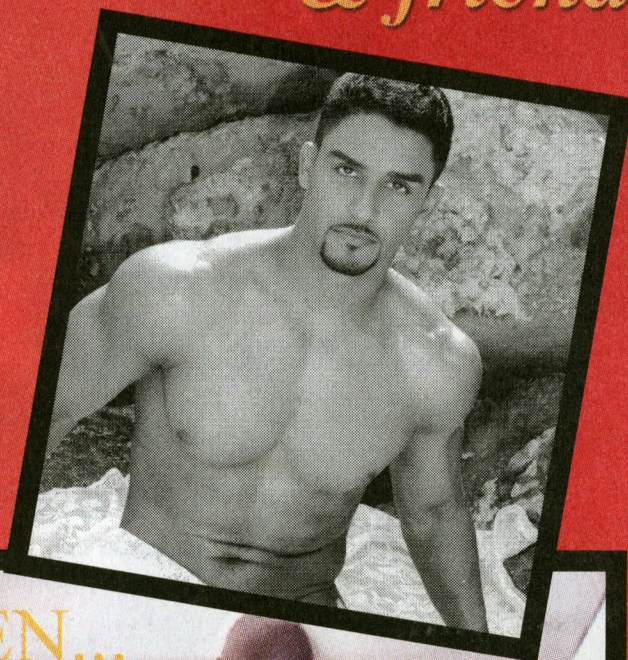
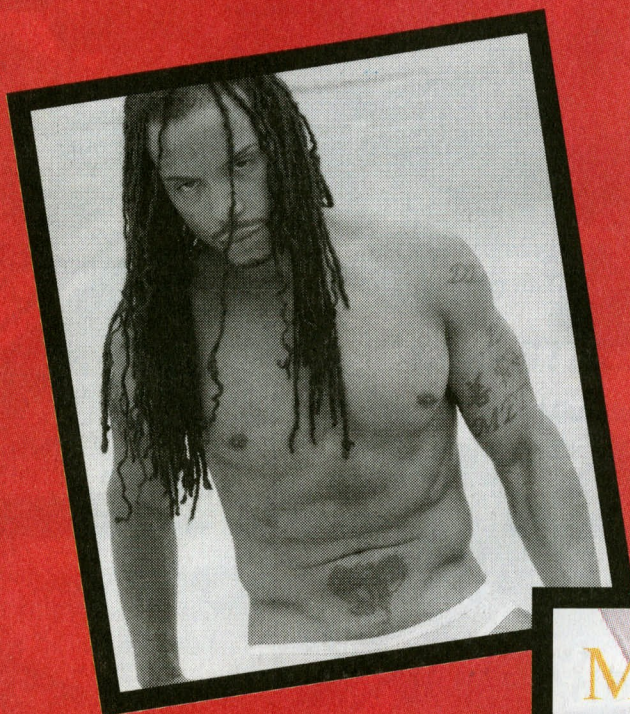


SEPTEMBER
2002

FAMILY

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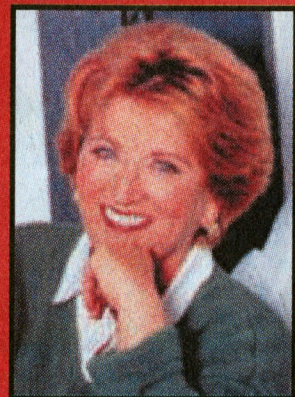


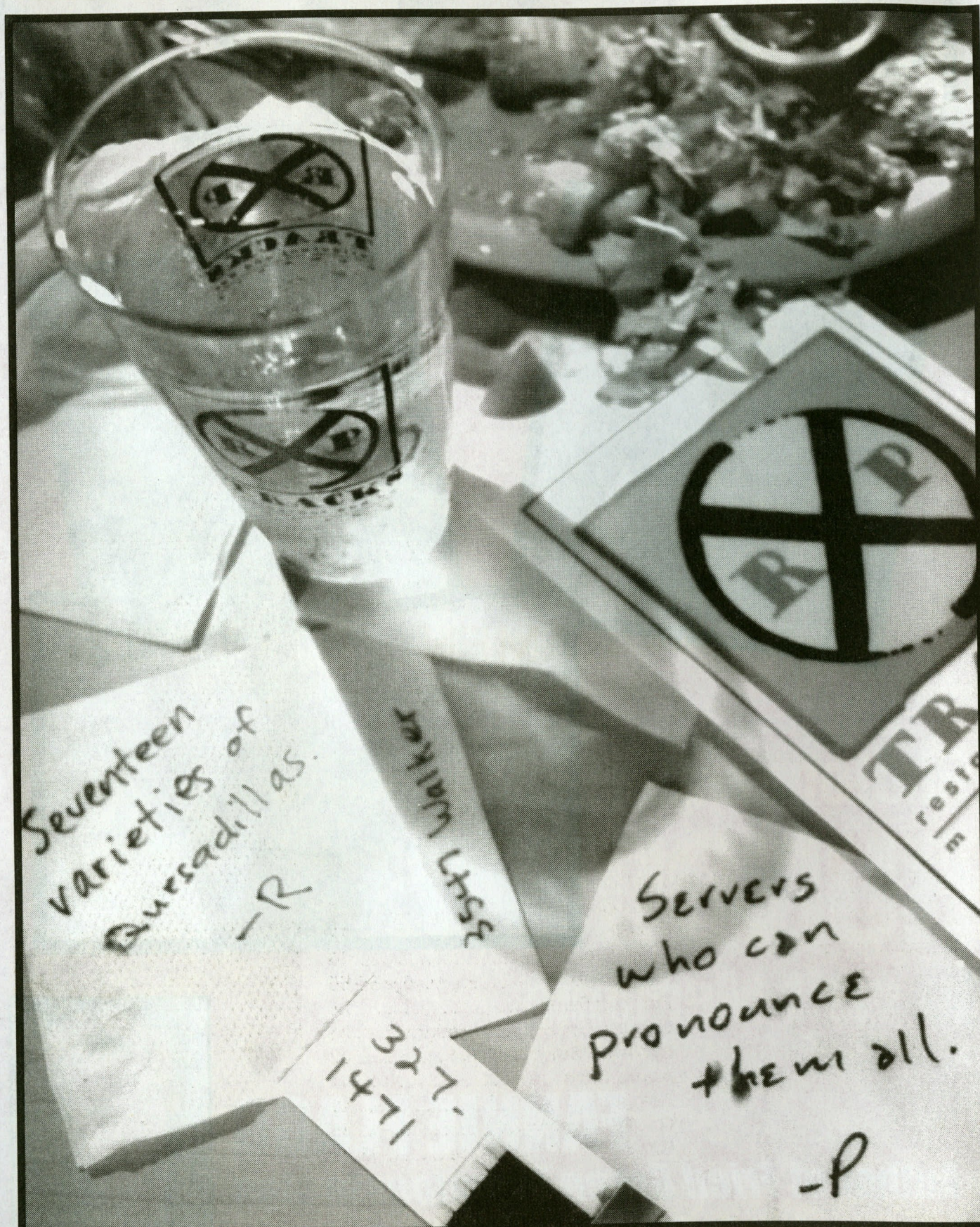
Photographer
RUNDU

to visit Memphis

FANNIE FLAGG

Author of *Fried Green Tomatoes* to sign
her new book, *Standing In The Rainbow*





VOL. 5, NO. 6



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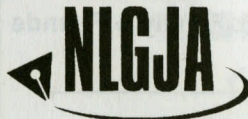
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CONTENTS

August 2002

6 FANNIE FLAGG

She's coming to town to sign her new book, *Standing In The Rainbow*

7 42nd STREET

New Yorker Mitzi Hamilton comes to Memphis to direct TM musical

10 FEAST FOR FRIENDS

With 10 years under its belt, find out why this Friends For Life program is a success

11 JAMIE ANDERSON

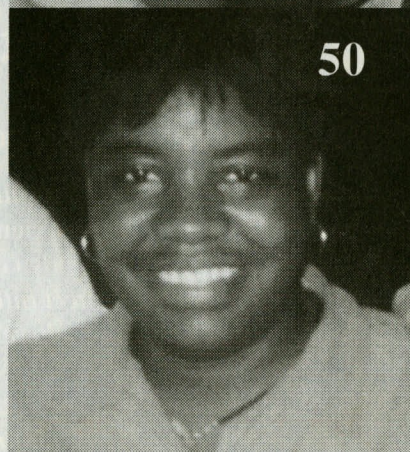
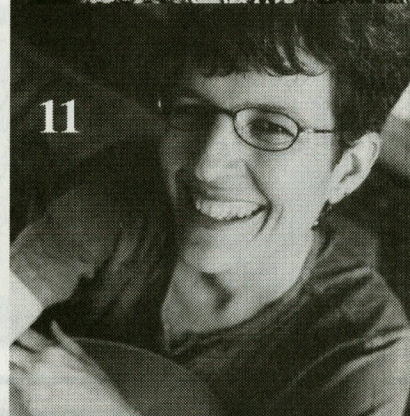
Singer, songwriter, comic to perform concert in Midtown

50 RUNDU 'STYLE'

Photographer to sign books, calendars

COLUMNS

And Our Point Is	4
Bulletin	12
In The Mix	16
Family Albums	20, 40, 51, 54-55
For Your Family	28
Straight Up, But Not Straight	34
HIV/AIDS Education 101	38
About Town	41
Ask Lam	42
Quote/Unquote	45
Bar & Restaurant Guide	46-47
What's The "Tee," Ladybug?	52
Rainbow Directory	59-61
Horoscopes	62





AND OUR POINT IS ...



RAMBLINGS FROM THE EDITORIAL STAFF

What is right and what is wrong isn't always as easy as whether something is black or white, true or false. Sometimes what is right or what is wrong depends largely on how a particular person views the situation.

This happened to us recently while coming out to a dear, dear friend.

This "friend," we'll call her Monica although that is not her real name, lives in a small town, we mean really small, less than 1,000 people in total population. Monica is a church-going Southern Baptist, which is what made it so hard to come out to her. We certainly didn't want to lose her friendship.

Anyway, one day we mustered up as much courage as we

could find, picked up the phone and called her. We chatted about her kids and the goings-on in her small hometown. Then, we finally just blurted it out, "I'm gay."

We discussed the declaration. Monica was full of questions. You know the ones: When did you know? How long have you known? Are you seeing anyone? Does so-and-so know? The list goes on.

After about an hour, we prepared to end our phone conversation when Monica said, "I'm still your friend, but I want you to know something. I still think it's a choice."

We didn't debate the issue, there just wasn't time, besides in order to present our side logically, we needed time to prepare.

However, after we got off the telephone, we started thinking about what Monica had said.

"It's a choice."

We didn't think that was accurate. Why would anyone CHOOSE to be gay? Choose to be called names? Choose to hide who we love? Choose to become a possible victim of other people's hate and homophobia?

But then, as we thought about it more and more, we began to see the truthfulness in the statement. It just depended on how you wanted to look at the statement and the situation.

We don't exactly choose to be gay, but, there are lots of things we do choose. We do choose not to live a lie. We do choose to be who we are. We do choose to openly love who we love.

Because of these things, we suppose you could say our homosexuality is a choice – we are choosing to live our lives to the fullest they can be, and if that means loving someone of the same gender, then so be it.



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Cooper Young Festival set September 14

The 15th annual Cooper Young Festival is set for Saturday, Sept. 14, beginning at 9 a.m. What began as a small gathering of those living in the historic Cooper-Young area at the intersection of Cooper Street and Young Avenue has blossomed into one of Memphis' most anticipated annual events.

Thousands are expected to return to this event, which is free to the public, where more than 250 vendors sell their wares on the blocked off streets. Concessionaires sell everything from Pronto-Pups to corn-on-the cob. Cooper-Young businesses open their doors and musicians entertain the crowd from three stages. Vendor booths are open until 7 p.m.

A children's area, hosted by Civitans, will be located next to the Memphis Literacy Council building on Cooper. Children just might see Rocky the Redbird or Jabberblabber walking around, as well.

The adventurous festival-goers might want to try the rock-climbing wall, located by the south stage.

The art work of this year's winners of the Young Artist Contest will be displayed at Java Cabana Coffeehouse on Young Ave. Awards for this contest will be announced at noon on the main stage.

Volunteers of Memphis's Ronald McDonald House will be collecting can good donations and cash donations in front of the Cooper Young Community House, located at 892 South Cooper.

The entertainment line-up includes Carla Thomas, Planet

Swan, Teresa Pate Trio, Daddy Mack Blues Band, Cooper Young Jazz Sextet, Jackie Johnson, Billy Gibson, Los Cantadores, The UofM Faculty Jazz Group, Bella Sun, Ruby's Cube, Mutant Space Bats of Doom, Critical Path, Amy Jamison, Vegas Thunder, David Evans & Jobie Kilzer and Darius.

On Friday, Sept. 13, a four-mile fun run will begin at 7 p.m. at First Congregational Church, located at 1000 South Cooper. Registration begins at 5:30 p.m. There will be a post-race party with free refreshments and entertainment by Double or Nothin' in the parking lot of the church.

...

Free HIV/AIDS education and testing will be offered at the Cooper Young Festival, on Saturday, Sept. 14, beginning at 9 a.m. Testing will be professionally provided utilizing the Ora Sure method, a noninvasive oral test that is 99.7 percent reliable in the detection of HIV/AIDS. This test does not involve blood or needles; it is a simple oral test where a special test strip is held in the mouth for approximately two minutes to absorb fluids for testing. This booth will be located next to First Congregational Church, 1000 South Cooper.

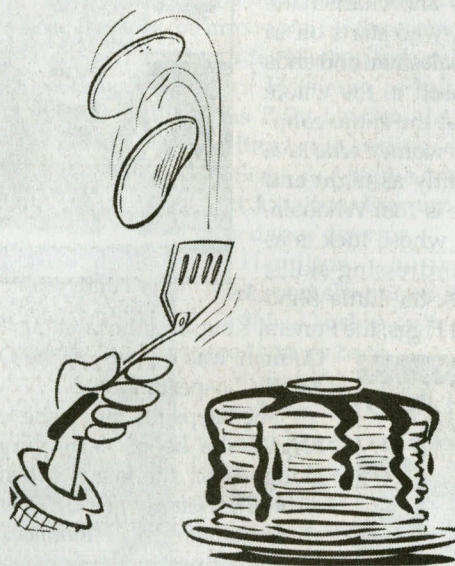
Sponsors include Agoroun Pharmaceuticals, Roche Pharmaceuticals, Friends For Life Corporation, Memphis HIV Family Care Network, Memphis and Shelby County Health Department, Memphis Regional Planned Parenthood, The Regional Medical Center and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Start your day off right. You'll flip for our breakfasts!



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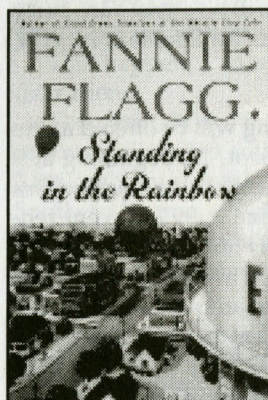
2150 Elzey Avenue, just east of Cooper
Open Monday – Friday 7am-3pm,
Saturday 7am-1pm.



Cooper-Young's meeting place

Fannie Flagg to come to Memphis to sign her newest book, *Standing In The Rainbow*

Well-known author and actress Fannie Flagg will be at Davis-Kidd Booksellers, 387 Perkins Road Extended in the Laurelwood Shopping Center, Monday, Sept. 9, beginning at noon to sign her new book.



Random House released Flagg's newest work, *Standing in the Rainbow*, in August.

Standing in the Rainbow takes the reader back to 1946, to the town of Elmwood Springs, Mo. The small country town is moving from war time to peace time, as many other small towns around the U.S. are. Hope is in the air. Once again, Flagg brings to life the small town, with her Southern-bred storytelling style.

"Along with Neighbor Dorothy, the lady with the smile in her voice," reads Flagg's website at

www.randomhouse.com/features/fannieflogg, explaining the new work, "whose daily radio broadcasts keep us delightfully informed on all the local news, we also meet Bobby, her 10-year old son, destined to live a thousand lives, most of them in his imagination; Norma and Macky Warren and their 98-year old Aunt Elner; the oddly sexy and charismatic Hamm Sparks, who starts off in life as a tractor salesman and ends up selling himself to the whole state and almost the entire country, and the two women who love him as differently as night and day. Then there is Toot Whoooten, the beautician whose luck is as bad as her hairdressing skills; Beatrice Woods, the Little Blind Songbird; Cecil Figgs, the Funeral King; and the fabulous Minnie Oatman, lead vocalist of the Oatman Family Gospel Singers.

"She keeps it simple, she keeps it bright, she keeps it moving right along – and she keeps it beloved," wrote *The New York Times Book Review* about *Standing in the Rainbow*.

Flagg's writing career began behind the scenes of television's "Candid Camera" and progressed to out-in-front as a performer and writer. Her acting achievements led to roles in motion pictures, including *Five Easy Pieces* with Jack Nicholson; *Stay*

Hungry with Jeff Bridges and Sally Field, and most recently, *Crazy in Alabama* with Melanie Griffith. For the theater in New York she did *Patio Porch* and *Come Back To The Five And Dime* Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean, and played the lead role in the Broadway musical *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*.

Her first novel, *Daisy Fay and the Miracle Man*, was on the *New York Times* bestseller list for 10 weeks.

Her second, for which she is most well-known, *Fried Green Tomatoes At The Whistle Stop Cafe*, praised by authors Harper Lee and Eudora Welty, was on the *Times* list for 36 weeks. It was made into the memorable hit movie *Fried Green Tomatoes*, starring Jessica Tandy and Memphian Kathy Bates. The screenplay, also written by Flagg, earned her the coveted Scriptor's Award and was nominated for an Academy Award and the Writer's Guild of America Screen award. Her reading of the Random House audio book received a Grammy nomination.

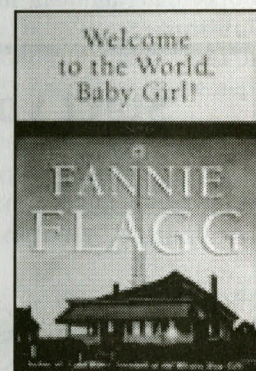
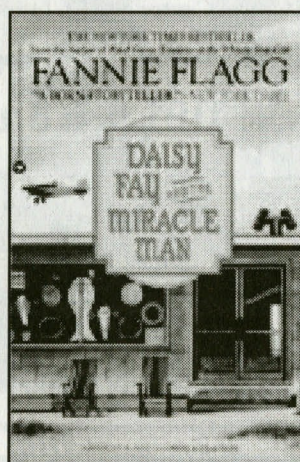
That book gave way to an even bigger success for *Welcome to the World Baby Girl!*, a *New York Times* Book of the Year.

"Usually my characters are based on a combination of four or five different people I have met or observed or heard about," Flagg said of her characters during an interview just before the release of *Welcome To The World Baby Girl*. "Idgie Threadgoode was based somewhat on my great Aunt Bess Fortenberry who owned a cafe by the railroad tracks, but the events were fiction. What is real life? I have come to believe that real life is what we want it to be. Not that I do not see the terrible things; I do ... I look for the best in people and I see it all the time. My heroes are the people, teachers, nurses, etc., who get up and go to work everyday when they would rather not. These are the ones who never complain and get the least attention."

Flagg was born in 1944, in Alabama where she continues to maintain one of two homes, the other being in California.



Fannie Flagg

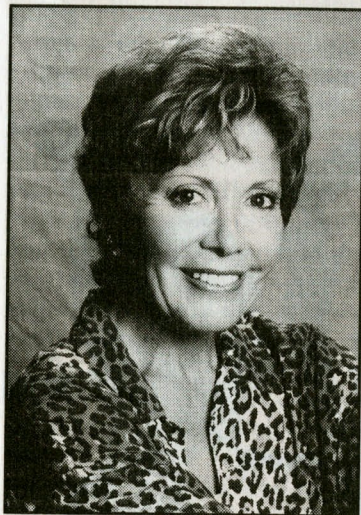


42nd Street brings Hamilton to Memphis to direct

BY ANITA MOYT, MANAGING EDITOR

Theatre Memphis, located at 630 Perkins Extended, will kick off its 2002-2003 season with *42nd Street*, on stage now through Sept. 22.

Mitzi Hamilton has returned to Memphis to direct *42nd Street*. She directed Theatre Memphis's 1999 award-winning production of *A Chorus Line*.



Mitzi Hamilton

"Both are 'backstage musicals' which tell the story behind the scenes," Hamilton told *Family & Friends*, explaining the similarities of *A Chorus Line* and *42nd Street*.

"(*42nd Street*) is about a chorus girl who gets hired to do a Broadway show," Hamilton explained, "the star breaks her ankle, and the chorus girl gets a major break by taking over the (star's) role. ... (*42nd Street*) is about never losing hope, perseverance, sticking it out.

"It does happen, but not often," Hamilton continued. "It is being at the right

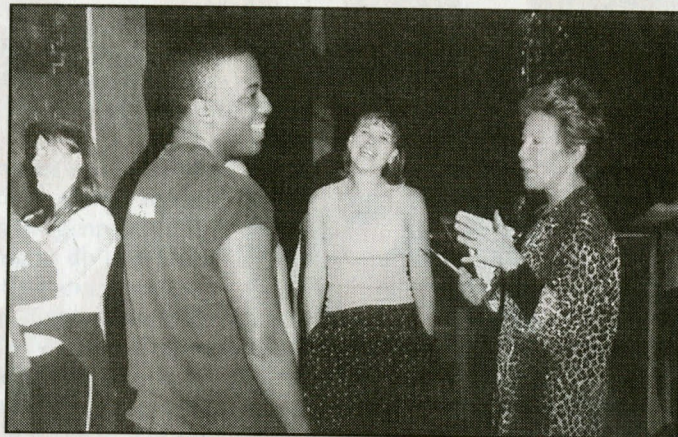
place at the right time and being prepared. ... Shirley Maclaine and Lana Turner are both real backstage stories."

42nd Street, one of the longest-running American musicals in Broadway history, won the 2001 Tony Award for Best Musical Revival and Best Actress in a Musical, as well as the Drama Desk Award and the Out Critics Circle Awards, both for Best Musical.

Hamilton said she was remaining true to the piece and not altering the script for *42nd Street*. Hamilton said she feels this piece is a tribute to director Gower Champion's work and considers Champion "a true showman."

"This group is terrific and quite talented," Hamilton said of her cast and crew, "It is a long process because of the number of dance numbers to drill and rehearse. They've done a great job and I'm proud of them. They've worked hard for (the past) six weeks. Kathy Caradine has been a tremendous help with several large dance numbers, especially 'Tap Dance.' She assisted me on *Chorus Line* as well."

Hamilton's performance credits include eight classic Broadway shows, including *Cabaret* and *Pippin*. She was featured in the original casts of *Applause*, *Seesaw*, *On The Town* (Re-



Director Mitzi Hamilton, right, discusses a scene with dancers during rehearsal.

vival), and *King of Hearts*. Her directing credits include *Damn Yankees*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Gypsy*, *Sweet Charity* and *Evita*. She co-choreographed *7 Brides for 7 Brothers*, and received the Connecticut Critics Circle Award for Best Choreography 1997. Her television credits include *Dames At Sea* with Ann Margaret and *Once Upon A Mattress* with Carol Burnett.

What is Hamilton's favorite work so far?

"*A Chorus Line*," she replied. "Because I was involved from the beginning and my story (became) part of it and (thus) became part of Broadway history."

Hamilton was a member of the original London Company of Michael Bennett's *A Chorus Line*, about the over-dedicated, under-paid, highly-trained, unsung hoofers of the American Musical Theatre who back up the stars and make them shine. It was Hamilton's real-life story that was the inspiration for the character "Val."

The *42nd Street* cast includes Misty Clark as Peggy Sawyer, a new actress in town; Kent Fleshman as Julian Marsh, the director; Stuart Williams as Billy Lawlor, the leading man; Rachel Mitchell as Dorothy Brock, the leading lady; Bill Burtch as Bert Barry and Juliana Starr as Maggie Jones, the play's writers and producers, and Jonathan Russum as Andy Lee, the dance director.

Hamilton, who resides in New York, said she misses it.

"New York is quite different; I am ready to go back.

"Yes, I'd return to Memphis," Hamilton said, explaining that she would like to continue to work in the city. She said she would like to do a Sondheim or a Fosse musical next.

Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$15 for students with valid ID. Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays; 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and 2 p.m. Sundays.

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



42nd Street cast members include, from left, Misty Clark, Kent Fleshman, Rachel Mitchell and Stuart Williams. Photo by Steve Roberts

42nd Street

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The Lion in Winter

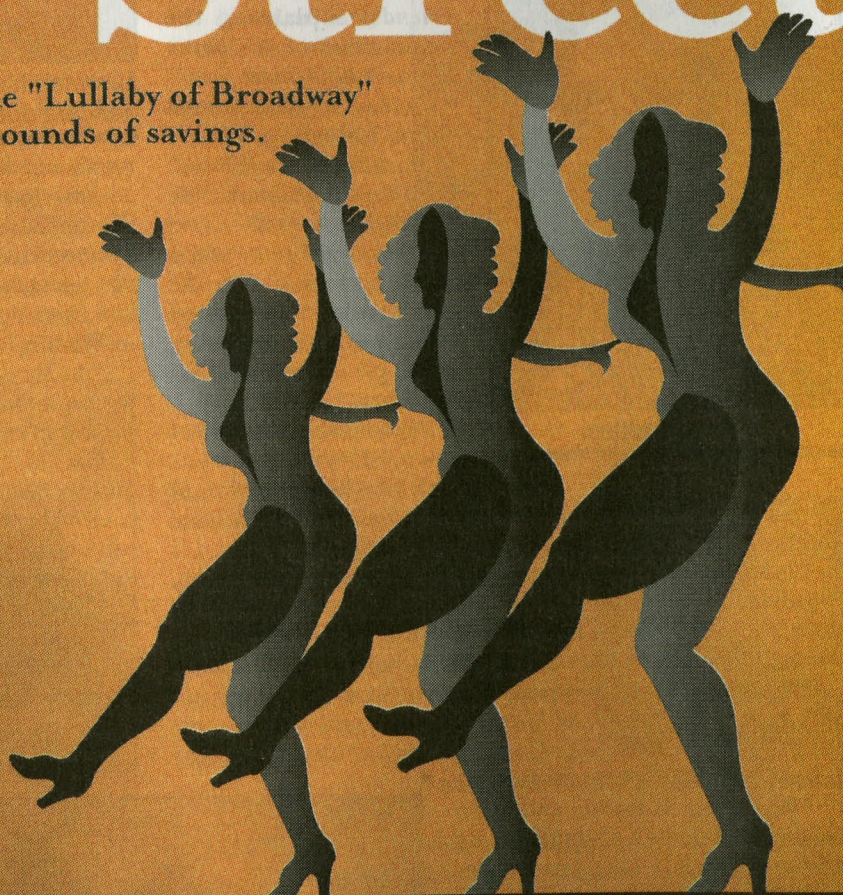
By James Goldman

The Fantasticks

Book and lyrics by Tom Jones
Music by Harvey Schmidt

Morning's at Seven

By Paul Osborn



Act now, 682-8323.



THEATRE MEMPHIS

THE CITY'S STORIED STAGE

Dave Stringer to perform at First Congo

Dave Stringer will perform at First Congregational Church, 1000 South Cooper, on Thursday, Sept. 19, at 7 p.m.

Stringer performs a unique style of music known as "kirtan," from the Sanskrit word for "singing."

"Kirtan is a style of chanting originating in East India and is one of the world's oldest forms of popular and spiritual music," Stringer's website at www.davestringer.com noted. The chanting of two different groups results in a rhythm and a sense of unity. The chanting is often accompanied by instruments, clapping and dancing.

"This simple use of the human voice has an amazing capacity to put us in touch with our inner-most selves. Chanting empties your mind and frees your heart," the website read.

Stringer first started chanting when a Columbia Pictures film-editing project brought him to the ashram of Swami Muktananda at Ganeshpuri, India. Initially trained

as a visual artist and as a jazz musician, Stringer developed as a kirtan singer under the guidance of Swami Chidvilasananda.

Stringer, a spontaneous and articulate speaker, also has both produced and recorded with others in the genre.

"What we're trying to do is involve people in a collective experience," Stringer responded in an interview with Robert Downes of the *Northern Express* of Traverse City, Mich. "When you go to a rock concert, the intent is to get everyone focused on one thing and the challenge to the performer is to maintain that focus. But in a chant there is no performer."

Stringer's debut release, *Brink*, a mosaic of original English songs and Sanskrit chants, was released Aug. 13, and will be available for purchase at the event and at area record stores.

Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$18 at the door. Stringer's appearance in Memphis is sponsored by Yoga From The Heart.



Dave Stringer

For more information or tickets call (901) 276-9174 or go online to www.yogamemphis.com.

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de-vi-ate ('dE-vE-"At) adj. :
departing significantly from
the behavioral norms of a
particular society

Feast For Friends notes 10th anniversary

BY ANITA MOYT, MANAGING EDITOR

Feast For Friends (FFF), a bi-monthly program of Friends For Life Corporation (FFL), which offers a warm meal and fellowship to persons infected by HIV/AIDS and their caregivers, celebrated its 10th anniversary on Monday, Aug. 19. The anniversary dinner was held at St. John's United Methodist Church, located at Bellevue and Peabody, where Feast For Friends has been since its inception.

At that anniversary meal were two individuals in particular, Martha Bowers and Ed Brandon.

"There are a core group of volunteers that were with the program when it started," Brandon, Feast For Friends program director, told *Family & Friends*. "One is Nancy Fletcher; she has been with it since the beginning. Martha, Darrell (Bowers) and Derick Moore are the three that got (the program) going (in 1992)."

"My son's buddy told him about one that was in Atlanta," Martha told *Family & Friends*, "and he thought it was pretty neat and he started in trying to get one here. He went to several churches. Friends For Life, (where Darrell was a volunteer), had moved its offices to St. John's on the third floor, so he got to know the pastor at St. John's and he asked him about it. (The pastor) told (Darrell) to write a proposal and bring it to him and he would go to the church council with it. The council approved it and we started having the dinners there."

Martha said she was quickly delegated to kitchen responsibilities.

"When (Darrell) started (Feast For Friends), we started hav-

ing meetings and I started going to the meetings," Martha continued. "He told them I would be over the kitchen. (Darrell) would work in the kitchen till (I) got off work and then (I) would take over."

Martha explained that meat for the first dinner was provided by her employer, a food distributor, and a friend of Darrell's brought leftover vegetables from a nursing home he worked at. Eventually, food was donated by MIFA's Roundup program, which collects prepared food donated by area restaurants and delivers it to various hot-meal programs throughout the city.

"We were given big trays of food," Martha remembered. "We never knew what we had until Monday afternoon. We were to serve it that night. We had to think on our feet and be very creative." Because of the various foods that might be delivered by Roundup, diners had several choices of dinners to choose from.

Darrell lived one year after the program started.

"I wanted to continue it and keep it going," Martha said. "I continued to go and continued to work in the kitchen." And she has to this day.

Ed Brandon has been FFF's program director since 1994.

"I started in 1994 as a volunteer at FFL," Brandon said. "When Darrell died, a staff member took over Feast For Friends but he didn't know a lot about it. (Quite often), I would make casseroles and bring them to the office. (Then Executive Director) Michael Coleman asked me how I would like to take over the program." And he did.

"I knew Darrell ... we were acquaintances. (Some say) I look quite a bit like him — blond hair, same size," Brandon added.

Brandon decided it would be best to quit using Roundup food and begin preparing the food in the church's kitchen.

"(With) the change from Roundup ... everybody gets the same (meal) which made it a lot easier to do," Brandon explained. "In 1994, we started making food from scratch. We changed from using canned goods; we started buying fresh produce and fresh meats. Instead of making it kinda institutionalized, we made it like home-cooking. We try to diversify the menus a little bit and be creative. That's where Glenn (Jones) came in and helped. He had a lot of restaurant experience. Between he and I, we came up with a lot of menus to go with the seasons. We have (traditional) Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners, plus Mardi Gras, Valentine's Day and Cinco De Mayo dinners, among others."

In the winter months, FFF prepares from 60 to 100 plates of food



Feast For Friends volunteers, from left, Martha Bowers, Ed Brandon and Nancy Fletcher.

See Feast, page 26

Singer, songwriter Jamie Anderson to perform in Memphis

The acclaimed folk singer, songwriter and comic Jamie Anderson will perform one show at Otherlands Coffee Bar, located at 641 South Cooper, on Saturday, Sept. 7, at 8 p.m.

Touring since 1987, Anderson has entertained in hundreds of coffeehouses, concert halls, and at music festivals and pride events across the U.S.

Anderson is known for her unique yet memorable lyrics, from serious to hilarious, as well as her stage presence.

"Witty, charming and sometimes topical, Anderson can run you through the entire gamut of emotions in one show," her website at www.jamieanderson.com read, "guiding listeners through the joy of families ("Forever Family"), the pleasure of love ("I Wanna Drive"), pride ("When They Know Who We Are") and a good reason why you should never break up with a songwriter ("I Miss The Dog (More Than I Miss You)). ... Her offbeat song intros and stories help keep the performance fun."

Anderson, whose father was a country musician, taught herself to play guitar when she was in high school. When Anderson is not touring, she teaches songwriting at Duke and other places. She also is featured in *Songwriting and the Guitar*, published by String Letter Publishing.

Anderson has seven recordings to her credit, including the most recently released CD, *Listen*.

Tickets are \$10 per person at the door.

For more information, go online to www.jamieanderson.com or www.mp3.com/jamieanderson.



Jamie Anderson

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BULLETIN

We understand the MYSTIC KREWE OF MEMPHIS UNITED (MU) netted \$300 at its annual fish fry held in August. MU will be holding many more events in the coming months as funds are gathered to put on its 4th Annual Mardi Gras Ball in 2003. At that ball, a collection will be taken for the selected benefactor organization.

IT WAS BOUND TO HAPPEN. What goes along better with the right to marry, but the right to divorce. According to a story in the *Boston Globe* on Aug. 2, Attorney JOSEPH BARRI, a "champion of marriage rights for same-sex couples, is fighting to deny those rights to his ex-partner in a longtime relationship in a bitter court battle..." And, in another story, by Beth Shapiro of 365Gay.com, two men from Connecticut are having difficulty in dissolving their "partnership union" which they entered into in Vermont in 2000. Because Connecticut doesn't recognize Vermont's "partnership union" law it cannot act on the men's request. And Vermont's courts cannot help out either; its "partnership union" law requires at least one partner to be a resident of the state in order to dissolve the union.

THE NEW YORK OBSERVER reported in July that HBO canceled a DOCUMENTARY about five gay men sharing a summer house on Fire Island. It seems some of the folks living and visiting the community did not want to be outed by the filmmakers.

President Bush is supporting "ABSTINENCE-ONLY" sex education programs for adolescents. Some people question if "just say no" is a valid approach to reduce STD's and unwanted pregnancies in teenagers. Believing that safe-sex techniques should also be taught, one such group has made a thought-provoking website at WWW.ADVOCATESFORYOUTH.ORG/PETITION.

GOOD LUCK to the YOUNG AVENUE DELI HOMEWRECKERS, THE JAGUARS and THE BUSHWACKERS as they participate in Nashville's MUSIC CITY CLASSIC SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT the weekend of Sept. 14 and 15.

VINCENT ASTOR is appearing in *Seventy Girls Seventy* on

stage now through Sept. 22, at the GERMANTOWN COMMUNITY THEATRE, located at 3037 Forest Hill-Irene Road. Astor told *Family & Friends* he plays "the second oldest chorus boy" in this production. "Thank God! I'm finally in a play I can take my mother, to," he said. For more information, call the theater box office at (901) 754-2680.

MAC PRODUCTIONS will present THE MR. ESQUIRE PAGEANT, for male impersonators, on Sunday, Oct. 13, at The Outer Limits Night Club, located at 3760 Nolensville Pike in Nashville, Tenn. For more information about either entering or attending the pageant, write Mac Productions, P.O. Box 70603, Nashville, TN 37207-0603, call (615) 402-1479 or email macproductionspageant@yahoo.com.

Wanna bowl? THE BROTHERS & SISTERS BOWLING LEAGUE will begin its 17th season on Sunday, Sept. 8, at 6 p.m., at the Cordova Bowling Center, located at 7945 Club Center Cove in Cordova, just off Germantown Parkway near Dexter Road. The league features four-person teams of any gender mix and will bowl a 29-week schedule, weekly each Sunday, beginning at 6 p.m. For more information, call Tony Matrics at (901) 722-5236 or email MemphisGayBowlin@aol.com.

Have you heard about the new restaurant in Cooper-Young? We've heard several good reports on THE BEAUTY SHOP, a fine dining establishment with some most unusual decor.

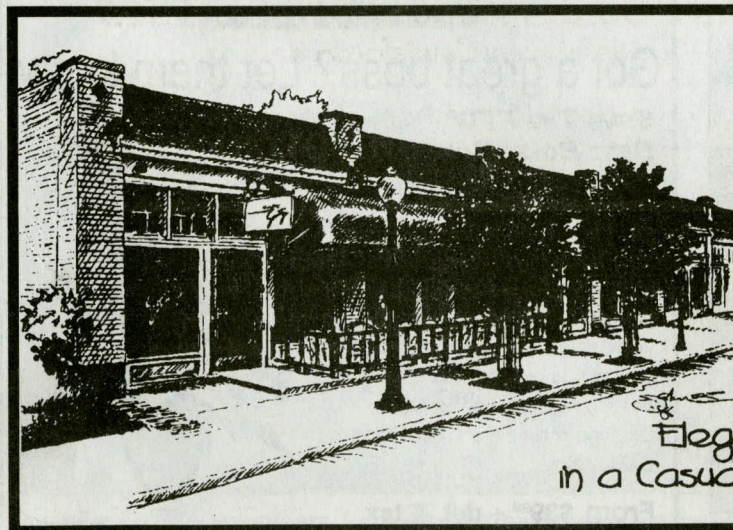
Congratulations to ANTHONY HARDAWAY on being invited to FIRE & INK: A WRITERS FESTIVAL FOR GLBT PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT, set in Chicago, Ill., Sept. 19 to 22, as a panelist.

On Aug. 18, the NEW YORK TIMES announced it would include SAME-SEX UNION ANNOUNCEMENTS in its paper. "In making this change," said Howell Raines, executive editor of *The Times*, "we acknowledge the newsworthiness of a growing and visible trend in society toward public celebrations of commitment by gay and lesbian couples ..."

Comedian VICKI SHAW will perform two shows at CASABLANCA on Saturday, Sept. 14, at 8 and 10 p.m. Shaw returns to Memphis for this fundraiser hosted by St. Patrick's Invitational (Bowling) Tournament. Tickets are \$15 in advance at Inz & Outz, 553 South Cooper.

Can you picture GLBT community icon B.J. HEFNER pushing a shopping cart filled to the brim with her belongings? Well, according to Hefner, that is what is going to happen if she can't find someplace to live. Apparently, the duplex where she was living finally sold and last month she was given notice to move. Hefner is looking for either a roommate (how 'bout it Jones?) or for an apartment she can rent in Midtown in the \$400 range. Of course, any place she moves MUST be handicap accessible. We also understand that Hefner has found her keys, her car keys, that is.

If you've got a commitment ceremony announcement you would like us to run, send it in.



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2nd Mississippi LGBT Summit slated

"Coming Out to Common Ground," the 2nd annual Mississippi Statewide Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Summit, is set for the weekend of Oct. 11 to 13, at Camp Sister Spirit in Ovett, Miss.

Co-sponsored by Equality Mississippi, Camp Sister Spirit; the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Association (GLBA) of Ole Miss; Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals and Friends (GLBF) of Mississippi State University, and the Gay/Straight Alliance (GSA) of the University of Southern Mississippi, the summit is held annually to bring LGBT Mississippians and their allies together to solve common problems and promote progress in the struggle for equal rights within the state.

"The summit is our way of bringing together LGBT persons in Mississippi, and our friends and allies, to discuss and work towards common goals of reaching equality for our community in Mississippi," said Equality Mississippi Executive Director Jody Renaldo. "We've stepped up to the front of the line with few other statewide LGBT activist organizations around the nation by starting these summits.

"Bigger, older state LGBT activist organizations around the nation don't do this and we are proud of our accomplishments and achievements that have come from the summits so far," Renaldo continued. "The summits have yielded positive results for us in the past and we hope it will produce even more of the same in the future.

"The summits are unique in that they have a two-fold mission," he continued. "One mission is to provide a way for the Mississippi LGBT community, each individual, to get involved and have a say in the LGBT equality process rather than leaving it up to organizations alone. The second mission is to provide a time when we can come together to celebrate and enjoy fellowship with other people who are like us and with other people who accept us."

The summits consist of workshops and presentations by state and national organizations, as well as attendee roundtables and social activities throughout the weekend.

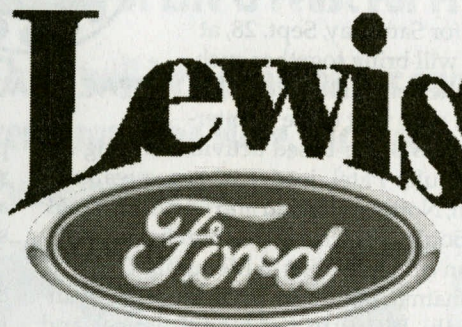
State organizations that have participated in the past include the American Civil Liberties Union of Mississippi, South Mississippi AIDS Task Force and *Family & Friends Magazine*.

"The Human Rights Campaign, the nation's oldest and largest national LGBT equality organization, has participated previously as has Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund," Renaldo said. "This says a lot about the summits. These big national organizations take the time and their resources to come down to Mississippi and present workshops on issues that affect LGBT persons in Mississippi."

More information about the 2002 Mississippi Statewide LGBT Summit, and directions to Camp Sister Spirit, are available by calling (601) 936-7673 or going online to www.equalityms.org/2002summit.html.

Reservations for camping spaces and cabins, for \$10 to \$20 a night, sliding scale, can be made by calling Camp Sister Spirit at (601) 344-1411.

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'Being Peace' weekend set in September

"Being Peace," a weekend of peace related activities, is set for Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 27 to 29, in Memphis.

The activities include the installation of "The World Peace Flame," a Peace Walk, luncheon, concert and workshops.

World Peace Flame

In conjunction with the grand opening of the National Civil Rights Museum's expansion, the first World Peace Flame in the Americas will be installed at the museum on Friday, Sept. 27, at 5 p.m.

Comprised of seven flames lit by spiritual leaders and peace-makers on five continents and flown by military and commercial planes to a unification ceremony in Wales on the eve of the new millennium, the World Peace Flame is a symbol of humanity's highest aspirations for peace. The first public eternal World Peace Flame was installed this spring at the Peace Palace in The Hague, home of the International Courts of Justice. In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., "Something is happening in the world, something is happening in Memphis."

Peace Walk 2002

Peace Walk 2002, set for Saturday, Sept. 28, at the Overton Park Shell, will bring together such notable peacemakers as the Venerable Thich Nhat Hanh, a Buddhist monk who first came to international prominence for his peace-based activities during the Viet Nam War; Dr. Mansukh Patel, leader of peace walks in Bosnia, Russia, the Sudan, Northern Ireland and Japan; Dr. Frank Thomas of Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church, one of the largest African-American congregations in Memphis; Dr. Arun Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi and director of the Memphis-based M.K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence, and Chalanda Sai Ma, founder of Humanity in Unity, a nonprofit charitable foundation that supports humanitarian projects around the world, serving all races, religions and cultures.

From 8:30 a.m. to noon, Hanh, accompanied by Dr. Patel, Drs. Gandhi and Thomas, and Sai Ma, will lead a "mindful" walk, starting from the Raoul Wallenberg Shell in Overton Park. The one-mile loop trek will allow walkers to experience the powerful discipline of "being peace" while walking silently in a slow, meditative rhythm. Following the walk will be a mindful lunch, from noon to 1:30 p.m., showing people how to cultivate a sense of inner calm and non-reactiveness through concentrated focus on everyday actions.

In the afternoon, from 1:30 to 4 p.m., a peace concert will be held featuring the talents of Sai Ma and Richie Havens. Sai Ma recently created a peace concert in Israel that brought together musicians from that country, as well as Palestine, Syria, Lebanon and Egypt. Journeyman singer-songwriter Havens is perhaps best known for his reputation as a premiere interpreter of works by Bob Dylan ("Just Like A Woman") and George Harrison ("Here Comes The Sun") and his own "Freedom," which he improvised live on stage during an encore as the opening act at Woodstock in 1969. Havens also formed Natural Guard in 1990, an organization dedicated to showing children how to make positive changes to the environment.

Welsh singer-songwriter Radhika Patel, musical director of the Wales-based Life Foundation, will perform in her native tongue and offer original compositions created for the World Peace Flame. Also performing will be the youth choir, Angels of Praise, from Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church, and poet-songwriter Grace Sommers of Mt. Shasta, Calif.

The evening will conclude with "Peace in Oneself - Peace in the World," an address by Hanh, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Hanh will focus on mindfulness, the act of "dwelling deeply in the moment, aware of what is going on within and around us." According to the event organizers, it was Hanh who persuaded Dr. King to oppose the Viet Nam War publicly, thus galvanizing the peace movement and perhaps thereby changing the course of history. He has published more than 100 books, 40 of them in English, including *Peace in Every Step*, *Being Peace* and *The Miracle of Mindfulness*.

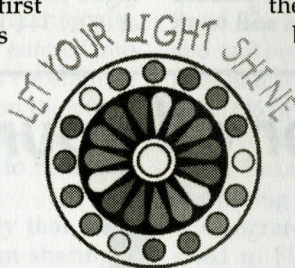
Day of Mindfulness

On Sunday, Sept. 29, at Rhodes College, a "Day of Mindfulness" will offer participants the chance to take workshops to learn practical peace-making at greater depth. Hanh and the monks and nuns of Plum Village, Deer Park Monastery, and Green Mountain Dharma Center will offer a day-long mindfulness gathering, showing people how to put into immediate practice the way of being present with peace and joy. Activities include learning how to relax, hearing the teaching, walking together, breathing together and eating in awareness. The whole family is welcome with a special program for children and youth.

Dr. Patel and the Life Foundation will offer two workshops during the afternoon - one for participants of all ages and one for youth, ages 13 to 25. These limited attendance events will offer Dru Yoga and Body Heart Mind techniques to provide individuals with practical ways to harness the power of the heart and step into their inner peace. The techniques combine breath work with movement therapy and mudras (hand gestures) to transform negative emotions and release old thought patterns.

All events at Peace Walk 2002 are free of charge except for Hanh's Saturday night address, which has a suggested donation of \$25, and limited attendance workshops on Sunday. All are welcome to attend.

For more information on Peace Walk 2002, go online to www.peacewalk2002.org or call (901) 543-9786.



PEACE WALK 2002

Wolf River Singers to hold open rehearsal, needs voices

The Wolf River Singers is holding an open rehearsal on Monday, Sept. 9, at 7 p.m., in the music room of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church, located at 8151 Poplar Avenue in Germantown. All voice types are wanted, especially males. The ideal candidate has experience in choral singing; however, recent experience is not necessary. To arrange an audition, call Ben Legett at (901) 758-8634.

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Thursday, Sept. 5, 9th ANNUAL DRAG OLYMPICS

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Doors open at 5 p.m. - Show starts at 9 p.m.

Show to benefit Friends For Life & Feast For Friends

50 entertainers have already signed up! There will be a panel of bar owner-judges including Tommy from J-Wags, Tom & Trent from One More, Rick from RP Tracks, P.J. from Casablanca and Steve from the Pumping Station.



Friday

September 6, 11 p.m.

**THE CHARLIE
BROWN SHOW**

**Tickets \$10 on sale now
call for reservations**

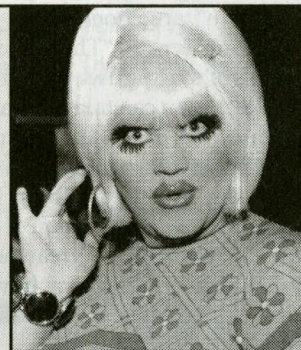


Saturday

September 28, 11 p.m.

**The Alarming
Return of
CATIA LEE LOVE**

Miss Gay America 2000



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Hosted by

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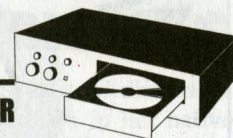
'70s & '80s

retro dance and drag

Come Witness The Fun!

IN THE MIX

By COLE WALKER



Butch Walker

Left of Self-Centered (☆☆☆☆)

A few short years ago the vocally-talented and stunningly cute Butch Walker burst onto the scene with his band Marvelous 3 and their hit single, "Freak of the Week," from their second record, *Hey Album*. Many reviewers hailed the band as promising up-and-comers and expected big things from the fun and talented threesome, but, for reasons still unknown to this writer, the band broke up and Walker went solo.

Well, the demise of the Marvelous 3 might be a bad thing for the other two-thirds of the threesome, but for Walker and fans alike, it is a very good thing, because Walker's first solo effort, *Left of Self-Centered*, is a brilliant debut. Walker's music is a happy mix of radio-friendly punk (Blink 182, Sum 41), '80s hair metal and good clean fun. Through most of the album Walker sings witty lyrics with tongue firmly planted in cheek as he rocks out on infectious riffs. "My Way," "Suburbia" and "Get Down" are chocked full of fun, sing-a-long lyrics. "There's my way/and there's a highway/and if you don't like it/you can take it." Fans of rising stars like Jimmy Eat World and veterans like Weezer should definitely check out this great album by Walker. And if you get the chance, go see him in concert. He's a great performer and a real hottie (I saw him a few years ago with Marvelous 3 and I also recommend their albums).

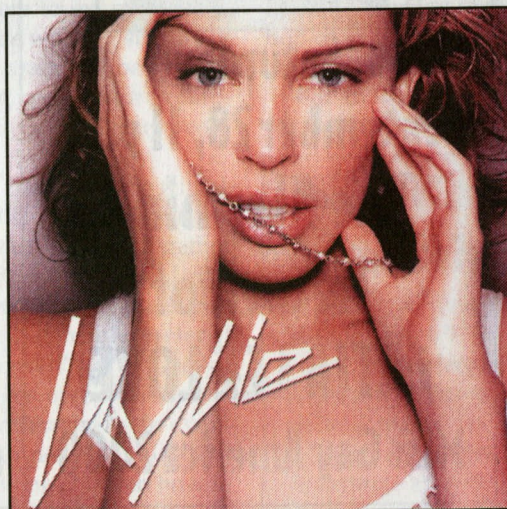
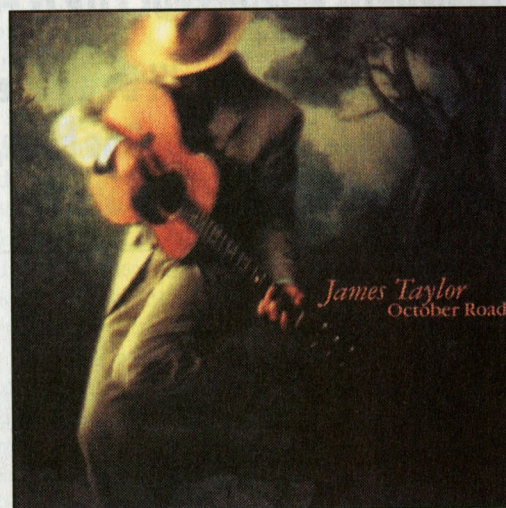
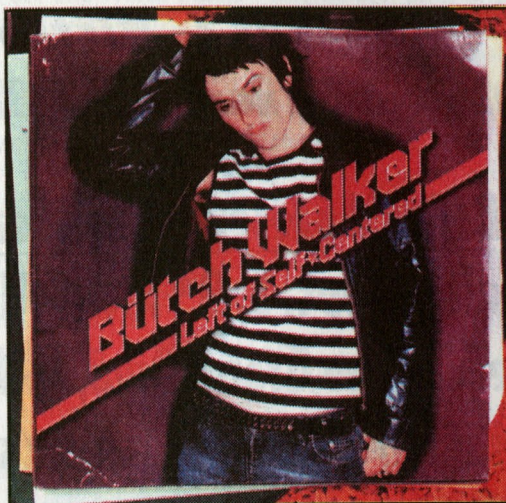
—> Highlights include "My Way," "Get Down," "Suburbia," "Take Tomorrow" and "Sober."

...

James Taylor

October Road (☆☆☆☆)

Before the '70s became infected by the noise known as Disco there was another musical phenomena, the birth of the singer-songwriter. While this time saw the rise of many stars such as Carole King and Cat Stevens, few of the singer-songwriter genre have endured as well as the legendary James Taylor.



Since releasing his first record 20-some-odd years ago, Taylor has reliably put out solid collections of finely-crafted, mellow pop-tunes. Taylor's latest studio album, *Hourglass*, won that year's Grammy award for best pop album, marking one of those rare Grammy moments when quality really does win.

While *October Road* does stick to Taylor's standard formula of finely-crafted, sweet melodies, it does add just enough new textures and stylistic touches to sound fresh and new. "Belfast to Boston" is a beautiful cry for peace set against trade-marked Taylor instrumentation. Meanwhile, "Whenever You're Ready" is a semi-bosa-nova romp, sounding uniquely different from the rest of Taylor's catalogue, but still fitting perfectly amongst the other tracks on this album. And Taylor's jazzy cover of the Christmas classic, "Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas," is a very suiting way to close the eclectic musical romp through the beautiful musical world of James Taylor.

—> Highlights include "September Grass," "On The Fourth of July," "Man Old Man" and "Baby Buffalo."

...

Kylie Minogue

Fever (☆☆☆☆)

Kylie Minogue began her career in the mid-1980s and quickly rocketed to international fame on a level with that of Madonna. Well, that is except for in America. Excluding a mild hit with her 1988 cover of "Loco-motion," Minogue has had no success making it in the U.S. market. In fact *Fever* is her first U.S. release since 1988's *Kylie*. But, with the stunning success of *Fever*'s first single, the infectious and fun "Can't Get You Out Of My Head," a song which you literally can't get out of your head, everything seems to be looking up for Minogue.

Fever is a perfect album to make her a certified super-star here in the U.S.A.

See In The Mix, page 17

In The Mix

from page 16

Minogue's dance-floor masterpiece is perfectly balanced between the sublime ambience of Madonna's *Ray of Light* and the pure club fun of Madonna's *Music*. *Fever* is never as subdued as *Ray of Light* nor is it ever as clubbish as *Music*. It is a perfect balance for both grooving in the car or working what you got on the dance-floor. And it's the perfect album to ensure Minogue many more years of international fame and to secure her that ever-so-sought-after adoration of U.S. record buyers.

—> Highlights include "Can't Get You Out Of My Head," "Fever," "In Your Eyes" — the entire freaking album!

IN THE MIX RATING SCALE

- ☆ Avoid like the plague, leave it at the store
- ☆☆ Approach with due caution
- ☆☆☆ You most definitely might like it
- ☆☆☆☆ You should probably buy it
- ☆☆☆☆☆ What are you waiting for, go buy it today!

Playhouse on the Square, Circuit to hold open theater auditions

Playhouse on the Square, 51 South Cooper, is holding auditions for *Sanders Family Christmas*, by Alan Bailey and Constance Rae, on Saturday, Sept. 7, at 10 a.m.

Director Michael Duggan is auditioning for one woman, ages mid-30s to mid-40s, to play Vera. Those auditioning are expected to sing 16 bars of a song, preferably hymns, bluegrass or gospel tunes, and be prepared to demonstrate musical instrument ability by playing 16 bars of piano, guitar or other instrument.

Sanders Family Christmas, set to run Nov. 15 to Dec. 22, tells the story of the lovable Sanders clan who are back home for the holidays.

In addition, Playhouse on the Square is auditioning for 11 women, ages 18 and up, for *Talking With* by Jane Martin, on Sunday, Sept. 8, at 7 p.m.

Directed by Dave Landis, *Talking With* pays homage to the diversity and beauty of women. This play introduces 11 idiosyncratic characters who amuse, move and occasionally frighten with their soulful monologues. The show is set to run Jan. 3 to 26, 2003 at Theatreworks in Overton Square.

Those auditioning for *Talking With* are expected to perform cold readings from the script. Scripts are available at the public library.

For more information, contact Courtney Oliver at (901) 725-0776 or by email at courtney@playhouseonthesquare.org.

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stringer

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901.276.9174 or www.yogamemphis.com

FIRST CONGO CHURCH

1000 south cooper - rear entrance

3rd Annual Bisexual Men's Conference set

The 3rd Annual Bisexual Men's Awareness Institute (MAI) Conference, set for Oct. 18 to 20, will again be held in San Diego, Calif. The conference will be held at the Holiday Inn Select in San Diego's Mission Valley.

Research shows that as many as 15 percent or more of the population may be bisexual. Yet, there are still few resources available for bisexual people to exchange information and ideas about their unique sexual orientation and to garner support for coping with life's issues as a bisexual person. According to Alexei Guren, program director for MAI, there are even fewer resources focusing exclusively on issues specific to bisexual and bi-curious men. This conference was organized expressly to allow bisexual and bi-curious men to gather in a safe, supportive environment to

dialogue on their issues of concern, including their feelings of invisibility and the societal pressures to remain closeted.

MAI will offer approximately 12 workshops, covering such themes as coming out, relationships, culture, spirituality, identity and health and will also include numerous social events over the course of the three-day weekend.

The past two conferences have been highly successful, drawing men of all ethnicities, races and religions from across the country to San Diego for an informative and fun weekend.

Registration fees for the 3rd Annual Bisexual Men's Awareness Institute Conference vary from \$40 to \$120, depending upon the activities selected by the attendees and whether registration has been completed by the Sept. 27 early-bird deadline.

For more information, go online to www.bisexual.org/pages/newconf/sdsandiego/.

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Theatre Memphis to offer fall workshops for adults

Theatre Memphis, located at 630 Perkins Extended, is offering several theater arts workshops for adults this fall.

"Beginning Tap," taught by Kathy Caradine, is set for Mondays and Wednesdays, Sept. 30 through Oct. 30, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$75 per person.

"Intermediate Acting," taught by Jo Malin, is set for Thursdays, Sept. 19 through Oct. 17, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$75 per person.

"Play Discussion Group" is slated for Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m., October 1 to 29. Cost is \$10 per person and includes refreshments.

For more information or to enroll, call J. Noble at (901) 682-5261 or email him at jnoble71@yahoo.com.

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By Setting A Place At Your Table, We'll Set One For You At Ours!



Aloysius Home & AIDS Resource Center

A Place At The Table

Simply host A Place At The Table dinner, take up a donation for Friends For Life and on Saturday, Sept. 21, at 9:30 p.m., we'll be your host at a final fling at the Memphis Botanic Gardens, complete with dessert, dancing and live entertainment. For more information, call (901) 43-APATT

Friends For Life Corporation is funded in part by the United Way of the Mid-South and the City of Memphis. A Place At The Table is an official Friends For Life fundraising event.

FAMILY ALBUM

Mystic Krewe of Memphis United Fish Fry



Krewe members, from left, Hollice, Mary and Linda dish it out.



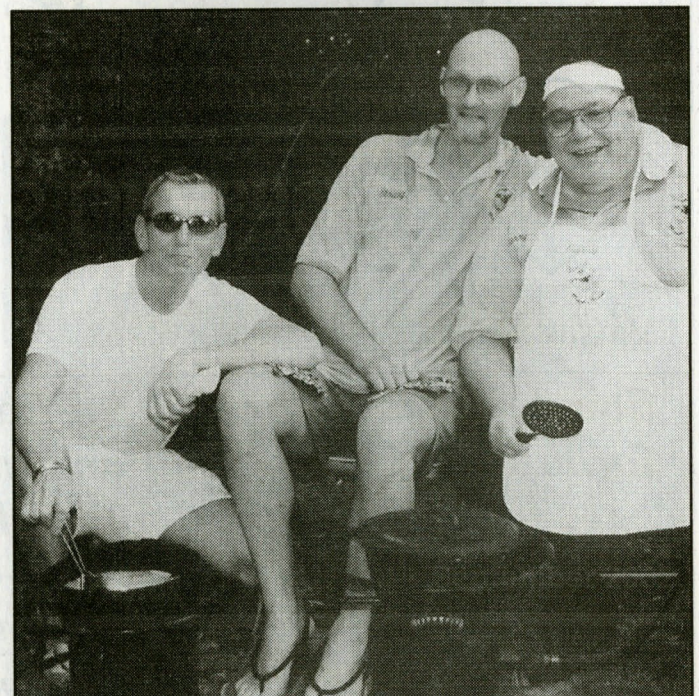
Becky and Todd pose for the camera



Billy and Cheryl make sure folks have plenty of cold drinks.



Katie gets a plateful.



Fryin' up the fish are, from left, Larry, Strang and Barry.

Nashville Cares AIDS Walk planned

The 11th Annual Nashville Cares AIDS Walk, a three-mile walk to raise funds for Nashville Cares, is slated for Sunday, Oct. 20, rain or shine, in Centennial Park.

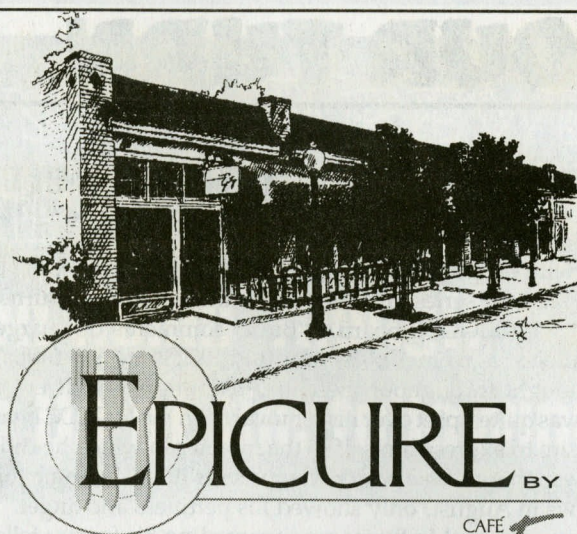
Registration begins at 11 a.m. and the walk steps off from the Centennial Park Band Shell at 1:30 p.m. At 2:30 p.m., an awards ceremony will be held.

Both free entertainment and a health and wellness fair/food festival will be available near the park band shell from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Rudy Galindo, 1996 U.S. National Champion figure skater, 1996 World Bronze Medalist and two-time National Pairs Champion, is honorary chair of this event.

Nashville CARES is Middle Tennessee's leading community-based AIDS service organization. It provides a comprehensive and compassionate response to HIV and AIDS through prevention education, advocacy and life-extending direct services.

For more information or to register, call (615) 259-4866, ext. 600.



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Saturday, October 5
at ONE MORE
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B.J. Hefner & Kay Mills
emcees

Many divas to entertain you!
Benefit show to help Susan, a young
lady in need of a van with a lift.

Show starts at 8:30 p.m.

YOUR TURN

Reader thinks actions petty

Dear Editor:

It is with deep regret that I feel I must write this letter to you.

As I read the series of stories under the headlines, "Burns in conflict with MGLCC board," "Burns comments on charges" and "Alleged agreement," in your July 2002 issue, my first and only thought throughout the entire reading was that Darren Burns was quite upset over his removal from the MGLCC board. His desire to express himself in the manner in which he did to the newspapers (I also read his comments in the Triangle Journal News in August) only showed his pettiness and anger.

The comments Mr. Burns made regarding his former fellow board members were obviously made with heated emotion, and should have been taken as such, which I and others did, before dismissing the entire situation.

Then, I read the story on the MGLCC filing its lawsuit against A&P Publications Inc., Anita Moyt and Patricia Pair, aka Laine McNeil in your August issue, as well as the letters from three of the MGLCC board members, and found myself completely shocked.

I don't quite understand why the MGLCC board members

Editor's Note: The views and opinions expressed in all Letters To The Editor published by Family & Friends are the views and opinions of the respective author of the letter and not necessarily those of the magazine.

Letters To The Editor of Family & Friends

felt the need to seek out an attorney, nor do I understand why any attorney would have allowed such a lawsuit to be filed against a publication that appeared to simply be allowing Mr. Burns his right to express his opinion.

Prior to your August issue, the only comments I heard in the community regarding this whole matter were about Mr. Burns, and they weren't very nice. Since your August issue and revelation of a lawsuit being filed by one of our community's organizations, the focus of the comments I'm hearing has changed.

I just wanted to let the members of the MGLCC board know that I, as well as others, see your strategy of filing a lawsuit against a publication that has been, at the very least, a leader in our community always willing to give to any cause when asked, an act of true juvenile pettiness. Has this publication not helped your organization in the past? Have Ms. Moyt and Ms. Pair not extended their hand to you financially and with space in which to voice your own opinions? Has Family & Friends not sponsored MGLCC events? Is attempting to divide the community part of your mission statement?

*Yours Truly,
Linda K. Jones*

BBB nets \$1,500 plus for MU

Dear Editor:

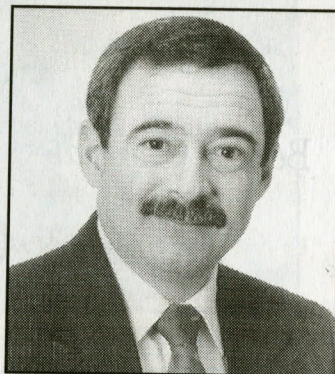
The Mystic Krewe of Memphis United (M.U.) wants to say, "Thank You," to the many folks for their support and donation toward making the Barbara Baker Bash a wonderful event.

The afternoon was enjoyed by those attending at Metro Memphis and next year will be even better, if you can believe that.

A special thanks goes to: Shane Trice, Odie, Jim, Wolfy, Sofonda Peters, Laura Lee Love, Ms. Betty Richerson, Kay Mills, P.J. Newton, Lady Lorretta, Cheryl Miller, Hattie McDaniels, Alexis von Furstenberg, Ms. Melena, Marilyn, Ruby and finally, the lady that put it all together, Ms. Alison Tate. Over \$1,500 was raised for charity and we appreciate everything done to make it a success!!!

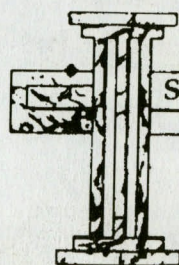
*Yours Truly,
— The Mystic Krewe of Memphis United*

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Come & Join Us at the following:

ANNUAL YARD SALE Saturday, Sept. 7, 2002

In the parking lot of Casablanca, 2865 Walnut Grove Road • GOOD BUYS • Begins at 8 a.m.

Saturday, Sept. 14, 2002, BENEFIT FOR PRIDE

At J-Wags, 1268 Madison Avenue starting at 10 p.m. • \$3 donation at the door • All entertainers are welcome to perform & support Pride • Contact Alison Tate at 901-274-5354 for more info.

Lots of parking at Ed's Camera Shop & lot beside J-Wags

1st CHILI COOKOFF Sunday, Oct. 27, 2002

At Crossroads, 1278 Jefferson • Individuals & groups are asked to participate. Bring chili already prepared. Contestants are to be there at 3 p.m. • Judging at 5 p.m. • \$25 entry fee with 3 awards given. Contact Alison Tate at 901-274-5354 for applications, info

**CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE AT www.geocities.com/mardigrasmemphis
TO FIND OTHER THINGS GOING ON WITH THE KREWE. WE WANT YOUR SUPPORT!**

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New publication is for literary lesbians

New to the newsstands is *Lavender Moon*, a monthly lesbian literary reader specifically for lesbian creative expression, including short stories, poetry, personal essays, erotica and other creative expressions.

Publisher and Editor Penny White of Atlanta, Ga., so far has published three issues of the new venture.

"It is our goal here at *Lavender Moon*," White said, "to be a paying publication, offering monetary compensation to lesbians whose work we publish." White said she hopes to accomplish this goal within a year to a year and a half.

Lavender Moon also offers a website version of the magazine at www.lavendermoon.net.

Submissions to *Lavender Moon* can be made either by email at submissions@lavendermoon.net or mailed to *Lavender Moon*, P.O. Box 162, Snellville, GA 30078-0162.

Hard copy submissions must be typed and double-spaced in standard manuscript format. All submissions must contain contact information should clarification be necessary. Optionally, a 25-word or less biography may be included with the submission. Deadline for submissions is the 18th of each month.

In observance of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, *Lavender Moon*, is seeking works from survivors of breast cancer, which will be published in the October 2002 issue. Submission deadline for that issue is Sept. 18.

Idapalooza Fruit Jam 2002 planned this month

The Idapalooza Fruit Jam 2002, a queer music festival, is set for Sept. 16 to 22, on Ida art community's 250 acres located in Middle Tennessee.

An agenda of musical events, workshops and jamming will culminate in a weekend of concerts beginning on Friday, Sept. 20.

Featured performers include The Butchies, a thrill ride of rock/punk mix; Mary Delaney, a cutting edge blend of hip-hop, rave and techno; Pistol Pete, country folk with a sense of humor; Bitch and Animal, ukulele rock and hoedown funk poetry; Superloobergoo, a puppet extravaganza, The Prince Myshkins, a banjo/accordion duo with razor sharp satire; Yolanda, a sensational, soulful radical faerie singer/performance artist; Sailor Jay, spoken word, and Casey Collins, a sultry falsetto voice backed up by dazzling electronic sounds. Joan Jett Blakk, infamous drag activist, will be the mistress of ceremonies.

Last year's Idapalooza was a great success with 200 participants from all across the country creating an intimate feeling of connection. Visitors can hike to waterfalls, explore caves, lounge in a hammock and feast on home-grown organic vegetarian meals.

For more information or to register, call (615) 597-4409, email idapalooza@yahoo.com or go online to www.planetida.com.

**St. Patrick's Invitational Tournament
Invites you to
An Evening of Comedy With
Vicki Shaw**

**Saturday
Sept. 14
8 p.m.
10 p.m.**



**Saturday
Sept. 14
8 p.m.
10 p.m.**

Casablanca, 2865 Walnut Grove Road

Tickets: \$15 each in advance

**Tickets are available in advance at INZ & OUTZ CARDS &
GIFTS, 553 South Cooper & at Casablanca**

Proceeds to benefit S.P.I.T.

Feast

from page 10

per dinner, whereas there is less demand during the summer months.

"We used to give the leftovers to Aloysius House," Martha explained. "Since it is no more, we freeze it if it is freezable and sometimes they give it out to the people and they can take a plate home with them. A lot of the volunteers take their plate home and eat it there."

"Butch (Valentine, FFL fundraising coordinator) came in in 1996, and started raising money for the program," Brandon added. "Donations for Feast For Friends are only used for Feast For Friends. It runs on private donations; there are no grants. That gives us a lot of freedom. We do go through health department inspections just like every restaurant in town. We've consistently scored in the 90s. Hands on Memphis provides servers and some kitchen assistants. The volunteers will do anything I ask... they are wonderful."

"(When Feast For Friends began,) there were very few, if not (any), social groups for persons with AIDS ... where people could attend for free and hang out and socialize," Brandon continued. "If Memphis as a community could be like this program, this city could be a better place. You can be black, white, straight, gay, rich or poor and be accepted in this program. I've got college professors serving transvestites with AIDS — that makes this program special."

Although social activities are not a priority for someone infected or affected by HIV/AIDS, Brandon feels it is an area that should not be neglected.

"Social services are as important as health care and case management," Brandon said. "It is important in the total care of the person with HIV/AIDS. People with HIV/AIDS benefit by being around other people in the same predicament."

"I hope (Feast For Friends) will stay on and continue as long as we need it," Martha said. "Truly, I was in hopes it would be gone by now because we didn't need it because there was a cure for AIDS."

"Feast For Friends is for people with HIV/AIDS and their caregivers," Brandon said in closing. "Bring someone to the dinner. Please do it and tell people we are there. Please contribute; it is a worthwhile program. One hundred percent of the money donated to Feast For Friends is used for the meals."

Feast For Friends is held the first and third Monday of each month at 6 p.m. at St. John's United Methodist Church, located at Bellevue and Peabody.

For more information or to co-sponsor a FFF dinner, call Butch Valentine at (901) 272-0855.

Bookmark It!

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www.FamilyandFriendsMagazine.com



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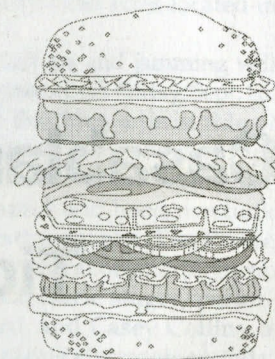
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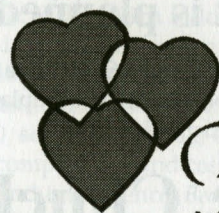


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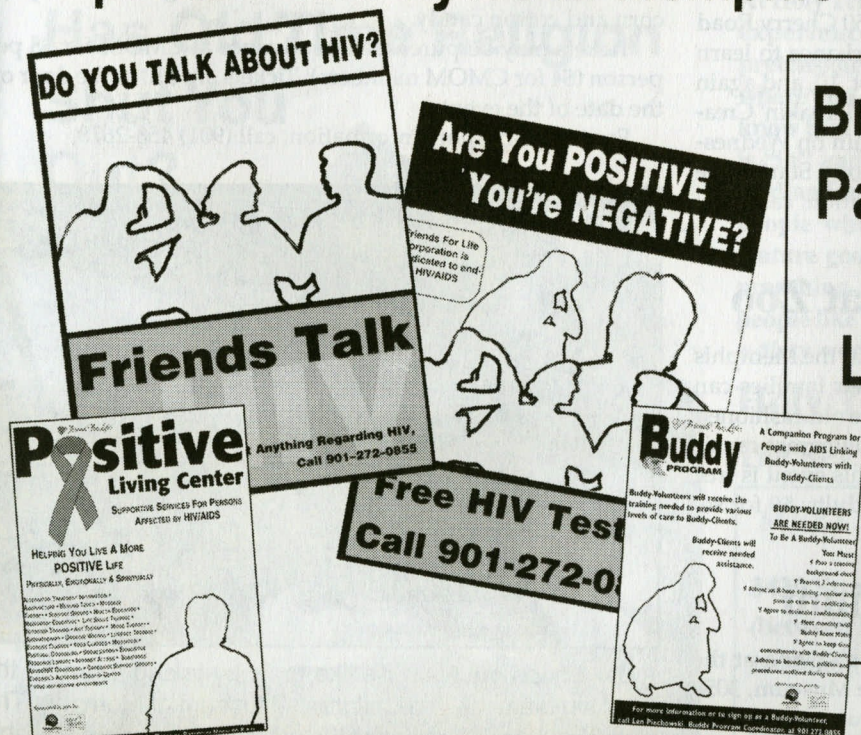
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Now's your chance!

Needs YOU!

Aloysius Home & AIDS Resource Center

Friends For Life is beginning an aggressive HIV/AIDS Prevention/Education Poster Campaign and needs folks of all genders, races, ages and sexual orientations to pose for pictures to be used on posters and flyers in Memphis & Shelby County.



**Bring Your Friends
Partners, Whoever
to the Positive
Living Center on
Saturday
September 7
at 9 a.m.**

Services are voluntary

**Help People Get Tested • Help Prevent AIDS
and Get Noticed All At the Same Time!**

For Your FAMILY

Things for the entire family

Raindrops fall in September

Lichterman Nature Center, located at 5992 Quince Road, resumes its popular pre-school program, Raindrops, on Tuesday, Sept. 3, at 10 a.m. with "Meander to the Marsh," which is repeated again on Wednesday, Sept. 4, at 10 a.m. On Tuesday and Wednesday, Sept. 10 and 11, the subject is "All a Flutter;" on Sept. 17 and 18, the subject is "Buzzing Bees," and on Sept. 24 and 25, the topic is "Tall Talking Trees." Cost is \$5 for a child and chaperon. For more information or to register, call (901) 767-7322.

Acting basics offered at library

Young people, ages 12 to 18, can learn the basics of acting and improvisational comedy at the Central branch of the Memphis/Shelby County Public Libraries, located at 3030 Poplar Avenue, on Monday and Wednesday, Sept. 23 and 25, at 3 p.m. The workshop is funded by a grant from LHS Inc. Registration is required by calling (901) 415-2726.

Caterpillar Club is for kids

The Memphis Botanic Gardens, located at 750 Cherry Road in Audubon Park, offers preschool children a chance to learn about the world around them. On Tuesday, Sept. 10, and again on Wednesday, Sept. 11, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., "Croakin' Creatures" is set. And on Tuesday, Sept. 24, and again on Wednesday, Sept. 25, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., "Wish Upon a Star" is the subject matter. The cost is \$4. For more information, call (901) 685-1566, ext. 102.

Harvest festival planned at Zoo

On Saturday, Sept. 28, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Memphis Zoo, located in Overton Park, children and their families can take a step back in time and join the zoo for some old-fashioned festivities including checkers, hot apple cider, bluegrass music and demonstrations by a variety of artisans. This event is free with regular zoo admission, which is \$10 for adults; \$9 for seniors (60+) and \$6 for children (ages 2-11).

Explore stars at planetarium

Now through Nov. 24, *The Voyages* will be showing at the Sharpe Planetarium, located in the Pink Palace Museum, 3050 Central Avenue. *The Voyages* tells of the Portuguese navigators of the 15th century, who used the celestial beacons to guide them to new worlds. Showtimes for *The Voyages* are Fridays at 7 p.m.; Saturdays at noon and 3 p.m., and Sundays at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$4.25 for adults and \$3.75 for seniors and children (ages three to 12). For more information, call (901) 320-6362.

Latin music concert is planned

A Latin music program is set for Sunday, Sept. 15, at 3:30 p.m. at the Central branch library, located at 3030 Poplar Avenue, and will feature St. Michael's Hispanic Choir.

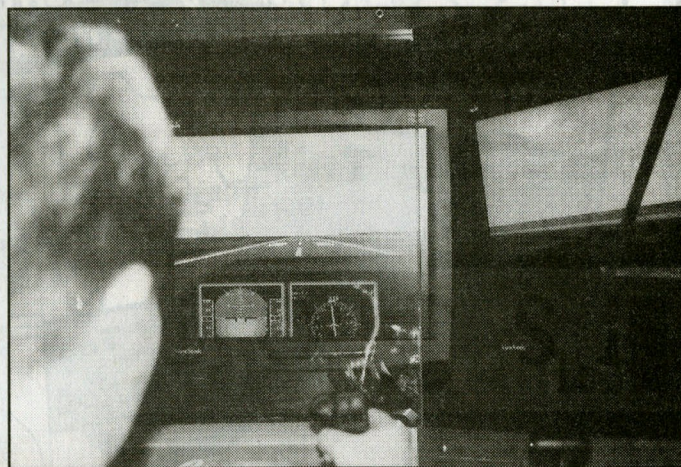
WKNO's Mr. Chuck to host musical picnic

WKNO Channel 10 TV personality Mr. Chuck will return to the Children's Museum of Memphis, 2525 Central Avenue, on Saturday, Sept. 7, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for "Mr. Chuck's Music Picnic."

For a foot-stomping good time, bring a picnic basket and blanket and enjoy a picnic on the museum's front lawn. A variety of great music by several local children's entertainers will be provided on the main stage. Bring the camera - kids can meet Mr. Chuck from WKNO and P.D. Parrot from Baptist Pediatric Care. A variety of arts and crafts, vendors and other activities will allow children to explore their creative sides. Concessions also will be available including snocones, popcorn and cotton candy.

Tickets may be purchased in advance at CMOM for \$8 per person (\$4 for CMOM members). Tickets are \$10 at the door on the date of the event.

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



A child finds out what it's like to fly by taking a turn in the flight simulator at The Children's Museum of Memphis. The flight simulator is just one of the many activities now available to kids who visit the newly-expanded museum. The CMOM is located at 2525 Central Avenue in Midtown. Hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays and noon to 5 p.m. on Sundays.

Sundance Channel continues GLBT films

Sundance Channel, available on both cable and satellite TV, will feature several selections during September which recognize the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community.

Bar Girls, which follows the lives and loves of the denizens of a Los Angeles lesbian bar as they negotiate the often-treacherous path to true love, is set for Sept. 13, 18, 26 and 30.

Bedrooms and Hallways, the second feature of Rose Troche (*Go Fish*), set at an all-male encounter session in London, explores the complexities and coincidences of sexuality with an assured wit and intelligence. *Bedrooms and Hallways* is set for Sept. 4, 9, 13, 17, 26 and 29.

In *Bent*, Clive Owen stars as Max, whose decadent lifestyle in 1930s Berlin ends when he and his lover (Brian Webber) are rounded up for transportation to Dachau. There Max finds an unusual friendship in a horrible situation. *Bent* includes appearances by Ian McKellen, Mick Jagger and Jude Law and an original score by Philip Glass. *Bent* is set to air Sept. 5, 15 and 20.

The Brandon Teena Story documents the short life of this female-to-male transsexual who was murdered in a hate crime in rural Nebraska in 1993. Showtimes are set for Sept. 3, 7, 11, 15, 20 and 26.

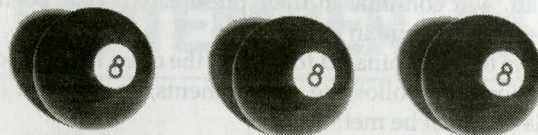
Burnt Money is a subtitled film focusing on the intimate and ultimately tragic bond between two gangsters known as "The Twins," who pulled off a daring heist and fled from Argentina

to Uruguay in 1965. *Burnt Money* is set for Sept. 15 and 24.

Chuck and Buck, *Chutney Popcorn*, *Criminal Lovers* and Margaret Cho's one-woman show, *I'm The One That I Want*, also are set for the month of September.

Check local listings for showtimes.

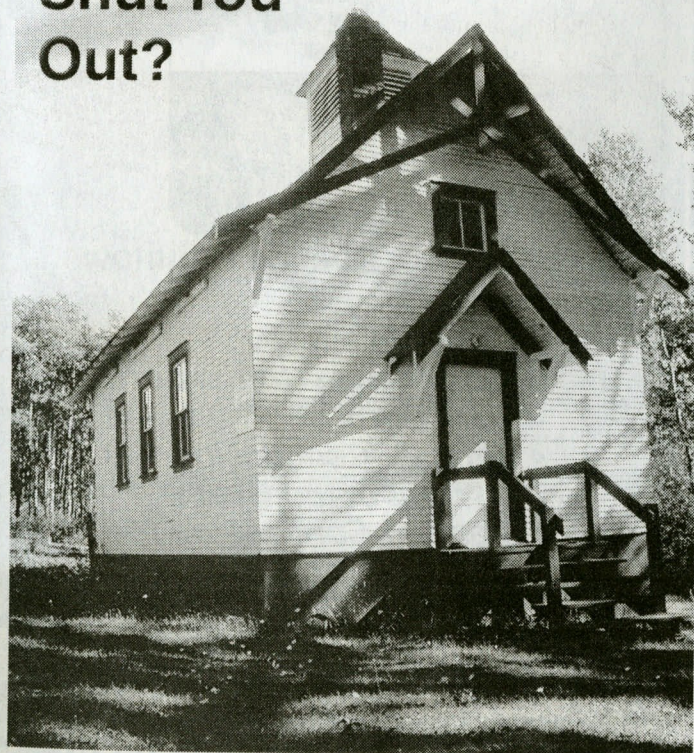
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impair your game ...**



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

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Memphis Pride Inc. to hold board elections

Memphis Pride Inc. will hold elections for its board of directors at its annual meeting on Monday, Sept. 23, beginning at 7 p.m. at Holy Trinity Community Church, 3430 Summer Avenue.

Positions up for election include those of chair, treasurer, secretary and two at-large seats. Presently, those positions are held by Kay Mills, chair, and Sheila Tankersley and Mark Jones, at-large. The treasurer's position was held by Tim Johnson until his resignation in 2002, and the secretary's position was held by Charles Fowler, until his resignation in 2002. Both Johnson and Fowler resigned due to work-related issues.

Patty Pair, MPI co-chair, and Barbara Jean Jasen, MPI parliamentarian, will continue in their present two-year positions, which are set to expire in 2003.

In order to be nominated for one of the open board of directors positions, the following requirements, as set forth in the MPI bylaws, must be met:

- The nominee shall not be a paid employee of MPI.

- The nominee must have demonstrated a willingness to commit the considerable time and energy necessary for successful MPI organization by either working on an active committee or donating goods or services in the past six months prior to the election.

- The nominee must be actively involved in organizations that advocate, serve or are composed of members of the gay and lesbian community and possess skills deemed useful for the proper functioning of MPI.

Nominations letters should be mailed to Nomination Committee Chair Linda K. Jones, 2906 East Tishomingo, Memphis, TN 38111. Nomination letters must be received no later than Monday, September 16, in order to be considered.

The MPI bylaws state the only people who will be allowed to cast votes for this MPI election are those persons who were active members of MPI on or before May 21, 2002.

Also, the treasurer's annual report, including information on the 2002 Pride Celebration, will be submitted at this Sept. 23 meeting.

Being Peace

September 27-29
Memphis, TN

Join us for this peace-full weekend in Memphis with peacemakers Thich Nhat Hanh, Mansukh Patel, Arun Gandhi, Frank Thomas and Chalanda Sai Ma, as we walk the path of inner peace. Together we can make a difference ... in our lives, our communities, our world.

Friday, September 27

FREE

"The World Peace Flame"

National Civil Rights Museum

5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Installation of the eternal flame.

Saturday, September 28

FREE

"Being Peace" Raoul Wallenberg Shell, Overton Park

Peace Walk: 8:30 a.m. - Noon

Mindful Lunch: 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

Peace Concert: 2:30-5:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 28

Reserved Seating: \$35

"Peace In Oneself - Peace in the World"

Open Seating: \$25

An Evening with Thich Nhat Hanh

Raoul Wallenberg Shell, Overton Park at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 29

Workshops with the Peacemakers at

Rhodes College, Hilton East,

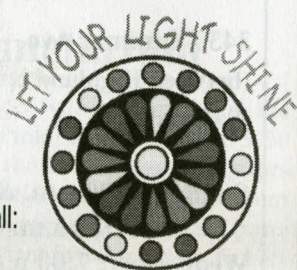
First Congregational Church

From 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

To Become Involved and Tickets, Call:

901-543-9786

www.peacewalk2002.org



PEACE WALK 2002

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SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 28

★ **FLASHLIGHT PARTY** ★

★ **Lights Off At 10p** ★

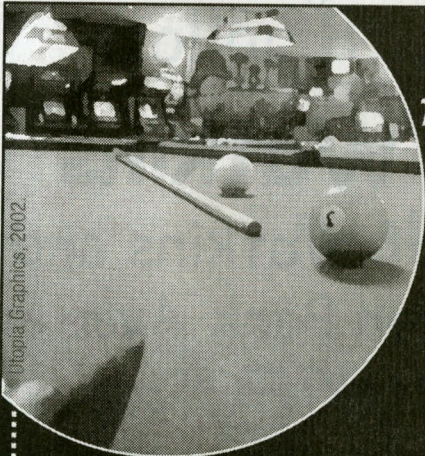
★ **Contest At Midnight** ★

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AT 6P

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Happy Hour 3p-8p
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Monday - Friday
4p - 3a
Saturday - Sunday
3p - 3a

The Pumping Station

Utopia Graphics, 2002.

Utopia Graphics, 2002.

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Tuesday

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Wednesday

Steak nite!!

Saturday

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STRAIGHT UP *but not straight*

By J. SHANE WILSON, MS, NCC, LPCC

Dear Straight Up,

I am in a relationship with a wonderful man. We get along super well and enjoy each other's company. We have been dating for four months. But I'd like to have a more physical relationship. I'm not asking him to sleep with me; I just want more hand holding, kissing and touching. Is it wrong of me to want more?

Need More Physical Contact

Dear Cuddles,

No, of course not. But he may not be comfortable for some reason that could end up being a problem to this relationship getting off the ground.

Sometimes people have been raised in families where no one showed affection, and they are just stiff. Is he more comfortable holding your hand in private? Perhaps he was trained not to show affection in public.

The main thing is you have been dating for four months now, so you can ask him about this. Just bring it up gently, and see what he says. Ask him how he feels about holding your hand. Encourage him to talk about whatever he feels by being accept-

ing and nonjudgmental. Just try to understand where he is coming from, then you can eventually make a decision as to whether or not you want to stay with him.

He may be able to do more just because you want him to, and eventually become more comfortable and enjoy it. Maybe he's shy. Maybe he was raised not to make the first move, and he doesn't know how to read your signals. Maybe he's a virgin at dating and worried that it might be a sign of disrespect. Maybe the elastic is shot in his underwear.

Point is, you won't know until you ask him. So be gentle, have the discussion in private and encourage him to talk about it.

J. Shane Wilson has a master's degree in the counseling field from The University of Memphis. He presently is a Licensed Professional Counselor in Kentucky and is the executive director of a residential treatment facility, located in Louisville. 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.

TENNESSEE DISABILITY INFORMATION & REFERRAL OFFICE



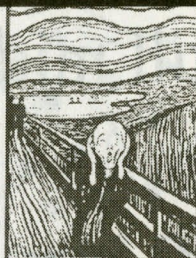
John F. Kennedy Center, Vanderbilt University

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

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

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

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



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co-workers, come see me.*

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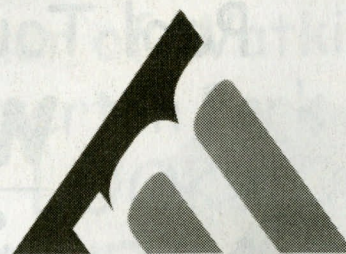


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GLBT grants available

The 2002 Horizon/Frameline Completion Fund offers grants ranging from \$2,000 to \$3,000 each to assist lesbian and gay media artists with the final stages of production.

Submissions are presently being accepted for documentary, educational, narrative, animated or experimental projects about or of interest to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and their communities. The deadline for this year's submissions is Oct. 14; entries must be postmarked by this date. Awards will be announced on Dec. 16.

The fund also seeks to bring new work to under-served audiences. With this in mind, Frameline especially encourages applications by women and people of color.

Last year, the fund received more than 50 submissions and awarded \$15,000 in completion funds to four projects: Harry Dodge and Silas Howard's *By Hook or Crook*; Sonali Gulati's *Barefoot*; Liz Miller's *Novela*, and Kathryn Xian's *Ke Kulana He Mahu: Remembering a Sense of Place*. To date, more than 60 films and videos have been completed with assistance from the fund, including *Watermelon Woman*, *Go Fish*, *The Cockettes*, *Living With Pride*: Ruth C. Ellis @ 100 and *The Brandon Teena Story*.

For an application and guidelines contact Frameline at (415) 703-8650 or go online to www.frameline.org/fund.

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If you were an active member
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please come and vote for
Chair • Secretary • Treasurer
and 2 At-Large positions

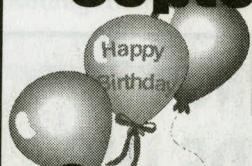
Letters of nomination should be mailed to Election
Committee Chair, 2906 E. Tishomingo, Memphis, TN
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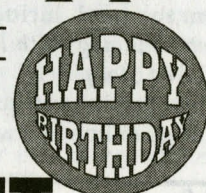
September 21st



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TRENT

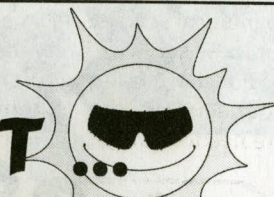
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Clinic to offer free health, dental, eye care to non-insured

The Remote Area Medical (RAM) Clinic will offer free health, dental and eye care to uninsured adults on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 14 and 15, at Hillcrest High School, located at 4184 Graceland Drive, beginning at 7 a.m. both days. Registration is on a first come-first served basis.

The RAM clinic is coordinated by the Shelby County Regional Health Council, and directed by Stan Brock, clinic director.

Specifically, services offered are:

- Blood pressure and family health history
- Vision – testing and providing eye glasses
- Dental – exams and treatment
- Mammography – for females over age 35 or with a family history of breast cancer
- HIV/AIDS – testing and counseling
- Prostate screening – blood test

These free services are available to Mid-South uninsured adults who are residents of Tennessee, Mississippi and Arkansas. Services for children are NOT available at this special RAM clinic. Because there are more than 76,000 medically uninsured adults living in the metropolitan area, organizers are expecting several thousand individuals to register. Due to the possibility of long lines and waiting periods, it is recommended that children NOT be brought to this event.

RAM was founded in 1985, by Brock as a non-profit, volunteer, airborne relief corps dedicated to provide free health, dental, eye, veterinary services, technical and education assistance to people in remote areas. Volunteer doctors, nurses, pilots, veterinarians and support workers participate at their own expense. Medical supplies, medicines, facilities and vehicles are donated. The goal is to take health care to people who do not have access to medical services, lack insurance coverage and unable to pay for these services. More than 7,500 people are served each year.

For more information regarding this clinic, or to volunteer your services, contact John Hall at (901) 725-4687. Volunteers are needed for both medical and non-medical purposes.

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- #1 It's impossible to lick your elbow
- #2 the first couple to be shown in bed together on TV was Fred and Wilma Flintstone
- #3 everyday more money is printed for Monopoly than the US Treasury
- #4 Hi Gorgeous is the best in Midtown
- #5 Coca-Cola was originally Green
- #6 At least 75% of the people who read this try to lick their elbow

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HIV/AIDS EDUCATION 101

**By SHELIA TANKERSLEY, GUEST WRITER
FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, LOVING ARMS**

Question: How do children become infected with HIV?

Answer: As a mother, grandmother and agency director, I define children as being between the ages of birth and 18. The majority of children with HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) are infected at birth. This is called perinatal transmission. This is most commonly believed to occur during delivery when the baby is exposed to the mother's infected blood. There is additional evidence that some babies are infected prior to birth, during the mother's pregnancy. Babies also can become infected through breast milk. Mothers known to be infected with the HIV virus are advised not to breast-feed. (This is more of an issue in third-world countries where formula is not available.)

Testing is important to reveal HIV status of pregnant women. Pregnant mothers, testing positive, can take treatment to reduce the risk of transmission to less than five percent. Before testing was available, pregnant women transmitted HIV to their babies unknowingly. In Tennessee, there is a law that requires all physicians to offer HIV testing to all pregnant women.

In 1991, when I first began working with HIV-infected babies, the life expectancy was four years of age. Due to research and the availability of new, effective medicines, children are living healthy lives well into adulthood.

Loving Arms' oldest child, who was infected as an infant, is

now 18 years old. That child was infected by a blood transfusion immediately after birth. This was before the blood supplies were tested. There also are older teens with hemophilia that were infected by blood supplies before testing was required.

The most publicized child who was infected by tainted blood products was Ryan White. Fortunately, since 1986, the blood supplies are effectively tested.

Over the past several years, Loving Arms began to serve an increasing number of teens infected through unprotected sex. Nationwide, 50 percent of all new infections occur between the ages of 13 and 24. Sexual activity can occur by choice, coercion or force. As risky behavior has increased so have HIV infections. One client reports that her only unprotected sexual event was rape.

Teens are faced with the time when the developmental phase of "fitting in with your peers" is crucial. Therefore, a lot of their energy goes into keeping their peers from knowing about their HIV status.

The remaining number of infections to teens is through injecting illegal drugs and the sharing of needles.

Each infected baby, child or teenager is a precious gift from God. These children and their families need the support and understanding of family, friends and community.

Being educated and educating others will help eliminate the fear, superstitions, misconceptions and prejudices that still are evident in our communities. We need targeted prevention efforts that are effective at reaching the diversity of communities and people at risk for HIV and AIDS. This must be made a priority by educators, community and faith leaders and public health officials.

New hope for AIDS vaccine

AIDS researchers have developed a candidate vaccine strategy (the gp120-CD4 complex) that, for the first time, demonstrates an ability to elicit antibodies that block the infection of multiple HIV virus strains – an elusive scientific goal that has been pursued for a decade.

A report on this new discovery was given during the U.S. Proceedings in the National Academy of Sciences in August by its authors, Drs. Timothy Fouts, Anthony Devico and colleagues at the Institute of Human Virology, a center of the University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute, and Dr. Ranajit Pal and colleagues at Advanced BioScience Laboratories, located in Kensington, Md.

"One of the major challenges in developing an effective AIDS vaccine has long been the fact that the virus that causes AIDS, much like the influenza virus, exists as multiple strains that present many different faces to the immune system," the authors said.

"HIV/AIDS has overcome the 1918 influenza pandemic and bubonic plague of the 14th century to become the worst epidemic and deadliest disease in medical history," commented Dr. George Lewis, director of the Institute of Human Virology's Division of Vaccine Development. "Twenty-five million persons have died worldwide, another 40 million are infected and the numbers are rapidly escalating second to second."

"Though designed as a preventative vaccine, the complex might also be useful as a therapeutic vaccine," the authors said. The gp120-CD4 complex will continue to be evaluated with regard to safety and immunogenicity. According to Dr. Gallo, it is hoped that Phase I clinical trials will begin in two years.

HIV/AIDS TESTING SITES & INFORMATION

Memphis & Shelby County Health Department

814 Jefferson Avenue, Room 221

7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Testing conducted on teens, ages 13 and up,
without parental consent.

HIV Test Cost: FREE

For more information, call (901) 544-6808

Memphis Regional Planned Parenthood

1407 Union Avenue, Third Floor

8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Thursday

8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday

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For more information, call (901) 544-6808

Agencies provide HIV counseling and testing at various health fairs and community events throughout the year.

HIV/AIDS news in brief

• According to a story in Nashville's *The Tennessean* on Aug. 15, The Women's Clinic of the Comprehensive Care Center, located in Nashville, "has a record of delivering 85 out of 85 babies free of HIV/AIDS although their mothers carry the virus ... The regimen at the clinic is not unique, but the staff there applies an extraordinary amount of effort to make sure mothers-to-be are closely monitored and assisted ... (with) aggressive prenatal care, constant contact with the mother during pregnancy and extra attention during the actual delivery ..."

• Friends For Life Corporation's HIV Outreach Prevention Team set up an information table at the "Alicia Keyes Concert" at the Orpheum Theatre on Aug. 20. Keyes is a part of LIFEbeat: The Music Industry Fights AIDS, which provides HIV/AIDS prevention information to America's youth.

• The Global AIDS Alliance is urging President Bush not to cut off \$200 million needed for immediate funding of programs which address the global AIDS pandemic.

• AIDS activists carried out several demonstrations at the International AIDS Conference held in Barcelona Spain in July, including heckling U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Tommy Thompson. According to a PlanetOut.com article, dated Aug. 19, "The HHS is investigating the federal funding of 16 AIDS groups linked to the incident. (Each) groups' financial support will be reviewed to de-

termine whether the organizations used federal grant money to send members to Barcelona to participate in the conference, the *Washington Post* reported on Monday."

• On Friday, Aug. 30, Project WAVE (War Against the Virus Escalating) Memphis, in collaboration with the Memphis and Shelby County Health Department (MSCHD), Clear Channel Communications and The Regional Medical Center, launched a new billboard campaign using 100 billboards around the city and county to display the theme "Be Positive You're Negative."

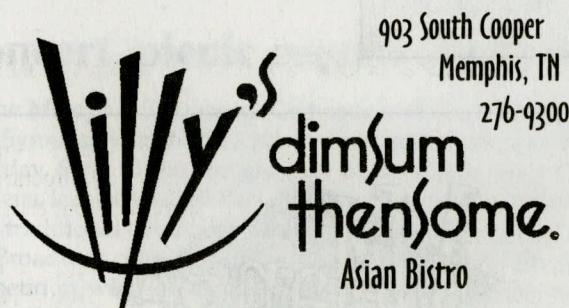
• According to Vince Glover, manager of the MSCHD infectious disease section, since its launch in April 2002, Project WAVE Memphis has provided STD and HIV/AIDS education to 576 persons; tested 564 individuals for HIV, and tested 281 individuals for Syphilis.

• Friends For Life Corporation, 1384 Madison Avenue, will soon offer free Ora Sure HIV testing (No blood or needles required; this is an oral test.). The agency will offer the test on an appointment basis, although walk-ins will be accepted. Call (901) 272-0855 for more information.

Are you with an HIV/AIDS organization and would like Family & Friend's readers to know about your organization's steps in the fight against AIDS? Let us know by calling (901) 682-2669; by writing to Family & Friends, P.O. Box 771948, Memphis, TN 38177-1948, or by emailing FamilyMag@aol.com.

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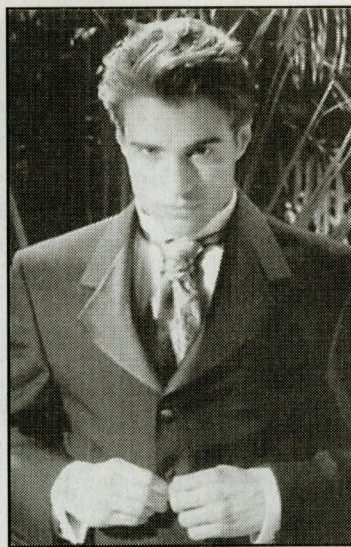
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FAMILY ALBUM

Loving Arms Open House



Alice and Felicia helping out in the Loving Arms' kitchen.



ABOVE: Enjoyng good friends are, from left, Lisa, Loving Arms Founder and Executive Director Shelia, and Leslie. LEFT: Also in attendance were Donna and Shelia from New Directions.

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ABOUT TOWN

When You're Looking For Something To Do

Carol Plunk releases schedule

Carol Plunk's schedule for September includes: Sunday, Sept. 1, 4 to 7 p.m., at Huey's-Downtown; Sunday, Sept. 1, 8 to 10 p.m., at One More Bar & Grill, 2117 Peabody; Wednesday, Sept. 4, 7 to 9 p.m., at One More; Thursday, Sept. 5, 8 to 10 p.m., at The Edge, Jonesboro, Ark.; Friday, Sept. 6, 7 p.m., at Soybean Festival, Martin, Tenn. (with band); Saturday, Sept. 7, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., at The Big Chill, Hot Springs, Ark.; Sunday, Sept. 8, 5 to 7 p.m., at One More; Wednesday, Sept. 11, 7 to 9 p.m., at One More; Friday, Sept. 13, 8 to 10 p.m., at One More (with band); Saturday, Sept. 14, 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m., at T.J. Mulligans, Jackson, Tenn. (with band); Sunday, Sept. 15, 5 to 7 p.m., at One More; Wednesday, Sept. 18, 7 to 9 p.m., at One More; Thursday, Sept. 19, 8 p.m. to midnight, at The Key's, Montgomery, Ala. (with band); Friday, Sept. 20, 9 to 11 p.m., at Club 729, Birmingham, Ala. (with band); Sunday, Sept. 22, 5 to 7 p.m., at One More; Wednesday, Sept. 25, 7 to 9 p.m., at One More; Saturday, Sept. 28, 9 p.m. to midnight, at P & H Cafe, 1532 Madison Ave. (with band); Sunday, Sept. 29, 4 to 6 p.m., at One More, and Sunday, Sept. 29, 8 p.m. to midnight, at Huey's-Downtown (with band).

Concert, picnic return to Dixon

The Memphis Symphony Orchestra will hold its semi-annual Symphony in the Gardens concert and picnic contest on Saturday, Sept. 21, on the grounds of the Dixon Gallery and Gardens, located at 4339 Park Avenue. The concert, which features traditional classical works, as well as traditional favorites and Broadway classics, begins at 5 p.m. Judging for the picnic competition, with six categories, begins at 4 p.m. Advance tickets, available by calling the MSO Box Office at (901) 324-3627, are \$12 for adults and \$10 for children, ages 12 and under. Tickets at the gate are \$20 for adults and \$15 for children, ages 12 and under.

African Violets to be offered

The Volunteer State African Violet Show and Sale is set for Saturday, Sept. 28, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Sunday, Sept. 29, from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at The Memphis Botanic Gardens, located at 750 Cherry Road in Audubon Park. For more information, call (601) 895-2002.

Integrity to host David Waters

Integrity Memphis will hold its monthly meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 17, at 6:30 p.m. at Calvary Episcopal Church, located at Second and Adams. A short worship service begins at 6:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 7 p.m. At 7:45 p.m. the evening's program will feature David Waters, journalist with *The Commercial Appeal* known for his column, "Faith Matters." For more information, go online to www.geocities.com/integrity_memphis/main.html.

Comedy behind scenes at POTS

A play within a play, *Anton in Show Business*, is set for Sept. 6 through Oct. 6 at Playhouse on the Square, located at 51 South Cooper. This uproarious comedy unites a self-centered television actress, a jaded New Yorker and an enthusiastic ingenue in the leading roles of *Three Sisters*. The question is, after enduring incompetent producers, idiot directors, crass sponsors, self-important critics, racism, sexism and general snobbery, will they ever pull off *Three Sisters*? Showtimes are Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. The Pay-What-You-Can performance is set for Thursday, Sept. 12, at 8 p.m. Tickets, which are \$20 for adults, \$18 for seniors, \$16 for students and military personnel and \$12 for children, are available by calling the POTS Box Office at (901) 726-4656.

CBU to exhibit pottery

A special exhibition of American art pottery, featuring tiles and plaques, is available to the public at the Christian Brothers University gallery Sept. 6 through Oct. 25. An opening reception is set for Friday, Sept. 6, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Gallery hours are 7:45 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday to Thursday; 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday; noon to 4 p.m. Saturdays, and 2 to 11 p.m. Sundays. For more information, call (901) 321-3432.

Memphis Comedy Festival slated

The Memphis-based improvisational team Vertical Imbalance will host The Memphis Comedy Festival 2002, Thursday to Sunday, Sept. 5 to 8, beginning at 7 p.m. nightly, at Bonkerz Comedy Club inside Bally's Casino in Tunica, Miss. Admission to all shows is free. Comedians from across the U.S. and Canada will fill the event with laughter and entertainment. For more information, go online to www.vertical-imbalance.com.

30-Something, Up group to meet

The "30-Something and Up" group, a program of the Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center, meets the second and fourth Sundays of each month with service projects scheduled in between. For more information, call Coordinator Bryan Moody at (901) 680-9218 or email him at BryanorScott@hotmail.com.

Annie Warbucks to be on stage

The DeSoto Youth Theatre's production of *Annie Warbucks: The Sequel*, starring Ashley Wieronski and Bill Andrews, is slated for Sept. 20 to 29 at the DeSoto Civic Center in Southaven, Miss. Performances are at 7 p.m. and matinees are at 2 p.m. Tickets to the show, directed by Kevin Shaw, are \$14 for adults and \$10 for students (18 and under). For more information or tickets call (662) 470-2131.

Ask LAM



by Lam Medallion

Dear Lam,

I am a young actress just starting out in the business and would like some advice on how and where to begin. I am very passionate about the work and people tell me I have what it takes to make it. I am a singer and would like to get onto the television program "American Idol." What do you think about that? I am 16 years old.

Thank you,
A Big Fan, Ann

Dear Large Fannie-Annie,

Hello, dear. First off, if you are such a big fan, why haven't you written to me sooner? How come I don't know who you are? Why didn't you at least say something, just one flattering thing, about me and my work? I don't think you are a fan of mine at all. I think you might be a little snot-nosed, spoiled-brat, 16 year-old who would like to shake her hootchie on television. But in case I am wrong, I will try and answer your question as honestly and straightforwardly as possible, given my concern and interest in all young talent.

Where to start, where to start, where to start? Let me see. Well, I did some research on that television program of which you spoke: "American Idol." "American Idol" my ass, dear. More like

"American Mockery" if you want to know my opinion. I saw the show once and forced myself to sit through to the end and only allowed myself one cocktail, hoping to find redemption at the end of the suffering. The torture ceased precisely at 10 p.m. EST when the two insipid, wishy-washy hosts finally said good night and the credits were finished rolling.

What I witnessed that evening was four uncomfortable young people trying to look like, sound like and act like somebody else. And these second-rate imitations were mockeries of second-rate imitations. We already have plenty of talent-free starlets with, in the colloquial squash of American language, "a rockin' body, hot a** and a sweet rack." I was expecting to see the blossom of real talent. Some glimmer of vocal promise. One shimmer of charisma. An inkling of thoughtful and truthful interpretation. Just something.

These kids were all frosting and no cake. They were done up, pushed up, squeezed in and teased out, with about a half a vocal chord to share between them and, with the exception of one young sort of punky-type girl, the stage presence of a Howard Johnson's Clam Roll – no tarter sauce. This punky-type girl had the tarter sauce.

Why a young talent such as yourself would strive to this kind of mediocrity leads me to believe you are a hoax – a hootchie mama looking to shake her groove thang in front of a voyeuristic crowd, hoping to receive acceptance and validation from the type of person who mistakes fine, elevated, teenage breasts (that most likely belong to a brassiere from Victoria's Secret) for talent. Now, I am not trying to be hard on you, but you asked for honesty and I am delivering the truth. Do you hear what I'm telling you, darling?

And this brings me to my second point: What does it mean to "have what it takes?" Contestant No. 3 last night had the flattest stomach I have ever seen. Contestant No. 2 had a flawless complexion. No. 1 had a lovely smile. No. 4, a young fellow, had the kind of lips that plastic surgeons are building onto every other patient's face. So, it's not as if they had absolutely nothing to offer. But does a pair of pouty, full-lips translate into having what it takes? I think not, young lady, I think not!

I spent years learning how to sing. I sweated my hot a** off in ballet and jazz classes. I went to vocal coaches, acting coaches and deportment coaches. I created something. I have been styled and restyled and restyled again. That is only the frosting that ices the cake. But making the cake was a long and quite delicious process. It takes patience, perseverance and dedication mixed with style, class, a certain *je ne sais ce qua* and a sweet rack and pouty lips. Don't pull the cake out of the oven before you are sure it's done and always wait for the cake to cool before you layer on the frosting, lest you wind up with a platter full of runny slop in a halter top and spangles. Do you hear what I'm telling you, darling?

Love, Lam

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.

Equality TN gets interim director

According to Randy Cox, chairman of Equality Tennessee, on Aug. 19, Paul Clere was retained by the organization as its interim executive director.

Equality Tennessee is a statewide member-funded, non-profit corporation which promotes the equality of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons through education and by working toward the elimination of prejudice and discrimination and for the defense of human rights.

Clere, who has an extensive background in community service, has agreed to a six-month term during which his primary focus will be on resource and membership development and on improving the operational structure of Equality Tennessee.

"Equality Tennessee is at a crossroads as an organization," Cox said. "In order to build upon the past two years of success by our volunteer board and membership we feel the organization will benefit from the experience and expertise that Clere brings to the table."

See Equality TN, page 43

Equality TN

from page 42

Clere has served on the board of numerous organizations, including the Tennessee Commission for National and Community Service; the Tennessee Valley Blood Services Region of the American Red Cross; the Tennessee Association of Partners in Education, and the Southern Business Council of the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce, among others. Clere owns a small publishing business and co-authored *One: A True Story of Politics, Prayer and the Power of One* about the experiences of Georgia State Representative Karla Drenner, "the first and only openly gay legislator in the Deep South."

"Equality Tennessee hopes to capitalize from Clere's proven fundraising, programming and public relations successes," Cox added.

"I look forward to working across the state to identify opportunities for Equality Tennessee," Clere said, "and to promote equality for all Tennesseans regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity."

For more information, go online to www.equalitytn.org.

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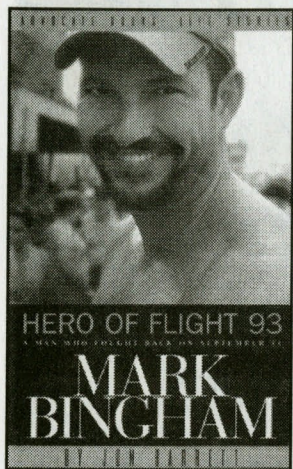


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New book details gay 9/11 hero's life

On the first anniversary of the tragedy that has come to be known as "9/11" Advocate Books has released *Hero of Flight 93: Mark Bingham*.



Jon Barrett gives us an inside look at the life of Bingham, who went into history as a "gay hero" when he and others aboard United Airlines Flight 93 tried to overcome the hijackers who intended to use the airliner as a bomb apparently intended for the White House. Instead, the flight crashed and disintegrated into a field in Pennsylvania, killing all on board.

The 31 year-old lived in San Francisco where he was president of his own public relations firm, an avid traveler and a national championship rugby player.

Barrett, the senior news editor for *The Advocate*, interviewed Bingham's mother, friends, lovers, business associates and rugby teammates in order to learn all he could about this man.

Was Bingham really a gay hero, as the media suggest? Or is he a hero who happened to be gay? The answer, his family and friends say, lies in the story of Mark's life — the story told in *Hero on Flight 93*.

The 176-page paperback, which includes eight pages of photos of Mark's life, is available at area bookstores.

GLBT short stories sought for literary contest, publication

Companion Press is seeking gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender non-fiction short stories for its "Kiss and Tell" writing contest.

Companion Press wants to know that inspiring, uplifting, romantic, humorous, embarrassing or heartwarming true story about a sexual experience that has happened to the author. Stories need to be from 300 to 1,500 words in length and may a bit naughty or sexy, but no hardcore, erotic or X-rated stories, please.

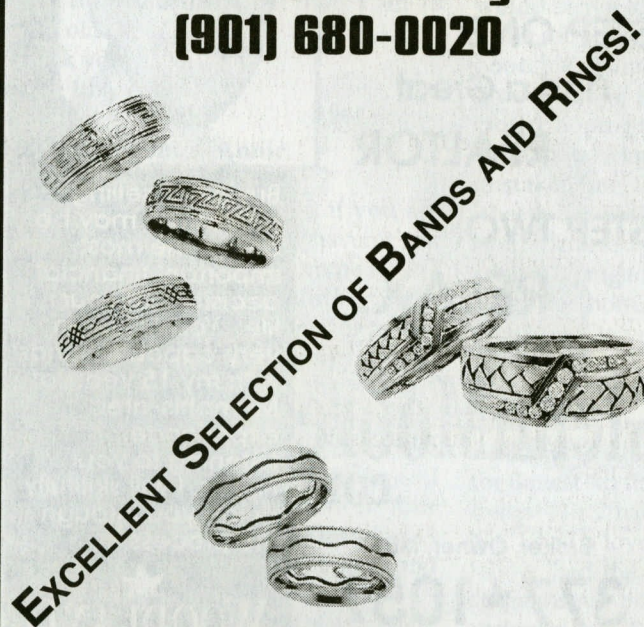
The deadline for submissions is Nov. 15. For complete contest rules and submission guidelines go online to www.companionpress.com or send a SASE to Contest, Companion Press, Box 2575, Laguna Hills, CA 92564.

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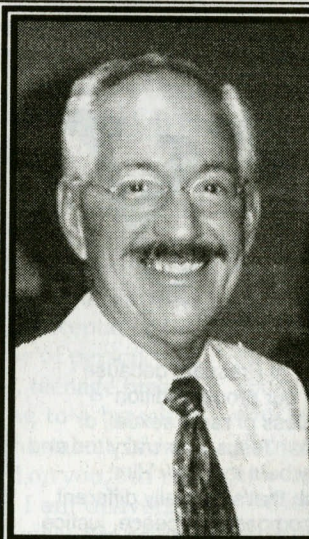
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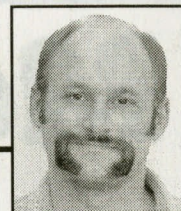
1914 Poplar
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QUOTE ... UNQUOTE

By Rex Wockner



"More important than legislation, more important than fundraising, more important than any kind of organizing we do, self-esteem is fundamental to changing the way people think about gay people. It is not through asking for other people's permission that we're going to achieve anything. Nobody likes a whiner, seriously. We need to stop asking them for permission and start telling them that we don't need their permission."

— Actor Peter Paige, Emmett on "Queer As Folk," to the *Rehoboth Beach Gayzette*, July 19.

"Being on 'Larry King Live' and not being able to say to him, 'Larry, sorry, you have some misinformation. I'm actually gay' — it was painful for me."

— Actor Robert Gant who plays Ben Bruckner (Michael's lover) on Showtime's "Queer As Folk," in a coming-out interview with *Advocate.com*, July 24.

"The typical 'metrosexual' is a young man with money to spend, living in or within easy reach of a metropolis — because that's where all the best shops, clubs, gyms and hairdressers are. He might be officially gay, straight or bisexual, but this is utterly immaterial because he has clearly taken himself as his own love object and pleasure as his sexual preference."

— Mark Simpson writing at *Salon.com*, July 22.

"Identifying what exactly constitutes being a bear has become a growing source of contention. For some, it's as simple as having a hypermasculine demeanor, a hefty physique and facial hair. For others, it's far more complicated, as smaller-stature men and muscular men also strive for inclusion. There are now even bear subsections, like cubs ... (smaller, often younger men), grizzlies (extra-large, extra-hairy guys), daddy bears (bears who are either mature or dominant), and polar bears (silver-haired seniors), among others. There are even other animal tags for bear lovers, like wolves and otters, which usually describe thin, hairy men who enjoy the company of bears."

— Larry Flick profiling bears in *The Advocate*, Aug. 20.

"I turned gay about five years ago. I always had women as a second dish, for when I was a bit fed up with men. But now I have a relationship with a woman, Dia, that I write quite a bit about in (my memoir), and we've been together five years."

— Xavier Hollander, author of *The Happy Hooker* (1972), to *The Advocate*, Aug. 20.

"(I'm gay) just because I don't wear dresses? Give me a break. It's silly. Every female has been called gay at one time. That's not who I am. I don't have a problem with anybody who is but that's just not me."

— Singer Alicia Keys to London's *The Sun*, July 30.

"Giving special treatment to gays (in the college admission

process) and then celebrating their 'perspective' (with gay-studies programs) sends a signal to high-school students that homosexuality is desirable in and of itself. ... Americans already hear this message quite a bit: With television specials, colorful parades and plenty of vocal celebrity representatives, there's something almost glamorous about being gay nowadays."

— Rachel Zabarkes writing in the *National Review*, Aug. 1.

"The Internet has been a huge force for change. The access to information, to literature, to other gays — this is our real revolution. The new generation, the ones in their 20s who use the Internet, have a completely different view of themselves. ... Gays from my generation still feel this shame, and we are still afraid to talk openly."

— Warsaw, Poland, software engineer Witek Seisalak, 40, to the *Chicago Tribune*, Aug. 2.

"There are a lot of nasty people in the porn business, I'm just not one of them. I'm just a big, fat happy drag queen that loves to tell boys how to have sex."

— American gay porn director Chi Chi LaRue to London's *Gay Times*, in May.

"It's such a disrespect thing to accuse me of being like that. So no, I'm not gay. I can't believe people are still coming with that."

— Heavyweight boxing champion Lennox Lewis to London's *Observer*, Aug. 4.

"If you teach people that something (being gay) as deep inside them as their very personality is either a source of unimaginable shame or unmentionable sin, and if you tell them that their only ethical direction is either the suppression of that self in a life of suffering or a life of meaningless promiscuity followed by eternal damnation, then it is perhaps not surprising that their moral and sexual behavior becomes wildly dichotic; that it veers from compulsive activity to shame and withdrawal; or that it becomes anesthetized by drugs or alcohol or fatally distorted by the false, crude ideology of easy prophets."

— Gay writer Andrew Sullivan in a letter to the editor of *The Nation*, Aug. 19.

"The first thing you notice is the voice — like a frog choking on a kazoo."

— The lead on an Associated Press profile of veteran gay actor/playwright Harvey Fierstein, Aug. 11.

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.

Memphis



Bar & Restaurant Guide

BARS & CLUBS

- | | |
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| <p>1 Backstreet Memphis
2018 Court Street
(901) 276-5522</p> <p>2 Crossroads
1278 Jefferson
(901) 276-8078</p> <p>3 Crossroads 2
111 North Claybrook
(901) 276-8078</p> <p>4 J-Wags
1268 Madison Avenue
(901) 725-1909</p> <p>5 The Jungle
1474 Madison Avenue
(901) 278-4313</p> <p>6 Lorenz/Aftershock
1528 Madison Avenue
(901) 274-8272</p> <p>7 Madison Flame
1588 Madison Avenue
(901) 278-9839</p> | <p>8 Metro Memphis
1349 Autumn Street
(901) 274-8010</p> <p>9 N-Cognito
338 S. Front @ Vance
(901) 523-0599</p> <p>10 One More
2117 Peabody
(901) 278-MORE</p> <p>11 The Pumping Station
1382 Poplar Avenue
(901) 272-7600</p> <p>12 Casablanca
2865 Walnut Grove Road
(901) 323-6386</p> <p>13 Watkins Park
394 Watkins
(901) 276-5001</p> |
|---|---|

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

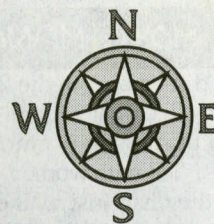
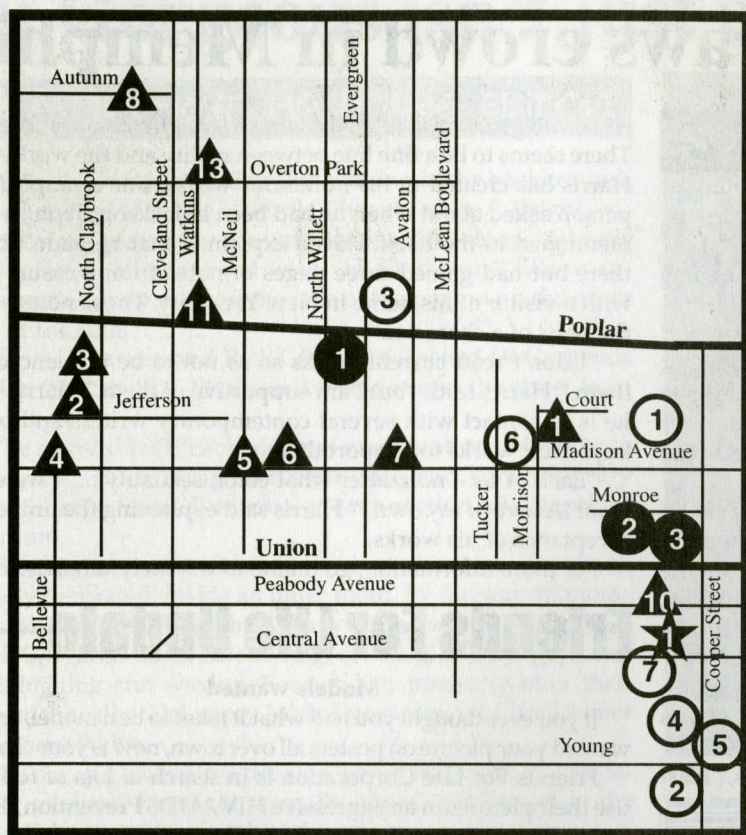
MEMPHIS THEATERS

- 1** **Circuit Playhouse**
1705 Poplar Avenue
- 2** **Emerald Theatre Company**
2085 Monroe Avenue
- 3** **Playhouse on the Square**
51 South Cooper

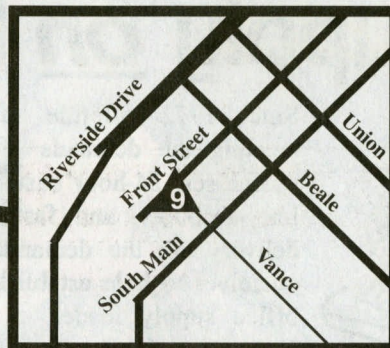
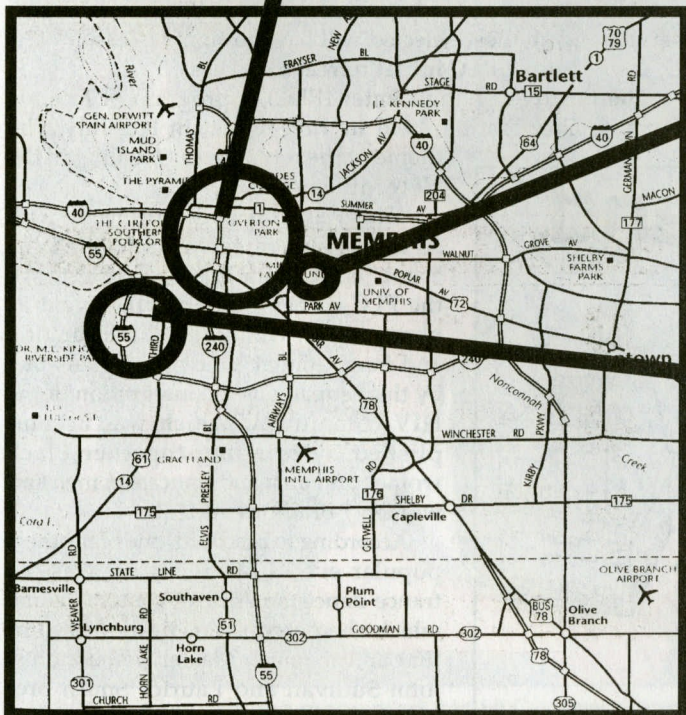
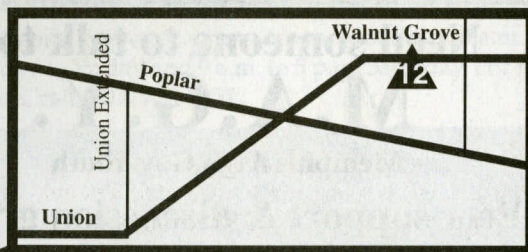
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*Maps are not to scale;
not all streets are shown.*



E. Lynn Harris draws crowd in Memphis

BY ANITA MOYT, MANAGING EDITOR

On Aug. 8, It didn't bother the 200 or so folks waiting at Davis-Kidd Booksellers that E. Lynn Harris arrived a little late. There is no doubt that Harris is much beloved.

The crowd was filled with women, probably 90 percent, some who looked like they had just walked off the cover of Harris' newest release, *A Love of My Own*. By then, only six days after its release, Harris' story of Zola Denise Norwood, a young hot editor-in-chief of *Bling, Bling*, who rules the roost in business as well as the bedroom, had risen to the No. 2 position on the best-sellers list. Not only that, according to Harris, the rights to the book for a movie had already been sold.

Harris dispensed with reading passages from the book, claiming that the audio-version was available. After a few minutes of monologue, he opened the floor to questions from the packed audience, each holding a new copy of *A Love of My Own*, eagerly awaiting the time they could speak to Mr. Harris as they passed by the desk for his autograph.

"I think about writing every day," Harris replied to one question. "The characters for the new book are simmering." Harris said he would complete his next book in late summer 2003.

Openly gay, answering one question with "I like guys," Har-

ris has no problem at all in drawing a straight female audience. There seems to be a fine line between reality and the world that Harris has created in his numerous works. For example, one person asked about when he had been in Jackson, Tenn., a city mentioned in the book. Harris explained that he hadn't been there but had gained three pages of notes from a casual talk with a visitor at his home in New York City. Those notes were the basis of a character.

"I don't read current works so as not to be influenced by them," Harris said, "but I am supportive of them." Harris said he is in contact with several contemporary writers and often buys their works to support them.

"Each of us - no matter what color, sexuality - we each want 'A love of my own,'" Harris said explaining the universal acceptance of his works.

For more information, go online to www.elynnharris.com

Friends For Life Update —

Models wanted

If you ever thought you had what it takes to be a model, or just wanted your picture on posters all over town, now is your chance.

Friends For Life Corporation is in search of lots of folks to use their pictures in an aggressive HIV / AIDS Prevention / Education Poster Campaign. People of all genders, races, ages and sexual orientations are welcome to show up at the Positive Living Center, located at 1000 South Cooper in the back of First Congregational Church, on Saturday, Sept. 7, at 9 a.m.

Those auditioning are asked to come dressed in casual attire, be ready to be photographed and bring a valid picture ID.

No fees will be paid to those selected as this is a voluntary service and all those selected will have to sign a release.

PLC initial retreat a success

The Positive Living Center (PLC), a program of Friends For Life Corporation, held its first retreat in late July. The theme of the retreat was "Healing in the New Millennium."

"This was truly a historic event, with 30 clients and caregivers attending the event," said Anita Bradford, director of the PLC. "They described the event as phenomenal, wonderful, life-changing and inspirational. One of the goals met by this retreat was the integration of the HIV community, which was accomplished by bringing together Black women and men and Caucasian men and women," Bradford added.

According to Bradford, one of the most popular events of the retreat was the trance dance, an African-centered ritual which she described as beautiful, spiritual and magical. Master percussionist John Sullivan and Laurice Smith provided memorable elements.

Need someone to talk to?

M.A.G.Y.

Memphis Area Gay Youth

Peer support & discussion group

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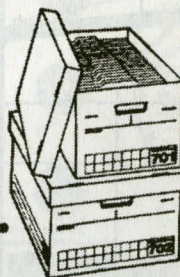
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Hi Gorgeous isn't just another hair salon

BY ANITA MOYT, MANAGING EDITOR

With Elvis and, later, Bon Jovi playing in the background, we are aware this is no simple "beauty shop." Bright, vibrant colors greet us as we walk through the door, and hear a telephone call answered with "Hi Gorgeous!" We imagine a smile surely crossed the face of the person on the other end of the line.

Larry DeLancey and Rick Caccamisi opened Hi Gorgeous in May 2002, at 1475 Madison Avenue, across the street from The Jungle.

The individual bleached-pine, work-stations blend in to the decor, which is rich with art deco and contemporary pieces. Large framed mirrors at each station add depth to the room.

Should you need to sit under the dryer, there is a cozy place, equally decorated, inside an inner room. By the way, mimosas and wine are available while you wait on the timer.

Hi Gorgeous offers hair styling, coloring, bleaching, perms, straightening and waxing. Four stylists presently offer their skills at the salon: DeLancey, Misty Dawn Howell, Cara Danner and Corey Welch.

DeLancey's alternative persona, Laurn St. James, may be familiar to some. For eight years St. James "performed in the shows" at several local nightclubs.

DeLancey also enjoys providing hair styling and makeup for other female impersonators, local actors and even for contestants in such pageants as Miss Teen America, Miss Southern



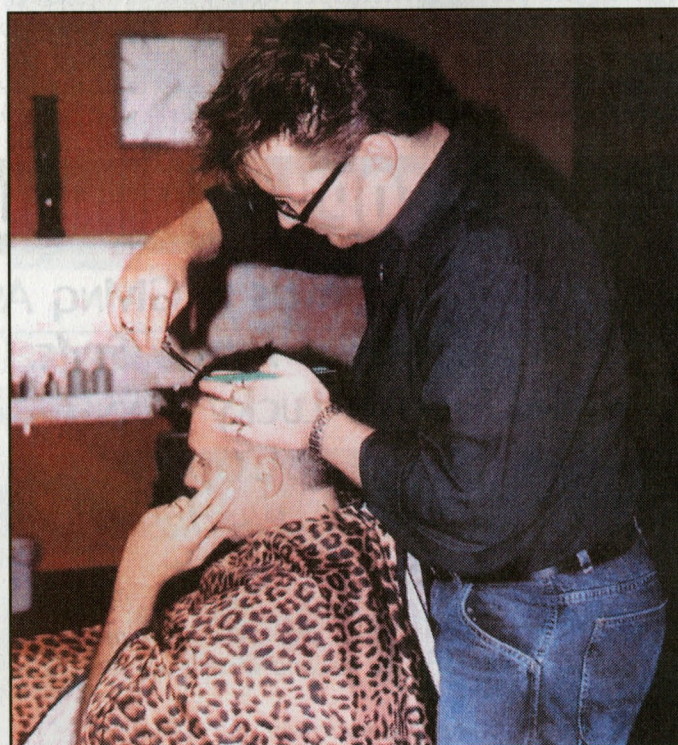
Larry DeLancey welcomes customers into Hi Gorgeous.

Teen, Miss Teen USA and Miss Southern Teen.

Hi Gorgeous is open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday; 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday to Friday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. For more information, call (901) 726-5151.



Larry DeLancey with the many products Hi Gorgeous has.



Larry DeLancey doing what he does best, cutting hair.

Photographer to make Memphis appearance

Nationally-recognized and award-winning photographer Rundu is scheduled to be in Memphis at Club N-Cognito, 338 South Front Street, on Friday and Saturday, Sept. 13 and 14, beginning at 10 p.m., where she will be selling and autographing her most recent works.

Rundu Enterprises Inc. has just-released its "Men...Rundu Style" 2003 Calendar, as well as the hard-cover, table-top book, *Wetdreams*, displaying more of Rundu's creative photography of the black male physique.

Originally from Little Rock, Ark., Rundu Staggers was graduated with honors with a concentration in entrepreneurial management from The University of Texas in Dallas. After moving to Atlanta she completed her first calendar.

That calendar, "Men...Rundu Style" sold more than 120,000 copies worldwide and was voted the No. 1 calendar in the world by the Calendar Marketing Association, among other awards.

Rundu's photography also has been captured in two books: the bestselling *body & soul - black erotica by rundu*, published by Crown Publishers/Random House and *Wetdreams*, which was released in February 2002. Both are "coffee-table" books. Whereas *body & soul* features men and women, *Wetdreams* only pictures men.

According to Rundu's website, *Wetdreams* continues Rundu's mission to break down stereotypes and represent a sensual reminder of the natural beauty of black men.

"Wetdreams is not only a photographic fantasia, but also makes a political statement as well," the website reads. "Wetdreams features a sprinkling of appropriate poetry and prose, written specifically about the eroticism of the black male, by her (late) mother, Verdie Staggers."

Rundu has committed a portion of the 2003 calendar proceeds to cancer research, in memory of her mother who recently

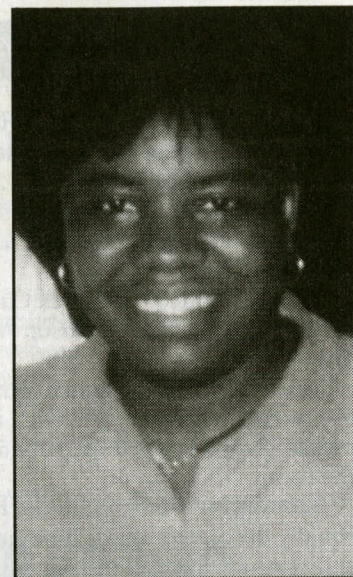
lost her battle with Thy-moma Cancer.

Rundu's work has been featured on "Oprah," Atlanta's V103 annual "For Sisters Only" expo, BET, "The Tom Joyner Morning Show," "Good-Day Atlanta" and Fox TV's "To Tell The Truth." Rundu and her work also have received much press, including *Upscale* magazine, *Essence* magazine, *The New York Times*, *Chicago Defender*, *Gay & Lesbian Times*, *New Journal & Guide*, *Los Angeles Times Book Review*, *Nassau Guardian*, *BET.com*, *Girlfriends Magazine*, *Venus* magazine, *VIBE* magazine, the *Memphis Tri-State Defender* and the *Atlanta Journal & Constitution*.

For more on Rundu Enterprises, check out its website at www.rundu.com or call (800) 20-RUNDU.

While in Memphis, Rundu is offering *Wet Dreams*, Men...Rundu Style 2003 Calendar and one poster for only \$35 a set. These are available at both Club N-Cognito and at the reception.

A reception for Rundu, as well as author Keith Barbee, is set for the Southern Heritage Classic Weekend, Sept. 13 to 15. Reservations for the reception are required by contacting Anthony Hardaway at (901) 849-2569.



Rundu Staggers

WIN A COPY OF RUNDU'S CALENDAR OR BOOK!

FAMILY & FRIENDS is Giving Away A Copy of Rundu's 2003 Calendar, MEN ... RUNDU STYLE, AND A SECOND LUCKY WINNER Will Receive A Copy of Rundu's Book, WETDREAMS.

There will be two winners, one winner will receive a 2003 Calendar, and the second winner will receive a table-top book.

No purchase is necessary to win.

Entries must be postmarked or emailed by September 30, 2002

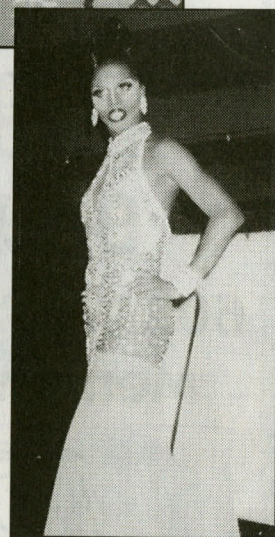
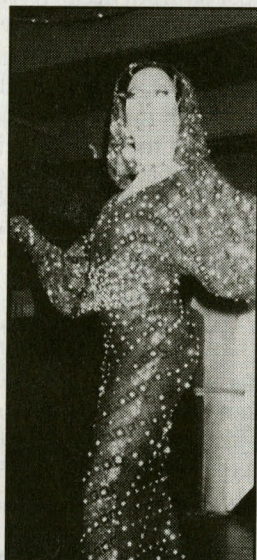
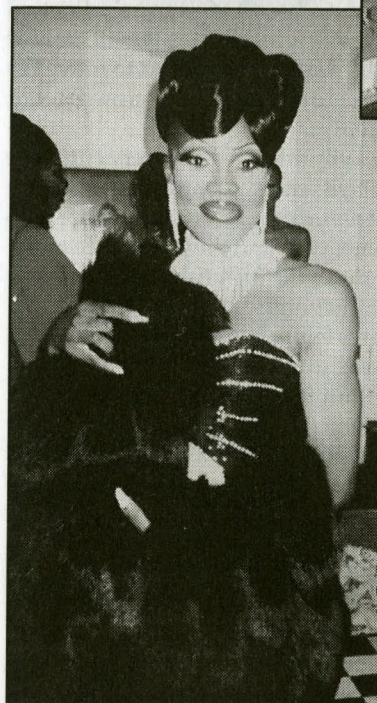
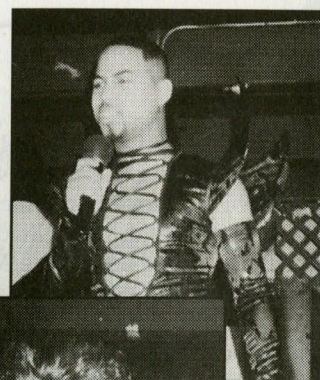
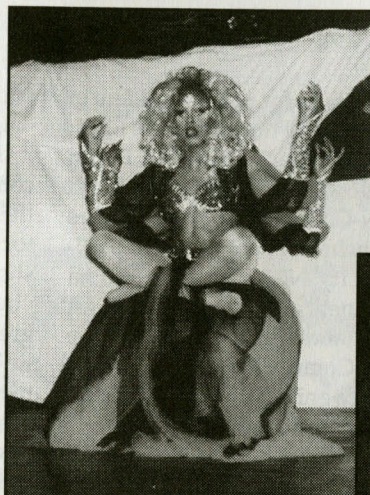
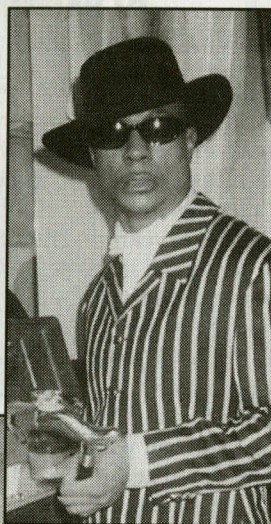
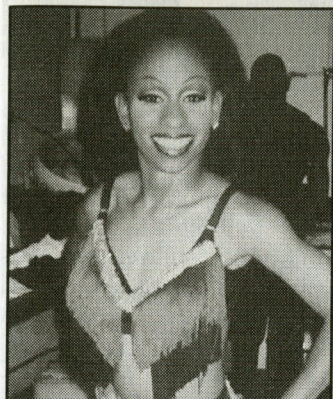
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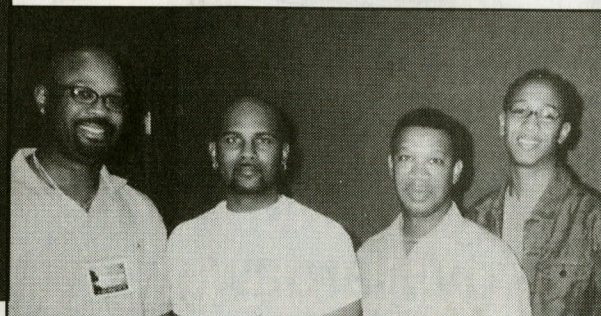
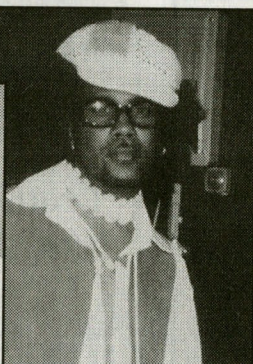
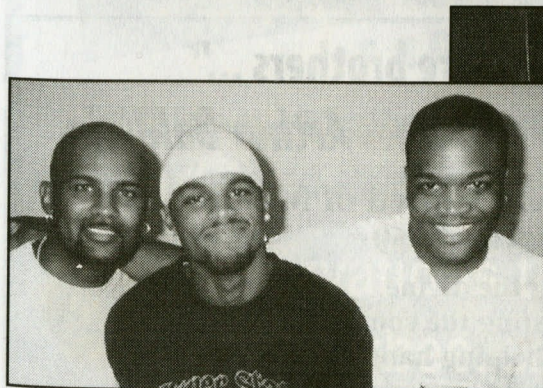
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FAMILY ALBUM

Black SGL Community – Memphis

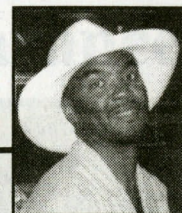


Urban Research Center board meeting – Jackson, Miss.



What's the Tee, Ladybug?

By ANTHONY HARDAWAY



This time of the year is truly the season for pageants. Here in Memphis, we have many new winners and they are: Miss Black Memphis Savannah St. James and Mr. Black Memphis Dejun Andrews St. James; Miss Black Pride Keshunna Cassadine and Mr. Black Pride Nio Dupree; Miss N-Cognito Stanisha St. James Dupree, Mr. N-Cognito Enricho Sanchez St. James and Miss N-Cognito Plus Pebbles; Miss Bluff City Newcomer Keshunna Cassadine and Mr. Bluff City Newcomer Nio Dupree; Miss Black Tennessee Maui Krescha Andrews and Mr. Black Tennessee Shonn Munro Dupree, and Miss N-Cognito Newcomer Kelise Cassadine Sanchez St. James, Mr. N-Cognito Newcomer Avante' St. James and Miss Junior Miss Malayka St. James Dupree.

Let me be the first to tell you the chil-ren battled it out for all these titles. The Newcomer pageant was so intense, I missed my 2 a.m. bus to Florida because of my wanting to see who was going to snatch the titles. Congratulate all of them on their great accomplishments.

Jacksonville, Fla. Black Pride, sponsored by Club Y, entitled "Throwdown 2002," was the place to travel the second week-

end in August. People came from as far west as New Orleans, La., and as high up as New York City.

Friday night's reception was sponsored by Jacksonville's community-based agencies and organizations. I must admit these agencies did one hell of a job. I've been attending J.B.P. for at least five years and this year I REALLY enjoyed the workshops, seminars, lectures, discussions and giveaways. Thank you Jasmyn, River Region, City Rehabilitating and NAFN for a great job the entire weekend!

The Friday night Pajama Jam and Strip Show was the perfect way to start the weekend. All the dancers did a good job: Chocolate Shake, Dr. Feelgood and Mr. D.C. himself. Friction gave the chil-ren what they really wanted. The female dancer that performed at the very end was so hot, we had to move the party to the hotel outside pool area so that the crowd could cool off from her performance.

The beach this year was heavily attended and very cute. The boys and girls got naked as they splashed and played in the Atlantic Ocean. The boat ride was nicely received by those who were able to attend. Pride owner C.K. and the committee members said they will definitely make the boat ride later next year, around 7 p.m., so everyone can attend.

Club 3 "D" welcomed the saints/child-ren (y'all know I'm churchy) Saturday night. It was so crowded that the walls and ceiling were sweating. The committee awarded the club owner, Don, with a trophy that he seemed to have really liked.

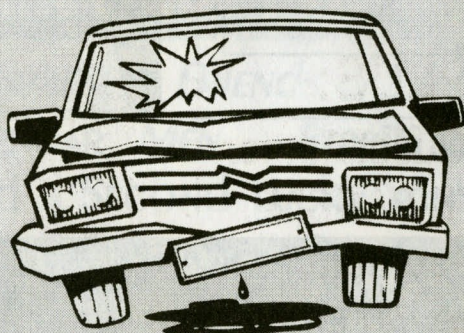
Sunday was a beautiful day for all who had to travel back home. The picnic drew about 300 to 500 people for the entire day. The Sunday evening fashion show was coordinated by committee member Ron Johnson. He and his showcase models did a wonderful job.

Look for me at Atlanta Black Pride Labor Day weekend and don't forget about the Southern Heritage Classic weekend at Club N-Cognito Sept. 13 and 14.

As we all get ready to go into the fall season and the closing of another celebration of yearly pride events nationwide, think about what the word PRIDE means to you. And, as I so often say, "Happy pride, chil-ren, happy pride!"

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Leroy Hardaway, owner

"All men are brothers ..."

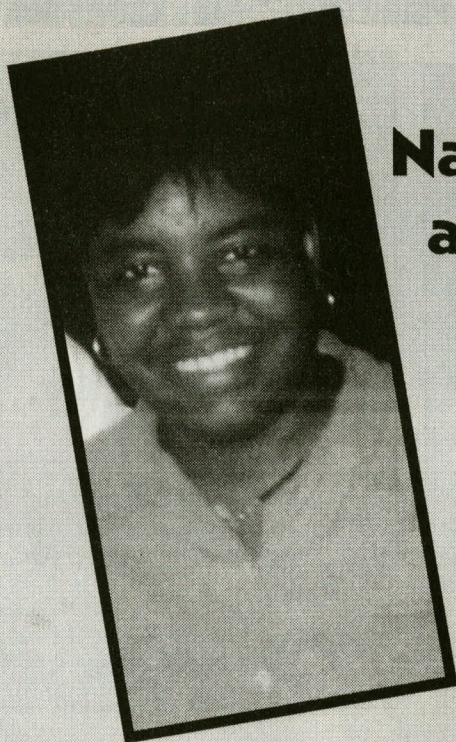
—James Arthur Baldwin

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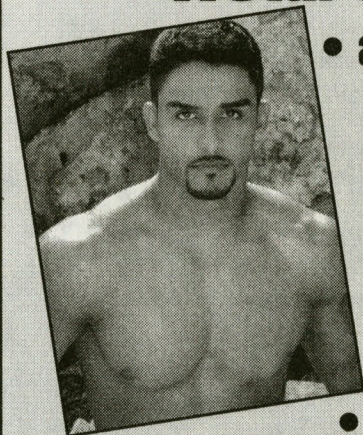
RUNDU

at Club N-Cognito

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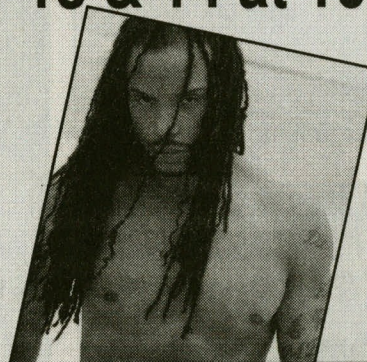
September 13 & 14 at 10 p.m.

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*Wetdreams***



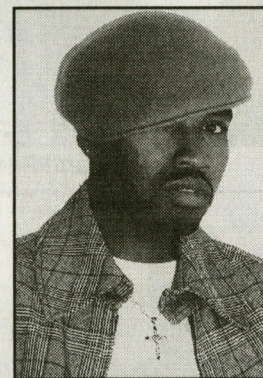
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Rundu Style"
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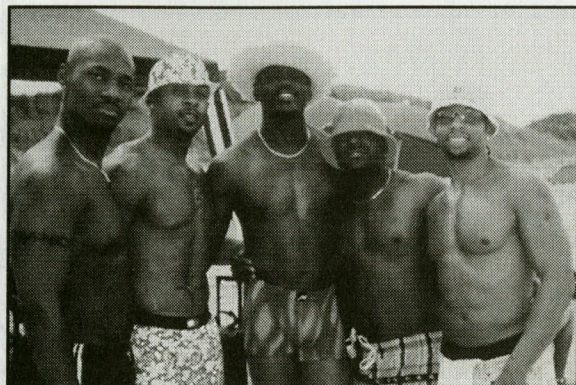
**Meet Guest Author
KEITH BARBEE,
co-author of
*The Hot Life***



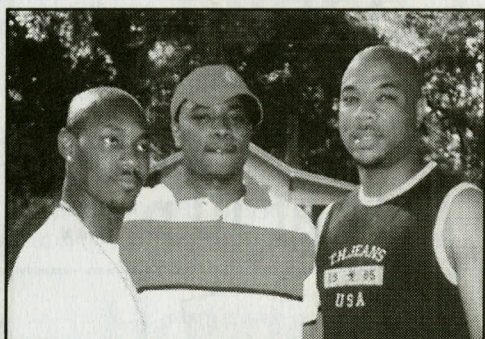
**For reservations to the reception for RUNDU and
Keith Barbee, call Anthony at (901) 849-2569**

FAMILY ALBUM

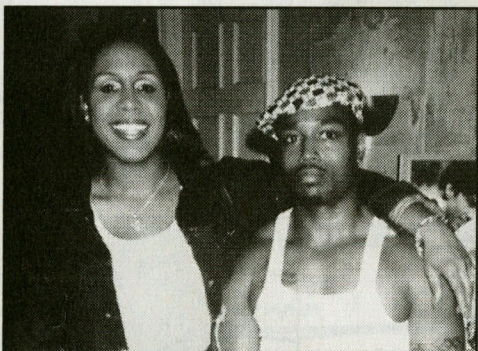
Florida Black Pride 2002 – Jacksonville, Fla.



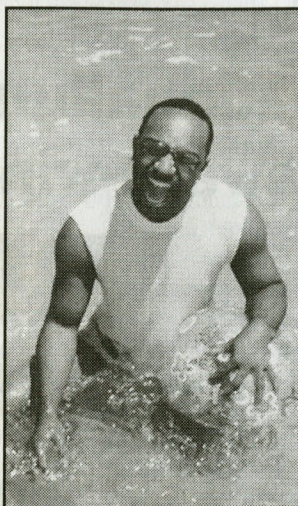
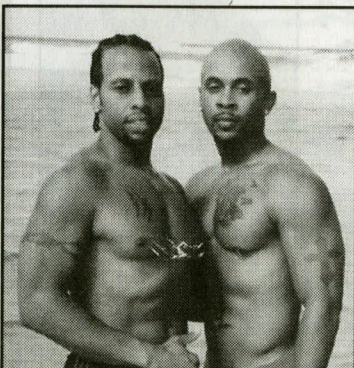
Men of Atlanta, Ga.



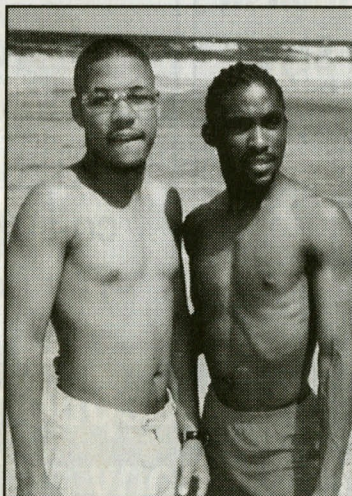
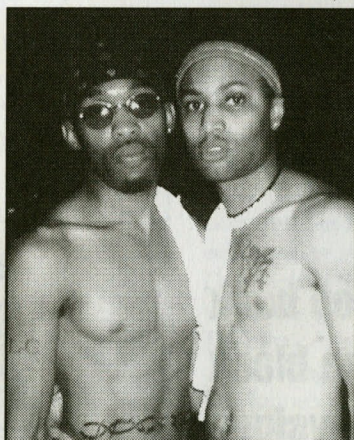
Brothas just hangin'.



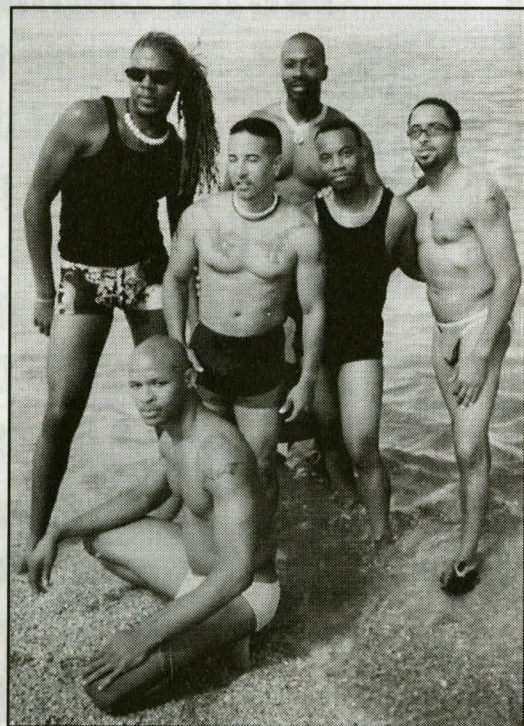
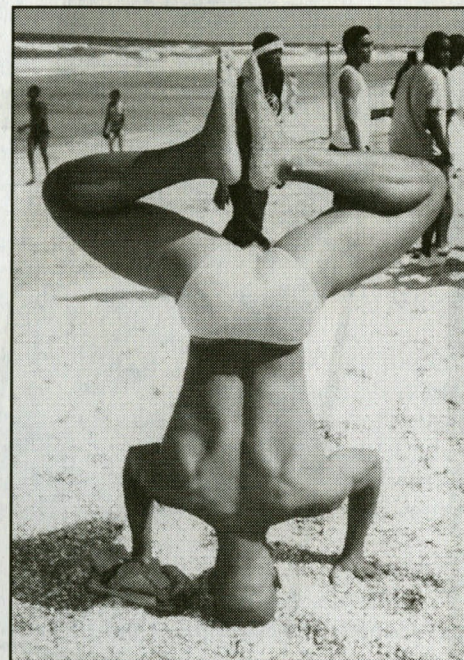
Whitney and Friction



Terrance of Jackson, Miss.



Joshua and friend



FAMILY ALBUM

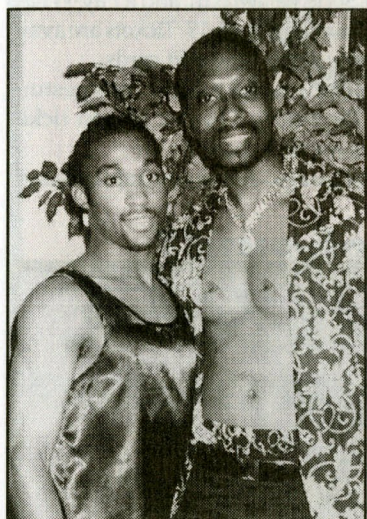
Florida Black Pride 2002 – Jacksonville, Fla.



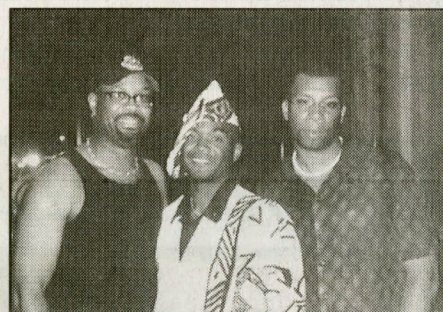
Modeling cast of Ron



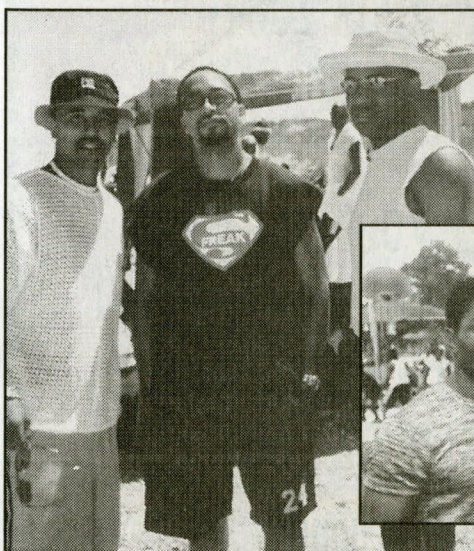
Earl of Washington, D.C., and Men of Rainbow



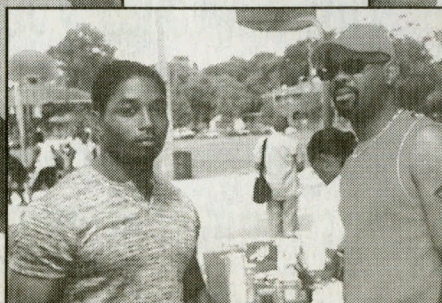
Men of Rainbow perform



Earl of Washington, D.C.; First Lady Hardaway, and Chris of Jacksonville, Fla.



Whitney, Reese and Terrance



Friction and Earl



The Jacksonville chil-ren

four colored girls ... to be produced at Theatreworks

Tony Horne has returned to Memphis and is directing *for colored girls who have considered suicide/when the rainbow is enuf*, set for Sept. 13 to 29, on stage at Theatreworks, 2085 Monroe Avenue.

This play is a soul-stirring choreopoem by Ntozake Shange, which gives voice to the black female experience through a dynamic integration of spoken word, movement and music performed by seven actor/dancers. With a distinctly African-American perspective, the piece focuses on women who are on a collective and individual journey toward self-realization. Filled with the raw emotions of pain, anger and joy, *for colored girls ...*, has universal appeal because it is both an examination of the human condition and a celebration of the human spirit.

for colored girls ... was originally planned as the season opener for the Memphis Black Repertory Theatre. When the season was canceled in August to allow MBR to reorganize, the cast, designers, director and crew felt compelled to bring the show to the stage on their own. For now, they are known as The Mosaic Group.

"This show is deeply spiritual and it has a profound effect on all who work on it," Horne said. "We knew that the piece demanded to be performed, so the cast spearheaded the effort to self-produce the show. We have become a true ensemble through this experience."

The piece debuted in 1974, at the Bacchanal, a woman's bar near Berkeley, Calif. It took on a life of its own and continued to be per-

formed at colleges, cafes, alternative spaces and poetry centers. *for colored girls ...* was on a non-stop journey that took it to the east coast, to New York City. It played at the Henry Street Settlement, the Public Theatre and eventually landed on Broadway in the fall of 1976.

Broadway has never seen the likes of this theater piece, which combined music, poetry and movement to tell the stories of black women. It marked a milestone in the American theater. As a form of theatrical expression, *for colored girls ...* is deeply rooted in creative and ritualistic traditions of Africans and African-Americans. Yet Shange's modern take on this tradition was new to most American audiences. As a result, the choreopoem format became Shange's unique contribution to the commercial American stage.

Showtimes for *for colored girls who have considered suicide/when the rainbow is enuf* are 8 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for seniors, students and military personnel. Tickets are \$8 for the special preview performance on Thursday, Sept. 12, at 8 p.m. and a Pay-What-You-Can performance is set for Thursday, Sept. 19. Tickets are available at the door for cash or checks; sorry, no credit cards.

Arts Access patrons are welcome on all nights. As a gesture of goodwill, Memphis Black Repertory Theater season ticket holders may use their coupons for this show.

This play contains adult language. For more information, call (901) 725-1457.

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Friday, Sept. 13

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Author Keith Barbee to visit Club N-Cognito

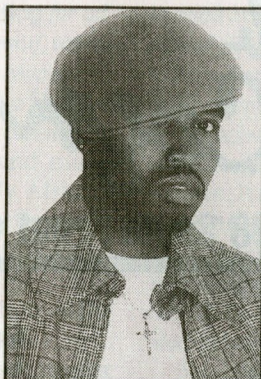
The Hot Life co-author Keith Barbee will be a guest at the Memphis Same-Gender-Loving gathering in honor of the Southern Heritage Classic annual football game. The public also can meet Barbee at Club N-Cognito on Friday and Saturday, Sept. 13 and 14, beginning at 10 p.m. where he will be selling and autographing his book, as well.

The Hot Life, by Barbee and George Reddick, is a collection of short stories, poems and essays that take a detailed look at the lives of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender African-American individuals.

"A diary of what makes us tick, this book sheds light on the darker corners, alleys and gutters that most have overlooked," Barbee said. "Often graphic, funny, painful, tearful, conscientious and thought-provoking, this book does more than speak on life – it will feed your soul."

Barbee, 24, is a native of Ripley, Tenn. Faye Barbee's only child sought refuge in books and the literary process early on. Bedtime stories and biblical passages read to him by his grandfather and the constant humming and singing of spirituals by his grandmother greatly influenced him.

Barbee was awarded a Presidential Scholarship to Tennessee State University. There he met Reddick. While at TSU, he furthered



Keith Barbee

his writing talents as arts & entertainment editor of the university's school newspaper, *The Meter*.

Barbee also has written for *Grooveline*, the *Tennessee Tribune* and *The Tennessean* yearbook.

Barbee earned a degree in business management and presently is employed as an accountant at Howard University in Washington, D.C.

"For me, *The Hot Life* is a survival guide, an awakening, a collection of truth," Barbee said. "This book encompasses the pain, love, anger heart and soul of every individual who does it their way. It is a testament to everyone struggling to be who they truly are."

Reddick, 26, a native of East Saint Louis, Ill., was a sports journalist with *The Meter*. He presently works in the field of criminal justice.

"The perils of *The Hot Life* have helped me to learn that without some guidance," Reddick said, "we are all subject to misunderstanding and mistakes. The very nature of the material in this book can do nothing but nurture your spirit and mind. Our mission is not to bring you out, but up without judgment, criticism or ridicule."

A reception for Barbee, as well as photographer Rundu, is set for the Southern Heritage Classic weekend, Sept. 13 to 15. Reservations for the reception are required by contacting Anthony Hardaway at (901) 849-2569.

CLUB "Y" THROWDOWN 2002 would like to thank:

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Rundu.com
Men of Rainbow
Friction
Club 3 "D"
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Ron
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www.people.memphis.edu/~bgala

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F&F RAINBOW DIRECTORY

SOCIAL continued

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www.gaymemphis.com/magy

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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.F.L.A.G.

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

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SUNSHINE TRAVELERS

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

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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

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Email: info@tsarus.org
website: www.tsarus.org

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WHOLENESS

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

INTO THE LIGHT

(an open women's Alcoholics Anonymous meeting group)
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...

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<http://gayellowpages.com>



HOROSCOPES

Virgo (Aug. 24-Sept. 23) – Keeping your attitude on the positive side this month will bring good things your way. Thanks to Mercury, you could be seeing a financial boost in the near future.

Libra (Sept. 24-Oct. 23) – Now is the time to call upon your creative talents and to let loose of those things you believe are holding you back from obtaining your success.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) – Relaxation is a good objective to see at this time. Turn to hobbies and things less stressful to help you accomplish this goal. Be careful of what you wish for, it could come true.

Sagittarius (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) – If there is something you desire now, use the strength of a group to obtain your wish. Thanks to the stars, what you seek may soon be yours.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 20) – Don't let the everyday battle get you down now. Determination to succeed and accomplish your goals is half the battle, and with it you can win.

Aquarius (Jan. 21-Feb. 19) – Heeding the advice of others could offer a fresh, new perspective. Highlight for the month is on travel. Romantic news at work may come as a surprise.

Pisces (Feb. 20-March 20) – Social time is the focus for this month as new friendships are on the horizon. However, you

may have to make the first move. Dare to dream for dreams can come true.

Aries (March 21-April 20) – The stars will bring a positive change your way in regard to creativity this month. You may get a positive surprise when it comes to your social life.

Taurus (April 21-May 21) – Now is the perfect time to consider long-range financial investments. No matter what you do this month, expect favorable rewards in regard to social activities.

Gemini (May 22-June 21) – If you're considering a vacation, now is the time to move forward. Focus is on social activities, creativity and your potential to succeed.

Cancer (June 22-July 23) – Now is the time to think about turning your hobbies into real cash. People in far away places can bring favorable news this month. Keep your chin up.

Leo (July 24-Aug. 23) – If you're experiencing problems, try a different, more positive outlook and approach. Toot your own horn now because those in high places are listening.

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

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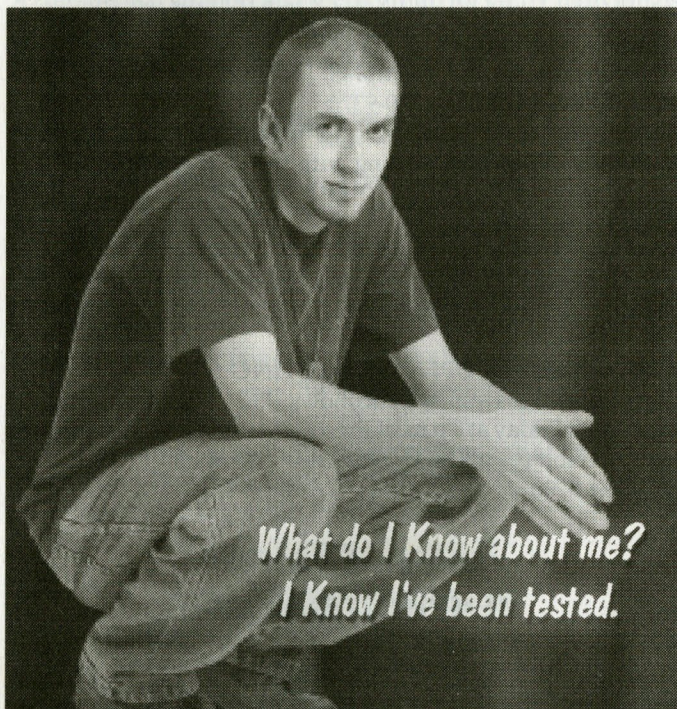
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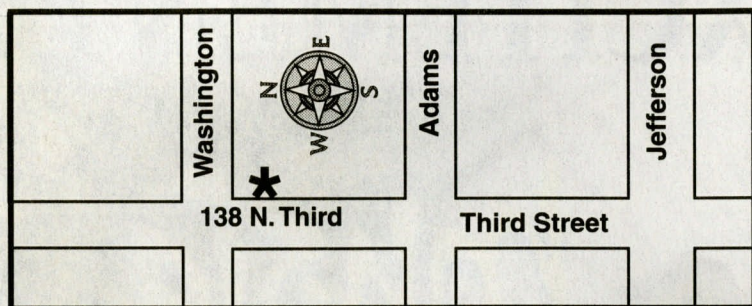
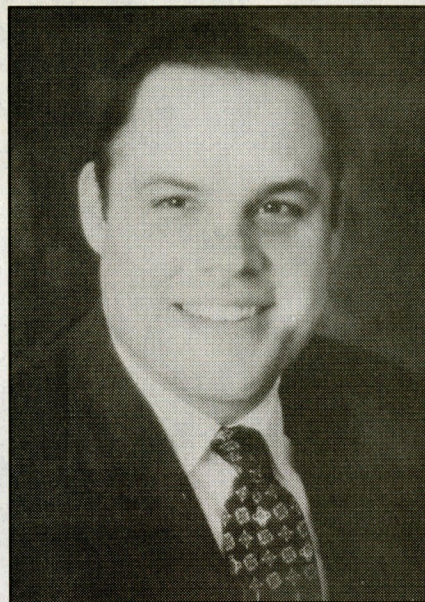


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