

NOVEMBER 2002 FAMILY & friends 2

#### **VOL. 5, NO. 8**



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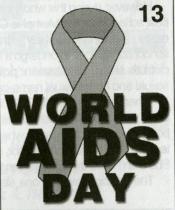
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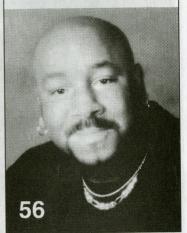
Black, gay and sanctified, this author plans visit to Memphis to speak, sign books

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# Everyone's 'baby steps' can add up to change

Sometimes catch phrases, or cliches, become so overused that we tend to use them without really thinking about what they mean.

Take, for instance, the phrase, "Rome was not built in a day." We use it. We hear other people use it. But when was the last time we actually stopped and took a moment to think about what it really means and how it applies to the GLBT community?

Just the other day, we had a situation with our son and the school he attends. Apparently, a teacher called our son and another young man, "gay." This wasn't the first time this particular teacher had done something inappropriate, but it was the straw that broke the camel's back (there's another one of those phrases).

We took our concerns to the school's principal, a highly intelligent, loving, yet strict woman whom all the children adore. This principal has a simple policy she expects to be followed in her school, by students, teachers and adults, alike. There are no double standards with her, trust us on that.

The policy is, "Don't call anyone anything other than the name their mother gave them." Short and so simple that even a pre-kindergartner can understand it.

Needless to say, there was an investigation, other children heard the name-calling and shared this with the principal when questioned. To make a rather long story short, the teacher was dismissed (or fired, as our son reported to us a few days later).

However, during this whole incident, we recalled that during the past school year, the Memphis City School District had mandated certain personnel, namely principals, assistant principals and school counselors, to undergo a day-long workshop regarding the district's sexual harrassment policy (which prohibits both heterosexual and homosexual name-calling).

When we met with the principal for our follow-up to the "incident," we asked if all the teachers had been given a copy of this policy. The reason: Because when we first reported it to the former teacher's immediate supervisor, she looked at us and said, "So?" She didn't have the faintest idea there was anything wrong with it.

The principal, who is one stand-up kind of woman, honestly

told us the teachers in her school had not been given a copy of that specific policy (each individual principal is responsible for generating their own teacher handbooks).

However, without hesitation (and without us having to request it), she told us in no uncertain terms that it would be taken care of within a few days.

We said our goodbyes and thank-yous, and as we headed to the car, we felt a bit victorious. It felt good. It put a smile on our faces for the rest of the day.

So, no Rome was not built in a day. And our struggle for equal rights and winning the acceptance of others as GLBT individuals won't happen overnight either.

The war is far from over, but every time we win just one battle, no matter how small, we chip away at the stereotypes that surround us and make people view us as something other than the human beings we truly are.

So, our point is this ... if each of us makes just one tiny positive change, together, the big changes will occur. Remember, you've got to walk before you can run ... baby steps, baby steps.

While we're on a bit of rant, we have another observation we would like to share with you.

Have you ever noticed how most folks don't want to help you when you're down, but don't waste a single minute recognizing you when you're on top?

Call it human nature, heck, call it whatever you want, but it's painfully true.

It's kind of like an old phrase our mother used to keep on the refrigerator, "When I'm right, no one remembers. When I'm wrong, no one forgets."

When you're down to your last dime, there never seems to be anyone around. But, when your check comes in and the cash is flowing, ie. you're successful again, everyone wants to be your best friend.

Just something to think about.

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# Workshop offered for **GLBT** political hopefuls

A four-day, intensive workshop on campaigns and the electoral process, known as The Victory Training Institute, is set for Thursday through Sunday, Dec. 12 to 15, in New Orleans.

This institute, a product of The Gay & Lesbian Victory Foundation, seeks to educate potential candidates and campaign managers on the ins and outs of message, strategy, voter conduct and more. Besides having access to some of the nation's foremost campaign strategists, attendees will simulate running a campaign for the duration of the session.

All openly gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered individuals who are running or who have an interest in running for office; all GLBT individuals who would like to manage a candidate or ballot initiative campaign, and any GLBT individual with an interest in the electoral process is invited. Party affiliation does not matter.

Cost is \$400 per person, which includes room, most meals, training and related materials. Space is limited.

For more information or an application, go online to www.victoryfoundation.org or call Josh Siegel at (202) 628-9151.

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# Orpheum to host Jim Brickman for holidays

#### By LAINE MCNEIL, staff writer

His trips to Memphis are becoming almost as much of a holiday tradition as eggnog and those holiday television specials, you know the ones, we've been watching them since childhood.

Friday, Dec. 6, will mark yet another holiday show by one of the world's most foremost romantic pianists, Jim Brickman.

Just as Brickman is no stranger to Memphis, he's no stranger to Family & Friends, either, having graced our cover twice since we began publication almost five years ago, a feat held by no other.

When we spoke with him via telephone last month, we asked

him what keeps luring him back to the Mid-South.

"The theater is beautiful," he said. "It's truly amazing, and I seem to be making it a tradition to perform my holiday music there. And, I feel it's important to not just play New York, Chicago and L.A."

The "theater" Brickman spoke of is The Orpheum, which is the only venue he has played in the Mid-South, with the exception of his very first Mid-South appearance, which was at the Germantown Performing Arts Centre.

Presently, he is on tour with his new show, "Love Songs & Lullabies," which is described as a "lavish new concert production inspired by his most recent television special for PBS."

Brickman's Dec. 6 show in Memphis will be a special holiday version of "Love Songs & Lullabies," which is a musical tribute to romance — presented through vibrant piano artistry, lush ballads and poignant songs that have won this multitalented entertainer the hearts — and applause—of audiences around the world.

So, exactly what can concert-goers look forward to on Dec. 6?

"As we get closer to the holidays, we'll

be bringing in a new set design," he answered. "The show will be about half current music and half Christmas music." In addition, Brickman's Memphis show also will feature guests Tracy Silverman and Anne Cochran.

In case you missed this tall, dark and handsome hunk during one of his previous Greater Memphis concerts, or you missed one of those issues of *F&F* with his chiseled smile staring at you from the cover, let us re-introduce you to this man who has made romance fashionable again. His songs you might be most familiar with include "Valentine," "The Gift" and "Simple Things."

A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Brickman has soared to success in every musical field he entered – from commercial jingles to the recording industry, from the competitive world of radio airplay to the concert stage.

Since bursting into the arena of popular music with gold albums

By Heart, Picture This, The Gift and Destiny, Brickman appears to have been an overnight success. He made his solo album debut in 1994, with No Words, followed by the gold-certified By Heart and the platinum-selling Picture This, which debuted at No. 1 on Billboard's New Age chart. The 1999 album, Destiny, sold more than 500,000 copies, not only marking his fourth gold record, but also putting him over the three million mark in career sales.

For a complete review of his most recent CD release, Love Songs & Lullabies, see "In The Mix," page 22.

When Brickman began searching for a theme for his new PBS special, he turned to the past for inspiration. He knew there was something missing from present-day popular music charts that had been the emotional key to healing America during earlier

times of crisis and anxiety.

"I grew up listening to ballads and love songs of the Vietnam era, as well as to songs that pulled America together during World War II," he said. "It's ironic, perhaps, but when this country is confronting periods of hostility and hardship, the love songs of those times are the most poignant and beautiful."

Realizing there's never been a better time for the comforting sounds of romantic ballads and lullabies with America torn by the aftershocks of terrorism, economic uncertainty and war, Brickman features those songs in his second PBS special, "Love Songs & Lullabies." A live Brickman concert was taped for the special this past March at the historic Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts in Hartford, Conn.

Brickman, whose dazzling piano artistry and engaging concert persona have earned him both critical and public accolades, was considered a musical pioneer when he revived the nearly-forgotten romantic ballad as a radio and recording hit in the mid-1990s.

recording hit in the mid-1990s.

"When I started performing live," he explained, "it was considered unhip to admit the guilty pleasures of loving those performers who built their careers on themes of love and relationships. But I soon discovered that there's a vast audience who grew up listening to romantic songs, like music by Carly Simon, James Taylor and Carole King, who miss hearing those songs on the radio."

Despite Brickman's own radio success, he was startled to find that many concert audiences were discovering him for the first time.

"My first PBS special, which aired in 2000, was a great turning point for me," Brickman said. "People at my concerts would say they had seen or heard me for the very first time on the television! There's a whole generation of audiences that are discovering music through TV and cable."



Jim Brickman

See Brickman, page 25

# ETC to stage Madonna Obsessive Support Group

#### By ANITA MOYT, managing editor

Emerald Theatre Company will bring the new play *Madonna Obsessive Support Group* to the stage at Theatreworks, 2085 Monroe Avenue, Nov. 8 to 17.

"Almost everyone has a reaction to Madonna; they love her or they hate her," playwright Ron Morris told *Family & Friends* in a telephone interview from his home in New York City.

While standing in line in New York's Time Square, Morris made a major realization, which was the catalyst for his play, *Madonna Obsessive Support Group*.

"When I first moved to New York," Morris said, "Madonna was about to release her CD *Ray of Light* and there was a rumor she would be at the Virgin Megastore in Times Square. While in line I overheard this teenage boy telling someone else about Madonna. I was amazed at how much he knew about Madonna, including her every inflection and look. He was so fascinated by her and in awe of her. Then I realized I was standing in the same line as he was. That was when I came up with the idea for the story.

"I think this is a great story about how people live vicariously through celebrities sometimes," Morris continued. "We all have those people we idolize and emulate and want to have some connection with. It is about this great group of people who have to figure out what they are trying to get from this celebrity. It is really not so much about the celebrity ... it is really about them".

The Madonna Obsessive Support Group is held in the home of Kevin (Charlie Green). This group isn't very big and sometimes the folks don't always arrive, at least not on time. Anyway, Justin (Dustin Holden) is coming over for his first time. He and his boyfriend are having troubles; perhaps it is the Madonna scrapbook Justin carries around – all the time. Many thought his tatoo to be a little excessive, as well. Then there is Louise (Genevieve Imhoff), whose obsession is one of hate, not love, with the "Material Girl." Talk about attitude. And then there is James (Hal Harmon), the one whose obsession has led to his arrest a few times – but at least he got to see her and she did talk to him, even if what she said was not so nice.

Morris has done a great job of the using flashbacks to let us see a little deeper into each character. In those flashbacks the Man (Michael Hoots) provides a voice to a memory, chatting at times with each character.

"Yes, the play has given us some challenges," Director Den-Nickolas Smith told Family & Friends. "The script is constructed with a lot of flashback scenes, which flows from the present action. There is no break. As the director, I felt I met the challenge of how to blend the flashback sequences with the action taking place so the audience is not lost in what is going on. The lightning design (by Steven Forseyth) make the transitions smoother."

As the group attempts to get down to business, a knock is heard at the door. The voice on the other side of the door identifies herself as the object of their obsession, Madonna (Beth Sclater). For real or not, that is the question. With the door



The cast of Madonna Obsessive Support Group.

opened, stalker James doesn't risk loosing the object of his desire and tackles her into the bathroom where she is locked in for much of the rest of the play.

As Justin says, "Have you ever fantasized about what you would say to her?" What would you say to Madonna? Now is your chance, if it really is her on the other side of the door.

"I would like the audience, above all, to get out of this show a really enlightened fun time," Smith said. "...It is a very funny script. I hope people can take away something (from the play) they can relate to in their own life ... an enlightened outlook that it is okay to be engaged in obsessive behavior, some times."

Morris also has written several other plays, including *Boxed In*, which has been produced in Florida and Louisiana, and he is presently finishing up *Wonder Woman Killed Christmas*, which is going to be workshopped in New York in the Spring. When Morris isn't writing, he can be seen all around New York, up and down the East Coast, in Florida and Georgia, performing the songs he has written, accompanying himself on acoustic guitar.

Tickets are \$10 general admission and \$5 for students with valid ID.

Showtimes are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m.

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

# MPI says 'no' to MGLCC's proposal to merge

The Memphis Pride Inc. (MPI) Board of Directors has unanimously decided not to accept a proposal of merger brought before them by The Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center (MGLCC).

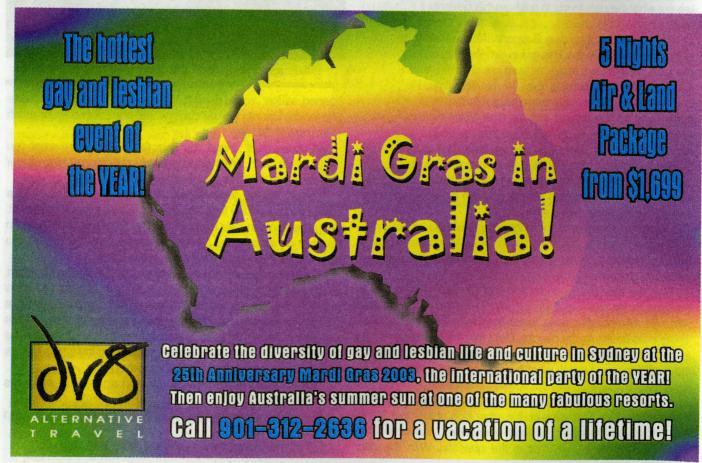
Members of the MGLCC brought a merger proposal to the newly-elected board of MPI on Sept. 23. According to the proposal, the MGLCC board invited MPI to rejoin the MGLCC as its "Pride Committee." The proposal further stated "in doing so, MPI would receive a separate checking account from the other MGLCC programs; 501(c)(3) status, which allows you to offer tax deductions to your donors; sales tax exemption, and an updated link on the MGLCC website ... or use of MGLCC's webmaster to update MPI's website."

The proposal by MGLCC further stated that in "exchange, MGLCC would receive recognition as a sponsor for every MPI-sanctioned event; the elected

treasurer of the MGLCC board of directors would be one of the signees on the ("Pride Committee") checking account, along with the treasurer of the

"Pride Committee," and monies raised at Pride Committee-sanctioned events would be directed back into the checking account for future Pride Committee events."





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DRINK

# **DV8** Travel offers services to GLBT community

#### By ANITA MOYT, managing editor

Many gays and lesbians enjoy traveling, both short-term and long-term. DV8 Travel, a subsidiary of McCarty Travel, offers the gay and lesbian traveler a host of services. Chris Dacus, DV8's general manager, discussed the travel industry in light of the gay and lesbian traveler with Family & Friends.

F&F: What an interesting name, DV8 Travel. How did you come up with the name and is there a meaning behind the name?

DV8: One of our associates came up with the name during a brainstorming session. We were trying to come up with "catchy" names for our new subsidiary (of McCarty Travel) that offers alternative travel. We all liked the definition of deviate, which means "departing significantly from the behavioral norms of a particular society."

F&F: We see that McCarty Travel (DV8's parent

company) is the only travel agency in Memphis and the Mid-South which is a member of The International Gay & Lesbian Travel Association (IGLTA). Why did your travel agency join this association?

DV8: IGLTA keeps us in the loop of all the vacation and tour companies that offer gay travel. We thought it was very important to be able to offer this to the Memphis GLBT community.

F&F: We are assuming that some of the agents with DV8 Travel are GLBT? Is that correct?

DV8: Yes. We have two, including myself.

F&F: Do you believe there to be an advantage to having gay staff in understanding the needs of the GLBT traveler?

DV8: Definitely! I believe there is a comfort level and understanding that only "we" can give to one another. While all of our staff is very gay-friendly, there are those GLBT customers who may not feel comfortable when asking (them) certain questions.

F&F: Does DV8 offer "package" deals where all one basically has to do is pay one price and show up at the airport and DV8 staff does the rest, including scheduling tours, dinners, etc.?

DV8: There are a number of tour companies out there these days that have all kinds of package deals. GayJET, RSVP Vacations, Club Skirts, Atlantis Vacations, David Tours, just to name a few. These companies arrange the complete package, and this is what DV8 sells.

F&F: Does DV8 offer a buffet of services to choose from, perhaps just limited to booking airflights for those independent travelers that only need that service? What other services are offered by DV8 Travel?

DV8: McCarty Travel is a full-service travel agency, therefore DV8 can offer all the same services, such as airlines tickets, vaca-

tion travel, and group and incentive travel. However, DV8's focus will be mainly on the GLBT vacationer.

F&F: Some in the GLBT community enjoy traveling to "all-gay" events or notable "gay" destinations nationwide. What are some of the "hot" national destinations right now? What about internationally?

DV8: The 2002 Gay Games in Sydney, Australia, which started Oct. 30. ... Domestically, Halloween in New Orleans is a big event. Then there is the White Party in Palm Springs in the Spring. The event planners have combined the White Party during the same time as the Dinah Shore Golf Classic, so there should be lots of fun for both the gay circuit partier, as well as the lesbian golf fan.

F&F: Are you aware of certain destinations nationally and internationally that GLBT individuals would not be welcome at? Do you advise your clients accordingly?

DV8: We definitely advise our clients of destinations they may feel uncomfortable in based on our research and information provided by TAG and IGLTA.

F&F: Does DV8 Travel/McCarty Travel offer cruises, and if so, on which cruise lines?

DV8: We offer cruises on ALL cruise lines based on our clients' expectations: Royal Caribbean, Carnival, Crystal, just to name a few. Specifically, DV8 will

assist and sell those cruises offered on RSVP Vacations, Atlantis Vacations, Olivia Cruises and Tours, and other gay or gay-friendly cruises.

F&F: Some individuals in the gay community seek destinations that are not so "gay" specific, but welcome them regardless of their sexual orientation. Have you found this to be true with your GLBT clients? What are some of the more popular destinations for these individuals/couples?

DV8: Yes, our travelers want to be comfortable in every destination whether it is gay or gay-friendly. Puerto Vallarta, Montreal, Toronto, all of Southern Florida, but there are many others, too.

F&F: Has the "gay-friendliness" of hotels, airlines, etc. been growing through the years? Can you identify some of those "gay-friendly" companies?

DV8: Yes. Northwest, American Airlines and USAirways are just a few of the airlines. Hotel Monaco/Kimpton Group, Qantas Vacations, Thrifty Car Rental ... my list goes on and on.

F&F: One study, conducted by Community Marketing of San Francisco, indicated that gay and lesbian travelers traveled more, took more cruises and more of them have passports than the average American traveler. Does your experience indicate this to be accurate?

DV8: I actually attended Community Marketing's 2003 Conference this past March in West Hollywood. This information

See DV8 Travel, page 11

#### **DV8 Travel**

from page 10

was conveyed at the conference, as well the GLBT traveler having above average income and more expendable income. With 17 years of travel experience, and as a traveler myself, this seems to be true.

F&F: Did you see a drop-off of travel after 9/11? Has travel resumed back to the pre-9/11 travel rate or even exceeded that level?

DV8: Yes, travel did drop off significantly after 9/11, however, by December 2001, vacation travel returned to pre-9/11 levels.

F&F: The Atlanta Convention and Visitors Bureau actually has a website devoted to the gay and lesbian traveler, inviting them to the city. Is this indicative of many cities, if not countries - promoting their city/country to the GLBT market? Are you aware of any other cities/countries doing this?

DV8: There are many cities and countries that are currently promoting to the GLBT traveler. There are so many these days that it's hard to keep up! This is where being a member of IGLTA also helps. The resources they provide are excellent tools to keep us updated on every destination.

F&F: What makes DV8 Travel different from other travel agencies, including "online" travel agencies? What can DV8 travel offer its clients that the others don't?

DV8: Local service. There are hundreds of other travel services, including those online travel services. The difference here is you'll get excellent personalized customer service from someone who is also a part of the Memphis GLBT community.

DV8 Travel, located at 50 Peabody Place, Suite 110, is open 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday or by appointment. For more information, call DV8 Travel at (901) 312-2636.

## Celebrate Mardi Gras the gay way in Australia

Imagine a getaway to Sydney Australia. There you will attend the hottest annual event on the Gay & Lesbian calendar, the 25th Anniversary Mardi Gras 2003.

The Mardi Gras Festival program of arts and community events culminates on Saturday, March 1, 2003, with a fabulous parade along Oxford Street which attracts 600,000 spectators, followed by "The Party" of the year, renowned for its spectacular acts and guest performers.

DV8 Travel is putting the finishing touches on this trip, which, for \$1,699, includes roundtrip, economy-class airfare from Los Angeles to Sydney Australia and back to Los Angeles; five nights accommodations in Sydney, and your Mardi Gras 2003 party ticket.

And, afterwards, for an additional fee, you can take another few days to recover in the sun at one of the great resorts and hideaways Australia is famous for.

For more information, call Chris at DV8 Travel, (901) 312-2636.



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#### BULLETIN

According to an August 2002 poll by the GALLUP Organization, Americans estimate that approximately 20 percent of the general population is gay or lesbian and continues to show an increase in its public acceptance of the GLBT community.

Another company, GNUSA Group, has announced plans to produce an all-gay and lesbian television channel. GN&EntTV, which is scheduled to be online, via satellite TV services, sometime in 2003.

FRIENDS FOR LIFE CORPORATION received more than \$66,000 from 70 APATT parties and the final gala dessert party held in August and September. All the funds will help the Memphis agency continue its fight against HIV/AIDS.

HARRY HAY, well-known gay-rights activist, died in San Francisco on Oct. 24, at the age of 90. In 1950, Hay and four others formed the Mattachine Society, named after the court jesters of the Italian Renaissance who, behind their masks, were free to speak the truth. In the 1960s, Hay helped organize the first "gay pride" parade in Los Angeles.

HOLY TRINITY COMMUNITY CHURCH is in the process of relocating, possibly to an existing church building on Highland Avenue. Anyone want to buy a use-to-be-a-bank-now-it-is-achurch building located on one of the city's main thoroughfares?

POWER UP (Professional Organization of Women in Entertainment Reaching UP), awarded Melissa Etheridge and Jerry Offsay its annual Premiere Awards on Nov. 3 at the 2nd Annual POWER PREMIERE fundraiser in Beverly Hills.

DEC. 1 is WORLD AIDS DAY. There are several venues, locally and nationally, observing this annual day set aside to remember those who have died from HIV/AIDs and those who are living with the disease. Check out page 13 for details.

LOVING ARMS is again making Christmas merry for its hundreds of little clients, children infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. with the help of our community. If you are interested in donating new toys or making a monetary donation, call Sheila Tankersley at (901) 725-6730.

One such community organization is APHRODITE, which will

put on its annual benefit show for "SHEILA'S KIDS" on Sunday, Nov. 17, beginning at 8 p.m., at MADISON FLAME, located at 1588 Madison Avenue. Proceeds from the \$3 cover charge, tips and donations from the crowd, will go toward buying as many toys as possible for the children.

OUT AND ABOUT IN LYNCHBURG, the first-ever pride festival in Lynchburg, Va., home of Jerry Falwell, held Oct. 26, was considered a success, with those attending letting the city know gays live there, too. Several gay-friendly groups, including Al-Fatiha, an international organization for GLBT Muslims, PFLAG and Soulforce combined forces for the event.

As you flip through this issue of FAMILY & FRIENDS MAGA-ZINE, you will notice our "new and improved" look. The changes we made will allow more room for stories and other features. Also, the revisions to the FAMILY & FRIEND'S RAINBOW DIRECTORY will allow more listings. All information in the directories will be verified and up-to-date in the December issue of Family & Friends. Other than bars, we do not list businesses in the directory, which is meant for individuals, especially those new to the city, to find places to go and groups of like-minded individuals to enjoy their company.

We hope to add another category to the directory in the near future, brought about by several phone calls from people new to the city. They were seeking the names of GLBT/GLBT-friendly doctors. Look for "MEDICAL" next month.

Please note: Our new well-received column, MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR, will return next month.

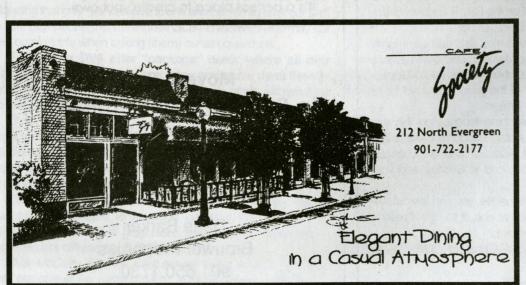
TSARUS is now raising funds to replace buildings recently destroyed by fire at its camp, AIDA. Because of this, you may see a few more trays of jello shooters at THE PUMPING STATION, on Saturday, Nov. 30, when the leather and levi club holds its annual LEATHER REUNION.

We at FAMILY & FRIENDS strive to include in our pages many events that are free to the public, so that money is no obstacle to entertainment or finding something to do. THE CIRCUIT THE-ATER, PLAYHOUSE ON THE SQUARE and THEATRE MEM-

> PHIS all offer Pay-What-You-Can performances, which means free or very inexpensive. WORLD AIDS DAY functions held locally this month and the first of next month also are free to the public.

And for all you GO-GOS fans, the legendary all-girl band of the '80s is scheduled to perform at GRAND CASINO TUNICA on Friday, Dec. 27. Look for a story about these five rockin' women in the next issue of Family & Friends Magazine.

And, mark your calendars for Saturday, June 7, 2003, for PRIDE 2003.



# Memphis, nation to note World AIDS Day

Sunday, Dec. 1, thousands of people across America will come together to honor their loved-ones who have lost their fight against one of the deadliest killers our time has ever known, AIDS.

Dec. 1 is World AIDS Day all across the country, a day when so many, many people remember those who have died from HIV/AIDS and cherish those who are infected and affected by this disease.

Many different types of events are planned in Memphis, the Mid-South and the nation to celebrate this very special day. The following is a list of just some of the ways the public can participate.

Sunday, Dec. 1, is nationally recognized as World AIDS Day and in Memphis, a special

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service is held annually to recognize those in the battle with HIV/AIDS. This year's observance, themed "Keep the Light of Hope Alive," will be held at Temple Israel, located at 1376 East Massey Road. The program begins at 3 p.m. with a reception following. The public is invited to this free event.

As you drive through the intersection of Poplar Avenue

and East Parkway, two churches located opposite one another have again joined forces in the fight against HIV/AIDS as they bring a thought provoking sight to their trimmed, green lawns.

White markers, 2,693 in total, each adorned with a red ribbon, signifying one man, woman or child whose life was claimed by AIDS in Shelby County, will cover the lawns of

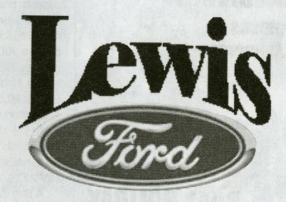
First Baptist Church of Memphis and Greater Lewis Missionary Baptist Church.

Friends For Life's Director of Fundraising Butch Valentine came up with this unique visual presentation to remember those in our community who have passed on from AIDS.

Several years ago, Valentine approached First Baptist

See AIDS, page 14

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# From Hello to Goodbye and All Life's Occasions In-Between!

# **Reynolds Florist**



#### **AIDS**

from page 13

Church about this initiative and they took a big leap of faith when they agreed to adorn their lawn that first year to remember those that had died from a disease that many in the religious community avoided talking about. Last year, the Greater Lewis Missionary Baptist Church likewise went against the flow to display the markers on its lawn.

The markers will be on display from Sunday, Nov. 24, through Wednesday, Dec. 4.

The Memphis Brooks Museum of Art and the Memphis College of Art, both located in Overton Park, will observe World AIDS Day with "A Day With(out) Art, 2002."

A group of artists in New York organized the first "Day Without Art," on Dec. 1, 1989, in memory of all artists who had died of AIDS. Their expression that day took the form of galleries, either closing their doors for a day of mourning or shrouding paintings, as well as theaters being silent and dark. As the years have passed, painters, poets and performers have expressed visually their observance of World AIDS Day through their works. It is estimated nationally and internationally, 8,000 museums, galleries, art centers, AIDS service organiczations, libraries, high schools and colleges participate in "A Day With(out) Art."

On Nov. 27, the statuary and sculptures on the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art's Plaza will be draped in black and a four-sided monument will be installed in the museum's rotunda.

At the Memphis College of Art, special intallations, including local artists' and students' work, will be featured and materials will be available to the public to educate and increase awareness of HIV/AIDS.

A Day With(out) Art 2002 will be open to the public Friday, Nov. 29, through Sunday, Dec. 1, during regular museum hours. The Memphis Brooks Museum of Art is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays, and 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sundays. The museum closes at 9 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month. This exhibit is free to the public.

A World AIDS Day program, entitled "Live and Let Live," will be presented by The Med's Adult Special Care Unit at Stax Music Academy, located at 870 East McLemore, on Friday, Dec. 6, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be education, entertainment and giveaways at this event, which is free to the public.

Mother Wit of Soul Classics 103.5 FM will host this event and Preston Shannon from Isaac Hayes Music Food Passion; Dewitt Johnson, music coordinator of Bountiful Blessings; Dexter Haygood; Reginald Owens, and Shenita Sims will provide entertainment as those in attendance browse the booths representing various HIV/AIDS agencies, including Friends For Life Corporation, Memphis and Shelby County Health Department, African-American Pastors Consortium, Community HIV Programs, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Girls Inc., New Directions, Hope House and Loving Arms. JobCorp will provide complimentary eye tests and blood pressure screenings and

See AIDS. page 19

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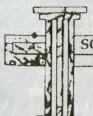
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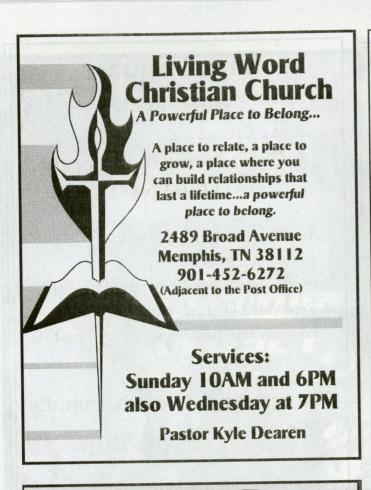
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### WKNO/Channel 10 Art, Antiques Auction continues

WKNO/Channel 10 will air "Gallery 10, The WKNO Art and Antiques Auction," Saturday, Nov. 9, from noon to 11 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 10, from 2 to 11 p.m.

A record number of 600 paintings, sculptures, photographs, jewelry, pottery, antiques and collectibles will be sold to the highest bidder during this fundraiser for WKNO.

Joining the many artists, collectors and antique dealers in their support of Gallery 10 are David Lusk Gallery, DCI Gallery, Rivertown Gallery, Durden Gallery, 1910 Frameworks, The Willis Gallery, Lisa Kurts Gallery, Artreach Gallery, Paul Edelstein Gallery and Penczner's Fine Art Studio and Gallery.

A detailed website at www.wkno.org contains a complete listing of the items for bid, a schedule of when each item will go on the block and other helpful information about the auction.

WKNO, a non-profit, private foundation serving the Mid-South for more than 46 years, uses the power of non-commercial public broadcasting to provide the Mid-South with quality educational and cultural programs that inform, entertain and inspire.



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# **Auditions set at Circuit**

Auditions are set for Monday, Nov. 18, at 6:30 p.m., at The Circuit Playhouse, located at 1705 Poplar Avenue, for *Sylvia* by A. R. Gurney.

Director Ann Marie Hall (Stop Kiss, The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told), is seeking two men and two women, ages 18 to 50, to cast for this hilarious, modern romantic comedy about a marriage – and a dog. The pretty pup, Sylvia, is taking over Greg's affections and his home!

Sylvia is set to run at Theatreworks July 11 through Aug. 3, 2003.

Those auditioning are expected to do a cold-reading from the script.

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

#### **AIDS**

from page 14

Memphis Regional Planned Parenthood will provide free HIV testing using the OraSure testing procedure. For more information, call Misty Lane at (901) 545-6925.

MTV will sponsor two concerts in honor of World AIDS Day. The first concert, featuring Dave Matthews and Missy Elliott, will be filmed on location in Seattle, Wash., on Thursday, Nov. 7. The second concert will be recorded from Cape Town, South Africa, on Saturday, Nov. 23, and will feature Grammy award-winner Alicia Keys.

MTV will edit the two concerts together, without commercials, and distribute the concert, free of charge, to broadcasters on World AIDS Day, Sunday, Dec. 1. This music channel expects two billion people will view the airing of the concerts.

Levi's Jeans has launched a fundraising and awareness campaign to benefit Population Services International's YouthAIDS program.

As part of that campaign Levi's will auction two "Staying Alive" Jackets, signed by celebrity music artists and others, beginning Nov. 22 on eBay.com. One jacket was designed by hip-hop artist Missy Elliott and signed by a number of celebrities, including recording artists Wyclef Jean and Angie Stone. The other jacket will be filled with celebrity autographs, including the signatures of recording artists participating in the two World AIDS Day concerts taking place in Seattle, Wash., and Cape Town, South Africa. Bidding on the two jackets will end on Dec. 1, World AIDS Day.

Additionally, Levi's will host on its website a "virtual" Staying Alive Jacket viewers can "sign" in order to raise funds for the YouthAIDS program. Levi's will donate \$1 to the YouthAIDS program for each viewer who signs his or her name on the virtual jacket, up to a maximum donation of \$50,000.

Also, beginning Nov. 22 on eBay.com, Levi's will auction several World AIDS Day memorabilia items, with those proceeds also benefitting YouthAIDS.

The YouthAIDS program provides HIV/AIDS education and prevention efforts to young people in more than 60 countries.



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a fundraising event for the
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6 p.m. till 10 p.m.

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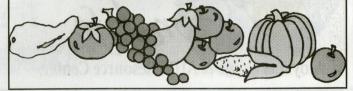
Auction Preview 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Dinner/Social Hour 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Live Auction 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. Dinner Plate \$6 per person

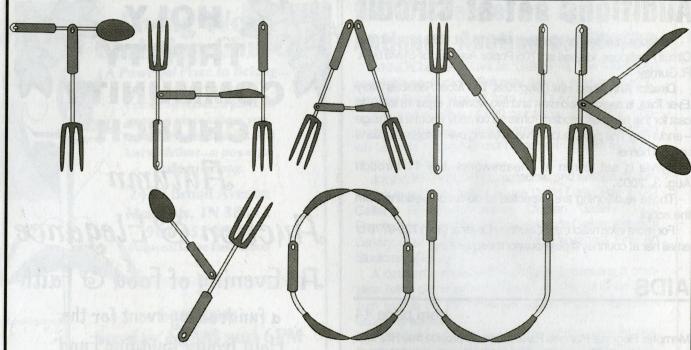
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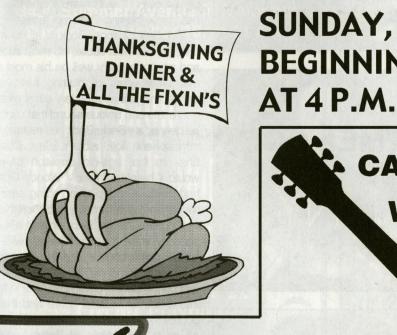
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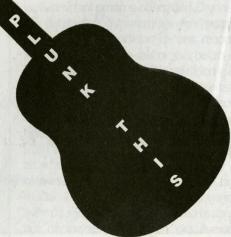
**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24** BEGINNING



SUNDAYS



KARAOKE



#### Jim Brickman

#### Love Songs & Lullabies (\*\*\*\*)

Jim Brickman is a brilliant pianist. And his latest album, Love Songs & Lullabies, is proof of his talent. The album isn't some collection of brilliant, dizzying, spinning set of technically astounding piano work. No, Love Songs & Lullabies is a soft kiss on the beach as the sun sets. It is the essence of a perfect, beautiful evening distilled into musical form and played out through the piano.

The album features four tracts with vocals, including "Beautiful (as you)," which features the group All-4-One. This album couldn't be more appropriately titled. Every note that flows from the speakers is love, passion, tenderness and as sweet as the lullabies your mother used to lull you to sleep with.

So, next time you're setting up that perfect date and you've got candles on the table and some really great food you ordered (and then put on plates so it looked like you actually cooked it), try putting on *Brickman's Love Songs & Lullabies*. I guarantee you'll impress that special someone across the table (well at least he'll be impressed by your musical savvy). So, go out and buy Brickman's CD and put it on for that romantic evening or in the car to help ease your road rage.

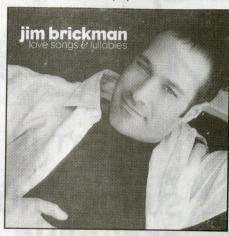
—> Highlights include: The album is a continuous stream of subtle beauty, but "Shades of White" does stand out for me.

## Kenny G Paradise (☆☆☆)

The king of dental office jazz is back. Kenny G has made a name for himself by putting out instrumental collections so smooth and so polished they can hardly be called jazz. In fact, most refer to his work as smooth jazz. Still, Kenny G is one of the best-selling instrumentalists ever, so he must be doing something right.

Paradise suffers from the highly overpolished studio sound that is the stock and trade of Kenny G. But Paradise does have its up points. It infuses many Latin beats and rhythms, which is something new to Kenny G's sound. Despite this, the album tends to be somewhat predictable, so save yourself the money and download the good tracks and ignore the rest. Tracks like, "Falling Into Moonlight," which takes a piano riff from Beethoven's "Moonlight Sonata," and the gospel-soul flavored "Midnight Magic," an unusually funky addition to the saxophonist's oeuvre.

Other highlights include the lush orchestral ballad "Peace." The album also includes two duets; the first of these is "All The Way," which features pop/R&B-star Brian







McKnight. Sadly, the song doesn't vary much from anything that can be found on a McKnight record. The second duet is "One More Time," which features Chante Moore. This song is the true high-point of the record and will definitely be the one, big single from this album. So, if you like smooth jazz, or dental office music, this record is definitely for you. But, if you want some real jazz, go get some Miles Davis.

—≥ Highlights Include: "One More Time," "Falling Into Midnight" and "Peace."

#### Beck Sea Change (☆☆☆☆)

Beck is back, but this time he left both his turntables and his microphone at home. Sea Change is a complete departure from everything Beck has ever done before. Gone is the funk of "Where It's At," the funky jam groove of "Devil's Haircut," and the oddball, genre-blurring rhythm of "Loser."

On Sea Change, Beck is at his most melodic, his most subtle, his most sublime and what may very well be his most normal. After years of blurring funk, rock, dance and just about every other musical genre into one unique sound that can only be defined as Beck, Beck has released an atmospheric folk album. Sea Change answers that age-old question of what would it have been like if Woody Guthrie had made a record using string arrangements and other atmospheric flourishes.

On Sea Change, Beck sings in a husky, scratchy voice that fits perfectly with the simple guitar sounds and the occasional string arrangements. This album may very well be the closest Beck has come to fitting into a normal musical genre and that, of course, makes it Beck's most unexpected album to date. While all Beck's previous albums were built around a fun feeling of experimentation, Sea Change grows out of a sadness as vast as the sea.

Beck has made what will definitely be one of the most talked-about records of the year and what very well may be the best record he has ever made. So, go buy *Sea Change* and experience the subtle brilliance for yourself.

— Highlights include "The Golden Age," "End Of The Day," "Sunday Sun" and "Paper Tiger."

### Former FFL executive director, Ruth Brown, dies, will be missed

Ruth W. Brown, 55, former executive director of Friends For Life Corporation died Oct. 12, 2002, in Branson, Mo. Brown was the director of Aloysius Home during the merger with Friends For Life and remained as FFL executive director until Sept. 2000.

Brown served the HIV/AIDS community for many years, having been the nurse manager of the Adult Special Care Clinic and an active member of the Southeast Tennessee HIV/AIDS Care.

"Friends For Life is deeply saddened by the recent death of Ruth Brown," Kim Moss, present executive director of FFL said. "Her passion for helping others, her strong faith in God and her quiet wisdom will be sorely missed in our community."

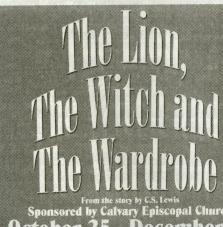
Brown is survived by her husband, Tommy L. Brown; a daughter, Monique Nicole Jones of Memphis, eight sisters and

one grandchild.

#### K. GODFREY EASTER

author of Love Lifted Me in Spite of the Church to speak at HOLY TRINITY COMMUNITY CHURCH 3430 Summer Avenue in Memphis

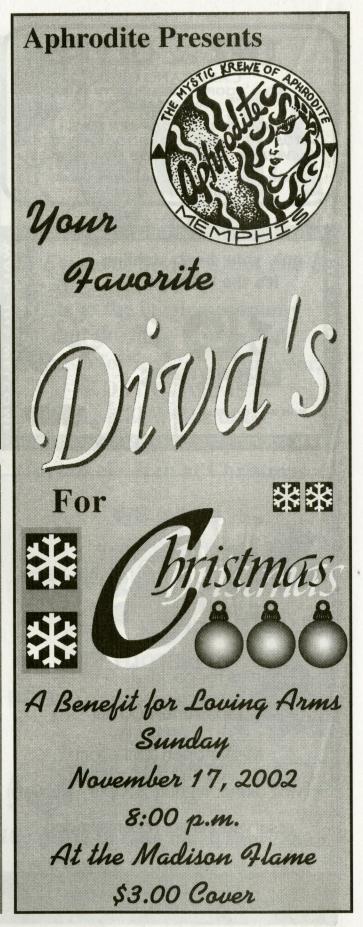
Sunday, November 10, at 11 a.m.



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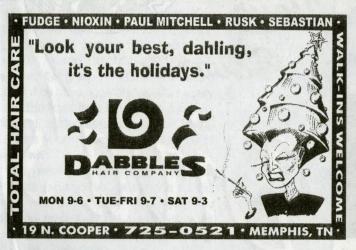


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# Memphis Film Forum now accepting festival entries

The Memphis Film Forum is now accepting entries for the Memphis International Film Festival 4 scheduled for March 27 to 30, 2003, at Malco's Studio On The Square in Midtown.

Now in its fourth year, the Memphis International Film Festival's special guests have included Cybill Shepherd, Richard Gladstein (producer of the award-winning *The Cider House Rules*), Andrew Deane (producer of *See Spot Run* and Emmy-nominated *Joan of Arc*) and Academy Award-nominee, Animator Don Hertzfeldt. The festival has screened films from around the globe. Selections have included the 2001 soldout-screening of the Japanese film *The Cure*, as well as several Academy Award-nominated films, including *Rejected* and *By Courier*. The Memphis International Film Festival 4 celebrates the best of local and global filmmaking, screening features, shorts, foreign, documentaries, experimental and animation.

Entries must be submitted on half-inch VHS videotape. All films in languages other than English must be subtitled. Cost of shipping is covered by entrant; collect or COD shipments will not be accepted. Tapes must be clearly marked in English with title of entry. Entrant's identification must be on both the tape and the case. Please use bubble wrap for shipping. Videotapes will not be returned.

Each film must be accompanied by a completed entry form (photocopies are acceptable), available on the Internet at www.memphisfilmforum.org, and a check or money order payable to Memphis Film Forum for a \$35 entry fee. No entries will be accepted after Nov. 30.

Mail all entries to: Memphis Film Forum, MIFF4 Entries, 2101 Overton Square Lane, #2, Memphis, TN 38104.

Tapes will be reviewed by the screening committee and the final festival schedule will be determined in January 2003. Those entries selected by the screening committee will be notified the first week of February 2003.

For more information, contact Michael Harwood at (901) 517-6296 or Lisa Bobal at (901) 273-0014, or go online to www.memphisfilmforum.org.

### 51-year old JOHNNIE WILKINSON

beloved brother of
Ricky Wilkinson
died November 1, 2002

He will be missed by Puss, his gay brother

#### Brickman

from page 6

For Love Songs & Lullabies, Brickman combines old and new songs for a musical tapestry that appeals to audiences of all ages: from those who still remember the passionate fervor of wartime romantic hits to the very young, who are passionate about something else entirely.

"Like 'Sesame Street.' My concert is featuring a musical tribute to that show, which was very groundbreaking on a musical level," he said. "Even for me. I learned to play music watching the show and trying to imitate the melodies on the piano. 'Sesame Street' was one of the first TV programs that showed how ideas can be translated through music."

The concert also will give Brickman an opportunity to show how emotions are communicated through music, via the silver screen.

"I'm very inspired by black-and-white films," he began. "The great love scenes from the movies - Tracy and Hepburn, Gable and Crawford, Rita Hayworth and Glenn Ford - are really great inspirations for composing modern love songs. The emotions are truly timeless."

When asked if any present-day screen couple has inspired him, Brickman answered, "No. For me, it's the genre - the style

and tone - more than the on-screen couple."

Of course, no interview by Family & Friends would be complete without a GLBT-related question, so we probed just a bit by asking him how he feels about his growing gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered following.

"I think I always have had a gay and lesbian following," he answered. "I have some of everything. I think my music crosses boundaries. And, I believe it's important to have music that doesn't

target one specific audience or generation."

We've heard him sing on stage when fiddling around with jingles and 'Sesame Street' tunes like "The Letter D," but it's hard to miss the fact that while he has a good voice. Brickman's vocals haven't graced any of his multi-selling albums. For those who have longed to hear his smooth, and yes, romantic voice recorded, the wait is over. There's one on the Love Songs & Lullabies release.

Brickman's concerts, he added, are not venues for wistful nostalgia for the romance of another time, "but a chance for feeling comforted, loved and cherished right now."

"If there's one thing we've all come to realize since the shock has worn off after September, it's that we live - and love - in the present tense. Life is not a dress rehearsal. If we're going to celebrate love, we need to do it in the moment. And the moment is now," he concluded.

Tickets to see Brickman's Dec. 6 concert at The Orpheum, which begins at 8 p.m., are \$45, \$40 and \$35, including \$2 per ticket for Preservation Fee. They can be purchased at The Orpheum Theatre Box Office, located at 203 South Main Street; Davis-Kidd Booksellers, located at 387 Perkins Road, and through TicketMaster locations, including Cat's Music, Tower Records at Peabody Place and select Piggly Wiggly stores. Tickets also are available online at www.ticketmaster.com, and can be charged by telephone at (901) 743-ARTS. To inquire about group discounts, call (901) 525-7800.

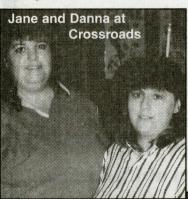


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### FAMILY ALBUM A NIGHT ON THE TOWN



Jimmy and Kim at One More



Ed dancing on The Jungle's new dance floor.



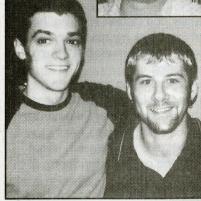
At Madison Flame: Betty, Carol and Lisa





Guys hangin' out at N-Cognito





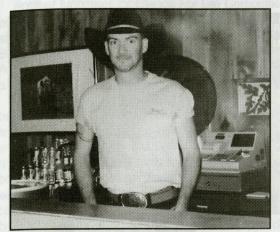
Tyler and Jason at Backstreet





David, Christine, Chris and Michael at J-Wags

# A NIGHT ON THE TOWN FAMILY ALBUM



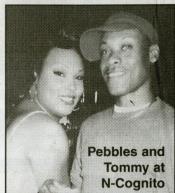
Terrell, the Jungle's bartender



Ronnie tending bar at Lorenz

Ricardo, Curtis and Robert

at the Pumping Station



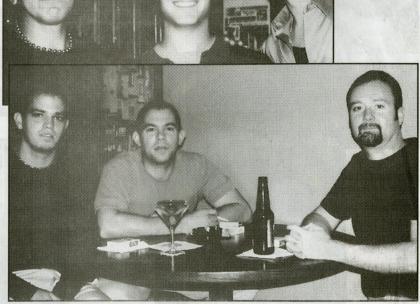
David, Dexter, James & Michael at J-Wags



**Corrine and Carol at Madison Flame** 



James, Eric and Barry enjoying cocktails at Metro



# FFL to host Brunch With Friends at Melange

Another fundraiser for Friends For Life Corporation, to support its many programs in the fight against HIV/AIDS, will be held at Melange, the casually-elegant restaurant located at 948 South Cooper, at the corner of Cooper Street and Young Avenue, on Sunday, Nov. 10. Seatings are available from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Chef Scott Lenhart is preparing a special, three-course fall brunch for FFL supporters, consisting of an appetizer of giant scallop, seared until slightly crispy and sauteed with applewood smoked bacon, pernod and spinach; a choice of either handmade veal breast ravioli, plump ravioli filled with veal breast and braised 24 hours accompanied by shiitake, fresh asparagus and essence of truffle, or grilled salmon tower, prepared in buerre blanc with shallots, scented with rosemary and accompanied by butternut squash, edamame. For dessert, a fall apple degustation consisting of a warm McIntosh tart, Granny Smith sorbet, Fuji apple and Bosc pear salad and Calvados Creme Anglaise is planned. The meal includes coffee, tea or soda; however, a cash bar is available. A vegetarian meal is available upon request with one's reservation.

Providing entertainment for this annual event are The Teresa Pate Jazz Trio and Barbara Christensen, harpist.

Brunch with Friends is hosted by Chef Scott Lenhart and David Nestler, owners of Melange, and sponsored by StatScript Pharmacy and Graffiti Graphics. Ed Hammett will again provide the centerpieces.

Prepaid reservations, at \$30 per person, are required by calling Butch Valentine at Friends For Life Corporation, (901) 272-0855 or (901) 606-3316.



#### **HELP WANTED**

Seeking attorney with 1-5 years of experience or recent law school graduate. Salary and benefits negotiable. Areas of practice will primarily include criminal defense, bankruptcy and other areas of general practice. Full-time position available mid-January or early February. Possible part-time position available immediately.

To apply, fax or send resume to (901) 888-6826 or to jozment3@midsouth.rr.com.



#### **Clifford to meet, greet at WKNO**

Little pilgrims are invited to the studios of WKNO-TV Channel 10, located at 900 Getwell, on Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 23 & 24, at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., for Clifford's Thanksgiving Adventure. Clifford, of "Clifford the Big Red Dog," which airs on "KNO KIDS" at 3:30 p.m. on weekdays, will share Thanksgiving snacks with his little friends and listen to a Thanksgiving story as told by WKNO's Mr. Chuck. And there will be arts and crafts and lots more to do. For tickets, which are \$12 each, or more information, call (901) 325-6560 or go online to wkno.org.

#### **Bead making planned at library**

Young people, ages 12 to 18, are invited to the Central library branch of the Memphis/Shelby County Public Libraries, 3030 Poplar Avenue, on Wednesday, Nov. 6, at 3:30 p.m. for "Beads, Beads, Beads!" Learn to make paper bead jewelry with artist Rene Nickel. Registration is required by calling (901) 415-2726.

#### Children can get 'Art Busy' at CMOM

Children, ages four and older, are invited to the Children's Museum of Memphis, 2525 Central Avenue, on Wednesdays, Nov. 20 & 27, from 2 to 4 p.m., to visit The Studio at the museum for "Art Busy" where they can make leaf prints to take home. For children, ages six and older, on Wednesday, Nov. 13, at 2, 2:30, 3 and 3:30 p.m., children can make "daring gliders;" cost is \$1. Admission to the museum is \$7 for adults and \$6 for children (1 to 12) and seniors (62+). For more information, call (901) 458-2678 or go online to www.cmom.com.

#### MSO to stage concert for youth

The Memphis Symphony Orchestra will join narrator Charlotte Blake Alson in performing Stravinsky's *The Firebird Fantasy* on Sunday, Nov. 17, at 2:30 p.m. at the Eudora Auditorium, located at 4684 Poplar at Perkins. *The Firebird Fantasy* is the classic tale of Prince Ivan, who finds himself in the terrible kingdom of the ogre Kashchei. Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$12 the day of the concert and are available by calling the MSO box office at (901) 324-3627; at any TicketMaster location, or online at www.ticketmaster.com.

#### Wildlife on Wheels to visit CMOM

Children can visit animals that live on river banks when "Wildlife on Wheels" visits the Children's Museum of Memphis, 2525 Central Avenue, on Saturday, Nov. 30, from 11 a.m. to noon. Admission to the museum is \$7 for adults and \$6 for children (1 to 12) and seniors (62+). For more information, call (901) 458-2678 or go online to www.cmom.com.

#### **Tellabration slated at area libraries**

The Yarnspinners of Memphis will present stories at area Memphis/Shelby County Public Libraries during the month of November. The Tellabration schedule is as follows: Saturday, Nov. 16, 10:30 a.m., at the Millington branch library, 4858 Navy Road; Sunday, Nov. 17, 1 p.m., at the Central library branch-children's

department, 3030 Poplar Avenue; Monday, Nov. 18, 4 p.m., at the North branch library, 1192 Vollintine; Tuesday, Nov. 19, 4 p.m., at the Parkway Village branch library, 4655 Knight Arnold Road; Tuesday, Nov. 19, 7 p.m., at the Raleigh branch library, 3157 Powers Road; Tuesday, Nov. 19, 6:45 p.m., at the Whitehaven branch library, 4122 Barton Drive; Wednesday, Nov. 20, 4:30 p.m., at the Bartlett branch library, 6382 Stage Road; Wednesday, Nov. 20, 10 a.m., at the Cherokee branch library, 3300 Sharpe; Wednesday, Nov. 20, 7 p.m., at the Poplar-White Station branch library, 5094 Poplar Avenue; Wednesday, Nov. 20, 3:30 p.m., at the South branch library, 1929 South Third Street; Thursday, Nov. 21, 3 p.m, at the Cherokee branch library, 3300 Sharpe; Thursday, Nov. 21, 10:30 a.m., at the Frayser branch library, 3712 Argonne, and Saturday, Nov. 23, 10 a.m., at the Central branch library-children's department, 3030 Poplar Avenue.

#### **GLBT** parenting group to meet

Parents Together, a group for parents who are gay and lesbian, meets the second Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. at Holy Trinity Community Church, 3430 Summer Avenue. Childcare is provided for younger children at these meetings. Rev. Glynda Hall is the coordinator for Parents Together. For details, call the church office at (901) 320-9376.

# Playhouse on the Square presents its annual staging of *Peter Pan*

Playhouse on the Square, 51 South Cooper, has slated Nov. 8 through Jan. 5, 2003, for its annual staging of *Peter Pan*, the timeless story of Neverland where dreams are born and time does not exist.

This production of *Peter Pan* is directed by Shorey Walker (*Grease, The Who's Tommy*), who portrayed Peter in the national tour of *Peter Pan* two years ago. Courtney Oliver (*Hair, Amadeus, Closer*) shares the role of Peter, the boy who won't grow up, with Shani Alexander. Alexander will be the first African-American actress



Shani Alexander

to portray the role of Peter in Playhouse's 16-year history of presenting this classic.

The cast also includes Jonathon Lamer as Captain Hook, Angela Groeschen as Wendy, Rebecca DeVries as Smee and Carrie Cunningham as Tiger Lily.

Tickets are \$20 for adults; \$18 for seniors; \$16 for students and military personnel, and \$12 for children. The Pay-What-You-Can performance is set for Saturday, Nov. 9, at 2 p.m.

Call the box office for showtimes, which vary, and reservations at (901) 726-4656.

#### **Clifford to meet, greet at WKNO**

Little pilgrims are invited to the studios of WKNO-TV Channel 10, located at 900 Getwell, on Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 23 & 24, at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., for Clifford's Thanksgiving Adventure. Clifford, of "Clifford the Big Red Dog," which airs on "KNO KIDS" at 3:30 p.m. on weekdays, will share Thanksgiving snacks with his little friends and listen to a Thanksgiving story as told by WKNO's Mr. Chuck. And there will be arts and crafts and lots more to do. For tickets, which are \$12 each, or more information, call (901) 325-6560 or go online to wkno.org.

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#### **READING BETWEEN THE LINES** A REVIEW



# Letters in the Attic By Bonnie Shimko Academy Chicago Publishers

Family & Friends recently received a review copy of Letters in the Attic, and considering the book's front cover boasts two testimonials, one from Betty DeGeneres (mother of famed out lesbian Ellen DeGeneres) and the second from Emily Saliers (of Indigo Girls fame), we decid-

ed to give the book a read.

The maternal DeGeneres said, "What a storyteller Bonnie Shimko is. I love it!" And, Saliers called the book a "gem," but we found it not nearly as appealing as we expected from the testimonials.

Letters in the Attic is a story of growing up told by narrator Lizzy McMann, a feisty 12-year old who lives with her immature mother and Manny, her father, so she thinks, in a fleabag hotel in Phoenix.

As the story quickly unfolds, we learn through Lizzy's recollection of what causes her mother's nightmares, that Manny suddenly decides he wants a divorce, which inevitably causes mother and daughter to relocate to upstate New York to live with Lizzy's maternal grandparents, which she never even knew she had.

Lizzy, a seventh grader, is befriended by Eva Singer, an eighth grader who lives right down the street.

While having to deal with all the things a young girl must, her first period, her first bra and her first boyfriend, she also must deal with the changes taking place in her mother's life, as she figured out at an early age effects her life, as well.

Determined to help her mother get a new husband, especially after reading her mother's letters she found in the attic, Lizzy is about to have to come to grips with life's strange twists and turns.

That's the book in a nutshell, of course without spoiling any of the interesting surprises awaiting readers in its 194 pages.

And, as far as telling the story, meaning keeping the reader interested and turning pages, Shimko does a great job, although almost all of the twists and turns are predictable. I say "almost" because there is one facet of young Lizzy's life that not every girl has to deal with – her first same-sex crush.

The fact that Lizzy develops a crush on Eva (whom Lizzy thinks looks like Natalie Wood) is predictable (but then again, I expected Lizzy to be a baby dyke in diguise since the book was sent to a GLBT magazine for review).

However, what is not predictable is what happens between the two girls.

But, before I get ahead of myself, I must commend Shimko for her wonderful description of Lizzy's lesbian revelation.

"Hold onto my hand." Her (Eva) voice has a chuckle in it. "You're shaking like a leaf. Is this your first cigarette? Come on. Hold onto my hand. You'll never get it lighted like that."

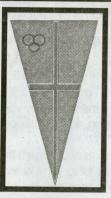
I cup my hand over hers and guide the lighter toward my mouth like I've seen them do in the movies. I watch as the new pencil is sharpened and the inside is exposed never to be the same again. I will never be the same again, either, because when my hand

See Letters, page 36

# Join us as we celebrate the unconditional love of Jesus Christ!

# Holy Trinity Community Church

The Rev. Timothy Meadows, M.Div., Pastor



Sunday School begins at 9:45 AM, and Children's Sunday School & Worship Service is each Sunday at 11 AM. Fellowship Supper at 6 PM and Fellowship Gathering is 7 PM Wednesday.

We are located at 3430 Summer Ave.

(Between Highland and National)

# November Events

- at Holy Trinity Community Church

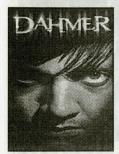
  ⇒ Nov. 3 All Saints Festivities (11AM)
  - Praying with the Labyrinth Workshop
- ⇒ Nov. 9 Annual Auction and Evening of Elegance (6PM-10PM)
  - Wine & Cheese—Dinner—Auction
- ⇒ Nov. 27 Community Thanksgiving Potluck Covered Dish Supper 6PM

For information on These Events or For Any Questions You Might Have, Contact Our Church

Phone: 901-320-9376 Website: www.Holytrinitymemphis.org

Chat: HTCC-memphis@yahoogroups.com Email: HTCCMemphis@aol.com

# Dahmer offers different take on serial killer



A community is much like a city, only smaller, like the Cordova community or the Midtown community or, yes, even the GLBT community. And, just like a city or town, a community is comprised of its people, some good and some bad.

Unfortunately for the GLBT community as a whole, not all of its "residents" are lawabiding citizens, like legendary serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer.

Between his birth in 1960, and his death at the hands of a fellow prison inmate in 1994, Dahmer gained notoriety for killing 17 men, for cannibalizing parts of their bodies and for incorporating them into bizarre sexual rituals. According to a poll, he is more familiar to the American public than several recent presidents. Yet little is known about the emotionally and intellectually intriguing story behind the scandalous headlines, that is until the recent video and DVD release of *Dahmer*.

Shocking, suspenseful and strangely touching, *Dahmer* is no conventional crime drama. Written and directed by David Jacobson – whose debut feature, *Criminal*, received critical acclaim at both the Berlin and Toronto Film Festivals – the film seeks to recast a modern symbol of evil as a man driven by very real weaknesses and needs and, in so doing, to broaden our sense of what it is to be human.

The film also focuses on little-known elements of Dahmer's life, such as his graveyard-shift job at a chocolate factory; his grand-mother and father's discovery of his stolen mannequin; the gay porn; the picture taking; the drilling of his victims' skulls in an attempt to render them helpless, yet keep them alive, and even the sedated teen who escapes but is handed back to Dahmer by the questioning police while corpses rest in the next room.

Featuring a richly-textured, break-out performance by Jeremy Renner as Dahmer (Fish In A Barrel and The WB's "Angel"), as well as strong supporting work from Bruce Davison as Lionel



Jeffrey Dahmer (Jeremy Renner) discovers his fascination with blood after making his first kill.

Dahmer and rising talent Artel Kayaru as Rodney (Save The Last Dance), Dahmer offers a stunning portrait of a man crumbling beneath the weight of his simultaneous need for isolation and communion. The film also features Dion Basco as Khamtay (Naked Brown Men, Love And Basketball) and Matt Newton as Lance (Comedy Central's "Strangers With Candy").

When the book, which inspired this film, A Father's Story by Lionel Dahmer, Jeffrey's father, was published in 1994, it offered unique insight into one of this century's most



Renner and Dion Basco

notorious serial killers. In it the senior Dahmer grappled with the question of how his failures as a father might have contributed to his son's lust for sexual atrocity. The book's eloquent, disturbing honesty was hugely appealing to writer/director Jacobson.

"By the time I'd finished reading, I knew there was a movie in it for me," Jacobson recalled, "because, not only was there an incredible suspense story, but there was a great emotional story, too."

What shocked Jacobson most about A Father's Story was how much Dahmer's childhood resonated with his own, both having been upper-middle class, suburban teenagers with scientist fathers, whose parents ultimately divorced.

"There was a strong sense of emotional isolation in the book, which is a recurring theme of mine because I felt that way growing up," the writer/director said. "So, Jeffrey's story became a metaphor for that kind of isolation, because I can't imagine anyone being more cut off from the rest of humanity."

As Jacobson researched the subject more thoroughly – pouring over books, transcripts and interviews and reviewing Court TV's coverage of the trial – he came to see the very common motivations behind Dahmer's monstrous acts.

"Like all people, Jeffrey needed communion with others, but given his total sense of powerlessness, he needed a closeness that didn't threaten him," Jacobson explained. "Killing and necrophilia were the terrible compromise solutions. In telling this harrowing true story, I wanted people to see the difficulties of intimacy: the need for it, the wonder of it and the terror in it."

It is important to stress that *Dahmer* is not a horror film, as gore and blood is basically absent. Instead, it is almost a documentary of Dahmer's life, one that was filmed with an artistic touch, so much so that it almost appears the writer/director may have felt some

See Dahmer, page 35

# **Images of dancers on** exhibit at Dixon Gallery

Discover the beauty of the ballet dancer and the excitement of cabaret life in late 19th century Paris at The Dixon Gallery and Gardens, 4339 Park Avenue, in "Degas, Forain, Toulouse-Lautrec: Images of Dancers," on exhibit now through Jan 5, 2003.

This exclusive exhibition features the works of Edgar Degas, Jean-Louis Forain and Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec and includes approximately 50 paintings, pastels, drawings, sculptures and prints that illustrate every aspect of a dancer's life and career, from dressing room preparations, rehearsals and stage performances to intimate moments backstage.



Both Degas and Forain found artistic inspiration in the Paris ballet of their era, the late 1800s, and were especially fascinated with the backstage pursuits of adolescent dancers by their gentlemen admirers. Toulouse-Lautrec, however, was drawn to the nightclubs and dancehalls of Montmartre, a Bohemian district just north of Paris. There he captured on canvas the risque dances, such as the cancan and the chahut, at the infamous Moulin Rouge.

Degas, one of the founding members of the Impressionists, drew upon his experiences at the Paris Opera ballet to create more than 1.500 works related to the theme and as a result has often been called "The Painter of Dancers."

Although Forain is not as well known today, in his own era he achieved fame for his satirical illustrations of Parisian society that were published in popular magazines. Exposed to the opera by Degas, Forain was particularly interested in the illicit relationship between young ballerinas and their lecherous older patrons, a theme he exploited with his biting wit and imagery.

Born into one of the oldest aristocratic families in France. Toulouse-Lautrec became an instant success in 1891, when Charles Zidler, the director of the Moulin Rouge, commissioned him to design an advertising poster. The result, "Moulin Rouge-La Goulue," was Toulouse-Latrec's first attempt at lithography. In this work and in subsequent posters, Toulouse-Latrec's keen observation and bold caricatures of performers and their patrons captured the spirit and the exhilarating atmosphere of Montmartre.

In conjunction with "Degas, Forain, Toulouse-Latrec: Images of Dancers," The Dixon Gallery and Gardens will host a number of associated activities, including:

- A short performance by Ballet Memphis, entitled "Reflections on Canvas," on Sunday, Nov. 17, at 2:30 and 4 p.m. and Nov. 10 at 4 p.m. Cost is \$5 for adults and \$1 for children.
- A Moulin Rouge Cafe Concert, with sultry sounds, sparkling champagne, delicious desserts and gourmet coffee, set for Friday, Nov. 22, at 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$35 per person and reservations are recommended.
  - · An interactive gallery designed specifically for children. The

See Dixon, page 35

#### **TENTH ANNIVERSARY TOUR!**

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"Spirited PORGY & BESS stirs a sellout crowd."

- Lincoln Journal Star, Lincoln Nebraska



### **Orpheum Theatre**

December 3-5, 2002

7:30 p.m.

For tickets call (901) 525-3000 or (901) 743-ARTS







TIME WARNER

# Memphis Pride sets date for 2003 event

Memphis Pride Inc. held a board of directors retreat in October where plans began for the 2003 Pride Parade and Festival, which the board set for Saturday, June 7, 2003.

The board is presently in negotiations with the board of the Overton Park Shell in hopes of again holding the 2003 event at the Shell, a favorite Midtown location. Although the exact parade route has not been determined, the times for the 2003 parade and festival have been set at 3 p.m. for parade lineup, 4 p.m. for parade step-off and 5 to 9 p.m. for the festival.

The official theme and logo for the 2003 event will be announced sometime in November.

The MPI board is now accepting bids from various business, organizations and individuals wishing to be the official 2003 Pride

Food Vendor(s) now through Dec. 31, 2002. Bids need to include the types of food to be offered for sale, the cost of such foods and how much of the proceeds will be donated back to MPI. In addition, a deposit of \$200 will be expected when the bid winner(s) is announced. In exchange, MPI will reimburse the bid winner(s) the costs of the required code enforcement permit and health department permit the day of the event. MPI also will return the \$200 deposit when the bid winner arrives to set up the day of the event.

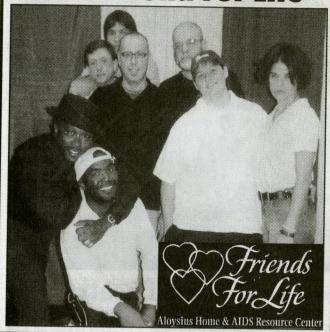
Bids should be mailed to Food Vendor, c/o Memphis Pride Inc., P.O. Box 111265, Memphis TN 38111-1265.

MPI also is taking applications for entertainers for the 2003 event. Any person, group, female/male impersonator, etc., wishing to apply should send MPI a letter outlining the act, as well as noting the length of time for the act, requested fee for performing and biographical or background information. A demo tape and photo are highly recommended. All should be mailed to Pride Entertainment, c/o Memphis Pride Inc., P. O. Box 111265, Memphis TN 38111-1265. Out-of-town entertainers are encouraged to participate.

The board of directors also decided not to hold monthly open meetings until such a time as they are warranted or requested by members of the community. In 2001, the board ceased open meetings, except for immediately before Pride month and for its annual meetings due to a lack of participation by the general public.

For information, email MPI at MemphisPride2003@aol.com.

# Be a Friend For Life



#### PLEASE JOIN US

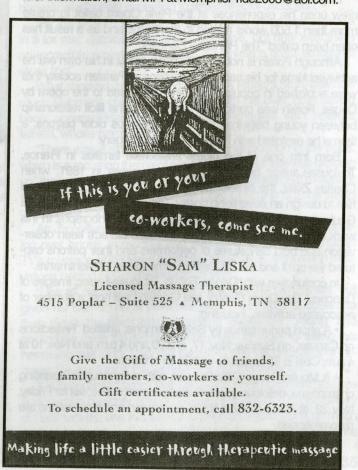
November 10, 2002 • 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Brunch With Friends at Melange, 948 South Cooper, For a Special 3-Course Fall Brunch • \$30 Donation Pre-paid Reservations through Friends For Life Only • (901) 272-0855

November 24 to December 4, 2002 World AIDS Day Marker Project

First Baptist Church of Memphis & Greater Lewis Missionary Baptist Church, corners of Poplar and East Parkway A powerful, visual display to commemorate all those from Memphis/Shelby County who have died from AIDS.

December 1, 2002 • World AIDS Day Local observance at 3 p.m. • Temple Israel, 1376 East Massey Road

1384 Madison Avenue · Memphis, TN 38104 · (901) 272-0855.



#### **Dahmer**

from page 32

sort of love for his subject.

Village Voice movie critic Ed Halter had this to say about the film: "... with Dahmer, Jacobson has achieved the unthinkable: He humanizes a notoriously brutal psychopath and, in the process, leaves the audience with an unwelcome sense of complicity ...

"This Dahmer draws more on Holden Caulfield than Hannibal Lecter, reshaping the Milwaukee monster into a doe-eyed Sad Young Man. His disturbing cuteness is key: It grants some breathing room between the movie character and the real-life Dahmer, but also allows us to imagine how anyone could get suckered into going home with a killer ...

"Dahmer is depicted as a solitary outsider moving through a subculture of the same - an unflattering rendering of gay life that nonetheless exploits deep wells of loneliness. Powerfully unsettling. Dahmer encourages us to love the alien, or at least understand how inner pain can become tragically exteriorized. Empathy for a cannibal is an uneasy proposition, but perhaps disgruntled gay outcasts will now discover their own twisted Jeffrey."

#### Dixon

from page 33

gallery will consist of a continuously-played, two-minute video featuring Ballet Memphis dancers as they demonstrate the basic ballet positions; a floor strip used by Ballet Memphis, and ballet shoes for children to try on and follow along with the video.

The Dixon is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults; \$4 for seniors (60+), and free for students and children.

For more information, call (901) 761-5250 or go online to www.dixon.org.



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A new play by RON MORRIS
Directed by DEN-NICKOLAS SMITH

Come find out what happens when four people unexpectedly meet the object of their desire, or do they?

November 8-17, 2002

Fridays & Saturdays at 8 p.m.

Sundays at 2 p.m. at

**THEATREWORKS** 

2085 Monroe • behind Overton Square

Tickets: \$10.00 general admission \$5.00 for students with valid ID

For Tickets
Call (901) 722-9302

#### Letters

from page 31

touches hers, the deepest most private part of my body becomes the Fourth of July full of sparklers and firecrackers and I want this feeling, whatever it is, to go on forever. (page 56)

What a wonderful passage. Most of us remember feeling exactly the same way at one time or another in our lives. Although Shimko is a great storyteller and paints a remarkablly vivid portrait with her words, she falls short when it comes to having Lizzy fully explore "the feeling, whatever it is."

At first I think we will get some great insight into Lizzy's coming of age as a lesbian. However, it just doesn't happen. There are a few more scenes and passages that show Lizzy's realization that she can't stop thinking about Eva, but, before she actually contemplates what it all means, Lizzy is telling us, "Okay," I say thinking how much I love this girl and how I wish her arm could have stayed around me forever. (page 72)

And then, only 10 pages later, and again without true soulsearching, we read:

"You do know what a queer is, don't you?" she (Madeline) asks like she has the key to a secret treasure chest.

Her words catch me off guard. Is this a test? Have I been wearing my feelings for Eva like a new outfit for everyone to see? My brain comes screeching to a halt and I don't know what to say.

Madeline is standing next to me with her hands on her hips. "You don't know what it is, do you?" she says with satisfaction in her voice. "I thought you knew everything. ... It's a woman who likes to kiss other women. I can't believe you didn't know that!"

"Well, I do now. Thanks."

"You're welcome. My father thinks they shouldn't be allowed to be teachers. The only reason they want to be near kids is so they can mess around with them and make them queer too."

"Oh!" Her words make me feel as if I've been thrown into a tub of ice water. I walk over to her vanity and stare into the mirror, but I don't see myself at all, just a stranger looking back — ashamed.

This is the first indication we get that Lizzy isn't exactly happy about her sexual identity, but that's about all there is to it.

I don't know about every other lesbian on the planet, but when I first felt that "strange, new feeling," I was not all of a sudden okay with it. I didn't immediately label myself as lesbian. There were lots of issues that had to be dealt with, the very least of them being what did it all mean? Was it right? Was it wrong? And what about fighting that feeling? Most all the lesbians I know fought that first same-sex feeling, at least for a little while.

Unfortunately, Shimko seems to almost allow her main character to take the revelation in stride, with the exception of a bit of shame when another girl in Lizzy's class gives us a glimpse of how and where hatred is taught – at home.

To Shimko's credit, though, perhaps all that same-sex discovery entails is foreign to her — something she didn't have to go through? According to the book's cover, Shimko lives in upstate New York with her husband, Robert, and their two children. And, to her credit, *Letters in the Attic* is her first novel.

I would definitely recommend *Letters In The Attic* to any gay, lesbian, bisexual and/or transgender book discussion group, especially those who have young adults in their membership.

#### **Hensons honored at 2nd** statewide LGBT summit

The 2nd annual Mississippi Statewide Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Summit was held Oct. 11 to 13 at Camp Sister Spirit in Ovett, Miss.

At that summit, Brenda and Wanda Henson, founders and directors of Camp Sister Spirit, were presented the first Equality Mississippi Jamie Ray Tolbert Humanitarian Award.

"The board of directors of Equality Mississippi selected Brenda and Wanda Henson because of their pioneering LGBT activism in Mississippi," said Jody Renaldo, executive director of Equality Mississippi. "These ladies went through hell and back to open Camp Sister Spirit, and year in and year out, they are always there on the frontline of LGBT equality activism in Mississippi.

"Founding this organization was my way to honor Jamie (Ray Tolbert) and to begin the process of equality in Mississippi," Renaldo explained. Tolbert, a friend of Renaldo's, was murdered after being abducted from a gay bar in Biloxi, Miss.

"Very honored," Brenda said about receiving the award. "I respect so much what Jody Renaldo has done for Mississippi out of respect and outrage at the hate crime murder of his friend Jamie Ray Tolbert. Then, to be the first recipient of this award was inspirational and heartfelt."

For more information on Equality Mississippi, go online to www.EqualityMS.org. For more information on Camp Sister Spirit, visit its website at www.campsisterspirit.com.

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#### **HIV/AIDS Education 101**

#### By JEFFREY P. HANOVER, guest writer Memphis Regional Planned Parenthood Chief Operating Officer

Question: Are lesbians and bisexual women immune from HIV/AIDS?

Answer: Many lesbians and bisexual women, who have sex with other women, incorrectly assume they are not at risk for contracting sexually-transmitted infections. The growing number of HIV-positive lesbians proves this thinking is a potentially dangerous myth.

It is important to remember that risks of sexually-transmitted infections should be defined in terms of behaviors, not sexual orientation. While the risk of woman-to-woman sexual transmission of serious infections, such as HIV, is generally considered to be uncommon, women who have contracted HIV or other infections from sexual contact with men or women, or from intravenous drug use, are still at risk of transmitting that infection to other women if they participate in risky sexual behaviors.

The most important way to reduce the risk of contracting a sexually-transmitted infection is to keep your partner's body fluids out of your body through safer-sex techniques. The body fluids which lesbians and bisexual women should be most careful about are blood (including menstrual blood), vaginal fluids and the discharges from sores caused by sexually-transmitted infections. Safer-sex is anything one does to lower her risks of getting a sexually-transmitted infection. It's about having more pleasure with less risk.

Oral sex without barrier protection and sharing sex toys are potential methods of transmitting infection. Barrier methods, such as dental dams or cut-open latex condoms, can be used for oral sex to reduce the risk of infection. Clean and disinfect sex toys or cover with a fresh condom before each use. Using latex gloves,

#### **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

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Over age 24: \$35 blood test • \$40 OraSure
For more information, call (901) 544-6808

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

condoms or finger cots for manual penetration can protect against transmission through cuts or hangnails on fingers.

Also, women need to get checked for sexually-transmitted infections every year and get the correct treatment if an infection is found. It has been found that certain groups of women have a higher risk of sexually-transmitted infections due to specific biological reasons:

- Young women between the ages of 15 and 24 the cervix is not yet fully developed and may be less resistant to infection.
- Older women who are post menopausal vaginal dryness and thinning of the membrane may lead to small tears or abrasions that can allow infections to enter the bloodstream more easily.

Lesbian and bisexual women often face additional obstacles to staying healthy, such as dealing with discrimination and homophobia in the health care system. A recent report, entitled "Lesbian Health: Current Assessment and Directions for the Future" from the Institute of Medicine, notes that fear of discrimination may keep lesbians from seeking routine medical care, and that the stress experienced due to homophobia and anti-gay discrimination can have a negative impact on lesbian and bisexual women's health. The Gay and Lesbian Medical Association offers a free referral service to help patients find doctors who are sensitive to lesbian, bisexual and transgender health care needs on their website at www.glma.org.

#### AIDS News in Brief-

- According to a study published in the September issue of the Journal of General Internal Medicine, HIV-positive individuals who are "optimistic" about their futures are less likely to remember to take medication and less likely to engage in safe-sex practices. The study, conducted by Drs. William Holmes and Joseph Pace of the University of Pennsylvania, surveyed 220 HIV-positive people about their backgrounds, disease status, attitudes about their condition and health behaviors.
- The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation gave a \$1 million grant to the Global Fund for Women in September. Women Fighting Against AIDS in Kenya, which organizes health care providers and counselors to help women in Kenya, Africa, who are caring for relatives with HIV/AIDS, will be one of several agencies benefiting from this grant.
- A small study in New York City by Drs. Alla Keselman and Vimla L. Patel of Columbia University, indicates more research is needed to determine if middle and senior high school students are knowledgeable about HIV/AIDS. Of the 20 students they surveyed, 11 students were unaware HIV was the virus that caused AIDS; thought HIV and AIDS were two different diseases, and were unaware the virus is transmitted through the exchange of body fluids.
- We may soon see a new, faster HIV test in use. The test, known as OraQuick and manufactured by OraSure Technologies, makers of the oral HIV test OraSure, requires only one drop of

See AIDS News, page 41

#### **Public Library to host fundraiser**

On Saturday, Nov. 16, at 7:30 pm., the public is invited to the Central Library branch of the Memphis/Shelby County Public Libraries, 3030 Poplar Avenue, for Infohubbub, a benefit for the Foundation for the Library. For \$50, each guest can try desserts from area restaurants, listen to live music and sample unique library programs. Reservations are required by calling (901) 415-2834.

#### Stroll through Memphis history

Dust off your walking shoes for a pleasant trek through historic Downtown Memphis. Discover Memphis's first skyscraper and marvel at period architectural art as you walk downtown. The tour is Saturday, Nov. 9, from 2 to 4 p.m. It begins and ends at the Magevney House, 198 Adams Avenue. Cost is \$9 per person. For more information or reservations, call (901) 523-1484.

#### JC Judge to speak at Library

Juvenile Court Judge Cary Wood will be the featured speaker at the Poplar-White Station branch of the Memphis/Shelby County Public Libraries, located at 5094 Poplar Avenue, on Thursday, Nov. 14, at 11:30 a.m. For more information, call (901) 682-1616.

#### Sanders family to return

Sanders Family Christmas returns for its third year to the stage of Playhouse on the Square, 51 South Cooper, Nov. 15 through Dec. 22.

On the eve of World War II, the Sanders family comes to Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church to enrich audiences with the true spirit of the season through personal anecdotes and both Gospel and Bluegrass tunes from the 1940s, including knee-slappin' hits like "A Country Kind of Christmas," "Merry Christmas Down Home" and "Grandpa's Done Gone Crazy."

Showtimes are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and one show only on Sunday, Dec. 22, at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$28 for adults; \$18 for seniors; \$16 for students and military personnel, and \$12 for children. The Pay-What-You-Can performance is set for Saturday, Nov. 16, at 8 p.m. For more information or reservations, call the box office at (901) 726-4656.

#### **Book Sale set at 2 branches**

Great deals on used books, videos, magazines and more can be had at either the Cossitt branch library, 33 S. Front Street, Nov. 14 to 16, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., or the East Shelby Branch, 7200 E. Shelby Dr., Nov. 15 and 16, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

#### **Looking for Mexico in Memphis?**





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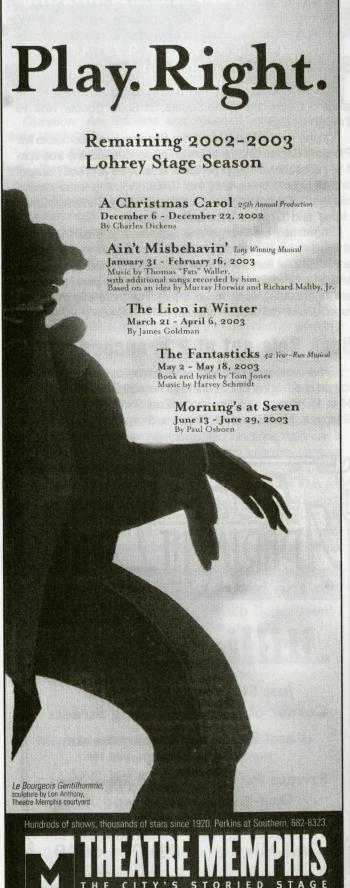
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#### An Apology to our Readers

The editorial staff of Family & Friends Magazine wishes to offer its sincerest apologies to its readers who rely on the magazine to bring them up-to-date information on the Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center.

By now, we are certain those readers have noticed the absence of the "MGLCC Community Corner" in the August, September, October and now the November 2002 issues of Family & Friends. We want to take just a little space to explain the obvious omission of this column.

While we're sure some may think the omission is a direct result of the MGLCC's July 24th filing of a \$700,000 lawsuit against the magazine's parent company, A&P Publications Inc., and its editor and publisher, we wanted to let our readers know that this is not the case, at least not on the part of *Family & Friends*. We cannot speak for the MGLCC.

In late July, after the lawsuit was filed, Family & Friends Managing Editor Anita Moyt made an inquiry by email (this is how the column was usually submitted) about the column for August when it had not been received by the deadline date. The email inquiry was answered only with a submission of the column days after the August 2002, issue had already been distributed.

Family & Friends also has failed to receive the MGLCC's press release in a timely manner for publication in the September,

See Apology, page 48



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#### from page 38

blood and results are ready in 20 minutes. Presently, both blood or oral HIV tests have a waiting period of several days to two weeks and require those being tested to return to meet with those administering the test to get the results. It is hoped OraQuick will eliminate the rate of those failing to return for their test results.

· Washington Times columnist Adrienne Washington pointed out in her Sept. 27 column that our nation's capital has the "dubious distinction' of having an AIDS rate that is 12 times higher than any other place in the country, as one-in-20 adults in Washington, D.C., is HIV-positive... AIDS related illnesses are the third leading cause of death for city residents, ages 30 to 44, and city officials estimate that 40 percent of HIV-positive residents are injection drug users." She said that despite focusing on the world AIDS pandemic, the House of Representatives has blocked the city from using local funds "for programs such as a needle exchange designed to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS."

 The Community Research Initiative of Toronto, in conjunction with St. Michael's Hospital and the Canadian HIV Trials Network, will begin a joint study to examine the medical benefit of smoking marijuana on people with HIV. Four different dosages of marijuana will be used on a sample of 32 HIV-positive patients to examine the effects of the drug on increasing appetite and encouraging weight gain.

· Media conglomerate Viacom Inc., which owns CBS, UPN,

Black Entertainment Television, Nickelodeon and MTV networks, has joined with Kaiser Family Foundation for a multi-million dollar, two-year public service campaign to inform its audiences about HIV/AIDS. Viacom Inc. will provide unsold advertising time on its television and radio stations and Kaiser will provide its expertise on HIV and public education in advising Viacom on the initiative. Viacom also is encouraging anti-AIDS messages in the scripts of its television shows.



The Circuit Playhouse, located at 1705 Poplar Avenue, will stage The SantaLand Diaries beginning Nov. 29 and running through Dec. 22. For showtimes, ticket prices and to purchase tickets, call the box office at (901) 726-4656.

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41 FAMILY & friends NOVEMBER 2002

#### STRAIGHT UP, BUT NOT STRAIGHT

BY J. SHANE WILSON, MS, NCC, LPCC

Dear Publication,

I don't know how to begin this, but let me say that I in no way am attempting to judge gays or lesbians. I have some concerns, which I was wondering if you would be able to shed some light on. I picked up your magazine while visiting my brother's home recently and figured I would take a chance and ask some questions. My brother is 28 and is gay.

My 15 year-old son came home recently with a bloody nose, and was afraid to tell me what happened. I learned from one of his friends at school that he was being teased and picked on because others think he is gay. His friend revealed to me in confidence that my son believes he cannot go to the principal to report the abuse because it will make matters worse for him. My son doesn't know that I am aware of the abuse at school. He also is withdrawing from all of his family, including me, most of his friends, and his grades are starting to drop from As and Bs to almost failing.

I'm writing to you because I don't want my son hurt, nor do I want him to go through the years of torture that my brother endured in school. I also want him to know that I love him regardless of what his sexual preference may be, although admittedly, I'd rather he be straight. I know this is lengthy, but I felt you could provide some answers.

**Mother in Tears** 

Dear Teary-Eyed Mother.

First of all, I want to say thank you for taking the time to care and be a part of your son's life. Your letter touched me profoundly and brought back many memories of my own struggle to deal with my "differentness." I will not attempt to answer your questions or concerns as an adult, but will allow the inner child in all of us that share a "differentness," to share our story.

Dear Mom:

I don't want you to be alarmed but there is something I have been wanting to say. I know that I am different, and I know that what I am about to say to you will sadden you very much. I would rather eat razor blades and chase it with rubbing alcohol than to break your heart or distort your view of me. I love you very much.

However, I am who I am, and I can't change that. I know that upon learning that I am different, you will be sadden. I don't tell you the things I go through because I don't want you to be embarrassed or stop loving me. I strive to make you proud and accept me for the loving son I am to you. However, the reality of it all is that I am different. I've known it for sometime.

I've wondered sometimes how it would be to just fall asleep and never wake up again. Then I picture you at my bedside, eyes full of tears, and the sadness in your heart, and I quickly find another ounce of strength to erase those thoughts from my mind and push myself forward through life. You ask what you can do for me to make my life easier, and draw us closer. I am writing to tell you.

I want you to love me for who I am. Love me for the smiles I brought you in the earlier years of my life and for the noticeable gray hairs I helped to place upon your head over the years. Love

me for who I am today: obedient, nurturing, full of life and energy, and loving toward others.

Learn who I am, and what I am all about. Shed your fears that I will bring disgrace to you because of my "difference." When you see me cry or feel that I am sad, take hold of my hand, and embrace me with your gentle hugs as only you can do. Ask how my day was, and be interested when it is not going so well. Be ready to stand at my side when I explain my thoughts and my desires. Listen to your heart, and know that I am still your son.

You can't control this life or the actions of others in it. However, you can be the best mom in the world to me. You can accept my decisions in life, but not necessarily agree with them. You can set personal boundaries with me, but still love me for who I am. You can be cordial to my friends, and not be comfortable with our "differentness." I know I am asking a lot from you, as I've always have. All in all, I'm asking you to be a mother once more and remember that I love you always.

Love, Me

Note: For all those parents who are concerned about their child's sexual preference and the cruel and inhuman treatment they often endure as a result, may I suggest that you participate in PFLAG (Parents, Family & Friends of Lesbians & Gays) or some other support group as to educate yourselves. Be there for your children and, above all, show them that you love them.

You don't have to accept their lifestyle, but DO accept them. Take part in your child's life and ask questions. Be involved as to their whereabouts, their decisions and their accomplishments. Be proud of who they are and you will be a proud parent!

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 email them to FamilyMag@aol.com.



Playhouse on the Square, 51 South Cooper, will present *Sanders Family Christmas* beginning Nov. 15 and running through Dec. 22. For showtimes, ticket prices and to purchase tickets, call the box office at (901) 726-4656.

# Tantra for Gay Men is 1st guide to teach techniques

Tantra for Gay Men, by Bruce Anderson, is the first guide for gay men to the art of "tantra," a rigorous practice that harnesses sexual energy as fuel for spiritual development.

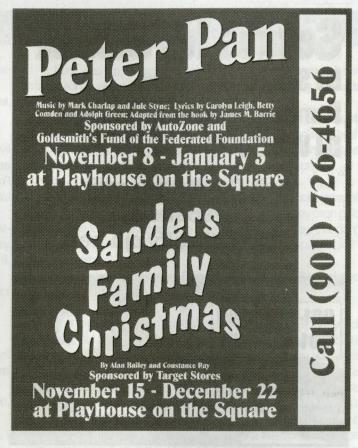


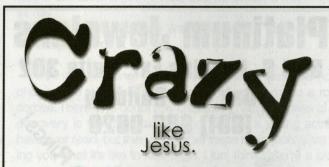
Released by Alyson Publications, this small paperback consists of eight chapters in which Anderson explores and explains the spiritual concepts that practitioners must fully integrate into their lives before experiencing the transformative effects of "tantra." Readers are taught essential techniques, such as harnessing breathing and exercises designed to enhance body alignment and strength, as well as more transcendent concepts, such as understanding the complexities and paradoxes of love and merging the spiritual with the more mundane aspects of life.

"Well, the last few chapters were truly interesting," said Family & Friends staffwriter J. Shane Wilson, explaining his reactions to reading Tantra for Gay Men. "The techniques were all about getting to know your partner, but only after you have spent some time getting to know yourself and your thresholds. However, it was disappointing in that the first four chapters were filled with ramblings about religious beliefs, etc., providing details of how tantra, mantra, etc., got started. I can say that I have, without knowing, practiced some of these techniques alone, but never with a partner as they would think I was crazy. But they do bring about truly erotic sensations.

"In my opinion," Wilson continued, "they could have left the first four chapters out and provided more details on techniques and what they are designed to do. However, they did a pretty good job in the end of the book. But it did take forever to get to the 'perinatum rocket fuel' they continued to discuss. I will leave your mind to wonder about that one."







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#### QUOTE / UNQUOTE BY REX WOCKNER

"I had to sell them on it. I Will Survive' was written as the B-side of another song."

 Disco diva Gloria Gaynor to the Windy City Times, Sept. 18.

"As President of the United State, I would recognize civil unions, which will then allow full equality under the law as far as the federal government is concerned. ... Decent Americans won't look a group in the face and say you don't deserve rights. I just don't believe that."

 Democratic Presidential candidate Howard Dean, governor of Vermont, speaking at the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association convention in Philadelphia, Sept. 15.

"My number one pet peeve is when people call me Miss Paul or Mr. Paul. My last name is Charles. My first name is RuPaul."

- RuPaul Charles to Windy City Times, Sept. 18.

"I think the reason there's always a sign language interpreter at lesbian events has less to do with concerns for the deaf and more with showing off in public how nimble your fingers are."

- Columnist Marc Acito, Just Out, Portland, Ore., Sept. 20.

"If I knew there was a gay guy on my college football team, I probably wouldn't, you know, stand for it. You know, I think, you know, they're going to be in the shower with us and stuff, so I don't think that's gonna work. That's not gonna work, you know?"

— New York Giants tight-end Jeremy Shockey on Howard Stern's radio show, Sept. 10. On Sept. 26, Shockey said, "I guess I do regret saying it. I didn't think anyone was going to make a big deal out of it. I'm not prejudiced against anybody's beliefs or what they do in their off time."

"I'm happy to say that my (depression) medicine has been greatly reduced since leaving the show. I will probably need medication for a while, if not forever. ... The thing that's different is that the gray veil that surrounded me was lifted, and life was once again Technicolor."

Rosie O'Donnell to People magazine, Sept. 26.

"I am here today because I want young people to take responsibility for themselves and turn the tide against HIV. I was too young to retire so I decided to get more young people involved in their communities in the fight against the HIV/AIDS epidemic and in solving their own problems."

— Former President Bill Clinton speaking in a poor township near Johannesburg, South Africa, Sept. 28.

"I don't particularly enjoy performing on stage but I'd do practically anything to help the Democrats win the House (of Representatives)."

 Barbra Stresiand who came out of retirement Sept. 29, to sing nine songs at a Democratic fundraiser in Los Angeles. "I think you can't exercise tolerance intelligently without discrimination. If you don't discriminate, how are you going to decide what to tolerate and what not to tolerate?"

— Boston University Chancellor John Silber, who recently shut down the Gay-Straight Alliance at BU Academy high school, saying it encouraged "homosexual militancy" and "evangelism," as quoted by the *Boston Globe*, Sept. 29.

"I don't support homosexuality because I'm not homosexual, but I don't hate gay people because the more guys a gay man gets is more girls for me. ... Jamaicans come right out and say, 'We don't deal with homosexuals.' ... That's why the music is homophobic? I don't understand."

 Dancehall megastar Beenie Man to the Associated Press, Oct. 2.

"In the beginning, I was the only openly gay comic in the world, not really, but that's what it felt like. I was performing for straight audiences. It was a very big deal. You couldn't just say you were gay. You had to address every topic that was in their head. With the gay audiences, you were one of their few voices, so you had to be the gay cheerleader. You couldn't just drift off and talk about your dogs or your mom. ... I was OK about being super, ultra gay and being the voice for gay people. But there is a freedom now to be able to talk about anything. That, as a performer, is way more fun for me."

— Comedian Suzanne Westenhoefer to Nashville's *The Tennessean*, Oct. 5.

"I think if anything, I had underestimated people's homophobia. The tabloids have been like piranhas round a rotting corpse. There's no doubt (my character) Nan's process of self-discovery is the most challenging part for a young actress I have ever read, but then you get all these male journalists asking you what it's like to kiss a girl. I just think, 'You're a bloody man, you tell me!' Everyone is fixated on the fact it involves two birds snogging."

 Rachel Stirling, daughter of Dame Diana Rigg, on her role in the controversial new lesbian-themed BBC series "Tipping The Velvet," to the *Guardian*, Oct. 8.

"Quitting the Boy Scouts was probably one of the most painful experiences I've ever had to endure. But they are wrong and you are right. We are right and we have never been more right than we are right now, in this country and at this time."

— Filmmaker Steven Spielberg receiving an award from the gay organization Human Rights Campaign, Oct. 13, in Washington, D.C.

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 & Theater Guide

#### **Bars & Clubs**

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- 2 Crossroads 1278 Jefferson (901) 276-8078
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- The Jungle 1474 Madison Avenue (901) 278-4313
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- Madison Flame 1588 Madison Avenue (901) 278-9839
- 8 Metro Memphis 1349 Autumn Street (901) 274-8010
- 9 N-Cognito 338 South Front @ Vance (901) 523-0599
- One More 2117 Peabody (901) 278-MORE
- The Pumping Station 1382 Poplar Avenue (901) 272-7600

#### **Theaters**

- Circuit Playhouse 1705 Poplar Avenue (901) 726-4656
- Emerald Theatre Company 2085 Monroe Avenue (901) 722-9302
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- Playhouse on the Square 51 South Cooper (901) 726-4656

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**Theatre Memphis** 630 Perkins Extended (901) 682-8323

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- Cafe Ole mexican 2127 Young Avenue (901) 274-1504
- Cafe Society gourmet 212 North Evergreen (901) 722-2177 (reservations suggested)
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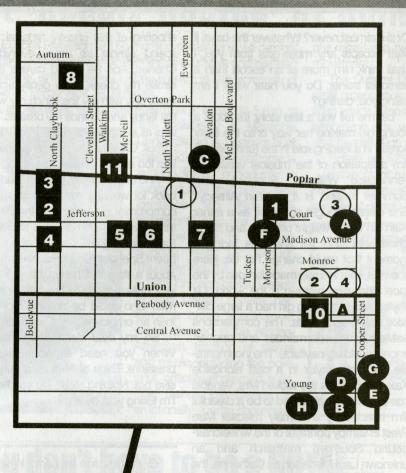
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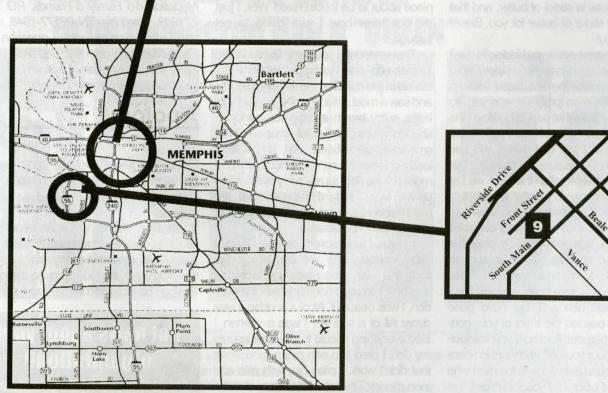
If your establishment is GLBT-Friendly and isn't listed above, call us at 901-682-2669

#### Memphis Bar, Restaurant & Theater Guide





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



#### ASK LAM BY LAM MEDALLION



During the past year and a half, I've lost 125 pounds through careful diet and exercise. I've been working three times a week with a personal trainer, and during the past 18 months, I feel I have developed more than a professional relationship with "Matt," my trainer. He is one of the most supportive men I have ever met. He has kept our bond purely platonic, but I sense this can go somewhere else. He is 25 and I am 50. I have taken him to lunch at the trendiest places in town, given him the best tickets to the most popular shows and concerts and have always remembered him with a very generous tip at Christmas, his birthday and every 10pound interval of my weight loss. How can I get this relationship to the next step? I think I am in love with Matt.

Yours truly, At A Crossroad

#### Dear I Think You Are Actually A John,

First of all, darling, congratulations are in order! What an amazing goal you have achieved: 125 pounds. How envious you make me. My mother always measured my weight loss in sticks of butter, and that makes 500 sticks of butter for you. Bravo! Good for you!

But darling, who are you kidding? I don't mean to be so harsh, but I know from whence I speak. You are faced with an incredibly common problem, and it is so hard to see it from that pool of butter on the floor around you. I must ask you to stare good and hard into that mirror and see yourself and the hazards surrounding this relationship. As is so often the case, we just don't know what to do with the feelings that accompany the person who has just helped us with what we once thought an unachievable task. And I might add, Matt is not a person who has offered his support and shoulder to cry on willingly, but rather, he is a man you have hired. And you have not only paid him well, but have gone above and beyond the limits of your contractual agreement. And now you are feeling good about yourself, and want to share your new-found esteem with the man who helped build it. But, I tell you with regret, this can never be. Never. Or at least hardly ever.

Or is it almost never? Whatever the case, if Matt accepts any more gifts from you, I shall think him more of an escort than a personal trainer. Do you hear what I am telling you, darling?

Let me tell you a little story. It's about a young girl making her way onto the silver screen in a leading role in the (unreleased) film adaptation of the musical version of Tennessee Williams' Suddenly Last Summer entitled Is It Autumn Already? She always thought of herself as a rather plain girl with a weight problem and blemished skin, and yet she was facing a moment that could change her life. Here she was, cast in a role made famous by the most gorgeous woman n the world, Liz Taylor, and this young girl had a large derriere and black heads. The comparisons between our performances and appearances would be inevitable. The incomparable Elizabeth Taylor in a cast alongside Kate Hepburn as the wicked Mrs. Venable compared to what proved to be a dreadful film headed by a horribly miscast Mae West in vampy portrayal of the wheelchairbound Southern matriarch and an unknown Lam Medallion as Catherine, the niece about to be lobotomized. Well, I just did not know how I was going to get through it.

That was, until I spent my first six hours in make-up and wardrobe. When I first looked in the mirror at the finished product and saw a most striking young woman with large, sultry brown eyes; a full, perfectly-shaped mouth; exquisitely-shaped brow; smooth-as-crepe-batter skin, and a flaw-lessly-chiseled figure, my perfectly shaped mouth hit the floor as my sultry eyes welled up with tears. I instantly fell in love with the man responsible for giving me the glamour I never knew I possessed.

I was enamored with Charles L'auvienoireieauxes (or something like that), the man who made my face and waistline into my trademark. All of a sudden, I was beautiful. All of a sudden, I was curvy. All of a sudden, I was a woman. I tried everything I could to lure Charles into my den. I plied him with praise, and when that didn't work, I plied him with gifts and then money. This was happening simultaneously with the grueling five months of

shooting of this ghastly musical. I would spend almost six hours everyday with Charles. And he would caress my face, stroke my cheek, blow gently across my eyes, play with my lips, cinch my waist, pat my fanny and bounce my breasts. And this was all in the line of duty? Ha, I thought to myself. Charles seems to enjoy his work a little too much.

And then one day, I found Charles in the back lot wearing my hair and robe, in a compromising position with the Greek costume designer Demo Chrysanthiapoulious (or something like that). What a fool I had been! Spending countless hours dreaming about a life with Charles, spending countless dollars trying to buy affection from a man who could be nothing more to me than an employee.

So, my dear friend, learn this lesson: When you need support, you buy a brassiere. Think of Matt as a very expensive bra. Nothing more. 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.

#### **Apology**

from page 40

October and November 2002 issues. For all three months, the information was submitted after *Family & Friends* had gone to press.

Family & Friends wishes to apologizes to its readers for any inconvenience the lack of this important community information may have caused. We hope this problem can be remedied in the near future.

# Got news about your organization?

Email it to FamilyMag@aol.com

## Get 'Deeply Rooted' at UofM November 15

The Cultural Development Foundation of Memphis will present "A Deeply Rooted Evening," an evening of evocative and inspiring dance theater, at the Michael D. Rose Theatre at The University of Memphis on Friday, Nov. 15, at 8 p.m.

Also, auditions are set for Saturday, Nov. 9, from 3 to 5 p.m. at



The University of Memphis Dance Studio A. Dancers of all ages and styles are welcome to audition for an opportunity to dance during the public performance on Nov. 15. Participants who are selected must be able to rehearse Sunday, Nov. 10, through Thursday, Nov. 14.

The Chicago-based Deeply Rooted Dance Theatre performs a broad spectrum of works steeped in the African-American tradition of dance and music, including the powerful, critically-acclaimed suite, *The Dance We Dance*. Its emotionally-charge choreogra-

phy represents history, liberation and spirituality through modern movement.

The Cultural Development Foundation of Memphis is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing excellent artistic productions which expose school-age children and their families to the performing arts, while supporting cultural diversity and providing enriched learning experiences.

Tickets are \$25, general seating.

For more information on this performance, call (901) 323-7522. For more information on Deeply Rooted Dance Theatre, visit its website at deeply-rooted.org.



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## Black SGL Alliance now open to community

#### By ANITA MOYT, managing editor

In space provided free of charge by Friends For Life (FFL) Corporation in its educational office suites, located at 28 North Claybrook, The Memphis Black Same-Gender-Loving (SGL) Alliance Resource and Cultural Center is bursting at the seams already.

The walls of the center are literally covered with portraits, some autographed, of close to 100 black SGL men who are well-known as artists, performers, dancers, actors, ministers, authors, etc.

Anthony R.G. Hardaway, who also is employed by FFL as an educator, oversees the center.

"We hired Anthony because he is what we consider a gate-keeper in the black gay community," FFL Executive Director Kim Moss told *Family & Friends*. "He is highly respected and understands their issues and is trusted by them. Recent studies from the CDC point to the fact that the black gay male community is at very high risk of HIV infection. Providing these guys with a place to come and have fun, but also learn about HIV prevention, is exactly what we wanted."

Hardaway began his collection of black gay videos, books, portraits, brochures, buttons, and memorabilia of all kinds in his travels with the Public Awareness Theatre, based in Detroit, Mich. Hardaway joined the theater troupe after being graduated from Jackson (Miss.) State College with a degree in dramatic arts. Slowly he began filling up the back rooms of his father's house with his collection. After several years, a leak developed and Hardaway was informed it was time to move his collection. However, what could have been seen as a problem soon turned out for the good.

"This office had been offered to me (by FFL) for the past two years," Hardaway told *Family & Friends*. "It (is) the perfect location and the perfect timing. We needed it." What began as Hardaway's office soon became much more as the memorabilia was moved, box by box, into place beginning in August 2002.

"Child, you've got a museum, not an office," Hardaway said many told him. His friends and colleagues have expressed their thoughts that he needed to make the place a cultural resource center.

"I don't own this," Hardaway explained. "The black gay community owns this collection. If anything happens to me, the black SGL community (would take it over). I would expect Dwayne Jenkins (founder of Brothers United) and the torch-bearers of the Southern region to take over. We have never had anything like this.

#### **BU's Winter Retreat VI planned**

Brothers United's Winter Retreat VI is set for Thursday, Dec. 5, through Sunday, Dec. 8, at Montgomery Bell State Park in Burns, Tenn.

The Men of Rainbow will be the featured entertainment at this year's event. The cost of \$165 per person includes lodging, meals, workshops and fashion show. The hosting hotel has an exercise room, indoor pool and outdoor hot tub.

For more information, call Dwayne at (800) 845-4266, ext. 269, or email him at brosunited@aol.com.

"I've always wanted a place, a safe haven, for our community to come to," Hardaway said, explaining his desires for the center. "Also, I've got a goal, that young black gay people can have a connection to their past, present and their futures, (as well as) to educating the straight community (as to) who we (the black SGL community) are, individually and collectively."

Hardaway told *Family & Friends* that down the road he desires to conduct support groups at the center and have a licensed counselor available. Presently, anyone can call the center for resource information and referrals.

"(This place) is a haven for us and about us," Hardaway said.
"I'm just a moderator of this. I am just overseeing and moderating it. I don't own it.

"When I walk into this room and see the pictures on the wall, I know it is not all in vain," Hardaway continued. ... "The reason I do it all is because of my friends and colleagues of my past who have passed on because of the HIV/AIDS epidemic."

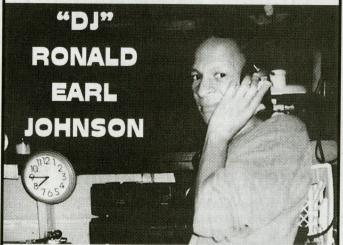
Admission to the cultural center is free. Any items available for the public also are offered free of charge. However, donations are accepted gratefully. Hardaway receives no salary in this position.

"We welcome with open arms those who would like to volunteer in any aspect," Hardaway said.

Call the The Memphis Black SGL Alliance Resource and Cultural Center at (901) 274-0163 for hours of operation or more information.

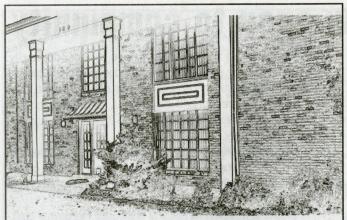


TO



for 20 years of spinning the music and making the chil-ren go up on the dance floor.

— The Memphis Black SGL Community



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# Porgy & Bess to be staged at Orpheum in December

The immortal American opera, *Porgy and Bess*, will be staged at The Orpheum Theatre, 203 South Main Street, Tuesday, Dec. 3, and Thursday, Dec. 5, with both shows beginning at 7:30 p.m. On Wednesday, Dec. 4, there will be a performance for school children. However, there will be a cast party at the National Civil Rights Museum, 450 Mulberry Street, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., which the public is invited to attend.

In 1926, popular composer George Gershwin read a copy of the novel, *Porgy*, originally published by DuBose Heyward of Charleston, S.C., in 1924, and was so impressed he wrote Heyward and suggested they collaborate on a folk-opera based on



the novel. However, it was 1934, before Gershwin, his brother Ira, Heyward and his wife, Dorothy, began their venture, which produced *Porgy and Bess*.

Porgy and Bess is a three-act musical that takes place in Catfish Row, once an aristocratic mansion, now a crowded waterfront tenement. After suffering a loosing streak at a game of craps, Crown kills another man in a fit of rage. His girl, Bess, gives him money as he makes a run for it and Bess finds two men, Sportin' Life and Porgy, willing to give her shelter. Despite what would be expected, Bess finds that her heart is growing fonder and fonder of Porgy, a crippled man, often teased by the Catfish Row inhabitants.

Porgy and Bess is produced by the Cultural Development Foundation of Memphis, which is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing excellent artistic productions that expose school-age children and their families to the performing arts while supporting cultural diversity and providing enriched learning experiences.

Tickets, which range from \$15 to \$45, are available at the Orpheum Box Office, or by calling (901) 525-3000 or (901) 743-ARTS

#### Simbe Social #5 set in Nashville

All are welcome at Simbe Social #5, set for the day after Thanksgiving, Friday, Nov. 29, from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. at The ONYX Room, 624 Jefferson Street in Nashville, Tenn. This is a party you don't want to miss! Featured is "The Spin Doctor," DJ Robbie Rob, from Cleveland, Ohio.

Admission is \$5 per person or free if you take a HIV OraSure swab test, which will be administered at the club.

Safe In My Brothas Embrace is a Brothers United health project that promotes HIV Ora-Sure testing in social settings for black gay men, their partners, families and friends. Ora-Sure testing involves no blood and no needles. The test simply uses a sample of saliva for determining HIV infection.

For more information, call Dwayne at (800) 845-4266, ext. 269, or email him at brosunited@aol.com.

#### WHAT'S THE 'TEE' LADYBUG P

#### BY ANTHONY HARDAWAY



approaches the Mid-South, it tells me that the Black Pride season is coming to a close for the year of 2002. The last Pride I attended was Baltimore, Md. It was good to see how all the agencies, stakeholders, community-based organizations and leaders supported each other the entire weekend. I was very impressed with the transgender community up there. I met some wonderful people named Chanel Revion, Helena Hologram, Diannie Williams-Kimbrough, Ralph Pritchett Jr. and Darrell Johnson of Unitees.

The International Presiding President of Black Prides Worldwide, Earl Fowlkes, was in attendance, as well. We both talked about how there has been a great growth for the federation this year. Earl is stressing the importance of supporting South Africa's black samegender-loving community in the upcoming year.

Baltimore's Sunday Block Party was the highlight for me. Club Bunns served as the hosting club. Three Pigs Carry Out and Catering (Smiley, Randy and Ira) cooked their butts off during the weekend. I am going back to Baltimore, just to go to Club Bunns and let the Three Pigs feed me again.

Carlton Ray Smith did an outstanding job as the Pride president. All weekend Madame Chair Smith was honored by citywide officials of Baltimore.

I stopped in Jackson, Miss., at Club City Lights to say hello to Ms. Bobbie Jean, announcer

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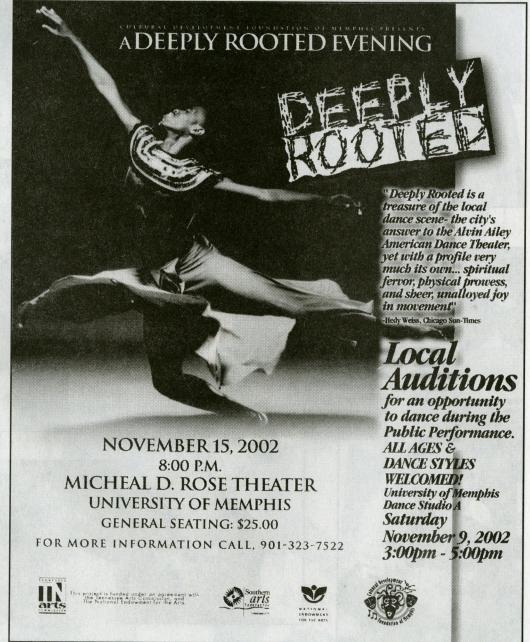
L.C. and the rest of the chil-ren. Everyone seemed to be doing alright. I hope to be able to visit again during the J.S.U.-Alcorn Classic football game.

As the holiday season comes to us, please be reminded of how blessed each of us are, so make sure you share it with others. Instead of going out and buying someone something, do something

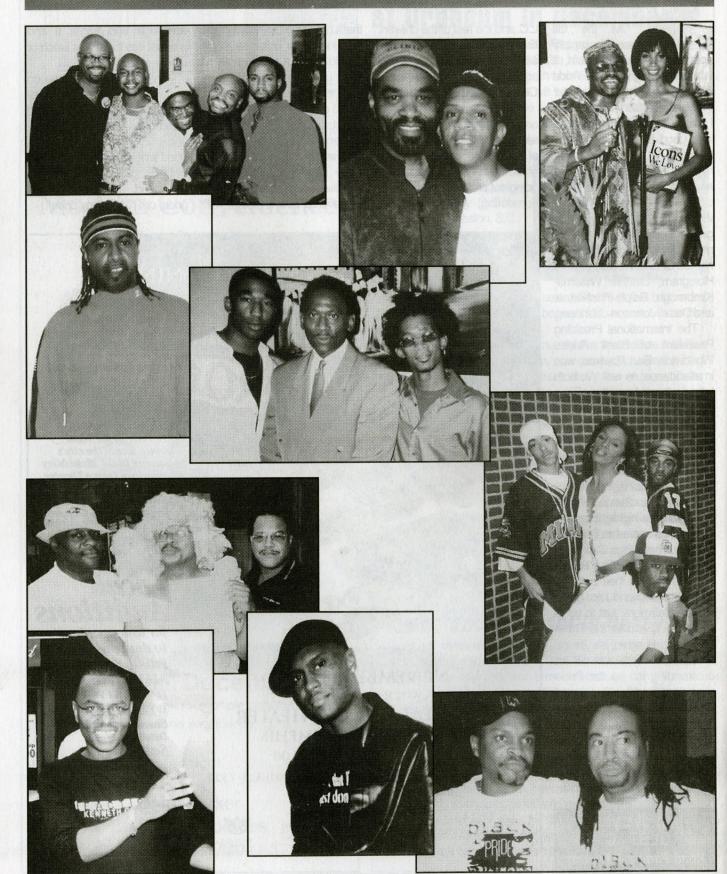
that's out of the ordinary for you and them. For example, send an old friend a thinking-of-you card; go visit or call someone you have not seen or talked to in two or three months and talk about positive things both of you enjoy; give someone a big hug and tell them something really nice about themselves you like and appreciate, and, my favorite, take a picture with

someone and frame it and present it to them at a lunch or dinner outing.

As we come to a close on our pride season, say a prayer for our families, friends and loved ones who buried someone in 2002, and reflect on the good times we all have had as a black gay community this year. And, as always, happy pride, chil-ren, happy pride!



#### FAMILY ALBUM BALTIMORE BLACK PRIDE 2002



#### BALTIMORE BLACK PRIDE 2002 FAMILY ALBUM









Photos by Anthony Hardaway

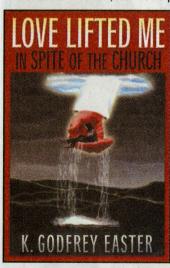


55 FAMILY & friends NOVEMBER 2002

#### K. Godfrey Easter: Black, gay & sanctified Author of Love Lifted Me In Spite Of The Church to visit Memphis

#### By ANITA MOYT, managing editor

In November, when thousands of delegates of the Church of God in Christ attend its annual convocation here in Memphis, one man also will be in the city, but carrying a message many of them may disagree with. Although he will not be a delegate at the COGIC convocation, he will be praising the same God.



K. Godfrey Easter, author of Love Lifted Me in Spite of the Church, will be in Memphis, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 8 to 10. The public is invited to meet Easter at a reception and book-signing on Saturday, Nov. 9, at 3 p.m., at the Memphis Black Same-Gender-Loving Cultural Resource Center located in the 28 North Claybrook building. Easter also will be a featured speaker at Holy Trinity Community Church, 3430 Summer Avenue, on Sunday, Nov. 10, at 11 a.m. And, Easter

will be at Club N'Cognito, 338 South Front at Vance, on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 8 and 9, beginning at 11 p.m.

Originally from Dallas, Texas, Easter wrote Love Lifted Me in Spite of the Church to touch the many "churched" men and women who found their homosexual identity didn't mesh with their church's teachings.

"I wrote the book for people who are reared in the black church and religious culture," Easter told Family & Friends in a phone interview from his home in Tacoma, Wash.

"In my early 20s, after I divorced, I left the church," Easter said. "(At that time) I couldn't bear 'embarrassing God' with my lifestyle. When I was 33 years old, I had my first 'Damascus Road' experience ... an experience with God inspite of the church. I felt the embrace and felt once and for all that God accepted me."

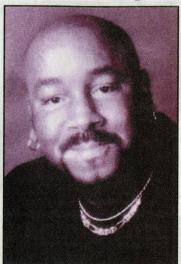
Easter said part of that experience involved reading the book. What The Bible Really Says About Homosexuality.

"It put scripture in its historical context," he continued, "I found that to be very inspiring for me. ... It took three years to find a church fellowship where I felt confident that they accepted me as I am, a gay Christian. My church is a mainstream COGIC church and my pastor, his wife and the church's leadership body, all straight African-American Christians, fully endorse me and my book." Easter serves as the minister of music at that church, Evangelistic Center Church Of God In Christ.

In his well-written, 200-page autobiography, published by LLM Publishing Company, Easter shares with his readers his life experiences as a church-going child, as a gay man "in exile" and as a gay man reconciled with God.

"But for me, and for many other black gay people that I know, the clubs had become, in a strange sense, my new church home." Easter wrote in chapter one. "I blocked out the lewd, lustful and carnal attitudes of many of its parishioners. Once I did. much like traditional churches, my weekly gathering places offered an avenue of fellowship with others in which I could identify."

"Like a former lover reflecting on his past," Easter writes in the introduction of the book, "I've finally realized that the relationship with my



K. Godfrey Easter

first true love ended too prematurely. Because of the errant opinions of Christians close to my life, as a young adult I regrettably turned my spiritual back from God's always-welcoming embrace.

"As a gay man, yes, I've been sentenced to hell," Easter's writing continued. "I've been made to feel ostracized by my own because I've mustered up the courage to proclaim openly my true human orientation. I've been condemned to the Pharisaical Christian's hell; the black church's hell; the modern-day, organized religion's hell. ... Millenniums ago Jesus, too, was condemned to just such a destination. ... However, I will no longer permit my misguided brothers and sisters to coerce me into concluding that I'm in any danger of going to the hell that's lodged deep within our mutual Christian belief structure."

There is no doubt there is an amen for everyone in this book. churched or not, and an inspiration to all.

Easter has found strong support for himself and his book in his church family.

"Where I live, COGIC has already found out," he said, "and there has already been some fallout, but my pastor and his wife are concrete in their convictions about the SGL community."

Love Lifted Me in Spite of the Church is available, not only at Easter's appearances listed above, but online at Ilmpublishing.com and at amazon.com.

For more information, call (901) 274-0163.

Meet

#### K. GODFREY EASTER at CLUB N-COGNITO

338 South Front @ Vance November 8 and 9 at 11 p.m.

# N-COGNITO

**Thursday, November 7** 

#### MS. CENTERFOLD PLUS

For information contact Shonn Dupree



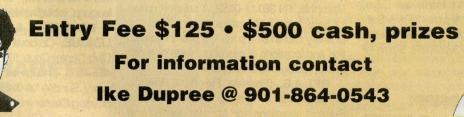
Sunday, November 10



For information contact Scott Deverreoux @ 240-346-4621

Sunday & Monday, November 17 & 18

#### MR. & MS. FLAWLESS NEWCOMER







**Sunday, November 24** 

#### MS. BLACK TN PLUS

For information contact John Robinson

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#### RAINBOW DIRECTORY AREA GLBT RESOURCE GUIDE

# BARS/NIGHTCLUBS MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

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

CROSSROADS & CROSSROADS 2, 1278 Jefferson & 111 North Claybrook, (901) 276-1882, Noon–3 a.m., 7 Days A Week

**J-WAG'S,** 1268 Madison Avenue, (901) 725-1909, Open 24 Hours A Day, 7 Days A Week

**THE JUNGLE**, 1474 Madison Avenue, (901) 278-4313, 4 p.m.-3 a.m. Mon.-Fri./3 p.m.-3 a.m. Sat. & Sun.

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

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

METRO MEMPHIS, 1349 Autumn Street, (901) 274-8010, 6 p.m.–3 a.m., 7 days a week

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

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

**THE PUMPING STATION**, 1382 Poplar Avenue, (901) 272-7600, 4 p.m. to 3 a.m. Mon.-Friday, 3 p.m. to 3 a.m. Sat. & Sun.

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JACK'S CONSTRUCTION SITE, 425 North Mart Plaza, (601) 362-3108, 5 p.m.-? 7 Days A Week

#### **TUPELO, MISSISSIPPI**

**RUMORS**, 637 Highway 145, (662) 767-9500, 8 p.m. –1 a.m. Thurs. – Sat.

#### **JACKSON, TENNESSEE**

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

#### SOCIAL

#### **MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE**

B.G.A.L.A., (University of Memphis Students for Bisexual, Gay & Lesbian Association), (901) 678-5719, BGALA is a social, political and eduational organization, www.people.memphis.edu/~bqala

COTTON PICKIN' SQUARES-MEM-PHIS, (901) 272-2116, Meets Thursday nights at 7:30 p.m. at Prescott Memorial Baptist Church, 499 Patterson (Near The University of Memphis), Square dancing social group

MEMPHIS AREA GAY YOUTH (MAGY), P.O. Box 241852, Memphis, TN 38124, (901) 335-6249, Peer support group for 13- to 21year olds dealing with gay, lesbian, bisexual and gender issues, www.gaymemphis.com/magy

MEMPHIS BEARS, 1066 Wrenwood, Memphis, TN 38122, (901) 323-4773, Meets the 2nd Saturday of every month at The Pumping Station, 1382 Poplar Ave., at 10 p.m. • MEN ONLY, Email: info@memphisbears.com, Website: www.memphisbears.com

MEMPHIS GAY & LESBIAN COMMU-NITY 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, email: MemphisPride2003@aol.com, Monthly open meetings have been suspended indefinitely

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

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

TENNESSEE LEATHER TRIBE, (901) 357-1921, Club nights and meetings vary;

contact for info – men and women welcome, www.tnleathertribe.org, email: info@tnleathertribe.org

TSARUS MEMPHIS, P.O. Box 41082, Memphis, TN 38174, (901) 276-4132, Levileather club meets the 3rd Saturday of every month at The Pumping Station, 1382 Poplar Aveune, at 10 p.m. • MEN ONLY, Email: info@tsarus.org, website: www.tsarus.org

MEMPHIS BLACK SGL ALLIANCE, 28 North Claybrook, Memphis, TN 38104, (901)274-0163, Cultural, educational, community awareness organization.

#### **MISSISSIPPI**

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

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

#### **ARKANSAS**

SAFE HARBOR NORTHEAST ARKANSAS, A confidential support and social group for GLBT individuals, ages 25 and under, in northeast Arkansas., website: www.safeharbor-nea.netfirms.com

#### **SPORTS**

#### **MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE**

BLUFF CITY SPORTS ASSOCIATION, P.O. Box 41803, Memphis, TN 38174-1803, (901) 726-4342 • email: memphisgaysoftball@yahoo.com, Organizes gay sports leagues, including softball and volleyball

BROTHERS & SISTERS BOWLING LEAGUE, Cordova Bowling Center, 7945 Club Center Cove, (901) 737-7824 OR (901) 465-4371, This co-ed bowling league meets every Sunday at 5:45 p.m. at the Cordova Bowling Center

#### WHOLENESS

#### **MEMPHIS. TENNESSEE**

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

If Your Organization Isn't Listed Here, Call Us at (901) 682-2669

#### RAINBOW DIRECTORY AREA GLBT RESOURCE GUIDE

#### WHOLENESS continued

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

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

MEMPHIS HIV FAMILY CARE NET-WORK, 880 Madison Avenue, Memphis, TN, (901) 545-8265, Free comprehensive, supportive services and voc/rehab services to the HIV-positive

**ORORO-CROSSROADS**, (901) 743-2900, Support group for African-American, same-gender-loving men, For information, contact James at (901) 529-9549

THE POSITIVE LIVING CENTER, 1000 South Cooper Street, Memphis, TN, (901) 726-6022 • Tuesday—Saturday, noon to 8 p.m. Provides opportunities for persons affected by HIV/AIDS to manage the disease in a holistic manner, free of charge.

WELLNESS CENTER AT HTCC, 3430 Summer Avenue, Memphis, TN 38122, (901) 754-9423 OR (901) 320-9376, Offers a support program for gay parents and a support program for married men dealing with sexual identity.

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

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

#### SPIRITUAL

#### **MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE**

INTEGRITY MEMPHIS, 102 N. Second Street, Memphis, TN 38103, (901) 525-6602, People of all faiths and ideologies are welcome, Meets the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at Calvary Episcopal Church. Dinner at 7 p.m., www.geocities.com/integrity\_memphis/main.html

LAMBDA CIRCLE, (901) 278-6786, Open to all GLBT persons of faith to join in an affirming time of prayer, Bible study and discussion., Meets the 2nd Tuesday of every month from

6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at First Congregational Church, 1000 S. Cooper Street.

#### **OTHER LOCALES**

CAMP SISTER SPIRIT, P.O. Box 12, Ovett, MS 39464, Feminist education/cultural/retreat center, www.campsisterspirit.com, email: sisterspir@aol.com

MCC OFTHE RAINBOW, 5565 Robinson Rd. Ext., Ste. Q, Jackson, MS 39204, (601) 372-6644, Sunday Service at 11:30 a.m.

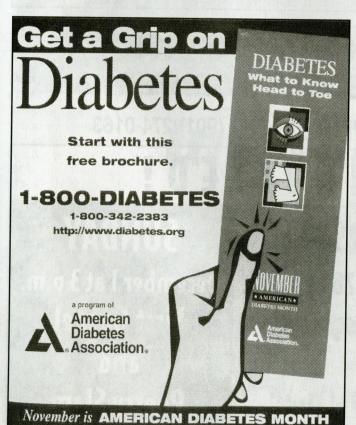
#### **POLITICAL**

#### **TENNESSEE**

**EQUALITY TENNESSEE**, P.O. Box 241363, Memphis, TN 38124 • 901-327-2677, A civil rights group that promotes equality and combats prejudice and discrimination among GLBT persons, email: westregion@equalitytn.org, www.equalitytn.org

#### **MISSISSIPPI**

**EQUALITY MISSISSIPPI**, P.O. Box 6021, Jackson, MS 39288-6021, (601) 936-7673, email: EqualityMS@EqualityMS.org, website: www.EqualityMS.org



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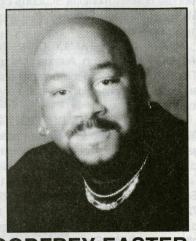
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#### Harascopes

#### SCORPIO

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

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

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

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

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

Aries (March 21-April 20) — The important people in your life will be more supportive of you than ever. Don't underestimate yourself because your methods will be noticed.

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

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

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

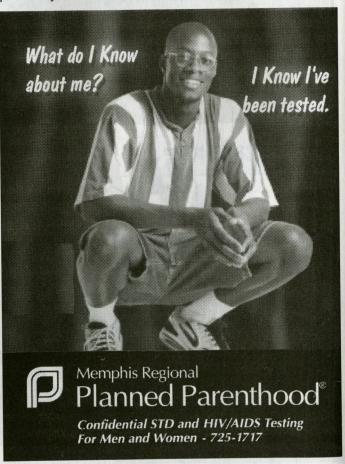
Leo (July 24-Aug. 23) — Moving into high gear now is not only favored but suggested as aggressive Mars moves through your income sector. If you make the first move, you could find yourself with recognition and rewards. Now is a good time to seek backing for a new project.

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

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

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









# (901) 525-HELP (4357) Joseph S. Ozment

Attorney at Law 138 North Third Street Memphis, TN 38103

# **Criminal Defense**

State and Federal Court

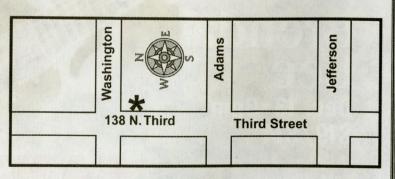
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