

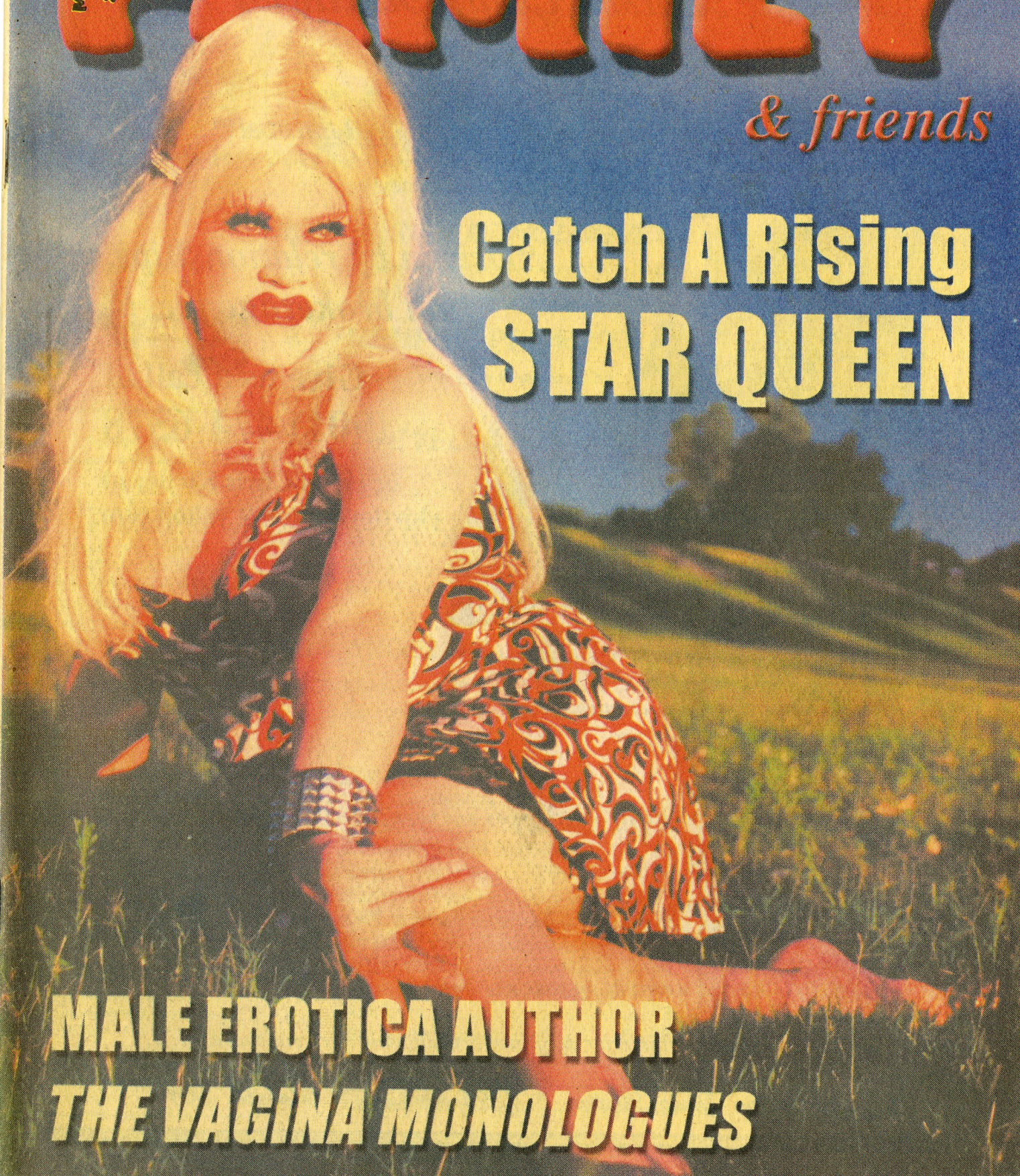
MARCH  
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**VOL. 4, NO. 12**



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# CONTENTS

**March 2002**

**6 VAGINA MONOLOGUES**

Popular show comes to Memphis to help "Stop The Violence"

**8 MEMPHIS PRIDE 2002**

Find out where the Festival will be

**11 THE YELLOW BOAT**

The Circuit Playhouse stages story of young boy who fell victim to AIDS

**16 STAR QUEEN**

With a stage play and a documentary film, this Memphis legend is rising high

**50 ANGELO A. DIXON**

Mississippi author of erotica plans visit to Memphis to sign his new book

**COLUMNS**

- And Your Point Is .....4
- Bulletin ..... 12
- Straight Up, But Not Straight ..... 20
- Family Albums ..... 26-27, 38-40, 54
- For Your Family ..... 28
- OUT in Mississippi ..... 30-33
- So What! ..... 34
- In The Mix ..... 36
- Quote/Unquote ..... 41
- Ask Lam ..... 42
- Bar & Restaurant Guide ..... 52-53
- About Town ..... 58
- Rainbow Directory ..... 59-61
- Horoscopes ..... 62

**8**

**STEP UP  
& STEP OUT!**

**MEMPHIS PRIDE  
2002**

**THE YELLOW BOAT**

**11**

The Circuit Playhouse

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**16**

**50**



# AND OUR POINT IS ...



RAMBLINGS FROM THE EDITORIAL STAFF

Women's lib! Remember the battle cry? Remember the burning bras? Here we are in 2002, and the liberation of women seems to be blossoming quite nicely.

Long ago, the feminist touch was evident in the gay and lesbian community, as seen in the gender split with the men in their corner of the bars and the women in their corner of their wooded retreats.

Originally, one camp of feminists presented themselves as totally anti-male, which including looking down on any identification with the male population, including a woman's choice in clothing, job choice, etc. To dress as a man in an upper management job was seen as imitating a man, a.e. the "enemy." They considered doing so to be denying one's femaleness and siding with said "enemy." Unfortunately, for that very reason, the original feminists didn't want lesbians in their ranks either, especially butch women.

We can remember sitting in a college class on gender issues and wondering how strange it was for the feminist movement to have begun as a revolt against men tell-

ing women how to be women, only for the movement itself to be one of women telling women how to be women. And, of course, that image of women was nothing less than femme.

However, time slowly changed the feminists camps and philosophies and lesbians were eventually welcomed. Or, perhaps it was the many retreats and festivals in the great outdoors where women not only discovered themselves but realized that lesbianism wasn't quite as bad as they thought. Even today, many women are both openly-out lesbians and feminists, continuing the fight for the rights of women in a male- or patriarchal-structured society.

The women's movement has opened many doors for women to be all they can be. There may still be male-dominated areas and "good-old boy politics" but things are changing there, too.

We know of one "good-old boy" who is quick with a wink and a joke that many women, and some men, might find offensive. And in his industry where he works, that is the way things are. Actually were, since times are changing. The big bosses now are women, women who worked extra hard to get through the male-cluttered ladder to get to the top positions they now hold. Sales are not easy now for our friend as his "good-old boy" ways and crass comments and innuendos no longer have the same affect on a woman across the table as opposed to the former good-old boy who once sat there. In fact, the effect is quite negative, to our friend's detriment.

We recently read an article in a trade newsletter that pointed out that female-to-male transgendered individuals (FTMs) were now gracing the pages of several women's magazines, including one erotica magazine called *On Our Backs*. The article noted that *On Our Backs* had only lost a few subscribers specifically for including FTMs in their pages. There are still some women that are offended by anything resembling male, and that, of course, is their individual right, whatever their reason.

And that brings us to our point.

Here we sit in the year 2002, with women having become free enough to realize a potential they have never known before. Women are liberated in their clothing, in their choice of work, even in their choice to marry or raise children.

And some are free enough to cross over and change their bodies to be the man they feel they are. Although an FTM may seem anything but a feminist, an individual transitioning still owes a thank you to the women's movement for their ability to cross over the gender lines to where they feel they belonged to begin with.

How totally ironic from the beginnings of the feminist movement that were so anti-male.

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# Tsarus to name Man of Year at banquet

Tsarus, Memphis' oldest Levi-Leather men's club, invites the members of the Memphis gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community to its 18th Annual Banquet and presentation of its Man of the Year Award for Outstanding Service to the Gay and Lesbian Community.

The winner, which in the past have been men, women and even organizations, will be announced at the banquet set for Tuesday, March 12, beginning at 7:30 p.m., at Crossroads, 111 North Claybrook. Tsarus will donate \$500 to the charity of the winner's choice and the winner's name will be engraved on a plaque which hangs at The Pumping Station, 1382 Poplar Avenue.

According to Tsarus, the following have been nominated for the 2002 Man of the Year Award: Nancy Fletcher, Ken Grimes & Steve Wyatt, Kim Moss, Playhouse on the Square/The Circuit Playhouse, *The Triangle Journal* and *Family & Friends Magazine*. Tsarus members voted for the winner from the nominees at its monthly meeting, Feb. 23. However, as always, the identity of the winner is kept secret, even from the winner, until the last possible minute.

The banquet, which is prepared and served by Tsarus members, includes soup, salad, entree and dessert. Tickets are \$8 each and available at Crossroads, The Pumping Station, from any Tsarus member or by calling (901) 276-4132 or (901) 358-5356. Proceeds from ticket sales cover the cost of the meal and the \$500 award to charity; the event is not a fundraiser for Tsarus.

## FFL offers free counseling at center

Free counseling services are being offered at Friends For Life AIDS Resource Center (FFL), 1384 Madison Avenue.

Don Anderson, who is working on a masters degree in counseling at The University of Memphis, will work at FFL during this spring semester as part of his degree requirements. Anderson is available for both couples and individual counseling; all information is kept strictly confidential. The sessions are free for anyone who is HIV-positive; has AIDS, or for family members, caregivers or significant others of persons living with HIV/AIDS. You do not have to be a client of Friends for Life to utilize these services.

Anderson has experiencing working with alcoholism and drug dependency issues, co-dependency, dysfunctional families, abuse, trauma, depression, homophobia and coming out.

If you are having difficulties in any of these areas or would just like someone to talk to, appointments with Anderson are available by calling him at (901) 678-2986 or by email at [dwanders@memphis.edu](mailto:dwanders@memphis.edu).

Sunday,  
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# The Vagina Monologues

## Note VDAY by attending shows to 'help stop violence'

BY ANITA MOYT  
MANAGING EDITOR

For the third year in row, VDAY will be celebrated in Memphis, including a stage production of *The Vagina Monologues* and *The Memphis Monologues*; entertainment from Mid-South women musicians; a donation drop-box drive for hygiene and infant items, and a silent auction.

VDAY is a global movement to raise awareness and funds to end violence against women and girls. VDAY has helped anti-violence organizations throughout the world to continue and expand their core work, while drawing public attention to the larger fight to stop worldwide violence (including rape, battery, incest, sexual slavery and female genital mutilation) against women and girls.

This year, Memphis will join more than 280 other U.S. cities and 31 countries in the observance of VDAY.

The Memphis VDAY organizers will donate proceeds from its various events to local Mid-South organizations that work to support women in need, including The Memphis Sexual Assault Resource Center, Seek For the Old Path Homeless Shelter, YWCA Abused Women's Services, Memphis Center for Reproductive Health and The Victims Assistance Center.

*The Memphis Monologues*, a collection of original experiences and expressions of Mid-South women, based on Eve Ensler's one-woman show, *The Vagina Monologues*, is set for Saturday, March 9, at 8 p.m. On Sunday, March 10, at 1 p.m., the festivities continue with live music by leading women musicians in the Mid-South. At 3 p.m. *The Vagina Monologues* will be presented. All of these events will be held at the Rose Theater at The University of Memphis. Information booths staffed by local benefitting organizations and other women-oriented organizations will be on hand and a silent auction also will be held during the two-day event.

Tickets range from \$15 to \$100 plus one item to be donated to a benefiting shelter (hygiene or baby items). Tickets are available at Davis Kidd Booksellers, 387 Perkins Road Extended in the Laurelwood Shopping Center; Lost in Paradise, 2293 Union Avenue, and Traditions, 2121 Germantown Road South.

A Donation Drop Box Drive, consisting of decorated boxes, complete with wish lists from benefiting shelters for women, will be placed at local Mid-South businesses and churches for contribu-

tions of toiletry and baby items.

So how did *The Vagina Monologues* find its way to Memphis? In November 1999, Memphian Darian Corley, an actress, was working in New York City and attended Eve Ensler's one-woman show, *The Vagina Monologues*. Corley was so impressed by the work that she started making phone calls to find out how she could produce the show. By March of the following year, the first staging of *The Vagina Monologues* was held in Memphis at Theatreworks.

"That first year I definitely decided to make it an annual event," Corley told *Family & Friends*.

"This is more than just a play," Corley said, "it is an opportunity to learn about the violence in the Mid-South, which is pervasive, and ... raise awareness and make a change. *The Vagina Monologues* lets us do it in a fun way, which is what theater is all about."

This year, as opposed to having only one actress perform *The Vagina Monologues*, both *The Memphis Monologues* and *The Vagina Monologues* will be performed by a total of 19 women.

Actresses will include both women in Memphis theater, as well as women in the Memphis business and community. Some of those taking the stage will be Ann Marie Hall, Emily Fry, Lela Boyd, Corley, Michelle Foshee, Harriett Bensman, Brenda Adams, Jennifer Reed (of Rock 103), Joslyn Wurzburg, Happy Jones, Marilyn Califf and Nikki Schroeder.

"After the first year we did *The Vagina Monologues*, I created *The Memphis Monologues*," Corley said. "I interviewed and asked Mid-South women questions about being a woman in the South." This is in the same way Ensler developed material for *The Vagina Monologues*.

"Women have given me poems, monologues, songs ... the stories just keep coming," she continued. "I have an interview form and it is passed out to various professors and at Earth Day. We are always looking for new stories."

So, is this a women-only event? Apparently not.

"The men have been absolutely wonderful," Corley explained. "(Certain) men have worked very hard to bring the event together. (At the past shows) a good half of the audience are men. *The Vagina Monologues* brings out in the open what women have been told to keep quiet. So, their attending *The Vagina Monologues* benefits them, too."

For more information on Memphis VDAY, call (901) 396-VDAY (8329) or email vdaymem@aol.com. For more information on the worldwide VDAY visit [www.vday.org](http://www.vday.org) online.

## 5K race is planned

The Memphis Sexual Assault Resource Center (MSARC) will host "Take Back the Night," a 5K race to end sexual violence, on Friday, April 5, at 7:30 p.m. The race begins and ends at the MSARC offices, located at 2675 Union Extended. The course includes sections of Union Avenue, Central and East Parkway.

The pre-registration fee is \$12 and registration the day of the race is \$15. All runners will receive a race packet and T-shirt. Proceeds from the 5K will be used to raise awareness of sexual assault in our community.

MSARC, formerly Rape Crisis, has been helping victims and assisting law enforcement for 26 years. Comprehensive services include forensic evaluation and evidence collection, legal advocacy, counseling, community education, outreach and medical support. The center provides services to more than 1,100 men, women and children annually. All services are free to victims.

For more information, call Carmen at (901) 272-2020.

# Best Buds LLC closes doors on Impulse

Darren Burns and Len Piechowski, partners in Best Buds LLC, closed the doors of Impulse, located at 2865 Walnut Grove Road, permanently on Feb. 21.

"We felt we had a viable option for our community," Piechowski said. "Unfortunately, it seems we were wrong. We'll be taking a good look at some other business options. Our aspirations to do business in our community have not wavered."

"Len and I made a few mistakes when we opened the doors of Impulse," Burns said, explaining his reason for closing the

bar, "and we never quite recovered from them. Impulse has been a learning experience for us. It not only opened our eyes to the effort and expertise required to run a successful entertainment establishment, but it also has given us insight into the mentality of the Memphis gay community."

Best Buds LLC will now utilize the building that housed Impulse to host private parties and functions.

"As a matter of fact," Burns said, "we have negotiated with several individuals and organizations to host their parties in the coming months. During the short life of Impulse, Len and I were often approached with offers of renting the space to hold private events."

For more information about renting the former Impulse building for your event, call Len at (901) 857-8523 or Darren at (901) 857-5224.

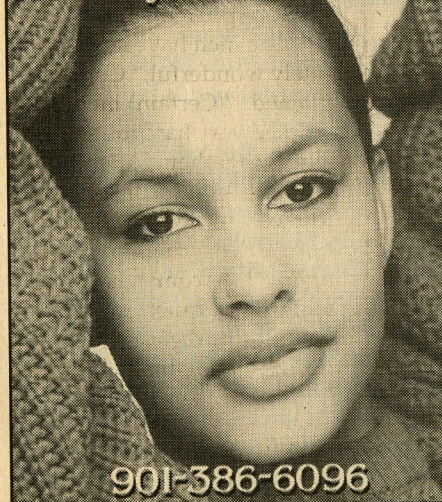
## Queer arts interns sought

Do you like the great outdoors, healthy food and meeting new people? If so, IDA, a queer arts community in Middle Tennessee, is presently accepting applications for interns for the spring, summer and fall gardening seasons. Participants will learn about and assist with planting, tending and harvesting a large variety of organic vegetables, herbs, fruits and flowers.

IDA was founded eight years ago on 243 wooded acres, secluded in Middle Tennessee. The land features creeks, caves, waterfalls and rich soil. The IDA community hosts various events throughout the year, including the Idapalooza Fruit Jam Music Festival each September.

For more information, call (615) 597-4409 or visit its website online at [www.planetida.com](http://www.planetida.com).

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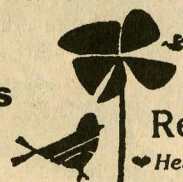
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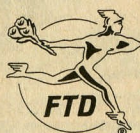
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# Pride festival to be held at Overton Park Shell

Memphis Pride Inc. (MPI) is hard at work putting together the Memphis Pride Parade and Festival 2002, set for Saturday, June 8. Although the event location has been changed, the event is still being offered FREE to the public, which is something the Memphis and Mid-South gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community hasn't experienced in a very long while.

While it was the initial desire of the MPI board to once again have the Pride Parade proceed down Riverside Drive in downtown Memphis and for the Pride Festival to take place this year in Tom Lee Park, late-breaking developments have made these locations impossible for 2002.

"According to the Memphis Police Department, construction has recently begun on Riverside Drive, construction that will take many, many months to complete," explained Patricia Pair, MPI co-chair. "Because of this construction, the Memphis Police Department said they are denying all requests for parades and other events to be held where Riverside Drive is involved. In fact, one employee, not with the police department, even told us that Memphis In May, which has always been held in Tom Lee Park, will have to seek another location for 2002."

## MPI Spring Picnic April 14

The Memphis Pride Inc. Annual Spring Picnic will be held Sunday, April 14, from 1 to 5 p.m. in Overton Park at the same location as the previous two picnics, by the "Doughboy" Statue. Food, beverages and the Memphis Pride Parade and Festival 2002 T-shirts will be on sale. See you there!

This news caused MPI to look at alternative sites for both the parade and the festival.

"Ever since the last time the Pride Festival was held at the Overton Park Shell, members of our community have expressed their desires for the festival to again be held at the Shell," said Kay Mills, MPI chair. "While there were some problems last time MPI used the Shell, the Overton Park Shell board has graciously invited Pride back to the Shell."

The theme for the 2002 Pride Celebration is "Step Up & Step Out!" The logo that goes along with the theme is a rainbow, which is not only the universal symbol of all GLBT people, but also, coincidentally, is what everyone first notices when they approach the Overton Park Shell — the large rainbow painted on the backstage wall facing the 6,000-capacity amphitheater seating.

In trying to keep the parade and the festival location in close proximity this year, while also trying to continue a tradition begun last year of an evening parade, a short parade route has been chosen.

The 2002 Pride Festival will get underway at 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 8, and continue until 10 p.m. at the Overton Park Shell. However, those wishing to be in the parade this year can assemble for parade lineup starting at 6 p.m. in front of the Overton Park Golf Course Clubhouse. The parade will step-off at 7 p.m. and proceed south out of Overton Park, turn west onto Poplar, proceed westward on Poplar to Tucker, turn north on Tucker and proceed back into Overton Park, culminating back at the Shell.

Cash prizes for this year's parade will be given to Best Float/Decorated Vehicle, Best Walking Group and Most Prideful.

By the way, MPI has decided that there will be NO entry fee for

those wishing to take part in the parade, be it walking group, decorated car or float. However, applications still must be filled out and returned for approval to MPI no later than April 15. Applications are available from any MPI board member, by calling (901) 767-2945, emailing your request to [MemphisPride2002@aol.com](mailto:MemphisPride2002@aol.com) or faxing your request to (901) 725-5603.

Again, this year's pride festival will be FREE to the public, due to the generous sponsorship by the Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center, Fantasy Warehouse and Platinum Paradise. In order to provide a FREE parade and festival MPI is depending heavily on donations to cover the expenses of this event. MPI invites individuals, businesses and organizations to join in the support of Memphis Pride



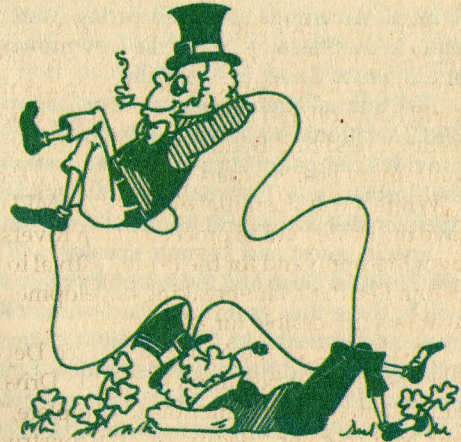
See Pride, page 48



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## HRC-Tennessee to host annual benefit dinner

The 7th Annual Human Rights Campaign Tennessee Dinner & Silent Auction is set for Saturday, March 16, beginning at 6 p.m., in the Sheraton Nashville Downtown's Ballroom, located at 623 Union Street in Nashville.

The annual auction celebrates and supports the work of the HRC, a national organization that effectively lobbies Congress, provides campaign support and educates the public to ensure that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Americans can be open, honest and safe at home, at work and in the community.

Special guest and keynote speaker will be Vermont Governor Howard Dean and the honorary chair and featured speaker will be three-time grammy award-winner K.T. Oslin. HRC Tennessee will present its Community Leadership Award posthumously to David Reifschneider and its Equality Award will be presented to Tennessee State Senator Stephen J. Cohen.

*Heroes Among Us*, a documentary produced by Deidre Duker, will be premiered at the event. Cocktails and silent auction begin at 6 p.m.; dinner and program is at 7:30 p.m. The live auction will be emceed by Bianca Paige and Rita Ross. Business attire is suggested. Dinner tickets are \$150 each and are available by calling (800) 494-8497 or online at [www.BoxOfficeTickets.com](http://www.BoxOfficeTickets.com).

A \$119 special room rate at the Sheraton Nashville Downtown for the night of March 16 is available by calling for reser-

vations at (615) 259-2000 and mentioning the HRC dinner; subject to availability. Reduced parking fees of \$5 for self-park and \$8 for valet are available at the Sheraton Nashville for the dinner (mention the HRC dinner).

For more information, call (615) 356-8132 or go online to [www.hrcTN.org](http://www.hrcTN.org).

## MGLCC plans Bachelor/Bachelorette auction

The Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center (MGLCC) will host its first-ever "Bachelor/Bachelorette Speed Dating Auction" on Sunday, March 17, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Atlas Club inside Jillian's of Memphis, located at 150 Peabody Place at Second Street.

Admission is \$10 per person. Admission includes an appetizer buffet offering chips and salsa, veggie tray, sesame chicken wings and gourmet pizzas. A cash bar also will be available.

Join the fun beginning at 4 p.m. with the "Speed Dating" portion of the evening. "Speed Dating" allows you the opportunity to meet the bachelors and bachelorettes before the actual bidding starts. Then, beginning at 5 p.m., the live auction will kick-off with Lady Emma Rae O'Neill as hostess and Vincent Astor as auctioneer.

A total of 20 individuals will be on the auction block, includ-

See MGLCC, page 18

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# The Yellow Boat tells story of child AIDS victim

**BY ANITA MOYT, MANAGING EDITOR**

David Saar's *The Yellow Boat*, on stage at The Circuit Playhouse, March 9 through April 7, is an incredibly touching tribute to his eight-year-old son Benjamin, born with congenital hemophilia, whose life was cut short in 1987, when he contracted AIDS from a blood transfusion.

*The Yellow Boat* chronicles Benjamin's life from birth to death in what Saar refers to as, "non-sensible dramatic form," as Benjamin finds himself relating to the image of a yellow boat — derived from his favorite bedtime folk song. The song describes a solitary yellow vessel that sails beyond the horizon and up to the sun after the other boats of different colors have made it safely back to the harbor. Seeing an end to his days rapidly approaching, Benjamin invites yellow to permeate all aspects of his primary color drawings, stating, "I choose yellow."

*The Yellow Boat* is directed by J. Noble, a graduate student at The University of Memphis. Last year Noble assisted director Dave Landis in The Circuit Playhouse's production of *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde*. He also is a teaching artist for the Memphis Arts Council.

"I was intrigued by the way the play is structured," Noble told *Family & Friends*, explaining why he accepted the job to direct *The Yellow Boat*. "It is not a family drama and is not told as a narrative. ... The way the story is told is very entertaining ... theatrically entertaining and not (a melodrama) or a tragedy."

Noble went on to explain that the story, which on the surface would appear to be a very sad one, in fact is not.

"The story is very tender," Noble said, "(It's) about a family dealing with their child who has AIDS, his (impending) death and the ostracizing from both school and the community. The focus is on his life and how he handled situations. ... Death is not the focus of the show. ... It is more a story about how other people lived with Benjamin, be it school(mates) friends, parents ..."

Noble noted, "It is uplifting to see how an eight-year-old deals with situations that would completely destroy someone three times his age."

Noble explained that in the original play a youthful-looking adult played Benjamin.


"I didn't want to go that way at all. The whole concept is we are spring-boarding off Ben's imagination, to tell the story through a very creative and artistic child." Twelve-year-old Bruce Huffman (*Peter Pan*) auditioned and got the part of the eight-year-old Benjamin.

"We are using imagination to galvanize the audience's imagination," Noble said, explaining how he is drawing on theatrical concepts in *The Yellow Boat* as opposed to just telling a story. "Sometimes the adult actors become what he is drawing. For example, a dance of umbrellas is used to represent a blood transfusion."

Thus, the adult actors "play" at rehearsal, utilizing various

**See Yellow Boat, page 51**

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# BULLETIN

THE MEMPHIS NATIONAL BLACK HIV/AIDS AWARENESS & INFORMATION DAY TOWNHALL MEETING set for Feb. 7 at LeMoyné Owen College had to be rescheduled to a future date due to the snow. However, organizers did see a great turn-out for the several events scheduled prior to the 7th, including at the invocation service on Feb. 3 at New Salem M.B. Church, with almost 70 people being tested for HIV.

CAROL PLUNK fans, mark you calendar. On Saturday, April 27, THE BELL CURVES REUNION will happen at The Poplar Lounge, 2586 Poplar Avenue. This is a one-time reunion – and party – you don't want to miss.

The annual KING & QUEEN OF HEARTS auction and show, held last month at the MADISON FLAME and presented by the MYSTIC KREWE OF APHRODITE, raised \$3,854, 75 percent of which went to FRIENDS FOR LIFE for its many services provided to persons living with HIV/AIDS. This year's event included entertainment provided by various community organizations, including MEMPHIS PRIDE INC., the MEMPHIS GAY & LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTER and the MYSTIC KREWE OF MEMPHIS UNITED. Watching the show from their thrones were 2001's reigning king and queen JIMMY GRAY AND ALMA DECENA. The event was co-emceed by ROCHELLE MANN and ISIS. As the event came to a close, 2002's "court of royalty" was crowned. The 2002 court includes MANN as king, KATHY ANDERSON as queen, JOHNNIE BRITTON as favorite valentine and PATTY PAIR as favorite entertainer. Pair also received an award from Aphrodite for Volunteer of the Year. For pictures of this truly heart-warming evening, see pages 26 and 27.

Applause to SECRETARY OF STATE COLIN POWELL for his recent public comment on MTV supporting the use of condoms to fight the spread of HIV/AIDS and other sexually-transmitted diseases, a comment contrary to the Bush administration's support of "abstinence only" education. Powell said, "It's the lives of young people who are put at risk by un-

safe sex and, therefore, protect yourself. ... In my own judgement, condoms are a way to prevent infection, and therefore, I not only support their use, I encourage their use among people who are sexually active."

And applause goes to another high-profile group for standing up for gay rights. THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS went on record supporting legal and legislative efforts to provide second-parent or co-parent adoptions to same-sex couples. The statement, published in the February 2002 issue of *Pediatrics*, is accompanied by a technical report that provides details from the best available scientific studies of children who grow up with gay or lesbian parents.

Congrats to the winners of ONE MORE'S BEST OF THE BEST DART TOURNAMENT SHOOT OUT held last month. LAURA shot best for first place, followed by KELLI in second place and SUSAN in third.

DARREN and LEN gave it their best try but have now closed the doors of IMPULSE. For those putting on a big party, fundraiser or event, you might consider contacting them at (901) 857-8523 about renting the place.

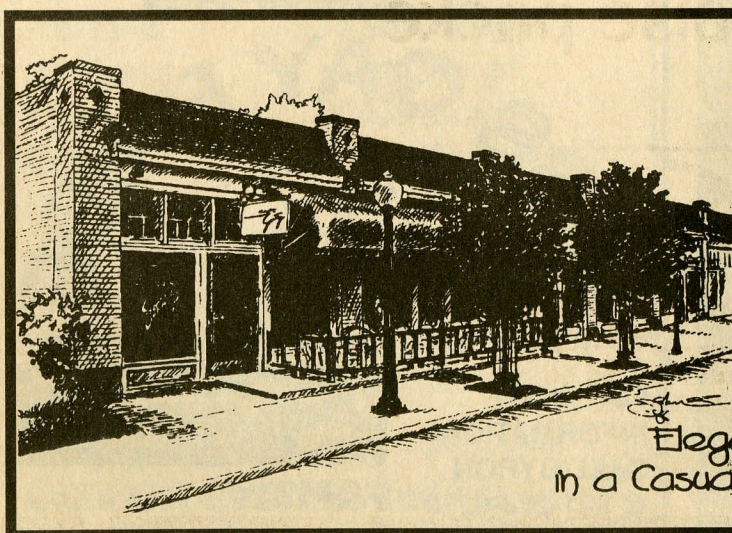
The 9th annual ST. PATRICK'S INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT will see 150 to 200 bowlers in town competing for trophies and just having a good time St. Patrick's weekend March 15, 16 and 17. Spectators are invited to watch the games at the Cordova Bowling Center, located at 7945 Club Center Cove on Saturday.

On, Tuesday, March 12, at 7:30 p.m. Crossroads, 111 North Claybrook, will be the site of TSARUS's annual banquet where the name of its 2002 MAN OF THE YEAR AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE GAY AND LESBIAN COMMUNITY will be revealed. Banquet tickets, at \$8 each are still available at Crossroads, The Pumping Station, from any Tsarus member or by calling (901) 276-4132 or (901) 358-5356. For a list of this year's nominees, see the story on page 5.

BLUFF CITY SPORTS ASSOCIATION invites all past and future SOFTBALL PLAYERS to a "Meet and Greet" at Lilly's Dimsum Thensome, located at 903 South Cooper, on Sunday, March 10, from 6 to 8 p.m.

The MYSTIC KREWE OF MEMPHIS UNITED held its Third Annual Mardi Gras Ball last month with all the splendor of years

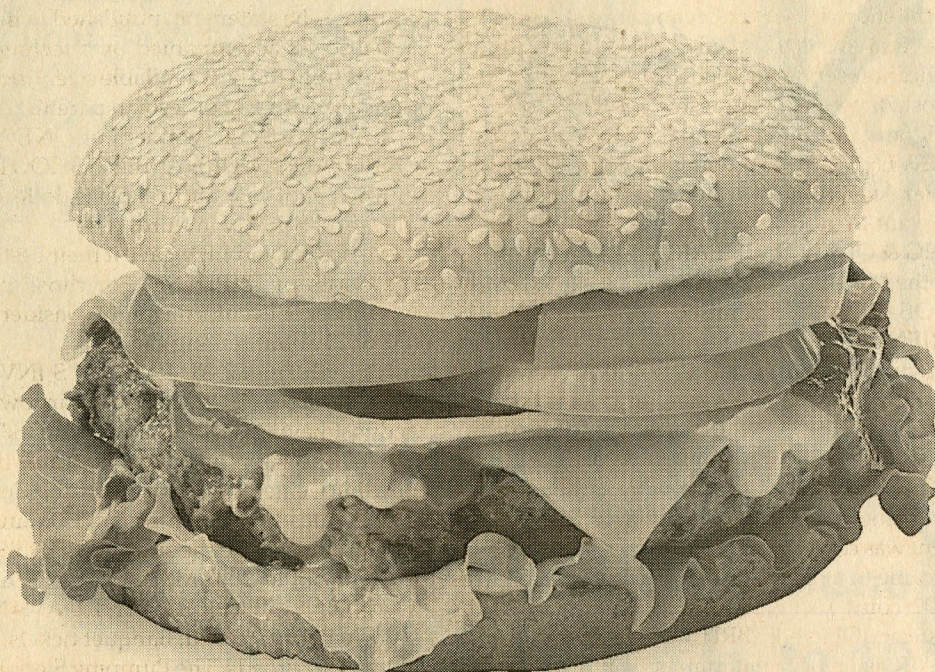
past. The event raised \$10,000 for THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY. During the event, the KING and QUEEN MAGIQUE III were crowned. They are ED RACHELS and MARY ADAIR. Also during the event, the Krewe of MU presented three awards, one to JUDY for Volunteer of the Year, one to MIKE LUTZ for Inspiration, and the Krewe's Leadership Award went to MEMPHIS PRIDE INC. for all of its hard work and dedication to the Memphis and Mid-South GLBT community. We hope to see everyone at the ball next February. For pictures of this glamorous event, see pages 38-39. Want to know who was there, see page 40.



Cafe Society

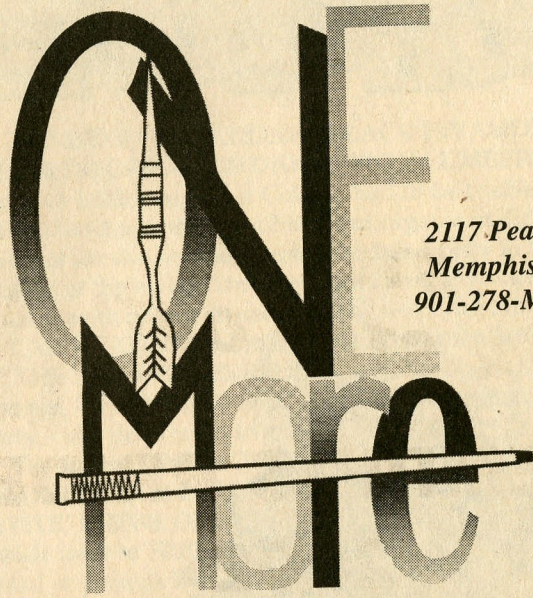
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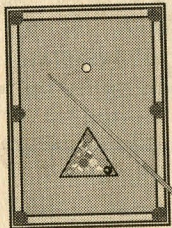


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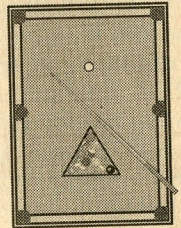
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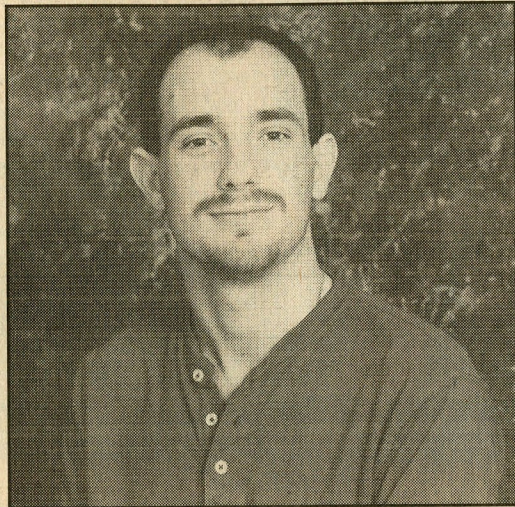
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Saturday, June 8, 2002

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# Catch A Rising STAR QUEEN

BY ANITA MOYT  
MANAGING EDITOR

Star Queen. Many of you may remember her tampon and SPAM commercials she shared with us on stage at various Memphis gaybars. As one of Memphis's best female impersonators, several individuals have taken an interest in her for more than her talented show performances.

Kevin Dean recently finished shooting a documentary about Star Queen called *Star Queen: A Star Is Bored* and playwrights Geoff Tucker and Greg Jordan are in the production stages of their play, *Star Queen: The Next Generation*.

*Family & Friends* interviewed Star Queen to find out why all the attention and just who this talented lady is.

"Star Queen is a culmination of a little girl, a TV, a movie screen, a stage, a spotlight, a microphone and a dream," Star Queen told *Family & Friends*, explaining how she came into being. "Star Queen, came into existence for a way for all of these influences and experiences ... to be manifested. That's what makes Star Queen, Star Queen."

Star Queen first surfaced in 1989, at a Memphis College of Art (MCA) Halloween party at Murphy's Bar. Star Queen, a skilled mimic and impersonator, went to the party dressed as a woman who was the director of admissions at MCA. The impersonation of this woman was so good, in fact, that many at the party thought Star Queen actually was this woman. When a few of those folks ran into the real administrator at the Orpheum later on, they asked how she liked the party. She replied, "I beg your pardon. I've never met you." Unfortunately, the administrator didn't appreciate the flattering impersonation and chided Star Queen.

Thus a star was born.

Star Queen next performed on the dance floors of local bars such as Prince Mongo's Planet, 616 and Zot. Since she was not yet 21 years old, she wasn't able to get into the gay bars.

"A lot of people who were old enough and went to both the gay bars and the alternative clubs started talk-



Photo by Klay Lester

Star Queen

ing about me," Star Queen said. "That's how gay people found out about Star Queen. That was right at the time Rumples got started. Melina got wind of Star Queen and came to Zot ... and asked (me if I) would do a number on stage at Rumples." Thus, Star Queen's first stage performance.

"I wasn't nervous," Star Queen said about that first stage performance. "I was excited to experience something new and something I'd wanted to do for a long time but never had the opportunity. I was very well received. A lot of people were pleasantly surprised by this brand new personality. And they wanted more and they got more."

Actually, that wasn't Star Queen's first exposure to the stage.

"My mother tells a story about me," she said. "When I was four years-old, I was put in a local department store fashion show in Manchester, Tenn. Me and another child walked out on to the stage and went to the end of the walkway. The other child turned and went back but I stayed. I didn't want to leave. (My mom) had to come get me."

Star Queen advised those wanting to start a career as a female impersonator on stage to count the costs.

"Add up the original cost of the wig, the bra, the girdle, the dress, the makeup, the music, the jewelry, the purse, the heels, the whatever else and it comes up to a lot more than you earn performing, even with pay and tips. Sometimes the stars have smiled on you when the tips are hand over fist, but not every time. But, it is still worth it, at least to me.

"Performing or doing drag on stage draws attention to yourself," Star Queen continued. "That is liberating and aspiring to anyone, no matter how much or how little you put into it.

"Even in the crowd there is a show...the 'outskirts gals,'" she said of those that enjoy donning women's clothing for a night out on the town. "Their stage is the room they walk into."



Star Queen, right, with fellow diva  
Chi Chi LaRue

See Star Queen, page 17



## Star Queen

from page 16

Star Queen also admonished against fault-finding. "It is counterproductive to say such things as, 'I wouldn't wear that wig to a dog fight,' she explained. "If I could ask everyone to do something it would be a little more open-minded and accept something new. Everyone wants to be accepted. It is mutually beneficial to accept each other. If you don't like it, don't berate it, at least appreciate it if you can't embrace it. People need to step outside of their five-foot radius of understanding. To quote Chi Chi Macarana, 'Open the Mind!'"

Star Queen may not be presently involved with local gay-bar shows but stay tuned, you may see or hear her soon in other venues.

"I am very busy with the documentary, the play and with putting together a repertoire of original songs and covers of some Cuban music. One of the songs, 'Not One Bit,' written by Peterson Tuscano, (I sing) in the documentary." She has recently met with Jeff Bossert of NPR (National Public Radio) about

writing some pieces as a guest commentator. And she continues to model for art and photography students from area high schools and colleges. And, to pay the bills, she works as a "retail slut."

Although Star Queen

claims no "drag mother" she does look up to several female impersonators, including Varla Jean Merman, "Lady" Bunny, Charlie Brown, Jackie Beat and Chi Chi LaRue. She has had

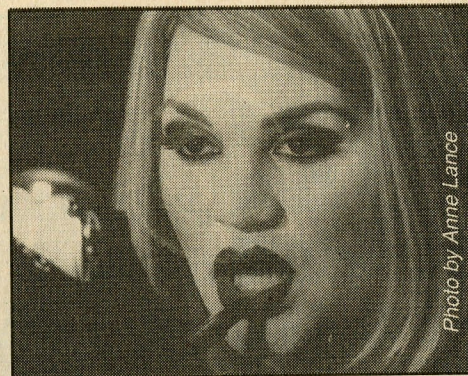


Photo by Anne Lance

**Star Queen**

**See Star Queen, page 21**

## Star Queen: The Next Generation in pre-production

**BY ANITA MOYT  
MANAGING EDITOR**

*Star Queen: The Next Generation* written by Geoff Tucker and Greg Jordan is a play, starring Star Queen as herself. The show is presently in pre-production.

"Two creative individuals and Star Queen fans (wrote this play)," Star Queen commented.

"Star Queen does individual material, sings and performs and doesn't rest on her laurels," Jordan said, explaining his admiration for Star Queen. "She is a bit more offbeat."

"I'm not a drag fanatic or a bar person," Tucker added. "(In *Star Queen* I saw) someone that actually had some talent. She doesn't just put on a dress and lip sync a cheesy love song. She adds creativity and some off-beat stuff. ... She has a very inspiring personality.

"I had written part of a play in the summer of 2000," Tucker said, explaining how Star Queen got involved with the project. "I had been inspired by the persona of Star Queen, but didn't know her personally. ... I had the opportunity to meet her one night and told her about it."

"Geoff started to write a play called *Star Queen of Fate*," Star Queen added. "He emailed it to me and I thought it was fantastic. I loved it and told him, 'Let's finish it, let's do it.'"

"(Then) I shared it with Greg because he had theater experience," Tucker said.

"He was taking it in a dramatic way," Jordan said, "and I thought it would be better performed as a comedy." Jordan advised Tucker to put the project on the "back burner."

Jordan and Tucker then proceeded to write several short skits for



Photo by Klay Lester

**Star Queen**

Star Queen to perform weekly at the bar where she was performing.

"The more we got into it, it morphed into a full scale stage play," Tucker said.

"Greg came up with the idea of doing it in a real comedic satirical vein. ... He came up with the characters and the storyline," Tucker said, explaining the basis of *Star Queen: The Next Generation*.

"The story is of a humble drag queen from Dullsville," Tucker said, explaining the plot, "and how she achieves her destiny with the help of a homely Midwestern drag queen named Twinkles and they defeat Star Queen's arch-enemy The Black Hole."

"We used Star Queen as a vehicle to marry *Flash Gordon* married to *Star Wars* married to basicness," Jordan added.

So far, Tucker and Jordan have cast Star Queen, Michael Hoots and Chris House; a few roles are still open. The group has had a couple of read-throughs to date.

"We were stopping to laugh ourselves," Star Queen said about the readings.

"Chris and Michael have brought depth of character in reading the lines," Jordan said, "and that prompts me to tweak the script more. The actors are bringing the characters to life."

"What we put on the pages and what the actors bring to the character can be different. It is a collaborative process," Tucker said.

Tucker, 32, has been writing short stories for the past 12 years but has never made the effort to be published. Jordan also is an unpublished writer and has worked as part of backstage crews at several Memphis theaters.

The writers hope to stage *Star Queen: The Next Generation* by late summer, early fall. *Family & Friends* will keep you updated.



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## Open auditions to be held

Playhouse on the Square, 51 South Cooper, will hold open auditions on Saturday, March 23, from noon to 3 p.m., for interns for the 2002-2003 season.

Those auditioning must be 18 years old and be prepared with one monologue of their choice and/or 16 bars of one song. The audition must be under three minutes. If you are singing, bring sheet music for the accompanist provided. However, no a cappella auditions are allowed. Also, bring two copies of a headshot and resume.

Auditions are by appointment, which can be made by calling (901) 725-0776.

Interns may fill positions in productions at Playhouse on the Square, The Circuit Playhouse and Theatreworks.

## MGLCC

from page 10

ing "bachelors" Darren Burns, Joe Rasberry, George Mabon and Jim Maynard, and "bachelorettes" Ranetta Jackson, Aisha Hobbs, Carol Plunk and Nancy Rzeszutek.

Opening bids start at \$20 and increase in \$5 increments. The highest bidder gets his/her date, gift certificates for dinner and movie passes.

Tickets can be obtained in advance by calling (901) 857-5224; MasterCard and Visa accepted.

Requested dress is semi-formal. This event is co-sponsored by Jillian's of Memphis.



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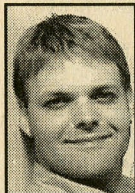
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**MEETRO MEMPHIS**



## STRAIGHT UP *but not straight*

By J. SHANE WILSON

Dear Straight Up,

I'm a gay college student attending school away from home. I met a man, age 21, two weeks before I left for school. We really clicked and we talk almost everyday. I'm worried that he's going to miss out waiting for me. However, I will be home for a three-month summer break soon. I told him this and he said he doesn't consider it "missing out." But I'm worried he'll resent me for it. I really love him, but I'm afraid to tell him because he may think it's too soon, and I don't want it to get weird. I consider him my boyfriend, but we aren't calling it that due to the distance. Am I being paranoid? Is it too early to love him? Is having a long-distance relationship a bad idea at this stage in our relationship?

Dear Men Before Books,

My answer is yes, yes and maybe, in that order.

Yes, you're obsessing about this too much. I wouldn't call it "paranoid," but you are worrying too much. You just met this guy. Yes, it's too early to be in love with him. Maybe it might be okay to have a long-distance relationship. That is, if you can make the relationship more balanced and reciprocal between

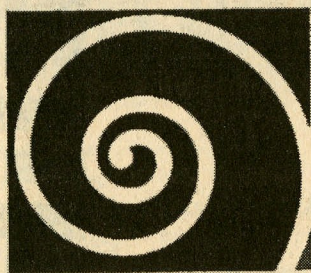
you and your friend — more emotionally even, so you both care about each other equally — and if you can do that fast. You'll be going back to school before you know it; three months is a short time. That's assuming he lives in the same town where you met him, and you'll be continuing to attend school there for awhile. If there's going to be more distance for a longer period of time, it just means it probably won't last long-term due to logistical problems. It takes three to four months of seeing someone in person several times per week before you can be sure that any strong feelings you have are really love and not just lust or infatuation. The same holds true for him.

So don't say anything about your feelings to him. In addition, when one person cares more than the other, it can ruin a budding relationship. You would be wise to stop obsessing about this man when you aren't with him. You will eventually worry yourself sick over "is it or isn't it working out." Get busy with friends, school and activities where you are now. Allow life to continue. You can communicate with him in between, but don't overdo it. When you return from school in the summer, then you can pick up the relationship again.

A side note: Don't be surprised to learn that your "friend" has been seeing other guys. Life does go on and distance does place a strain on a dating relationship, especially one as new as yours. I never said my responses would be sweet, or in agreement with what you would like to have happen, but I always promise reality, and straight to the point feedback. I wish you well and the best of luck in school.

*Former Memphian J. Shane Wilson has a master's degree in the counseling field from The University of Memphis and is presently employed in the 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 FamilyMag@aol.com.*

# TWIST



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## Integrity-Memphis to hold meeting March 19

The next regular monthly meeting of Integrity-Memphis will be held on Tuesday, March 19, at 6:30 p.m. at Calvary Episcopal Church, located at Second and Adams Streets.

The meeting will begin with a short worship service, followed by dinner and a program.

Integrity is a great place to explore and express your spiritual, political and social self. Integrity-Memphis' membership consists of many faith traditions and visitors are always welcome.

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

## Star Queen

from page 17

the privilege to share the stage were several of these divas. "Bars have come and gone but I'm still here and I'm happy about that," Star Queen said in closing. "Star Queen is timeless, except for a couple of crows feet. But that's nothing a little old plastic surgery can't help."

Edward Rust is Star Queen's long-time companion and personal assistant.

*Editors Note: Star Queen wishes to dedicate this story to the memory of Ruth Ann Welch (12/26/45-2/18/02). "She's gone on to that day spa in the sweet by and by," Star Queen remarked.*

## Documentary focuses on Star Queen's talents

*Star Queen: A Star is Bored* is a documentary by Kevin Dean, an undergraduate film and television production major at The University of Memphis.

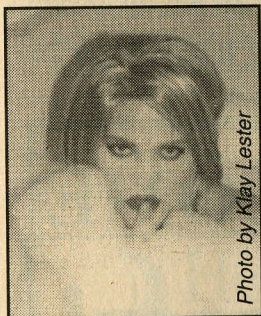


Photo by Klay Lester

**Star Queen**

"I knew I wanted to do a documentary, but didn't have a subject," Dean told *Family & Friends*. "I had been at a gay club and, realizing Star Queen was not around anymore, I asked folks, 'Whatever happened to Star Queen?'"

Thus Dean decided on Star Queen as the subject of the documentary.

"Once I started talking to Star Queen, the story evolved. The story really is not about her stint in gay bars, but about Star Queen trying to break out to the world and become

the next RuPaul," Dean said.

"I was very excited about it," Star Queen said of her starring role, "and when we began to shoot, I found I had times I didn't have anything to say, which is strange because I usually don't have that problem. It was a daunting proposition with six people around me, in my face."

"Star Queen was a mainstay in the gay community and gay clubs," Dean said. "If you (saw Star Queen in shows at) any of the gay clubs you really didn't see how talented she really is. I was amazed at how talented she is. She is an artist and a performer. She can be on stage anywhere, in drag or out of drag."

Dean includes interviews with Prince Mongo, David Nestler, Chad Prosser, Peterson Tuscano and Warren Grantham as part of the documentary.

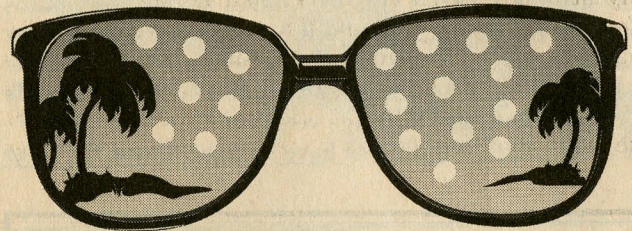
"We wrapped on Sunday, Feb. 17," Dean explained. "Now we are going through the editing process which takes so long. I plan to submit the film to the UofM Film Festival, the Indie Memphis Film Festival and premiere it at a special showing at a local theater."

"My gut feeling is this is really going to be a great project and something for everyone involved, myself included, to be very proud of," Star Queen told *Family & Friends*. "I would gladly do it again."



presents

## PSYCHO BEACH PARTY

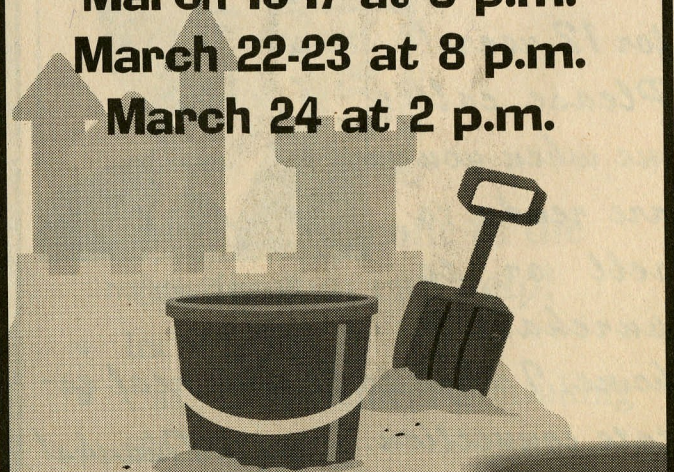


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# Head for beach with ETC's *Psycho Beach Party*

**BY ANITA MOYT  
MANAGING EDITOR**

Grab the suntan oil and the beach blankets and take a trip to Emerald Theatre Company (ETC), located in Theatreworks, 2085 Monroe, for a chance to experience the sun, the fun and the psychotic craziness of *Psycho Beach Party* during its run March 15 to 24.

*Psycho Beach Party*, set on Malibu Beach in 1962, is a satire of *Gidget* and other surfer-beach party movies of the '60s mixed with the sinisterness of an Alfred Hitchcock psychological thriller.

Hal Harmon, ETC's artistic director, directs a cast of 10 actors.

"I wanted the challenge of working with a larger cast again," Harmon told *Family & Friends*, explaining why he chose to bring *Psycho Beach Party* to ETC's stage. "And I was excited over the fact that I could bring more female roles to the stage for ETC.

"We needed some fun, a campy show, after the last nine months of our lives (since 9/11)," Harmon added.

The author, Charles Busch, weaves sexual innuendos throughout his production, which he wrote as both a screen play and a stage play. The screen play was made into a quite successful movie. However, as Hollywood often does, the movie varied somewhat from the stage version.

"I should (say) to those that have seen the movie, the stage

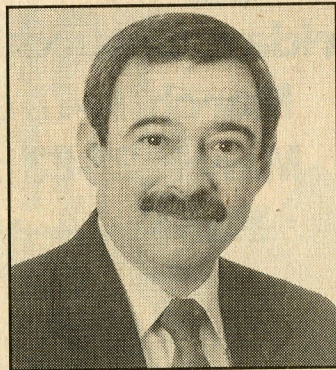


**The cast of ETC's *Psycho Beach Party*.**

version is not the same, (even though) the stage version came first," Harmon said. "It is still based on the girl with a split

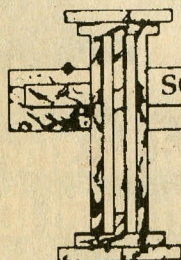
**See ETC, page 35**

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## Tennessee GLBT history is needed for publication

Full Court Press is seeking information for a new book on Tennessee's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender history, to be titled *Pride & Progress: A History of LGBT Tennessee*.

The book's editors are seeking both submitted content and individuals to interview. Photos will be included as available and appropriate. The editors also request that all Tennessee organizations, including those in Memphis and the Mid-South, submit their histories, purposes and contact information, as well.

Editors are looking for stories and information on such topics as coming out, education, hate crimes, HIV/AIDS, social life, domestic partnerships, transgender issues, discrimination, stereotypes versus reality, employment, bisexuality, businesses, the political process, religion and female and male impersonators.

The purpose of *Pride & Progress* is to capture, for posterity, Tennessee's history from a GLBT perspective; to strengthen the sense of GLBT community within Tennessee; to promote statewide and grassroots support of our community, and to increase public awareness of the mission and services of Equality Tennessee, the Rainbow Community Center and other state-wide GLBT organizations.

Individuals and organizations, wishing to provide information for *Pride & Progress*, should call Mikhail Brown at (615) 337-1674 or Joyce Arnold at (615) 650-2523; email RhondaWhite@juno.com, or write Equality TN, P.O. Box 330965, Nashville, TN 37203-7507.

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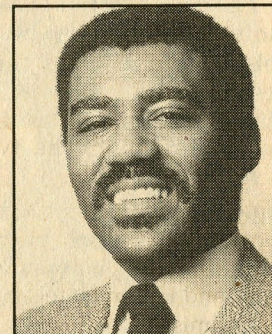
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**For more information or to sign up as a Buddy-Volunteer, call Len Piechowski, Buddy Program Coordinator, at (901) 272-0855**



# Palm Springs is place to be for biggest parties

Easter Weekend plus Palm Springs, Calif., equals two of the largest gay and lesbian parties in America. Jeffrey Sanker's White Party Palm Springs 2002, for the boys and The Dinah Shore Weekend 2002 for the girls.

### White Party Palm Springs 2002

Thursday, March 28, through Monday, April 1, is the weekend for the greatest contingent of men (approximately 25,000), music and muscle ever assembled. The event line-up, which includes renowned diskjockeys DJ Joe Gauthreaux, DJ Manny Lehman and DJ Victor Calderone, offers parties all weekend long, including The Welcome Party. The Military Ball, Afterhours, The White Party, Climax Afterhours, The Sunset T-Dance, The Closing Party and the Grand Finale. If that isn't enough to keep you busy, there are poolside parties every afternoon, with poolside DJs, of course, at the Wyndham, Marquis and Hilton Hotels, host hotels for the event.

Admission varies for the different events and various type passes are available, some with more amenities than others. Passes begin at \$240 each. Tickets may be purchased online at [www.boxofficetickets.com](http://www.boxofficetickets.com) or by phone at (800) 494-8497.

For more information and complete details on White Party Palm Springs 2002, go online to [www.jeffreysanker.com](http://www.jeffreysanker.com).

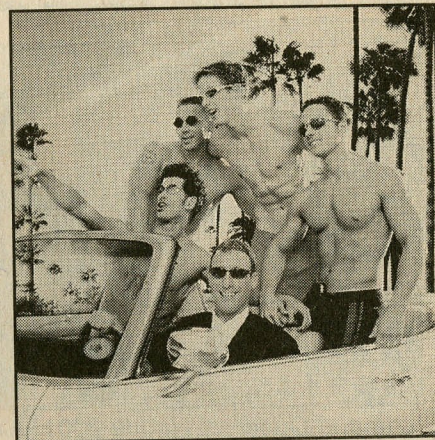
### Dinah Shore Weekend 2002

Girl Bar and Club Skirts presents the Dinah Shore Weekend

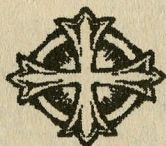
2002, Thursday through Sunday, March 28 to 31, where 7,500 of the hottest women will converge on Palm Springs for a weekend of unforgettable events, spectacular pool parties, amazing entertainment and non-stop fun.

Again DJs, including DJ Paige Hodel and DJ Kimberly S., will be ever present at this weekend of non-stop parties.

The weekend includes The Kick-Off Party; Queens of Comedy VIII, featuring Karen Ripley, Maggie Cassella and Karen Williams; The White Party, featuring singing sensation Tia Label; poolside party GirlRock, featuring Sophie B. Hawkins; poolside party SaturDAZE, featuring the Go-Go Goddesses;



**See Palm Springs, page 43**



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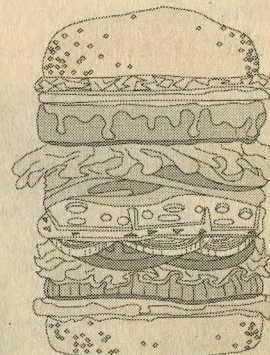
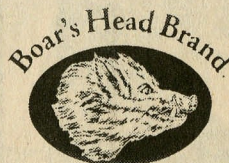
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# FAMILY ALBUM

## King & Queen of Hearts 2002



King and Queen of Hearts 2001, Alma and Jimmy, watch from their thrones.



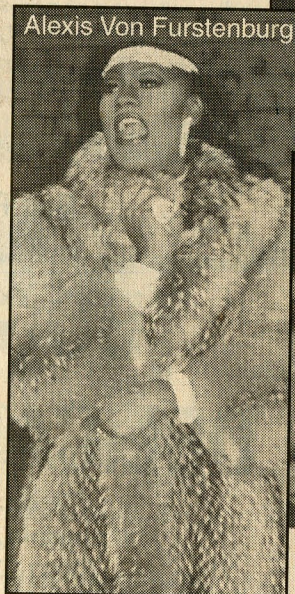
2001 King of Hearts Jimmy



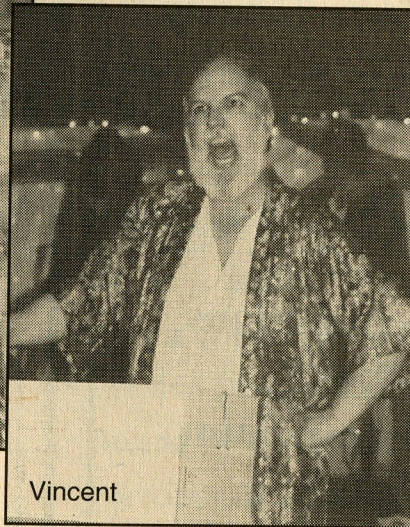
Chi Chi Macarena



MGLCC's Angela and Daniel.



Alexis Von Furstenburg



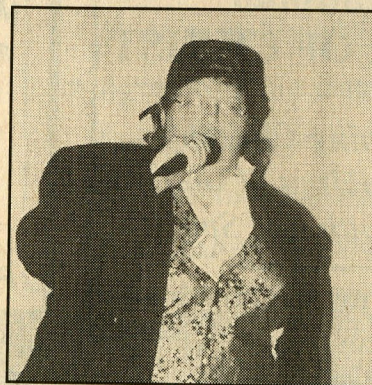
Vincent



Co-emcee Isis sports that "Brittney" look.



King and Queen of Hearts 2002, Kathy and Rochelle, take a stroll after being crowned.



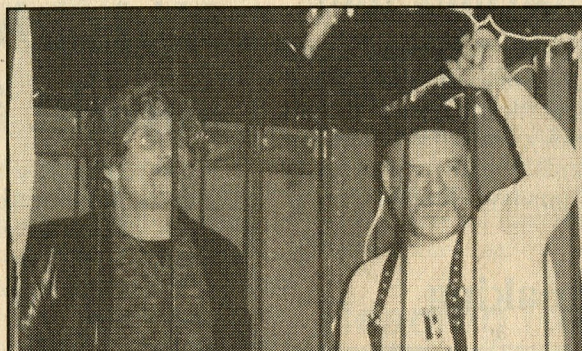
Memphis Pride Co-Chair Patty performs for the event.

# FAMILY ALBUM

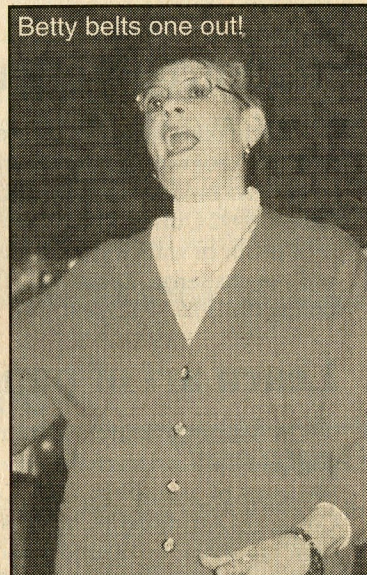
## King & Queen of Hearts 2002



Tanisha Cassadine



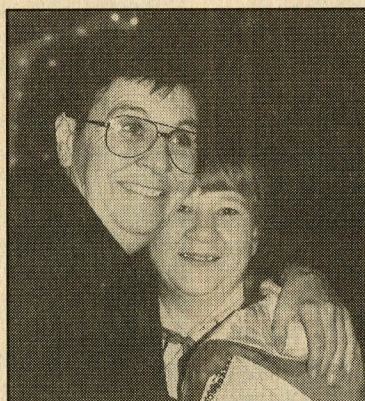
Friends For Life Fundraising Coordinator Butch, left, and Friends For Life Executive Director Kim spent most of the evening behind bars. Bail: \$200 each.



Betty belts one out!



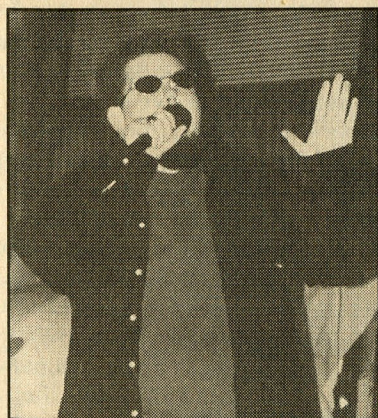
Aphrodite's Tammy



Favorite Valentine 2002 Johnnie with her "queen" Kathy.



Mystic Krewe of Memphis United's Queen and King Magique III, Mary and Ed.



Representing Memphis Pride, Ricky Van Dyke



Co-emcee Rochelle, left, presents the Volunteer of the Year award to Patty.



2001 Queen of Hearts Alma

# For Your FAMILY

## Things for the entire family

### 'Raindrops' offers learning time

Preschoolers and parents are invited to "Raindrops," an interactive program, involving crafts, costumes, storytelling and tactile and sensory demonstrations, at the Lichterman Nature Center, 5992 Quince Road, each Tuesday, from 10 to 11 a.m. Enjoy a picnic or walk the trails afterwards. The cost is \$5 per child and per chaperon. Register by the Thursday before the class by calling (901) 767-7322, ext. 121.

### Learn art of papermaking

On Saturday, March 9, from 12:30 to 1 p.m. and 1 to 1:30 p.m., children can learn the art of papermaking at the Children's Museum of Memphis, 2525 Central Avenue, from Memphis College of Art students. Admission to the museum is \$4 for children (ages one to 12) and seniors (62+) and \$5 for adults. For more information, call (901) 458-2678 or visit CMOM's website at [www.cmom.com](http://www.cmom.com).

### ShoWagon to host fables tales

Watch the actors at Theatre Memphis' ShoWagon become the animals of the classic *Aesop's Fables* Monday, March 18, through Friday, March 29. All shows are at 10 a.m. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$6 for children. Reservations can be made by calling (901) 682-5261.

### Get information on colleges

On Monday, March 18, at 6:30 p.m., a program for young people, ages 15 to 18, will be held at the Whitehaven branch of the Memphis/Shelby County Public Libraries, 4122 Barton Drive, with representatives of area colleges on hand with information for potential students.

### CMOM to host birthday party

On Saturday, March 23, from noon to 1 p.m., children can celebrate Marcel Marceau's birthday and learn how to tell a story without saying a word with mime Patty Carreras at the Children's Museum of Memphis, 2525 Central Avenue. Admission to the museum is \$4 for children (ages one to 12) and seniors (62+) and \$5 for adults. For more information, call (901) 458-2678 or visit CMOM's website at [www.cmom.com](http://www.cmom.com).

### Mr. Chuck to read stories

WKNO-TV Channel 10 personality Mr. Chuck will be on hand at the Collierville Burch branch library, located at 501 Poplar View Parkway, on Thursday, March 21, at 10:15 a.m. to read stories to children, ages three to five. He will read again at the Bartlett branch library, located at 6382 Stage Road, on Wednesday, March 27, at 10:45 a.m.

## Kids kind to animals sought for contest

Do you know a kind kid with a passion for helping animals? If so, the American Humane Association (AHA) wants to know. Enter him or her in the AHA's Be Kind to Animals Kid Contest no later than April 1.

The Be Kind to Animals Contest is an annual contest conducted by the AHA to honor young people who make a difference in the lives of animals. Nominees are divided into two age groups, ages six to nine and 10 to 13. A panel of judges selects a grand prize winner and two runners-up from each group.

Each grand prize winner will receive a \$5,000 college scholarship, generously provided by SIERRA, The Safer Antifreeze. All the contest winners will receive a cool prize package and will be featured on the AHA website.

Persons 18 or older can nominate their favorite kind kid (with written permission from the child's legal guardian). All entries must be typed or hand printed in 200 words or less, telling AHA why this kind kid deserves to be the 2002 Be Kind to Animals Kid. Be sure to include the name, home address and phone numbers of the nominator and the child. Feel free to include photos, videos or other supporting materials with your nomination. Complete contest rules and nomination forms can be obtained from the AHA website at [www.americanhuman.org](http://www.americanhuman.org) or by calling AHA's Cindy Strowbridge at (800) 227-4645, ext. 466.

## CMOM, WKNO to host Mr. Chuck's Reading Rodeo

The Children's Museum of Memphis, in partnership with "KNO Kids" and WKNO-Channel 10, bring literacy and reading to life with Mr. Chuck's Reading Rodeo on Saturday, March 16, at the museum, located at 2525 Central Avenue.

Kids will get to say "howdy" to several popular book characters including Clifford: The Big Red Dog, Curious George, Franklin and P.D. Parrot. Stories with Mr. Chuck and other celebrity readers will take place on the stage every half hour.

Children also can wrangle their way through craft stations, face painting and herds of entertainment. Books and educational toys will be for sale at the Scholastic Store and juice and cookies will be served from the chuckwagon. Every child gets a free book and parents are encouraged to bring a camera to capture that special moment when their child meets their fa-

**See Reading Rodeo, page 29**

# World of trees to come alive at CMOM

From seedlings to saplings to towering giants, trees play an important role in forest communities. This fascinating world of trees comes alive at The Children's Museum of Memphis, 2525 Central Avenue, now through May 12.

"Lives of the Tree Sprouts" explores the interaction between soil, plants and animals to create an important ecosystem vital to human life as well as the importance of tree products in our daily lives.

Through a combination of hands-on exhibits, including sorting soils, getting a close-up view of trees with magnifiers and a video scope, counting tree rings, taking bark rubbings, sitting inside a woodpecker's nest, helping leaf cutter ants carry food to the various chambers of their home, and exploring the world of an animal's camouflage, the exhibit will encourage visitors to explore the forests near them. In turn, they will learn more about the types of trees and animals that live in their neighborhoods.

Kids become forest rangers in the Overlook as they use its special telescope to protect the forest from fire and disease. The International Woods Tree House shows the many ways people use wood and provides examples of woods from around the world. Children can learn to use wood-working tools in The Wood Shop.

"The exhibit focuses on the interdependence between forest communities and humans," said Judy Caldwell, museum executive director. "People sometimes take trees for granted, but we rely on them in a number of very important ways. The exhibit shows us a sneak peak into the tree world."

"Lives of the Tree Sprouts" is sponsored by the Hardwood Forest Foundation.

The Children's Museum of Memphis is open Tuesday to Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. Admission is \$4 for children (ages one to 12) and seniors (62+) and \$5 for adults.

For more information, call (901) 458-2678 or visit online at [www.cmom.com](http://www.cmom.com).

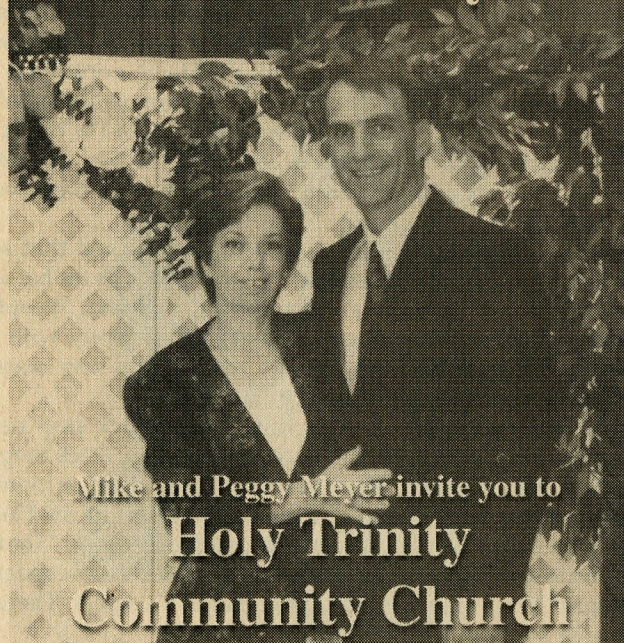
## Reading Rodeo

from page 28

favorite book character.

The event is divided into three sessions: from 9 to 11 a.m., from noon to 2 p.m. and from 3 to 5 p.m. Tickets to this event are \$10 per person. Admission to the museum is not included, but a \$1 discount is given to rodeo attendees. Space is limited and reservations are required by calling (901) 458-2678.

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# OUT in MISSISSIPPI

## Bar outside Tupelo has interesting history

**RY LAINE MCNEIL  
STAFF WRITER**

It always seems places that become legendary have histories as colorful as the symbolic Rainbow Flag, such is the case with a bar now known as Rumors, located just outside Tupelo in Shannan.

The history of this Mississippi GLBT bar dates back to the early '90s and a woman named P.J. Newton.

Originally from Booneville, Newton spoke to *Family & Friends* recently about how she came to open the bar, then called O'Harah's.

"Shannan is like a little suburb of Tupelo," she began. "It had its own zip code, but it didn't even have a telephone book. It sits on the outskirts of Tupelo and is just a little spot in the road. At that time, there were maybe

100 to 200 people in Shannan."

Why open a bar in a small "suburb" and not in the larger populated Tupelo?

"One of the main reasons is that no one in Tupelo would lease a building to me in the business district (for a gay bar)," Newton recalled. "I couldn't find anyone who would even talk to us about opening that type of a bar and we didn't want to lie about the kind of place we wanted to open.

"And, since they had a law at the time that forbid alcohol sales and dance floors in Lee County (the county in which Tupelo sits), that basically meant you couldn't have a bar in Lee County."

Newton widened her search for a location in which to open her bar and found a man in Shannan who was willing to lease a building to her.

"I was pretty much straight up with him," Newton said. "I told him I wanted to open an alternative lifestyles bar."

As it turned out, finding the perfect location wasn't nearly as hard as making the town's officials her allies.

"The hardest part was getting beyond city hall," she remembered. "There were definitely obstacles we had to overcome. I had to sit down with the mayor, the chief of police and six ministers from across North Mississippi, kind of like a Baptist association. This group of people felt we needed to meet because they didn't know what to expect from our people and clients."

Newton said she agreed to sit down with the group of people because she "wanted to show them we were people

just like them; that we lived our own lifestyles just like they lived their own lifestyles."

Safety appeared to be another concern of the town's people. Due to the fact that the building Newton had leased sat across the street from what at the time was the "largest after-hours, BYOB, redneck" bars in the area, there were some who feared trouble would follow the opening of O'Harah's.

"Before I left that meeting I made them an oral promise," Newton explained. "I told them that after my year's lease was up, if we had had any problems in the community I would shut the doors and walk away, even if I was making money."

A year after O'Harah's opened in 1994, which Newton said was named after Scarlet (there was a *Gone With The Wind* photo on the wall inside the bar), something happened, something that Newton said shocked even her.

"I was actually shocked that something never happened with the bar across the street and all," she said. "People began to look at me differently, with more respect. We had become very respected in the community."

"There was this truck stop nearby, Nonie's Restaurant and Truck Stop, and the owner, Nonie, respected us more than the truckers (who also frequented her restaurant)," Newton continued. "She really loved us. We gained her respect. We gained the mayor's respect. There was

**See O'Harah's, page 32**



**Equality Mississippi**

Mississippi's definitive statewide  
LGBT civil rights organization

**Gay? Lesbian? Bisexual?  
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[www.EqualityMS.org](http://www.EqualityMS.org)

**OUT** in Mississippi

# Renaldo resigns Equality Mississippi post

Jody Renaldo, executive director of Equality Mississippi, will step down from the helm of this civil rights organization on March 16, one day after its second anniversary.

Equality Mississippi, founded by Renaldo in March 2000, under the name of Mississippi Gay Lobby, exists to educate lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Mississippians about their community, its history and about issues of relevance to them. The organization also exists to educate the general public of Mississippi about the Mississippi GLBT community and to further the cause of full equality and civil rights for all members of the Mississippi GLBT community.

"March will be the two-year anniversary of this organization so that's why I will stay on as executive director until then," Renaldo said, explaining his reasons for resigning as Equality Mississippi's first executive director. "It's the plan I laid out for this organization, to get it up and running and to get it recognized as the definitive gay and lesbian civil rights organization for the state of Mississippi within two years ... to see this organization grow into something that would do good for gay and lesbian Mississippians and be able to sustain itself for the long haul. It has done that.

"Now, I want to take a short break," Renaldo continued. "(and) get refreshed from all of the hard legislative work we've wrapped (in February), and look at future possibilities. Who

knows, I may decide to be the first openly gay individual to run for public office in Mississippi, or move out of state to work in another organization of this type at the state or national level.

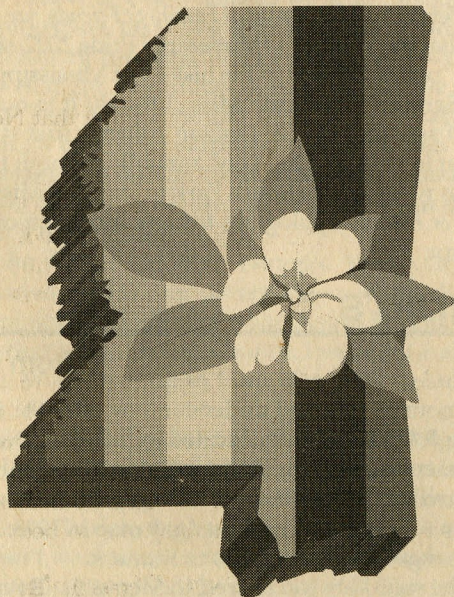
"The point is, I set goals for Equality Mississippi and they've been met," Renaldo said. "I am more than pleased with everything this organization has accomplished. Our (6,000-plus) members have been great and I can't take all of the credit for where we've come to. Members are the blood of any good organization and our members stepped up and got involved and will continue to do so long after I am gone."

The board of directors of Equality Mississippi is interviewing for a successor to Renaldo and hopes to have a new executive director named by March 16. Renaldo will continue to serve as chairman of the organization's board of directors until the end of 2002.

Renaldo's work with Equality Mississippi has definitely put Mississippi on the GLBT map; brought awareness to Mississippi's state legislators that there are gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgenders in their constituency, and let Mississippians know that the anti-gay forces of Mississippi, such as the American Family Association, are not the only voice in Mississippi. *Family & Friends* wishes Renaldo success in his future endeavors.

For more information on Equality Mississippi, visit its website at [www.equalityms.org](http://www.equalityms.org).

## MISSISSIPPI PRIDE 2002



### "Celebrating Gay Pride in Mississippi"

**Saturday, April 13  
1-7 p.m. • Smith Park  
Downtown, Jackson, Miss.**

### "Family" Picnic & Festival

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or email**

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**OUT in Mississippi****Mississippi Pride 2002 set for April 13 in Jackson**

Mississippi Pride 2002 is set for Saturday, April 13, from 1 to 7 p.m. at Smith Park in downtown Jackson, Miss. All of Mississippi's gay, lesbian, bisexual transgender and gay-friendly community is invited to this "family" picnic and festival, which will offer speakers, entertainment and music, as well as retail vendors and informational booths.

Due to a change in the board of directors of this event, the information reported in the February 2002 issue of *Family & Friends* has been changed. The event was called Magnolia Pride in that issue; however, the new board has changed the name to

**Both bills die in committee**

Last month *Family & Friends* reported on two bills that were before the state's legislature that would significantly effect the Mississippi gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community.

Both bills died in their respective committees in February. This represents both good news and bad news for GLBT Mississippians.

The good news: Senate Concurrent Resolution 504, authored by Sen. Patrick "Alan" Nunnelee (R-Tupelo), which would have resulted in all eligible Mississippi voters going to the polls in November to decide whether or not to amend the Mississippi State Constitution by adding a section that bans same-sex marriages in Mississippi, regardless of the state of origin of the marriage, died in committee. So, a ban on same-sex marriages in the state of Mississippi has been stalled at least another year.

The bad news: House Bill 171, authored by Rep. Erik Fleming (DHinds), which would have amended Mississippi's present hate crime law by adding "sexual orientation and age" to those groups protected under the law, also died in committee. So the wording will not be added to the law, at least this year.

This is the second year in a row that both of these laws have died in committee. Both laws can be reintroduced next year.

**Got Mississippi news?**

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Mississippi Pride 2002.

If you would like to make a contribution to cover expenses for Mississippi Pride please send them to Mississippi Pride, P.O. Box 846, Jackson, MS 39205-0846.

For more information about vendor or organization booths or the event call Ken at (601) 650-7316, email [MississippiPrideowner@yahoo.com](mailto:MississippiPrideowner@yahoo.com) or visit its yahoo group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MississippiPride> and follow the directions.

**Mississippi Tidbits**

- According to Eddie Sandifer, director of The Southern AIDS Commission's (SAC) Jackson, Miss., office, it supplied 6,434 persons with 13,688 bags of food during 2001, and made 324 deliveries to persons unable to visit the pantry.

- The telephone for SAC-Jackson and the Memphis Gay & Lesbian Alliance, which is shared, answered 7,100 calls during 2001, providing information and referrals to callers.

- Jack & Jill's and Jack's Construction Site (JC's), both located in Jackson, Miss., were two of the sponsors for the 10th Annual Mississippi HeARTS Against AIDS auction and dance which raised funds for SAC to assist Mississippians living with HIV/AIDS. Patrons of the two clubs also gave more than 400 items to the SAC-Jackson food pantry in January 2002.

- Joe Wilkinson, a long-time resident of the Jackson, Miss., gay and lesbian community, and a faithful supporter of SAC-Jackson and its food pantry, passed away Feb. 15 after a long battle with emphysema.

He resided at the G.V. Montgomery V.A. Hospital Nursing Home and when his health permitted, he was often found worshipping and enjoying the fellowship of others at MCC of the Rainbow in Jackson. "He will be missed," Sandifer said.

**CORRECTION**

In the February 2002, issue of *Family & Friends*, we incorrectly reported that the Magnolia/Mississippi Pride 2002, set for April 2002, was "one of the first in the history of Mississippi."

Eddie Sandifer of Jackson Miss., brought it to our attention that the Mississippi Gay & Lesbian Alliance first sponsored a Pride event in 1974, and held one annually through 1992. Those events also were held in Smith Park in Jackson, Miss.

*Family & Friends* apologizes for any inconvenience caused by this error.

**O'Harah's**

from page 30

just a lot more respect and understanding after the first year."

Although O'Harah's was located in Shannan, Newton said her customers came from Tupelo, Oxford, Starkville, Columbus, Booneville, Corinth and even from parts of Alabama.

Newton sold the bar to another gay man in 1998. He and his partner changed the bar's name to Rumors.

After the sale, Newton moved to Memphis, Tenn., which is where she still calls home today.



OUT in Mississippi

## REFLECTION

By JODY RENALDO



## A world outside of gay

Well, hi kids. How is your gay power today? Are you ready to go to Afghanistan and chase the Taliban out of the mountains with your loaded purses, singing "I Will Survive" in the same rhythmic unison as the bombs being dropped by our sexy fly boys from their thundering jets? The war would have been over in one day if gays could serve in the military. The Taliban would have been so dazed and confused by the newly-acquired, brightly-colored U.S. military uniforms (made by Prada, of course, and sporting the 69th Rainbow Infantry Logo), they would have thought Allah himself rained down Xtasy and turned the whole country into one big rave. Glostix, pacifier and Vicks anyone?

After composing the above paragraph, I read over it. I broke out into my America Online shorthand as I reached the end of the paragraph. LOL! ... ROFL! ... LMFAO! Yeah, I thought what I had written above was some funny stuff. They don't call me the gay Chris Farley for nothing, you know.

Anyway, now the serious stuff.

If we've learned anything since Sept. 11, 2001, it's that there is a world outside of our own cozy gay world. It's not all about shiny aluminum foil club shirts and poppers anymore. It's not all about inches and width anymore — AOL measurements or real. It's not all about how many times Brian can piss off some unsuspecting trick in one episode of "Queer As Folk." It's not all about gay.

What it is all about is America.

That's right. No matter how much our government — federal, state, county or city — tells us we aren't worthy of inclusion and protection, one thing they can't take away from us is that we are Americans, regardless of what gender we take home on any given night. Regardless of what gender we fall in love with. Regardless of what gender we want to be (snip snip).

One thing I have been surprised with is the number of persons in the gay and lesbian community who actually have an opinion and ideas of what should be done about different issues relating to Sept. 11.

Take John Walker Lindh for example. Yeah, you know him as "The American Taliban." Everyone and their drag-mother has had opinions and ideas of what should be done to him for his act of disgrace, for being a traitor. I've heard it all from put him in jail, to line him up in front of a firing squad in downtown New York.

But we know what's going to happen. He's just been indicted on boocoos of charges and will spend a long vacation in an American prison, paid for by you and me. So, I propose the following:

Send his ass back to Afghanistan.

He doesn't want to be an American, that's obvious. We sure as hell don't need to spend the millions of dollars to house and feed him and pay for his health care for the rest of his life. It will

cost about \$500 to give him a ride back to Afghanistan and that sure sounds better to me than millions of dollars.

Also, as a result of Sept. 11, President George Bush and Attorney General John Ashcroft got a whole new set of terrorism laws passed in the heat of the moment. These laws are quite scary. They are already being used, and abused, towards gay and lesbian and HIV activists.

Take the cases of Michael Petrelis and Dave Pasquarelli, both jailed and given excessive bails (\$500,000 each) for "acts of terrorism" all because they called different health officials and newspaper reporters in San Francisco and voiced their opinions even though they do have the right to free speech.

I wrote a letter of support to Michael while he was in jail. While I do not support his ways of doing things, I do support his right to do them. Michael replied and I want to share a snippet with you.

"I am grateful the founding fathers and mothers of our great country wrote a constitution to apply to majority and minority opinions," Michael wrote.

My friends, that is the point. Freedom of expression isn't just reserved for the polite or the rich or politicians. Sure, both of these men may have pissed some people off for calling them after midnight to discuss HIV/AIDS issues, but is that an act of terrorism and does it really warrant a total of \$1 million in bail? I think not.

The Bush Administration is determined to curtail civil liberties in its fight against terrorism, and any one who disagrees, in the words of Attorney General John Ashcroft, "is assisting the enemy." You could be next. I could be next for writing this.

Indeed friends, there is a world outside of gay and it's closing in on us fast. Are you just gay, or are you a gay American? What are you doing to prove it and be involved?

Until next time, add a little white and some more red and blue to your rainbow, and sprinkle it with a few stars. You are a GAY AMERICAN.

*Editor's Note: On Feb. 7, 2002, at their preliminary hearing, Judge Perker Meeks Jr. reduced Petrelis' bail to \$100,000 and Pasquarelli's bail to \$200,000. The judge apparently brought into consideration the "political protest" aspect of the 27-count indictment in his decision.*

Meet Natchez, Miss., erotica writer  
**ANGELO A. DIXON**  
 on page 50 of this issue



# So What!

By ALISON TATE

So, what's up y'all?

Before I get to the topic at hand for this month's column, I'd like to take a minute to thank all parties involved for making this year's Mystic Krewe of Memphis United's Mardi Gras Ball such a great time! If you are not a member of the krewe, you can't imagine the time, work and expense that goes into putting on this party. Hell, I am a krewe member and it's hard for me to imagine! I hope everyone who attended had as fabulous a time as I did, and I look forward to partying with all of you at our next ball! Now, on to our topic.

It has been brought to my attention by my editor that a great subject for a column would be drag-show etiquette, including, most especially, who, when, how and why to tip. I couldn't agree more. I've been performing for 20 years now, and those early years were basically spent paying dues; making lots of bad choices on hair, dress, make-up and music, and working for free. Learning what makes a person tip became extremely important to me at a very early age. Also, having done time as a cocktail server, bartender and hair stylist, the subject of tipping has been omnipresent in my life for a very long time. I suppose I'm an authority on the subject.

So, who do you tip? First of all, anyone who has the courage and nerve to step upon a stage deserves to be tipped. However,

since you can't swing a dead cat in this town without hitting a drag queen square on the puss, the financial strain of tipping every queen would be astronomical. So, let us get a little more specific on who indeed should be tipped.

1. ALWAYS tip tall, stunning blond columnists. Especially if they write the "So What" column in *Family & Friends* magazine.

2. ALWAYS tip every entertainer who graces the stage at a benefit show, especially if it is your benefit. Also, one of the hottest things to do is tip your least favorite entertainer grandly; if it's a benefit show, she doesn't get to keep the cash and the show is a smashing success!

3. Do you like her look? Tip her. Do you like her fashion flair or sense of accessories? Tip her. How about her choice of music and ability to sell it? Tip her. (You see, all of these aforementioned things cost money.)

4. It's always nice to tip the gals from out of town — it makes them much more anxious to come back and share their love with us again, which in turn keeps the shows more interesting.

5. Show your respect to reigning royalty and local legends.

So, when do you tip? I say, tip when you feel moved. Do you like being the first tipper? Run! Do you love a key change or a change in tempo? Tip. We entertainers will even give you a chance to tip us after our number is over — it's called a call-back or encore and is brought about by wild fits of applause, the screaming of "More!" and the promise of more money.

So how do you tip? I've seen lots of different approaches. First, there's the polite tipper who graciously hands you a dollar and gives you a peck on the cheek — we love that one! Then, there's the one who wants to cop a feel, who usually makes you stick your hand into his unzipped pants, or, down her bra to retrieve your dividend — we love that one, too! I do, however, almost always refuse to go after money coming from someone's mouth. For one thing, do you know how long it takes to paint lips this size? I don't want to smudge them, for another.

So, why do you tip? If I've said this once, I've said it a millions times — "I love what I do, but I surely don't do it solely for the love of it!" We all want to be well respected and well paid at our jobs. And when my sisters and I are on stage, we're doing our jobs in front of all of you, our bosses. Could some bitches get a break? It's not easy coming up with new music, clothes, make-up or hose without your support. We do love our jobs, so show us you love the job we do for all of you. I promise, your "cabaret experience" will be all the better for it!

So, there it is, Tipping 101. Whether you are a novice tipper or a seasoned veteran, I hope this review proves helpful and educational. I would love to further this discussion with any of you, at any time or in any place. Just make sure if you would like to approach me while I'm on stage you have some cash in your hand.

That's all for this month. Thanks for reading "So, What!" We'll talk again soon.

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**ETC**

from page 22

personality, but it is definitely different."

Kimberly Baker (ETC's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolfe*) stars as Chicklet, a sensible girl who wants to hang out with the beach crowd, but must contend with her multiple personalities, including a dominatrix, a male model and an elderly talk-show hostess. Other principle roles include Charlie Green as Starket and Mary Beth Schlater as Berdine.

"Berdine is my favorite character," Harmon said. "She plays the nerdy unpopular girl, the bookworm, but she has the absolute best lines.

"I've met people that are definitely willing to volunteer and work hard," Harmon said, praising his cast and crew.

So, is *Psycho Beach Party* just for fun, or should the audience expect an underlying message?


"It is a fun night to get out, enjoy your self and laugh," Harmon answered.

Showtimes for *Psycho Beach Party* are Friday, Saturday and Sunday, March 15-17 at 8 p.m; Friday and Saturday, March 22 and 23, at 8 p.m., and Sunday, March 24, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students with valid ID.

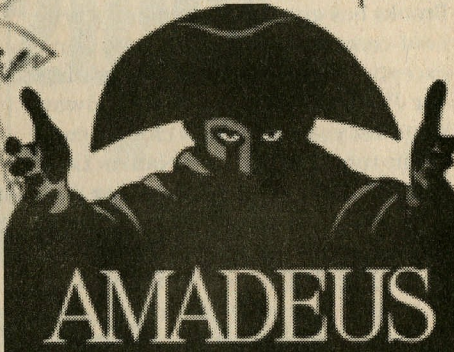
For information or reservations, call (901) 722-9302.

And, yes, there is a luau with limbo dancing.

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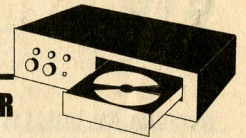
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# IN THE MIX

By **COLE WALKER**



## *The Original Broadway Cast Recording of The Producers* (☆☆☆☆)

Who can forget *Blazing Saddles*, *Space Balls*, or even *Robinhood: Men in Tights*? The always hilarious, often silly and notoriously twisted mind of Mel Brooks has given birth to many a brilliant comedy and *The Producers* is no exception. A new classic comedy film, *The Producers*, came to the Broadway stage last year and is now close to ending its run. The play stars Nathan Lane and Matthew Broderick as show producers who seek to make a fortune by over-funding a sure-fire bomb of a show. The play they decide to produce is entitled *Spring Time For Hitler*."

Everything on this album is hilarious.; try the tongue-in-cheek number "Keep It Gay" or "When You Got It, Flaunt It." If you're not laughing yet try to keep a straight face through, "Haben Sie Gehort Das Duetsche Band?" in which Lane's wonderful voice and comedic timing shine. And Brook's lyrics are brilliant; try Lane's line, "Who do you have to f\*\*k to get a break in this town?" from "The King of Broadway."

This is one of the surest cures for depression I've heard in years. It didn't earn a Tony award for "Best Original Score" for no reason. If you get a chance to see the show, you'll never forget it, but this album is the next best thing, and in this case, that's not too bad. Note: This may offend those lacking in a sense of humor; if that is the case, seriously avoid this record.

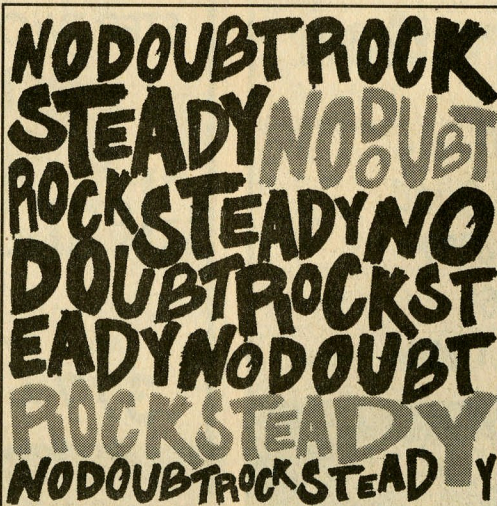
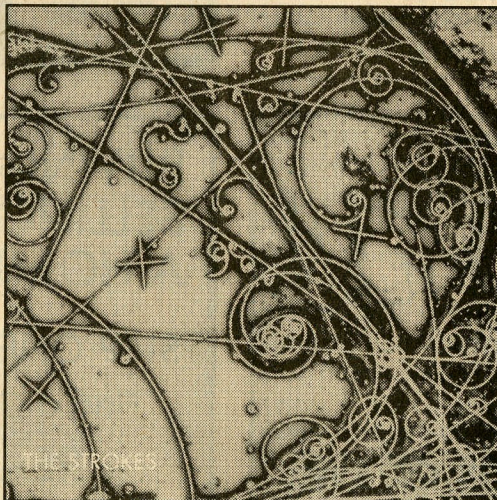
—> Highlights include "Der Guten Tag Hop-Clop," "Keep It Gay," "When You Got It, Flaunt It" and "Haben Sie Gehort Das Deutsche Band?"

...

## **The Strokes — *Is This It* (☆☆☆☆)**

After Kurt Cobain died, something happened to rock radio. It started spinning increasing amounts of garbage, the mindless "new metal/rap metal" of Limp Bizkit and the bland arena-rock of Creed. The Strokes are an island of hope in this sea of boring tunes.

Their debut album, *Is This It*, is sim-



ply rock; it lacks any pretense, it simply rocks, nothing more, nothing less. The Strokes look like a band of late '70s and early '80s fashion, T-Shirts and denim jackets. Their sound is something akin to Sonic Youth, but with less guitar experimentation. Actually they're even more like another classic New York band, The Velvet Underground.

Julian Casablancas delivers detached, gruff vocals in a very Lou Reed fashion. The guitar noise and the band's purposefully simple sound all remind one of the Underground influences, from David Bowie to Nirvana. It's great to see a band taking rock to its basic roots. If imitation is the truest form of flattery, Lou Reed and the rest of The Velvet Underground should be flattered.

For The Strokes, this is only a beginning and what an amazing one it is. I look forward to the future of this band, even if they're all damn ugly (hey, nothing's perfect).

—> Highlights include "Last Night," "Barely Legal" and "Is This It."

...

## **No Doubt — *Rock Steady* (☆☆☆)**

For the past 15 years these four kids from California have been treating us to fun, punk-inspired, radio-friendly Ska (a reggae influenced form of punk) tunes. Their fifth album, *Rock Steady*, is nothing like anything they've done in the past. The old sound of No Doubt was easily labeled as Ska, but the new sound of No Doubt is harder to define. It's a disjointed blend of something that sounds like '80s new wave and Jamaican dance-hall music. Try to picture Devo playing Bob Marley songs, with Debbie Harry of Blondie on vocals. In fact, Gwen Stefani's crooning on "Detective" gives the track a very "Rapture"-era Blondie vibe. And "Running" sounds more like something from Devo than Blondie. You know Devo, those funny guys in the red hats that sang that "Whip It" song?

The '80s connection continues with the presence of Cars leader Ric Ocasek

**See In The Mix, page 37**

## TM to offer dance classes

Theatre Memphis, located at 630 Perkins Extended, will open its 83rd season with the musical *42nd Street* on Aug. 30. Broadway star Mitzi Hamilton will return to Theatre Memphis to direct and choreograph this production.

Although auditions for *42nd Street* will not be held until mid-May, Theatre Memphis will hold two tap dance classes in March for anyone interested in auditioning for *42nd Street*. These workshops are not required for casting; however, they will give participants an advantage during the actual auditions. Kathy Caradine and Amy Welch will teach the classes.

Classes will be held twice a week beginning the first week in March and continue for approximately five weeks. Caradine will teach a one-hour class for beginners starting March 4 on Mondays and Thursdays from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m. Welch will instruct a class for those with some tap experience on Saturdays beginning March 9, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Cost to attend the tap classes is \$75 per person, per class.

For more information, call (901) 682-8601.

## In The Mix

from page 36

in the production booth on two tracks, "Don't Let Me Down," and "Platinum Blonde Life." Madonna's dance guru William Orbit lends his production abilities to the slow groove tract "Making Out." And the '80s pop icon Prince lends vocals, production and song writing abilities to "Waiting Room." The tracks brake-beats may be too abrasive for some listeners but the vocal duet between Stefani and Prince is truly one of those great moments in pop music.

Sadly, there is little here for old No Doubt fans. Much of this album does work in its uniqueness, though one would expect a tighter sound from a band that has been together 15 years. Still, this is a daring experiment for a band that has reached the top and decided not to simply sit back and enjoy the view and for that they should be commended.

By the way, "Hey Baby" is really fun to sing along with and dance to, even if I do look silly when I do either.

Highlights include "Hey Baby," "Detective," "Hella Good" and "Waiting Room."

### RATING SCALE

☆

Avoid like the plague, leave it at the store

☆☆

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☆☆☆

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☆☆☆☆

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# FAMILY ALBUM

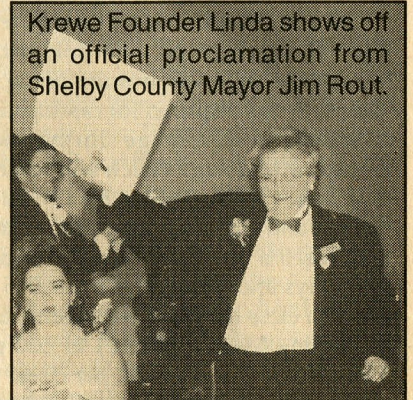
## Mystic Krewe of Memphis United's Mardi Gras Ball 2002



"Cats"



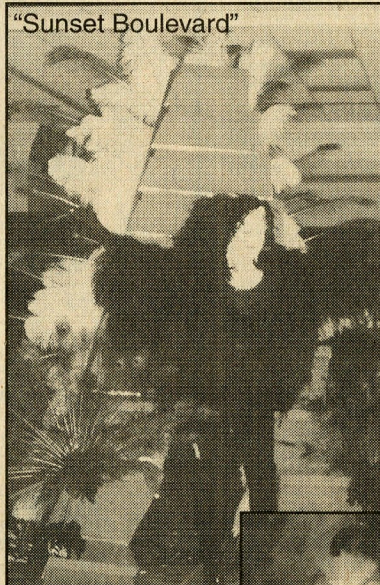
Barry carries the Krewe banner



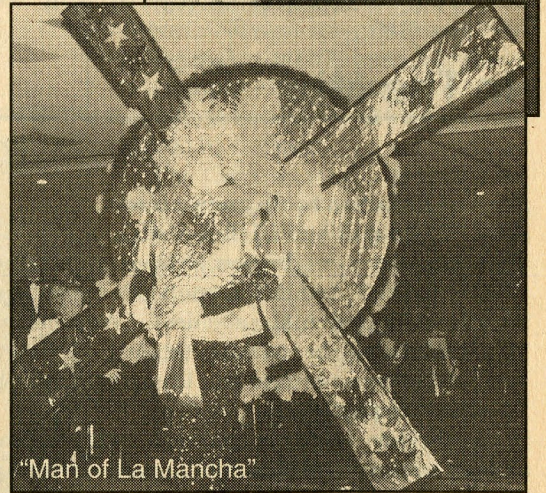
Krewe Founder Linda shows off an official proclamation from Shelby County Mayor Jim Rout.



Mama Rose of "Gypsy"



"Sunset Boulevard"



"Man of La Mancha"



Memphis Pride Inc. board members, from left, Kay, Shelia, Patty and Katie accept the Krewe's Leadership Award.



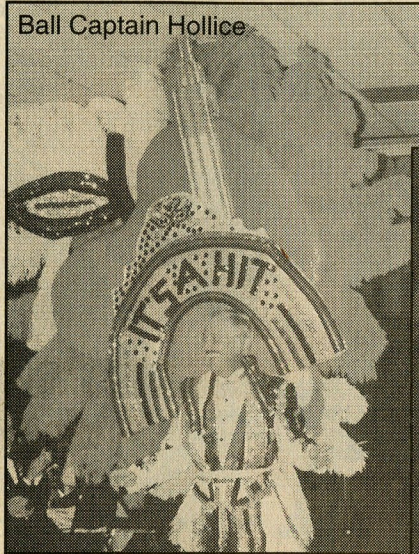
Masked debutantes



"Hello Dolly"

# FAMILY ALBUM

## Mystic Krewe of Memphis United's Mardi Gras Ball 2002



Ball Captain Hollice



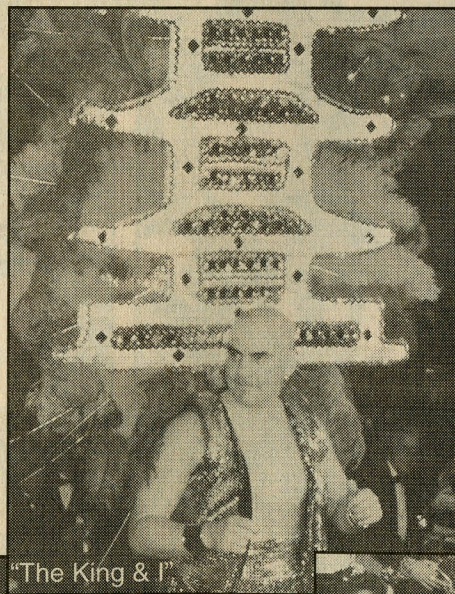
Queen and King Magique III Mary and Ed



Mike received the Krewe's Inspiration Award.



Lt. Ball Captain Cheryl



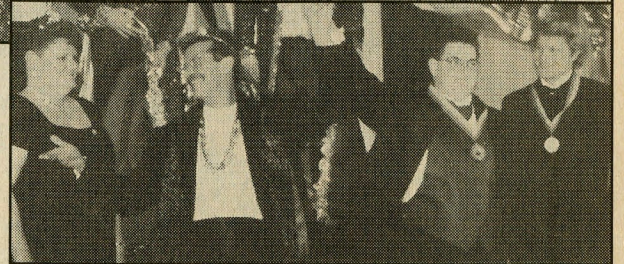
"The King & I"



"Joseph & The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat"



Queen Magique I Laura Lee Love is escorted by Stephen, left, and Gene, right.

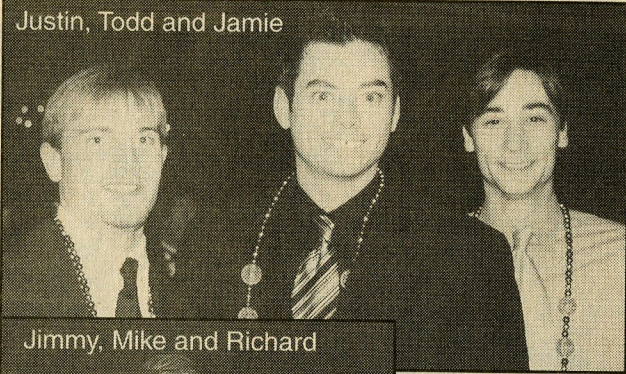


The Krewe's Closet Ball 2002 Royalty, from left, Princess Kathy, Queen Ida Claire (Jimbo), King Ricky Van Dyke (Katie) and Prince Adam.

# FAMILY ALBUM

## Mardi Gras Ball 2002 Attendees

Justin, Todd and Jamie



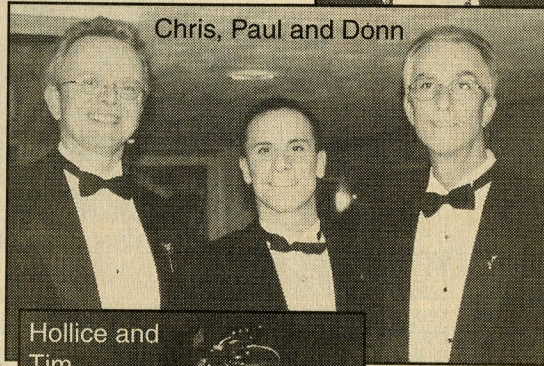
Rick, Stephen and Krewe Founder Linda



Jimmy, Mike and Richard



Chris, Paul and Donn



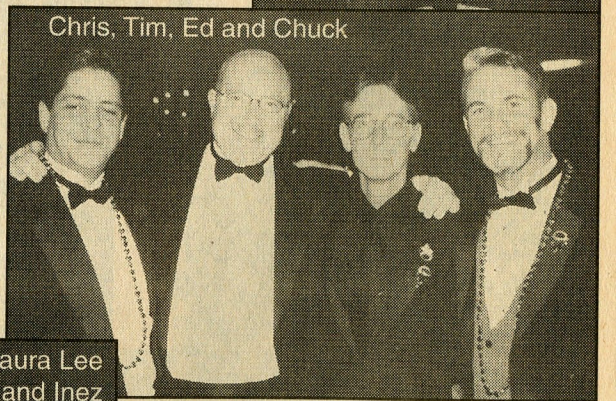
Donna and Katie



Hollice and Tim



Chris, Tim, Ed and Chuck



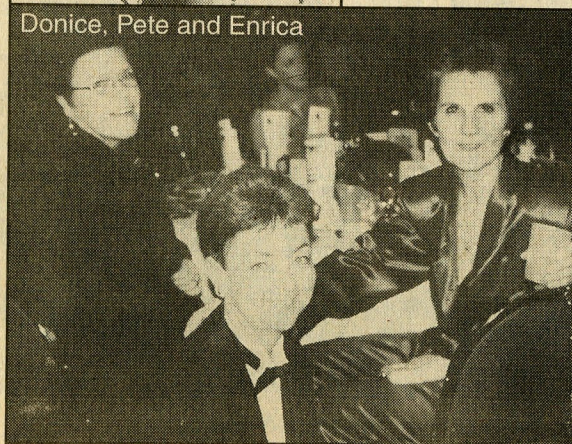
B.J. and Patti



Laura Lee Love and Inez



Donice, Pete and Enrica

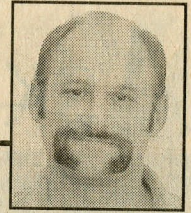


Peggy, Stephen and Julie





# QUOTE ... UNQUOTE



**By REX WOCKNER**

"Forget about taboos, forget about conservative ideas with respect to what you shouldn't tell young people about. It's the lives of young people who are put at risk by unsafe sex — and, therefore, protect yourself. ... Condoms are a way to prevent infection — and, therefore, I support their use. ... I encourage their use by young people who are sexually active. You've got to protect yourself. If you don't protect yourself, who is going to protect you?"

— U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell in an appearance on MTV, Feb. 14.

"I said to (George) Bush that I had seen the sign above the gingerbread White House that said, BEWARE OF BARNEY, which is his dog's name. I said I didn't take that personally. And he said, 'I hope not, because he peed all over the house.' I said, 'I won't do that, but I will do it on your legislation.'"

— U.S. Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.) to *The Advocate*, Feb. 5.

"What concerns Rosie (O'Donnell) is that she has three adopted children and a foster child herself and because she is gay, would not be allowed to adopt this child."

— Barbara Walters on "The View," Feb. 15. Florida prohibits gays from adopting.

"I feel sorry for (Jerry) Falwell. I'm just appalled at what he has done and the things that he has said. To me that is definitely not the way a Christian should go about it. I've been very saddened by him and his comments that he's made. He's hurt many, many people — not just the gays."

— Evangelist Tammy Faye Bakker Messner to Miami's *The Weekly News*.

"I get tired of these straight actors in gay roles who say, 'Oh, I'm really cool, and it doesn't bother me, but just so you know, I'm straight.' If it's really not an issue, then why are you talking about it?"

— Valarie Rae Miller, Original Cindy on TV's "Dark Angel," to *Girlfriends* magazine, February issue.

"If I want to hear a great voice, I'll listen to k.d. lang. My voice is not particularly appealing to me."

— Cher, to the *New York Daily*, Feb. 18.

"Dad was an Irish Catholic deacon and a Chicago homicide

detective, mom was a lay Catholic minister, and my dad had said anti-gay things in front of me when I was a child. I told them (I was gay), they cried, they got over it. And if my parents could get over it ... so can yours."

— Syndicated advice columnist Dan Savage, Feb. 1.

"People are always shocked when I say this but I never found my mother's work that homoerotic. I always found the vampires to be very asexual and the bonds between them to be emotional as opposed to carnal or physical. The vampires don't have sex. When I was younger I didn't branch out and read her erotica. I had a big block there. People ask me, 'Did her books make you gay?' and the answer is, 'No.'"

— Novelist Christopher Rice to Atlanta's *Etcetera* magazine, Feb. 1.

"Straightgaymale"

— Screen name found on America Online, in San Diego, Feb. 15.

"If marriage is essential to civilization, isn't it better to let the heathen gays partake of the institution instead of running wild doing whatever conservatives imagine they do? And you know they like imagining all that. On its web site, as examples of the gay threat, the Campaign for California's Families even posts literature unfit for family viewing. Maybe the threat of gay marriage is that gays will get boring. The sex will disappear. A big night out will be dinner at Applebee's. ... Then what will the fearful imagine while stuck in their own marriages?"

— Columnist Rob Morse, *San Francisco Chronicle*, Feb. 17.

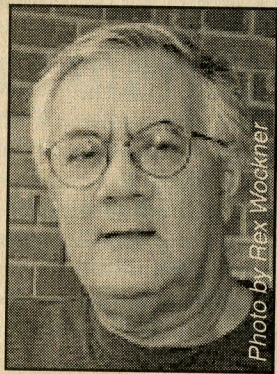
"There were people chopping up her set with an ax. I don't care what anyone says, that show has been axed — literally."

— A "studio source" in reference to Ellen DeGeneres' "The Ellen Show," as quoted by MSNBC's Jeannette Walls, Feb. 4. CBS claims the show is merely on hiatus.

"That phenomenon to me is one of my great triumphs in my career. That was a slap in the face — or a kiss on the cheek — for detractors who thought I'd only have my parents' audience and older gay opera queens. They never thought young girls would be my bread and butter."

— Openly gay singer Rufus Wainwright on his teenage-girl fan base, to the *New York Post*, Feb. 13. Wainwright's parents are folk singers Loudon Wainwright III and Kate McGarrigle.

*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.*



Openly gay U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass.

Photo by Rex Wockner

# ASK LAM



by Lam Medallion

Dear Lam,

I have been working with a fellow at my office who I am interested in getting to know better. I am not sure how to make that happen. I am his boss and feel it may get weird given our situation. Should I ask a mutual friend to mention it to him? Should I just ask him myself? I think there is mutual interest, but given that I don't really know him well, his flirtations may just be part of his personality. What should I do? It's been a while since I've been in the dating game and I'm just so confused.

**Batter Up**

Dear mix-master,

Isn't this an exciting time? Being single. Meeting a fellow, maybe a beau. Batting your lashes. Making coy remarks in the cafeteria about that zucchini just to see if it elicits a blush. Wondering how transparent it will be to use a little too much hand lotion just so you could give his hands a quick massage to extricate yourself of the excess. Giving you a reason to finally get dressed, I mean really dressed, to go to work. Putting a spring in your step and a glow in your cheek. Finding a pretext to pass his workstation. Keeping an eagle's eye on his every move and thinking quickly how to get yourself to wherever you might think he

may be going. Is it the bathroom? Is it lunchtime and is he going to the cafeteria? No, he is waiting for the elevator. Maybe he is going out to lunch. How much cash do I have on me? Perhaps I will go out to lunch, too. Maybe I can find a seat next to him in the luncheonette. Damn, the elevator came so quickly, I haven't even gotten up from my seat yet and I have to make it down that long row of cubbyholes and through those big glass doors. Would it be appropriate to yell for him to hold the elevator as I make a mad dash for it? I would have to yell pretty loud for him to hear it through those heavy glass doors. Damn, why did I have to wear these shoes today?

Oh yes, that was for him, too. So I do understand what you are saying, love.

You have a couple of choices here. I'm not so sure that asking a mutual friend is the right thing to do. If you do not get the response you are looking for, will you be able to accept the answer? Will that be putting the mutual friend in an awkward situation if she has to say it's a no go? Isn't that a little junior high school? Why don't you just pass him a note that says: "Do you like me? Check one: Yes or No."

Do you hear what I am telling you, Darling?

This is the 21st Century. The rules have changed. Of course, this means we are not quite sure what game we are playing or how to play it. Romance is a changed animal and we have yet to discover how to tame it. People find "romance" from the comfort and security of their computer terminal. And I imagine this can be a necessity in the new world in which we live. We take more and more time to do those things we have to do, robbing us of time to spend doing what our parents used to do. Social skills are waning. Social situations are disappearing. We cannot meet people the way we used to do. Friends don't gather for a cocktail party unless there is an event. I am invited to fewer and fewer dinner parties, and I host them even less. Where are singles to meet?

When I was a young woman I was flooded with offers from friends saying, "Lam, I have a fellow I want you to meet. Drop by my house on Friday around 7 o'clock for drinks," or "Lam, that fellow you were talking to at Cal's last week is simply smitten. We're throwing a dinner party on Saturday. Please come. He'll be there (wink, wink)."

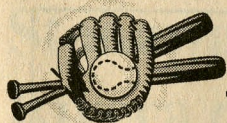
And these events would set the blood and passion coursing through my veins. Doing my hair. Choosing an outfit. Stretching my flirting muscles. Developing my conversation skills. It was all so wonderful. Where have those times gone?

They have been replaced with matchmaker.com where you can peruse the profiles of hundreds of eligible suitors from your own zip code, with parameters set by you. You can decide his age, hair color and even his finances without a glimmer of chemistry.

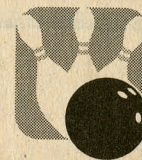
I guess what I am saying is it doesn't take a Freud or Jung to realize why you are having difficulty in getting a date with this fellow. We just don't do that anymore. My suggestion of a surefire way to get to know this comrade: throw a cocktail party next Friday night. Invite 12 people. Make a good Manhattan and some simple hor d'oeuvres and spend a little time getting to know him. And let Mother Nature take its course. Do you hear what I am telling you, darling?

Got a question for Lam? Write to Lam Medallion c/o Family & Friends, P.O. Box 771948, Memphis, TN 38177-1948 or, if you wish, email your question to FamilyMag@aol.com and use "Ask Lam" in the subject line. Lam's column is meant for entertainment purposes only.

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# SPORTS



## Bluff City Sports Association to hold signups

Want to play some ball on the field? Want to play softball again in a sports league for gays and lesbians? Perhaps you have graced the fields of the Bluff City Sports Association and again want to hit another one out of the park for the team?

Memphis's own Bluff City Sports Association is calling for men and women to sign up for the various coed teams that make up its league.

And if you just want to check out things first, or go have a good time with fellow players from years past, a "Meet and Greet" will be hosted by the association at Lilly's Dimsum

Thensome, located at 903 South Cooper, on Sunday, March 10, from 6 to 8 p.m.

At present, League Commissioner Kevin Vukovich says it looks like there will be at least six teams playing this year, including The Jungle Jocks and the Memphis Jaguars, teams that have stayed together for several seasons. Team play is scheduled to begin at the end of April.

Although the league has used the diamond in East Memphis off Clarke Road for the past several years, they are presently negotiating with the Memphis Park Commission to gain use of Guisman Park which is closer to Midtown Memphis.

Cost to join the league is approximately \$40 per person, which includes accident insurance coverage. The only other requirement of each player is "a glove and a positive attitude."

"We are trying to make (the softball league) more fun and not so competitive," Vukovich told *Family & Friends*.

For more information or to sign-up, call (901) 726-4342 or go online to [memphisgaysoftball@yahoo.com](mailto:memphisgaysoftball@yahoo.com).

## SPIT readies for tourney

After a year of fundraising and hard work, the organizers of S.P.I.T. 2002, are ready for its big, annual tournament.

The St. Patrick's Invitational Tournament 2002 (S.P.I.T.) will take place on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, March 15, 16 & 17. This is the ninth year for this IGBO-affiliated tournament.

This year's tourney will see 150 to 200 bowlers from across the U.S. and Canada compete at the Cordova Bowling Center, located at 7945 Club Center Cove. Spectators are invited to watch the action on Saturday.

Bowlers will enjoy a cocktail party and banquet on Sunday, where winners in several classes will be presented their awards.

For more information go online to [www.spit.cc](http://www.spit.cc).

## Palm Springs

from page 25

Jungle Fever, featuring a midnight performance by international dance diva Pepper Mashay; poolside party and barbecue. Splash, and The Grand Finale.

Admission varies with each event and a VIP Weekend Pass is available for \$125.

Both host hotels, The Riviera Resort and The Doral Resort, are offering special rates for the events. Also, a deluxe Dinah Executive Package, at \$499 a person, is being offered by The Doral Resort.

Detail and tickets are available online at [www.clubskirts.com](http://www.clubskirts.com), [www.girlbar.com](http://www.girlbar.com) or by calling (888) 44-DINAH.



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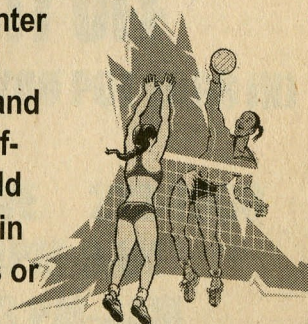
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## Stonewall vet Sylvia Rivera dies in New York

Sylvia Rivera, popularly credited as being the instigator of the Stonewall Riots, passed away Feb. 19, 2002, in New York of liver cancer.

An internationally-recognized pioneer in what became known as the "Gay Rights Movement," Rivera was one of the collection of drag queens, transsexuals and stone butch lesbians on the scene, June 27, 1969 — the fateful moment of the Stonewall Riots. Though the uprising is the subject of legend, Rivera's name was always synonymous with the catalytic moment that became history.

Rivera recounted her experiences throughout her life, throughout the world, providing an accurate picture of that historical event.

One misconception that has persisted is that Rivera was the first to throw a "stone" or "brick" at Stonewall. In actuality, it was Molotov cocktails that were thrown and she did not throw the first Molotov cocktail, but the second one instead. An unidentified "queen" threw the first.

Another misconception is that the police frisked and arrested the 'queens' from inside the Stonewall Bar. In actuality, Stonewall was strictly for gay men — the transsexuals, queens and butches were relegated to the streets outside. When police began hauling the arrested patrons outside, the collected group began verbally challenging the arresting officers — some throwing coins, not rocks.

In 1970, less than a year after the infamous Stonewall Riots, Rivera joined forces with another Stonewall veteran, the late Marsha P. Johnson, to form the group Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries (STAR). Later renamed Street Transgender Action Revolutionaries, STAR and Rivera worked tirelessly for the civil rights of transgendered and other queer people.

Across the country and around the globe, Rivera was frequently called on to address audiences of rising activists and advocates. Her firebrand demeanor was world-renowned and instrumental in galvanizing the transgender community to fight to further the cause of justice for all.

Rivera was involved in the struggle for human rights, literally, until the time of her death. She met with the leadership of the Empire State Pride Agenda (ESPA) in her hospital room just hours before her death, presenting issues of concern to the transgender community and negotiating for greater support from ESPA. She left the national GLBT community as she had begun: a true and outspoken activist who was totally committed, and who never knew the word "quit."

"I am truly saddened by Sylvia's death," said Yosenio Lewis, board chair of the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition. Lewis described Rivera as one who "provided unending inspiration and motivation to countless people through her passion and unwillingness to settle for anything less than total equality for everyone."

Likewise, Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign commented, "We are deeply saddened by the passing of Sylvia Rivera, a brave pioneer who helped pave the way for future generations of GLBT Americans. At HRC we are thankful for the indelible mark she left behind and the historic role that she played in our movement's history. We are proud to honor her enduring legacy."

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# TM to stage *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*

Winner of the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, on stage at Theatre Memphis, 630 Perkins Extended, March 15-31, is a searing, funny, salty and lyrical story set in a rundown Chicago recording studio in 1927

This dramatically-riveting play centers not on Rainey, but on the four musicians who back her up. The thread that binds the men is their experience as African-American musicians in the 1920s.

This is the first directing experience for Robert Barry Fleming, who has extensive credits in the world of film and TV as an actor and presently teaches in the theater department at The University of Memphis. He has assembled a multi-talented cast of actors to bring *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* to life: Richard D. Sharp (London West End's *Smokey Joe's Cafe*, *Carmen Jones* and *Five Guys Named Moe* and Hollywood film work in *Mission Impossible*) plays "Levee," the loose canon trumpet man who plays music prototypical of that



The cast of *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* includes Leisa Brown, El Espada Matthews, Richard D. Sharp and Barnell Williams. Photo by Steve Roberts

distinctive sound Louis Armstrong was then introducing to America; Barnell Williams (TM's *Soldier's Play*) is in the role of "Cutler," a trombone player; Elespada Matthews is "Slow Drag," the good-natured bassist; Rozelle Henderson (TM's *Soldier's Play*) is "Toledo," the well-read piano player, and Leisa Brown, a regular performer at The Center for Southern Folklore, is in the role of "Ma Rainey."

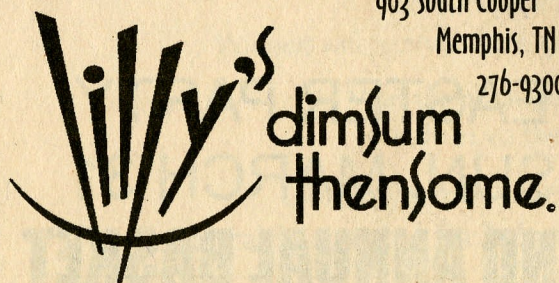
Showtimes for *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* are 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays; 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and 2 p.m. Sundays.

Tickets for adults are \$15 on weekdays and \$18 on weekends; tickets for students with valid ID are \$10 on weekdays and \$12 on weekends. The Pay-What-You-Can Night is Wednesday, March 20, at 7:30 p.m. and KidsWatch Night, when childcare is provided at the theater, is Saturday, March 16.

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

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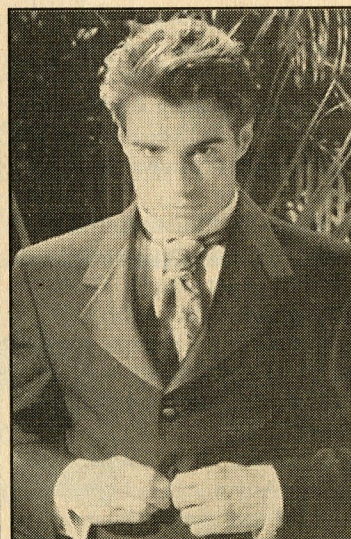
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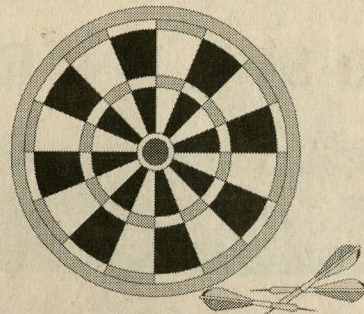
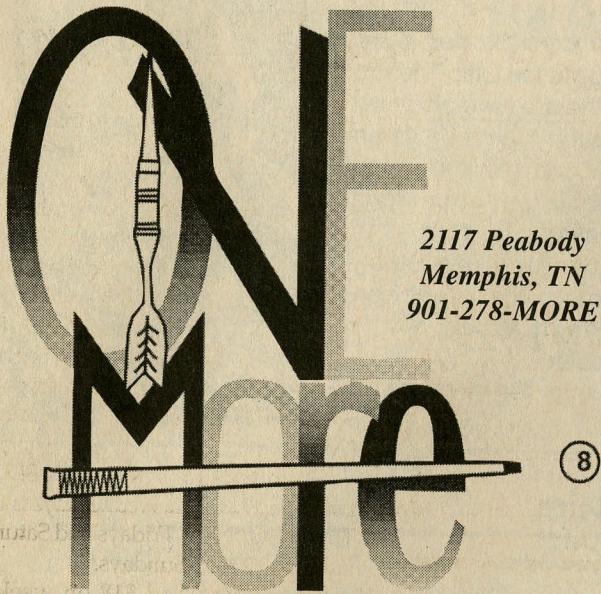


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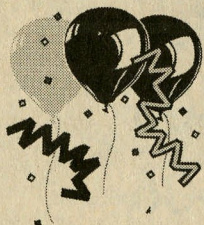
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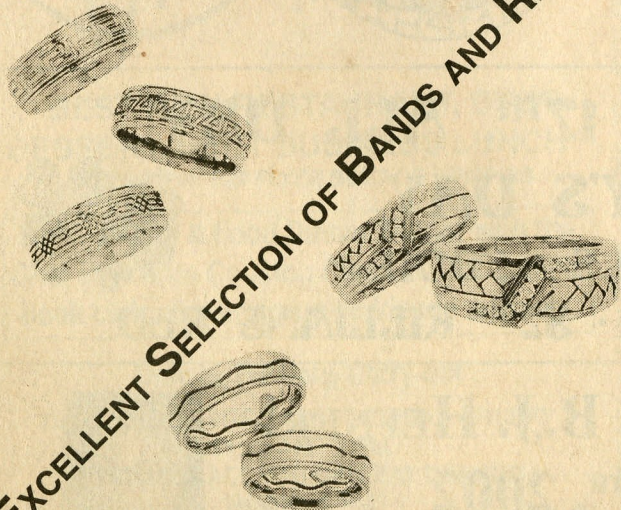
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*Collected Stories* is on stage at the Little Theatre at Theatre Memphis now through March 9. Karen Riss, top, plays a writing teacher, and Ann Marie Caskey, bottom, the student who eventually betrays her teacher. Bennett Wood is the director.

Photo by Steve Roberts.

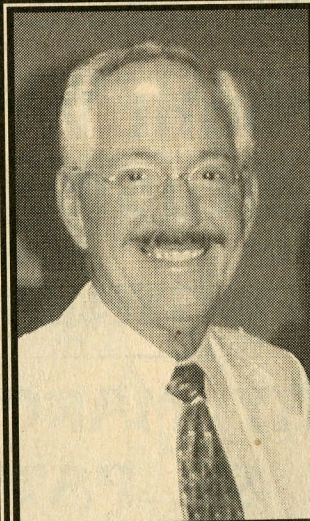


## Pride

from page 8

2002 through donations, sponsorship or vendor participation. Donations can be mailed to MPI, P.O. Box 111265, Memphis, TN 38111-1265. Requests for vendor and sponsorship packets can be obtained by calling (901) 767-2945 or emailing MPI at [MemphisPride2002@aol.com](mailto:MemphisPride2002@aol.com).

This is our Pride event; let's all join in and "Step Up & Step Out!"



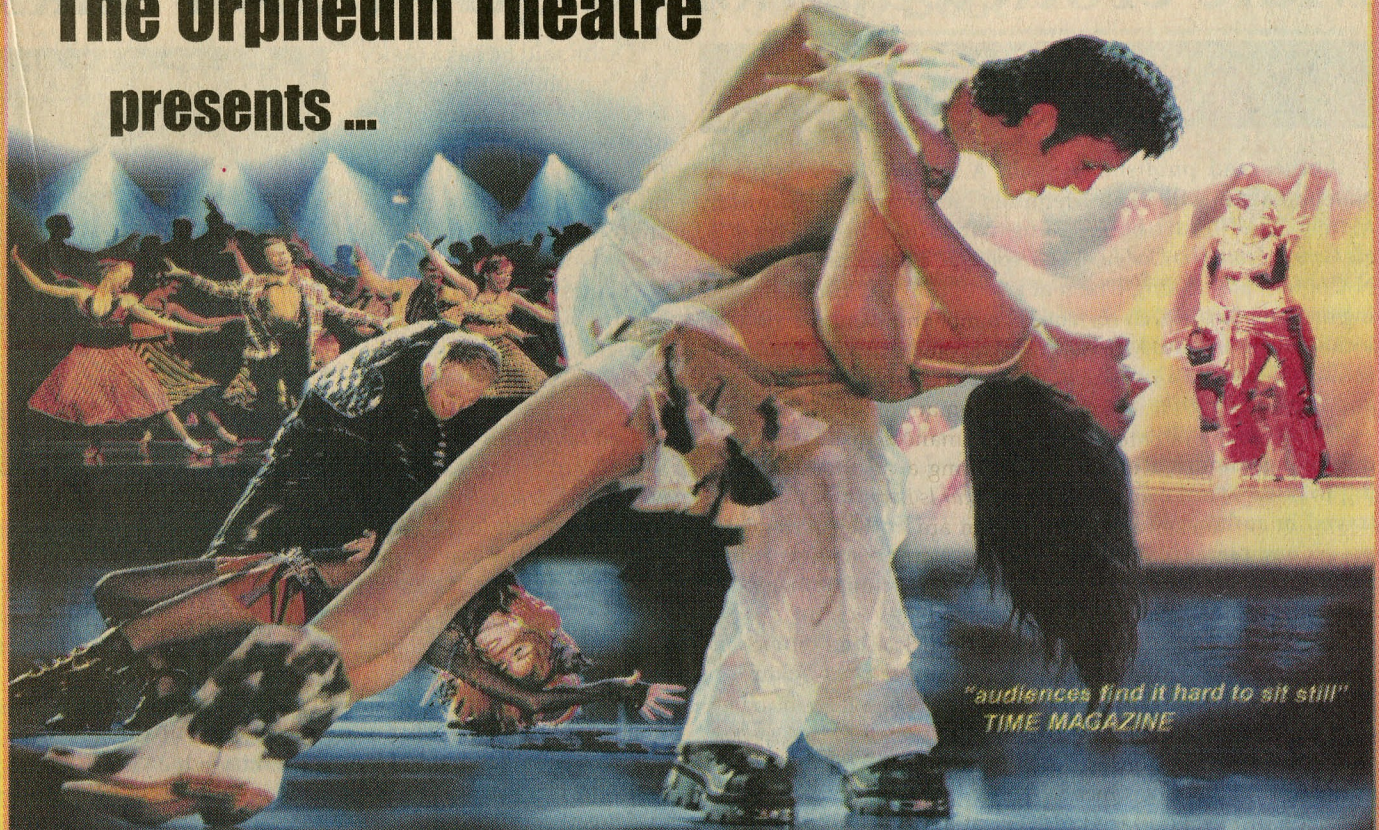
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# Male erotica author Angelo Dixon talks

BY ANITA MOYT  
MANAGING EDITOR

Author and publisher Angelo A. Dixon, 38, a native of Natchez Miss. will be in Memphis on Friday and Saturday, March 15 and 16, at a booksigning to introduce his newest title, *He Gets It From His Daddy*. "A" Triple "T" Production and Club N-Cognito are hosting Dixon at a reception and B-Boy gathering on Saturday, March 16, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Afro Books, located in Southland Mall. Dixon also will be signing his books at Club N-Cognito, located at 338 South Front Street, on Friday and Saturday nights.

"The stories I write are for the African American same-gender-loving community," Dixon told *Family & Friends*. "I'm going to always make sure the characters in my books are portrayed in an honest and positive light... I write stories about people and places in the deep South because I want the reading public to know that the Southern gay, bisexual and transgender community has it going on, too."

Dixon's other works include *Thug Passion Volumes 1-4*, *DL Brothaz: Double Life*, *Cowboy Blues*, *Last Chance For A Love Affair*, *Twin Attraction*, *Tales From DeVille*, *Battlefield Park*, *This Moment* and *2102: Alien Lover*, all published by Angelo A. Dixon Publications.

"The stories I write are fictions, but there is always a ring of truth to them," Dixon said, explaining his writing style. "I try to be authentic in the way Black people act and talk. ... I spend countless hours developing and fine-tuning these characters," he continued. "They become a part of my life.

I dream about them, talk to them and make love to them. They make sure I portray them in the most realistic light possible."

Dixon told *Family & Friends* his favorite character he has created comes from his first book.

"Probably Avery Brown (is my favorite character)," Dixon said, "from a novella called *Inner Circle*, which I wrote first (six years ago) but haven't published yet. He is based on myself and I used personal characteristics and events to create him. My second choice would be *Cowboy Blue's* Paul Tomkins. I think I kind of emulated myself and feelings from the past when I created him. ... I dealt with the emotions he (and I) had to go through in dealing with problems in his relationships with lovers and parents.

"Also, I try to write intelligent erotic love stories," Dixon continued. He said he feels people aren't truly reflected in erotica where there is only sex (because) "even the simplest of relationships involve feelings and conversations."

Dixon said he has a policy which prohibits the publication of material that glorifies or deems acceptable such things as bestiality, homophobia, rape, racism or anything "blatantly degrading to women."

"James Earl Hardy is my favorite writer," Dixon said. "His *B-Boy Blues* inspired me to write. E. Lynn Harris (*Invisible Life, Just As I Am*) is my second favorite writer."

Although lesbians have not been subjects or characters in his books so far, Dixon has been approached to use them in future works.

Most of his works are centered in, or at least make reference to, "Capital City, Miss." In fact, Dixon told *Family & Friends*, some people even ask "Where is Capital City? I want to live there."

"Capital City is patterned after Jackson, Miss., only a little smaller," he said. "It is located midway between Jackson, Miss., and Sparta, Ga., (the fictitious city which is the setting for the TV series 'In The Heat of the Night.')." In fact, Dixon is presently working on a book which will include a high school basketball game between the high schools of the two fictional cities.

Dixon said his present bestseller is the *Thug Passion* series which is sold as a set. He said originally there were two volumes, but during the years he has added two more to the continuing story dealing with both homosexuality and bisexuality. Monica Harrison is a beautiful, successful African American businesswoman and her obsessive attraction is for a handsome young thug named Omar Phipps.

Dixon is quick to praise his mother, his father and his stepfather for their support.

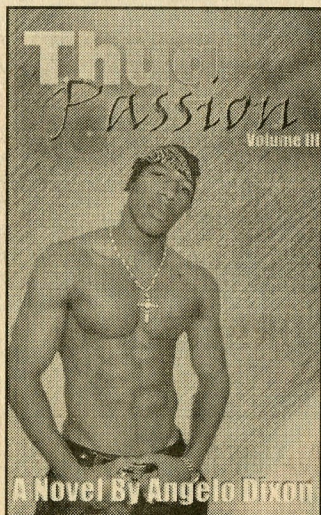
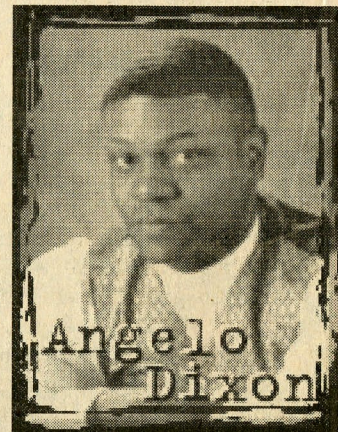
"My mother has read some of it," Dixon said. "I read some to my grandmother but none of them have read a whole book, given the subject matter. But they are still very supportive of me."

Dixon told *Family & Friends* he came out to his parents when he was 14 years old and in the ninth grade.

"My mother took it a little harder than my father," he said. "It took her longer to come around. My fathers' reaction was he always knew. (But) everybody survived and we are all here."

How was it growing up gay in Mississippi?

"I didn't have to hide, I wasn't beaten," Dixon said. "(Actually,) I had a happy childhood." He ran with two other same-gender-loving guys and they were known as "The Top Three." "All the girls and guys in school knew. There were a few people who would say some things." Dixon was graduated from North Natchez High School in 1983.



See Angelo Dixon, page 56

## Burn The Floor at Orpheum

The international dance sensation *Burn The Floor* will Waltz, ChaCha, Samba, Rumba and Swing across the stage at The Orpheum Theater, 203 South Main Street, Tuesday, March 19, through Sunday, March 24.

More than two dozen champion ballroom dancers from around the world intertwine to entertain and exhilarate their audiences. Add to that the talents of red-hot vocalist Genevieve Davis, who will perform three numbers with the dancers.

*Burn The Floor* was conceived nearly five years ago at Elton John's 50th birthday bash, where producer Harley Medcalf and his wife were guests. There John staged a phenomenal display of ballroom and Latin dance as part of his birthday entertainment for 600 of his closest friends.

Tickets, which range from \$10 to \$55, are available at the Orpheum Theater Box Office; at the Orpheum Counter at Davis-Kidd Booksellers; at all area TicketMaster locations; by calling (901) 525-3000 or (901) 743-ARTS (2787), or online at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

## Yellow Boat

from page 11

things, including umbrellas, elastic string, hula-hoops, etc., to try and capture on stage Benjamin's imagination of the world around him.

The adult cast members include Jonathon Lamer (*Most Fabulous Story Ever Told*), Louise Casini, Ben Hensley, Nora Ottley Stillman and Tasha Gwin.

Showtimes for *The Yellow Boat* are 2 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. The Pay-What-You-Can performance is set for Sunday, March 10, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$16 for adults, \$14 for seniors, students and military personnel and \$12 for children. *The Yellow Boat* is being sponsored by Loving Arms, a non-profit organization for women and children infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

For more information, or to make reservations, call The Circuit Playhouse Box Office at (901) 726-4656.

**PARTY WITH US AFTER 3 A.M. DON'T FORGET B.Y.O.B**



1268 MADISON AVE.  
(901) 725-1909



### SPRING CELEBRATION PARTY

Friday, March 22

Jimmy's 40th minus Birthday Party

8 p.m. Pool Tournament ■ Food, Prizes & Fun



### FRIDAY & SATURDAY NIGHT DRAG SHOW

SHOWTIME 3:30 A.M.

➔ MONDAY

"QUART NIGHT"/POOL TOURNAMENT • 8 PM

➔ TUESDAY

BUD & BUD LIGHT QUARTS \$3.50 6 PM TO 1 AM

➔ WEDNESDAY

"KARAOKE NIGHT" 10 PM Over 5,000 songs

➔ THURSDAY

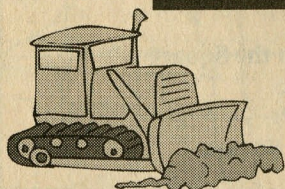
\$2 LONGNECKS 7 P.M. TO 12 A.M.

"HUMP NIGHT"

\$1.25 DOMESTIC BEER SPECIAL 9 PM TO 12 AM

DART TOURNAMENT 8 PM

**SUNDAY • MARCH 31 • EASTER BONNET CONTEST ALL DAY LONG**



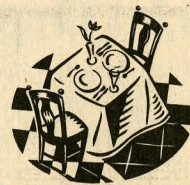
### SORRY FOR THE MESS

Construction Special  
Happy Hour Monday Through Friday

Five Beers, Five Bucks



# Memphis



## Bar & Restaurant Guide

### BARS & CLUBS

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>1</b> <b>Backstreet Memphis</b><br>2018 Court Street<br>(901) 276-5522  | <b>8</b> <b>Metro Memphis</b><br>1349 Autumn Street<br>(901) 274-8010        |
| <b>2</b> <b>Crossroads</b><br>1278 Jefferson<br>(901) 276-8078             | <b>9</b> <b>N-Cognito</b><br>338 S. Front @ Vance<br>(901) 523-0599          |
| <b>3</b> <b>Crossroads 2</b><br>111 North Claybrook<br>(901) 276-8078      | <b>10</b> <b>One More</b><br>2117 Peabody<br>(901) 278-MORE                  |
| <b>4</b> <b>J-Wags</b><br>1268 Madison Avenue<br>(901) 725-1909            | <b>11</b> <b>The Pumping Station</b><br>1382 Poplar Avenue<br>(901) 272-7600 |
| <b>5</b> <b>The Jungle</b><br>1474 Madison Avenue<br>(901) 278-4313        | <b>Memphis Muddy Waters</b><br>1379 Lamar<br>(901) 276-0027                  |
| <b>6</b> <b>Lorenz/Aftershock</b><br>1528 Madison Avenue<br>(901) 274-8272 | <b>Kennady's Sue-She Bar</b><br>1464 Bartlett Road<br>(901) 386-6096         |
| <b>7</b> <b>Madison Flame</b><br>1588 Madison Avenue<br>(901) 278-9839     |  |

For Bar Listings Outside  
Memphis, See Page 59

### RESTAURANTS

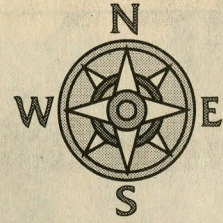
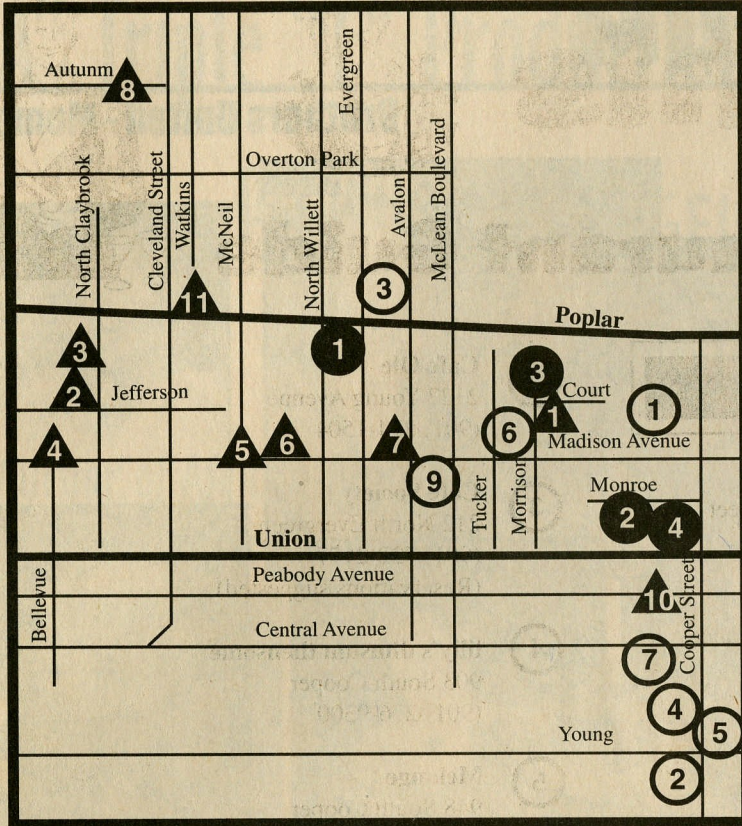
**Twain's**  
(Inside Sam's Town Tunica)  
(800) 456-0711  
(Reservations suggested)

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

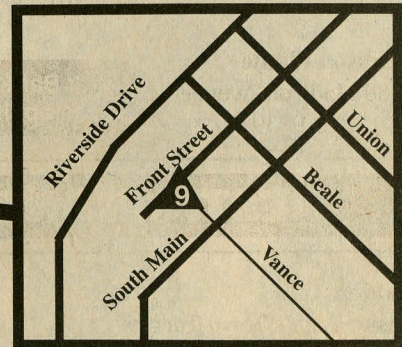
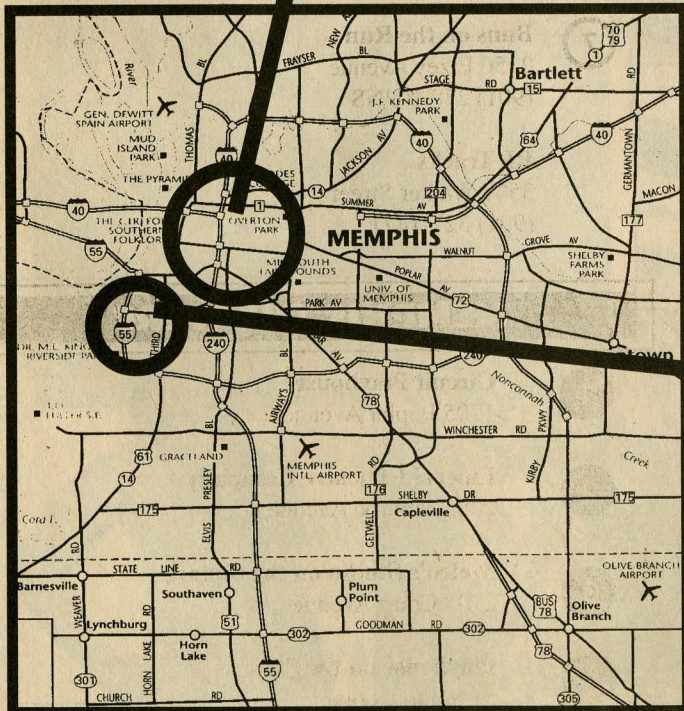
- 2** **Cafe Ole**  
2127 Young Avenue  
(901) 274-1504
- 3** **Cafe Society**  
212 North Evergreen  
(901) 722-2177  
(Reservations suggested)
- 4** **lilly's dimsum thensome**  
903 South Cooper  
(901) 276-9300
- 5** **Melange**  
948 South Cooper  
(901) 276-0002
- 6** **Molly's La Casita Mexican Restaurant**  
2006 Madison Avenue  
(901) 726-1873
- 7** **Buns on the Run**  
2150 Elzey Avenue  
(901) 278-BUNS
- RP Tracks**  
3547 Walker Street  
(901) 327-1471

### MEMPHIS THEATERS

- 1** **Circuit Playhouse**  
1705 Poplar Avenue
- 2** **Emerald Theatre Company**  
2085 Monroe Avenue
- 3** **Malco's Studio on the Square**  
2105 Court Avenue
- 4** **Playhouse on the Square**  
51 South Cooper

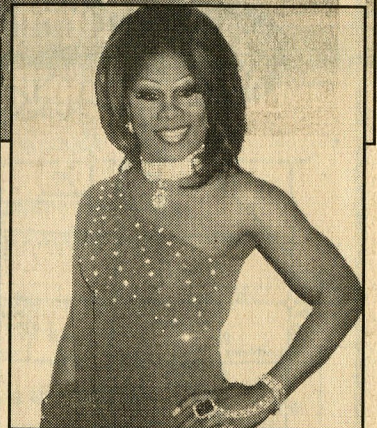
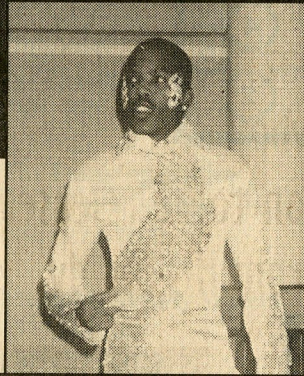
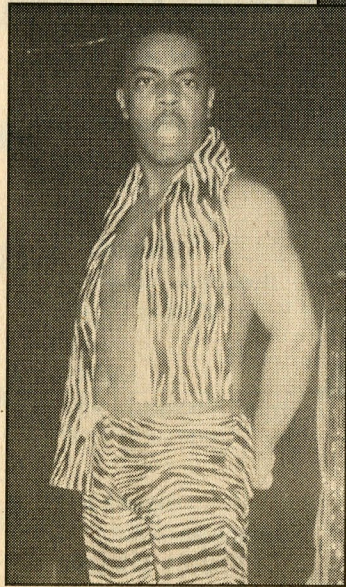
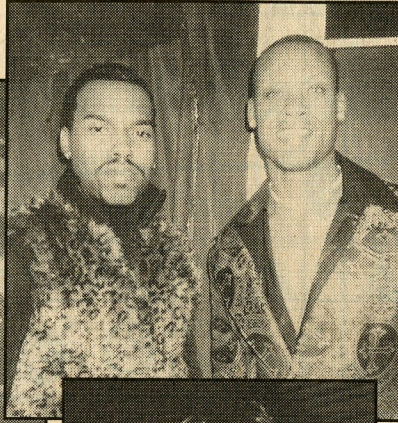


*Maps are not to scale;  
not all streets are shown.*



# FAMILY ALBUM

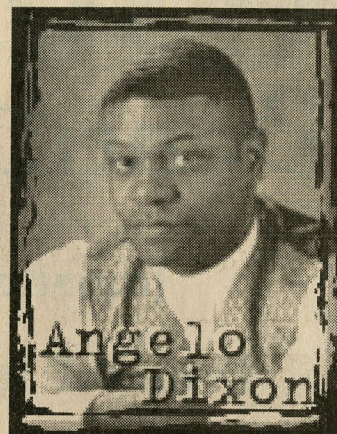
## Brothers United - Memphis



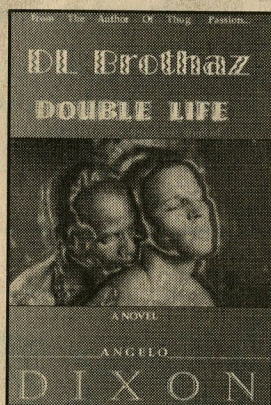
# "A" Triple "T" Production & Club N-Cognito

presents

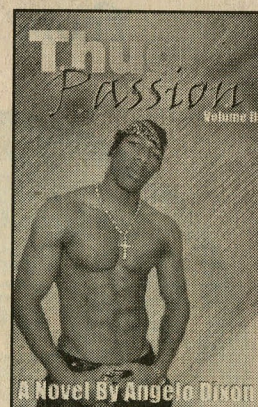
## ANGELO DIXON



Author of African-American, same-gender-loving  
erotic works including:



- Thug Passion
- DL Brothaz: Double Life
- Cowboy Blues
- And the soon-to-be-released  
He Gets It From His Daddy



**Reception & B-Boy Gathering**  
**Saturday, March 16,**  
**11 a.m. to 3 p.m.**  
**Afro Books**  
**Located in Southland Mall**

**Angelo Dixon also will sign his**  
**books at Club N-Cognito**  
**338 South Front**  
**Friday & Saturday**  
**March 15 and 16**

**CAMEO APPEARANCE AND WORK BY ARTIST "L.T."**

Sponsored by: Club N-Cognito, Brothers United of Memphis  
 Friends For Life and Family & Friends Magazine  
 For More Information Call (901) 849-2569

# Exotic Beauties...

Treasures  
Brought to You  
from Afar...



exotic collection

242 So. Cooper  
Memphis, TN 38104  
PH. (901) 272-2111

One-of-a-Kind  
Antiquities, Jewelry,  
Art, Decor, Gifts,  
Glass, Textiles, Relics,  
Apparel, Collectibles,  
and so much MORE!

## Angelo Dixon

from page 50

"I understand people's personal situations with families and churches," he said, offering his opinion of coming out. "(Coming out) is a personal choice.

"You may pretend but don't lie to yourself about it," Dixon said, offering a bit of wisdom to those young men struggling with same-sex attractions. "If you have to be on the down-low, it's okay if you have to be, but I don't agree with it. Don't think you won't act on (your homosexual desires) because you will. Be real and honest with yourself.

"If you believe in yourself and your work, go for it. Do what you have to do get your work out there," he said, offering advice to aspiring writers. He followed his own advice by publishing his own books.

Dixon's books can be purchased through the mail. For a free catalogue write to Dixon Books, P.O. Box 2093, Natchez, MS 39121, or email him at [dixonbooks@hotmail.com](mailto:dixonbooks@hotmail.com). His books also are available online at [gayblack.com](http://gayblack.com) and [blackstripe.com](http://blackstripe.com). and at OutLoud! Bookstore in Nashville, Tenn.

For more information on the book signing, call (901) 849-2569. For more information on Dixon, visit his website at [www.geocities.com/msqueen35/angelosfans.html](http://www.geocities.com/msqueen35/angelosfans.html).

# Crazy

like  
Jesus.

It's been said that we are crazy at Prescott, because of the stances we take and our proud tradition of welcoming everyone, regardless of race, sexual, or political orientation. It's been said that Jesus was crazy too and we always try to do our very best to follow Him. If you've been looking for a church that's radically different; with an active mission to explore compassion, peace, justice and the love of Christ, come see what all the craziness is about!

## Prescott Church

*Rev. Martha Brahm, Pastor*

499 Patterson St. at Mynders,  
across from U of M  
9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship  
901-327-8479  
[www.prescottchurch.org](http://www.prescottchurch.org)



# THE YELLOW BOAT



**The Circuit  
Playhouse**

**March 9 - April 7  
901-726-4656**

*Witness the celebration of the life  
of Benjamin who died at age eight  
after acquiring AIDS  
from a blood transfusion.*

**Media Sponsored by  
Loving Arms**

# ABOUT TOWN

## When You're Looking For Something To Do

### Playhouse to stage *Amadeus*

*Amadeus* takes the stage at The Playhouse on the Square, 51 South Cooper, March 15 to April 21. Set in the opulence and splendor of 18th century Vienna, at the height of opera glamour, Peter Shaffer's Tony award-winning *Amadeus* pits Court Composer Antonio Salieri (Dave Landis) against his musical-genius prodigy Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (John Maness). Showtimes are Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 and 7 p.m. (Sunday times vary.) The Pay-What-You-Can Performance is set for Wednesday, March 20, at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$22 for adults, \$18 for seniors, \$14 for students and military personnel and \$12 for children (under 18). For more information or reservations, call (901) 726-4656.

### Library to hold used book sale

The Friends of the Library will hold a book sale at the Cossitt branch library, 33 South Front Street, on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, March 7-9, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Proceeds from the sale of used books, videos, magazines, films and more will benefit the Memphis/Shelby County Public Library and Information Center. For more information, call (901) 415-2840.

### Tour Victorian Village March 9

Enjoy a guided walking tour through historic Victorian Village on Saturday, March 9, from 2 to 4 p.m. The tour begins at the Mallory-Neely carriage house, located at 652 Adams Avenue. Cost is \$9 per person and advance registration is required by calling (901) 523-1484.

### Explore caves at IMAX Theater

*Journey into Amazing Caves* is set for March 2 through June 28, at the Union Planters IMAX Theater located in the Memphis Pink Palace Museum, 3050 Central Avenue. Explore astonishing caves of all kinds, from Arkansas to the Grand Canyon, from Greenland to Mexico as Liam Neeson narrates this big-screen documentary. Tickets are \$6.50 for adults, \$6 for seniors and \$5 for children (ages three to 12). For showtimes, more information or reservations, call (901) 320-6362.

### Learn to surf Internet

Internet classes for beginners will be offered at the Cornelia Crenshaw branch library, located at 531 Vance Avenue, on Wednesday, March 13, at 10 a.m. Registration is required by calling the library at (901) 525-1643. The class also will be offered at the South branch library, 1929 South Third, on Wednesday, March 13, at 10 a.m. Registration also is required at this location by calling (901) 946-8518.

### Quilting class is scheduled

Barbara K. Gardner, award-winning quilt-maker, will conduct a seminar on the art of quilting at the Collierville Burch branch of the Memphis/Shelby County Public Libraries, 601 Poplar View Parkway, on Saturday, March 16, at 2 p.m.

### Observe heavens at Pink Palace

On Saturday, March 23, from 7 to 9 p.m., telescopes will be set up on the lawn of the Memphis Pink Palace Museum, 3050 Central Avenue, to observe the moon, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn and the constellations. Admission is free and telescopes, binoculars, blankets, picnics and lawn chairs are encouraged. Sorry, no pets, alcohol or radios are allowed and the event will be canceled if cloudy. For more information, call (901) 320-6320.

### Writer, student clash at TM

*Collected Stories*, starring Karen Riss and Ann Marie Caskey, will be on stage at Theatre Memphis's Little Theatre, 630 Perkins Extended, now through March 9. *Collected Stories* describes the relationship and times of a cantankerous writing teacher and her student. Over time, the student achieves her own success as a writer but, in doing so, jeopardizes their relationship. Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. Thursday; 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$11 for adults and \$10 for students. For tickets or more information, call (901) 682-8323.

### PF to stage *Storm in the Iron Box*

Playwright's Forum will present *Storm in the Iron Box* by Adam Kraar at Theatreworks, 2085 Monroe Avenue, behind Overton Square, March 1-2 and March 7-9. All shows are at 8 p.m. *Storm in the Iron Box* is based on the life of psychiatrist Wilhelm Reich. Having immigrated to America in 1948, Reich's main adversary is Pauline MacBridy, a young prosecutor who believes his novel sexual theories are a threat to traditional American values. Tickets, which are \$8 for adults and \$6 for students and seniors, are available by calling (901) 725-2040.

### New methods subject of exhibit

The artwork of 13 international artists will be on public display at The University of Memphis Art Museum now through April 13. This free exhibit features 18 works in a variety of media, ranging from interactive installations to web-based projects that create something new out of social situations and settings. The art museum is open Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call (901) 678-2224 or visit its website at [www.amum.org](http://www.amum.org).

# F&F RAINBOW DIRECTORY

## BARS

### MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

**BACKSTREET MEMPHIS**

2018 Court Street  
(901) 276-5522  
Fri.-Mon. 8 p.m.-6 a.m.  
www.backstreetmemphis.com

**CROSSROADS & CROSSROADS 2**

1278 Jefferson & 111 North Claybrook  
(901) 276-1882  
Noon-3 a.m., 7 Days A Week

**KENNADY'S SUE-SHE BAR**

1464 Bartlett Road  
(901) 386-6096  
Friday, 10 p.m. until ?

**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  
2 p.m.-3 a.m., 7 Days A Week

**LORENZ/AFTERSHOCK**

1528 Madison Avenue  
(901) 274-8272  
11 a.m.-3 a.m. Mon.-Sat. • noon-? Sun.

**MADISON FLAME**

1588 Madison Avenue  
(901) 278-9839  
7 p.m.-3 a.m. Wed., Fri. & Sat./5 p.m.-? Thurs.

**MEMPHIS MUDDY WATERS**

1379 Lamar Avenue  
(901) 276-0027  
9 a.m.-3 a.m., 7 days a week

**METRO MEMPHIS**

1349 Autumn Street  
(901) 274-8010  
6 p.m.-3 a.m. Tues.-Sun.

**N-COGNITO**

338 South Front @ Vance  
(901) 523-0599  
10 p.m.-3:30 a.m. Thurs. & Fri.  
10 p.m.-5 a.m. Sat./10 p.m.-3:30 a.m. Sun.

**ONE MORE**

2117 Peabody  
(901) 278-MORE (6673)  
11 a.m.-3 a.m. Mon.-Sat./noon-3 a.m. Sun.

**THE PUMPING STATION**

1382 Poplar Avenue  
(901) 272-7600  
2 p.m.-3 a.m. 7 Days A Week

### JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

**JACK & JILL'S**

3911 Northview Drive  
(601) 982-JACK (5225)  
9 p.m.-? Fri. & Sat.

**JACK'S CONSTRUCTION SITE**

425 North Mart Plaza  
(601) 362-3108  
5 p.m.-? 7 Days A Week

### TUPELO, MISSISSIPPI

**RUMORS**

637 Highway 145  
(662) 891-0761  
8 p.m. -1 a.m. Thurs. - Sat.

### JACKSON, TENNESSEE

**THE OTHER SIDE**

3883 Highway 45 North  
(901) 668-3749  
5 p.m.-midnight Sun.-Thurs.  
5 p.m.-3 a.m. Fri./7 p.m.-3 a.m. Sat.

## SOCIAL

### MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

**B.G.A.L.A.**

(University of Memphis Students for Bisexual, Gay & Lesbian Association)  
(901) 678-5719  
BGALA is a social, political and educational organization.  
www.people.memphis.edu/~bgala

**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

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

# F&F RAINBOW DIRECTORY

## SOCIAL continued

### MEMPHIS AREA GAY YOUTH (MAGY)

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

### MEMPHIS BEARS

1066 Wrenwood, Memphis, TN 38122  
(901) 323-4773

Meets the 2nd Saturday of every month at The Pumping Station, 1382 Poplar Ave., at 10 p.m. • Men Only  
Email: info@memphisbears.com  
Website: www.memphisbears.com

### MEMPHIS GAY & LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTER

P.O. Box 41074, Memphis, TN 38174  
(901) 324-GAYS (4297)  
www.memphisgayweb.org

### MEMPHIS PRIDE INC.

P.O. Box 111265, Memphis, TN 38111-1265  
Ph: (901) 327-PRIDE • email: MemphisPride2002@aol.com  
Monthly open meetings have been suspended until April 2002, at which time meetings will be held third Monday of each month at Holy Trinity Church, 3430 Summer Ave., at 7 p.m.

### MIRROR IMAGE

P.O. Box 11052, Memphis, TN 38111-0052  
A support group for trans individuals meets the 3rd Saturday of every month at 7 p.m.  
For more information and locations of meetings, write or email at memphisgroup@usa.com

### P.E.L.A.G.

(Parents, Family & Friends of Lesbians & Gays)  
(901) 754-3136  
Support meetings for parents, family and friends of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons  
email: amdrake@mem.po.com

### SUNSHINE TRAVELERS

(901) 488-4752  
Meets every other Tuesday at 7 p.m. at The Jungle, 1474 Madison Ave.

### TENNESSEE LEATHER TRIBE

(901) 357-1921  
Club nights and meetings vary; contact for info – men and women welcome  
www.tnleathertribe.org  
email: info@tnleathertribe.org

### TSARUS MEMPHIS

P.O. Box 41082, Memphis, TN 38174  
(901) 276-4132

Levi-leather club meets the 3rd Saturday of every month at The Pumping Station, 1382 Poplar Avenue, at 10 p.m. • Men Only  
Email: info@tsarus.org  
website: www.tsarus.org

## MISSISSIPPI

### GLBA OF OLE MISS

P.O. Box 3541, University, MS 38677  
(662) 915-7049  
email: glba@olemiss.edu

### GLBF

P.O. Box 233, MS State, MS 39762  
(662) 325-8241  
email: glbf@org.msstate.edu • www.msstate.edu/org/glbf

## SPORTS

### MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

#### BLUFF CITY SPORTS ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 41803, Memphis, TN 38174-1803  
(901) 726-4342 • email: memphisgaysoftball@yahoo.com  
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 5:45 p.m. at the Cordova Bowling Center

## WHOLENESS

### MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

#### FEAST FOR FRIENDS DINNER

(901) 272-0855  
Dinner is served the 1st and 3rd Monday of every month at St. John's United Methodist Church, Bellevue @ Peabody, beginning at 6 p.m.

#### INTO THE LIGHT

(an open women's Alcoholics Anonymous meeting group)  
Meets each Thursday at 5:30 p.m. at Holy Trinity Community Church, 3430 Summer Avenue. Email: kilo17@bellsouth.net

#### MEMPHIS REGIONAL PLANNED PARENTHOOD

1407 Union Avenue Extended, 3rd Floor  
(901) 725-1717  
HIV & STD testing, gynecological preventive care

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

# F&F RAINBOW DIRECTORY

## WHOLENESS continued

### MEMPHIS HIV FAMILY CARE NETWORK

880 Madison Avenue, Memphis, TN  
(901) 545-8265

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

### ORORO-CROSSROADS

(901) 743-2900

Support group for African-American, same-gender-loving men  
For information, contact James at (901) 529-9549

### THE POSITIVE LIVING CENTER

1000 South Cooper Street, Memphis, TN  
(901) 726-6022 • Tuesday-Saturday, noon to 8 p.m.

Provides opportunities for persons affected by HIV/AIDS to manage the disease in a holistic manner, free of charge.

### WELLNESS CENTER AT HTCC

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

Offers a support program for gay parents and a support program for married men dealing with sexual identity.

### YWCA ENCORE

MedPlex, 880 Madison Avenue (901) 754-4356  
Support group for lesbians with breast cancer meets every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to noon

### SERIOUS SOBER OPEN AA MEETING

(an open men & women's Alcoholics Anonymous meeting)  
Meets each Friday at 8 p.m. at Prescott Memorial Baptist Church, 499 Patterson (near The University of Memphis)  
(901) 324-9200

## SPIRITUAL

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P.O. Box 241363, Memphis, TN 38124  
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# HOROSCOPES

**Pisces (Feb. 20-March 20)** – The Sun and Moon are coming together in your sign. Put your best creative foot forward and fame and fortune could be yours. Look for new opportunities.

**Aries (March 21-April 20)** – Now is the time to consider relaxing a bit. Don't let others get you down now. Check those emails, news could help you realize your dreams and add dollars to your pocket.

**Taurus (April 21-May 21)** – If there has been something you've always wanted, wish again and it could be yours. Focus for the month is on career. Always keep your sights set high.

**Gemini (May 22-June 21)** – The time is right for possible change this month. Your career could be in for a positive twist. Keep dreaming and keep believing, dreams could become realities.

**Cancer (June 22-July 23)** – Since you are Moonchildren, keep a close eye on Moon forecasts this month, as they could guide you to new opportunities. People in far away lands could enter your life.

**Leo (July 24-Aug. 23)** – Now is the time to take stock of your financial matters. Tides are a changing, and talking with others could be your key to surviving the times.

**Virgo (Aug. 24-Sept. 23)** – The focus this month should be on personal relationships, business partnerships and interac-

tions with those close to you. If you're thinking of entertaining, go ahead, it'll be a success.

**Libra (Sept. 24-Oct. 23)** – Opportunities to advance your career will come knocking this month. Take advantage of them. Singles take note: a new love affair could be on the horizon.

**Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)** – New roads will open up for talented Scorpions. Money may not be a worry this month if you find a way to fulfill other's needs. A new love affair is possible this month.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)** – Those who are considering a real estate venture or relocating their home will find March favorable. Those in close relationships may be in for something new.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 20)** – All the elements are working in your favor this month. Focus on getting the recognition you deserve. Now is the time to consider a home-based business.

**Aquarius (Jan. 21-Feb. 19)** – Focus this month is on gaining something positive from relationships and obtaining goals. Looking for the key to success? Join a new group and you'll find it.

*Editor's Note: Horoscopes are meant for entertainment purposes only and are for the month of March 2002.*

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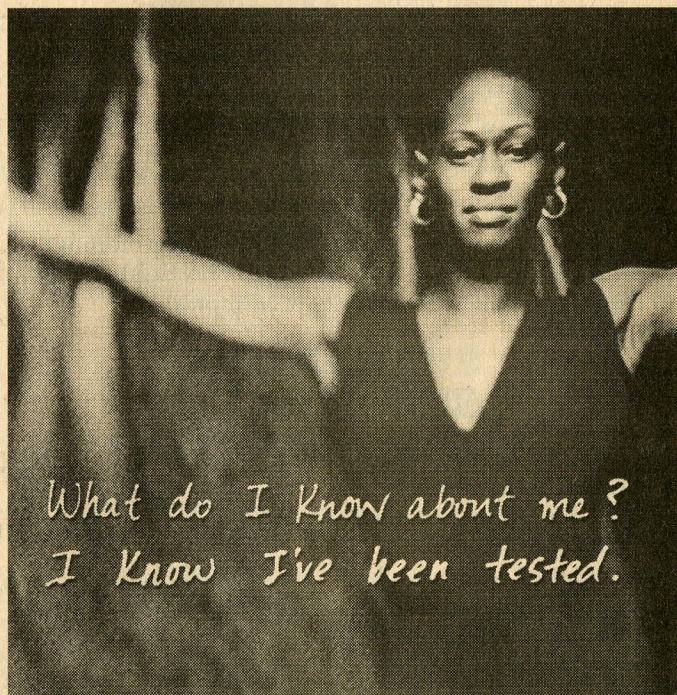
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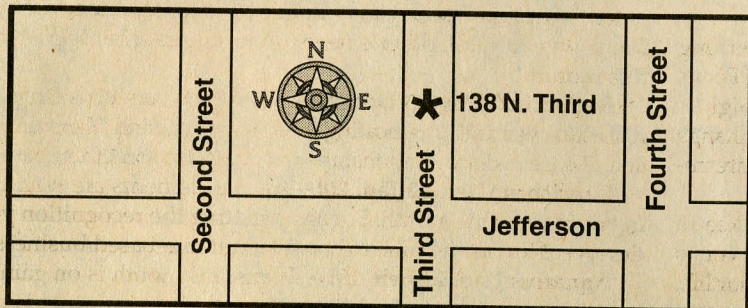
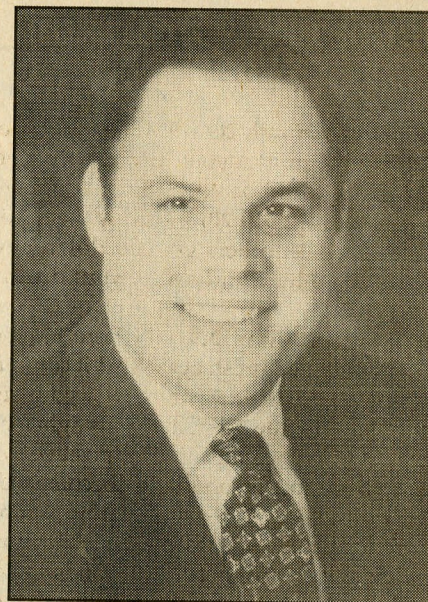


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