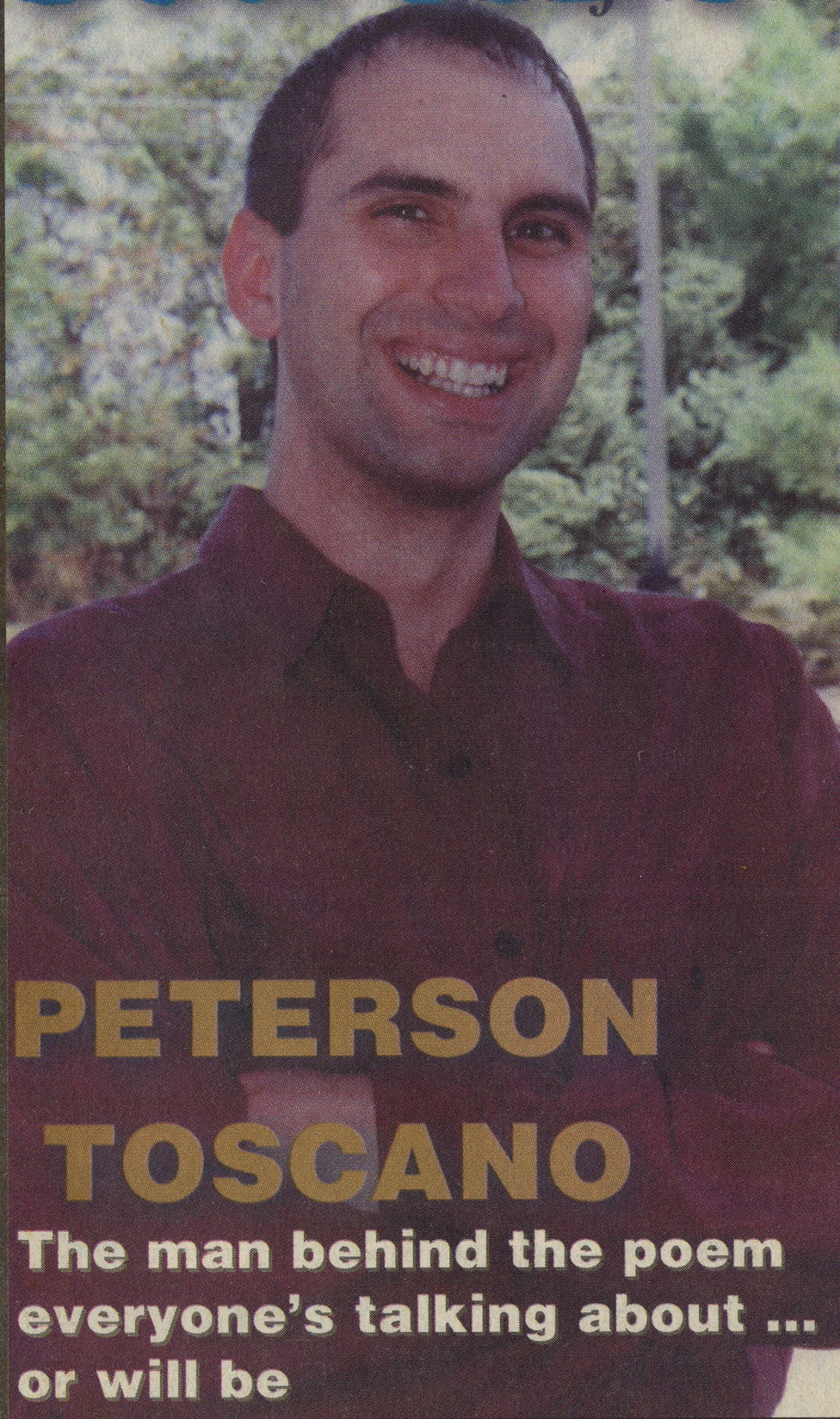


OCTOBER
2000

FAMILY *and friends*



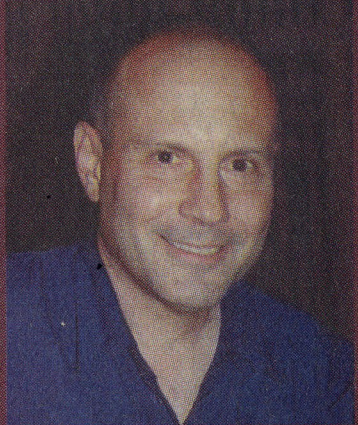
PETERSON TOSCANO

The man behind the poem
everyone's talking about ...
or will be

PLUS:



JUDY SHEPARD
Comes out against
hate crimes



**LEN
PIECHOWSKI**
CGLRA founder
steps down



MARGARET CHO
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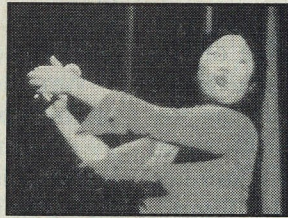
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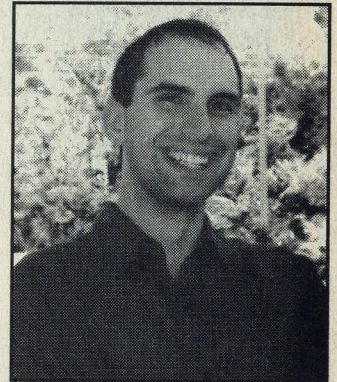


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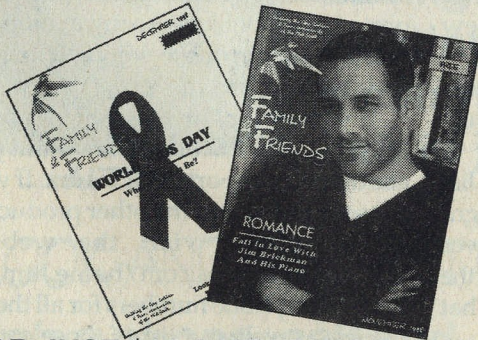


PETERSON TOSCANO

Find out what makes the man behind the poem written for Judy Shepard tick.

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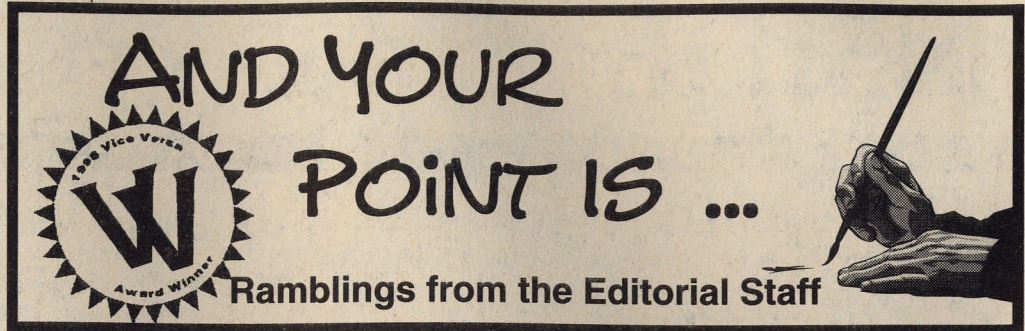
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We have spent many months, almost a year to be exact, researching and in most instances test-driving, sport utility vehicles, also known as SUVs. While there are a bunch of them out there, we tried to narrow our choices down to seven before we started out one Saturday morning to test drive those at the top of our list.

Those that made the list: the Toyota 4-Runner, the Land Rover Discovery, the Isuzu Trooper, the Mitsubishi Montero Sport, the Nissan Pathfinder, the Ford Explorer and the Chevy Blazer, almost in that order.

For various reasons, some of which included size of cargo space, safety ratings, location and availability of the spare tire, cost of regularly scheduled maintenance and just the way the vehicle drove and handled on the road, our field was narrowed even more to three choices in this order, the Toyota, the Isuzu and the Mitsubishi.

Then, just as we were really getting very serious about purchasing the SUV (meaning we were picking out colors, etc.), we saw something that really caught our attention, a list of advertisers who have run advertisements during Dr. Laura's new television show.

Among those companies listed was Toyota, which apparently ran an ad during Dr. Laura's show in Baltimore.

In hindsight, we are glad we saw this list before making the big purchase and signing the dotted line. We almost handed over major bucks to a company that supports the idea that we are "biological errors." What could we have been thinking?

We strongly suggest that before anyone considers making any kind of a purchase, be it sizeable or not, research the company you're about to give your money to, after all, you're the person who got up and went

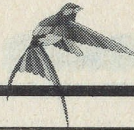
to work each morning to earn the money and it should go to companies who support who you are.

And, just in case you're interested, here are the companies that also appeared on that list, which was updated as of Sept. 22: McDonald's (guess that means those mid-day Big Macs are out), USA Today (so much for our morning reading), Schering-Plough Corporation (makers of Nasonex and Claritin), Pfizer (makers of NIX Lice Treatment System, Neosporin Ointment, Dentyne Ice Gum, Trident, Advantage and Sudafed), Torso Track promo by Suzanne Sommers (guess that means we don't have to work out anymore), Time Life Music: 100 Kids Songs and Chattem Inc. (makers of Icy Hot).

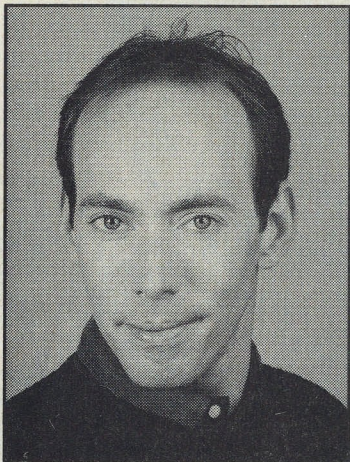
We understand that our avoidance of these products probably won't have any impact on the companies' bottom lines, but, if every gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered person across the United States stopped buying their products, they might feel our strength in numbers in their wallets. Sure, no one will notice that we are not driving a Toyota 4-Runner and Toyota won't notice that it has one extra, over-priced vehicle on its lot, but that doesn't mean we should be expected to support a homophobic company, a company that doesn't support those willing to hand them their hard-earned money.

If you own a Toyota, you can call (310) 214-6122 and let them know how you feel about their support of Dr. Laura. If you purchase or use any of the other products listed above, please visit the website at www.stopdrlaura.com/home.htm, where you'll find phone numbers for all these companies, as well as a list of those companies who have pulled their advertisements, and consequently their sponsorship, from her low-ratings garnering TV show.

Happy shopping and remember, we're all family!

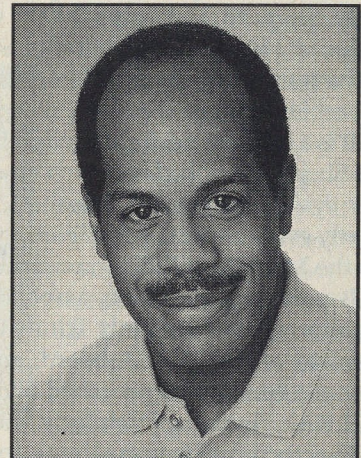


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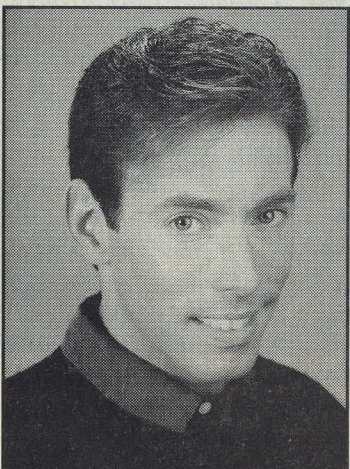
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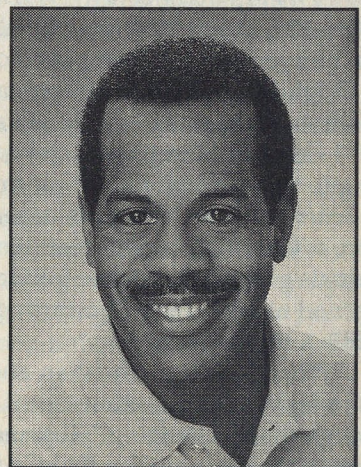
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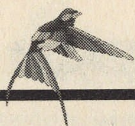
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PETERSON TOSCANO

Man behind the poem for Judy Shepard

BY LAINE MCNEIL
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Peterson Toscano, it's not a name many folks are familiar with, but they will be, especially after his poem, "For Judy Shepard Memphis 2000" was performed during Shepard's Memphis appearance Sept. 25, an event brought to the community by the Memphis area's Coalition for Gay & Lesbian Religious Affairs.

It is a brilliant performance piece, that, when performed for Shepard, evoked so much emotion there was barely a dry eye in the house. Toscano's words cleverly capture nearly every aspect of the diverse mix of people that make up the Memphis GLBT community.

It was because of his association with Rev. Timothy Meadows, pastor of Holy Trinity Community Church and member of the CGLRA board, and his artistic talent that Toscano was first approached about writing the poem for CGLRA's "Evening With Judy Shepard."

Exactly how Toscano came to describe the Memphis GLBT community with such an in-depth understanding is a story that spans not only years of observation, but a most interesting experience, as well, which begins with the reason he even came to Memphis more than four years ago.

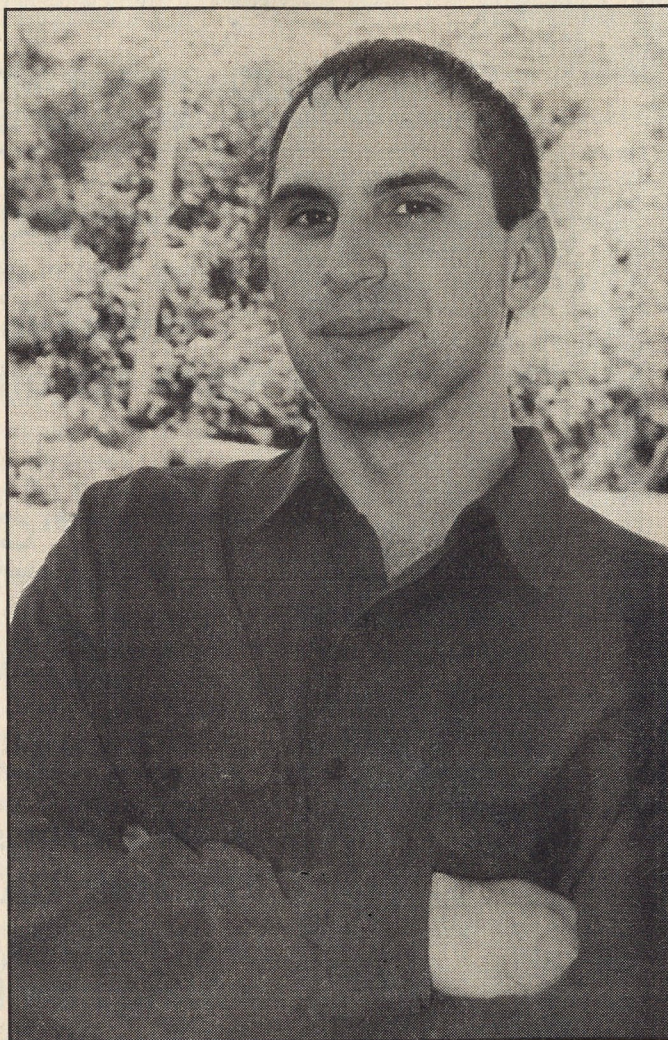
Originally from the metropolitan area of New York City, Toscano, 35, begins his story as a missionary in Africa.

"I came to Memphis to get 'straight,'" he said referring to the fact that he left his missionary post in Africa to enter into the Memphis-based program Love In Action, a Christian-based treatment program to help individuals give up their same-gender-loving tendencies. He learned of Love In Action through Exodus International while a missionary.

"When you're a Christian and you're gay, there's no place for you in (the) mainstream, conservative church, although that is changing," Toscano explained. "I believed, from what I was taught, that God was opposed to homosexuality and I wanted to be right with God and this was the way to do it."

Toscano said he joined Love In Action in July 1996, and in March 1998, was graduated from the group as an official, "ex-gay," but even then he admitted he had doubts about really being "cured."

"As an ex-gay, does someone have to work to maintain that?" he asked. "I know I did. There were certain parts of town I would avoid. Love In Action has these 'forbidden zones' of town where you can't go." He noted that one such zone is anything "north of Highland and west of Central."



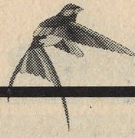
Peterson Toscano

After being graduated from Love In Action, Toscano went to Ecuador with Exodus Latin America because he is bilingual (English and Spanish) where he worked for about a month helping with computer management in Exodus' office. It was his way of "giving back to the program."

Following his stint in Ecuador, Toscano returned to Memphis where he felt himself being drawn back towards homosexuality.

"I went back into Love In Action again," he said, pointing out that as far as he knows, he is the only person in the

See Peterson, page 7



Peterson Toscano

from page 6

group's history to have entered the program twice. "I went into a relapse-prevention program for about four months."

However, in January 1999, his life took yet another turn.

"I literally woke up one morning and said, 'What the hell am I doing? There are parts of town I can't go, places I can't go, books and magazines I can't read and friends I can't talk to. This isn't living. This is crazy,'" he recalled. "In one day I got a membership to the Y, bought a new VW Beetle and made it official –

I am gay. The car was my coming-out present to myself. When I told my mom, her reaction was 'Well, it's about time.'"

Toscano's journey since his coming-out to present day has been one of rediscovery.

"When I came-out, I had to rediscover myself, especially the Christian side of my life," he said. "My whole life totally disintegrated for a couple of months (immediately following his coming-out) because I couldn't put the two together. But, I've got such a longing for God and I couldn't live without him."

Toscano finally reached a resolution.

"I don't have all the answers and I don't know how it works," he continued, "but I cannot live without God and have to be honest about who I am sexually. If I need to change He's going to have to do it because I've done everything in my power to change."

Following his coming-out, Toscano said he eventually called Calvary Episcopal Church because he "knew they had an Integrity group."

"I talked to the leaders (of Integrity) and after about two months I went to a meeting and then to a one-day retreat," he said. Today, Toscano is on the board of Integrity-Memphis and is involved in the OUTreach committee.

Toscano attributes a part of his artistic talent to his experiences while involved with Love In Action.

"Love In Action discourages creative expression," he began. "For three years I didn't allow myself creative expression through writing. Then, somehow, after I came out, about eight months later, I had this creative surge. I started writing poems and a one-man play called *Footprints*. *Footprints* is an inspirational comedy, which I have performed 12 times around the Mid-South and once in New York at the end of September (2000). I built a website with some of my poetry (www.p2son.com). And, after performing *Footprints* at Holy Trinity and sharing some poems with (Rev.)

Tim Meadows, I was asked to write this poem ("For Judy Shepard Memphis 2000").

"At first I thought it was impossible," he said referring to the idea that he write this special poem. "I thought, 'Who am I to write this poem?' I was humbled and intimidated because I had limited knowledge of how to represent the different people in the gay community in Memphis. A lesbian mom, a softball player ... what do I know about these people? I felt ill-equipped."

Although he wasn't sure he was the one to write the poem, Toscano accepted the challenge.

"It was a challenge," he said. "I had to talk to a lot of people and listen to their words. I ultimately hope to be a novelist, which requires a lifetime of observing people. But, in a way, I think I've been researching this poem even before I was asked to write it."

"As an ex-gay, does someone have to work to maintain that? I know I did. There were certain parts of town where you can't go."

—Peterson Toscano

Ultimately, Toscano said he focused his words on Shepard since the poem was to be a way of introducing the Memphis GLBT community to her during the CGLRA's program.

"In writing the poem, I tried to figure out where I fit in the scheme of the community as a person who's an artist, a Christian and who doesn't necessarily like the bars," he explained. "It was something I envisioned every time I wrote one word of the poem."

Toscano's brilliantly-written poem took on a life of its own going from poetry to a dramatic performance piece presented by 11 people, including Toscano whose part appears in bold text in the copy-righted piece published along with this story.

When asked if he realized everyone who hears the poem finds parts of themselves inside its body, Toscano replied, "I really focused on Mrs. Shepard and haven't really thought about how other people would feel about it. I hope it touched Mrs. Shepard deeply and that it affirmed the community and let's everyone know they are really special people."

Although Toscano supervises a team of help-desk technicians for a software company, he is a full-time graduate student at The University of Memphis where he is pursuing a master's degree in art and teaching, hoping one day to teach English, Spanish and drama. He admitted he refers to himself, and justifiably so, as an "inspirational performance artist."



For Judy Shepard Memphis 2000

(performed by David Christie)

Hey, wanna check out the clubs tonight?
Take a disco nap because my day doesn't start until 11 p.m.
That's when we flock like satin, denim, leather
Nylon, tank-topped peacocks and
Pound down pleasure until over
Two 5 a.m. eggs at C.K.'s we solve the world's problems
And wonder, what are we going to wear tomorrow?

(performed by Rick Herrera)

I overheard the pitcher complain as he stomped off the mound,
"I can't believe we got beat by a bunch of queers!"
Whaddya think, we folded Origami and played with Barbies all our lives?
We tear up those fields, the courts, the lanes,
Been doing it for years midst all the cheers and jeers.
My sister sluggers and brother batters baffle opponents.
We're a team, a community, we're family:
A league of prissy, butch, flaming athletes
And when that ump shouts "Yer OUT!"
We smile, "You got that right!!"

(performed by Peterson Toscano)

I have been as confused as a mad cow in a tornado.
They promised me, "Come to Memphis; find freedom in Christ."
I've been to the altar, to the program, to the counselors, to the homo-
no-mo halfway house -
I've been through reparative restoration,
gender identity modulation.
12-step de-homosexualization
But can a leopard change her spots?
And why should she?

(performed by Justin Barnes)

I'm gay Mrs. Shepard, that's not a big deal to you.
But my dad says I'm just being rebellious.
He doesn't understand why I don't like school anymore.
Hello Dad! It's hard to get a decent education when
They're kick'n the hell out of you!
The number one putdown they shout in the hall is "Faggot!"
(even if you're not one).
The number one cause of death for gay teens is suicide.
The number one reason I'm not giving up is groups like MAGY
And friends who listen, adults who accept me
And the audacious belief that I'm wonderful just the way I am.

(performed by Rita Tolliver)

Shadrick is 11 and Kendarius is 13
I love my children with a fierceness that keeps me going even
when I'm too tired to eat.
And you?
I'm so sorry; you lost your wonder boy.
Aren't they all wonders?
Shadrick is 11 and Kendarius 13.
I'm my kids' lesbian mom.

(performed by Len Piechowski)

I remember nights of Donna Summer pulsating
In our sweaty polyester exalted on platform shoes.
We were high with a new life, I love the night life, the
mustached macho Macho man.
And the girls with the manly girls and us long-haired girly
boys. And the disco ball turning round and round and round,
And the river of liquor and the shower of sex and the snowfall
burning in our nostrils and the incessant thumping and joyous

jumping.

Then I saw a thousand at my side,
Ten thousand at my right.
I stand with a few damn lucky souls
Who survived, I have survived. I have survived.

(performed by Anthony Dilworth)

I can be bitter like the bile collecting in my liver.
I can be toxic like the infection in my lung.
I can be abrasive like the shingles crawling on my skin.
I can be evil like the virus eating my flesh.
And some days I am,
But I have a whole life to squeeze into the portioned moments
between us.
Time to laugh loud and hug hard and marvel at the silver wings
on a fly.
We all have a death sentence; HIV has awoken me to mine.

(performed by Glynda Hall)

Lord, you have made me -
You know my inward frame,
The longing to serve You with all my heart.
The longing to be the person You have ordained me to be
The longing to belong to another woman, to have and to hold.
I once thought it strange, being gay
And being a minister of the Gospel.
But you say, "It is good," and send me out.
I am my beloved's and She is mine.

(performed by Angela Lamb)

We share an office, a meal, a joke, even a pew.
Behind the smile I wear as my mask,
Behind the latticework I daily construct that scaffolds my facade,
I peer from within the closet.
This straight jacket cleverly conceals my secret -
And crushes me,
like a boa constrictor.

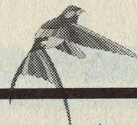
(performed by Darren Burns)

Some thought Langston Hughes had two strikes against him
Being Black.
Being Gay.
And it's hard sometimes when brothers reject me because I'm gay,
And white boys act like I'm a disease because I'm black.
Doesn't matter
Langston said it best,
"Besides,
they'll see how beautiful I am
And be ashamed -"

(performed by Alison Tate)

Gurl, my feet are tired in these here pumps.
I've marched on Washington.
I danced in the streets at Pride.
I sparked a revolution at Stonewall.
I'm a warrior.
A goddess.
A sultry, sassy sensation with a single purpose-
To bring down the house!
And Gurl, we ain't gonna rest till we make this thing right.

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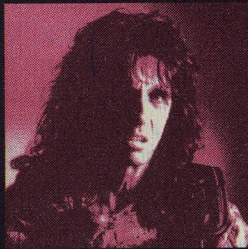
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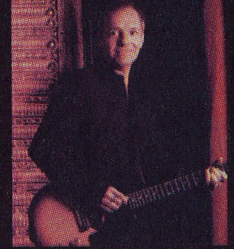
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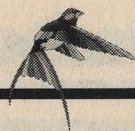
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BOYD GAMING



Shepard comes out against hate crimes

Mayor Herenton issues anti-hate crimes proclamation

BY ANITA MOYT
MANAGING EDITOR

Almost 800 people crowded into Calvary Episcopal Church at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 25 to hear Judy Shepard and Mayor W.W. Herenton speak at "An Evening With Judy Shepard," presented by the Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Religious Affairs (CGLRA). There is no doubt that this was a historic occasion for both the city of Memphis and its GLBT community.

Press coverage was very strong with television, radio and print media represented. Hate mail, which promised a "defiant protest," reportedly had been faxed to the office of Calvary Episcopal the week prior to the event. In spite of heightened security measures, no one showed up to protest.

With spectators filling the pews and overflowing into the aisles and hallways of the sanctuary, it was clear that this was a very special night.

Rev. Douglass Bailey, rector Calvary Episcopal Church, opened the evening's program with a warm welcome. Following the keynote address by CGLRA founder Len Piechowski, Mayor Herenton took to the microphone amid the applause of black, white, young, old, gay, lesbian, transgendered and gay-friendly.

"I believe in the great city of Memphis ... we ought to stand tall and protest vehemently against hate crimes," Mayor Herenton said. "This should be a city where we do not fear for our safety because of the color of our skin, our religious beliefs or (our sexual orientation). This city is in the forefront of civil rights ... We are not done until we are all free from civil injustices. As Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, 'Injustices anywhere is a threat to injustices everywhere.'

"On Sunday, Sept. 15, 1963, a bomb exploded in the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala., injuring 22 and killing four girls, ages 11 to 14 ... That bombing took place out of hatred for people of color. Matthew (Shepard) was killed out of hatred for how he made a decision to live his life," he continued.

The mayor responded strongly to a comment in the *Commercial Appeal*, by Leeann McNinch, president of Family, Life, America and Responsible Education Under God (FLARE) who called the mayor's appearance at the CGLRA's program "totally unnecessary."

"I don't think it's the mayor's place to speak at an event such as this," McNinch told the CA. "In a way, it's putting

the city's seal of approval on a lifestyle. I just think the mayor should have remained silent on that. I think he's really overstepped his bounds."

"That was the same mentality of people during slavery - people who believed in God but advocated lynching of black men," Mayor Herenton rebutted. "Do they serve the same God as I do? Do they read the same Bible I do? That (comment by McNinch) was unjust, inhumane and wrong."

Then, the mayor asked Rev. Bailey to accept his proclamation saying, "September 25, 2000, is proclaimed Memphis Against Hate Crimes Day!" Herenton concluded by reading the proclamation, "It is further resolved that every day that the Lord gives us we should continue the fight against hate crimes."

The moving performance piece, "For Judy Shepard: Memphis 2000" by Peterson Toscano brought laughter and tears. Mrs. Shepard was noticeably moved with emotion and tears at the performance as 11 individuals, each a face of the Memphis

GLBT community, spoke their part to her.

The soft-spoken, yet outspoken, Judy Shepard, mother of Matthew Shepard who was slain October 1998, because he was gay, took the stage after being introduced by Jim Maynard, co-chair of the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Coalition for Justice.

"This is a very heavy experience," Shepard said referring to the program so far. "Ya'll are great, absolutely wonderful." She explained she does little preparation for her speeches, and takes it as it comes.

"If I had prepared any remarks, I wouldn't need to say them, they've been said already" she said referring to the performance piece.

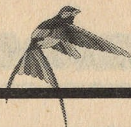
"Dennis (Shepard's husband) and I take up Matt's commitment," Shepard said. "I hate hate pure and simple."

Standing in the sanctuary of a church that has opened its doors to the GLBT community, she was reminded of one of the lowest times of Matt's life.

"Matthew was turned away from the church in Colorado; that was one of the most painful things he encountered. In Denver he was sad and depressed. He sought help from the church. But a woman there told him ... 'I don't think we can help you here.' To have the capacity to forgive the church for the actions of one woman is so adult. He lived his life in an honest way ... he made me very proud." Shepard said with a smile.



See Shepard, page 11



LEN PIECHOWSKI'S September 25, 2000

CALL TO ACTION

Each and every gay person in this church tonight can tell stories of physical and emotional harassment and of threats that have been leveled against us or against our loved ones.

Those who hate us have heretofore waged a highly successful war of intimidation, threat, and fear ... to keep us closeted and out of sight.

To our shame, more often than not we have cowered under that pressure and have been silenced by the fear.

And that is understandable.

It is understandable that we would not want to self identify in the workplace and risk losing our livelihood.

It is understandable that we would not want to self identify in our churches, mosques and synagogues. After all is said and done, gay people are deeply spiritual people who need communities that nourish our spirituality.

It is understandable that we hesitate to tell our families ... we know all too many stories of gay people being put out on the streets, disowned, disinherited.

We love our families ... It's understandable that we don't want to hurt them.

It's all understandable.

It's also psychotic.

It's not in touch with reality.

It is totally divorced from the real world and our place within it. The reality is ... we are gay. We are lesbian. We are bisexual. We are transgendered.

And that carries many consequences in our society, mainly negative.

But a Supreme Being in loving Wisdom, created us that way.

To deny that is to deny the core of our being. For being gay is simply not who we sleep with. It is the paradigm through which we view, perceive and act in our world.

To deny it ... to try to live detached from it ... is a serious psychosis ... called internalized homophobia.

Fortunately, it's curable.

Homophobia is cured by realizing that it's more than just a party. Indeed that the partying, the bar hopping ... maybe the anesthetic we use to dull our psychosis.

Homophobia is cured by coming out and by being ourselves, smashing the ignorant stereotypes which abound.

It is cured by coming out at work, and like Glynda (Hall), our shero, face the consequences of the reality that it is better to be hated for who we are than to be loved for who we are not.

Homophobia is cured by living our spirituality in total honesty and with pride in the sexual diversity of God's creation and by not acquiescing to the teachings of religious zealots of the Bible belt who pervert healthy selfless spirituality into a self-justifying, self-aggrandizing, and self-righteous exercise in intolerance and exclusion.

Homophobia is cured by never forgetting what it was like growing up and by reaching out to the gay teen. Homophobia is cured by registering to vote, knowing your civil representative, and by voting your conscience.

Homophobia is cured by refusing to do business with members of the straight community who refuse to honor and treasure our contributions.

And homophobia is cured by not doing business with the parasites in (the) gay business community who live off of us yet give nothing back to the community.

I invite each of us to take one small step toward our cure this evening ... To take that step tonight is risky. But it is the only cure for the psychosis of internalized homophobia effecting the gay community of Memphis.

One of the greatest men of the 20th century, Martin Luther King once said "If you have not found a cause for which you are willing to die, you are not fit to live."

Step forward tonight with one brave step, just one. Do it for yourself. Let's do it for each other. Let's do it for Matthew; he can't any longer ... except, of course, through his legacy that lives on in us.

Shepard

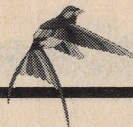
from page 10

"Vote." That was Shepard's battle cry of the night. "Society is SIC, that's S-I-C - silent, indifferent, complacent ... one person is a powerful force ... you have to walk the walk and talk the talk. Vote," she urged listeners.

After Shepard's speech, Carol Plunk sang "Angel," written

by Sarah McLachlan, to the crowd as a memorial to Matthew.

Piechowski then closed the program with "A Call to Action" (see above). He agreed we all need to vote, as well as lend our time and money to any of the 22 GLBT organizations in the Memphis area.



Pink Palace Arts & Crafts Festival is set

The much awaited annual Pink Palace Arts & Crafts Festival is set for Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 6 to 8, in Audubon Park, located at Southern Avenue and Perkins Road.

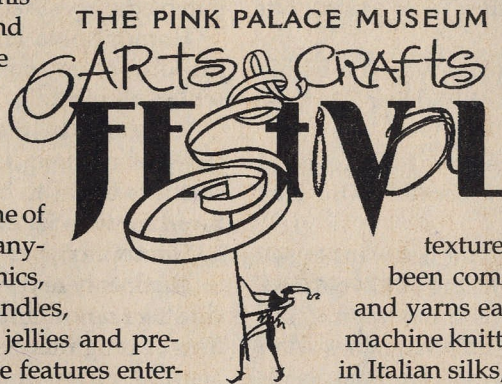
The Pink Palace Arts & Crafts Festival is one of the biggest shows of its kind and is awaited by many – not just for the exclusive crafts that can be found, but also for the fine craftsmen the festival brings to Memphis each year. Traveling from 35 states and England to showcase their art, the craftsmen offer the finest crafts, arts, traditional crafts and culinary delights available in one location in the Mid-South.

More than 300 craft booths offer some of the most unique items to be found anywhere, including jewelry, pottery, ceramics, metalwork, glass, furniture, baskets, candles, clothing, smoked meats, teas, spices, jellies and preserves. The First Tennessee Main Stage features entertainment ranging from pop and country and western to rhythm and blues and reggae. The Seessel's Demonstrator's Stage includes children's entertainment, cooking and stained glass demonstration, and Folk and Celtic music.

Memphians Dale and Brin Baucum, who have been potters at the Festival since its origin in 1972, said the Pink Palace Museum Arts & Crafts Festival is their favorite of the year. Since graduation from the Memphis Art Academy, the husband and wife team has made a career of pot-

tery for more than 25 years.

"We look forward to the Pink Palace show because of the friends we'll see and the ones we'll make," Dale said. "We make and prepare so much stuff for the show, that it's kind of like breathing – as we take our next breath, we make our next pot."



Another veteran of the Pink Palace Festival is Andru Chapman – an international craftsman traveling from England to showcase her talents. Chapman is widely recognized for her uniquely feminine designs using only the best of natural yarns and an ability to subtly combine

textures and colors. Since 1982, Chapman has been coming to the Festival with new designs and yarns each year incorporating both hand and machine knitting. Her gorgeous garments are made in Italian silks, fine spun silks and linens that are all sought after and worn by all ages and sizes.

Ed and Brenda Schmiedicke have been driving from Albuquerque, N.M., for the past 13 years to the Pink Palace Museum Arts & Crafts Festival.

"I originally started in the furniture business," Ed explained. "But after lugging furniture around for the first year, and due to my physical challenge of being only 5 feet 1 inch tall, my wife and I decided we better start making things smaller."

The Schmiedickes, who have been running their full-time business together for 20 years, now concentrate their talents into buckles, money clips, key chains and handmade kitchen and hunting knives.

A new addition to the festival this year is three-time U.S. Pottery Olympic Champion and 1992 World Champion Bruce O'Dell. Concentrating his talents in the ancient Japanese fast-firing technique of Raku pottery, O'Dell makes his pots with designs he developed in his barn in North Louisiana. He is famous for creating textures mysteriously related to nature from tree bark to human skin to geological features, clouds and even the ripples and waves of a body of water.

In addition to these fine craftsmen, many demonstrating craftsmen also will return to explain and show their skills in the lost arts of basketmaking, woodturning, weaving, caning, blacksmithing, broom making, tating, lapidary and bee keeping.

Gates open at 10 a.m. all three days, and close at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 6 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is \$6 for adults, \$4 for seniors, \$3 for children and \$10 for a two-day adult pass. Tickets may be purchased in advance at the Pink Palace Museum through Thursday, Oct. 5, at the discounted rates of \$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors, \$2 for children and \$8 for a two-day adult pass.

For more information or tickets, call (901) 320-6362.

Did you know...?

- The first annual Crafts Fair was presented by the Friends of the Pink Palace Museum in October 1973. Located on the grounds of the Pink Palace, it consisted of approximately 30 Mid-South craftspeople.

- Baby turtles came falling from the sky back in 1987, when a heavy rain carried them over to the Crafts Fair from the pond in Chickasaw Oaks.

- Maggie the Mule, who was a fixture at the Crafts Fair for 20 years, managed to get loose one night on Central Avenue after the Crafts Fair had closed but was fortunately captured in the parking lot of Memphis Country Club. Maggie pulled the grinder for the sorghum mill, which was sponsored by Millington Telephone Company.

- For the first few years of the Crafts Fair, the Friends decked themselves out in Colonial garb and wore long dresses and skirts. These outfits, however, became too impractical to work in, which led to the blue aprons, which the Friends wear today.

BULLETIN

On Wednesday, Sept. 13, a DeSoto County jury found Ronnie Beard guilty of rape, kidnapping and armed robbery of an Olive Branch woman. Beard also has been charged with the death of TRACY HODGES, who was taken from her East Memphis apartment back in August of 1999.

Almost there. ANTI-HATE CRIMES LEGISLATION in the U.S. Congress has cleared several hurdles, committees, and passed in both the Senate and House of Representatives. "If passed, the bill would extend current federal hate crime protection - which covers race, religion, color and national origin - to gender, sexual orientation and disability. It would serve as a tool to help law enforcement by allowing federal assistance, when necessary, in the investigation and prosecution of hate crimes," according to the HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN.

In June, TENNESSEE added to its sentencing guidelines increased penalties for HATE CRIMES based on race, color, nationality, handicap, religion, gender or sexual orientation.

Remember the pretty multicolored postage stamps with the words "BREAST CANCER" on them? Well, they cost \$.40 each and the seven-cent difference went to breast cancer research. THE NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE, part of the National Institutes of Health, announced last month they awarded the proceeds of those stamp sales, \$6.7 million, in two-year grants to 31 researchers focusing on breast cancer. The stamps went on sale in 1997.

We are very sad to see PIPELINE close its door, due to the death of its owner, STAN. Our community will truly miss Stan and the Pipeline, which has become no less than a gay landmark and favorite spot of hundreds if not thousands. We hope they will be opening up again soon.

The sixth annual BEYOND TEA will be held in November; this event raises much-needed funds for the Adult Special Care at The Med.

THE MYSTIC KREWE OF MEMPHIS UNITED will hold its Second Annual POOR-MAN'S SILENT AUCTION at Zinnie's East, on Sunday, Oct. 15, 3 to 6 p.m. to raise funds for its MARDI GRAS BALL to be held next February.

A PLACE AT THE TABLE is an annual fundraiser for FRIENDS FOR LIFE: ALOYSIUS HOME/AIDS RESOURCE

CENTER. In September, many parties were held that offered lots of fun and good food and fellowship. Donations for FFL were collected at the events. And on Saturday, Sept. 16, all the party goers of the day and past weeks converged on Hardin Hall at the Memphis Botanic Gardens for an evening of dancing to the Bouffants, Jungle Room and the Thomas White Quartet; as well as dessert. The goal this year was \$150,000 with up to 8,000 participating.

WORLD AIDS DAY, an event that the United Nations oversees, is set for December 1. Plans are underway for activities here in Memphis. This year's national theme is "AIDS: Men Make a Difference." According to the official website for WORLDS AIDS DAY, www.unaids.org, "70 percent of HIV infections worldwide (now) occur through sex between men and women." The focus is on the need for men, worldwide, "to be responsible for their sexual behaviors, because it is through their risky behaviors that the virus gains an opportunity to spread."

Girls, and guys! You've got to see this one. STOP KISS is on stage now through Oct. 15 at CIRCUIT PLAYHOUSE. This was a great production showing how two otherwise straight young women's friendship blossomed into attraction and love for each other. DIRECTOR ANNE MARIE HALL did a great job of letting the audience peek into these girls' lives and watch as the women slowly grow to be friends with a surprising twist. And it isn't a simply girl-meets-girl, girl-falls-in-love story. How far would you go for the one you love?

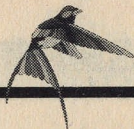
A benefit is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 20, at 9 p.m. at MADISON FLAME featuring the PMS, HATTIE MCDANIELS and THE RETURN OF I.D. CLAIRE. The benefit is being held to raise funds for the medical bills MISHA is incurring due to her illness.

Anyone interested in serving on the RYAN WHITE TITLE II AIDS CONSORTIUM, call PRESTON ARCHER at (901) 545-8265.

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TM's Little Theatre stages *Fit To Be Tied*

The Little Theatre at Theatre Memphis, 630 Perkins Extended, kicked off the 2000-2001 season with the Memphis premiere of *Fit To Be Tied* by Nicky Silver, now through Oct. 15.

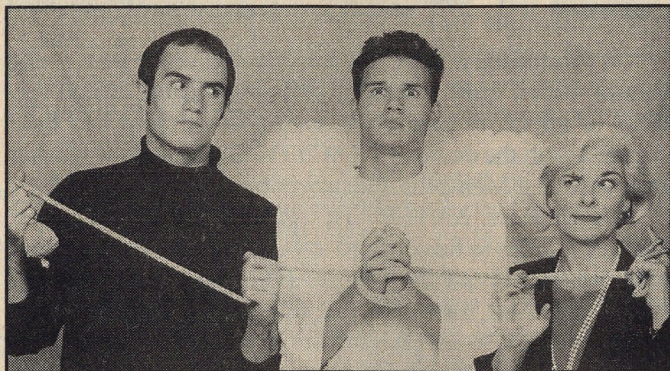
Follow the unfortunate, dysfunctional yet hysterically funny plight of Arloc Simpson, a wealthy and eccentric young man living a solitary life in New York City. Arloc (Bob Arnold), has fallen in love with the Christmas Angel in Radio City Music Hall's Holiday Extravaganza. Desperate to be loved, Arloc kidnaps the reluctant angel, Boyd (Steven Burk), and promises eternal love.

When Arloc's mother, Nessa (Ann Sharp), bursts in seeking refuge from a failed marriage to her husband, Carl (Charles Ingram), she and Boyd strike a deal: if he pretends to love Arloc, she will give him a pearl a day from her priceless strand.

Follow this unusual trio as they duck the punches that life offers while they learn about the healing powers of true love.

John Rone, who directs this production, not only is known for the many roles he has taken on various Memphis stages, but has won a Memphis Theatre Award from the Memphis Arts Council for his direction of *Lloyd's Prayer*.

Set Designer Bill Short also is a Theatre Memphis Award winner.



Fit to be Tied cast members include, from left, Bob Arnold, Steven Burk and Ann Sharp. Photo by Steve Roberts

Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. Thursday, 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$11 for adults and \$10 for youth (18 and under). This play includes adult themes, language and situations and is recommended for mature audiences only.

For tickets or more information, call the Theatre Memphis Box Office at (901) 682-8323.

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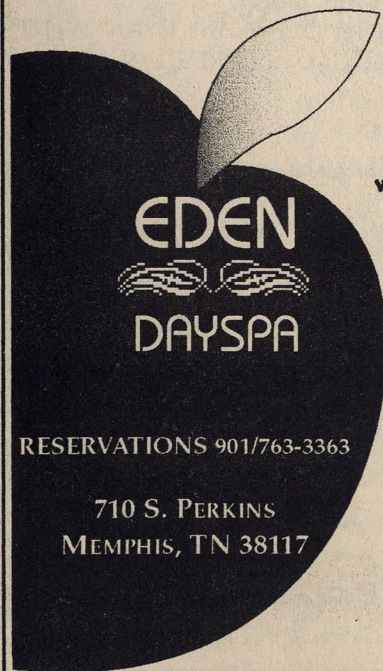
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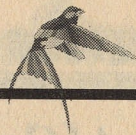
Circuit Playhouse presents

Stop Kiss

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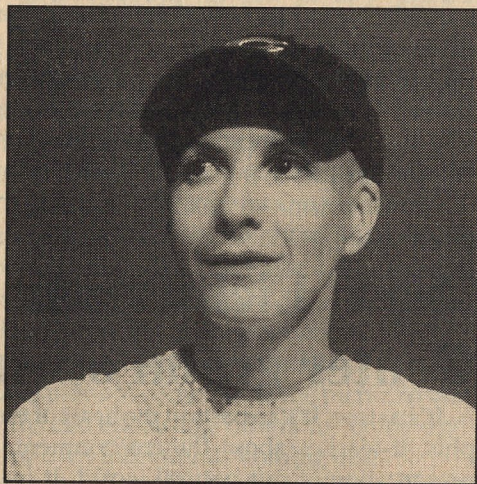
Reservations: 726-4656

Media Sponsor: Family and Friends Magazine



Playhouse to stage award-winning *Wit*

Playhouse on the Square, 51 South Cooper, will present the 1999 Pulitzer Prize Winner for Drama, *Wit*, Oct. 6 to 29. This remarkable one-act play by Margaret Edson, tackles the redemption and grace of a woman's struggle with ovarian cancer.



Sara Morseley as Dr. Vivian Bearing in Playhouse on the Square's *Wit*, opening Friday, Oct. 6.

"A dazzling and humane new play that you will remember till your dying day," said *New York Magazine*.

Sara Morseley, of *Master Class* and *Three Tall Women* fame, returns to the Playhouse stage to portray Dr. Vivian Bearing. This scholar, who has spent a lifetime indulging her steel-edged intellect on the poetry of John Donne, finds herself unprepared to deal with her emotions.

Directed by Rob Satterlee, the cast includes Dave Landis, Guy Olivieri, Suzanne Curtis and Joanne Malin.

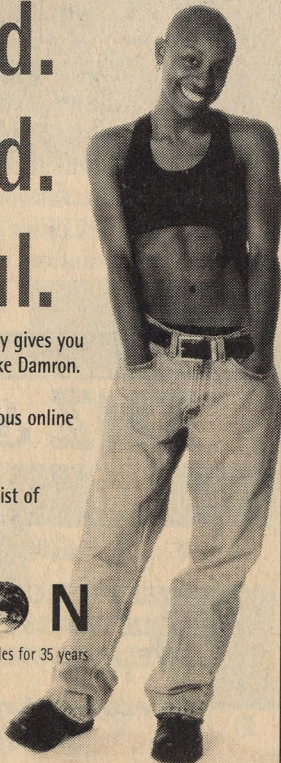
Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$16 for seniors, \$12 for students and military and \$10 for children. Pay-What-You-Can Night is Wednesday, Oct. 11, at 8 p.m.

Showtimes are 8 p.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sunday.

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

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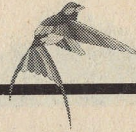


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TM to present premiere of *A Soldier's Play*

Theatre Memphis is proud to present the Memphis premiere of *A Soldier's Play*, a Pulitzer Prize-winning drama by Charles Fuller, Oct. 19 through Nov. 12.

The famed Negro Ensemble Company of New York City premiered *A Soldier's Play* with a cast which included Denzel Washington, Samuel L. Jackson and native Memphian Larry Riley. The play was made into the 1984 film *A Soldier's Story*, which earned three Academy Award nominations including Best Picture.

Set in 1944, this murder mystery begins with the death of Tech/Sergeant Vernon C. Waters, played by Moses Peace. Waters, the head of the negro military unit, is shot outside the officer's club in Ft. Neal, La. The Ku Klux Klan is immediately blamed for the killing.

Captain Richard Davenport, the first black officer most of the men have ever met, is sent to investigate the murder. Davenport, played by Ramone Cox, is greeted with hostility by the white company commander, Captain Charles Taylor. Taylor, played by Chris Hart, insists a black man will never be able to conduct a thorough investigation and demands Davenport be reassigned. Davenport disagrees and begins his interrogation. He soon discovers that two white officers, Lieutenant Byrd and Captain Wilcox, had a fight with Waters shortly before he was killed.

But Davenport remains unconvinced that Byrd and

Wilcox are to blame. He continues his investigation and soon discovers just how potent racism can be in the ranks of the military.

Adult ticket prices are \$15 weekdays and \$18 weekends. Youth (18 and younger) are \$10 anytime. Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays, 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. on Sundays.

For tickets or more information, call the Theatre Memphis Box Office at (901) 682-8323.

'New' Lichterman Nature Center grand opening set

It's nature. It's an oasis in the heart of metropolitan Memphis. It teaches about the environment, ecology and the preservation of our natural world. It features 65 acres of forest, meadow and lake with a new visitor center that includes interactive exhibits, cutting-edge technology and a close-up view of native wildlife. It's the "New" Lichterman Nature Center.

Part of the Pink Palace Family of Museums (formerly the Memphis Museum System), the grand opening for the "New" Lichterman Nature Center, located at 5992 Quince Road, is set for Saturday, Oct. 28. The grand opening will showcase Phases I and II of the \$7.5 million project; Phase III, the Backyard Wildlife Center, will be completed in early summer, 2001.

Opening Oct. 28 are the William A. Loewenberg Visitor Center, the Special Events Pavilion, Special Events Lawn, new greenhouse and head house, new boardwalks across the lake, reworked trails and lake and meadow teaching pavilions. The visitor center, with its Nature Store and interactive exhibits, will introduce visitors to the Nature Center, which also includes classrooms and meeting rooms, as well as the Nature Center's staff offices.

For more information, call (901) 767-7322

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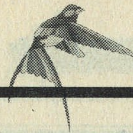
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Memphis Pride Inc. plans 2 October events

National Coming Out Day picnic, membership drive are slated

Memphis Pride Inc. (MPI) is planning two major events during the month of October, a National Coming Out Day Picnic and a membership drive.

National Coming Out Day Picnic

MPI is planning a National Coming Out Day Picnic to be held Sunday, Oct. 8, from 1 to 5 p.m. at the north end of Rainbow Lake in Overton Park. They will be selling hamburgers and hot dogs, chips and soft drinks. There also will be an open mic for all those wishing to bring their own cassette tapes and karaoke tapes. Other performers are also welcome.

It's going to be a great day filled with lots of fun and friendship. So, make plans to come out to the picnic so that we, as a community, can encourage others to "come out" and to celebrate our own individual "coming out."

The event is being co-sponsored by the Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center. This year's National Coming Out Day Picnic is made possible by the generous support of Amnesia, Crossroads I and II, J-Wags, Lorenz, One More, Cloud 9 Hair Salon, *Family & Friends*, *The Triangle Journal News* and various individuals.

Membership Drive

MPI will be actively seeking members during the month

of October with a membership drive.

During the month of October, several gay and gay-friendly businesses around town will be displaying posters about the membership drive. Wherever you see a poster, that's where you can get your Memphis Pride Inc. membership application, whether for a new membership or a renewal.

Places where applications will be available include Amnesia, Backstreet Memphis, Crossroads I and II, First Congregational Church, Holy Trinity Community Church, Inz-N-Outz, J-Wags, The Jungle, Lambda Center, Lorenz, Madison Flame, Metro Memphis, N-Cognito, One More Bar, Safe Harbor Community Church and through several community organizations.

By completing a Memphis Pride, Inc. membership application during the month of October, all applicants, both new and renewal, will become eligible for a special drawing for a Night on the Town, which will include dinner for two at Lilly's dimsum thensome restaurant, located at 903 South Cooper, and two free Malco movie passes.

But remember, to be eligible for the drawing, you must complete and return the membership application, along with a \$5 application fee, no later than 5 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 31.

Get involved, join Memphis Pride Inc. today!

Got an idea for *Family & Friends*?

Call us at (901) 682-2669 or

e-mail us at FamilyMag@aol.com

Answers to crossword puzzle on page 62

Z			E		S	A	V	I	D	16
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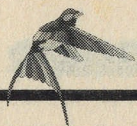
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As long ago as I can remember, I have thought about other guys. This fascination never went away, but, wanting to be normal, I ignored it and focused on females. I was fortunate to meet the woman of my dreams about 11 years ago. I eventually married her.

My wife is everything a man could want: intelligent, attractive, witty, kind, sensitive, friendly, fit, athletic, slim, a great homemaker, a career woman, etc. I truly love my wife; she is my best friend, and I cherish her dearly. Unfortunately, my sexual desires the past three years have prevented me from loving her the way she deserves to be loved. I desire guys. I feel so guilty and anxious thinking about guys when I'm making love with my wife, sometimes I cannot achieve orgasm. I've learned that I am gay and was probably born gay. I have met a very special guy, one I can honestly say I love dearly. Through him I've learned that I can live with a guy. Is there a way to repress or block my feelings? Should I tell my wife and end my marriage? How? I am interested in minimizing the pain and suffering she will feel and not eroding her self-esteem any further! Her first husband left her for another woman, and I worry about what will happen to her self-esteem if she loses me to a man. It is critical to me that she not be permanently scarred by this.

Dear Desperately Confused,

I had to cut a lot of your letter due to space considerations. However, it is clear to me that you are gay and have accepted the gay lifestyle as yours, and now, you need to clear up the loose ends. Is there a way to do it without hurting your wife? No, unfortunately not. However, continuing on as you have been would be worse. Eventually, someone will see you with a man and the word will get back to her indirectly. It is far better that you take the bull by the horns, and make a clean and honest break with her. To do this best, I would highly recommend that you begin seeing a trained professional together. Tell your wife that there are some issues you have to work through and you would like her to attend therapy with you. It will be far better to tell her in the context of therapy, after she has established a rapport with a trained professional, so that he/she can help her to cope with the situation with the least amount of pain possible. The therapist also can be there for her throughout your divorce, and help her maintain positive feelings about herself. Be sure that you level with the therapist privately (and in confidence) at the beginning of therapy, but wait a short time until your wife has established rapport with the therapist before communicat-

ing your message to her in therapy.

If your wife will not cooperate with therapy, go yourself and begin preparing for the final moment of truth. However, if your wife refuses to accompany you after a few months, you'll need to tell her yourself without the therapist's backup. Pick a time when you are alone, with no possibility of interruption, and begin by telling her you have to tell her something very difficult. This will prepare her for what is coming. Then tell her everything you love about her and your relationship. Then tell her that you are gay, and through no fault of hers, you believe that terminating the marriage would be best for her. It is not fair to her to continue to live this way. Divorcing now will allow her to find another man who can love her in the way she truly deserves to be loved. Finish by talking about how it isn't her fault. I would not bring up the affairs with other men unless you have to. However, at some point in time, she should get an AIDS test. Once you have given her this message, ask her again to accompany you to therapy, so that you can end the marriage with as little pain as possible. Perhaps she will accompany you then. Be prepared for an avalanche of emotions, and continue to stress that it is not her fault, you have come to discover that you have probably always been gay, and that you love her dearly and do not wish to hurt her. Continue to tell her that she is a great woman, no one could be better, etc., and in what ways you appreciate her. Continue to apologize for not recognizing your situation before you married her. This is a difficult situation, but it must be dealt with very soon. Even though you are living away from home, make time to deal with this issue similar to how I have outlined above. It needs to be one of your top priorities.

••• A second opinion

Dear desperately confused,

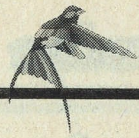
There appears to be at least three people involved in your problem. You, your wife and your lover.

You haven't mentioned your lover's side to the picture but I assure you there will be one once the divorce begins. However, I am limiting my response to you and your wife.

I do agree with my colleague that breaking up is "hard to do." A divorce, even under the best of circumstances, can still be a painful and ugly process.

I agree that you should own up to your responsibilities in the failed marriage and not let her believe it is all her fault. Although her first husband left her for another woman, that

See, Straight Up, page 21



Straight Up

from page 20

is not your fault or issue. What we are talking about is you and your wife, so bringing up her past relationship is unfair and allows the focus of the relationship to move from the two of you to someone not even in the picture anymore.

As far as counselors go, I recommend that you seek help for your own issues first and foremost. You appear quite concerned with the way the divorce would affect your wife, but you didn't say how it would affect you.

You appear to have been "happily married" for 11 years. That isn't going to go away. You and your wife each will have to grieve this lost relationship.

The reason for obtaining the services of a counselor or therapist, should not be to provide a two-against-one, let's-tell-her-you-want-a-divorce service. That's too easy. As far as telling your wife, "role-playing" with the counselor may be one thing you can do to prepare to tell her. However, I don't agree that she should be brought in to one of your sessions to drop the bomb on her. That is unfair and makes you look weak. Prepare and practice and then, when the time and place is right (which you may have to make right), the two of you can sit down together. Be prepared to listen as well as tell her what you want.

By the way, if you do seek counseling together, it too would be dishonest to do so under the guise of couples counseling in order to salvage your marriage, when you know what the truth is ... you want out and do not desire to salvage the marriage.

Respect this woman and tell her the truth, including your relationships with the other men. Since you have already moved out; don't you think she already suspects something or someone else? If you don't, either she is terribly dependent on you, for which she may need counseling, or else she already knows. Woman's intuition, you know.

This is your issue ... you are gay and want out of the marriage. And it will affect her, without doubt. Be careful with the compliments and "warm fuzzies." There is a fine line between compliments and manipulation.

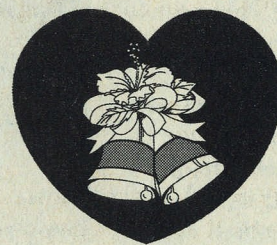
Your best bet would be to be "straight up" with her and tell her the truth. Tell her your faults, and I mean more than

being "born gay." Tell her what you want to gain through the divorce and retain in your relationship, if you are so lucky. And ask her the same. Hopefully, there can be an amicable split with only minimal attorney and court contributions, and you two will remain friends.

Further, with AIDS blasting into the heterosexual community, a community that refuses to accept this fact, she does need to know that you have had sex (protected or unprotected) with other men and if you, them, or their ex-partners, to your knowledge, are HIV-positive. If you love her like you say, and respect her, you at least owe her this. Then offer to pay for her HIV test.

Of course, you need to be prepared for a different reality than you seem to be picturing right now. It is possible that she has already hired a lawyer, and has the pictures of you and your latest beau, and is heading for your deepest pocket. Maybe she isn't as dependent on you as you think. There is nothing like a divorce to bring out the worst in someone.

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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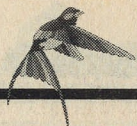
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Len Piechowski steps down from CGLRA

BY LAINE MCNEIL
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

After beginning the Memphis area's Coalition for Gay & Lesbian Religious Affairs approximately three years ago, Len Piechowski, the group's founder and chairman of the board of directors, stepped down Sept. 26 following the organization's "Evening With Judy Shepard" event at Calvary Episcopal Church.

Piechowski spoke to *Family & Friends* regarding his decision to turn the leadership of the organization over to its remaining board members, Rev. Timothy Meadows, Rev. Kathy Switzer, Emily Haire, Katie Hiestand, Margaret Henkle and Rev. Scott Howell.

It was a decision he made, he said, for two reasons, one, because of his increased academic load at The College of Medicine, and two, because "I've chosen to put all effort on behalf of the community behind the Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center's building project." Piechowski is a member of the MGLCC board and is involved in the Memphis Lesbian & Gay Coalition for Justice.

Piechowski explained the idea of forming the CGLRA was a result of the anger he felt inside himself.

"The CGLRA was born out of a desire to constructively express the anger I felt inside because of religious zealots messing with kids' minds," he said. But to fully understand his statement, one must take a look at the life this 47-year old man from Cleveland, Ohio, has lived.

"At age 19 I left home, although I had come out prior to that," he began. "I was a very spiritual child and young man. I left home to go to the (Catholic) seminary and became a Franciscan Friar in 1975. I was ordained a priest in the Catholic Church in 1981."

Piechowski's first assignment as a priest brought him to Memphis and to what was then St. Thomas (now St. Augustine) in the African-American community.

"Shortly after my ordination, I began to have a crisis, I suppose my age 30 transitional crisis," he recalled. "After

about eight months, and making the decision that I did not want to live my life alone, I decided I didn't want to be the kind of priest that everyone thought was celibate, when in reality I was sleeping around. I remember thinking that Jesus never said anything about homosexuality, but He had a whole lot to say about hypocrisy. So, I left the priesthood in 1983, and once again came out."



Len Piechowski

Following his second coming-out, no pun intended, Piechowski took a job at FedEx where he started in the hub and worked his way up to senior manager.

"In 1988, I was transferred to Cincinnati, Ohio, for about one-and-a-half years to manage a customer service office there," he explained. "I was driving back and forth to Memphis quite often and during one of those drives I rested my left hand on my chin and found, to my horror, a lump that had appeared over night.

"Instantly, I feared it was an AIDS infection because my partner of several years was HIV-positive," he continued, "although I was very, very careful." The partner Piechowski spoke of died in 1995, and at the time of his death, he and Piechowski were no longer partners but had remained very close friends.

The lump Piechowski discovered under his chin turned out

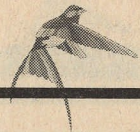
to be Burkitt's Lymphoma, the fastest-growing human cancer and one of the most rare forms of cancer known today.

"Lucky for me, Burkitt's Lymphoma is also very receptive to chemotherapy," he said. "Because it is so rare, my oncologist contacted the National Cancer Institute in Maryland and they, in turn, contacted me about undergoing a kind of experimental chemotherapy. I agreed."

Two days after Piechowski underwent surgery here in Memphis to remove the lump, he was flown to Maryland where he was hospitalized for four months from September to December 1989.

"It (the four-month hospital stay and experimental chemotherapy) was very, very rough, but it worked," he said smiling. "When I reached my fifth year of remission, they

See Piechowski, page 23



Piechowski

from page 22

said I was cured because, considering the cancer's speedy growth rate, if it were going to show back up, it would have by then."

Because of his brush with death, Piechowski said, "I am a very lucky man. I have no doubt that a loving Creator has a purpose for me." In addition, his near-death experience also changed the course of his life.

"After going through all the medical stuff, I began thinking these doctors were really cool. After all, they saved my life," he began. "Thinking, at age 41, I was too old to go to medical school, I enrolled in the nursing program at Shelby State Community College while still working full-time at FedEx."

"The CGLRA was born out of a desire to constructively express the anger I felt inside because of religious zealots messing with kids' minds."

-Len Piechowski

However, following a talk with a close friend, Piechowski discovered there were people in their 30s and 40s in medical school in Memphis.

"The very next day I saw the dean of admissions at The College of Medicine at the University of Tennessee-Memphis," he said. "I started taking all the pre-med courses and then took the medical school entrance exam and was accepted."

Following his acceptance into medical school, Piechowski quit his job at FedEx and is now in his third of five years of medical school. He said he hopes to become a family doctor "for members of our 'family.'"

So, how did the events in his life create the angry energy which birthed the CGLRA?

"It took me a long time to work through the Catholic condemnation of homosexuality," he explained. "I renounced Catholicism about eight years ago and Christianity about four years ago, but I continued to believe in a very loving God that is just crazy about me. I would like to think of myself as a very spiritual person who has a close relationship with God."

Piechowski said he feels comfortable with the talents and focus of the remaining CGLRA board members, enough so that he can allow something he has created to "leave the nest," spread its own wings and take flight.

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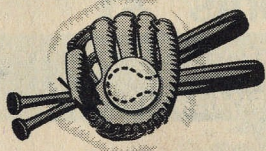
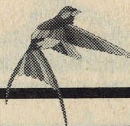
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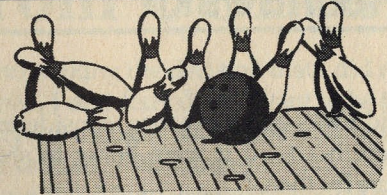
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SPORTS



Jaguars participate in gay world series

The Memphis Jaguars participated in the gay softball world series Aug. 12 to 19. The Toronto Series 2000 North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance (NAGAAA) was held in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, with open arms by its city and country.

"We placed No. 21 out of 30. Even with (our loses), we played well. Our bats were good and our defense was good. These teams from the larger cities just have more competition and get more experience. The only way I see a Memphis team getting that experience is playing in the city B league to play other competitive teams year round," said Chris Miller, spokesperson for the Memphis Jaguars." The team tied one and lost five games (0-5-1) at Toronto Series 2000.

Complete with opening and closing ceremonies and awards banquet, the Toronto Series 2000 saw more than 2,500 athletes participating from across the United States and Canada. Taking home the first-place trophies were the LA Stray Cats, Los Angeles, Division A; Boston Jackhammers, Boston, Division B, and Chardees, Ft. Lauderdale, Division C.

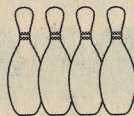
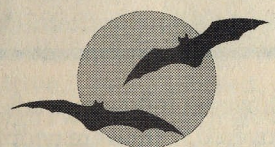
The Memphis Jaguars again took to the road Sept. 14 to 17 to play in the Music City Classic in Nashville. Playing in Division C, the Jaguars tallied up with three wins and three loses (3-3-0).

Family & Friends is proud of the Memphis Jaguars, representing Memphis gay and lesbian softball at a national level.

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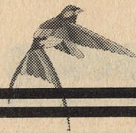
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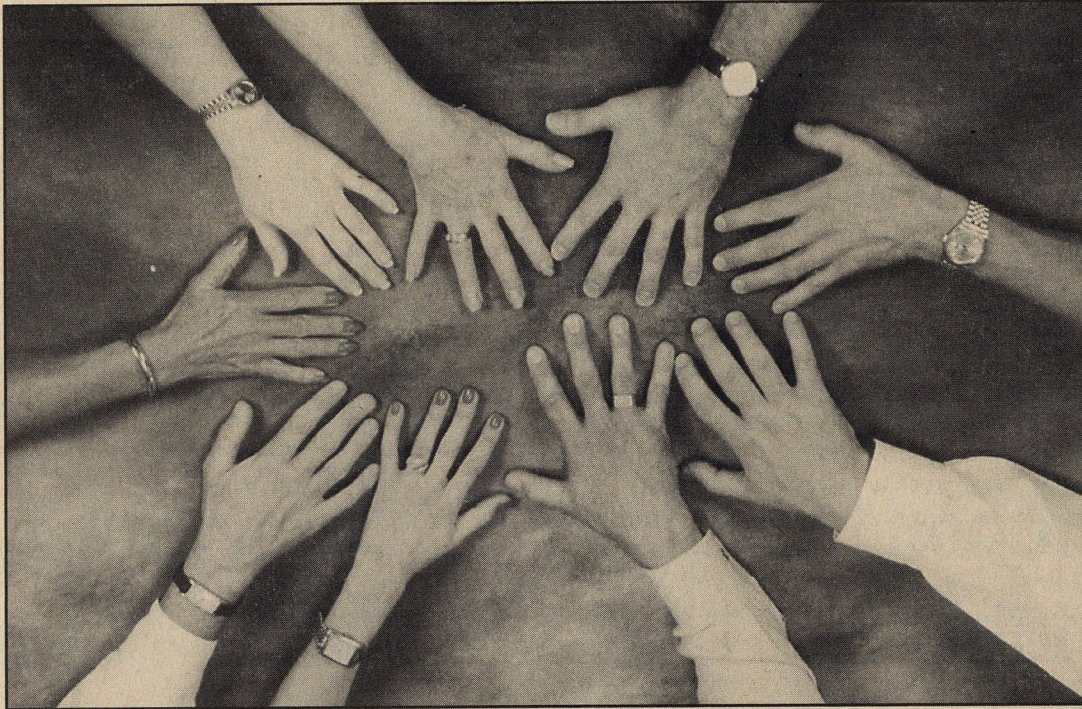
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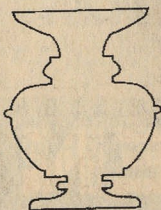
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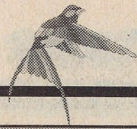


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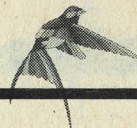


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Sundance Channel to celebrate NCOD

The Sundance Channel will celebrate National Coming Out Day on Oct. 11 with two films which tackle the subject with candor, sensitivity and humor.

Airing is David Moreton's critically-acclaimed *Edge of 17*, a sweet, funny and knowing tale of an Ohio boy's coming out circa 1984, a giddy period when gender-bending pop stars like Boy George were making major inroads into mainstream culture. *Edge of 17* will air on Oct. 11 at 9 p.m.

Next, in his award-winning short *Family*, Stephen Patrick Foery details his coming out experiences from age 18 to 22, from first discussing his sexuality on Philadelphia's public radio show "Gaydreams," to finding an influential gay mentor on the

Internet, to finally coming out to his father in a tense interview. *Family* will air on Oct. 11 at 10:45 p.m.

The Sundance Channel is available

through Time Warner Communications. In Memphis, call Time Warner at (901) 259-2225 for more information on the shows or on how to get the channel.

Carol Plunk to be on WKNO

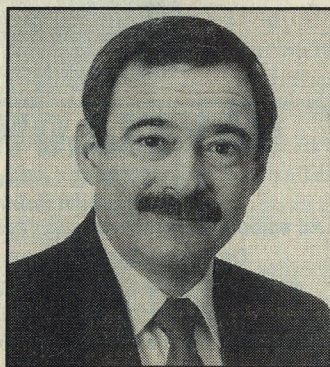
Memphis's top musicians and performers will be featured in "Memphis Premier Player Awards 2000," a new special featuring highlights from the event held at the Pyramid on March 30. The 90-minute WKNO production premieres on Channel 10 Sunday, Oct. 1, at 9 p.m. and repeats on Saturday, Oct. 14, at 1 p.m.

On March 30, the Memphis Chapter of the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences Inc. hosted the 15th Annual Premier Player Awards at the Pyramid. These awards are the Mem-

phis music community's celebration of musical creativity and craftsmanship.

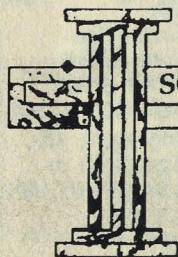
Scheduled to appear on "Memphis Premier Player Awards 2000," are Carol Plunk, Carla Thomas, Larry Raspberry, Wendy Moten, Rufus Thomas, Marvell Thomas, Vaneese Thomas, Michael McDonald, Kids 'N Blues, Kevin Paige, Kelley Hurt, the duo of Jimmy Davis and Tommy Burroughs, DiAnne Price, Orquestra Caliente, Steve Cropper, Andrew Love of the Memphis Horns, Saxman Jim Spake and more.

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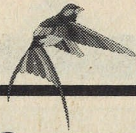


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Read this if considering changing careers

Does your job have you feeling bored, in a rut? Are you ready for a career change? Or perhaps you're a homemaker with children easing out of the nest, and you're all set to try your wings with a new career.

"Career changes often are considered when a person feels he or she is in a position that has no potential for growth, they have reached the top level of their career, or there is no longer an interest or challenge for them in that particular field," said Gina Starnes, recruiting coordinator in The University of Mississippi Career Center. Also, a family crisis, such as death or divorce, may bring about the desire for a fresh start.

Whatever the reason, certain considerations may prove valuable for those who put their careers on the line in search for something better. Starnes offered the following tips:

- Evaluate your "risk" factor. "To me, risk is personal perception and should be measured by what you personally feel you can lose versus what you think you will gain," Starnes said, who suggested writing a list of risk factors. "It's easier to visualize risk-taking when the pros and cons are listed on a piece of paper, one column next to the other."

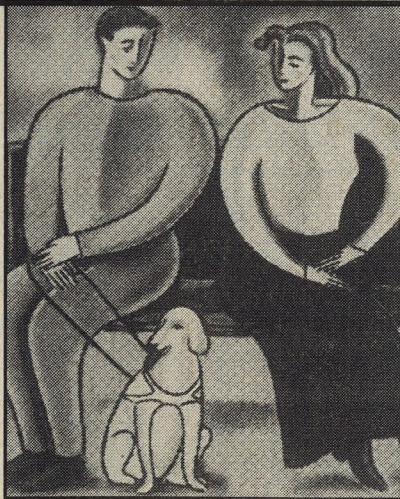
- Update your resume. "This actually should be done quarterly," Starnes said. References to high school and other pre-college activities should be eliminated unless they help tailor a resume for a certain position. "Community service or membership in organizations might help establish a history of your interest in a certain field or in a particular company," she said.

- Add a cover letter to your resume. "A letter gives you the opportunity to explain why you're interested in changing careers," Starnes said. "Emphasize the positive correlation between your present career and the field that you're hoping to enter. Even if there is not a direct link between the two, point out that you have valuable experience in the work world and in some way try to connect it with your new career interest."

- Use the Internet for research. The Internet is valuable for locating information about a particular interest and seeing the types of careers that go along with that field. You also can research companies that hire candidates with your new interest. "Such research activities will provide you with a broader view of the field and its place in the professional world," the Ole Miss counselor said.

- Stick with your old job until you find a new one. "Un-

See Careers, page 31




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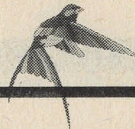
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Gay/lesbian book group off to great start

Some 24 people, both men and women, attend first meeting

The newly-formed Gay/Lesbian Interests Reading Discussion Group held its first meeting last month on Sept. 6 at Bookstar Midtown with 24 people attending. Those in attendance represented a fairly equal mix of gay men and lesbians.

The group's facilitators are Shannon Yarborough, assistant store manager, and Christiana Bendall, community relations manager for the store.

During the first meeting, which was held in The Cafe, Yarborough distributed a list of the

gay and lesbian books he had read during the summer. The list included *Troublemaker* by Brian Pera, *Briefly Told Lives* by C. Bard Cole and *The Silk Road* by Jane Summer.

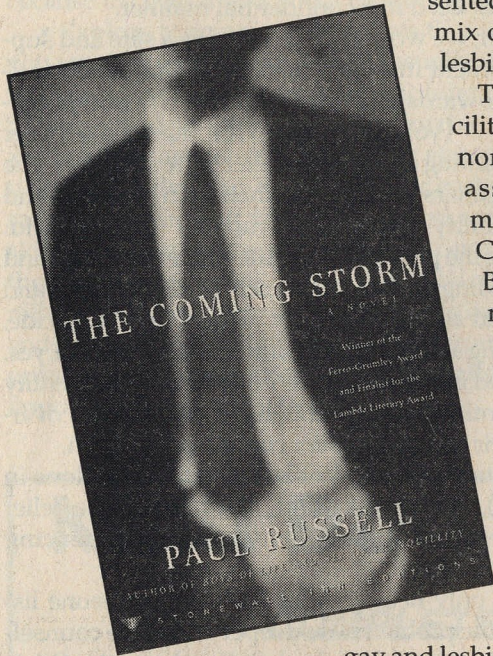
Yarborough also presented the group's selection for the month of September, *The Coming Storm* by Paul Russell, which the group will discuss at the October meeting.

Yarborough also explained that the group selection of the month would be decided upon by the group with two selections being presented for consideration. The selected monthly book will be available for purchase at Bookstar Midtown with a 20 percent discount offered during its respective month.

The group, which is being sponsored by Alyson Publications, will hold its next meeting on Monday, Oct. 4 at 8 p.m. in The Cafe. In addition, Bookstar Midtown also will host "Open Mic Poetry Night" on Fridays, Oct. 6 and 20, beginning at 8 p.m., and "Trivia Night" on Friday, Oct. 27.


In addition to the group's selected monthly book, Bookstar Midtown also offers a section in the store called "Staff Recommends," which carries many gay and lesbian titles.


For more information, call Bookstar Midtown at (901) 323-9332 or email Yarborough at TruCap24@aol.com or email the store at bookstarmemphis@aol.com.



Join the
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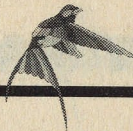

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Crisis Center: It's there when you need it

BY ANITA MOYT
MANAGING EDITOR

When you think of the Crisis Center, or Crisis Hotline, the first thing that comes to mind is the suicidal caller, making one last call for help. The Crisis Center has seen its share of those phone calls. But that is not its only focus. As the name says, its focus is "crisis."

Crisis comes in many different forms. It can come when a job is lost, a loved one dies, relationships break up, finally realizing one cannot live in an abusive relationship anymore, and even a bad grade in school or a bad day at work. Crisis is when a person seems overwhelmed by external or internal forces.

"There is no criteria. One person's crisis is another's 'no-big-deal.' We all have different levels of coping and the idea is to cope," explained Melissa Goldsmith, program director. "When you need to talk, we listen."

The Crisis Center is a 24-hour, 365-days-a-year hotline service available by calling (901) 274-7477.

"All services are free to anybody, anytime. We are one of

the few, if not only, 24-7 hotline/helplines in our area," said Michael LaBonte, volunteer coordinator.

The hotline is staffed by trained volunteers and is available to all callers who find themselves in crisis or having suicidal thoughts. The volunteers are skilled people, trained to understand and dedicated to caring, sharing, listening and helping. At the Crisis Center, all calls remain anonymous and are handled in a confidential manner.

"At the center, we work hard to provide a safe and supportive environment in which callers can share their feelings and work towards their own solutions in a non-judgmental context ... (Volunteers) provide the help a caller needs without 'taking charge' of a caller's life situation. The idea is to assist callers in achieving their own solutions and taking responsibility for their own choices," LaBonte said.

Those staffing the phones have dealt with most every kind of problem including alcohol, health, school, rape, marital and relationship, child abuse, pregnancy, anxiety, family, suicide, employment, drug abuse, depression and loneliness. And, yes, callers have called in with problems involving sexual identity and gender identity. Even parents have called when overwhelmed by their son or daughter coming out to them.

"The idea is to make you feel less isolated and alone in (your situation)," Goldsmith said, "and find some relief from the distress and discomfort you are experiencing (even) if it is temporary."

Some callers only need to vent and have someone listen. For others, the problems are deeper and more counseling or other services may be needed. For them, the Crisis Center offers referrals.

"We maintain an up-to-date and comprehensive listing of services, including lots of different kinds of services," Goldsmith said. Included in the referral list are Memphis Area Gay Youth (MAGY) and Parents Family & Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG).

The Crisis Center was founded more than 30 years ago by Dr. Richard Farmer. Dr. Farmer had a patient who was dealing with mental illness including delusional thoughts. When his patient started having an episode of thoughts telling him he was a homosexual, the client, not being able to find anyone to turn to, committed suicide. Dr. Farmer, determined that such a situation should never happen again, started the Crisis Center and Hotline.

The Crisis Center is now a part of Family Services of the Mid-South, a company that includes sexual orientation in its employee nondiscrimination policy.

"The Crisis Center is a gay-friendly environment," LaBonte said.

"We encourage anyone that is interested to call us about volunteering. We always need compassionate listeners," LaBonte said. If you are interested in volunteering, call the hotline at (901) 274-7477 and ask for Mike.

Celebrate National Coming Out Day

with Memphis Pride Inc.
& the Memphis Gay & Lesbian
Community Center

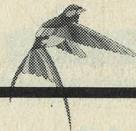
Sunday, Oct. 8
1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
in Overton Park

(north end of Rainbow Lake)



Hamburgers • Hot Dogs • Chips
Soft Drinks • open mic

Event made possible thanks to the generous support of Amnesia, Crossroads I&II, J-Wags, Lorenz, One More, Family & Friends, Triangle Journal News, Cloud Nine Hair Salon and various individuals



Careers

from page 28

less you are financially independent and can concentrate on furthering your education in a new area of interest, don't give up your present job," Starnes said. Also, consider it risky to discuss your intent with your present boss. "You might be perceived as being disloyal to your present company, and you may be passed over for a promotion or a new position because the boss thinks you'll be leaving anyway."

- Explore training opportunities that will help qualify you for your new career. "If you casually inform your current employer about your academic intentions, you might be surprised to find them supportive with flex-time around your academic schedule, or going so far as to partially or totally fund your academic endeavors," Starnes said. For example, if your new interest requires computer skills and you have none, then a certificate program through a community college might be completed by enrolling for classes after regular working hours or on weekends. Distance-learning capabilities through colleges and universities also offer convenient and affordable training opportunities in many fields.

Spiritfest '00 set

Spiritfest '00, a celebration of spirit for women in the South, will be held Friday through Sunday, Oct. 27 to 29, at Camp Sister Spirit, near Hattiesburg, Miss.

Reverend Ayla Heartsong, producer of Spiritfest, invites women of all religious and spiritual beliefs (from Anglicans to Zen Buddhists) to this weekend of spiritual renewal through singing, drumming, storytelling, mask-making and much more.

Registration fees are \$65 to \$95, depending on registration postmark date, and include comfortable lodging, Southern cooking and a relaxed, inclusive atmosphere at Mississippi's largest feminist education and retreat center. All facilities are wheelchair accessible, all indoor spaces are pet/scent/smoke free. Musicians, presenters and workshop proposals are welcomed. There also will be an artist/craftswomen's market. Group discounts are available and reduced rate or work-in-exchange is possible.

For a complete brochure, please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Singing Heart Productions, 354 Bell Road, Byhalia, MS 38611. For more information, call (601) 838-6183 or email at spiritfest99@yahoo.com.

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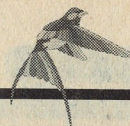
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REALTOR

Diversify your workout, try cross-training

Bored by your workout? Want better results? Try cross-training.

Madonna swears by yoga. Your best friend's super-fit sister is into kickboxing. And you just read about a clinical study that shows weight-lifting makes you look and feel 10 years younger, while it also combats osteoporosis. But then the power walkers passing by can certainly pass for fit, energetic members of society. If too many testimonials leave you wondering which bandwagon to jump on, consider the considerable benefits of cross-training.

"Exercising regularly at a single activity is preferable to being a couch potato," said Sharon M. Boon, fitness coordinator at The University of Mississippi's Turner Fitness Center. "But people often stop seeing improvement in their fitness levels, which is discouraging. Muscles can adapt to a particular routine in as little as two weeks. Cross-training helps the calorie-burning process because you are using different muscles than you would in your 'typical' workout."

What is cross-training? It's a principle of training that

See Cross-Training, page 36

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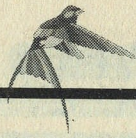
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Quote

Unquote

"We (my lover Jim Bridges and I) never made a fuss about being gay but we never hid anything. Maybe I was naive, but I never felt oppression."

– **Jack Larson, who played Jimmy Olsen on the classic "Superman" TV Series, to the *Advocate*, Sept. 12.**

"I know this will come as a shock to people all over the world, but not all gay men are thin and good looking. Some of them are slightly beefy, but adorable men, who look a lot like me."

– **Actor John Goodman who plays the gay lead in the new Fox TV series "Normal, Ohio," to the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, Sept. 6.**

"It's true that by its essence metal (music) has always had this supermacho, hetero, male-oriented environment, just like sports. So, we are everywhere, as we say. And we are in all walks of life. But I think what I did, which of course was a personal moment, has certainly made some people think and blink. Especially some of the people who had a problem with my sexuality and were a Rob Halford fan, I think had to question their own feelings on those issues. The good news is that I just got this outpouring of support, and I was pleased with that. At the end of the day, it was out of my hands, how people would react to my coming-out moment. But it's all been good."

– **Musician Rob Halford, formerly of the heavy-metal band Judas Priest, to the *San Diego Union-Tribune*, Sept. 7.**

"At this current moment I'm a mess. I'm in the middle of a thing. He and I've been dating for five months now. I get into these relationships, and I learn that (the guys I date) have all these qualities that I should have avoided in the first place, and then it ends very quickly."

– **Actor Danny Pintauro, of "Who's the Boss?" fame, to the *Advocate*, Sept. 26.**

"I'm not really fond of children. I think they're really cute for a little while, say 15 minutes. I like seeing them dance around in commercials for Welch's grape juice, but I don't think everyone has to get one."

– **RuPaul to *Genre* magazine, April issue.**

"Half my friends are gay. I have a problem with people who can't love, not with people who choose to love."

– **Actress Victoria Principal to *Out* magazine, September issue.**

"Gay men especially may not want to hear it, but it is not

the hot guy that you glimpse from the cafe, whom you see later in the nightclub and maybe even go home with, who will probably be around next year; it's the one with whom you first shared the sighting. The fantasy is that being part of a couple is primarily about sexual attraction rather than something more emotional – more touching and erotic."

– **Fashion designer Stefano Gabbana (of Dolce & Gabbana) to *Out* magazine, September issue.**

"Everyone says to me, 'Your mother being who she is, it must have been easy coming out to her.' But she had more difficulty with it than my dad."

– **Christopher Rice, 22, son of novelist Anne Rice, to the *Advocate*, Aug. 29.**

"I was ... just tired of seeing (lesbian-themed) movies where the femme is the accomplice, the weaker one that the butch gets. I wanted to make a movie about the inverse of that."

– **Jamie Babbit, director of *But I'm A Cheerleader*, to Florida's *The Weekly News*, July 27.**

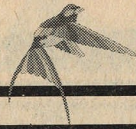
"We actually met at Home Depot in the power-tools section. Mark is very friendly and very at ease with people. I was looking at a drill and he just started telling me 'you should get this' and 'look at this one.' I thought he was cute and we sort of hit it off and started talking. Gaydar activity was definitely going on there. We walked out of the store, and we exchanged numbers, and we've been together four years now."

– **Guitarist Keith Strickland of the B-52's to *San Diego's Update*, Aug. 3.**

"Why wouldn't a gay man win on "Survivor?" We have survived mental institutions and penal institutions and, for centuries, science telling us we were sick and religion telling us we were sinful. We survived the isolation of being 'in the closet' and many of us, our parents' rejection. We have survived being called sissy and faggot and dyke and we will survive much longer than Laura Schlessinger's television show. So, would roughing it on an island be too much for us? I think not."

– **Activist Robin Tyler of StopDrLaura.com in an e-mail to this column.**

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.



Your Turn

Letters to the Editor



Reader says shame on *F&F*

Shame on you! In the first article in your September issue you say, "get involved." Then turn to page 37 and there you are beating up two people who tried to get involved. I am one of those two people "going around town" soliciting money for the Matthew Shepard Foundation.

My friend, Dotty Mills, and I had the blessings of Len Piechowski, chair of the CGLRA. We knocked on the door of many gay and gay-friendly businesses. At each of these businesses we left a stamped envelope with the CGLRA address on them.

We also sent out a letter to our friends asking for a donation with a stamped envelope in each of them. Those envelopes indeed had our home address on them, although we did ask for the checks to be made out to CGLRA. The reason for the home address was quite simple. Since these were our friends, we wanted the opportunity to thank them personally. We wanted to be able to say, "Thanks for your help and we'll be there when you ask for help."

You wanted to clear up the "confusion." Well, I talked to many of the people that I sent letters to and not a one was "confused." And, as I said, the envelopes we left at businesses had CGLRA on them.

Anita, Patty, why didn't you call me if there was confusion? You know me very well. You know my "partner in crime" very well. You have our phone numbers. Why didn't you call? Hmmm ... I wonder.

You also know that I have been affiliated with a major fund raising group in the community for the past seven years. If I wasn't on the up-and-up, I would have been out of there a long time ago.

You know, it really doesn't feel very good to try and do a good deed for our community and then find yourself written up in the local magazine in a suspicious manner. I think you owe my friend and me an apology. I hope to see this in print.

— Cyndi Rork

Article said to 'hint of suspicion'

In response to "And Your Point Is ..." in the Sept. edition: You have made your views quite clear in many editions of *Family & Friends* regarding "unity" and "getting involved" in the GLBT community. You say time and time again, that if everyone got involved, change would be imminent. I couldn't agree more.

So, why single out two individuals, Cyndi Rork and myself, for getting involved and trying to make a difference?

On page 37 you printed an article regarding the CGLRA. I have been told that this was printed as a "clarification." With all due respect, I feel that it hints of "suspicion" on our part. This is my opinion and that of others within our community.

Cyndi and I volunteered to step-up and help with the fundraising effort for Judy Shepard's appearance on Sept. 25. The CGLRA was informed as to how we would be working on their behalf. We were given a very grateful okay.

We actually got out and visited gay and gay-friendly businesses on several occasions. We left self-addressed return envelopes with these businesses. They were addressed to CGLRA, P.O. Box 11274, Memphis, TN 38111-0274. In the case of our soliciting our personal friends and acquaintances, yes, we did send a stamped, self-addressed return envelope to our respective homes. This was done so that we could track the responses and personally follow-up with a thank you to the respondents. In both instances, we instructed everyone to make all checks payable to the CGLRA.

I was disheartened by your article at first, but quickly reminded myself why I volunteered to help in the first place. That could be me next time, falling victim to a hate crime. Let's all remember what is important here. It could be anyone of us next time!

I would like to share with you and your readers the words of Mother Teresa, perhaps they will inspire others, as they did me, who may want to get involved, but fear the wrath of their own community...

"If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives. Be kind anyway. The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow. Do good anyway. Give the world the best you have, and it may never be good enough. Give the world the best you've got anyway. You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway."

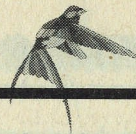
— Dotty Mills

CGLRA article gets clarification

I want to take a moment to clarify an article that appeared on page 37 of the September issue of *Family & Friends* ("Send checks to CGLRA").

Mrs. Shepard requested that a \$5,000 honorarium be donated to the Matthew Shepard Foundation in exchange for her presence in our community on Sept. 25. Cyndi Rork and Dotty Mills graciously volunteered to go door-to-door among the gay businesses in Memphis to solicit contributions to help us with the honorarium, since my letters pre-

See Letters, page 35



Letters

from page 34

viously sent to those businesses had not yet been answered. In addition, they volunteered to use their personal network of friends to solicit additional money.

When contacted by the staff of *Family & Friends* for clarification prior to publication, I was focused on the solicitation of businesses and I had forgotten about Cyndi's and Dotty's intent to solicit funds from their friends. Therefore, I was unable to provide *Family & Friends* with the following clarification at that time:

Businesses were given self-addressed, stamped envelopes with the CGLRA post office box address. In dealing with their personal friends, Dotty and Cyndi requested that checks be made out to CGLRA and sent to them so that they could keep track of the money raised through their personal network of friends and so they could send personalized thank-you notes.

Apparently, their logical methodology produced some confusion. And I regret the part my faulty memory played in that confusion. In any event, the story had a very happy ending. Due in part to Dotty's and Cyndi's efforts, the necessary funds have been raised with total contributions due to Dotty's and Cyndi's efforts being \$645 of the total honorarium. Those who attended the symposium on Sept. 25 will always be grateful for their efforts and for those of our other generous benefactors who worked so hard to make the event a reality.

— Len Piechowski
founder and past chairman of the board
Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Religious Affairs

Reader calls author 'coward'

Re: "name on file, but withheld for publication," September issue

Criticism can usually be placed in two categories. Constructive criticism comes with a positive attitude and its purpose is improvement. Destructive criticism is criticism for its own sake; it has nothing to do with improvement and is mainly for the self-gratification of the person doing the shouting.

A third category is "guerilla criticism," which could be taken for the first or second only with the words "name withheld" tacked on. Both *Family & Friends* and the *Triangle Journal News* are public forums, which occasionally print opinions with "name withheld" because of the nature of the publication and the feeling of the editors that a letter is worth reading. Most publications will not, unless it is anonymous thanks or high praise or perhaps a gift from an anonymous donor. I have been the recipient of such guerilla criticism while a staff member at the *Triangle Journal News*. We certainly didn't take it seriously.

One effect that the guerilla critic does not think of is that,

no matter the truth at the bottom of the criticism, the words "name withheld" have the effect of a "put up job," whether this is the case or not. It also goes to show that the critic has the spleen (to use an old term) to write a nasty letter, but not the balls (or ovaries) to back it up with a name. I cannot fail to notice that *my* name was used without hesitation.

Coward.

— Vincent Astor

Family & Friends welcomes your letters to the editor. Send them to *Family & Friends*, P.O. Box 771948, Memphis, TN, 38177-1948.

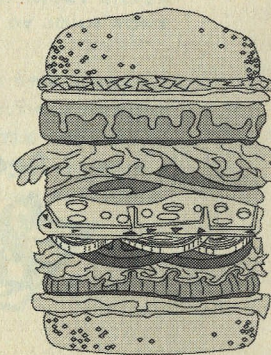
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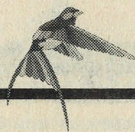
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Cross-training

from page 32

involves three interrelated fitness components, including aerobic fitness, strength training and flexibility. Here's a primer:

- **Aerobic activity.** Any form of cardiovascular fitness, such as walking, running, cycling or swimming, builds endurance and keeps the heart pumping at an elevated rate for an extended period of time. It helps the body burn calories, improve cardiovascular fitness, boosts "good" chole-

sterol levels and decreases stress.

- **Strength training.** This activity helps strengthen muscles, bones and connective tissue, as well as develop muscular symmetry and improve digestion, balance and coordination.

- **Flexibility.** Don't underestimate the importance of this part of your routine. When stretching, extend the muscle to the point of tension and hold the pose for 20 to 60 seconds. Neglect warming up and after-workout stretches, and you could end up with muscle injuries that require medical attention or at least a hiatus from your exercise routine.

"Combining strength training with aerobic activity dramatically affects bringing fat and weight loss," Boon said. And if hitting fitness plateaus still challenges your motivation, remember that gradually increasing the duration or intensity of aerobic workouts and the amount of weight used for strength training can help that sweat pay off in the form of a fitter, less-stressed-out you. In addition, long-term benefits of a balanced plan can help protect you from heart disease and stroke, high blood pressure, back pain and some forms of diabetes.

"Beginning and maintaining an exercise program requires commitment. Incorporating physical activity into your routine is a lifestyle choice, not a quick-fix," the Old Miss fitness coordinator said. "The payoffs are remarkable. For starters, you'll live longer and look better."

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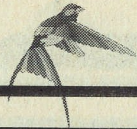


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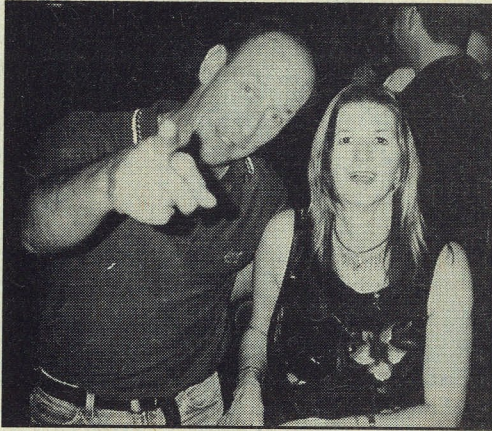
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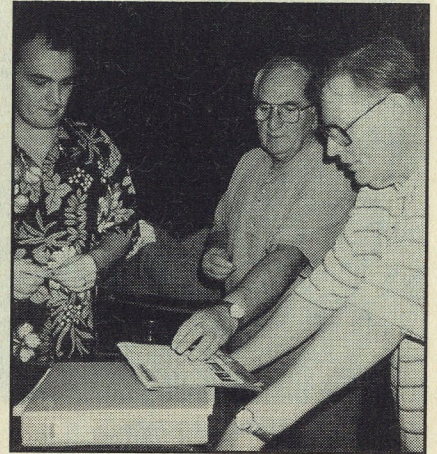
Family Album ... Mystic Krewe of MU



Bob and Krazii Beckii enjoy the fundraiser.



Melena struts her stuff.



Terry, Jim and Laura Lee Love plan fundraiser at The Jungle Sept. 8.



A MEMPHIS
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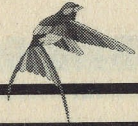
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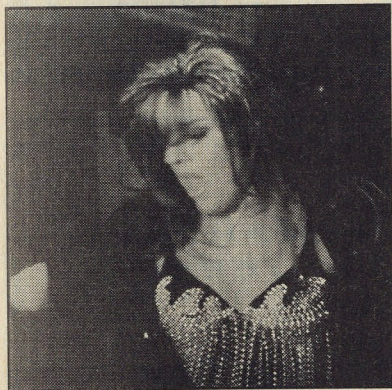
Miss Sanoma



Demonica



Mistress of Ceremonies Alotta Miles, left, and Entertainer of the Year 2000 Simply Vonna.



Lauren St. James



Simply Vonna



Miss Kimber Love



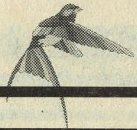
Heda Lettuce



Miss Ruby Lutz



Alotta Miles



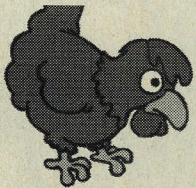
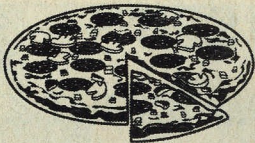
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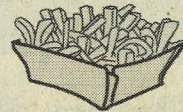
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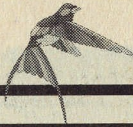
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TUESDAY NITE AT THE MOVIES

Every Tuesday, enjoy a FREE movie & popcorn at 7 p.m.
50¢ hotdogs • \$8⁰⁰ buckets
7:30 till 9:30

Wednesdays

Domestic

Longnecks from Opening

Til Closing

Pool Tournament at 8 p.m.

OCT. 28TH HALLOWEEN COSTUME BALL 10 p.m. until
\$50⁰⁰ 1ST PRIZE BEST COSTUME & \$20⁰⁰
2ND PRIZE \$1⁵⁰ LONGNECK 9 P.M. TIL MIDNIGHT
BEST DANCER \$20⁰⁰ PRIZE

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NOVEMBER 4, 2000 AT 9 P.M.

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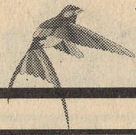
CALL GARRY FOR DETAILS ... (901) 274-8272

Come Party with Garry, Billy, Jeff and ... Nick is BACK!

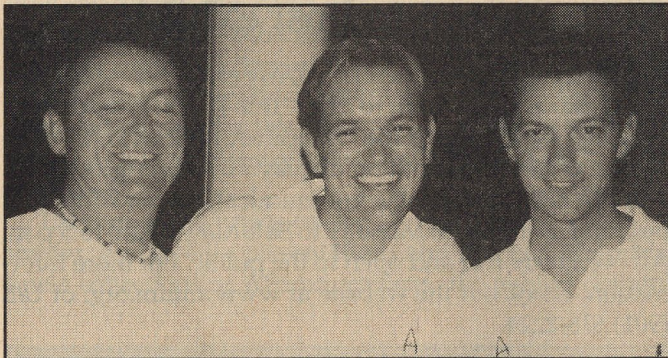
WE GLADLY ACCEPT



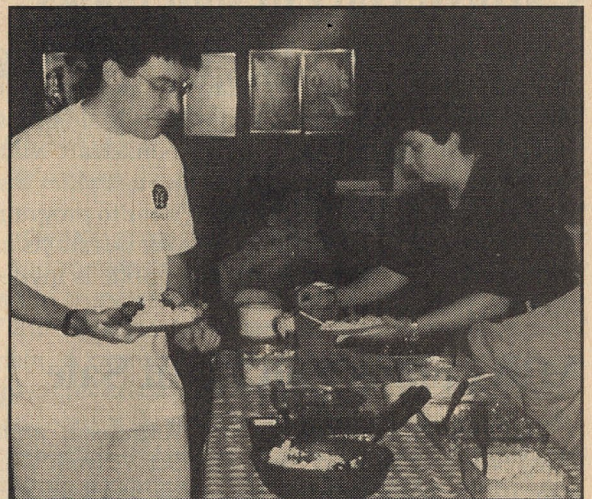
*Come Join Us
Sunday at Noon
For Brunch*



Family Album ... A Place At The Table



Billy, Michael and Bryan greet guests at Bogie's Deli in Midtown for one of the Place At The Table events.



MGLCC President Jason and Treasurer Angela help themselves to the potluck spread.



Enjoying a good time during a Place At The Table event at Bogie's are, from left, Steve, Angela, Tad and Don.



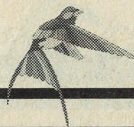
Robyn, Misti and Bogie's owner JoLynn provided the fare.



A handful of folks gathered for the MGLCC's potluck dinner, a Place At The Table event. They are Sean, Jason, Andy, Herb, Katie and Angela.



Seen at Bogie's are Michael, Greg and George.



ABOUT TOWN



Carolyn Hart to sign books

Generally regarded as America's heir to Agatha Christie, best-selling author Carolyn Hart is coming to the Memphis & Shelby County Public Library's Main branch, 1850 Peabody, on Monday, Oct. 16, at noon. Hart will discuss her work, including her latest book *Sugarplum Dead*, during a live taping of WYPL, FM 89.3's radio program "Book Talk." She will be available to answer questions and sign books following the program. The public is invited to attend this free event.

MBG plans Fall Plant Sale

The Memphis Botanic Garden Volunteers' annual Fall Plant Sale will be held Saturday, Oct. 7, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the main parking lot of the gardens, located in Audubon Park. There will be a large selection of perennials, ferns, shrubs, herbs and houseplants available for sale, all perfect for fall planting. For more information, call (901) 685-1566, ext. 106.

MSO, Chorus to perform

Join Maestro David Loebel and the Memphis Symphony Orchestra and Chorus on Saturday, Oct. 7, at 8 p.m. for "A Gershwin Evening" and pay tribute to one of American's most popular composers, George Gershwin.

The concert will be held at the Eudora Auditorium, 4684 Poplar at Perkins. Tickets range from \$32 to \$21 and may be purchased by calling the MSO Box Office at (901) 324-3627, or TicketMaster at (901) 525-1515 or by visiting the MSO office located at 3100 Walnut Grove Road, suite 501, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Craft class set at MBG

"Herbal Oils and Beeswax Balms" is the topic of the Memphis Botanic Garden Fall Craft Class set for Friday, Oct. 6, 10 to 11:30 a.m. The \$12 fee covers all supplies you will need for the workshop. Call (901) 685-1566, ext. 116, for more information or to reserve your spot.

Seminar set on hospice care

Adults can learn more about hospice care on Wednesday, Oct. 4, at 7 p.m. at the Whitehaven branch of the Memphis/Shelby County Public Libraries. Call the branch, located at 4122 Barton Drive, (901) 396-9700, for more information.

Art museum to host exhibit

The Art Museum at The University of Memphis (AMUM) invites you to the "Jed Jackson and Beth Edwards," exhibit and the "African-American Folk Art in Kentucky" exhibit, both on display now through Oct. 21. AMUM is located in the communications and fine arts building and is open Monday to Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. All events are free and open to the public. For more information, check out the website at www.amum.org, or call (901) 678-2224.

Library to sell books

Is there a book you've been looking for? Or one that is "out of print?" Well, you just might get lucky and find great deals on 8,000 books at the Friends of the Library's Book Sale.

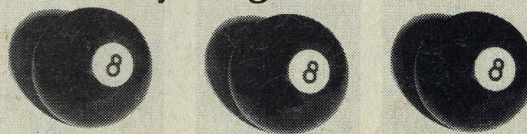
The sale will take place at the Poplar-White Station Branch Library, 5094 Poplar, on Friday, Oct. 6, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Saturday, Oct. 7, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, call (901) 682-1616.

Integrity to host 'college night'

Integrity Memphis will host "college night" at their monthly meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 17, at 7:45 p.m. Students from Ole Miss, Rhodes College, The University of Memphis and The University of Tennessee Medical School will be on a panel discussing issues facing gay and lesbian students on the college campus in the year 2000.

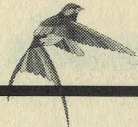
Integrity Memphis meets at Calvary Episcopal Church in downtown Memphis, 102 North Second Street. A worship service is held at 6:30 p.m. and dinner at 7:15 p.m. All are invited to this free event.

**If the beer's starting to impair
your game ...**



**Think what it'll do to
your driving.**

DESIGNATE A DRIVER



Pink Palace Museum hosts African exhibit

Africa: One Continent. Many Worlds is on display now through Jan 7, in the Bodine Exhibit Hall at the Memphis Pink Palace Museum, 3050 Central Avenue. The exhibit offers a deeper understanding of the world's second largest continent and its peoples from historical and contemporary perspectives.

Through many hands-on activities, multimedia presentations and one of the world's finest collections of African artifacts, the exhibit demon-

strates the enormous diversity of African geography, societies and political systems.



Covering 8,000 square feet, a series of seven true-to-life settings make visitors feel as if they are there. Visitors are first drawn into a neighborhood and lively marketplace recreation of a bustling street in Dakar, Senegal. Next, exhibit-goers will survey the major art-producing regions

of the Cameroon grass fields and Zaire. The significance of mining and metalworking and the social context of Benin Bronzes and ivory will be discovered, as well as an exploration of the savanna environment and investigation of ecotourism. A caravan trip across the Sahara to the Kano marketplace reveals the desert ecosystem to visitors before they walk onto a slave ship. Finally, visitors explore the Americas section featuring adaptations and innovations brought to our contemporary world by African descendants.

Come out to this extraordinary exhibit and see why Africa is a country rich in culture and history.

Admission is \$7 for adults, \$6.50 for seniors and \$4.50 for children (ages three to-12).

For more information or tickets, call (901) 320-6362.

Did you know...?

- Africa has rainforests, savannas, deserts, volcanoes and snow-covered mountains. One-third of Africa is desert.
- African people use more than 800 languages and dialects, but only 10 are spoken by more than a million people.
- The oldest written history found in Africa is the writing of Ancient Egypt. It was invented 5,000 years ago.
- The hottest recorded temperature in the world occurred in Libya in 1922, when it reached 136.4 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Many animals inhabit Africa, including more than 1,570 species of mammals.
- Most scholars agree that Africa was the birthplace of the human race in a place called the Fertile Crescent.
- Almost five-and-a-half million Africans sailed across the Atlantic to the New World before 1776.

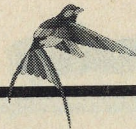
Sharpe Planetarium tells African stories in skies

Since humans could communicate, storytelling has existed long before the written word, and it has been practiced by cultures all over the world. Throughout traditional

See African Skies, page 58

HONESTLY ETHEL by John D. Anderson





Margaret Cho: She's the one we want

BY DANIEL VAILLANCOURT
GUEST WRITER

Whether it's making queer audiences laugh or working hard on behalf of human rights, comedienne Margaret Cho takes her work very seriously.

I first spoke to Margaret Cho in 1994. She was a 25-year-old Korean-American stand-up comic who had just been plucked from near obscurity by ABC to star in its groundbreaking situation comedy, "All American Girl." I didn't know it then, but the funny gal was already well on her way to Hollywood hell.

Despite desperate behind-the-scenes efforts to salvage the sinking sitcom, it bombed badly and was quickly cancelled. The fiasco almost killed Cho, who nose-dived into depression, weight gain and substance abuse.

The inimitable comedienne finally bounced back with a vengeance last year via *I'm The One That I Want*, a stage piece about her Tinseltown trauma, the unique bond she shares with her mother and her passion for gay men. The one-woman tour-de-force opened Off-Broadway in summer 1999, sold out for a record-breaking 11 weeks and launched a 40-city national tour. It won *New York Magazine's* 1999 Performance Award, and Cho was named by *Entertainment Weekly* as one of 1999's Great Performers.

Filmed before a live audience at San Francisco's legendary Warfield Theatre last November, *I'm The One That I Want* is just being released, ensuring that audiences who missed Cho's act the first time around can now catch it at art houses coast to coast.

Through all of her ups and downs, the Los Angeles-based Cho – now clean, sober and 31 – has never ceased being an outspoken gay activist. A portion of the proceeds from her latest comedy CD, *Margaret Cho Live in Houston*, recorded on World AIDS Day 1998, benefits that city's Montrose Clinic. In January, she hosted AmFAR's first "Cinema Against AIDS Park City" benefit at the Sundance Film Festival. And last June, in her hometown of San Francisco, Cho received GLAAD's first-ever Golden Gate Award honoring her – along with Elizabeth Taylor, Elton John, Marlo Thomas and Anne Heche – as "an entertainment pioneer who has made a significant difference in promoting equal rights for all, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity."

Below, Cho reveals more about *I'm The One That I Want*, the importance of gay men in her life and how she finally found happiness.

DV: Why do you love gay men so much?

MC: It's who I am, who I've always been. I think part of it has to do with my upbringing: Part of it has to do with growing up in San Francisco and being surrounded by gay

men. But also, I was just born that way. Some people are just born to be lucky as I am lucky. My life is better because I have the friends I do. There's no difference between the way I talk to my friends (or to an audience). I feel like the audience and I are very close. I try to befriend my audience as much as I can. I appreciate being close to performers, and so that's what I really aspire to being: the audience's best friend.

DV: Who are the gay men and lesbians in your life?

MC: They are many. They are varied in every area: in my work, in my spiritual life, which is growing – I have a very intense yoga and meditation practice. They are my friends and people I have known my whole life. That's where I live. That's my home.

DV: How do you identify? Straight? Bi?

MC: I don't identify as straight or bi. I don't identify at all. I don't really like labeling myself because I haven't really figured it out yet.

DV: Are you in a relationship now?

MC: No, actually, I'm not.

DV: How important is that to you?

MC: It's really important. I don't know. I think I have weird fantasies about relationships. I just read this really trashy book by Angela Bowie about her and David Bowie and how on their wedding night they had sex with a friend. And that was such a romantic notion to me. I thought it was so beautiful. That's so much better than opening presents, like getting a toaster. "How about a three-way for our honeymoon? Great!"

I recently met a girlfriend from high school. I hadn't seen her for about fifteen years, and she introduced me to her husband and her (female) lover. Her husband and her lover were holding hands. That's so beautiful. That's the ideal. (Laughs.) I think it's amazing. It's so wonderful. I don't know what the reality of that would be like, but that's sort of what I'm in the market for these days. Something really ambitious ... a long-term three-way.

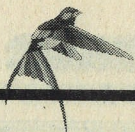
DV: How are you different in private than you are on stage?

MC: I think I'm much more serious. What I do on stage is very much a part of me, and that comes out in life, too. But I'm pretty serious. I'm pretty focused. I'm always outspoken but I'm not as loud.

DV: Tell me about the genesis of the show *I'm The One That I Want*.

MC: I reached the end of a certain part of my life and wanted to do something that defined it. I learned some really important lessons in my 20s, and I really wanted to incorporate that in a show. I wanted to retire some large

See Margaret Cho, page 45



Margaret Cho

from page 44

pieces of my act that really related to that part of my life. I wanted to make it a complete experience.

I also wanted to graduate from comedy clubs. I found that that atmosphere was really limiting. I really didn't like performing with other comedians who would go up in front of me and do mostly incredibly homophobic, incredibly racist, incredibly sexist and stupid material. I felt like my audience didn't have to sit through that. I just wanted something different, and so I wrote this show intending to leave comedy clubs and go out to theatres. I wanted to make the change and broaden my horizons and get a bigger audience. So that's how the show came about.

DV: How did the show evolve?

MC: I started in comedy clubs with it, which was great, actually, because that helped me to really work it out in an unfriendly, hostile atmosphere. Then I went out to colleges and it got better and better. And then, of course, to theaters. I went to New York. It was enormously successful there, and that helped me launch a huge tour across the country.

Now I'll go back to comedy clubs this fall, just briefly, in order to write my new show, which I plan to tour with next year. I mean, it's good to go into that atmosphere because it's hostile. It's like a microcosm of how bad the world can be. And so I think it's important and it really helps me. It wakes me up to all the things that still need to be done politically and socially.

DV: Now about your movie. Why did you want to put *I'm The One That I Want* onto celluloid?

MC: I think it's a really great example of what I do and what I want people to hear. I feel like the messages are really important for people just across the board. It's a show about self-love, self-reliance, hope and survival against adversity. It's about learning to find yourself through all of this mess and starting to make the voice inside of you the most important voice. And that is so important for people. It's something we don't see in film, in television, ever. Also, I am somebody we don't see in film and television. Especially film. The way I look, the way I sound, my voice ... The film is just so simple. It's so not pretty, and so not what we expect from Hollywood. It's just raw and honest. And so I felt like it was an important voice to capture.

There are also personal reasons. I've always wanted to play the Warfield in San Francisco. And so to finally play

there, I wanted to capture that on film as a document just for myself.

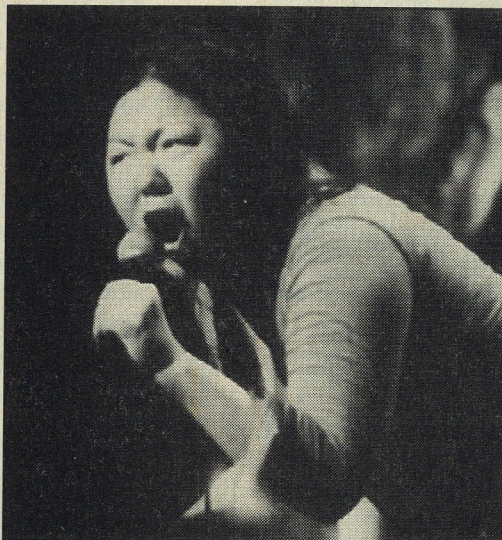
DV: It's fair to say "All American Girl" traumatized you fairly completely. Would you ever do a TV show again?

MC: I would love to do television again. I know so much now. And all that knowledge is really valuable. I don't know if I would go back to do sitcoms. That's something I don't really like anyway. If I go back to television, it would probably be to do a talk show. I would like to return. I think that my voice is really important. As soon as I am able to control every aspect of what I do for a show, then that would be a good time for me to return.

DV: Why is it so important for you to work hard on behalf of gay rights?

MC: It's part of what I do. I think what I do goes beyond entertainment. Because I embody so many different people's struggle – gays and lesbians, women, women of color, people of color, people of size – I feel like it's my job to unite those struggles for equality. Ultimately, if all of us really got together and acknowledged that our struggles are not the same but that we do have things in common – and if we let go of so many old wounds and of so many different prejudices against each other – then we would be the majority.

For me to be able to work within the community makes me feel so lucky. I get a sense of fulfillment from it that goes beyond any other professional success ... It's not about celebrity or any of that. It's



Margaret Cho

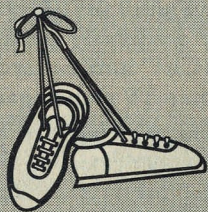
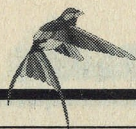
about politics and it's about love.

DV: Talk to me about your upcoming autobiography, which Ballantine Books will publish in 2001.

MC: It's the hardest thing I've ever done. I wanted to do something that was really honest and really real and really complete. It tells my whole story up to now. It talks about the show and some of the topics that I bring up in the show. But with a book you can go into so much more detail. It was a great experience. It was really interesting toward the end, just because I disclosed so much stuff I've really never talked about before: specific things about what happened to me with my network experience and growing up as a child. I think it's really humorous. It's also a great trashy read. I love really trashy star autobiographies, like with recipes and stuff. Mine doesn't have recipes but it has a lot of great trash.

DV: Will we find it on the comedy shelf or on the biogra-

See Margaret Cho, page 48



TAKE A WALK

WITH STEVEN BRADFORD

A First-Hand Look at the Trans Community

Boyz in the Woods. It was a camping trip that included TK, Brian, Holling, David, Jay, Michael and me. It was probably the most organized trip in history that lasted for three days. I can't really say we roughed it but we didn't have any electricity at the campsite.

We all arrived sometime during the course of the day on Friday and got settled in. We got up early on Saturday and rented canoes. The rental place told us that the trip would take seven hours. We all balked at that and laughed because we had had so much rain, we knew the creek would be up high enough to make it an easy journey of 15 miles downstream. We finished the trip with one hour to spare. By the time we got to the pickup point, we were tired, hungry and sunburned but we had a great time and came back in one piece with some stories to tell.

This is a great group of guys. When I think about the characteristics of each, the first thing that comes to mind is that they are all highly-educated, successful men. Let me introduce you to my friends.

First, there's TK. TK is the happiest guy I've ever seen in my life. He's always on an even keel and is like one with nature. He's a Buddhist. I can't say I really understand all the aspects of his religion, but seeing his inner peace and the way he lives his life is amazing. There's nothing that TK wouldn't do for any of us guys and he frequently proves it by helping us out whenever we need him to. Every Thursday is TK Day at our house. If we don't see TK, we seem a bit lost. Thursday is shot day for him and he comes to my house for Anna's patented butt rub.

(After a shot of testosterone is given, it is good practice to rub that area so that the testosterone doesn't stay in one spot. I remember getting shots and the area injected looked and felt like I had a golf ball underneath my skin. It would stay very sore for about a week.)

TK is a college graduate with several majors. He works as a social worker at the city hospital where he helps people that are disadvantaged find homes and jobs. He is a good man and I love him like a brother.

Next, there's Bryan. Bryan completed an entire website that provided information on our camping trip including information about the park, activities at our disposal, and a list of camping gear we would require. My first thought when I visited his site was, "Man, some people have WAY too much time on their hands." But that is not an accurate statement to describe Bryan, he's somewhat of a workaholic

and is employed as a database administrator. He is a licensed attorney but prefers to design Oracle databases. I think it is much more challenging for him and not as tedious. Bryan is getting married to a great woman in October and he's asked us all to stand up with him. We all consider it a great honor. I can't wait to get my hands on his post-wedding getaway car.

David is an incredibly intelligent guy. He's a family man and has been married to his wife Jennifer for many years. He and TK are best friends. They consider themselves as brothers and even David's mother refers to TK as being her "other son." David and TK are in the same profession. He has a lot going for him and the people he helps are very lucky to have someone who cares as much about them as he does. He and TK help the kind of people that the rest of society would like to forget exist. They are the battered wives, the alcoholics and the homeless people that society tends to turn the other cheek away from.

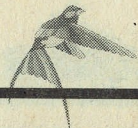
Holling works for a large university. He, like the others, is well-educated,

Outside of the university, he is eager to educate people on trans issues. I think the way he explains things to people, who don't understand us is enlightening. He can make people understand where and why we are different and that we really don't want to be. Holling is a true leader and a great organizer. And, most of all, he's a lot of fun to hang out with. He and TK ran the mini-marathon (13 miles) together on the hottest day the city had this summer. I would have passed out long before the finish line was in sight.

Jay is the teacher of the group and very athletic. He teaches physical education at a local grade school. I got to know Jay better during the camping trip and realized we have even more in common than I had first realized. He's laid back like I am and really enjoys participating in sports. He's got a sense of humor and he smiles a lot. His smile is contagious and he makes me laugh. During the canoe trip, he and Holling got out to drag the canoe in an area where the water was low. Jay tipped the boat over and fell into the creek. We are still laughing at him for that.

Michael is the writer of the group; he has written and edited numerous technical books. He's a very bright, well-spoken man. There is a boyish charm about Michael. He has an innocent smile and a face you know you can trust.

See Take A Walk, page 47



MLGCJ to meet at Highland branch library

The Memphis Lesbian & Gay Coalition for Justice will have a new meeting place beginning in October.

Due to the Memphis and Shelby County Public Library moving its main branch from Peabody to Poplar Avenue, the Memphis Lesbian & Gay Coalition for Justice will meet Oct. 23 and Nov. 27 at the Highland branch of the public library, located at 460 South Highland near The University of Memphis. The meeting is set from 7 to 8 p.m. and all are invited to attend.

Take A Walk

from page 46

Michael has proven his trustworthiness to me on several occasions. He came up to the campsite after the canoe trip was over and spent the evening chatting with us by the fire. (I told you he was smart.) We were very glad to see Michael and spend time with him before he headed back to start on his next book.

These are my new friends here and I care for them all. I'm looking forward to our next camping excursion. I can't wait to Talk A Walk through the woods again with these guys.



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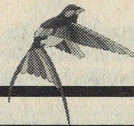
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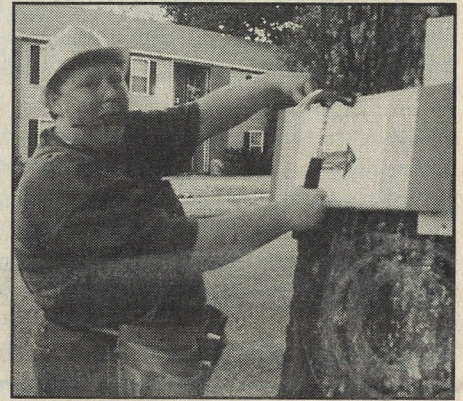
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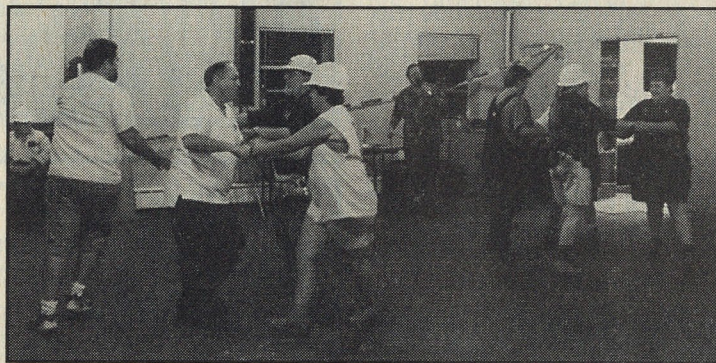
Family Album ... Cotton Pickin' Squares



The Cotton Pickin' Squares at a toga party before the four-mile race in Cooper-Young. The party, a benefit for A Place At The Table, also won for Neighborhood Support of the race.



Putting up signs for the Tool Box/Tool Chest party is veteran dancer "Delilah," seen here having a femme moment.



Part of the dancing at the Cotton Pickin' Squares' Tool Box/Tool Chest party.

Margaret Cho

from page 45

phy shelf?

MC: I would hope both. I think it's very funny. But it's also very real and very deep. There's a lot of pain there, too. I think people will really appreciate it.

DV: What do you envision as your ideal career?

MC: What I'm doing now. I have a film, I have a book, I have this show, I have a new show. I have wonderful political work that I'm really embracing and enjoying. There's a lot there. Every moment is so pleasurable. Everything is exactly how it should be, and I'm so happy. I want to continue doing what I'm doing. I want to keep making people laugh and teaching these lessons of love. That's all I want.

DV: You were 25 when I spoke to you last. You're now 31. How has Margaret Cho changed?

MC: Oh, I'm a completely different person. I have all

new cells. All new everything. And I'm happy, which is something I never knew I could be. I never was. I never realized what it meant. I have love in my life. I have success. I have joy that is all inside me, that comes from inside me. It isn't there because of success. I've learned to stop looking outside myself for things I can't find.

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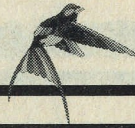
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OCTOBER 14TH AT 12:45 P.M.

**ALICIA KELLY'S 33RD BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION
WITH SPECIAL GUESTS JASMINE BONET, OTIS MACK & MANY MORE**

OCTOBER 29TH AT 11:30 P.M.

**MR. & MISS CENTERFOLD NEWCOMER 2000 PAGEANT
SPONSORED BY FLINTSTONE PRODUCTIONS**



Parents-R-US



School days bring health concerns, advice

With another school year in session, health issues may be a concern for many parents. According to Barbara Collier, director of the Student Health Center at The University of Mississippi, there are some simple safeguards parents can practice to help keep their children healthy.

"Plenty of rest, a nutritious diet and adequate fluids help build resistance against infections and keep the immune system working at its best," she said. "Although there is no absolute protection from sicknesses, common sense and some precautionary measures can help prevent them." Those measures include:

- **Vaccinations** – Preschool children should receive vaccinations at the recommended age for DPT, Polio, Hib and MMR. Proof of immunizations is required prior to attending school. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that children between the ages of 19 months and 12 years who don't have a prior history of chicken pox be vaccinated. Certain adults who work in schools or day-cares, college students and others who work in environments where exposure is likely should also receive the vaccination. Women of child-bearing age who are not pregnant and are willing to avoid pregnancy for one month should consider the vaccination, too. College students should be encouraged to receive yearly flu vaccinations.

- **Plenty of rest** – Parents should encourage their children, both young and old, to get an adequate amount of rest each day. "Fatigue or lack of rest can contribute to the possibility of acquiring infections because it decreases natural resistance," Collier said.

- **Not sharing food or drinks** –

Teaching children not to share drinks or food can often help prevent the spread of germs. Classrooms and dormitories provide excellent opportunities for transmitting disease because of the close environment.

- **Washing hands** – Every time kids open the door or pick up a toy, they gather germs on their hands. Often they then put their hands in their mouth. Children should be encouraged to keep their hands out of their mouth and to wash their hands several times a day, especially before eating and after using the restroom. Along with teaching children to cover their mouth when coughing, they should be taught to wash their hands after coughing or blowing their nose.

- **Physicals** – Parents should consider a routine physical checkup for their children to enable doctors to detect some illnesses before they escalate. A yearly visit to the dentist and an appointment with the ophthalmologist every two to three years also should be considered.

- **Dressing properly** – Children should wear clothing appropriate for weather conditions. If it is warm outside, they should wear the coolest thing possible, and when frigid temperatures set in, warm outerwear will help protect against the cold.

- **Appropriate Medical Care** – In any event, if a parent suspects an illness in a child, appropriate medical attention should be sought.

Memphis, Shelby County Health Department offers food safety advice

The Memphis and Shelby County Health Department reminds us of the importance of safe food handling and preparation in both home and commercial kitchens.

"Cross-contamination is the transfer of harmful bacteria to food from other foods. This can happen by cutting raw meat, poultry or fish on cutting boards and then slicing vegetables and salad fixings on the same cutting board without washing and sanitizing the board between uses," said Hope Rogers, environmentalist for the Memphis and Shelby County Health Department.

Failure to do so can result in food-borne illnesses, such as salmonellosis, shigella, E-coli or staphylococcus. Between June 1999, and Aug. 2000, a total of 167 cases of food-borne illnesses

were reported to the Memphis and Shelby County Health Department for investigation.

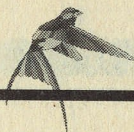
According to a 1998 FDA/USDA consumer food survey:

- 21 percent of main meal cooks do not wash their cutting boards after cutting raw meat;

- One quarter of main meal cooks do not wash their hands after handling raw meat and fish; two-thirds do not wash their hands after handling raw eggs; and

- 61 percent of people who use a cloth or sponge to wipe kitchen counters change them less than seven times per week. Food safety experts advise using paper towels to wipe kitchen surfaces. If cloths or sponges

See Health, page 51



FOR YOUR KIDS

LeBonheur plans birthday party

Children love birthday parties because of the fun games, tasty treats, prizes, clowns and magical entertainment. The LeBonheur East Surgery Center is no different. The facility at 786 Estate Place (Poplar at Estate) will turn 10 years old on Saturday, Oct. 7.

Children and their families are invited to come celebrate the surgery center's 10th birthday on Oct. 7 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Kids will be able to receive health screenings, play games, listen to Mr. Chuck's storytelling, have refreshments, get their faces painted, make crafts to take home and enjoy many other fun activities. Admission is free.

FM 100 personality Karen Perrin will broadcast live from the birthday celebration.

"I am proud that the Surgery Center has been serving families in the Mid-South for 10 years," said Sarah Wainscott, director of LeBonheur East Surgery Center. "We wanted to have a special celebration that our former and future patients and their families could enjoy with us! I hope many families will come out and help us celebrate on Oct. 7."

For more information, call (901) 681-4100.

Health

from page 50

are used, wash them often in the hot cycle of your washing machine.

To prevent cross-contamination follow these simple tips:

- Always wash your hands with hot soapy water after handling raw meat, poultry, seafood, eggs or fresh fruit and vegetables.
- Store raw foods below cooked foods in the refrigerator when thawing frozen meat, fish or poultry. Thaw in the bottom of the refrigerator in a container.
- Never place cooked food back on the same plate or cutting board that previously held raw food. Use a clean plate or cutting board.
- Don't use sauce that was used to marinate raw meat, poultry or seafood on cooked food unless you boil the sauce first.

It's Halloween without howls

It's Halloween without the howls at The Children's Museum of Memphis, located at 2525 Central Avenue. Celebrate with safe, non-frightening activities in the Pumpkin Patch on Saturday, Oct. 28, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Pumpkin Patch is an interactive learning environment that offers children and their families excursions through Autumn Atrium, Spider Station, Weird Science Lab and Shadowland in the Arts & Activities building.

In the Autumn Atrium, visitors weigh and measure different size pumpkins and decorate their own treat bags with leaf shapes and stamps. They also can pretend to be squirrels as they search for nuts and seeds in piles of leaves.

Children gaze at a live tarantula and other spiders and then create their own jumping spider craft in Spider Station. They also can weave a spider web and try to maneuver their way through a giant spider web maze without getting "caught."

In the Weird Science lab, children experiment with magnets and static electricity. They even make their own fizzing potion.

Visitors to Shadowland search for animals of the night, investigate a "bone yard" and make a raccoon mask.

The cost to visit Pumpkin Patch is \$4 per person. Admission to visit the museum is additional.

For more information, call (901) 458-2678.

Jet pilot to bring message to kids

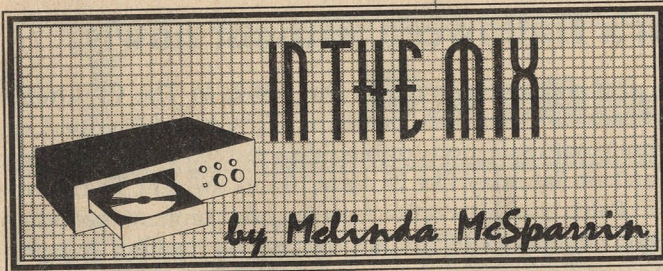
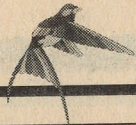
Lt. Commander Drew Brown, former U.S. Navy jet pilot and author, will bring his motivational message for kids age 12 to 18 to several of the Memphis/Shelby County Public Library branches. For more information, or to register, call the branches.

This is his schedule: Tuesday, Oct. 3, 4 p.m., Raleigh branch, 3157 Powers, (901) 386-5333; Wednesday, Oct. 4, 4 p.m., Millington branch, 4858 Navy Road, (901) 872-1585; Monday, Oct. 16, 4 p.m., Whitehaven branch, 4122 Barton Drive, (901) 396-9700; Wednesday, Oct. 18, 4 p.m., East Shelby branch, 7200 East Shelby Drive, (901) 751-7360, and Tuesday, Oct. 24, 4 p.m., Raleigh branch, 3157 Powers, (901) 386-5333.

Parent support group now meeting at Holy Trinity

A monthly GLBT parent support group is held the third Thursday of each month at Holy Trinity Community Church, 3430 Summer Ave., at 7 p.m.

The next meeting is set for Oct. 19. Bring the kids; childcare is provided. For more information, call Rita or Susan at (901) 327-4783.



I sat down to listen to the CDs in this month's issue with the same skepticism that I do with every artist I listen to whom I have never heard of before. I suppose that I have gotten into a rut and the mistaken opinion that unless an artist has broken through the mainstream of music and has become a commercial success, they aren't worth listening to. I confess to being VERY wrong about that. The two artists featured in this column, while not quite household names, are exceptional. They have certainly made me sit up and take notice. Let me share a little bit about them both.

OUT IN THIS WORLD
- SHAWN THOMAS

This is a fun CD ... the third from Shawn Thomas, a popular artist from Muscle Shoals, Ala. Thomas, originally from Texas, is a multi-faceted artist. He is a model, competitive swimmer, certified aerobics instructor, personal trainer and has appeared in a number of films including HBO's *Dead Solid Perfect*. He has appeared in commercials and in theatrical productions of *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *The Nutcracker*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *The Fantasticks*, *Man of La Mancha* and *Pajama Game*.

Out in this World is comprised of all original songs, written by Thomas. It catches the listeners' attention from the driving dance beat of the opening track "When Love Ain't Enough," which was the first song Thomas intentionally wrote to be a dance club mix, and keeps their attention to the final track, which is a medley of some of Thomas' earlier recorded songs.

The CD is a nice mixture of driving dance tracks and ballads, and yes ... even some gospel, as featured in "Glorify His Name," an upbeat Christian anthem. My personal favorite is the upbeat title track, "Out in the World," a dec-

laration of the acceptance of others against a driving dance beat laced with synthesizer rifts and electronically-manipulated vocals reminiscent of Cher's "Believe."

There was not a track on this CD that I didn't like. I would highly recommend this CD. I, for one, am looking forward to Thomas' next recording. In fact, I will probably go back and try to find his earlier efforts so I can add them to my collection. I am sure we will see more of this artist in the future ... at least I certainly hope we will!

Check out Thomas' website at <http://shawnthomas.iuma.com> to hear some soundclips and to order *Out in this World* or call (800) 850-4862.

POSITIVE - PAUL LOCKWOOD

Positive is the debut solo CD from Paul Lockwood, an artist from the town of Joliet, Ill. He was a prolific writer by the age of 10, writing short stories and rough stage plays. He also made a point of rewriting the lyrics from many Christmas carols, which he said was an early lesson in reworking the classics.

Lockwood moved to New York after graduation in 1981. His music quickly became his focal point in New York where he was part of a dance music duo called Madstuff, which released several dance singles that went nowhere. He stayed with the duo for several years while he also did back up recording work for a variety of artists.

While recording *Positive*, he was accepted to Sarah Lawrence College's prestigious creative writing program and received his MFA in May of 2000. A month later, *Positive* was pressed and released and he moved to Pittsburgh, Pa.

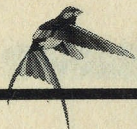
This CD got my attention with the funky sound of the first track, "Call Me Mad," which is sort of a mixture of old-time funk laced with an R&B flavor. One of my favorites is the remake of the old Ashford and Simpson hit "Found A Cure," which features a driving beat that transports the listener back to the days when disco was king (or queen ... de-

pending ... on how you look at it). Another super track on the CD is "Island," which is a gospel-influenced number with a R&B flair.

All in all, this CD is fun, funky, thoughtful and intro-



See In The Mix, page 53



Playhouse, TM to hold auditions for many casts

Playhouse on the Square

Playhouse on the Square, 51 South Cooper, is holding auditions for *As You Like It* by William Shakespeare on Tuesday, Dec. 5, at 6:30 p.m. Call backs will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 6, at 6:30 p.m.

A cast of men and women, all races, are desired. Those auditioning should prepare a two-minute classical monologue. The production of *As You Like It* will run from March 9 through April 8, 2001.

For more information, call (901) 725-0776.

Theatre Memphis

Theatre Memphis, 630 Perkins Extended, is holding auditions in November for three productions to be staged in 2001.

A joint audition will be held on Saturday, Nov. 4, at 2 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 5, at 3 p.m. for *Far East*, directed by Jerry Chipman and *Blithe Spirit*, directed by Bennett Wood. Callbacks will only be held on Sunday, Nov. 5, at 4 p.m.

Far East, which runs March 1 to 25, needs two women and five men, and seeks individuals of all races, especially Asian-American. *Blithe Spirit*, which runs April 19 to May 13, seeks a multi-racial cast, specifically five women and two men.

Auditions for *Bash*, directed by Bo List, which will run Feb. 8 to 25, will be held Sunday, Nov. 12, at 2 p.m. and Monday, Nov. 13, at 7 p.m. Callbacks will only be on Monday, Nov. 13, at 8:30 p.m. The director is seeking two women and two men for this multi-racial cast.

For more information, call (901) 682-8323.

In The Mix

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spective all rolled up into a superb package. It is evident that Lockwood had fun recording this CD. I think you will have just as much fun listening to it.

It should be noted that *Positive* was inspired by Lockwood's experience of losing a number of friends to AIDS. In their memory, a portion of the proceeds from this recording will be donated to Gay Men's Health Crisis, The Children's Hope Foundation and the Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force.

Positive is available online at Cdbaby.com where you also can hear soundclips of some of the tracks.

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.

"COME HANG OUT WITH THE GUYS!"

* Pool Tournament *

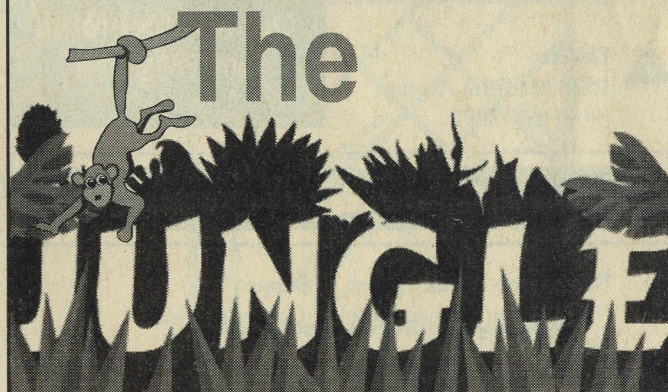
every Monday

starting at 7:30 p.m.

* Dart Tournament *

every Wednesday

starting at 7:30 p.m.



1474 Madison Avenue

(901) 278-4313



Memphis



Bar & Restaurant Guide

BARS & CLUBS

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

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)

- 1** **Bogie's Delicatessen**
2098 LaSalle Place (behind Paulette's)
(901) 272-0022

- 2** **Cafe Ole**
2127 Young Avenue
(901) 274-1504
- 3** **Cafe Society**
212 North Evergreen
(901) 722-2177
(Reservations suggested)

Chicago Steakhouse
(Inside Gold Strike Casino Resort)
(662) 357-1225
(Reservations suggested)

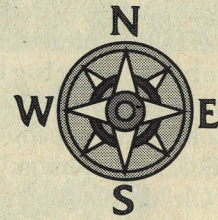
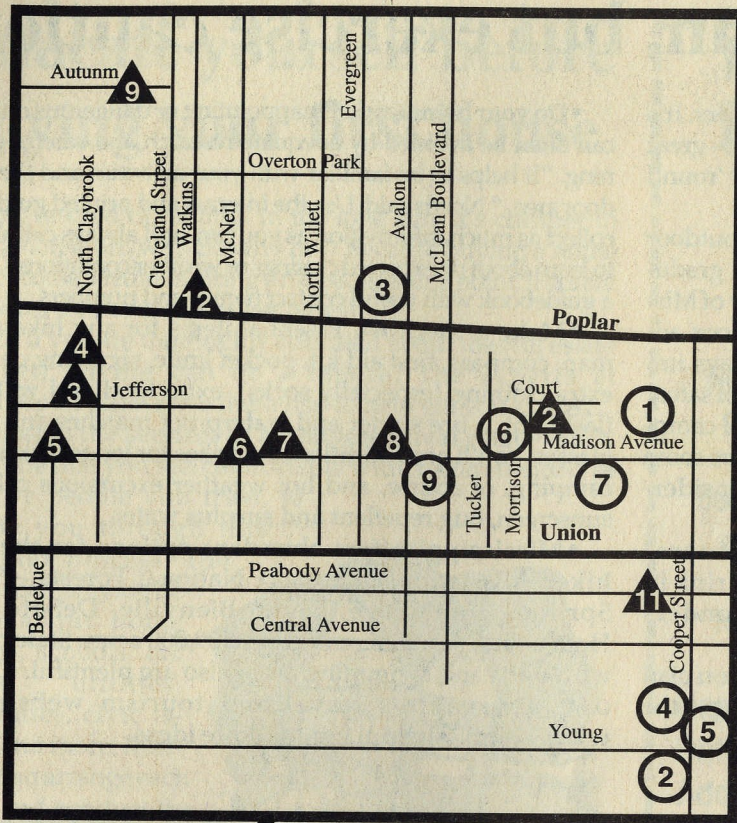
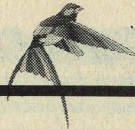
- 4** **lilly's dimsum thensome**
903 South Cooper
(901) 276-9300

- 5** **Melange**
948 South Cooper
(901) 276-0002

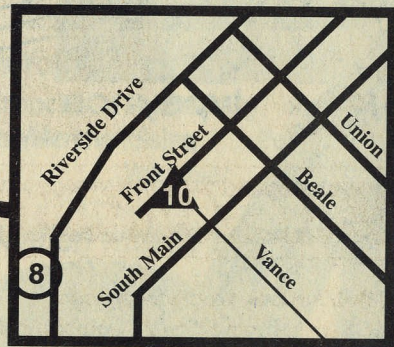
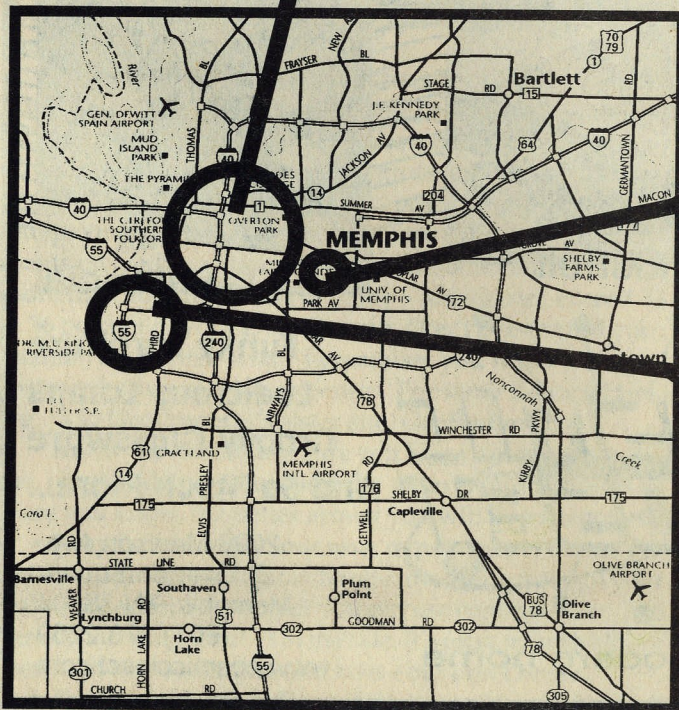
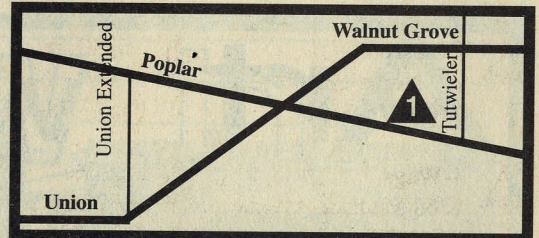
- 6** **Molly's La Casita Mexican Restaurant**
2006 Madison Avenue
(901) 726-1873

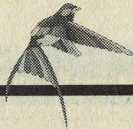
- 7** **Neil's**
1835 Madison Avenue
(901) 278-NEIL

- 8** **Rosita's Deli & More**
(Inside the Rivermark Apartments)
655 Riverside Drive
(901) 543-0627



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

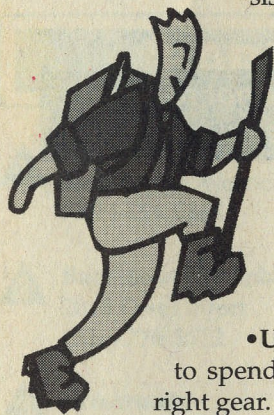




Enjoy outdoors fun, but exercise caution

The Deep South is known for its long, hot summers. It's also known for excellent outdoor recreational areas – great for activities like hiking – that beg to be enjoyed year 'round by novices and experts alike.

"As the season heats up, people can still enjoy outdoor fun by using a little extra caution," said Josh Norris, graduate assistant for Ole Miss Outdoors at The University of Mississippi and a seasoned outdoor adventure guide. "It's always important to err on the side of safety when enjoying hiking and camping. In the summer, there are some especially important considerations," he said.



Here are some general guidelines to help you drink in the region's natural wonders responsibly:

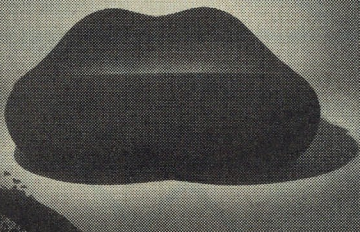
- **Use the right equipment.** If you plan to spend significant time outside, get the right gear.

- **Do your homework.** Disappointing or dangerous outings can often be avoided by adequate research and careful planning. "It helps to be familiar with your activities and the outdoor area," Norris said. Use the Internet and printed guides to collect as much information as you can, and always call ahead to learn about unexpected closings or weather conditions. Carry a guidebook with useful contact names and numbers.

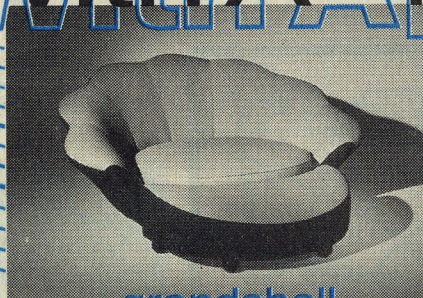
- **Make a checklist.** Essential items for any hike are a map, compass, first aid kit, pocket knife, signaling device, extra clothing (especially socks), extra food and water, a flashlight, a fire starter and waterproof matches and sunglasses. You'll need additional supplies for longer hikes and camping, of course, and hot weather excursions call for sunscreen, bug repellent and surplus water.

- **Mississippi offers abundant options for the day hiker.** Mississippi boasts six National Forests – Holly Springs, Tombigbee, Delta, Bienville, DeSoto and Homochitto – with a combined 1,139,000 acres. State parks with trails and swimming areas also are plentiful. Check out Mississippi's travel and tourism website at www.visitmississippi.org for more ideas.

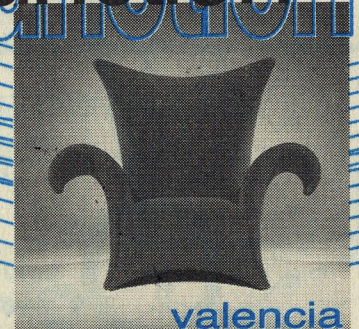
Art With A Function



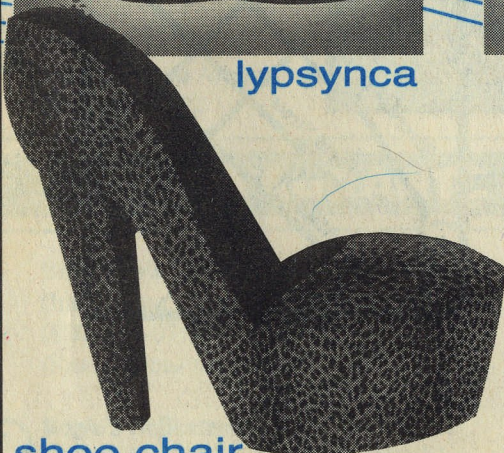
lypsynca



grandshell



valencia



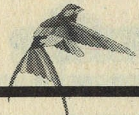
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Educate yourself before buying your first house

You're tired of renting. In the long run, it's cheaper to buy a house anyway. So why not? Because buying a home can become a tedious, tiring process. At some point, it surely becomes a situation of buyer beware.

But if you are thoroughly educated about the real estate market, buying can be a breeze. The experts at GeoProperty.com have these tips to help get you started.

- **Enlist the services of a competent real estate agent.** Pick one that you feel comfortable with, recommended to you by people you trust, to guide you through this complex process. The agent can provide details about home prices, schools, tax rates, utilities, amenities, civic issues and more. Realtors also arrange each visit and conduct the on-site tour, perhaps in conjunction with the seller. There's no fee for this as agents work on commission - from the seller.



- **Consider how much you can afford.** Your monthly housing costs - including mortgage principle and interest, property taxes and insurance - should total no more than 25 to 28 percent of your monthly gross (before tax) income. Your monthly housing costs plus other long-term debts - like payments on car loans, alimony, child support, payments on credit cards, or any other installment loans with more than 10 months left to repay - should not exceed 33 to 36 percent of your gross income. Don't overextend your income, no matter what. Remember you'll have closing costs and other moving expenses. For more financial tips, log on to GeoProperty's sister site, GeoFortune.com.

- **Know the area.** Make sure you know the property status, neighborhood status and the seller's motivation. The more you know, the better armed you will be to negotiate.

- **Keep in tune with your own requirements before entering a negotiation.** Submit the offer in writing through your real estate agent. Remember you can use contingencies, like items you want included in the sale. It's okay to be flexible - there's always some give and take - but don't break.

- **Remain objective.** Even if it's your "dream house," don't let your emotions get in the way!

MEMPHIS PRIDE INC. MEMBERSHIP DRIVE 2000

Return this application for membership in and pledge of support for MEMPHIS PRIDE INC.

During the month of October, return it and become eligible to win 'A NIGHT ON THE TOWN' with dinner for 2 at Lilly's dimsum thensome and 2 Malco movie passes.

New and renewal applicants are eligible.

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Special skills: _____

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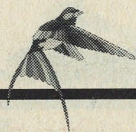
P.O. Box 111265

Memphis, TN 38111

or return it with your \$5 application fee to

where you picked it up

**Memphis Pride Inc. meets the
3rd Monday of every month**



African Skies

from page 43

West African culture, the griot (pronounced gree'oh) is the village storyteller – a historian who imparts knowledge through the spoken word and song. Here, not only has the kinship of the people to the land and animals been revealed through stories but accounts of the heavens and the wonders of the night sky have been told as well.

"Under African Skies," in the Sharpe Planetarium now through Jan. 13, explores this tradition as viewers are taken on a tour of the varied cultures of Africa through the sky lore of its people.

The show opens with a tour of the brighter stars and constellations visible at night from the Mid-South. Then through the magic of the Planetarium, visitors are whisked away to places such as Kenya, the Kalahari Desert and the Ivory Coast.

Through the stories of the Bushman tribes, the Zulu, Masai, Ashanti and others, the culture and daily routine of life in Africa is revealed, as well as stories about the heavens and the night sky. Their poetry reveals knowledge about the phases of the Moon, and numerous stories help explain the characteristics of the stars, the Milky Way Galaxy and the origin of meteors.

The Sharpe Planetarium is located in the Pink Palace Museum, 3050 Central Avenue. The program shows every Saturday at 10:30 a.m. It is also showing at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 24, and Tuesday to Friday, Dec. 26 to 29. Admission is \$3.50 for adults and \$3 for seniors and children.

For more information, call (901) 320-6362.

Remember: Register to vote

If you have not registered to vote, now is the time to do it! The deadline to register to vote for the November election, including the presidential race, is Oct. 7.

In an attempt to get the most out of the GLBT vote, and let the voices of the GLBT community be heard at the polls, the Memphis Lesbian & Gay Coalition for Justice is sponsoring a voter registration drive in October.

You can pick up a voter registration form at Inz & Outz, 553 S. Cooper; One More Bar, 2117 Peabody; Holy Trinity Community Church, 3430 Summer Avenue; Amnesia, 2866 Poplar Avenue; Metro, 1349 Autumn Street, or Backstreet-Memphis, 2018 Court Street. Voter registration forms also are available at any Memphis and Shelby County public library.

If you have any questions about registering to vote, call the Shelby County Election Commission at (901) 545-4125.

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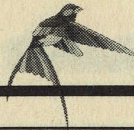
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Lamplighter/April*

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Family & Friends/May*

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Main bar, 8 p.m. – 3 a.m. Thurs.-Sun. • Jazz bar 7 days a week
www.amnesiausa.com

BACKSTREET MEMPHIS

2018 Court Street
(901) 276-5522

8 p.m. – 3 a.m. Mon., Wed., Thurs. & Sun.
8 p.m. – 6 a.m. Friday and Saturday
www.backstreetmemphis.com

CROSSROADS & CROSSROADS 2

1278 Jefferson & 111 North Claybrook
(901) 276-8078

Noon – 3 a.m. 7 Days A Week

J-WAG'S

1268 Madison Avenue
(901) 725-1909

Open 24 Hours A Day, 7 Days A Week

THE JUNGLE

1474 Madison Avenue
(901) 278-4313

3 p.m. – 3 a.m. 7 Days A Week

LORENZ

1528 Madison Avenue
(901) 274-8272

11 a.m. – 3 a.m. Monday – Saturday
9:30 a.m. – 3 a.m. Sunday

MADISON FLAME

1588 Madison
(901) 278-9839

7 p.m. – 3 a.m. Wednesday, Friday & Saturday

METRO MEMPHIS

1349 Autumn Street
(901) 274-8010

3 p.m. – 3 a.m. Monday to Friday
11 a.m. – 3 a.m. Saturday & Sunday

N-COGNITO

338 South Front @ Vance
(901) 523-0599

10 p.m. – 3:30 a.m. Thursday & Friday
10 p.m. – 5 a.m. Saturday & 4 p.m. – midnight Sunday

ONE MORE

2117 Peabody
(901) 278-MORE (6673)

7 a.m. – 3 a.m. 7 Days A Week

PIPELINE

1382 Poplar Avenue
(901) 726-5263

2 p.m. – 3 a.m. 7 Days A Week

TEMPORARILY CLOSED

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

JACK & JILL'S

3911 Northview Drive
(601) 982-JACK (5225)

9 p.m. – ?? Friday & Saturday

JACK'S CONSTRUCTION SITE

425 North Mart Plaza
(601) 362-3108

5 p.m. – ?? 7 Days A Week

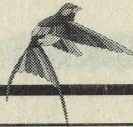
JACKSON, TENNESSEE

THE OTHER SIDE

3883 Highway 45 North
(901) 668-3749

5 p.m. – midnight Sunday – Thursday
5 p.m. – 3 a.m. Friday & 7 p.m. – 3 a.m. Saturday

IF YOUR ORGANIZATION
ISN'T LISTED HERE,
CALL (901) 682-2669



F&F RAINBOW DIRECTORY

SOCIAL CLUBS

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

TSARUS MEMPHIS

Levi-Leather Club meets the 3rd Saturday
of every month at 10 p.m.
Men Only

MEMPHIS AREA GAY YOUTH (M.A.G.Y.)

P.O. Box 241852, Memphis, TN 38124
(901) 335-6249

Peer support group for 13- to 21-year olds dealing with
gay/lesbian/bisexual and gender issues
www.gaymemphis.com/magy

COTTON PICKIN' SQUARES - MEMPHIS

(901) 272-2116

Meets Thursday nights at 7:30 p.m. at Prescott
Memorial Baptist Church, 499 Patterson
(Near The University of Memphis)
Square dancing social group

MEMPHIS BEARS

P.O. Box 11094 Memphis, TN 38111-1094
(901) 725-9178

Meets the 2nd Saturday of every month at The Jungle,
1474 Madison Ave., - at 10 p.m. • Men Only
www.bigfoot.com/~memphisbears

P.F.L.A.G.

(Parents Family & Friends of Lesbians & Gays)
(901) 761-1444

Support meetings for parents, family & friends
www.starbase21.com/pflagmemphis/
email: amdrake@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

BLACK & WHITE MEN TOGETHER MEMPHIS INC.

P.O. Box 42157 Memphis, TN 38174-2157
(901) 276-0168

A gay multi-cultural, educational, social and political
organization - Memphis chapter

TENNESSEE LEATHER TRIBE

Men & Women Welcome

Meets 2nd Sunday of every month at 10 p.m. at
The Jungle, 1474 Madison Avenue
<http://users.wspice.com/~tecj/tlt/tlt.html>
email: tecj@wspice.com

SUNSHINE TRAVELERS

(901) 488-4752

Meets every other Tuesday at 7 p.m. at The Jungle,
1474 Madison Avenue

MEMPHIS TRANSGENDERED ALLIANCE

P.O. Box 11052, Memphis, TN 38111-0052

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

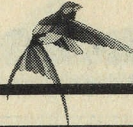
P.O. Box 41803, Memphis, TN 38174-1803
(901) 682-9928

Organizes gay sports leagues, including softball
and volleyball

BROTHERS & SISTERS BOWLING LEAGUE

Cordova Bowling Center, 7945 Club Center Cove
(901) 737-7824 OR (901) 465-4371

This co-ed bowling league meets every Sunday at
6 p.m. at the Cordova Bowling Center.



F&F RAINBOW DIRECTORY

SPORTS ORG. CON'D

MIDTOWN BOWLERS

Cherokee Bowling Center, 2930 Lamar, Memphis
(901) 323-3111

This bowling league meets weekly on Friday at 7 p.m.

WHOLENESS SERVICES

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

MEMPHIS HIV FAMILY CARE NETWORK

880 Madison Ave., Memphis, TN
(901) 545-8265

Free comprehensive, supportive services and voc/
rehab services to the HIV-positive.

LAMBDA CENTER OF MEMPHIS

1488 Madison Avenue
(901) 274-3671

Offering 12-step support groups to the
g/l/b/t community.

FEAST FOR FRIENDS DINNER

(901) 272-0855

Dinner is served the first and third Monday of every
month at St. John's United Methodist Church, Bellevue
at Peabody beginning at 6 p.m.

ORORO-CROSSROADS

(901) 324-1910

Support group for African-American
same-gender-loving men
CRPegues@aol.com

WELLNESS CENTER AT HTCC

3430 Summer Ave., Memphis, TN 38122
(901) 754-9423 OR (901) 320-9376

Offers a Support Program for Gay Parents & a Support
Program for Married Men Dealing with Sexual Identity

YWCA ENCORE

MedPlex, 880 Madison Ave.
(901) 754-4356

Support group for lesbians with breast cancer meets
every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to noon.

SPIRITUAL

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

INTEGRITY MEMPHIS

102 N. Second Street, Memphis, TN 38103
(901) 525-6602

People of all faiths and ideologies are welcome
Meets the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at
Calvary Episcopal Church. Dinner at 7 p.m.

LAMBDA CIRCLE

(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.

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

MCC OF THE RAINBOW

5565 Robinson Rd. Extd., Ste. 2, Jackson, MS 38204
(601) 372-6644

Sunday Service, 11 a.m.

POLITICAL GROUPS

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

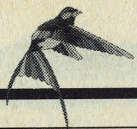
MPHS. LESBIAN & GAY COALITION FOR JUSTICE

P.O. Box 241363, Memphis, TN 38124

A civil rights group that promotes equality and combats
prejudice among g/l/b/t persons. Meets Oct. 23 and
Nov. 27 at 7 p.m. at the Highland branch library.

email: lgcj@gaymemphis.com

website: www.gaymemphis.com/lgcj



HOROSCOPES

Libra (Sept. 24-Oct. 23) — The possibility of romantic endeavors and/or social popularity increases now. If your focus is in the right place, now may turn out to be a time of fame and fortune.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Looking for a way to better your personal interests? With Mars in your hopes sector, now is the time to get involved in organizations you find interesting. Keep your chin up.

Sagittarius (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Friends, social affairs and business associates could bring great opportunities in the coming month. Focus is on increased endeavors in your professional life.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 20) — With the Sun moving through the top of your chart, you are bound to see things get easier in the work place. Changes should be easier to come by now. Focus on learning new things.

Aquarius (Jan. 21-Feb. 19) — Business traveling could bring you a new romance or social pleasures. New investment possibilities should come your way, while the New Moon brings favorable influences into your life.

Pisces (Feb. 20-March 20) — If you combine talents and abilities, you could find yourself making some important changes. Remember, two heads are better than one. Relationships, business and personal, are favored.

Aries (March 21-April 20) — The important people in your life will be more supportive of you than ever.

Don't underestimate yourself because your methods will be noticed.

Taurus (April 21-May 21) — With Energetic Mars moving through your "fun sector" of new romance, now is the time to cash-in on your talents and abilities. Get out and circulate because you may find a new romance.

Gemini (May 22-June 21) — Focus is on a home-based enterprise, which could mean the difference between profit and loss. Now is the time to attend to domestic matters with new moves and real estate favored.

Cancer (June 22-July 23) — Right now, your focus should be on the "social you." If you've been thinking about starting a business in your home, now is the time to act on your idea. New connections could open new doors.

Leo (July 24-Aug. 23) — Moving into high gear now is not only favored but suggested as aggressive Mars moves through your income sector. If you make the first move, you could find yourself with recognition and rewards. Now is a good time to seek backing for a new project.

Virgo (Aug. 24-Sept. 23) — With the stars in your favor for the next two months, you should find this a time of accomplishments. Don't sell yourself short, you've got a lot going for you.

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

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

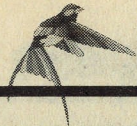
1. female impersonator
5. "_____/Unquote"
7. hate _____
8. state (abbr.)
9. interest _____
10. a male child to parents
11. a midtown street
13. opposite of "yes"
14. island or dog
15. sandwich, patty _____
16. Patti LaBelle & Bette Midler

DOWN

2. Mystic Krewe of MU event
3. "_____" for President"
4. _____ Coming Out Day
6. a midtown business
12. "The _____ of Tammy Faye"
15. "_____, Myself & Irene"

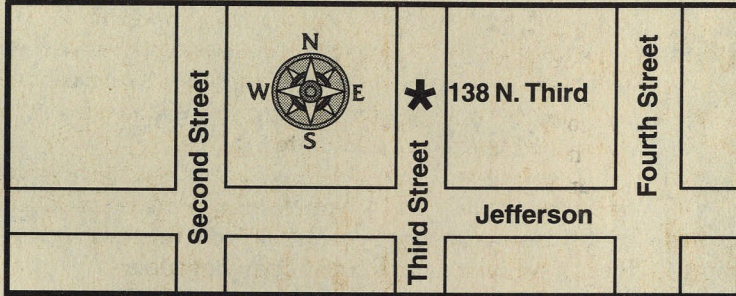
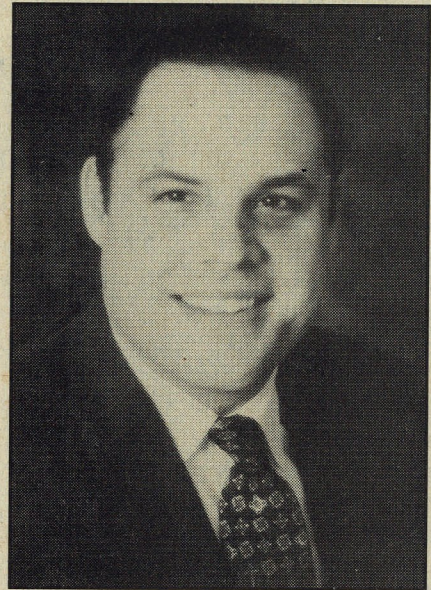
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ANSWERS ON PAGE 19



Joseph S. Ozment

Attorney at Law
138 North Third Street
Memphis, Tennessee 38103



(901) 525-HELP (4357)

e-mail – thoz@aol.com

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