthew Shepard, the young gay man who was murdered in Wyoming in October 1998.

For those of you out there who think that all music by gay or lesbian artists is either club/dance music or screaming political statements on feminist issues, go out and buy this CD. Explore the classics with Patrick and Andy. You will be supporting our community and enriching your music experience all at the same time.

(Editor's Note: *Night Cap* can be purchased online at www.cdbaby.com, or at INZ & OUTZ, 553 South Cooper in Memphis.)

**Private Wars – Zrazy
GLAMA 2000 Award Winner
Best Jazz Album**

I want to start this review by saying that I LOVE jazz music. I want to state further that I LOVED this CD, *Private Wars*, by the Irish group Zrazy. The first word that popped into my mind while listening to this GLAMA award winner was "phenomenal."

Private Wars is the third release from this Irish duo. Their first two CDs, *Give It All Up* and *Come Out Everybody*, were more pop and dance influenced with funky loops and techno grooves.

Private Wars is a return to the duo's first love which is jazz. The album, which was released on their own ALFI label, is a collection of original jazz songs and two outstanding covers, "God Bless The Child" (A Billie Holiday staple) and "Night and Day" (from the legendary Cole Porter). The album is a mellow and mood-setting one, despite a couple of straying soul/funk efforts such as "Hot Sun" and "Ecstasy." The duo expanded to a

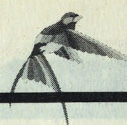
jazz quintet for this recording, utilizing the talents of Geraint Roberts on double bass, Myles Drennan on Piano and Andrew Bold on drums. Carole Nelson provides alto and soprano saxophones and additional piano and Maria Walsh provides some killer vocals (Nelson and Walsh are the original duo).

According to their biography, most of the songs on this album were recorded as first-takes, which adds spontaneity and freshness to an already incredible recording.

(Editor's Note: *Private Wars* can be purchased at INZ &



See In The Mix, page 25



In The Mix

from page 24

OUTZ, 553 South Cooper in Memphis.)

**Billboard's Hot 100 Singles (top 10)
as of week ending May 20, 2000**

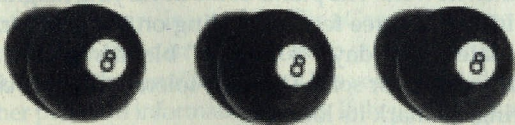
- No. 1 - "Maria Maria" - Santana Featuring The Product G&B
- No. 2 - "Breathe" - Faith Hill
- No. 3 - "Thong Song" - Sisqo
- No. 4 - "He Wasn't Man Enough" - Toni Braxton
- No. 5 - "I Try" - Macy Gray
- No. 6 - "Everything You Want" - Vertical Horizon
- No. 7 - "Say My Name" - Destiny's Child
- No. 8 - "Be With You" - Enrique Iglesias
- No. 9 - "Bye Bye Bye" - 'N Sync
- No. 10 - "Try Again" - Aaliyah

**Billboard's Top 10 Dance Tracks
as of week ending May 20, 2000**

- No. 1 - "I'm In Love" - Veronica
- No. 2 - "I Will Love Again" - Lara Fabian
- No. 3 - "Release" - Afro Celt Sound System
- No. 4 - "I Don't Know What You Want But I Can't Give It Any More" - Pet Shop Boys
- No. 5 - "Feelin' So Good" - Jennifer Lopez Featuring Big Pun & Fat Joe
- No. 6 - "Share My Joy" - GTS Featuring Loleatta Holloway
- No. 7 - "When I Get Close To You" - Jocelyn Enriquez
- No. 8 - "If It Don't Fit" - Abigail
- No. 9 - "Show Me" - Angel Slivilles
- No. 10 - "Be Encouraged" - Dawn Tallman

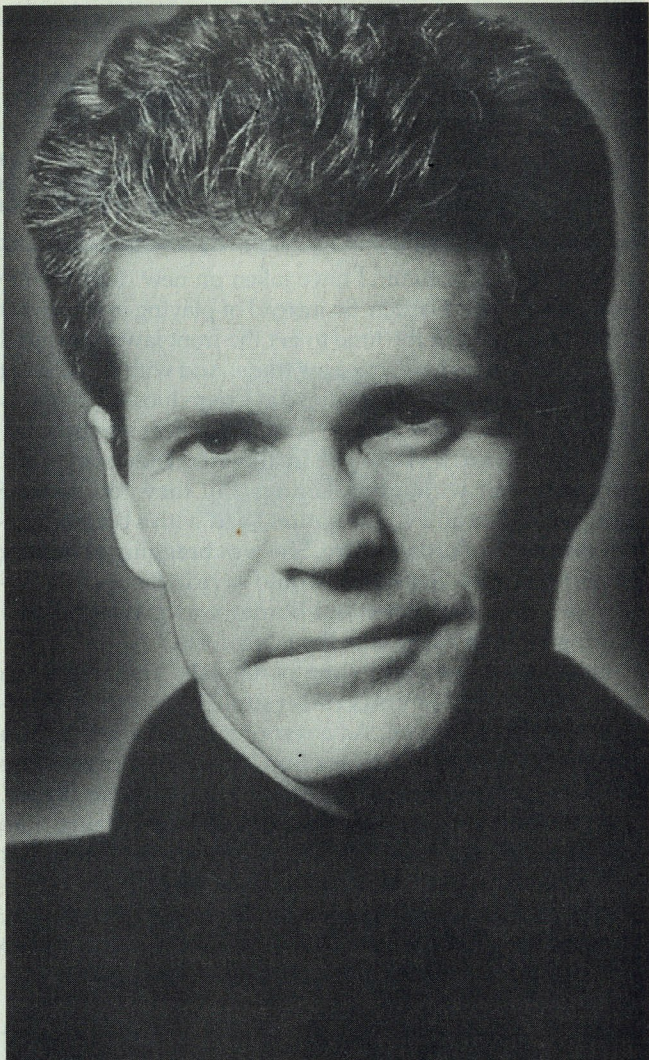
Melinda McSparrin has been a DJ for the past 18 years. She has worked as the original DJ at the Pendulum and most recently WKRB.

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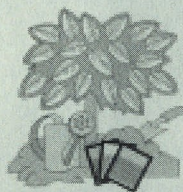
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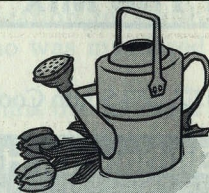
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Keeping It Green With Jim Browne



Since my last column, I have taken on new duties at the Memphis Botanic Garden. So instead of playing in the dirt at home, I barely have the time to get the front lawn mowed. I now have 96 acres to practice my trade. And with 24 different display garden areas, I look for ways to reduce my labor as I'm sure you do, especially as the summer heat intensifies.

Perennials are less work than annuals. They come back year after year without replanting. But they, too, require some work. I recall a conversation I had with a botanic garden director in Portland, Ore. She was bragging about her perennial border and how it would save in labor costs. After five years, that perennial border was converted to a parking lot; that really cuts the labor costs.

Below are some sun-loving perennials. They require a minimum of eight hours of direct sunlight and should perform very well for you. As a resource, I use a list of "Jim and Jim's Perennial Picks for Sun" that my former radio show co-host put together for distribution to our audience.

AMSONIA – common name: Bluestar or Blazing Star. Pale blue flowers in mid to late Spring. Prefers moist but not wet soils and will reach a height of three feet.

ARTEMISIA – The wormwoods. Very drought-tolerant. They do not like "wet feet" Most members of this group have insignificant flowers but beautiful white-to-gray foliage in varying textures.

"Silver King" grows to four feet with multiple slender stalks and spreads rapidly.

"Silver Mound" is a dwarf to six inches tall and two feet wide.

"Powis Castle" grows two feet tall and 10 feet wide but can be trimmed to maintain.

ASCLEPIAS – the Butterfly weeds. This plant can be difficult to transplant, but once established is magnificent. The common butterfly weed produces masses of orange-red flowers to three feet in height. Avoid spraying with insecticides because it burns easily and it is almost always covered with beneficial insects (butterflies, moths and bees.) It flowers in mid-summer.

BAPTISIA – False Indigo. Blue or white flowers produced on erect stems at the top of the plants in May followed by green seed pods that mature to black. It can get big, four-feet by six-feet wide. It has blue-green foliage, self seeds freely and likes well drained soil. It tolerates hot dry locations.

BELACAMDA – Blackberry lily. Iris-like foliage with orange flowers spotted with red. It blooms in mid-summer followed by black berries. It can become very aggressive in the garden.

CHELONE – Turtlehead. This perennial grows to three feet tall and has beautiful pink flowers. It tolerates partial shade but needs plenty of moisture.

COREOPSIS – The tickseeds. Numerous varieties to choose from varying in heights from six inches to four feet and in flower size. Most have yellow blossoms.

"Early Sunrise," "Sunburst," and "Brown Eyes" are excellent varieties to try. Two of the best thread-leaf varieties are:

"Moonbeam" (light yellow) and "Zagreb" (golden yellow) These two varieties will give you almost season-long bloom. Height to two feet.

ECHINACEA – The coneflowers. This plant grows to four feet with purple, pink or white flowers. Large showy flowers and a long blooming season make this perennial an excellent addition to the perennial garden.

HEMEROCALLIS – The daylilies. Its Latin name translates to day-beauty. Indestructible. Comes in thousands of varieties. Now available in dwarfs. Some have evergreen foliage. Red, pink, yellow, orange, near white, near green and purples flowers are produced on three feet scapes. Flowers substance has been improving over the past few years with nearly overlapping, ruffled petals. Spring, summer and fall blooming varieties. They do require well-drained soils, but will bloom in less than full sunlight.

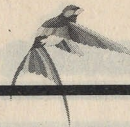
HIBISCUS – Not the tropical one, but the hardy form. This is a traffic stopper. For a background or corner plant, this is hard to beat. Flower color is limited to white, pink and maroon, but often flowers are 12 inches across. Plant heights vary from three feet to eight feet. Does tend to get caterpillars, so keep some "BT" spray around. "BT" is a bacterium that is an organic approach to worm control.

LIATRIS – Gay feather. Tall narrow spikes with hundreds of small lavender or white flowers. This plant grows to four feet and blooms from mid-summer to fall.

OENOTHERA – The evening primroses. Yellow one inch to six inch flowers. The plants come in varying heights from eight inches to three feet depending on the cultivar. Most bloom late in the day. "Sundrops" blooms earlier. Prefer well-drained, poor soils. Drought-tolerant. Late to emerge in Spring, so mark its location.

PHLOX – The creeping phlox makes a great border plant and gives you very early color. It is available in purple, crimson red, pink, blue, white and candy-striped white with red. Plant in areas with some summer moisture. Tall garden phlox gives you color from early Summer to Fall. It is

See Keeping It Green, page 27



Keeping It Green

from page 26

available in white, pink, red, blue-purple, crimson and many bi-colors. Plant where there is air circulation since it can be prone to powdery mildew.

PHYSOSTEGIA – The obedient plant. Obedience refers to its flower. It may be turned on the erect stems and they will stay where you turn them. It is easy to grow, but very aggressive. Good cut flower. Grows to 4 feet with pink, purple or white flowers. "Vivid" is a new cultivar to watch for. It tends to bloom in late summer through the Fall.

SALVIA – the sages. Lots of varieties to choose from. Most have varying shades of purple or blue flowers on plants that grow from one foot to four feet. Salvia 'Greggii' is a red-flowered variety that attracts hummingbirds though the plant's habit is more airy and less compact and attractive. The "Mealycup" sage blooms all season like the annual forms but is not dependably hardy.

SEDUM – Stonecrops. Sedums vary from groundcovers with green leaves with yellow flowers or red leaves with red flowers to 15 inches blue-green clumps of foliage with bronze flowers. Great for dry locations.

"Autumn Joy" – one of the best perennials you can grow. It does best, though, when reset every third year.

STACHYS – Lamb's Ears. Grown for the fuzzy gray foliage. Good drainage a must.

STOKESIA – Stoke's Aster. Outstanding two inches to four inches lavender-blue flowers. Plant grows to two feet tall and blooms in the late May through June. Other cultivars include white, pink, blue and yellow flowers.

Next month I will address shade-loving perennials.

Jim Browne, Director of Horticulture for the Memphis Botanic Garden, writes the "Garden Checklist" for the Commercial Appeal's Home and Garden section. He co-hosts "In the Garden with Jim Browne and Vador Vance" on News Radio 600 WREC every Saturday from 8 to 10 am. His email address at the Memphis Botanic Garden is jamerbro@memphis.magibox.net

Is your TennCare up to date?

The Southwest TN HIV & AIDS Care Consortium urges those of you that are insured by TennCare to be sure to do what you have to do in order to keep your benefits.

First, be sure the TennCare system has your updated address and other pertinent information on file. If they send out a letter to you and it is returned because you have moved, TennCare may drop you from its rolls and you will no longer be covered.

Second, be sure to get re-certified by calling the TennCare Verification Unit; June 30 is the deadline to get re-certified.

The phone numbers for the TennCare Verification Unit, where you would call about either of these issues, is (901) 545-8366 or (800) 669-1851.



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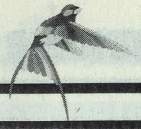
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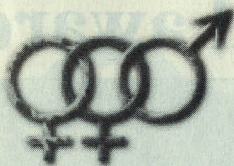
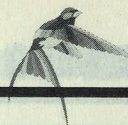


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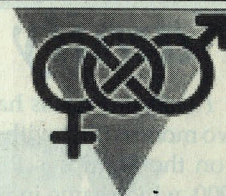
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SPEAKING 'Bi' MIND



Are you struggling with your sexual identity? Perhaps you find yourself attracted to both men and women? Or maybe you're just curious about bisexuality and bisexuals or know someone who identifies as bisexual?

Recently, while surfing the net, we found a list of books on bisexuality, offered on The British Columbia Bisexual Network at <http://bi.org/~binetbc/> which might help.

• ***Bi Any Other Name: Bisexual People Speak Out***

This book by Loraine Hutchins and Kaahamanu is a compilation of stories and essays showcasing more than 70 men and women's descriptions of what it's like to be bisexual. "Very bi-positive reading and highly recommended," said BiNet B.C.

• ***Bisexuality & HIV/AIDS: A Global Perspective***

This book, written by Tielman, Carballo and Hendriks, contains essays on male bisexuality and HIV/AIDS in various regions. "Great reading on statistics and the differences of bisexual living in the world. Recommended," said BiNet B.C.

• ***The Bisexual Option: Second Edition***

The BiNet B.C. folks called this book, written by Fritz Klein, MD, with the forward by R.U. Reinhardt, Ph.D., "Good reading on definitions of bisexuality, very good section on bisexuality and health. Recommended." This book offers examples of healthy and unhealthy bisexuals with a second on sociological findings and bisexuals in history.

• ***Bisexuality in Men and Women: Two Lives to Lead***

Written by Fritz Klein, MD, and Timothy J. Wolf, Ph.D., this book covers theoretical issues, psychological aspects of bisexuality and women and men in marriages. "Based on intensive research surveys, lots of comparisons and percentages, average reader might find it a bit too clinical. OK," BiNet B.C. wrote.

• ***Dual Attraction: Understanding Bisexuality***

The folks at BiNet B.C. called this book, written by Martin S. Weinberg, Colin J. Williams and Douglas W. Pryor, "Very detailed and highly recommended." This book is based on the study of bisexual lives, relationships, marriage, jealousy, being "out" and the nature of dual attractions, and includes chapters on sexual profiles and managing identities and AIDS and what bisexuals face in adapting to the new world.

• ***The Other Side of the Closet: The Coming-Out Crisis for Straight Spouses***

This self-help book is for the heterosexual half of "mixed-orientation couples" by Amity Pierce Buxton, an educator/counselor and ex-straight spouse. The book acknowledges that bisexuality is a distinct orientation and is not necessarily a transitional state, and includes thoughtful chapters on alternative marriage styles and on parenting issues.

"Recommended for intended readers and for bi spouses to read before giving it to them," BiNet B.C. said.

• ***Bisexual Politics: Theories, Queries & Visions***

BiNet B.C. writes, "Very good book, edited by bisexual women (Naomi Tucker, Liz Highleyman and Rebecca Kaplan). This book is the logical next step to *Bi Any Other Name*. There is a diversity of analysis from feminist and anarchist, to anecdotal and poetic personal stories. This book sifts out many different levels of bisexual identity and seeks to define what bisexual is in the only way possible, with as many definitions from as many different people from all walks of life. Super book, very highly recommended."

• ***Vice Versa - Bisexuality and the Eroticism of Everyday Life***

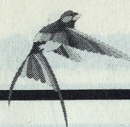
This book by Marjorie Garber examines the semantics of bisexuality, politics (feminist and otherwise), AIDS history and pop culture. "It further explores Greek mythology, Freud, Kinsey, Simon LeVey and The Bell Curve. Very good reading, you need awhile to really get into it. Recommended," BiNet B.C. wrote.

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REALTOR



Family & Friends wins national award

Family & Friends has had much to celebrate in the past two months, first with the announcement the magazine had won the Memphis Pride Inc. award for Best Publication 2000, which came in mid-April.

Then, adding to the excitement, *Family & Friends* was honored with a national award on April 28 in Washington, D.C.

As many readers know, *Family & Friends* was nominated this past year for Q Syndicate's Best New Publication award. The awards ceremony to name the winners, known as the Vice Versa Awards, was originally scheduled for September 1999, in Atlanta. However, for unknown reasons, the awards ceremony was rescheduled for April 28, 2000, in Washington, D.C., to coincide with the Millennium March on Washington.

During the awards ceremony, which was held at the Doyle Washington Hotel during the Gay and Lesbian Press Summit, it was announced that *Family & Friends* was the winner of the Best New Publication trophy. Runners-up were *IN Los Angeles*, published in Los Angeles, Calif., and *Spotlight Magazine*, published in Columbus, Ohio.

One judge said *Family & Friends* "covers many aspects



Family & Friends, from left, Dana Ferguson, Anita Moyt, Patricia Pair, Melinda McSparrin, Steven Bradford and J. Shane Wilson.

of gay and lesbian life and does so in a way that keeps the needs and attitudes of its market in mind."

Another judge wrote, "For the short time they have been publishing, I am impressed with what they have done. (*Family & Friends*) includes all aspects of the g/l/b/t community."

The *Family & Friends* staff was excited, thrilled and a little surprised by the award.

"We really couldn't believe it," said Anita Moyt, *Family & Friends* managing editor. "Winning the Vice Versa Award for Best New Publication really caught us all off-guard because we didn't think we stood a chance against two magazines published in such large g/l/b/t communities as Los Angeles and Columbus, Ohio.

"It was such an honor just to be nominated, and then to actually win was the thrill of a lifetime," she continued. "We certainly want to thank the advertisers, readers and supporters who have been with us since the very beginning in April 1998, as well as those who are with us today, because without you, these two recent awards would not have been possible.

"We also want to thank our staff, J. Shane Wilson, Steven Bradford, Melinda McSparrin, Jim Browne, Laine McNeil and Dana Ferguson, as well as our contributing writers, Rex Wockner and Gip Plaster, and cartoonist John Anderson, for helping to make *Family & Friends* an award-winning publication," Moyt concluded.

Other Vice Versa Award winners announced during the April 28 ceremony included the Randy Shilts Award for Outstanding Achievement: winner, "A Ride on the Wild Side," written by Michael Scarce for *POZ Magazine*; first runner-up, "Gay Parenting," *the Advocate*, and second runner-up, "Planned Parenthood," written by Laura Brown for *Southern Voice* out of Atlanta;

The Sappho Award for Creative Expression: winner, "Tattooed, Bald and Sexy," a photograph published in *Q San Francisco*; first runner up, "Under the Hood," *Xtra! West* of Vancouver, Canada, and second runner-up, "I Love You More ..." by Joel Greenburg, *Alternative Family Magazine*;

American Tuxedo



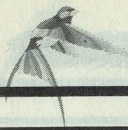
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8

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Parents-R-US



Kids can learn about dealing with prejudice

The Children's Museum of Memphis will host "Face to Face: Dealing With Prejudice & Discrimination" June 2 to July 23. This interactive, hands-on-exhibit is designed to provide children, ages five to 10, and their families with tools to help them recognize and respond to prejudice and discrimination.

Children will explore issues such as stereotyping, name-calling, exclusion and self-identity. Visitors will observe and experience how prejudice and discrimination feel to themselves and others, make choices about how to deal with these issues and begin to take positive action.

"Dealing with the topics of prejudice and discrimination is certainly

never easy," said Judy Caldwell, the museum's executive director "but the exhibit takes these sensitive issues and uses them as tools for teaching children and adults about differences in people and diversity in our world."

The exhibit is broken into various components. "Name That Stereotype Game" is a video interactive game show that teaches visitors about recognizing and dispelling stereotypes. The "Kids Bridge Video" explores various approaches to dealing with prejudice and discrimination by examining the experiences of other kids. The "Peace Diner" tries to get across that name calling is wrong and includes a "Name Shredder" where visitors write down a hurtful name and watch it be

destroyed in a paper shredder.

Visitors may get a better understanding that exclusion also is a form of prejudice and discrimination in the "School Bus Showdown." "Turn and Learn About Differences" explores differences through exposure to a collection of diverse images of people. There also is a resource library and many other hands-on activities to be explored in the exhibit.

Located at 2525 Central Avenue, the museum is open Tuesday to Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. Admission is \$4 for children (ages one to 12) and seniors and \$5 for adults. For more information call (901) 458-2678 or check out the museum's website at www.cmom.com.

Two white Bengal tiger cubs are visiting Zoo

Two exquisite white Bengal tiger cubs, named Shankara and Kansu, have come to visit the Memphis Zoo. These two female cubs can be found at the Madagascar exhibit now through October.

"Shankara and Kansu are two of a litter of four born June 18, 1999, at the Nashville Zoo," said Mark Ferguson, education curator at the Nashville Zoo and honorary tiger nursery helper. "The other two cubs, a male and a female, are now in South Africa." The litter's parents, Dhari and Raj were born in 1991, and are presently on exhibit at the Nashville Zoo.

Shankara is Indian for "little one that brings joy" and Kansu is named after a province in China.

When they were born, they each weighed about two pounds. The nine-month olds now weigh 120 pounds each and have the potential to reach 250 pounds as adults.

White Bengal tigers are known for their physical appearance of a milky white coat, crystal blue eyes and chocolate brown stripes. They are not albinos, which usually results in no coat pigmentation and pink eyes.

The white color-morph in tigers occurs when both the parent tigers pass on a recessive gene to their young.

White tigers have not been found in the wild since 1951, when the Maharaja of Rewa (India) discovered a male in the jungles during one of his hunts. The cub was named

Mohan, kept in captivity and bred with other Bengal tigers. Although recent evidence has been discovered suggesting all white tigers are not related, most white tigers found in U.S. zoos are direct descendents of Mohan.

"The two cubs we have are strong and beautiful. Our job by exhibiting these tigers is to bring the conservationally-naive to an awareness about the fact that all tigers are in danger and need to be saved," commented Chuck Brady, associate director of animal programs at the Memphis Zoo.

The Memphis Zoo is located in Overton Park and is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. (last admission is 5 p.m.) now through October. They are open seven days a week. Admission is \$5.50 for children (two to 11) and \$8.50 for adults.

For more information, please call (901) 276-WILD.



Photo by Byron Jarjorian

White Bengal tiger cub

FOR YOUR KIDS

Kids museum plans celebration

The Children's Museum of Memphis, 2525 Central Avenue, will hold its 10th anniversary celebration with a birthday party blowout on Friday, June 16, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Activities taking place on the front lawn include magician Kid Davy, sidewalk chalk art, entertainment and birthday cake. There is no admission charge to attend the museum's birthday party, however, admission to the museum is not included. Call (901) 458-2678 for more information.

Cartoon workshop is planned

Local artist Danny Tenniel will help kids, age 12 to 17, hone their artistic skills at a cartoon workshop on Tuesday, June 27, at 1:30 p.m., at the Highland branch of the Memphis/Shelby County public libraries. Call the branch, located at 460 South Highland, for more information at (901) 452-7341.

Museum to host summer camp

The Children's Museum of Memphis, 2525 Central Avenue, is offering a summer of hands-on learning and fun with Kidventures summer camp June 12 to July 28 for children ages six to 10 years old. Kidventures Summer Camp is divided into four, week-long sessions and one two-week session. Each session is held Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Each session focuses on a different topic, including visual arts, animals, sports, aviation and performing arts. Cost is \$90 per week and all supplies and snacks are included. Children need to bring a sack lunch. For reservations or information, please call (901) 458-2678.

Channel 3 anchors to read

WREG-TV News Channel 3 anchors, reporters and "Kids Count" sponsors will read picture books to children, ages three to five, at the Memphis/Shelby County Public Libraries this month. The schedule is: Thursday, June 1, 10:30 a.m., at the Arlington branch, 11968 Walker; Wednesday, June 7, 11 a.m., at the Bartlett branch, 6382 Stage Road; Thursday, June 8, 10:30 a.m., at the Cordova branch, 1017 Sanga Road; Monday, June 12, 10 a.m., at the Cherokee branch, 3300 Sharpe; Wednesday, June 14, 10:15 a.m., at the Collierville branch, 91 Walnut; Thursday, June 15, 10 a.m., at the Cornelia Crenshaw branch, 531 Vance; Wednesday, June 21, 11 a.m. at the East Shelby branch, 7200 East Shelby Drive; Thursday, June 22, 10:30 a.m., at the Frayser branch, 3712 Argonne; Wednesday, June 28, 11 a.m., at the Germantown branch, 1925 Exeter, and Wednesday, June 28, 10:30 a.m., at the Gaston Park branch, 1040 South Third.

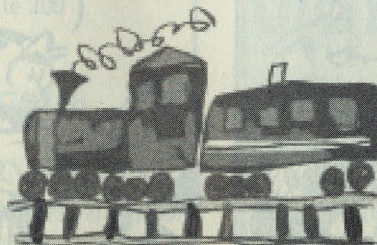
PRIDE 2000 FESTIVAL

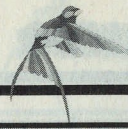
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Family Album ... Holy Trinity Bingo



Daniel calls the bingo games.



Barbara Jean smiles for the camera.



Chris marks his cards.

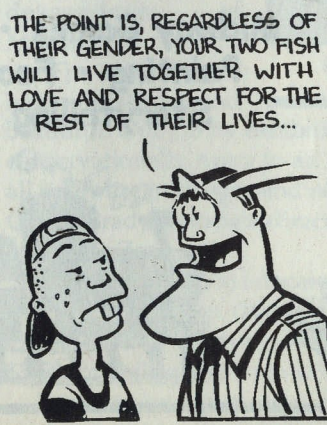


Playing are, from left, Jean, Emily and Cheryl.

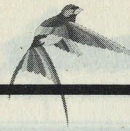


Playing bingo are, from left, Anita, Jim and George.

HONESTLY ETHEL by John D. Anderson



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Integrity-Memphis plans annual retreat

Integrity-Memphis invites you to its annual retreat Saturday, June 3, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. The retreat, entitled "Wrestling with Angels," will be held at Gates Pavilion at St. Columba Episcopal Conference Center, 4577 Billy Maher Road.

This retreat will focus on "coming out" stories of the Bible. The retreat will include testimonial speakers, including Peterson Toscano, Jonathan Cole, Glynda Hall and Tomie Saxon, small and large group interaction, dramatic exercises, personal reflection time, closing Eucharist and lots of fun!

Register by sending your name, address and phone number to Integrity-Memphis, c/o Calvary Episcopal Church, 102 N. 2nd Street, Memphis, TN 38103. Deadline for registration is May 31.

Please call Jonathan Cole at (901) 374-9494 or Peterson Toscano at (901) 737-8518 for more information.

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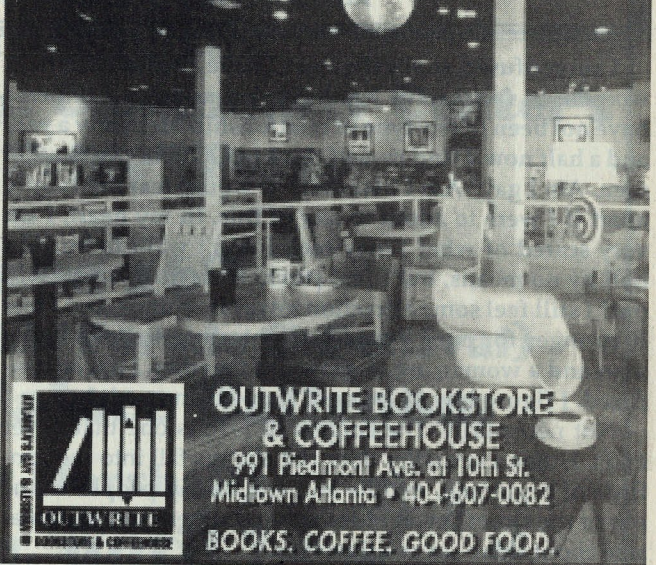
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I am confused, to say the least. I have always been with women. In fact I have been married and am a father. I have not been in any type of relationship for nearly a year and a half now. I find myself thinking of being with other men. Am I gay? Am I bisexual? It would tear my family apart if I were to admit to any of this. In my heart, I am very scared of what I may feel. I don't want to burn in hell by no means, but I feel stuck. How do I sort this all out? I still feel some attraction towards women, but I feel it stronger for men. I was brought up to believe that a man and a woman are to grow old together. I am so confused. I figured by 38 I would know by now, right?

Not necessarily. The enigma of love is one that never ends. Human sexuality does not always fall into the confines of beginning, middle and end. Many people "come out of the closet" at an older age and others simply fantasize about same-sex relationships.

You pose an excellent series of questions. How do you know whether this is a passing thing or a sign of your sexual preference? Of course, your spiritual and religious ideology plays a vital role in this journey. I suggest you take some time and explore your feelings for men - ask yourself if this is a natural progression or merely a fantasy? Could it be that you, like many others are merely curious? Do you feel that if you take the next step, you will be going against your moral fiber?

Take the needed time to answer these questions. Be true to yourself! Once you stop worrying about what others will think and work on what makes you happy, you will be on the road to making the right choices. Remember that even the greatest thinkers of our times have unanswered questions. Please keep in touch and let me know. I'd like to hear other's input into this dilemma.

•••

I am at the end of my rope. My girlfriend and I have been together for about a year. Now she is not the problem, it's her kids. She was recently divorced when we met and has two kids, three and four. Now it's not that I don't like the kids, it's just that they demand so much of her time there is never any left over for me.

The only time we get alone is when they stay with their dad. While they are gone she is openly affectionate but as soon as they return she turns almost a cold shoulder to me.

She says I am making her feel like she has to make a choice between me or her kids and I don't want to put her that position. The problem is that I have never been inter-

ested in having children. I never longed to have them in my life or to be in any sort of parenting role. It's just so different than I imagined but I love my girlfriend and would do anything to make this better. What can you suggest I do?

Being a parent is one of the most difficult jobs in the world, and if you are not fully-committed to it, it can be damn near impossible. Notice I said "near impossible" because if you love your partner as much as you say you do then there are some things you can do that might make things easier.

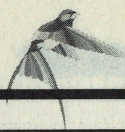
First, you say the kids take up all her time and that leaves little for you two. I would have to ask you to look at what she is doing with the kids during that time and see if there are ways you could be helping to get things done faster. Maybe while she cooks dinner you could get the kids their baths. Or maybe you could do an extra load of laundry, wash the dishes, bring home take-out food or even just spend some time playing with the kids so she can take a shower. I am talking about sharing the time-consuming jobs so the kids can get to bed on time and you two can do ... well whatever.

It might help to find a good couple's counselor (one who is experienced in working with g/l/b/t relationship issues) to help you establish better communication. You said she had recently divorced when you got together, so maybe she is concerned about her children's reactions to her lesbianism. There may be fears about custody and how her husband may react if he knew she was in a lesbian relationship (assuming that he doesn't know already). She may be dealing with her own internalized homophobia as well as fears about other's reactions.

But for the most part, all couples go through a period of adjustment whenever and however children enter a family unit. There is less time for partners to spend together alone, but you can share time together with the children. Go to the park and have a picnic, go to the zoo, read stories together as a family, play Go Fish.

You may find that the time you share as a family becomes as important, if not more important, than the time you spend alone.

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 master's degree in the counseling field. 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 FamilyFriendsMphs@yahoo.com.



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Jason @ 725-1574 or jrockett@utmem.edu



Gay community mourns loss of Tu Real

A beloved member of the g/l/b/t community, Henry Lewis Boyd, more widely known in the community as Tu Real, lost his battle with AIDS on May 1, 2000, and died of heart failure at the Regional Medical Center at Memphis. He was 45.

Funeral services were held May 4, 2000, at Vollintine Baptist Church on New Allen with burial in New Park Cemetery. B.T. Auston & Sons Funeral Home had charge.

Henry was born Oct. 22, 1954, in Memphis and accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Savior at an early age at Hill Chapel Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of Dr. E.L. Slay.

"Henry was a loving, caring person," said his sister, Brenda Brazley of Memphis. "He would do anything for anyone, but I think anyone who knew him knew that."

A graduate of Northside High School in Memphis, Henry began dressing in drag and took on the name "Tu Real" in the mid-1980s.

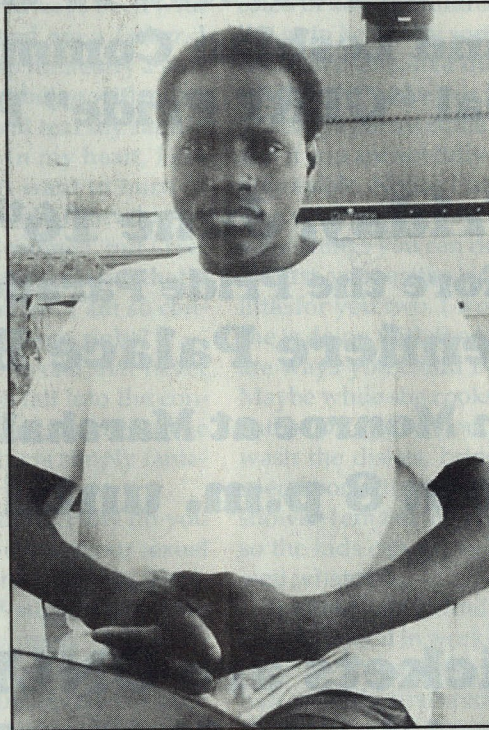
"He began to pull away from his family I think because he feared the family wouldn't approve of his lifestyle," she added. "He knew our dad wouldn't approve and he always wanted his dad's approval."

Henry, a.k.a. Tu Real, was diagnosed with AIDS in 1994.

"When he (Henry) told us he had AIDS, it was very, very difficult for the family to accept," his sister continued.



Tu Real



Henry Lewis Boyd

"But I believe that it doesn't matter if you agree or don't agree with a person's lifestyle, they are still just a person."

Close friend and former employer Trent Gatewood, co-owner of One More Bar & Grill, remembers Tu Real as

"a real special person; a unique person and an awesome guy." The number of people from the Memphis g/l/b/t community who turned out for his "home-going service" proved that most everyone shared the same opinion.

"He (Tu Real) lived up to his name," Gatewood said. "He was more of an actress than a drag queen, and the women really and truly loved him. He was a hard worker and a good man, and he performed in about 90 percent of the Aphrodite shows held to raise money for various charities."

"Up until about three years ago, Tupelo, Miss., was the farthest he had been from Memphis," Gatewood added. "So, Tom (Gatewood's partner and co-owner of One More) and I took him with us on vacation to Key West."

Without a doubt, the Memphis g/l/b/t community will miss Tu Real.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Sallie May Yancey, and a sister, Patricia Boyd.

Survivors include his father, James Lewis Jr.; his stepfather, Lee E. Yancey; five sisters, Nancy Howard of Cerritos, Calif., and Mary Bowen, Brenda Brazley,

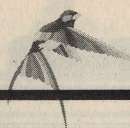
Carolyn Perkins and Nettie Lewis, all of Memphis; three brothers, Eddie Boyd, Frederick Boyd and Rickey Boyd, all

of Memphis; grandmothers, Jessie Springfield of Memphis and Ronetta Baker of Pittsburgh, Penn.; five uncles; five aunts; 25 nieces and nephews; 15 great nieces and nephews, and a host of other relatives and friends in the g/l/b/t community.

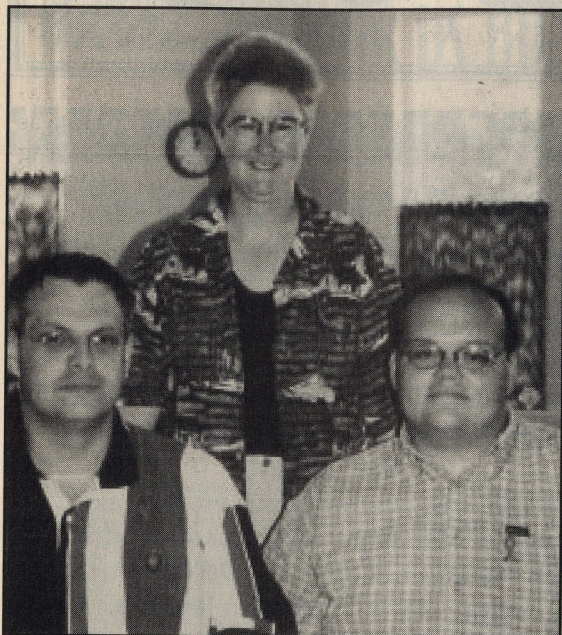
The family has requested that memorials be made to a favorite charity in his name.



Tu Real



Family Album ... GLAAD workshop



Pictured are front from left, Chris and Daniel, with GLAAD's Jane Ralph, back.



Jason, left, and Jonathan



Representing the Memphis Lesbian & Gay Coalition for Justice are, from left, Tim, Michael, Jim and Carol.

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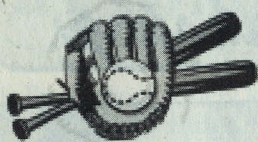
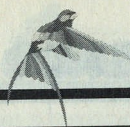
by Michael A. Kiggins

Memphis fem4fem

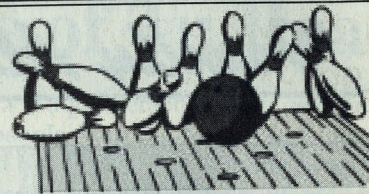
by Laine McNeil

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SPORTS



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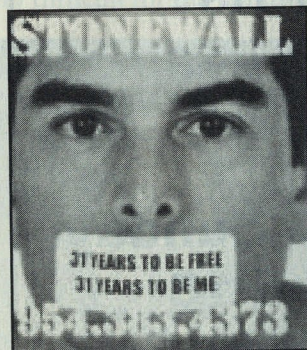
SCHEDULE FOR JUNE

June 1 at 8:45 p.m.
 June 8 – Rainday
 June 15 at 8:45 p.m.
 June 22 at 7:45 p.m.
 June 29 at 6:45 p.m.

Remember Stonewall with minute of silence

Family & Friends received a letter a few months ago from a man with a dream. Larry Wald wrote. "Enclosed is a dream...a dream for the gay and lesbian community to come together as a nation and...Well, please read it and understand what a difference this could make. There was a commercial once that said, 'if you want to capture someone's attention, whisper'...I believe it's time to 'hit them over the head.' Please take this dream and make it your own."

Wald's dream is that the nationwide g/l/b/t community would take a minute of silence on Tuesday, June 27, at noon, as a silent protest for g/l/b/t equal rights.



One June 27, 1969, Stonewall was a place that the g/l/b/t community literally shouted to have our voices heard and literally fought to be recognized. According to Wald, "Thirty-one years have passed; we do not have equal rights. Our government will not recognize our relationships...If our country was founded on diversity, why must we have to continue to fight for equal rights? For 31 years we have tried everything

to prove that we are people. What more can we say? Nothing."

On Tuesday, June 27, Wald asks that if you are driving - pull to the curb for one minute. If you are talking shut up for one minute. Don't say or do anything for one minute from noon to 12:01 p.m.

BLUFF CITY SPORTS ASSOCIATION JUNE GAME SCHEDULE

(games at Wilson Field/Cottonwood @ Clarke)

JUNE 4, 2000

1 p.m. – Lesbigaytrs vs. Drillers
 2 p.m. – ReMax vs. Jaguars
 3 p.m. – Lesbigaytrs vs. Backstreet Haze
 4 p.m. – Jungle Jocks vs. Holy Trinity

JUNE 11, 2000

1 p.m. – Backstreet Haze vs. ReMax
 2 p.m. – Jungle Jocks vs. Lesbigaytrs
 3 p.m. – Jaguars vs. Drillers
 4 p.m. – Holy Trinity vs. Jaguars

JUNE 18, 2000

1 p.m. – Jaguars vs. ReMax
 2 p.m. – Backstreet Haze vs. Drillers
 3 p.m. – Holy Trinity vs. Lesbigaytrs
 4 p.m. – Drillers vs. Jungle Jocks


JUNE 25, 2000

1 p.m. – Jungle Jocks vs. ReMax
 2 p.m. – Jaguars vs. Backstreet Haze
 3 p.m. – ReMax vs. Drillers
 4 p.m. – Lesbigaytrs vs. Holy Trinity

STANDINGS AS OF MAY 21, 2000

BACKSTREET HAZE	5	0
JAGUARS	3	0
REMAX	2	2
DRILLERS	2	2
JUNGLE JOCKS	2	3
LESBIGAYTRS	0	3
HOLY TRINITY	0	4

TENNESSEE DISABILITY INFORMATION & REFERRAL OFFICE

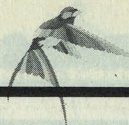
 John F. Kennedy Center, Vanderbilt University

Phone: (615) 322-8529 (Voice) • (800) 640-INFO (4636)
 (615) 343-2958 (TDD) • (800) 273-9595 (TDD)

E-mail: carole.moore-slater@vanderbilt.edu

Website: <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/kennedy/findse.html>

This office provides information about disability supports and community services available to individuals, families, and agencies in TN.



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Saturday, June 17

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SOME COUNTRY, JUST TO KEEP YOU IN SYNC!

JUNE 5 – ELECTRIC SLIDE
JUNE 12 – TEXAS 2-STEP REVIEW
JUNE 19 – ARIZONA 2-STEP REVIEW
JUNE 26 • COUNTRY WALTZ REVIEW

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ABOUT TOWN



Friends of Library to host sale

Thousands of books, videos and records will be on sale at bargain prices, from Friday, June 9, through Sunday, June 11, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Charles Brakefield/Youth Building at the Mid-South Fairgrounds. Proceeds from the sale, sponsored by the Friends of the Library, go toward the new Central Library project. For more information, please call (901) 725-8852.

Iris Rhizome Sale is planned

The Goldsmith Civic Garden Center auditorium in the Memphis Botanic Garden will be the site of the Iris Rhizome Sale, sponsored by the Memphis Area Iris Society, on Saturday, June 24, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Prices are \$2 per rhizome. This is a big sale with a great selection of varieties to choose from. For more information, please call (901) 685-1566, ext. 106.

Orpheum to hold auditions

Pianist auditions will be held at the Orpheum Theatre on Saturday, June 3, from 1 to 3 p.m. The Orpheum Theatre is searching for accomplished pianists to play on the theater's new Steinway piano in the lobby of the historical Orpheum before and during intermission of upcoming Broadway shows. Chosen pianists will be given a stipend and two tickets to the show for their services. For more information, please call (901) 525-7800, ext. 224 or 225.

Spanish lessons geared to g/l/b/t

Interested in learning Spanish? Want to know about the gay and lesbian communities in Mexico? CETLALIC is an alternative Spanish language school in Cuernavaca, Mexico, which offers, among others, programs for gay men and for lesbians June 11 to 30. For more information, check out their website at www.giga.com/~cetlalic.

Orpheum to show classic movies

The Orpheum Theatre, 203 South Main, invites you to watch a classic movie this month. Cost is \$6 for adults and \$5 for children (12 and under) and seniors. Movies will be shown in the historical theater on Fridays and Sundays throughout the summer months. *The Wizard of Oz* will be the opening movie on Friday, June 2, at 7:15 p.m. Other movies include *Casablanca*, *Singin' In The Rain*, *Hello Dolly*, *Gone With The Wind*, and *Jailhouse Rock*. For more information, call (901) 525-7800.

Memphis Zoo to be open later

Saturday Sundowns at the Memphis Zoo begin June 3 and last until Aug. 26. Saturday nights will be better than ever at the zoo with extended hours from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. with the last admission at 8 p.m. Admission is only \$5 per person after 5 p.m. For more information, please call (901) 276-WILD.

Candlelight tour is slated

You can enjoy a candlelight tour of the Japanese Garden of Tranquility at the Memphis Botanic Gardens, located in Audubon Park, on Thursday, June 15, from 8 to 9 p.m. With luminaries casting a warm glow on the tranquil waters, stories of Japanese folklore are shared. Cost is \$5 for adults and \$1 for children. For more information, please call (901) 685-1566.

Potter's guild to hold show, sale

The Memphis Potter's Guild will hold a show and sale at the Memphis Botanic Gardens, located in Audubon Park, on Saturday, June 3, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and on Sunday, June 4, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

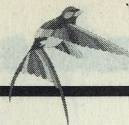
Choices of Life seeking volunteers

Choices of Life Inc. is seeking volunteer HIV/AIDS educators to serve our community. A three- to four-day HIV/AIDS training class will be provided at the Red Cross.

Choices of Life Inc. was recently awarded a grant from the State Health Department to assist the public in HIV prevention education. As a certified Red Cross HIV/AIDS educator, Avalon Nathaniel, R.N., founder and executive director of Choices of Life Inc., has developed a volunteer-based program in an effort to reach that goal.

Anyone over the age of 17 that is interested in being a volunteer and joining the Choices of Life Inc.'s team is encouraged to contact Avalon or Andrea at (901) 722-9015.

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



Holy Trinity to note 10 years of service

In the late 1980s when the first wave of men struggling with HIV and AIDS was reaching its peak in Memphis there were few resources for spiritual and emotional support. Richard Johnson and a small group of friends gathered together to reclaim and create a spiritual pool of support. Out of that experience Rev. Johnson tapped into a deep spiritual hunger in the Memphis same-gender-loving community.

Holy Trinity Community Church held its first documented service June 10, 1990, in the Gay and Lesbian Community Center. Holy Trinity is not only living and surviving with HIV/AIDS it has mushroomed into a Christian community which champions the cause of all those disaffected from the Christian faith.

Holy Trinity clearly sees its mission to be specific about inclusion as other faith groups are specific about their exclusion. Little did parishioners realize that they were part of the larger "welcoming church movement" emerging in many Christian communities.

Throughout the decade Holy Trinity has become a multi-faceted faith community which celebrates diversity, advocates for justice, upholds family values, provides support and nurture and calls persons to a radical faith. The congregation is made up of practically every Christian tradition and blends those traditions in its worship services. The church is committed to reconciliation between people not only on the basis of sexual orientation but also on an ethnic, cultural, racial and gender basis as well. The church takes seriously the commandment of Jesus Christ to love others.

The church has birthed two congregations in its relatively short history: Holy Trinity Community Church in Nashville and Safe Harbor Family Church in Jackson, Miss.

During the month of June, Holy Trinity will celebrate its 10th anniversary by sponsoring a series of programs on WKNO-TV Channel 10 for and about the gay and lesbian community (see page 44 for more).

An anniversary service is planned June 11 at 11 a.m. and a "Faith Family Reunion" incorporating all three churches will celebrate together June 18 at 11 a.m. The theme for the celebration is "God's Love Knows No Bounds." Former ministers, musical ensembles and concerts will characterize the anniversary festivities. All are invited to celebrate 10 years of service and ministry by Holy Trinity.

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- Sharon Wray*

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WKNO-TV to show 'Gay & Lesbian Pride 2000'

WKNO-TV Channel 10, Memphis' public broadcasting television station, will show its pride during the month of June when it presents "Gay & Lesbian Pride 2000," a series of programs geared toward the g/l/b/t community.

During June, WKNO/Channel 10 will offer a variety of historical and informative programming for and about the gay and lesbian community. The schedule for programs is listed below.

"After Stonewall: From the Riots to the Millennium"*

Chronicles the three decades of gay and lesbian activism following the Stonewall riots of 1969. (June 1 at 9 p.m.

and June 10 at 11:30 p.m.

"The Castro" *

Profiles the San Francisco neighborhood that became an international symbol of gay liberation. (June 3 at 10 p.m.)

"And Justice for All: All God's Children" *

Looks at the Black Church's embracing of African-American lesbians and gay men. (June 3 at 11:30 p.m. and June 22 at 9:30 p.m.)

"Before Stonewall" *

A unique portrait of the history of homosexual experience in America. (June 10 at 10 p.m.)

"Healers of 400 Parnassus" *

Explores how physicians, nurses and social workers cope with the tragedies they face inside the HIV Clinic at the University of California. (June 17 at 10 p.m.)

"Our House: A Very Real Documentary About Kids of Gay and Lesbian Parents"

An in-depth exploration of what children experience in five different households headed by lesbians and gay men. (June 17 at 11 p.m.)

The series is being sponsored in part by Holy Trinity Community Church and the Memphis chapter of Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG).

All programs marked with an * will repeat on WKNO Overnite.

For additional information, please call WKNO at (901) 458-2521.

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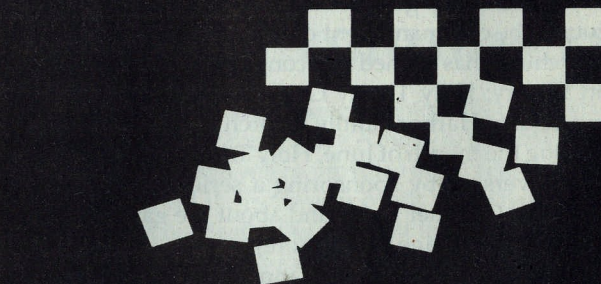
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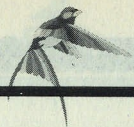
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Quote

"In the U.K. – since my left hand outed me to an audience of millions on that fateful day in 1998, – my personal life, or rather my imagined personal life, has rarely been out of the tabloid press. I am apparently engaged in a ménage à trois with my boyfriend, Kenny, and Geri Halliwell (formerly of the Spice Girls), who will be carrying our child, of course. (No mention of whose sperm the poor thing is getting.) I want to 'bed' Tom Cruise, which would be handy, especially since Geri has stolen Kenny from me."

– **Singer George Michael to *the Advocate*, April 30**

"The compassionate conservative's stand on homosexuals seems to be this: I'm OK, you're OK – so long as you don't want to serve in my military, marry my son or get 'special protection' from civil rights laws. To those old enough to remember or with an ear for history, this will all ring familiar. And the conundrum the Republicans are facing now echoes the one with which segregationists of both parties were confronted as the black civil rights movement matured: once bigotry falls out of mainstream fashion, it's hard to talk the accepted talk without walking the walk. When the prevailing political winds force a party to abandon prejudicial rhetoric, how can it continue to advocate prejudicial policy without wrapping itself in the cloak of hypocrisy?"

– **Anchor Dan Rather writing at *cbsnews.cbs.com*, April 18**

"[In college] I was a feminist trying to come out, and there were, like, three lesbians in Kalamazoo [Michigan] and they were all involved with each other! I often say I came to New York to be a feminist artist, but I really came hoping to get laid!"

– **Performance artist Holly Hughes to *Milwaukee's In Step*, March 23**

"The modern experience of coming out of the closet has been funneled down to a prescribed set of rituals involving a blase soundtrack of disco anthems (gay and straight Americans alike now grow up knowing how to dance to 'YMCA'), a few white tank-top T-shirts, some boots, some unhappy Thanksgiving dinners with the family, a regrettable tattoo, some poetry scribbled in journals. The majority of gay people do not get pummeled or fired or expelled; they emerge a wee bit neurotic and immediately set about shopping."

– **Washington Post reporter Hank Stuever, April 27**

"Out magazine was bought by *the Advocate*, and a month later they were both acquired by PlanetOut, a website that

Unquote

makes being gay look like a college brochure. What could be more boring than a media conglomerate?"

– **Washington Post reporter Hank Stuever, April 27**

"She's Jerry Falwell's prom date!"

– **Actor Nathan Lane on anti-gay radio host Dr. Laura Schlessinger, at the Millennium March on Washington Equality Rocks concert, April 29**

"I see those [anti-gay] picketers and I think, you know, if I weren't a loving, nonviolent, spiritual person, I would really go over there and grab those signs and smash them over their heads and shove them up their asses."

– **Actress and Comedian Ellen DeGeneres at the Millennium March on Washington, April 30**

"A sports stadium full of queers – how f**kin' brilliant!"

– **Singer George Michael at the Equality Rocks concert during the Millennium March in Washington, D.C., April 29**

"It was impossible [at the Millennium March on Washington] to avoid that little blue-and-yellow sticker with HRC's trademark equal sign – a generic symbol as devoid of gay meaning as the organization's name. It covered shirts, shorts, faces, legs and other parts; it marked flags that were waved with enthusiastic cheer during the rally and the HRC-sponsored concert the night before."

– **Editorial, *Gay & Lesbian Times*, San Diego, May 4**

"Do your grassroots work, but don't knock the national effort. That's what I hate about this divisiveness. We're all in the same f**king boat. So let's just pick up an oar and row already."

– **Martina Navratilova in reference to people who opposed the Millennium March on Washington, to Los Angeles' *Lesbian News*, May issue**

"We need to encourage all Americans to embrace gay and lesbian children as their own and let them know they are loved, they are respected, they are valued."

– **Tipper Gore addressing PFLAG's 17th Conference in Washington, D.C., April 2000**

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.

Friends for Life to plans annual auction

Friends for Life Aloysius Home and AIDS Resource Center will be swinging into summer on Sunday, June 25, at its yearly auction event. This is the first auction since Friends for Life and Aloysius Home merged this past year.

The 13th "Swinging Summer Auction Party" returns to Hardin Hall at the Memphis Botanic Gardens with the same fun, bargains and entertainment this annual event has brought to the Memphis area many times over. Last year hundreds of folks attended and bid on more than 325 items and walked away with great buys and left behind much-needed money for Friends For Life to be used to provide various services to those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

WMC-FM 100's Tom Prestigiaco will return to take the post as auctioneer. And The Jungle Room returns by popular demand to entertain the crowd with some great music. Several restaurants, including Lilly's dimsum thensome and McAlister's, have been gracious enough to donate some great food items for you to enjoy as you shop and mill about.

The silent auction begins at 3 p.m. and the live auction begins at 4:30 p.m.

This year's chair is WMC-TV's Kym Clark and co-chair

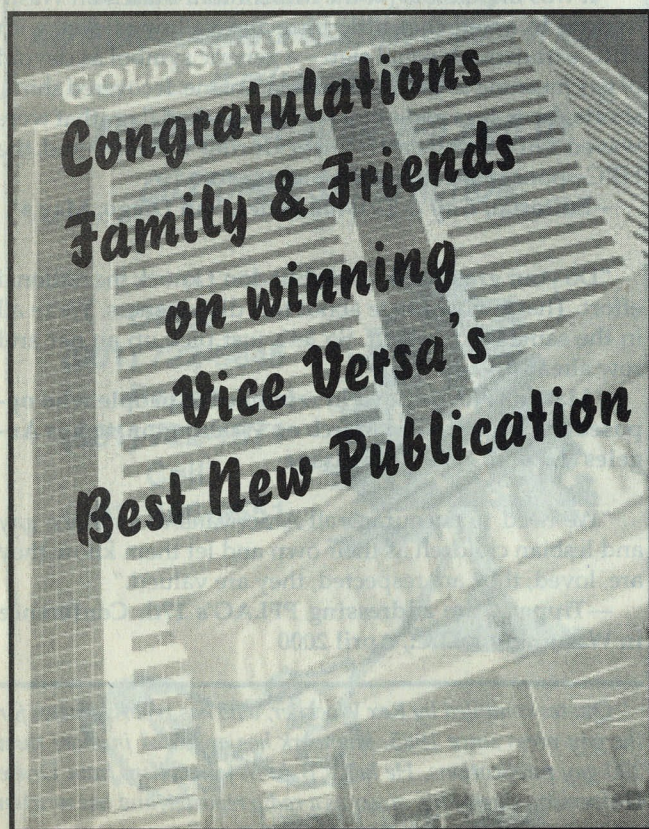
is Butch Valentine.

Admission is \$5 at the door; those that have donated items to the auction tables will receive complementary tickets.

Friends for Life's mission is to create an educated, supportive and caring community that nurtures and empowers persons infected and affected by HIV/AIDS through service, advocacy, awareness and prevention. Some of the services are to provide financial assistance for rent, utilities and prescriptions; both transitional and independent housing facilities; support groups; a much-used food pantry; bi-monthly hot dinners at Feast for Friends, and various education and prevention programs.

If you or your business would like to donate to the auction, there is still time. Volunteers also are needed in many areas. Please call Butch at (901) 272-0855 or Anita at (901) 682-2669 if you are interested.

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Friends for Life Aloysius Home & AIDS Resource Center

*cordially invites you to the 13th
"Swinging Summer Auction Party"
Sunday, June 25
at Hardin Hall, Memphis Botanic
Garden, 750 Cherry Road
Silent auction begins at 3 p.m.
Live auction begins at 4:30 p.m.
Tom Prestigiaco, auctioneer
Entertainment by The Jungle Room*

*Kym Clark, Chair
Butch Valentine, co-chair*

Safety advice given for tornadoes

They roar up from the southwest, destroying everything in their paths. They cause scores of deaths and property damage running into the tens of millions of dollars.

Two of the three deadliest tornadoes in U.S. history occurred in the state of Mississippi: one killed 317 in Natchez back in 1840; another in Tupelo in 1936, killed 216 people, injured 350 others and leveled 48 city blocks. The nation's worst sped across Missouri, Illinois and Indiana in 1925, killing 700.

Dr. Henry Bass, a University of Mississippi physicist who developed a Tornado Alert System akin to a smoke detector, urges us to take precautions and pay attention to tornado watches and warnings. Here's what to do should you find yourself in the path of one of these destructive twisters:

- Stay indoors, preferably in a hallway or the center of the building's lowest floor.
- If caught outside, find an area clear of trees and find a depression, such as a ditch, to lie in. There won't be enough wind between your body and the ground to pick you up.
- If caught in a car, stop and get out. There could be enough wind under your car to pick it up.
- Most people killed during tornadoes are struck by flying or falling debris; therefore, it's important not to be standing when a twister hits. Crawl under a

sturdy table, desk or a bed.

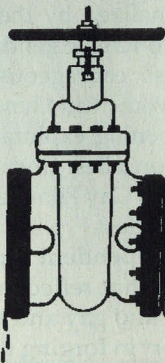
• Staying inside a mobile home is extremely dangerous because they disinte-

grate. Get out; find a depression clear of trees and lie in it.

• Never go into a large

area like a gymnasium. Head for a hallway or a smaller room. The smaller the room, the safer it is.

Nancy Tesmer of Lilly's *Dimsum Thensome*, left, poses for a picture with country recording artist Wynonna Judd before Judd's recent concert at Sam's Town Hotel & Gambling Hall.

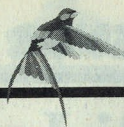


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Sundance to celebrate Gay Pride, all month long

During the month of June, tune your TVs to the Sundance Channel, the cable station offered by Time Warner Communications here in Memphis.

Sundance is celebrating Gay Pride Month with its filmfest "Out Loud." A gay-themed feature film, documentary or block of shorts will be televised every day during the month.

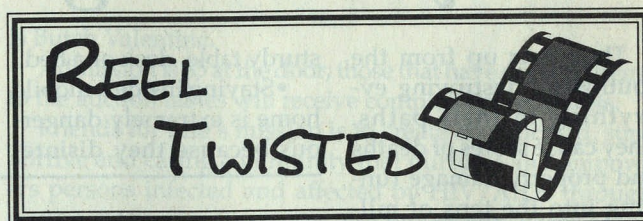
The Sundance Channel has made a commitment to supporting gay filmmakers, gay-themed films and gay issues throughout the year by airing numerous gay films, sponsoring gay film festivals and recognizing National Coming Out Day and World Aids Day by airing appropriately-themed films.

Now in its third year, "Out Loud" has become an annual favorite at Sundance Channel, thanks to a wide range of genre-spanning features, documentaries and shorts that look at gay and lesbian life in all its emotional colors. In a first for the channel, June's weekly prime-time films are all "Out Loud" selections, encompassing television and world premieres on "Something New: Sundance Channel Premieres" on Friday nights, "old and new favorites on "Saturday Night Special: Movies We Love" on Saturday nights and documentaries on "Matter of Fact: The Best of Non-Fiction Film" on Monday nights.

Highlights of "Out Loud" include the world premiere of Nisha Ganatra's extremely funny, highly-original feature debut, *Chutney Popcorn*. The multi-talented Ganatra co-wrote the film and also stars as Reena, a young woman whose sexuality and artistic vocation (she's a photographer) have put her at odds with her Americanized, yet still traditional, Indian family. When her newlywed sister (Sakina Jaffrey) discovers she's infertile, Reena steps up to the plate with an offer to carry a baby conceived with her brother-in-law's sperm – a prospect that does not thrill Reena's lover, played by Jill Hennessy (assistant district attorney Claire Kincaid on TV's "Law and Order").

Another notable "Out Loud" television premiere is David Moreton's critically acclaimed *Edge of Seventeen*, winner of the Grand Jury Award at the 1998 L.A. Outfest and the Audience Award at the 1998 San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival. Screenwriter Todd Stephens drew on his teenage memories for this sweet, funny and knowing look at a high school boy's coming out circa 1984, a giddy period when gender-bending pop stars like Boy George were making major inroads into mainstream culture. Featuring glowing performances by Chris Stafford, Tina Holmes and the inimitable comedienne/musical comedy star Lea DeLaria ("On the Town"), *Edge of Seventeen* also boasts an irresistible soundtrack of '80s hits by the Eurythmics, Bronski Beat and other peroxide powerhouses.

"Out Loud" also will present the television premiere of



Chinese director Zhang Yuan's *East Palace, West Palace*, a taut and magnificently-orchestrated piece in which a cop interrogates an avowedly gay man he has taken into custody. Brilliantly acted, the film works on multiple levels, as drama, love story and allegory.

Airing as part of "Saturday Night Special: Movies We Love" is *Gods and Monsters*, Bill Condon's Academy Award-winning meditation on the final days of James Whale, the openly-gay director of *Bride of Frankenstein* whose death by drowning was an enduring Hollywood mystery. Sir Ian McKellen portrays the sly, acerbic Whale in a brilliant performance that earned him an Oscar nomination in addition to numerous awards, including the Independent Spirit, National Board of Review and L.A. Film Critics Awards for Best Actor. The film itself won the Independent Spirit Award for Best Feature and was named Best Picture by the National Board of Review.

Airing as part of "Matter of Fact: The Best of Non-Fiction Film" is Candace Schermerhorn and Bestor Cram's *You Don't Know Dick: Courageous Hearts of Transsexual Men* (1996). Within the community of transsexuals, female-to-male transsexuals (or FTMs) have a danger of becoming marginalized by the attention given the more common male-to-female gender reversal; this film introduces viewers to six courageous and inspiring individuals who were once women and have all become men. It is a sensitive and eye-opening exploration of this life-changing experience and won a Best Documentary Award at the New York Lesbian and Gay Film Festival and the Audience Award at the L.A. Outfest.

"Independent film is about telling different kinds of stories that reflect a filmmaker's unique artistic viewpoint, and gay and lesbian-themed films have played a big part in forging that tradition," comments Sundance Channel's Liz Manne, executive vice president, programming and marketing. "The films we've assembled for 'Out Loud' cover a broad spectrum of gay life, past and present, real and fictitious. It's a great lineup and we hope that all of our viewers – lesbian, gay, straight, whatever – enjoy it."

The Sundance Channel (www.sundancechannel.com), under the creative direction of Robert Redford, brings tele-

See Sundance, page 50



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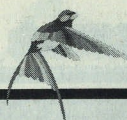
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Your Turn

Letters to the Editor



My Dearest Family:

Greetings in the Love of Christ! I am overwhelmed by your love, caring and respect. In the last two years Memphis Pride chose me as Co-Grand Marshal of the Pride Parade and Festival, Mystic Krewe of Memphis United honored me by making me a debutante at their Mardi Gras Ball and you, the community, voted me the Memphis Pride Award for Female Role Model of the Year. Again, I am overwhelmed.

My prayer even prior to my arrival in Memphis, has been to be able to make a difference wherever I am and for people to see Christ in me. Maybe you don't think of me in those exact terms, but somehow, you undoubtedly see love, caring and consciousness in this person called La Paula. All of your actions are those that tell me that I must have done something worthwhile.

We don't all have the same belief system, we don't all think alike, we don't all have the same dreams and goals. However, we do have common ground.

We are all human beings with a desire to live positively.

(Even though our actions are sometimes defeatist because of the treatment that we have received at the hands of someone else whose life has only experienced cruelties.)

We want this community to change the way the world views difference. (No two people are exactly alike even though everyone still has the same basic needs: self-esteem, food, clothing, a place to live w/dignity, a means by which to earn a living, love and the pursuit of happiness.)

We want the amenities, comforts and conveniences that are proposed to all peoples through the constitution of this nation. (We need the right to work without hiding, the right to insurance as couples and families, the right to raise our children without fear of our children being torn from us, the right to be taxed with representation, the right to acknowledge our cultural ancestors with pride and courage and the right just to be all that we can be.)

I commend you, MY family and community, for striving to work and play together to allow those following us opportunities which would not be available if it were not for us. The struggles change but are somehow the same through the years. The tasks are not above us, we are consistently given the strength, knowledge and compassion through the leaders that manifest and are raised each year, each decade and yes, every day. I am thankful for those heterosexuals in our family who rise with us in this battle to live life abundantly, no matter how we label ourselves. We are our own best friends and develop new ways of being the strongest support systems possible. I raise my glass of champagne, Holy Grape Juice, wine and Holy water, in salute to us, a people called together - where before, there were no people!

Love,
Rev. La Paula Turner

Way TO GO
Family & Friends

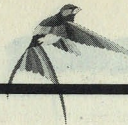
Winner of the
Vice Versa Award
for
Best New
Publication!

SAM'S TOWN
HOTEL & GAMBLING HALL

Sundance

from page 48

vision viewers nationwide the best of new independent features, as well as documentaries, shorts, animation and international cinema, running uncut and commercial-free 24 hours a day. The Sundance Channel, launched in 1996, is a joint venture among Robert Redford, Showtime Networks Inc. and Universal Studios Inc. The Sundance Channel operates independently of the non-profit Sundance Institute and the Sundance Film Festival, but shares the Sundance mission of supporting independent artists and providing them with wider opportunities to present their work to audiences.



Gay men's choruses plan live concerts

While the Memphis and Mid-South gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender community doesn't have it's own gay men's chorus, or at least there isn't one we know of, two cities, each within about six hours driving distance from Memphis, have choruses and both have upcoming concerts planned.

First up is the Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus, under the artistic direction of Gary W. Arnold.

To close out its 1999-2000 season, the AGMC will present "Celluloid, Footlights and Videotape" on Saturday, June 17, beginning at 8 p.m. at The Rialto Center for the Performing Arts, 80 Forsyth Street. Doug Lothes is the writer and stage director for this production. This concert is being presented as part of Atlanta Pride's Cultural Celebration 2000.

"Isn't it really just all about the show? We bring you comedy, drama and maybe a sword fight or two," the chorus' website read. "We'll keep it moving from the sultry to the sublime with songs from stage, screen and the 'boob tube.' Join the chorus in a salute to the music of the media. This show is so good, we heard Broadway was considering relocating."

For tickets and additional information about this group, see their website at www.agmchorus.org or call the AGMC at (404) 320-1030.

Next up is the New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus, which was organized by Jerry Zachary, a native Louisianian who spent 10 years as a vocalist with the Chicago Symphony Chorus.

The NOGMC made its first appearance on Dec. 4, 1982, at the Emporium, and was one of 11 choruses to be showcased in the nation's first festival of gay choruses in New York City on Sept. 19, 1983. Since its inception, the NOGMC has performed for the Lazarus Remembrance Service, AIDSWalk, AIDS Candlelight Memorial marches, World AIDS Day services, Pride parades, Mr. Louisiana Leather contest and in October 1995, the first Gay Cabaret at Le Petit Theatre.

In 1996, the chorus hosted the gay men's chorus from Berlin, Manner Minne, and according to its website (www.nogmc.com), 1997, marked the return of the small groups Lagniappe and Les Trouveres. Lagniappe is a Broadway-style song and dance group and Les Trouveres is an acapella group in the tradition of Madrigal groups.

Although their primary purpose has been to serve the gay community, the NOGMC also serves as a model of gay pride to the straight world. The chorus also has performed with the New Orleans Opera Chorus in *Aida* in 1989, and also sang for the New Orleans World's Fair.

The NOGMC's next concert, "Diva By Diva," is set for Saturday, June 17, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, June 18, at 3 p.m. For ticket information and more information on the group, visit NOGMC's website.

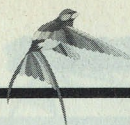
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Dave Landis to direct play at Circuit Playhouse

RY LAINE MCNEIL
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The life of playwright, novelist and poet Oscar Wilde will come to life when *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde* opens at Circuit Playhouse Friday, May 26, and runs through Sunday, June 25.

The play is being directed by Dave Landis, who came to Memphis in 1991, from Austin, Texas, to work as a Playhouse resident company member. Originally from Des Moines, Iowa, Landis, who identifies himself as gay, received his bachelor degree from Drake University in Des Moines, and his master's of fine art degree from the University of Texas at Austin.

When asked what his favorite shows are, Landis replied, "I directed Ann Marie Hall in both *You Can't Take It With You* and *The Search of Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe*. I loved directing her. And I love directing Kevin Jones, who is playing Oscar Wilde in the play. In fact, *Gross Indecency* will be Kevin's last show in Memphis before he moves to New York. He and I have been company members and friends for a long time and he's an amazing actor. This is kind of his finale for Memphis."

Most people will remember Jones from his performances in *A Tuna Christmas*, which he will return to Playhouse to revive during the 2000 holiday season.

The play, written by Moises Kaufman, is about the life and art of Wilde.

"It was the turn of the century and Wilde was charged with indecency, but it took three trials to convict him and he was sentenced to two years in jail," Landis explained. "During his time in jail, he suffered injuries that later led to his death. He was in love with a younger man and the younger man was in love with him, but it was the father of the younger man that basically brought the charges against

Kevin Jones, left, and Michael Holliday star in *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde* at Circuit Playhouse.



Wilde. Back then (1895), they didn't have a word for homosexuality, and Wilde just said, 'This is who I am, what's wrong with it?'"

According to Landis, Kaufman spent countless hours doing research for the play, which led to "the entire play being actual quotes from the three trials and Wilde's books and poetry."

Kaufman also spent much time researching his newest play, *The Laramie Project* which recently opened in New York City. The play centers around the life and death of Matthew Shepherd.

"*Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde* is not just about being gay," Landis said, "it's about art and expressing art. He (Wilde) was a human being who had these gifts (the ability to write plays, novels and poetry) that was prosecuted. Society dragged him into the arena, so please, try to look past the fact that he was gay and realize how brilliant he was."

Showtimes for *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde* are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. There will be no performance on June 4. Tickets range in price from \$10 for students to \$14 for adults. For additional information, call (901) 726-4656.

Luanne Valentine, Kathy Buchanan united

In a double-ring celebration service Saturday, May 6, 2000, at Holy Trinity Community Church, 13-year partners Kathy Buchanan and Luanne Valentine were united by Rev. Timothy Meadows.

Given in unity by her mother, Kathy Gerritsen, Buchanan wore a lovely gown. Bridesmaid was her sister, Lisa McKenzie, and maid of honor was Barbara Baker. The flowergirl was Valentine's niece, Taryn Kernick.

Standing up for Valentine as best man was her brother, Butch

Valentine, and as a groomsman, Andrew Buchanan.

After the lighting of the unity candle, Buchanan and Valentine were joined by Buchanan's sons, Christopher Gerritsen and Jason Buchanan, as the couple presented the young men with unity medallions to symbolize their bonding as a family.

Music was provided by Linda Jones and the photographer was Ed Rachels.

Following a brief reception at Holy Trinity, the couple enjoyed a honeymoon in Nashville.



Luanne Valentine & Kathy Buchanan

'Joseph' to open at Theatre Memphis June 3

The smash hit musical *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* returns to Theatre Memphis June 8 through July 2.

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, with lyrics by Tim Rice and music by Andrew Lloyd Weber, is based on the biblical tale of Jacob who had 12 sons. Jacob's favorite by far was Joseph. To show the world how special Joseph is, Jacob gives him a coat of many colors. Joseph's 11 brothers are jealous of all the attention showered on him by their father. They become further enraged when Joseph tells them of his dreams: Joseph sees 11 sheaths of corn bowing before his own golden sheath and 11 stars in the sky bowing down to his own bright star.

To ensure that Joseph's dreams never come true, the brothers plot to kill him. Then the brothers devise an even better plan - they sell him as a slave and he is taken to Egypt. The brothers tell their father that Joseph is dead, showing him Joseph's torn coat covered in blood. Joseph makes the best of his life as a slave, but is eventually thrown into jail. However, he never gives up hope, and using his talent for interpreting dreams, Joseph eventually makes his own dreams become reality.

Featuring the favorite tunes, "Go, Go, Go Joseph!," "Close Every Door" and "Any Dream Will Do," *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* is an uplifting story suitable for the entire family.

Michael Williams takes the role of Jacob and Stuart Williams is Joseph. Barry Fuller directs this rags-to-riches journey of Joseph.

Tickets for adults are \$19 on weekdays and \$22 on weekends. Youths 18 and younger are \$10 anytime. Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday; 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and 2 and 7 p.m. on Sunday. Theater Memphis is located at 630 Perkins Extended.

For more information or to make reservations, please call the Theatre Memphis Box Office at (901) 682-8323.



Michael Williams, left, and Robert Kyle.

Photo by Steve Roberts

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Memphis



Bar & Restaurant Guide

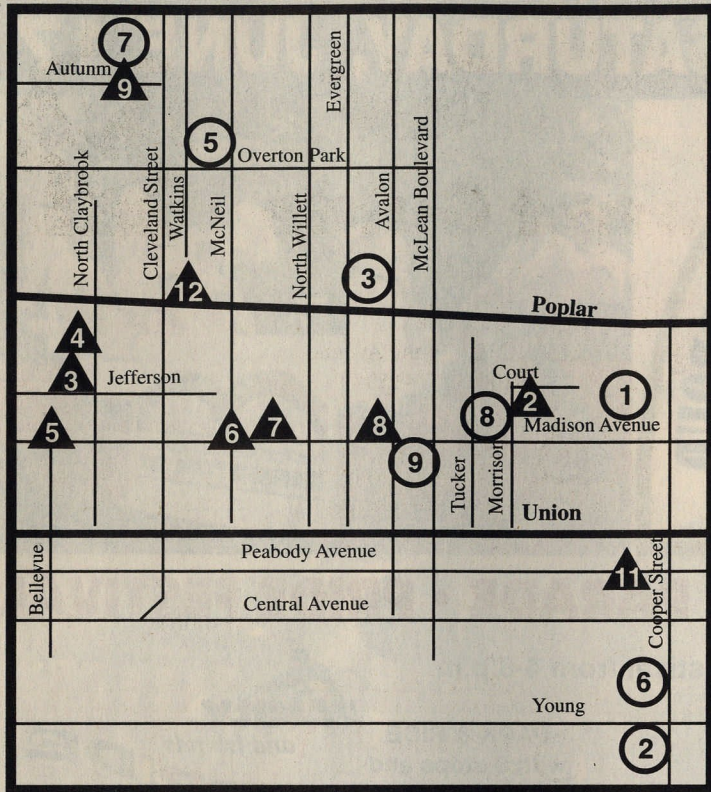
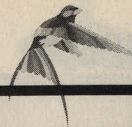
BARS & CLUBS

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Amnesia
2866 Poplar Avenue
(901) 454-1366 | 8 Madison Flame
1588 Madison Avenue
(901) 278-9839 |
| 2 Backstreet Memphis
2018 Court Street
(901) 276-5522 | 9 Metro Memphis
1349 Autumn Street
(901) 274-8010 |
| 3 Crossroads
1278 Jefferson
(901) 276-8078 | 10 N-Cognito
338 S. Front @ Vance
(901) 523-0599 |
| 4 Crossroads 2
111 North Claybrook
(901) 276-8078 | 11 One More
2117 Peabody
(901) 278-MORE |
| 5 J-Wags
1268 Madison Avenue
(901) 725-1909 | 12 Pipeline
1382 Poplar Avenue
(901) 726-5263 |
| 6 The Jungle
1474 Madison Avenue
(901) 278-4313 | |
| 7 Lorenz
1528 Madison Avenue
(901) 274-8272 | |

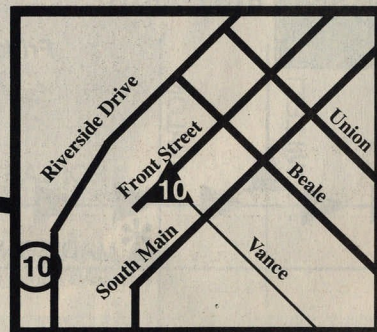
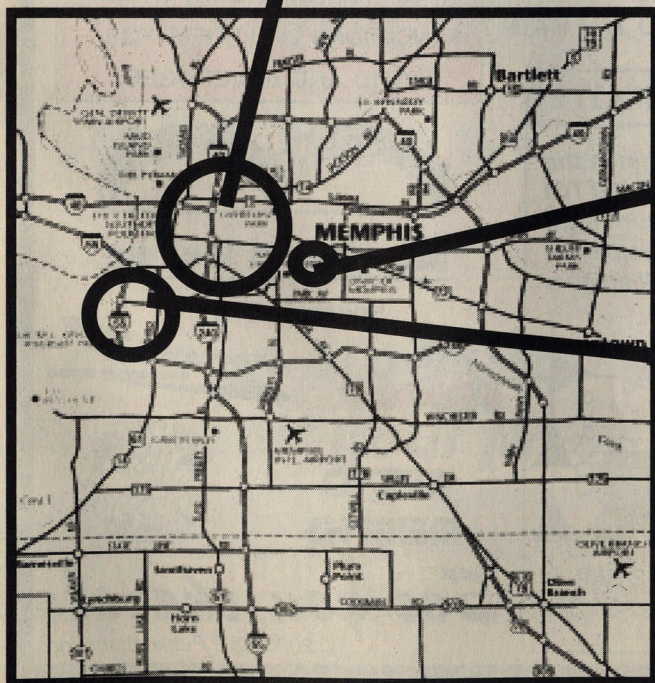
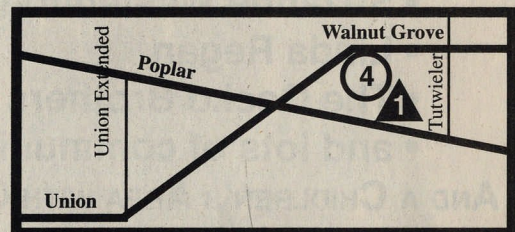
For Bar Listings
Outside Memphis
See Page 58

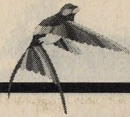
RESTAURANTS

- | | |
|--|---|
| Billy Bob's Steak House & Saloon
(Inside Sam's Town Hotel & Gambling Hall)
(800) 456-0711
(Reservations suggested) | 2 Cafe Ole
2127 Young Avenue
(901) 274-1504 |
| 1 Bogie's Delicatessen
2098 LaSalle Place (behind Paulette's)
(901) 272-0022 | 3 Cafe Society
212 North Evergreen
(901) 722-2177
(Reservations suggested) |
| | Chicago Steakhouse
(Inside Gold Strike Casino Resort)
(662) 357-1225
(Reservations suggested) |
| | 4 In The Grove
2865 Walnut Grove
(901) 458-9955 |
| | 5 K.A. Karma
394 N. Watkins
(901) 276-5566 |
| | 6 lilly's dimsum thensome
903 South Cooper
(901) 276-9300 |
| | 7 Metro Memphis
1349 Autumn Street
(901) 274-8010 |
| | 8 Molly's La Casita Mexican Restaurant
2006 Madison Avenue
(901) 726-1873 |
| | 9 Neil's
1835 Madison Avenue
(901) 278-NEIL |
| | 10 Rosita's Deli & More
(Inside the Rivermark Apartments)
655 Riverside Drive
(901) 543-0627 |



*Maps are not to scale;
not all streets are shown.*





PRIDE 2000 • SATURDAY, JUNE 17



PRIDE RALLY • PRIDE PARADE • PRIDE FESTIVAL

Rally at 2 p.m. • Parade at 3 p.m. • Festival from 4-8 p.m.

FESTIVAL ENTERTAINMENT BY:

- Suzanne Westenhoefer
- Linda Regan
- The Gecko Brothers
- and lots of community talent

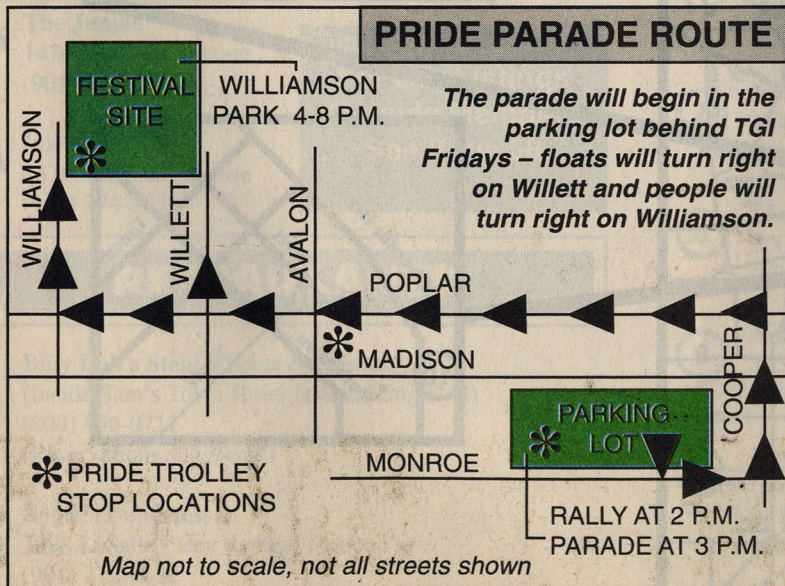
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Memphis Pride, Inc.

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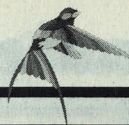
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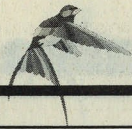
JACK'S CONSTRUCTION SITE

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F&F RAINBOW DIRECTORY

SOCIAL CLUBS

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

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emial: Fuzthing@aol.com

P.F.L.A.G.

(Parents Family & Friends of Lesbians & Gays)
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Support meetings for parents, family & friends
www.starbase21.com/pflagmemphis/
email: amd Drake@mem.po.com

B.G.A.L.A.

(The University of Memphis Students for Bisexual, Gay & Lesbian Association) (901) 678-5719
BGALA is a social, political and educational organization open to anyone regardless of race, age, religion, national origin, disability, gender, sexual orientation or gender identity.
www.people.memphis.edu/~bgala

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email: tecj@wspice.com

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Meets the third Saturday of every month at 7 p.m.
For more information and locations of meetings, write or email at memphisgroup@usa.com

MEMPHIS GAY & LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTER

This group holds a town hall meeting the first Sunday of each month at First Congregational Church's Pilgrim Hall from 6 to 8 p.m., Watkins @ Eastmoreland

SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

BLUFF CITY SPORTS ASSOCIATION

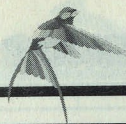
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Organizes gay sports leagues, including softball and volleyball

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F&F RAINBOW DIRECTORY

SPORTS ORG. CON'D

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WHOLENESS SERVICES

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

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SPIRITUAL

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

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(901) 525-6602

People of all faiths and ideologies are welcome
Meets the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at
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(901) 278-6786

Open to all l/g/b/t persons of faith to join in an affirming
time of prayer, Bible study and discussion.
Meets the second Tuesday of each month from 6:30 to
8:30 p.m. at the Parish House of First Congregational
Church, 246 S. Watkins at Eastmoreland.

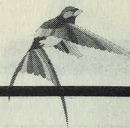
POLITICAL GROUPS

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

MPHS. LESBIAN & GAY COALITION FOR JUSTICE

P.O. Box 241363, Memphis, TN 38124

A civil rights group that promotes equality and combats
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Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Main Library on
Peabody. • email: lgcj@gaymemphis.com
website: www.gaymemphis.com/lgcj



KISS 107.5 FM to present Triple Tango 2000

RY LAINE MCNEIL
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

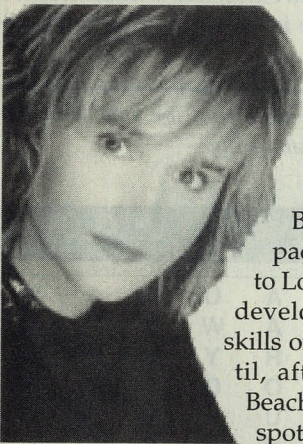
Some of the hottest names in new and alternative music are coming to Memphis when KISS 107.5 FM presents "KISS Triple Tango 2000" on Saturday, June 17, beginning at 7 p.m. at the Mid-South Coliseum.

And it's no coincidence that the show is planned for the same day thousands of Mid-Southerners will gather in Memphis to celebrate gay pride.

Of course, the biggest name on the marquee is female rocker Melissa Etheridge, whose most recent release, *Breakdown*, has brought rave reviews from music critics across the country.

Etheridge has become a gay icon, due not only to her candid lyrics and passionate music, but also because of her openly-lesbian relationship with partner Julie Cypher. They also are the proud parents of two children.

Etheridge began her career in music as a sort of every-woman-rocker. Her homespun appeal and her confessional, straight-from-the-heartland songs have connected with audiences everywhere her music is heard. She came by her rootsy appeal naturally.



Melissa Etheridge

Born in the small, Midwestern town of Leavenworth, Kan., Etheridge began playing guitar at eight and was writing songs by age 11. By 13, the precocious talent was already singing in front of live audiences. After a brief stint at the Berklee School of Music, she packed her bags at 21 and headed to Los Angeles. She worked hard to develop a following and hone her skills on stage, and it wasn't long until, after a performance in a Long Beach club, she was signed on the spot to a deal with Island Records. The rest, as they say, is history, or is

that "herstory?"

It's also been rumored that Etheridge may indeed, be Memphis Pride Inc.'s honorary parade grand marshal this year.

Also listed in the show's lineup are:

- Edwin McCain, whose most release, "I Could Not Ask For More," originally appeared on the *Message In A Bottle* soundtrack.
- Sonique, an alum of the U.K. club scene, who recently released her full-length debut album *Hear Me Cry*.
- Bosson, the Swedish man who has enjoyed some success with "Where Are You?" and "We Live."
- Westlife, whose most recent release is "Swear It Again."
- Anastacia, whose album, *Not That Kind Kind*, is due to be released June 27.
- Blaque, a group conceived by TLC's Lisa "Left Eye" Lopez, whose songs include "Roll With Me" and "Leny."
- Innosense
- Splendor, whose songs include "Spaceboy" and "Special."
- Mytown, a boy band whose previous singles have included "Now That I Found You" and "Body Bumpin'."

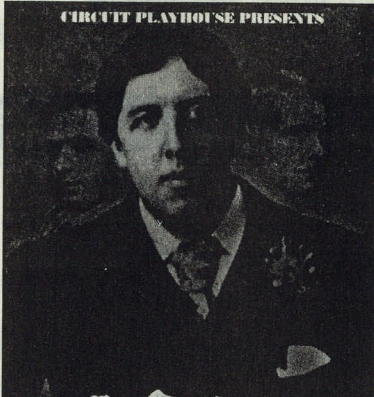
Special Note: At presstime, new albums by both Bosson and Mytown, which were expected to be released May 23, had not yet been released.

Tickets to see "KISS Triple Tango 2000," which range in price from \$20 to \$8, are available at all TicketMaster locations, by telephone at (901) 525-1515 or online at www.ticketmaster.com.



Glenn Moore, left, and Rev. Jean Rowe broke ground May 7 for Neshoba Universalist Church's new building to be located at 7360 Raleigh-LaGrange Road, just north of Shelby Farms.

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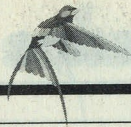
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HOROSCOPES

Gemini (May 22-June 21) – Dig a little deeper and you just might find that the gold was there all along. The answers to your problems are much closer than you think they are.

Cancer (June 22-July 23) – The only way for your dreams to come true is to place yourself in the right place where business and social matters thrive. Patience brings many rewards, and patience, remember is a great virtue.

Leo (July 24-Aug. 23) – Your career sector is the focus now. Professional or business gains may be right around the corner. Believe in yourself and you will go far, because, after all, if you don't believe in yourself, who will?

Virgo (Aug. 24-Sept. 23) – This is a time for reflection and to consider important decisions before jumping to conclusions. Bosses could be impressed by you, which may show up on your paycheck. Plan to spend time with your special someone very soon.

Libra (Sept. 24-Oct. 23) – Put on your party shoes because this is a time for socializing and widening your circle of friends. Doors can be opened by new people you meet. Try new things and wishes may come true.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) – The focus for now is on career and financial trends. Soon you could be moving up the ladder of success, while friends offer support. Direct efforts to career, community and civic projects.

Sagittarius (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) – Those open to change will be the luckiest. Most important in your life at the moment are long-term goals and people in faraway places.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 20) – The planets give their nod to your social life. Make it a point to go where people gather. Studying something new could improve your financial status.

Aquarius (Jan. 21-Feb. 19) – A matter involving a partnership or relationship may finally come to the surface. If you extend time and effort, dreams could become realities.

Pisces (Feb. 20-March 20) – Things done at work could be most effective now. A missed opportunity could present itself again. Turn to your friends for support. This is not a time to go it alone.

Aries (March 21-April 20) – The planets are now smiling on social and creative interests. The time is right for a new romantic relationship. You may find a new way to express yourself romantically.

Taurus (April 21-May 21) – Promising endeavors for the month include home-related activities, home maintenance and real estate deals. The time is right for a home-based money-making idea.

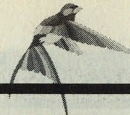
Editor's Note: Horoscopes are meant for entertainment purposes only and are for the month of June.

CELEBRITY QUOTE

“My mother’s best audience was gay men. I mean, the queens would be around the corner! Around the corner in a line, waiting to see Miss Cissy.”

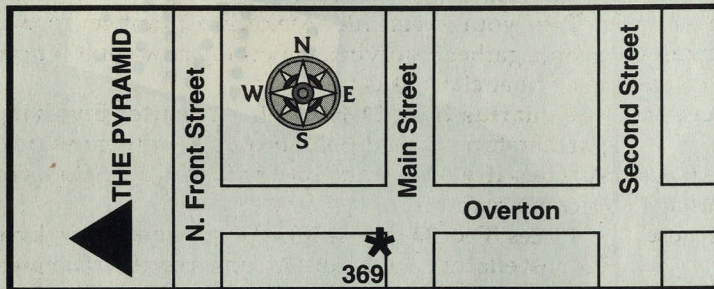
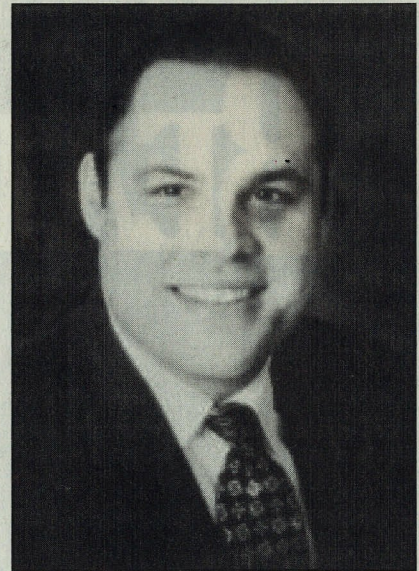
— Whitney Houston said of her mother’s 1970s club dates to *Out* magazine, May 2000.

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