

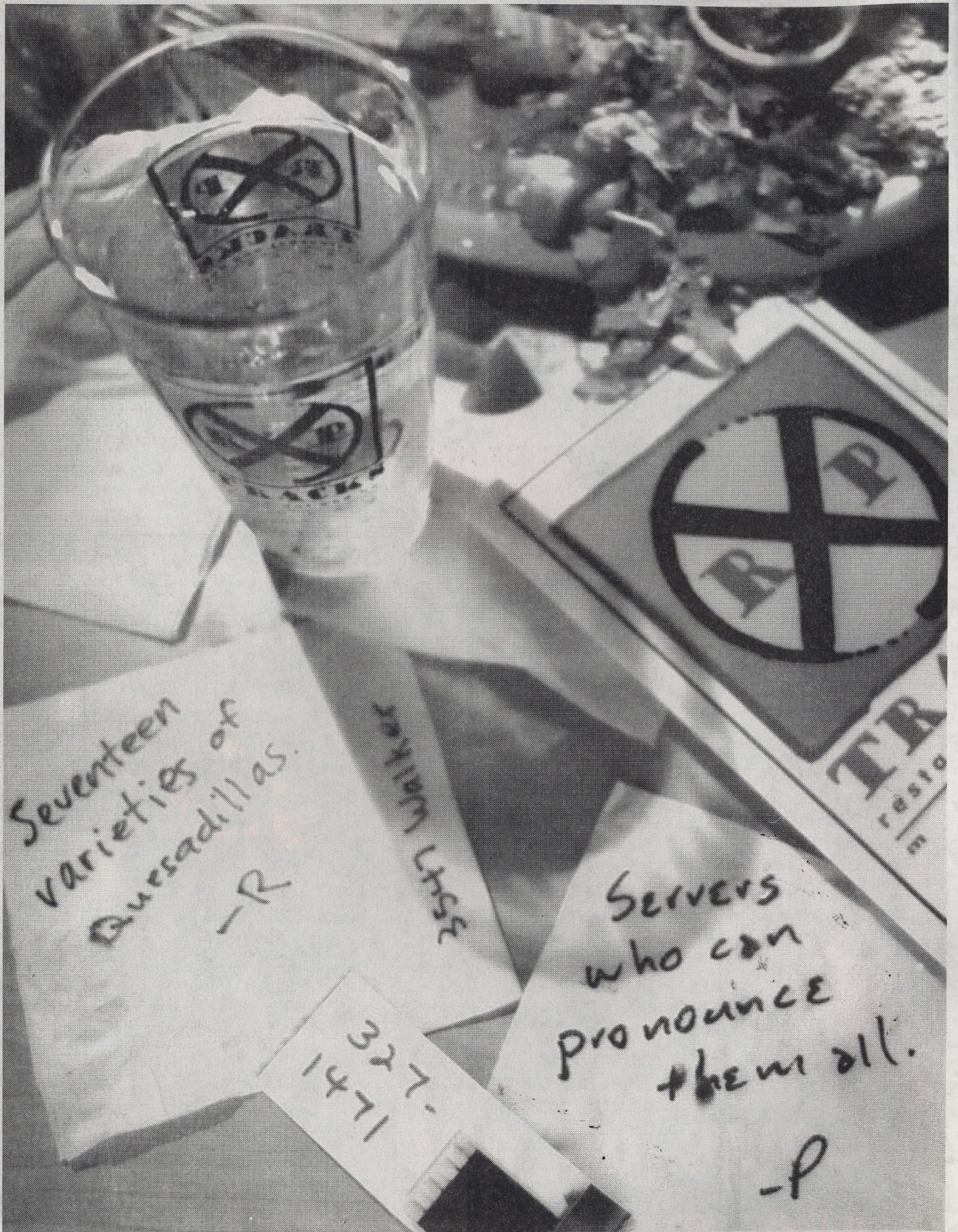
JANUARY
2003

FAMILY

& friends

A woman with blonde hair, wearing a red sequined dress and a large red feathered shawl, leans over a bar counter. She is holding a glass of wine. A bottle of wine is on the counter next to her. The background is a brick wall.

Come up and
see me sometime!





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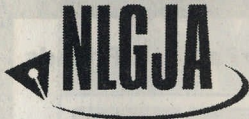
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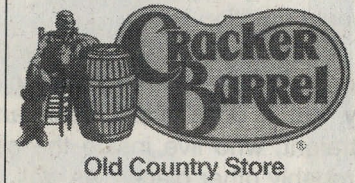
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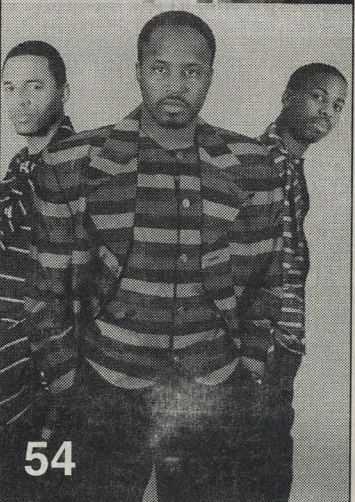
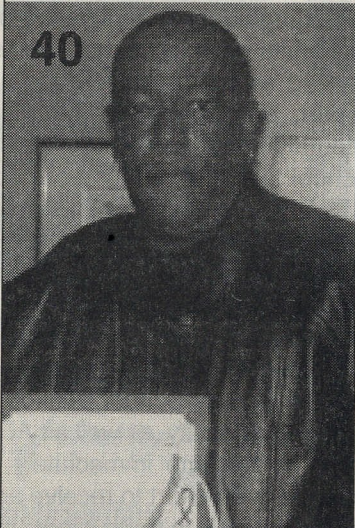
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City school issues affect all, gay or straight

Within the first six months of *Family & Friends* beginning publication almost six years ago, a reader called us with what has turned out to be one of the most flattering comments we have ever received.

"Thank you so very much for realizing we are more than just gay and lesbian," the caller told us. "We are people, too, and we have concerns and interests that extend beyond our sexual orientation."

Since that initial telephone call, many other readers have mirrored the sentiment, much to our delight. But, many of you are probably asking yourselves why we would mention it now.

The answer is simple. Because this month's editorial doesn't really have anything to do with a person's sexuality, but it does effect each and every citizen, gay and straight, who live inside the city limits of Memphis, and probably other places, as well.

It's about the Memphis City School system, and while not everyone has a child, grandchild, brother or sister attending a city school, every person who lives within the city limits pays city school taxes, even if he or she is only renting as opposed to being a homeowner. If you are a renter, don't think for a minute that a portion of your monthly fee doesn't help your landlord pay his or her city school taxes, which fund our schools.

We happened upon our topic purely by accident and only because we have a child in the city's school system. And while those without first-hand experience with the school system would have never known about it, we feel it should be of great interest to all who pay city school taxes.

A few years ago our son, while attending a school in the Shelby County School District, was identified as having a learning disability, as well as ADHD. Because of his disabilities, he became immediately eligible to attend resource classes in an effort to receive additional assistance, special help if you will, in the subjects the school officials identified,

which were reading and reading comprehension.

The way it works is once a student is in the system, which requires him or her to attend resources classes and special academic considerations by law, the student is to be tested every three years to determine whether or not the student is eligible to remain in the program. Sounds fair enough.

Our son has now been a student at a Memphis city school since the beginning of third grade. When he was transferred from a county school to his present city school, his eligibility for resource help as a student with a learning disability transferred right along with him.

Since his first evaluation, another learning disability was identified in mathematics. And, as the years have progressed, so have his skills in both subjects. However, it is important to point out, as it was pointed out during countless meetings with city school educators, that a deficiency in reading affects most all other subjects. For example, it is difficult to do well in, say, history, spelling, composition, science, and even math when you cannot read well or retain what you have read. It only makes sense that if you can't read well, you won't be able to spell or write well, right? If you have trouble retaining what you read, then it would make memorizing dates in history or facts in science much more difficult. And, while proper reading skills aren't necessary for basic math, ie. $2+2=4$ or $6 \times 4=24$, they are needed if a student is expected to tackle the dreaded math problem, ie. Johnny and 4 of his friends have 10 apples. How many apples will each person get if they split them equally?

And, to be completely fair to the school he presently attends, which is by far one of the best schools in the city system, our son has received additional help in all of his subjects during his resource classtime. That is until

See And Our Point, page 14

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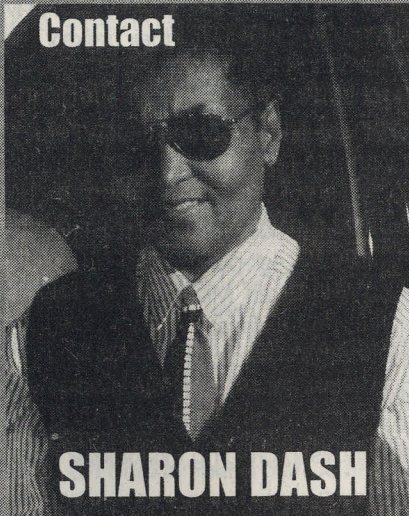
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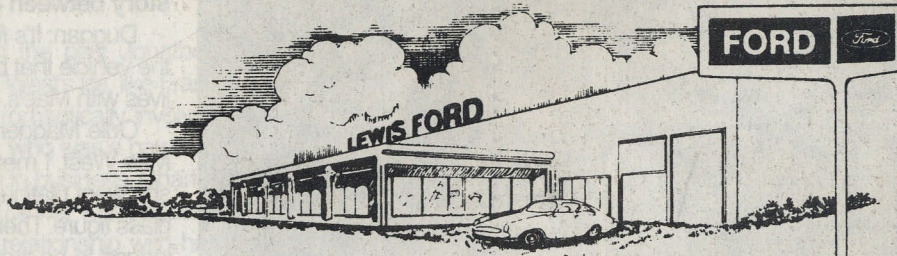


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Platinum or dirty, Mae West was no 'dumb blonde'



'Mae,' director talk about upcoming Playhouse show

By KEVIN SHAW, staff writer

Dirty Blonde, the hit Tony award-nominated, boy-meets-girl comedy featuring the life of legendary Mae West, runs at Playhouse on the Square, 51 South Cooper, Jan. 24 through March 2. The show originally premiered on Broadway in the spring of 2000, and was hailed by *The New York Times* as the "best new American play of the year!"



Jenny Odle Madden as the always bawdy Mae West.

The story, written by Claudia Shear, introduces two ardent Mae West fans, Jo and Charlie, and tells the story of their unlikely friendship as they share their unusual interest in the first American bombshell who helped change their lives through her lively rhetoric of sex, freedom and individuality. Played out against the backdrop of West's vaudeville history, *Dirty Blonde* transports the audience from present day Brooklyn to the early part of the century when West's career was taking off, all the way through her Broadway scandals, Hollywood successes and eventual self-parody.

Directed by Memphis veteran Michael Duggan (2002 Ostrander award winner for *Ruthless!-The Musical*), West is brought to life by Memphis comedic charmer Jenny Odle Madden (*Parallel Lives-The Kathy and Mo Show*). *Family & Friends* recently sat down with Duggan and Odle Madden to discuss their experiences in bringing this unique production to the stage.

F&F: For those who are less familiar with West's persona, what aspects of the show will be of interest to them?

Duggan: If you like love stories, this is a love story. It's about Charlie and Jo. They meet and Mae West is the vehicle, the person that brings them together.

Odle Madden: I think audiences will enjoy getting a "flavor" of Mae West. For those who don't know her, she was a woman ahead of her time. She definitely was the Madonna of that era – 1920s and 1930s. Her mother encouraged her to not get married and to even go out and have affairs with other men. I mean, that was unheard of at that time. Anybody who likes strong women, who go after what they want, will enjoy seeing this.

Duggan: (Jumping in) She bucks authority.

Odle Madden: Yeah. Absolutely!

F&F: Is this her life story or is this more about the love story between Jo and Charlie?

Duggan: It's really more about Jo and Charlie and Mae is the vehicle that brings them together. They try to parallel their lives with Mae's.

Odle Madden: But you do get a history lesson, I think, in Mae West. I mean, you do see her as a young Mae, before she went platinum, I mean, "dirty blonde," and had that hour-glass figure. Then you get to see an old Mae in 1978, who still longed to be that young starlet, but obviously was not. In our research for the play, we learned that Mae West was offered the lead in the film *Sunset Boulevard*, but turned it down

See *Dirty Blonde*, page 7

Dirty Blonde

from page 6

because she didn't want to portray a "has been." In fact, she never thought she looked past the age of 27.

F&F: Was her ultimate goal to be a movie star or just simply famous?

Duggan: I think she liked to stir the pot. I think she did that in the plays she wrote. In fact, she wrote a play called *The Drag*. She was friends with gay men – they hung around her all the time and she decided to write a play that had gay men in it. The censors, of course, weren't happy and they all went to jail for it. She wrote a play called *Sex* – a very provocative play, where she mimed sexual intercourse onstage and went to jail for that, too. Getting back to your question. I don't know if she wanted fame and fortune, but whatever her convictions were, whatever she felt strongly about, she wanted to put it out there and she didn't care who knew it.

F&F: Jenny, how familiar were you with this show before you signed on?

Odle Madden: Well, I had never seen it before, but when I knew I was going to do it, I went to Texas to see a production to make sure I wasn't "missing the boat" with my portrayal. To be quite honest, I never had an affinity for Mae West. I personally liked Marilyn Monroe a lot more. But now that I've started rehearsal, this play is so me in a way – the whole Jo character, I just identify with her so much (Odle Madden plays both Jo and West in the show), always making jokes and you never see the real person. I think a lot of me is like that.

F&F: How different is the Jo character from the Mae West character?

Odle Madden: Mae lets everything out on the table, doesn't try and hide anything and I think Jo really does hide a lot of who she is behind a facade. So, they're complete opposites in a way. I have to be really real to be Jo. I think Mae is someone who "puts it on."

F&F: So, are you doing the whole blonde wig, with the walk and the talk, etc.?

Odle Madden: The walk and the talk – everything.

F&F: Are you watching a lot of movies for research?

Odle Madden: Absolutely! I mean, I think we all have in our heads an idea of what "Mae West" is and who she was, you know? When I saw the play in Texas, it gave me permission to really try and be Mae West – doing that voice, that walk and that eye-roll thing. I think I'm creating an essence of her. It's my interpretation of what Mae West was.

F&F: Tell me about the rest of the cast.

Duggan: There are three total actors in the play. Jonathon Lamer (*Evita*) plays the different men in Mae West's life, like Frank Wallace. He plays the men that Mae were romantically involved with. He also plays her best friend later in life, who was a gay hairdresser named Ed Hearn, whom she set up in business. Charlie, on the other hand, played by Kyle Barnette (*Dinner with Friends*), is the fan that meets Jo and develops this relationship with her. Everyone in the show actually plays several characters.

Odle Madden: It's a tour de force for all three of us in the show!

F&F: What do you want the audience to take away from this show?

Duggan: Well, it sounds kind of cliché-ish, is that a word?

'Why don't you come up and see me sometime?'

Jenny Odle Madden strikes a classic Mae West pose while frequenting Young Avenue Deli recently.



Odle Madden: That's a word!

Duggan: But, that it's okay to be who you are. If you're worried that someone's not going to love you for whatever that might be, then you're better off without that person, but don't sell yourself short. Go ahead and put yourself out there and maybe that other person that you love will be okay with it. This is ultimately a love story.

F&F: In closing, any favorite Mae West quotes?

Odle Madden: "I use to be Snow White, but I drifted."

Family & Friends magazine is a proud sponsor of *Dirty Blonde*. Showtimes for *Dirty Blonde* are 8 p.m. Thursday to Saturday, with 2 p.m. matinees on Sunday. Tickets are \$26 for adults; \$18 for seniors, and \$16 for students and military personnel. The Pay-What-You-Can performance is set for Wednesday, Jan. 29, at 8 p.m.

For tickets or more information, call the Playhouse on the Square Box Office at (901) 726-4656.

Meet Kevin Shaw

The newest addition to the *Family & Friends* staff, Kevin Shaw holds a master of fine arts degree in theater from The University of Memphis.

He has been a director and choreographer in Memphis since moving from Los Angeles in 1995, where he worked as an actor/director/choreographer.



Didn't Get What You Wanted For Christmas?

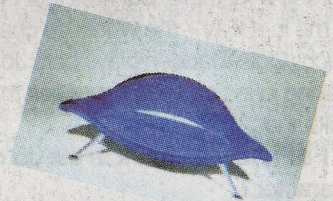


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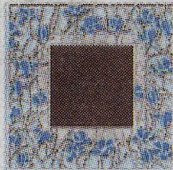


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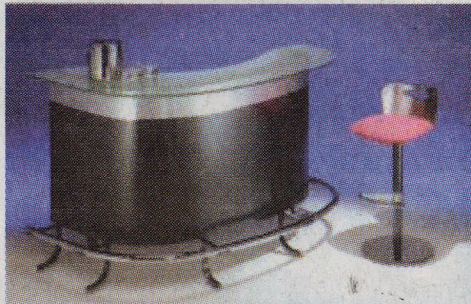
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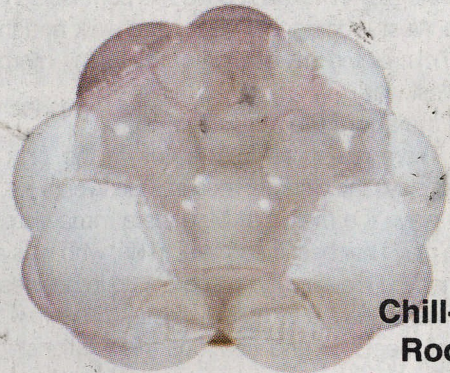
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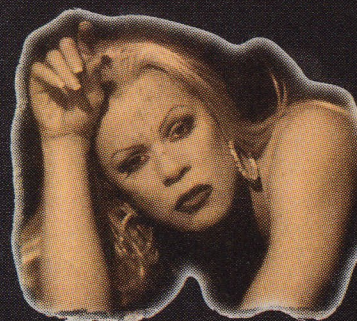


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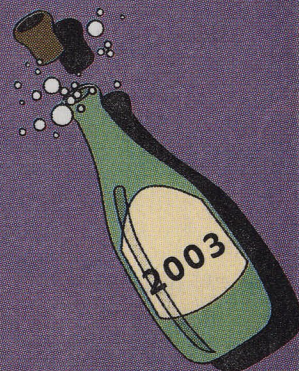
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LGCJ board suggests merger to members

At its last meeting, the board of directors of the Memphis Lesbian & Gay Coalition for Justice (LGCJ) voted to recommend to its membership that LGCJ merge with the new statewide organization, Equality Tennessee (EQTN).

After discussions with the board of EQTN, it was decided the most effective way to accomplish a merger of LGCJ and EQTN is for LGCJ to disband and pass on its membership and remaining funds to EQTN. In order for this to happen, LGCJ must amend its by-laws to allow its membership and mailing list to be shared with a similar organization, like EQTN. So, two meetings are scheduled for the members of the LGCJ to vote on these issues.

The first meeting is set for Saturday, Jan. 11, at 3 p.m., at the Memphis Public Library's Meeting Room A in the Central Library located at 3030 Poplar Avenue. Members will vote to amend the by-laws to allow LGCJ's mailing list to be shared with EQTN.

On Saturday, Feb. 8, at 2 p.m., at the Memphis Public Library's Meeting Room A, a vote will be taken on the motion to disband LGCJ. Should the measure pass, all the present membership of LGCJ will be transferred to EQTN.

"As the founder and co-chair of the Memphis Lesbian & Gay Coalition for Justice," said Jim Maynard, "it is a difficult thing to disband an organization I and others have put so much work into. However, I see this as an opportunity to expand the work of LGCJ by joining Equality Tennessee to build a strong statewide organization. I encourage everyone to join Equality Tennessee and we will continue our work defending equality and social justice. Thanks to everyone who has supported the Memphis Lesbian & Gay Coalition for Justice over the years and I look forward to working with all of you to build a strong local chapter of Equality Tennessee."

Anyone interested in joining or becoming a board member of Equality Tennessee are welcome to attend these meetings to get more information and updates on what is being planned in Memphis and across the state.

For more information, contact Maynard at (901) 327-2677 or email him at jmaynard@midsouth.rr.com. For more information about Equality Tennessee, go online to www.equalitytennessee.org.

Welcome

from page 11

servers, hostess, cashier and retail clerks in the "country store."

"Send everyone to me," Triplett said referring to encouraging people to patronize the restaurant. "I'm African-American myself and I've never been treated negatively. I love working for this company."

HRC commends Cracker Barrel's directors

The Human Rights Campaign commended Cracker Barrel's board of directors for voting in December 2002, to add sexual orientation to the company's written non-discrimination policy. The change ends a decade-long struggle that began when Cracker Barrel issued a policy of firing employees who failed to "demonstrate normal heterosexual values."

"This small step has enormous significance for every gay or lesbian employee who has ever experienced job discrimination," said HRC Education Director Kim I. Mills, who oversees the organization's workplace advocacy project, HRC WorkNet. "Cracker Barrel

has undergone important cultural changes in the past 10 years, but until now has resisted rewriting its non-discrimination policy.

This long-awaited change is a watershed and we welcome it."

The board of CBRL Group Inc., the parent company of Cracker Barrel Old Country Stores and Logan's Roadhouse restaurants, voted unanimously to change the non-discrimination policy after its annual shareholder's meeting Nov. 26. A shareholder proposal to add sexual orientation to the company's non-discrimination policy would have received a majority of the votes cast, a company official told HRC. But



Old Country Store

We are welcome at local restaurants

By LAINE MCNEIL, staff writer

Because *Family & Friends* believes in bringing national gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender news home to a local level, we decided to talk to the general managers of the two Cracker Barrel restaurants located in Shelby County.

First we contacted the restaurant located at 6081 Shelby Oaks Drive at Interstate 40 and Sycamore View Road (Exit 12) and spoke with an assistant manager, Patrice. When we told her what we were calling about, she correctly referred us to the Cracker Barrel corporate communications office, located in Lebanon, Tenn. The general manager for this location is Jeff Christain.

Next, we telephoned the general manager, Tim Triplett, of the Cracker Barrel location at 8000 Lowrance Road, which is near the intersection of Hacks Cross Road and the Nonconnah Parkway. Again, we were referred to the corporate communications office.

A telephone call to the Cracker Barrel corporate headquarters quickly yielded a conversation with Cracker Barrel Corporate Communications Director Julie Davis.

We told Davis we were aware of the company's amended non-discrimination policy, which now includes sexual orientation.

Knowing its employees could no longer be discriminated against because of their sexual orientation, we asked Davis if the company would openly welcome gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender guests into its more than 460

locations in 41 states.

"We welcome all people as our guests," she told *Family & Friends*, "we have for a very long time. We have a strong written policy that clearly prohibits discrimination (which Davis said includes sexual orientation) in the workplace and with our guests. Our mission statement is, 'Pleasing people,' very simple, two words. Our chairman and founder, Dan Evins, defines that as 'mutual respect,' that is treating all people with dignity and respect."

While talking with Triplett, we explained that nationally, as well as locally, persons who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered were now being encouraged to dine at Cracker Barrel restaurants after a decade-long, nationally-requested boycott by the Human Rights Campaign. The HRC-requested boycott was in response to the company refusing to include sexual orientation in its non-discrimination policy for its employees, a policy that has just recently been amended.

We further shared with Triplett that we had been in his establishment less than 24 hours earlier and that *Family & Friends* would be featuring his store in our "Dining Out" section (see page 32). We also told him we felt very comfortable in his restaurant and were treated graciously, as all guests were, by the

See Welcome, page 10

because no sponsor was present at the meeting to introduce the proposal, no formal vote was held. CBRL Group Inc. is based in Old Lebanon, Tenn.

This was the 10th time such a resolution was put before CBRL shareholders. The resolution was sponsored by the New York City Employees Retirement System, NYCERS.

"I am pleased that Cracker Barrel has approved the NYCERS resolution that asked the company to implement non-discriminatory policies relating to sexual orientation and to add explicit prohibitions against such discrimination to its corporate employment policy statement," New York City Comptroller William C. Thompson said in a statement. "This is the result of a lengthy campaign by my office and the trustees of several of the city's pension systems. Working together, we hope to continue to push additional companies to enact other non-discriminatory policies in the future."

New York City Commissioner of Finance Martha E. Stark praised the move, as well.

"We are proud of the role our pension fund has played in persuading Cracker Barrel to change its policies," Stark, who chairs NYCERS, said. "Though it has taken 10 years of shareholder pressure to make this

See HRC, page 13

Family & Friends attended LOVING ARMS'S Annual Christmas Open House in December 2002. It was good to see the outpouring of love from so many in our community, including THE MYSTIC KREWE OF APHRODITE, THE SOUTHERN GENTLEMEN, INTEGRITY, THE MYSTIC KREWE OF MEMPHIS UNITED and so many more. We also understand the Memphis gay bars each collected toys for children infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. SHEILA TANKERSLY will give a big thank you to everyone in the February issue of *Family & Friends*.

And speaking of Christmas gifts, we at *Family & Friends* appreciate the staff and patrons at CLUB N-COGNITO for their outpouring of love for those in need. In December 2002, the required cover on certain nights was two cans of food. The cans of food were split up into several food baskets and a turkey was added to each basket. The food baskets were distributed to needy families.

Congratulations to both the MEMPHIS GAY & LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTER and FRIENDS FOR LIFE CORPORATION on the new buildings they each have acquired. Detailed stories are inside.

Family & Friends welcomes KEVIN SHAW to our writing team. Shaw will be covering the Memphis and Mid-South THEATRE BEAT. And, it is a beat he knows well, being that he is an experienced actor, director and choreographer himself.

Speaking of theater, make plans to attend one of the performances of *DIRTY BLONDE*. Who is the "dirty blonde?" None other they the one-and-only, gay-friendly, sexy, diva MAE WEST. *Family & Friends* magazine is the media sponsor for this show, on stage at Playhouse on the Square, 51 South Cooper, Jan. 24 through March 2. Check out page 6 for more on *Dirty Blonde*.

Did you know the MEMPHIS BROOKS MUSEUM OF ART is now an affiliate of THE SMITHSONIAN? The Brooks is presently working with the National African

Museum of the Smithsonian to reinstall the African collection at the Memphis museum with pieces from the Smithsonian.

FREE HIV/AIDS testing is now available at FRIENDS FOR LIFE, at both its offices at 1384 Madison Avenue and at its Positive Living Center, located at 1000 South Cooper in the lower level of First Congregational Church. The testing is done with the OraSure test and does not require blood; the test is performed with human saliva. For more information about testing times, call (901) 272-0855.

And, if you haven't heard, CRACKER BARREL is now off the unofficial "places-where-gays-are-not-welcome" list. The parent company, CBRL Groups Inc., which also owns Logan's Roadhouse restaurants, last month, wrote "sexual orientation," into its corporate non-discrimination policy. *Family & Friends* put Cracker Barrel to the test and you can find out about the whole story beginning on page 11.

MEMPHIS PRIDE INC. wants your vote for "the best of" in the Memphis GLBT community. See page 25 for an official ballot. Now is the time to let your voice be heard.

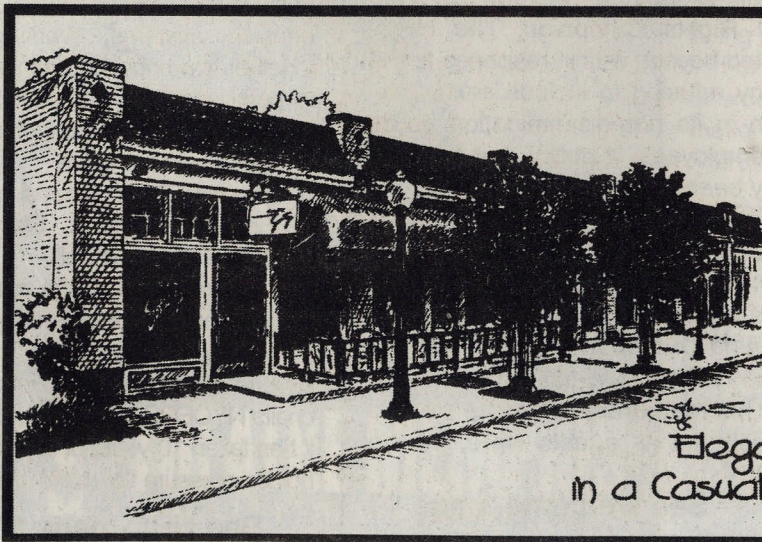
Perhaps things aren't as they seem. The REPUBLICANS decided to impress on TRENT LOTT the need for him to step down as House Majority Leader after his Freudian slip about segregationism. JODY RENALDO of EQUALITY MISSISSIPPI fills us in on some details about the long-time politician, as well as a few of his relatives. See page 48.

Well, it's definitely good news that TRENT LOTT decided to step down as Senate Majority Leader. Funny thing is, his fellow Republicans, ie. The President, offered him right up like a sacrificial lamb, while his "enemies", ie. HAROLD FORD JR., went on television to publically forgive Lott's "loose lips."

We recently learned that NOT ONE ORGANIZATION, GROUP, etc., contacted MEMPHIS PRIDE INC. about being possibly an EXCLUSIVE food vendor at the upcoming Pride Parade & Festival, which is set for Saturday, JUNE 7. What a shame, too, because with lots

of folks in attendance, especially now that Knoxville has done away with its Pride celebration, there is plenty of money to be made selling hot dogs, pizza, sno cones - just whatever floats your boat.

And speaking of MEMPHIS PRIDE, we also heard that no one has bothered to contact MPI in regard to being a featured performer at this year's Pride Festival. Our trusted source tells us that folks who walk up that day won't be guaranteed a spot on the entertainment lineup.



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Cracker Barrel now supports gays, bigots totally freak

By JOHN ARAVOSIS, guest writer

In what is good news for clogged arteries everywhere, after spending the last decade as one of the most hated companies in gay America, Cracker Barrel has finally seen the light and included sexual orientation in its non-discrimination policy. You may recall that Cracker Barrel fired lesbian employee Cheryl Summerville years ago and wrote on her dismissal slip that she was explicitly being fired because she was gay.

Well, it won't surprise you that the evangelical bigots have started a grassroots campaign to beat up Cracker Barrel for outlawing discrimination against gays. Not surprisingly, the virulently anti-gay American Family Association linked the policy to "civil rights for pedophiles and people who rape small animals."

As to why the AFA hears about two people in love and immediately thinks about raping small animals, let's just not go there and say we did.

Everybody go eat at Cracker Barrel, and tell the manager that you're gay and you appreciate their new policy. Also, you can send Cracker Barrel your thanks here: Dan W. Evins, Chairman, Cracker Barrel, 305 Hartmann Drive, Lebanon, TN 37088-0787 or call (800) 333-9566 or email devins@crackerbarrel.com.

The opinions expressed herein are those of the author, and not necessarily those of the magazine or its staff.

HRC

from page 11

historic change, it is a major achievement for everyone who believes in equal employment opportunity for all."

Cracker Barrel drew national attention in 1991, when it instituted a company policy that called for terminating employees "whose sexual preferences fail to demonstrate normal heterosexual values which have been the foundation of families in our society." At least 11 workers were fired as a result. The company's blatant discrimination – which was legal in the states where it occurred and remains legal under federal law – touched off a wave of protests and boycotts at Cracker Barrel restaurants.

Cracker Barrel later revoked the policy, which it once described as a "well-intentioned overreaction to the perceived values of our customers," but until now, had not expressly protected gay employees from workplace discrimination. In fact, the company recommended that shareholders vote against the sexual orientation resolution again this year. The measure would have garnered about 58 percent of the vote, according to numbers provided to HRC by a company official.

Cracker Barrel was one of only three companies to earn a zero on HRC's 2002 Corporate Equality Index, which rates major U.S. companies on their policies toward gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender employees, consumers and investors.

For more information go online to www.hrc.org/worknet.

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Talking With ... to open at TheatreWorks

Talking With..., directed by Dave Landis and written by prize-winning playwright Jane Martin, is slated for the TheatreWorks stage, located at 2085 Monroe Avenue behind Overton Square, Jan. 3 to 26.



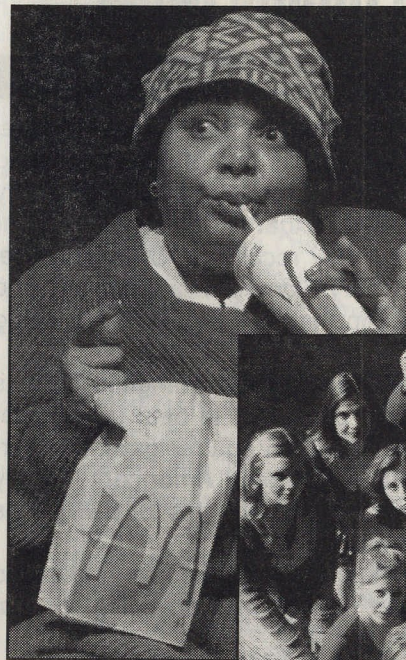
Emily Fry in "labor."

Talking With... is at once humorous, moving and bitinglly real. This slice of the lives of 11 women is an often-comic and compelling look at these women and what makes them tick. The characters range from an aspiring actress who's conceived a tricky strategy to get the part she wants, a fundamentalist snake-handler, an ex-rodeo rider and a woman who claims

she once saw a man with "cerebral walrus" walk into McDonald's and get healed by a Big Mac.

The cast includes, Courtney Oliver, Mary Buchignani, Rebecca DeVries, Kim Justis, Mary Hollis Inboden, Angela Groeschen, Anita Houk, Shani Alexander, Emily Fry, Leisa Brown and Leah Bray Nichols.

Showtimes are Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. The Pay-What-You-Can performance is set for Thursday, Jan. 9, at 8 p.m. Tickets are



ABOVE: Leisa Brown in "McDonalds."
RIGHT: The cast.



\$16 each.

For more information or reservations, call the Playhouse on the Square Box Office at (901) 726-4656. This production is part of the P.O.T.S. at the Works series.

And Our Point

from page 4

recently when the results of his second evaluation, the one to determine his continuing eligibility, were discussed with us.

We'll be honest, we have seen his reading and math skills improve during the past three years, as have his grades. And, while we were skeptical about him actually having a so-called "learning disability in reading," we knew he wasn't reading on grade level, so we relished the extra attention and help he would receive in resource class.

So, as we sat down with the city school officials to go over his second evaluation results, we expected he would no longer be eligible to attend resource classes. We weren't disappointed.

The city school officials explained how the test results justified his no longer receiving special educational attention in more detail. In each of the major subjects, reading, math, etc., he was tested and the results of the tests determined what grade-level he was performing on, kind of like the old achievement tests they used to give us.

But what we learned next not only baffled us, but concerned us deeply, especially with all the attention given to TCAP scores every year.

Our son is presently in the fifth grade. In every single subject he was tested in, his performance was determined

to be below the fifth grade level. The closest score to fifth grade, which he has been in since August, was "fourth month of the fourth grade."

How does the Memphis City School system justify denying him additional educational help when he is not performing on not only a "fifth grade, fifth month" level, but not even a fifth grade level? How?

We did ask this question, but the answer boiled down to money, which the school system gets from you, the taxpayer. Apparently, the requirements to receive resource help have been raised. Why? There is only one answer: To lower the number of students eligible for additional help, which costs additional dollars. Fewer students means less expense.

So, our point is this ... how many other students besides our son are performing below their actual grade levels? Are students being passed from grade to grade without learning the skills and tools necessary for advancement, and if so, why? How can school administrators, who claim to have the best interests of our children in mind and having full knowledge of the deficiency, simply look the other way?

We know we will probably never get answers to these questions, but as taxpayers this should concern all of us. After all, if an employee doesn't do their job (read teacher doesn't teach effectively, therefore student doesn't learn), why should they get paid?

It's 8 a.m., do you know what your child is, or more importantly, isn't learning?

Nominees sought for Memphis Pride Awards

Pride board honors founders, names awards after them

Back by popular demand, Memphis Pride Inc. is seeking nominees for its 2003 Pride Awards.

The board of MPI has initiated two awards in honor of outstanding GLBT Memphians who helped found and create Memphis Pride Inc. a decade ago.

The John Prowett Leadership Award will be given to an individual who has demonstrated great leadership ability in the Memphis GLBT community. The Dennis Kijowski Horizon Award is designed to honor an individual, age 25 or under, who has likewise demonstrated great leadership ability for the future.

The remaining awards are as follows: Best D.J., Best Bartender, Best Club (this is for those places that have music, etc., as well as beverages), Best Bar, Best Restaurant, Best Entertainer (individual), Volunteer of the Year (individual), Volunteerism (group or organization) and the GLBT-Supportive Business of the Year.

The nomination ballots will run during the months of January, February and March in both *Family & Friends* magazine and the *Triangle Journal News*. People are asked to fill out the ballot (see page 25), clip it out and mail it to MPI, P.O. Box 111265, Memphis, TN 38111-1265 on or before March 15. The top three nominees in each category will be published in the April editions of *F&F* and *TJN*.

In May, MPI will host the Memphis Pride Awards ceremony, at

which time the winners will be announced. Information on the ceremony's location, date and time will be published in May 2003 issue of *F&F* & *TJN*.

MPI has set the Memphis Pride Parade and Festival 2003 for Saturday, June 7. Since this is the 10th anniversary of the Pride Parade, the theme for Pride 2003 is "A Decade of Pride."

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



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and the more than 60 hosts who sponsored parties to raise money for Friends For Life.

If you would like to sponsor A Place at the Table 2003, please call (901) 43-APATT or contact Friends For Life.



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- Mae West

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Canadian censors rap network over ethics

Canada's Vision TV violated broadcasting ethics during an anti-gay program, the Canadian Broadcasting Standards Council has ruled.

According to the Nov. 28 issue of Toronto's *Xtra!*, during a February 2002, broadcast of the program "Power Today," evangelist R.W. Schamback said: "Homosexuality is not another lifestyle. It's a demon spirit. In the beginning God made Adam and Eve. He didn't make Adam and Steve. ... God made you a man; God made you a woman. And the devil has come in and he's thwarted the program of God. ... What you do in private, God's gonna splash it all over the front page. Demon spirit."

The broadcasting council declared: "Intolerant comments can find no salvation by wrapping itself in religious garb. Broadcasters of religious programming must be as vigilant with respect to other social values (such as the human rights of identifiable groups) as broadcasters of all other types of programming."

There is no penalty for Vision TV's infraction but the network does have to air the council's decision, once during prime-time hours and once during the "Power Today" program.

In a separate ruling, the council determined that "Queer As Folk" does not breach broadcasting sex guidelines, but the Showcase network was ordered to air a viewer-discretion warning after each commercial break during the program.

Showcase must broadcast the text of the council's ruling, once during prime time and once during "Queer As Folk."

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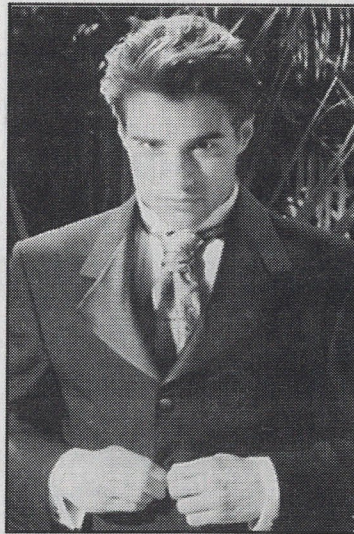
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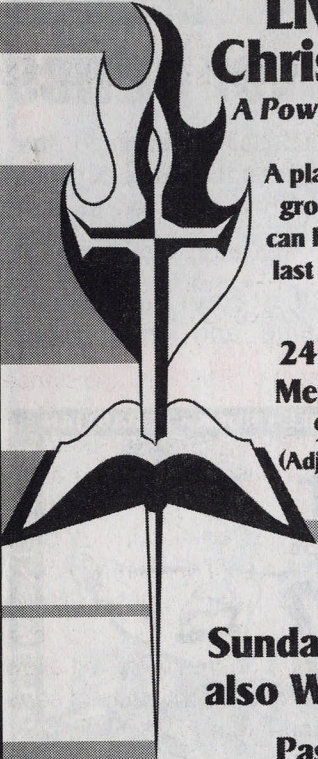
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FFL's Center for Positive Choices is up, running

Friends For Life Corporation christened the first floor of its building located at 28 North Claybrook as its "Center for Positive Choices."

The building, which formerly housed the Aloysius Home Transitional Housing Program, now provides educational and outreach programs to the community.

Positively Sober is an alcohol and drug abuse treatment program, provided in collaboration with Family Services of the Mid-South. The HIV Prevention program provides "street outreach," as well as educational sessions at correctional facilities, health fairs, churches and schools. Prevention For Positives is a program that teaches persons with high-risk factors methods to decrease their unsafe behaviors. Day By Day is a daily-living-skills training program, which teaches budgeting, problems solving skills, cooking, personal hygiene, shopping skills and how to maintain an apartment.

The Memphis Black SGL Cultural & Resource Center is housed at the 28 North Claybrook building. Nicknamed "The Haven," it is a cultural/community center for African-Americans with an emphasis on gay men, HIV prevention and OraSure HIV testing. In addition, the Black Gay Youth Program also is offered. This program targets high-risk African-American youth by providing HIV prevention through peer education, outreach and OraSure HIV testing.

For more information, call (901) 272-0855 or go online to www.FriendsForLife.org.

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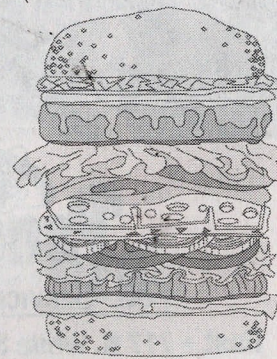
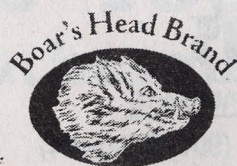
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Kindness of strangers results in donation of 3-story building to HIV/AIDS agency

Friends For Life Corporation (FFL) was the recipient of a great Christmas gift last month. Ralph R. "Ronney" Snell of Eads, Tenn., and Bill Bruce of Smithville, Tenn., donated a three-story building they co-owned, at 43 North Cleveland, to this Memphis and Mid-South HIV/AIDS organization.

"This is the most significant gift Friends For Life has ever received," said FFL Executive Director Kim Moss. "The donation of a building we will soon call home."

Snell and Bruce decided to donate their building instead of selling it. With that in mind, they set about determining which Memphis area agency to donate it to. After talking to several agencies in town, the two men were advised to contact FFL, an agency neither Snell nor Bruce knew much about. This being the case, they began finding out what they could about the HIV/AIDS organization.

As fate would have it, both Snell and Bruce, and their respective families, have had their lives touched by HIV/AIDS. Bruce's wife had previously been a volunteer with an AIDS hospice. Snell's experience, however, was more recent and most unusual.

While the two men were in the midst of making their final decision on which agency to give the building to, Snell was driving along in his car in the vicinity of the building and noticed a frail-looking man struggling with a large bag of groceries. Being a good Samaritan, Snell offered the man a ride, which in itself is rare nowadays. After a bit of coaxing, the man took Snell up on his offer and during the drive to the man's apartment, Snell learned the man has AIDS and that his family had abandoned him. This so touched Snell's heart that he knew it was a sign that Friends For Life was the best choice for the building.

The new building, centrally located in Midtown, is located across Court Street from Saigon Le restaurant and formerly housed CTI Technology. With 18,000 square feet, the building will allow Friends For Life to combine all of its offices and supportive services under one roof, with the exception of housing.

The Positive Living Center, which is presently located in the lower level of First Congregational Church at 1000 South Cooper, will be moved into the new building. The extra space also will allow FFL to expand its Food Pantry and to add a clothing closet.

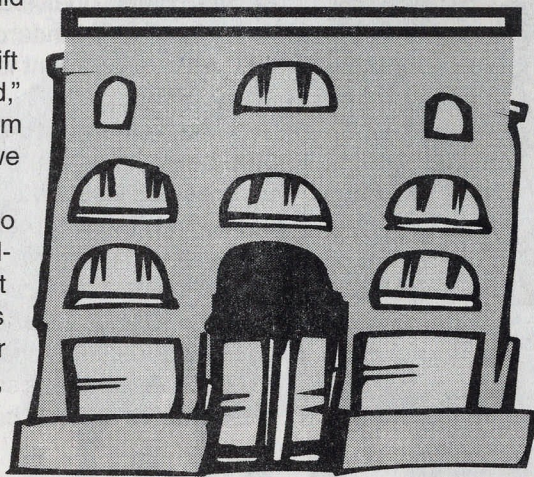
Plans are presently underway to secure an architect to draw up plans for the needed renovation. Once the necessary remodeling is complete, FFL will move from its present location at 1384 Madison Avenue.

"The first goal of our recently completed strategic plan, with assistance from Madan Burla, a local strategic planning expert, was to secure a building to house all our programs," Moss said. "And, just like that, because of the generosity of Snell and Bruce, this goal has already been accomplished, which will eventually allow Friends For Life to become a one-stop shop agency. This will allow clients to receive a continuum of services all under one roof."

Friends For Life Corporation was founded in 1985, to provide service, education and assistance to people

living with and affected by HIV/AIDS and AIDS prevention education to the community. Services expanded with the merger of Aloysius Home in 1999, to provide a full continuum of care, including single-room occupancy and an apartment building for the Independent Housing Program. Friends For Life Corporation is a non-profit, tax-exempt service organization with no political affiliations.

For more information, call (901) 272-0855 or go online to www.FriendsForLife.org.



Dixon to exhibit Gere Collection

"A Brush with Nature: The Gere Collection of Landscape Oil Sketches" will be on exhibit at The Dixon Gallery and Gardens Jan. 19 to April 6.

The collection of approximately 70 landscape sketches includes works by Jean-Baptiste-Camille Corot, Salvator Rosa, Francois-Marius Granet, Francis Danby and Lord Leighton.

On Sunday, Jan. 19, at 2 p.m., in the Winegardner Auditorium, Christopher Riopelle, curator at the National Gallery of London, will discuss the significance of the Gere collection and the impact it's had on Impressionism.

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.

Next Stage at Theatre Memphis



An Evening With David Ives is set to open Friday, Jan. 10, on the Next Stage at Theatre Memphis. The show consists of seven one-act plays. Photo by Steve Roberts.

FROM THE MAIL ROOM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

After reading your December issue, I was somewhat rankled by Angela Lamb's misinformation regarding donations to Memphis, Pride, the Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center and implicitly, Friends For Life.

In most cases, for an individual's cash donation to be tax-deductible, it must not only be given to an IRS-approved 501(c)(3) organization, but it must also, together with other qualified, itemized expenses, amount to more than the standard deduction. For single individuals this year, this amount is \$4,700. For heads of households it is \$6,900.

If you file Forms 1040EZ or 1040A, you are out of luck. Give as much as you can throughout the year to whichever organizations you want, your gift will not be tax-deductible. The implication that it will is just not true! For those who file Form 1040 with Schedule A (Itemized Deductions) attached, keep those needed contributions coming. If you have enough qualified expenses, your donations to charity may be deductible.

I hope Angela gets some professional tax advice before she ventures into the business world.

Sincerely,
Jim Easter

(Editor's Note: It should be noted that a business has the possibility of deducting any payments to an organization, with 501(c)(3) status or not, as an expense, such as advertising expense. However, the business must receive something in return, such as its name printed on a T-shirt for an organization's promotion of an event or its name on a program or poster for a play.)

The opinions expressed herein are those of the author, and not necessarily those of the magazine or its staff.

Lavender Moon

a Lesbian Literary Reader ©2002

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Santana
Shaman (☆☆☆)

With the old theory of "if it ain't broke, don't fix it" in mind, Santana went into the studio and created *Shaman*. This album is basically Santana's million-selling album, *Supernatural*, with new guest stars and a slightly altered cover.

Santana has had a long career built on being a brilliant guitarist backed by an amazing band that blended sensual Latin rhythms with the rawness of rock and roll in a way no one else could. But on *Shaman* the amazing, innovative Santana actually manages to be stale and boring. The first single, "The Game of Love," with Michelle Branch, just can't live up to the infectious pop perfection of the Rob Thomas-crafted "Smooth" (but if MTV or the radio play that song again, I promise I will go insane). The album features appearances by everyone from Dido, Chad Kroeger (of overplayed *Spiderman* soundtrack song fame), Seal, Musiq, Macy Gray and even the famous tenor, Plácido Domingo.

"Novus," the track with Domingo on vocals, has to be the biggest mess on the entire album. Santana's guitar and Domingo's voice are both amazing instruments, but on this track they seem to be competing with one another and never achieve anything near the fluidity of the great music both have made.

Gray lends her voice to one of the album's brighter moments – the quirky "Amore (Sexo)," a song so odd it just fits Grays' voice.

In all honesty, the only thing that makes this album worth buying is Santana's instrumental tracks, namely "Aye Aye Aye" and "Foo Foo." This, of course, proving what makes Santana great isn't who he has in the studio with him, but his ability to express the very essence of life through a guitar.

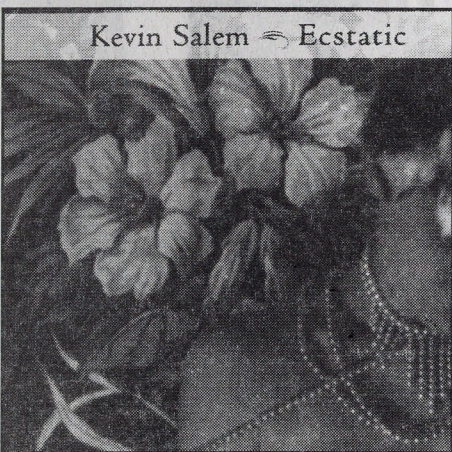
I, for one, await the day when Santana will again go into the studio, not armed with a list of guest artists, but with a list of great songs and his guitar. Because, had Santana and company paid more attention to the songs and less attention to building an all-star cast of guest artists, we might have a better album to listen to.

→ Highlights include "Amore (Sexo)," "Aye Aye Aye," "Foo Foo" and "You Are My Kind."

••••

Whitney Houston
Just Whitney (☆☆)

So, what does a drug addict do when she isn't doing drugs? Well, apparently she heads into the studio to make a new record



Kevin Salem *Ecstatic*

and try to rebuild her career.

Just Whitney is the highly-anticipated and greatly-publicized return of the great Diva icon, Whitney Houston.

When I listen to this record I immediately think of Michael Jackson's *Invincible*, which was the highly-anticipated return of the King of Pop that simply wasn't very good. In the late '80s and early '90s both Houston and Jackson reigned supreme. But in more recent times, they have both gone from the covers of music magazines to the covers of grocery store tabloids, tracking musical fame for the increasingly bizarre nature of their personal lives.

In all fairness to Houston, though, this album is nowhere near as bad as Jackson's bomb, but it simply isn't good enough to live up to the legacy Houston has created. It's like comparing Michael Jordan as a Washington Wizard to Michael Jordan as a Chicago Bull; there simply is no comparison. The original is simply a legendary part of pop culture and the latter is a cheap shadow of the past.

Yes, Houston can still sing. But, so can Pink, Lauren Hill and a small army of other female vocalists. And, while these artists are recording songs with lyrics that are aimed at exploring life and society, Houston seems to spend 10 tracks trying to defend her life and explain herself.

In all seriousness, I was so thrilled when I heard Houston was coming back. And, I anxiously awaited the great album that was promised, but *Just Whitney* isn't that album. So, I guess I'm still waiting.

→ Highlights include – Why, yes, I did get highlights in my hair; I'm glad you noticed them. (Okay, well that's my lame attempt at being funny).

••••

Kevin Salem
Ecstatic (☆☆☆☆)

Who is Kevin Salem? Well, that is what I asked myself when I first looked at this record. And then I did a little digging and it turns out Salem is a veteran of the indie rock scene. This album, undoubtedly his best work to date, is the fruit of several years worth of labor.

Salem started work on *Ecstatic*, and

See In The Mix, page 23

In The Mix

from page 22

then abandoned the project as he wasn't happy with it and left it to pursue other things. Then, years later, he came back to what he had already recorded and finished what is now *Ecstatic*.

This is a brilliant, mild, understatement from a true rocker. Think of this as the beautiful echo long after the rock show has ended.

Lyricaly, Salem runs the gambit from the sublime "Home Again:" "Spanish girls come up/from underground rosaries/to keep them safe and sound," to the dark and religious "Deepdarklove:" "Jesus Christ and Mary Magdelane/stalled on the shoulder of lover's lane/ Jesus said, 'get out and give us a shove.'"

The band is tight. The sounds are at the same time light and fun, but with a greater depth lurking just beneath the surface. All in all, this is a brilliant album and a must-have for any fans of rock music with a light indie appeal.

So, who is Kevin Salem? Well, he's this guy who made this really good record called *Ecstatic*, which I highly recommend buying.

—> Highlights include "The Medicine Down," "End Of The Addiction," "Deepdarklover" and the rest of the album ain't too bad either, for that matter.

....



Robin Renee
All Six Senses
(☆☆☆☆)

What would happen if Joni Mitchell and Prince co-wrote an album, Prince produced it and Tracy Chapman provided lead vocals with Macy Gray's personality? Well, the result of such a musical mixer might resemble *All Six*

Senses, the latest album from Robin Renee.

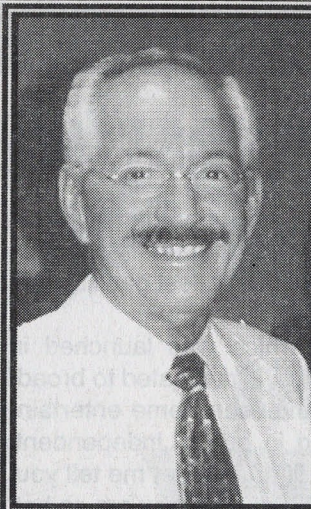
Vocally, Renee is stunning. Her voice is as bold and rich as Chapman's. Her band blends a sound that is equal parts funk, folk, light rock and a hint of blues thrown in for good measure.

One of the true stand-out moments of the album is Renee's cover of the classic track "Cruel To Be Kind," which, by the way, is the official theme song of many S&M clubs (that's a joke, think about it, you'll laugh).

However, the album is far from perfect. The first song "Chant (Astralove Mix)" just doesn't groove. And the closing track, "Holy River," isn't up to par with the rest of the album. Still, there is enough good, even excellent, fun material to make this fun and unique album from this out rocker worth a try.

The album is called *All Six Senses* and I promise it will stimulate all six of your senses (personally, I found smelling the CD booklet works better than smelling the CD. And I really don't recommend tasting any of it, but licking the booklet isn't too bad. And, yes, all that is necessary to properly review a CD).

—> Highlights include "Cruel To Be Kind," "My Bride" and "Cling To You"



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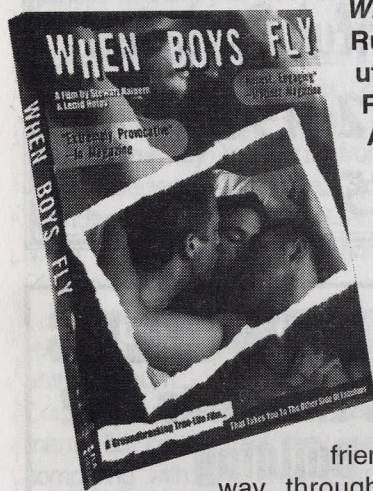
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Start off new year with 2 hot flicks from TLA

What better way to start off the new year than with one of the hottest gay films on the market from TLA Releasing? How about with two of the hottest gay films on the market!

That's right, TLA Releasing, which was launched in 2001, by TLA Entertainment Group, is dedicated to broadening the choices available to American home entertainment consumers by specializing in quality independent, foreign and gay/lesbian-themed films. And let me tell you, these two are hot with a capital "H," in fact, they are so hot, we had a hard time finding movie stills we could publish without having to put a "must be over 21 to read" label on the front cover.



When Boys Fly
Run Time: DVD, 100 minutes, VHS, 80 minutes
Rating: Not Rated
Availability: now

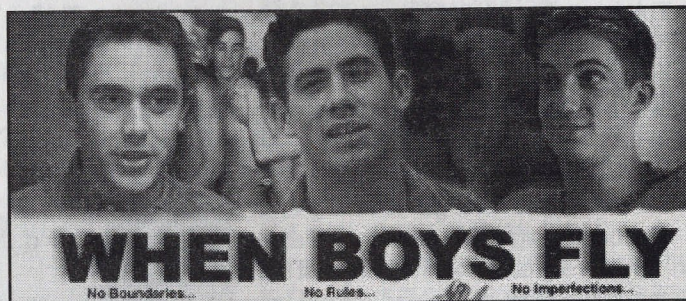
Take a true-to-life tour of the glamorous but perilous world of the gay "circuit" with the provocative *When Boys Fly*. This "gay 'Real World'" documentary by Stewart Halpren and Lenid Rolov follows four men and their

friends as they navigate their way through an underground world marked by rampant drug use and sexuality, but also held together by a truly unique sense of community.

In the 1990s, a series of elaborate dance parties were created ostensibly as fundraisers for gay and AIDS organizations. In time, these parties took on their own identities as weekend-long extravaganzas of music, sex and drug use. As gay men would travel from one party to the next, they created their own sub-culture, known as the "circuit," which still elicits strong reactions – both positive and negative – within the larger gay community.

Taking their cue from MTV's "The Real World" and "Road Rules," Halpren and Rolov – together with their producer Kevin Weiler – selected four men with varying degrees of experience in the circuit and followed them to one of its main events, the White Party.

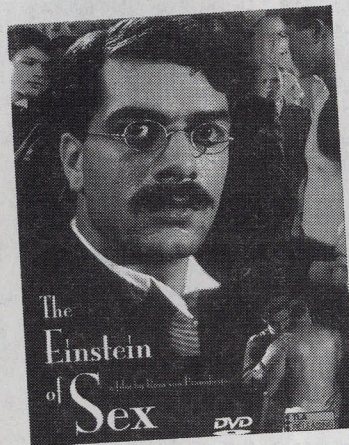
The men are Tone, a 21-year old extroverted party boy with a serious substance abuse problem; Brandon, a 23-year old conservative circuit neophyte who is looking for a sense of community as a gay man; Todd, a 35-year old circuit regular who wants to recapture the thrills of youth that he missed while in the closet, and Jon, Todd's 19-year old boyfriend who is still searching for his identity as an



adult gay man.

Experiencing everything from creating new friendships to suffering drug overdoses, *When Boys Fly* gives a true insider's view of a world that few actually see and that most don't even know exists.

As Jon says, "I think people can jump to the conclusion that the film is about drugs, cheating, lying and the sort, but I believe that's the wrong conclusion. There is that, but I can't emphasize enough the degree of brotherhood and friendship that can surround you at these parties. It's just a matter of being with the right friends."



The Einstein Of Sex
Run Time: approximately 98 minutes
Rating: Not Rated
Availability: now

This film brings a hero of gay history back to life with the release of Rosa von Praunheim's sophisticated and sexy film biography, *The Einstein Of Sex: The Life and Work of Dr. Magnus Hirschfeld* (German with English subtitles).

The film traces the career of Hirschfeld (1868-1935), a gay, Jewish, Socialist German who became world-famous at the turn of the 20th century for turning the study of sexuality into a science and for championing gay civil rights, only to have his life's work literally burned to the ground by the Nazis.

The film opens with Hirschfeld (played by Kai Schuhmann) as a medical student, rebelling against the homophobic diatribes of his professor. In 1897, Hirschfeld – now with his own medical practice – established the first organization to fight for gay civil rights, to the opposition of even some other homosexual advocates, led by the journalist Adolf Brand.

In one of the film's most delightful moments, Hirschfeld

See Reel Twisted, page 31

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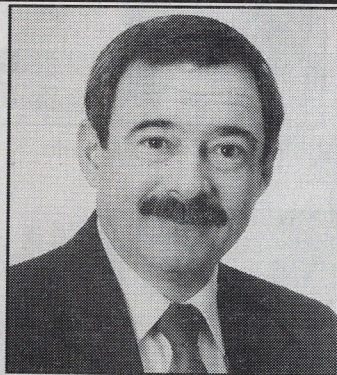
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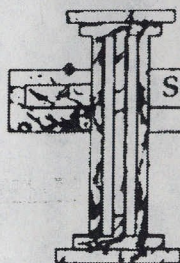
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Steve Solomon

Thanks!

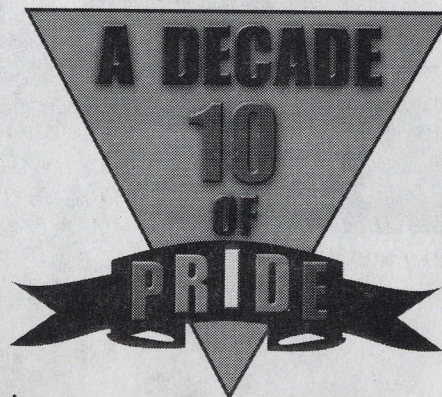


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BEST ENTERTAINER (individual)

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR (individual)

VOLUNTEERISM (group or organization)

GLBT-SUPPORTIVE BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

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Parade & Festival
Saturday, June 7, 2003



Corky and Joe



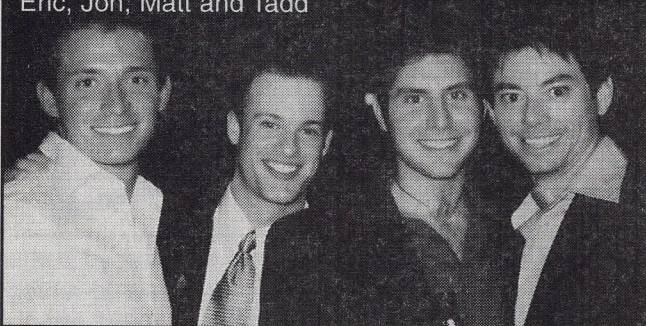
Charles, Shelia, Chris and Billy

Dixie and
Teresa

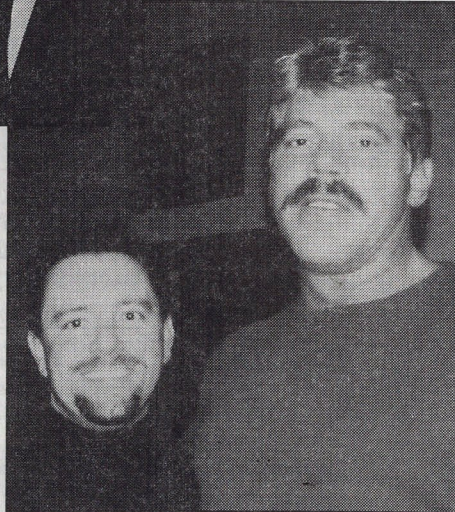


Michele, Kelly and Lisa

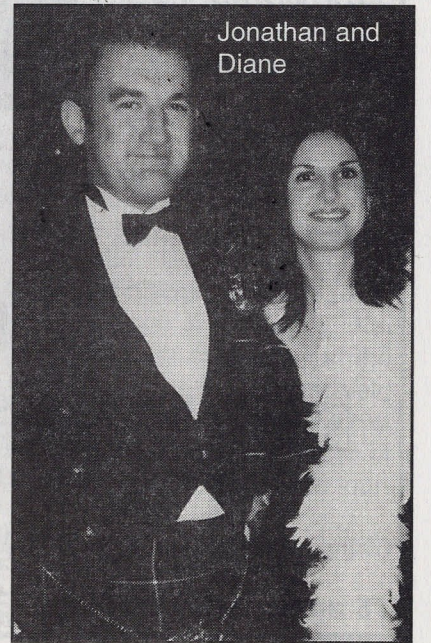
Eric, Jon, Matt and Tadd



Patti and Rachelle



John and Steve

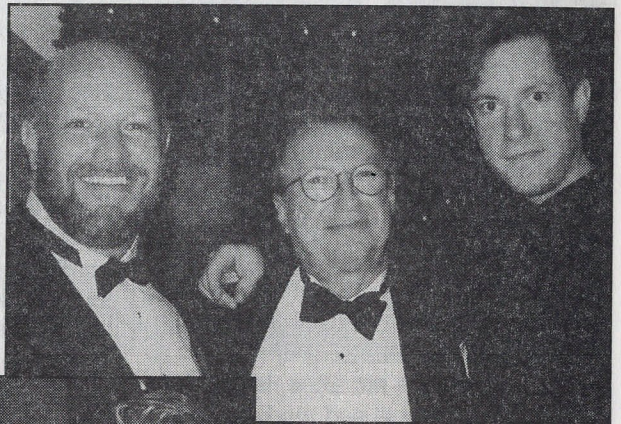


Jonathan and
Diane

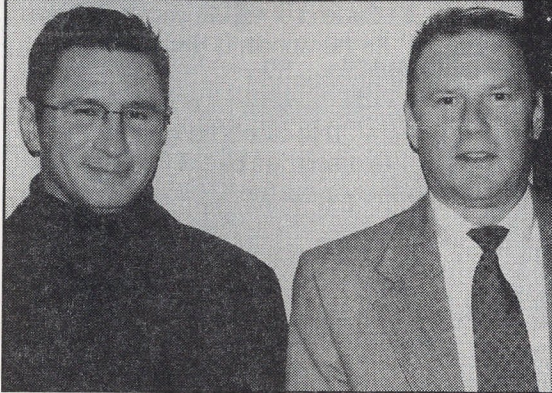
SOUTHERN GENTLEMEN'S PARTY'S CHRISTMAS PARTY **FAMILY ALBUM**



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Barclay, Jerry and Michael



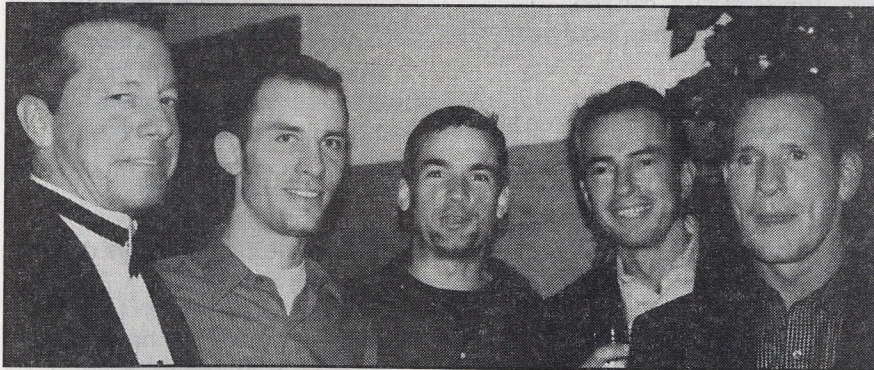
Brandon and Randy



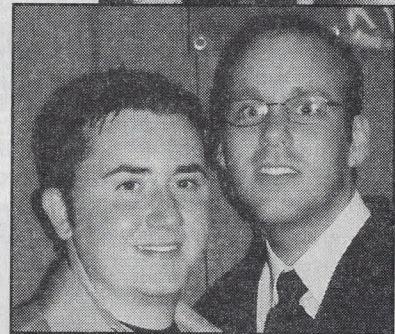
Tom and Todd



Kay



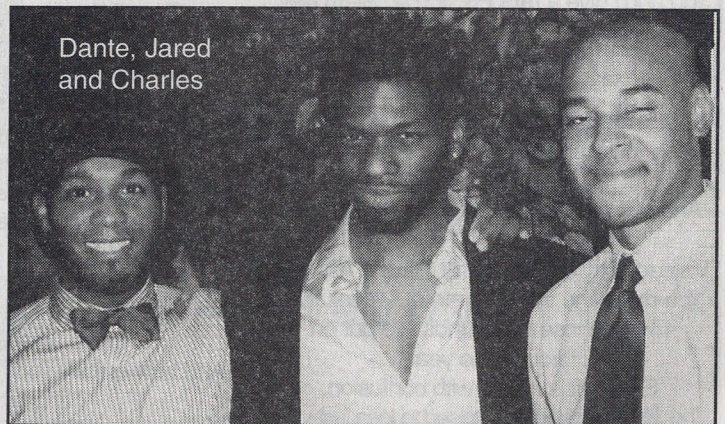
Bryon, Pat, David, Jay and Larry



Buddy and Will



The Venus Mission



Dante, Jared and Charles



ASK LAM BY LAM MEDALLION

Dear Lam,

I'm feeling a little down, blue and unsure of myself in all areas of my life this week. Not sure why. Might also be getting a cold. Any words of encouragement and/or support would be much appreciated if you have the time.

I've Got the Post-Christmas, Pre-New Year's Blues

Dear Friend,

Darling, you are not alone. Isn't it silly that we were so able and ready to enjoy the holidays with family and friends when we were young, yet as we get a little time on our hands (and bodies and faces) this once supple ability to enjoy everything turns to rigid mawkish self-pity and self-loathing? Here is my advice to you to cure the post/pre blues. Try to follow along. Do you hear what I'm telling you, darling?

'Twas the week after Christmas and all through the house
Not a clinking of glassware was heard.
You now drink from the bottle
And do it full throttle
Throwing your sense of style and decorum
to the birds.

Getting up and out of bed is a chore,
Your friends seem to forget you,
But matter, it doesn't
They are a bore.
And your heart grows heavy and blue.

Why does this happen
Each year at this time?
Why do you sink in the muck?
I'll steal a word from that dear Eminem
Plain and simple
You don't give a rat's F&^\$%^%#!!!) ass.

What can I do?
You say to yourself
As you reach for that great flask of bourbon.
Nary the strength nor desire nor want to go
out
And you stay in with your hair in a turban.

Instead of trying something different this time
You make the same damn dull resolution.
I'll lose those 10 pounds I've put on
through the year,
Except it is mixed with confusion.
The 10 pounds you promised to lose last year

Are added to the 10 from the year before
that
And when you take a look in the mirror,
You discover that it is actually true.
Now you are officially Fat.

To calm your nerves and foster some vigor
You head directly into the kitchen,
Sit down with a bowl of something that's rich
And think ... what the hell?
I've got no damn figure.

But let me advise you
Try something new
And I don't mean a diet that's trendy.
Do something gentle and good for yourself
I implore you
And you will feel oh so much better.

Instead of sitting alone and depressed
I want you to get up and get dressed
In something that's comfy but makes you
feel good
Like an old sweater and sensible shoes.

Now go out and meet people
Those who are kind
Volunteer for an organization
Anyone that you can find.
There's an abundance here in our great
nation.

Something that works a cause close to
your heart
Something that makes you feel sunny
And I promise you this
In just a month's time
You will be able to find many things funny.

Go work with kids
Maybe painting a room in a hospital dreary
And as you spread on bright colors of
paint
Everything seems to get cheery.

Go help out at a center for seniors
Sit and listen to their stories outrageous
And in no time at all, you've made a new
friend
Someone who needs your love and life
and courageousness

Go help build a house
For a person who has gotten a chance to
move up with their life
And how quickly your gloom will blossom
and bloom
Into something that's precious, not strife.

I think the cause for depression each year
Has to do with our own vitality
We have to become vital in our own lives
To feel better about our morality.

Yes, it happens to everyone
Yes we all grow older
But the key to happiness
Is to proceed through life growing bolder

Taking a risk
Taking a chance
Reaching out to a stranger
It's this kind of risk we each must take
It's this wonderful kind of danger.

The world is full of problems
That cannot be ignored.
So become a part of the solution
And you will find awesome rewards.

The change in you will be subtle.
Don't expect a major transformation.
But I promise this to you
It will grow and grow and grow and grow
So use this information.

Start with something outside of yourself
Find a cause that needs you
And by helping others now
Your heart will be much lighter
It won't matter that your brother's a prick
And that he's such a fighter.

Families are odd
Everyone is
It's a shame we cannot always depend
on them.
But love them we do, with all of their ways
They are ours; we just have to live
with them.

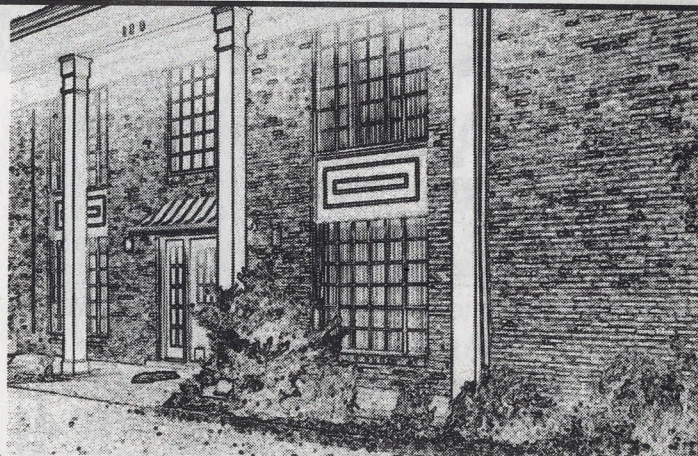
So raise that glass of bourbon
A toast to something dearer.
And you will find
In just a year's time
A changed person in the mirror.

Happy New Year, 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.

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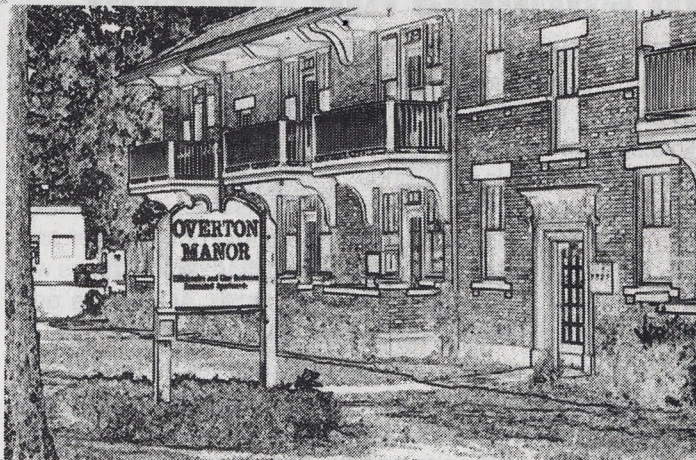
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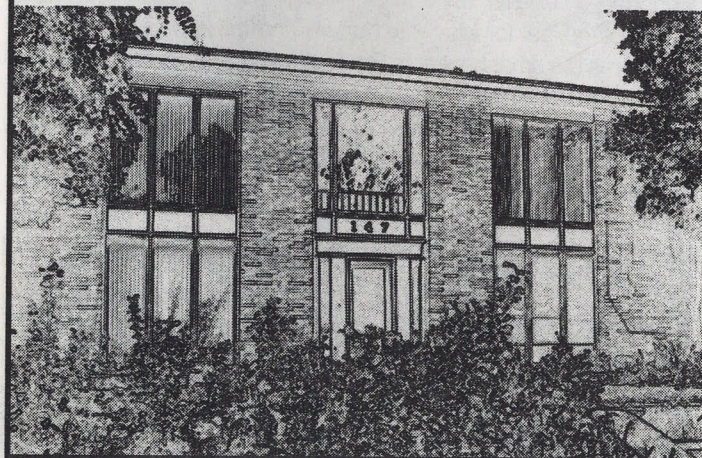
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Enjoy a buggy ride at CMOM

Bundle up and enjoy a horse-and-carriage ride at the Children's Museum of Memphis, 2525 Central Avenue, on Saturday, Jan. 18, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The ride is free with museum admission which 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.

Parenting group plans meet

Parents Together, a group for parents who are gay and lesbian, will meet Thursday, Jan. 9, at 6 p.m. at Holy Trinity Community Church, 3430 Summer Avenue. Rev. Glynda Hall is the coordinator for Parents Together. For details, call the church office at (901) 320-9376.

Assertiveness workshop set

On Tuesday, Jan. 28, at 4 p.m., youth, ages 12 to 17, are invited to an assertiveness workshop, "I'm Not Having It!" at the South branch library, located at 1929 South Third. For more information, call (901) 946-8518.

Entries sought in Be Kind to Animals Kid Contest

The American Humane Association, Kibbles 'n Bits, 9Lives, Pounce and Pup-peroni pet food and snacks are sponsoring the 10th Annual Be Kind to Animals Kid Contest. This contest honors young people who make a difference in the lives of animals of all kinds.

Nominees are divided into two age groups – six to nine, and 10 to 13. Judges will select one grand prize winner and two runners-up from each age group. Grand prize winners will each receive a \$5,000 college scholarship. All winners and runners-up will receive a prize package, a one-year supply of pet food and snacks, media exposure and will be featured on American Humane's website at www.americanhumane.org.

If you know a child between the ages of six and 13 whose love for and dedication to animals deserves national recognition, nominate him or her by typing or printing, in 200 words or less, why you think the child deserves to win. Include the name, address and telephone numbers of you and the child. Photos, videos or other supporting materials are encouraged. To nominate a young person, you must be 18 or older and have written permission from the child's legal guardian. The deadline for nominations is April 1.

Contest rules and nomination forms can be obtained at www.americanhumane.org or by calling (800) 227-4645.

The 2003 winners will be announced during American Humane's Be Kind to Animals Week, May 4 to 10.

Founded in 1877, American Humane is the nation's only national organization dedicated to both child and animal protection.

Central Library begins Family Activity Night

Family Activity Night is a new monthly program at the Central Library, 3030 Poplar Avenue, that will include presentations by experts, fun activities designed for the whole family and a family challenge that kids and adults can use the library to solve.

From taping their own television broadcast, to learning some karate moves, to creating a family crest, Family Activity Night will feature a wide range of programs. Each program will last about two hours.

Family Activity Night kicks off Friday, Jan. 10, at 6:30 p.m., with "The Family Broadcast."

A light dinner, themed to the night's activities, will be available for a nominal cost at 6 p.m. Attending the program is free thanks to a generous gift from the Hyde Family Foundation.

For more information, call (901) 415-2700. Registration is required for Family Activity Night programs by calling (901) 415-2849 or emailing events@memphis.lib.tn.us.

Auditions are planned for kids at Playhouse on the Square, boy, girl needed

On Saturday, Jan. 11, at 11 a.m., Playhouse on the Square, located at 51 South Cooper, will be auditioning for one boy and one girl, ages eight to 12, and one African-American boy, age four to seven, for roles in *Ragtime*.

Children will be asked to read from the script and sing "Happy Birthday" a capella.

Ragtime, set for May 2 to June 8 and to be directed by Dave Landis, is the smash-hit epic Broadway musical based on the celebrated novel which intertwines the lives of three remarkably different families living through the era that saw immigration and wealth, magic and mystery, and, of course, the intoxicating ragtime music that flooded the streets.

Improve your GLBT I.Q.

Read *Family & Friends*

FOR THE OPEN-MINDED MEMPHIAN™

Reel Twisted

from page 24

takes the chief of the government's secret police on a Dante-esque tour of Berlin's underground gay clubs and drag parties to demonstrate that they are no threat to the state. The scene of the chief dancing and flirting with drag queens is quintessential von Praunheim.

In 1920, the older Hirschfeld (played by Friedel von Wangenheim) achieves his life's dream with the foundation of the first research center for homosexuality and other sexual studies, the Institute of Sexual Science, which quickly becomes internationally renowned. Ironically, Hirschfeld personally struggled with his own sexuality, and the film shows him denying himself the love of other men for most of his life.

Eventually, the rise of National Socialism would force Hirschfeld into exile; after a lecture in the U.S., reporters dubbed him, "the Einstein of Sex," to which he replied that Einstein should be "the Hirschfeld of Physics!" The film ends with him sitting in a Parisian movie theater (alongside a young lover from China) watching newsreels of Nazi gangs burning his library and ransacking his institute in 1933. Two years later, he would die on his 67th birthday.

"Not many people know about him," Praunheim said. "They think gay power started with the Stonewall Riots. I did the film to inform the public that there was already a gay hero at the end of the nineteenth century."

* The retail prices of both *When Boys Fly* and *The Einstein Of Sex* are \$29.99 for DVD and \$39.99 for VHS. Both can be purchased at the TLA Video Website at a discount – www.tlavideo.com – or through such major retailers as amazon.com, Borders Books and Music, Musicland, Tower Records and Virgin Megastores.

Recent DVD/VHS releases from TLA Releasing include *Circuit*, *The Fluffer*, *A Matter Of Taste*, *Two Brothers And Two Others*, *Metrosexuality* and *The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me*.



The Einstein of Sex



Wishing for you and yours a blessed New Year. We are very excited about what the new year has in store for us at Holy Trinity. We invite you to come experience that excitement with us!

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Information: HTCC-memphis@yahoo.com

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Cracker Barrel passes GLBT, food taste tests

We admit it. We were practically leaping with joy when we heard the news about Cracker Barrel changing its non-discrimination policy. Why? Because years ago we liked to frequent the restaurant chain and wanted to do so again.

With its non-discrimination policy amended to include sexual orientation, we donned our coats, jumped in the car and headed out for our nearest Cracker Barrel restaurant for a "Southern-style" meal.

We visited the restaurant located on Hacks Cross Road near Nonconnah Parkway and found the service to be fair. It wasn't bad, but it could have been better (ie. it would have been nice to have our tea glasses refilled without having to ask). Nevertheless, we found the food to be very, very good and most definitely home-cooked. It is a rare occasion these days to find real mashed potatoes as opposed to the instant kind we can make at home.

We also found the menus (there are two of them, one for breakfast and one for lunch/dinner) to be quiet extensive, and while it is our habit to pretty much give readers a run-down of the featured restaurant's menu, space does not allow for it this time around. So, here is just a sampling of what GLBT individuals can now enjoy to their taste-buds' content.

If you're in the mood for a salad, Cracker Barrel has seven of them, the grilled chicken salad, chef salad, turkey n' cheese salad, fried chicken tenderloin salad, house salad, homemade chicken salad, BLT salad and a tossed salad.

Perhaps soup and a sandwich are more to your liking? If so, Cracker Barrel gives you a choice of sandwich (half-pound hamburger, country ham, pork barbecue, chicken salad, grilled meatloaf, sliced turkey breast, grilled bacon and cheese, BLT, grilled chicken tenderloin, fried chicken tenderloin and farm-raised catfish) and a cup of homemade soup. There also are the half-pound bacon cheeseburger platter and the dressed up chicken sandwich platter, both served with steak fries.

While Cracker Barrel is known for its specialties, such as country ham and biscuits with steak fries; homemade beef stew n' corn bread; smoked country sausage and

biscuits with steak fries; bowl of pinto beans, cooked with country ham and served with corn bread; turnip greens, cooked with ham hocks and served with corn bread, and beans n' greens, which features a smaller portion of pinto beans and turnip greens served up with onion, relish n' corn bread, the list of entrees to choose from is almost endless.

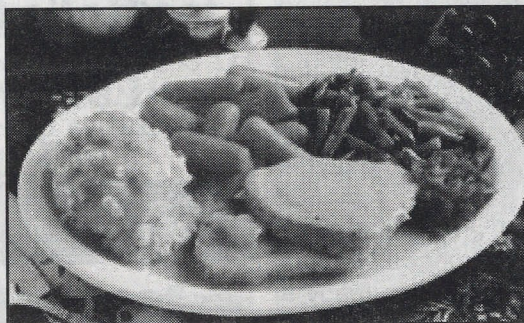
There's meatloaf, roast beef (its gravy is to die for), chicken fried chicken, grilled chicken tenderloin, country fried steak, deep dish chicken pot pie, fried chicken tenderloins and the Cracker Barrel Sampler, which features a hearty sampling of chicken n' dumplings, meatloaf and country or sugar-cured ham (we highly recommend this if you're REALLY hungry!).

But wait, that's just the "Fancy Fixin's," Don't forget the "Fanciest of Fixin's," which include fried, farm-raised catfish; spicy grilled catfish, grilled pork chops (two of 'em), country fried shrimp platter, country ham steak and a 10-ounce ribeye steak. Both the "Fancy" and "Fanciest," selections are served with a choice of two vegetables from Cracker Barrel's ample offering of garden delights.

And, if that's not enough choices, there's the "Country Dinner Plates," which features a choice of meat and two vegetables. The meats include hickory-smoked country ham, homemade beef stew, grilled chicken tenderloin, homemade chicken n' dumplings, eight-ounce hamburger steak, grilled pork chop, hickory-smoked

pork barbecue, sugar-cured ham, farm-raised catfish (deep-fried or spicy grilled) and fried chicken tenderloin.

When it comes to fresh-cooked vegetables and fruit, Cracker Barrel's got it goin' on with 15 garden goodies to choose from. The list includes whole kernel corn, country green beans, sweet whole baby carrots, pinto beans, apple sauce, turnip greens, cole slaw, fried apples, dumplin's, steak fries, macaroni and cheese, hashbrown casserole (this stuff is the best there is), breaded fried okra, mashed potatoes and the vegetable of the day. Vegetable plates also are available and allow diners to select four, count 'em, four of these perfectly-cooked



See Dining Out, page 33

Dining Out

from page 32

(read, not mushy) veggies and fruits.

Of course, we haven't even begun to list the breakfast selections, which is available any time. But, rest assured, there are plenty of eggs, steak, pork chops, fried apples, hashbrown casserole, grits, sawmill gravy, homemade buttermilk biscuits, country fried steak, country fried chicken, country ham, smoked sausage, thick-sliced bacon, catfish filets, sugar-cured ham, fried chicken tenderloins, hamburger steak, turkey sausage patties, egg-substitute, baked country breakfast casserole, pancakes (blackberry, maple, buttermilk with wild Maine blueberry syrup, Freestone peach, cherry, pecan and fried apple), eggs in a basket and French toast to go around.

The "Kid's Stuff" features a wide variety of dishes, both dinner and breakfast, available for "kids of any age."

Considering dessert, although we have no idea where you would put it? Try Cracker Barrel's baked apple dumplin', chocolate cobbler, fruit cobblers and ice cream, frozen mug sundaes and no-sugar-added apple pie.

And, don't forget to visit Cracker Barrel's country store, either while you're waiting to be seated or on your way out. Oh, we almost forgot ... two of the things we enjoy about Cracker Barrel, one, the checkers games two can play

while waiting for a table or food, and two, the peg games located on each table (can you finish the game with just one peg left?).

With more than 50 restaurants in the *Family & Friends* readership area, it's a good thing, too, because plenty of folks have long awaited the opportunity to sink their teeth into Cracker Barrel's bountiful breakfasts and savory Southern cooking.



HELP WANTED

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There's a Cracker Barrel close by

Locations of Cracker Barrel restaurants in the *Family & Friends* readership area are listed below according to state.

TENNESSEE – two in Memphis (Hacks Cross Road and Nonconnah Parkway and at I-40 and Sycamore View), three in Chattanooga, three in Knoxville, two in Murfreesboro, five in Nashville, two in Pigeon Forge and one each in Alcoa, Clarksville, Cleveland, Cookeville, Crossville, Dickson, Farragut, Franklin, Gallatin, Goodlettsville, Harriman, Jackson, Johnson City, Kingsport, Lake City, Lebanon, Manchester, Morristown, Mt. Juliet, Newport, Sevierville, Smyrna and Sweetwater.

MISSISSIPPI – one each in Batesville, Brookhaven, Gulfport, Hattiesburg, Horn Lake, Jackson, Meridian, Moss Point, Pearl, Tupelo and Vicksburg.

ARKANSAS – one each in Alma, Arkadelphia, Bryant, Conway, Hot Springs, Jonesboro, North Little Rock, Russellville, Springdale and West Memphis.

MISSOURI – one each in Cape Girardeau, Columbia and St. Louis.

ALABAMA – two in Mobile and one each in Athens, Bessemer, Cullman, Decatur, Dothan, Florence, Foley, Ft. Payne, Gadsden, Gardendale, Greenville, Madison, Montgomery, Moody, Opelika, Oxford, Pelham, Prattville, Trussville and Tuscaloosa.

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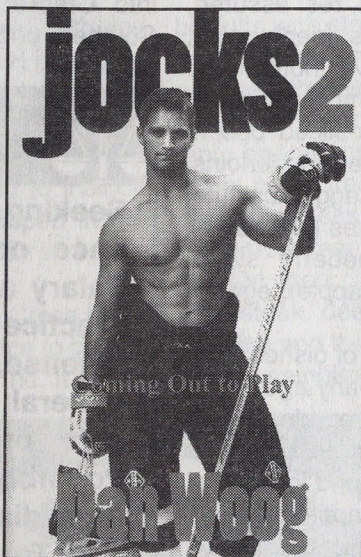
HOT & SOUR SOUP • MISO SOUP • BIG SALADS • FRIED RICE • EGG ROLLS • WONTONS

Gay athletes tell their own stories in book

Dan Woog's *Jocks 2: Coming Out to Play*, was released by Alyson Publications as a sequel to Woog's landmark, *Jocks: True Stories of America's Gay Male Athletes*, which dared to take a look past the locker room door at gays in the world of sports.

Athletes of all types, 32 in fact, share their stories in this 253-page paperback. Some play(ed) on the field, such as University of Pittsburgh left offensive tackle Ed Gallagher and professional snowboarder Ryan Miller. Some play(ed) behind the scenes, such as Oberlin's Athletic Director Michael Muska and ESPN.com Assistant Editor Bill Konigsberg. This anthology also gives voice to the high-school athlete, the fan and those men who practice their skills in the various gay sports organizations.

"When my book, *Jocks: True Stories of America's Gay Male Athletes*, was published in 1998, reaction was surprisingly intense," Woog wrote in the sequel's introduction. "My premise – that there were far more gay athletes and coaches than anyone suspected – proved to be true. The book struck a chord with a broad range of gay men. Some had spent years, even decades,



as closeted jocks, always believing they were the only ones; at last they were thrilled to learn they were not alone. Others, younger, drew inspiration from the fact that they might come out and still be able to run, swim or play hockey or soccer. Still others had liked sports as youngsters but turned away from athletics because the locker room and playing fields were too homophobic to bear. And, of course, there were men who had never thrown a pass or batted a ball but always dreamed about gay jocks. They were excited to discover that some of their fantasies might actually be true."

Woog, a resident of Westport, Conn., is a journalist, educator, soccer coach and gay activist. He is the author of 11 other books, including *Gay Men*, *Straight Jobs* and *Schools Out*. His articles and essays have appeared in *The New*

York Times, *Sports Illustrated* and *USA Today*, and he is a contributing writer for *The Advocate* magazine.

Jocks 2: Coming Out to Play continues the evidence that gay men play sports too, and quite well, we may add. Perhaps these 32 stories are but the tip of the iceberg of the athletes that are homosexual, whether they admit it to their teammates or not.



GLBT community mourns death of a friend

The Memphis and Mid-South communities mourned the loss of a trusted friend and a "respected and valued community servant," Dr. Marshall Lynn Koonce, when he died at his home Dec. 9, 2002. He was 63.

A retired physician, Koonce served as president of the board of Senior Services Inc., director and trustee of the Porter-Leath Children's Center, director of the Child Welfare League of America, president of the Memphis Ballet-Ballet South board, and was a member of the Memphis Opera board and the Hearing Impaired Inc. board, as well as a member of the East Memphis Exchange Club, the Artifacts and Antiques Club and the International Order of Off Fellows. In addition, Koonce served on the Friends For Life Board of Directors for seven years, four of which were as board president.

Bill Andrews, a former FFL board member who served along side Koonce for many years, remembers Koonce began his service as an FFL Advisory Board member before his dedication and commitment earned him a position on the FFL board.

"Initially inspired to serve Friends For Life by the illness of his nephew, Jay Koonce III, Marshall's commitment continued after his nephew's death," Andrews wrote in a story for FFL's first-quarter 2003 newsletter, *Frontline*.

Koonce served on the FFL board from 1992 to 1999,

and served as the board president from 1995 to 1999.

"Marshall's fiscal responsibility and managerial skills were invaluable to the agency (FFL) as it moved from its offices on Bellevue to a much larger space on Poplar and finally to its present home on Madison (1384)," Andrews recalled. "... Marshall's insight and experience were crucial to our survival and success, and of particular value during the merger of FFL and Aloysius Home, yielding the shape of the agency we know today."

Koonce also is remembered by many for his never-ending financial support to FFL.

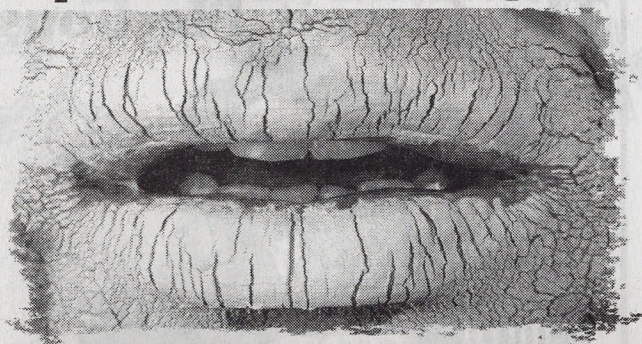
"He was as generous with his financial support as he was with his time and talent, and he quietly made a number of significant donations to the agency," Andrews wrote. "He showed special dedication to Feast For Friends, where he was a regular visitor and whose funding he assured each year for many years with a \$1,000 challenge to other donors to come together and match his largess."

A native of Ripley, Tenn., Koonce also owned the fabled 12,000-square-foot Galloway House in Midtown from 1977 to 1998.

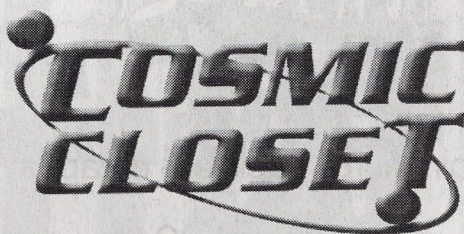
"He loved the Memphis community and was really committed to the arts, education and social outreach organi-

See Dr. Koonce, page 37

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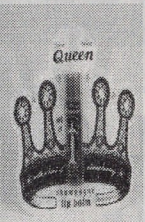


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Wharton, Ford to be at library

Shelby County Mayor A.C. Wharton and Congressman Harold Ford Jr. will speak at the central branch library, located at 3030 Poplar Avenue, on Tuesday, Jan. 14, at 6:30 p.m. These two honored guests will discuss "Books That Changed My Life." Tickets, which are \$10 per person, are available by calling (901) 415-2834.

History docents wanted

Do you love history? Are you fascinated by the lifestyle of the 19th century? Then bring Memphis history to life by volunteering to be a tour guide at the Mallory-Neely House, 652 Adams Avenue. A training session will be held Saturday, Jan. 25, from 10 a.m. to noon. For more information, call (901) 523-1484.

Learn about winter stars

With long nights and calm air, the skies of winter may be the most beautiful and popular with star gazers. "Wonders of a Winter Night," now through March 2 at the Sharpe Planetarium, located in the Memphis Pink Palace Museum, 3050 Central Avenue, examines the constellations of ancient Greek heros among other astronomical sites. Admission is \$4.25 for adults and \$3.75 for seniors

and children (ages 3-12). Showtimes are 1:30 and 7 p.m. Saturdays and 1:30 p.m. Sundays. For more information or reservations, call (901) 320-6362.

Walk with Patsy at Circuit

A Closer Walk With Patsy Cline returns to the stage at Circuit Theater, 1705 Poplar Avenue, Jan. 10 through Feb. 16. This musical tribute to one of America's favorite female vocalists is directed by Michael Detroit and stars Carla McDonald (*Evita, Ruthless!*). Showtimes are Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Also, performances are set on Sundays, Jan. 26 and Feb. 2, 9 and 18, at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$22 for adults; \$18 for seniors; \$16 for students and military personnel, and \$12 for children. For more information or reservations, call (901) 726-4656.

CBU to exhibit Miller's works

The Christian Brothers University Gallery will exhibit the artistic works of Remy Miller Jan. 10 to Feb. 14 in the gallery located in the lower level of the Plough Library on the CBU campus at 650 East Parkway South. Miller's paintings and drawings have appeared in exhibits across the U.S., as well as at the Memphis Arts Festival and The Memphis Brooks Museum Of Art. Gallery hours are 7:45 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday to Thursday; 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday; noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, and 2 to 11 p.m. Sunday. For more information, call (901) 321-3432 or go online to www.cbu.edu/library/gallery.

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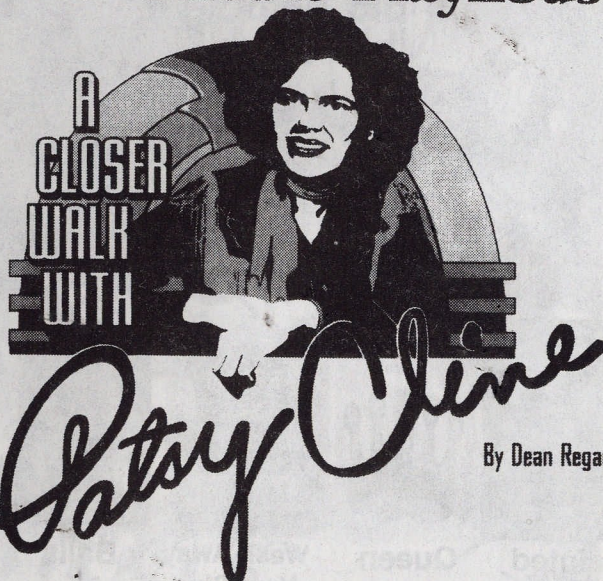
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MSO to pay tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

In an on-going effort to foster race relations and break down racial barriers within our city, the Memphis Symphony Orchestra will present its ninth annual tribute concert to honor the life and works of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. On Saturday, Jan. 18, at 7 p.m., Dr. King's birthday will be celebrated with a special event concert entitled "I Have A Dream: A Musical Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr." The concert will be held at the Temple of Deliverance Church of God in Christ located at 369 G.E. Patterson Avenue.

The concert will feature such soulful classics as "Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me 'Round" and "Battle Hymn of the Republic." Youth from Bridge Builders, an organization that lays aside social and cultural differences to foster the development of local high school students, will actively participate in this year's performance through inspirational speeches. Accomplished writer, storyteller, poet and actress Hester Moore also will perform selections from Dr. King's various speeches.

Tickets are \$10 and \$7 in advance; \$15 and \$10 day of the concert. To order tickets by phone with a Visa or MasterCard, call the MSO Box Office at (901) 324-3627 or visit the MSO office located at 3100 Walnut Grove Road, Suite 501 (office hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday).

Tickets also are available at all TicketMaster locations, by calling (901) 525-1515 or online at www.ticketmaster.com.

Dr. Koonce

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zations of so many different kinds," said his niece Karen Weesner, "that he really felt would improve living in the Mid-South.

"I think he really wanted to be remembered as a philanthropist and somebody who loved people and did whatever he could to make life better," she continued, adding that Koonce also valued his family and was active in genealogy.

"Physically challenged by a variety of afflictions, Marshall nevertheless attended countless meetings, events and dinners, and refused to let infirmity limit the vision he had of his role at Friends For Life," Andrews wrote. "Few others have served the HIV/AIDS community in Memphis for so long or so well. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to work with him and to learn from him."

Koonce is survived by a brother, Jerry Glynn Koonce of Memphis, and a niece, Karen Weesner. Services were held Dec. 14, 2002, at St. John's United Methodist Church, where he was a member.

The family requests memorials be made to St. John's United Methodist Church or the Church Health Center.

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By **DAVID SCONDRAS**, guest writer
Search For A Cure

Question: Why am I so tired all the time?

Answer: There are two types of fatigue.

The kind that happens suddenly and when you rest, it goes away. Then there is the kind that is always there, may start out slow then get worse, and never seems to go away.

For the first type, try sleep. If you are having trouble sleeping, this is often a sign of depression. Ask your health care provider for a diagnosis. It is critical for all of us to get a good night's sleep.

For the second type, it is important to find out what is causing the fatigue.

It's not always easy to figure this out, because chronic fatigue can be caused by problems with your diet, a lack of exercise, anxiety or depression, drug use, infections, abnormalities of the endocrine system, etc.

The good news is there is usually something you can do about it.

If the fatigue is caused by an infection, treating the infection will result in a return of vitality.

If the fatigue is caused by depression, there are several tests to show this which are pretty accurate, and 50 to 60 percent of people get good results from their first choice of a single antidepressant. Group therapy seems to

be particularly effective with depression along with antidepressant medication. Notice that lots of antidepressants have drug-to-drug interactions with HIV meds, so make sure your doctor is paying attention to this.

If the fatigue (hangovers) is caused by lifestyle practices – behavior change will take care of that.

If the fatigue is caused by low levels of testosterone in males, a problem in at least 25 percent of men with HIV, replacement therapy can be effective.

Anemia is a common cause of fatigue for people with HIV.

There are good tests for anemia and a lot that can be done. Finding out what is causing the anemia is critical. Sometimes the anemia is because you are not getting enough good food, or the food you are getting is not well absorbed into the body.

However, sometimes the body is just not making enough of the hormone that gets the body to make red blood cells. Two manufactured versions of this hormone – Procrit and Epogen – are available and help stimulate bone marrow production of red blood cells.

There are other possible solutions as well, (including) blood transfusions (and) steroids.

The bottom line: you should not just live with fatigue. It can be treated.

HIV/AIDS TESTING SITES & INFORMATION

Memphis & Shelby County Health Department

814 Jefferson Avenue, Room 221

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

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

HIV Test Cost: FREE

For more information, call (901) 544-6808

Memphis Regional Planned Parenthood

1407 Union Avenue, Third Floor

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

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

FREE OraSure testing for ages 13-24

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Friends For Life & The Positive Living Center

1384 Madison Avenue / 1000 South Cooper

Call Friends For Life for dates and times

FREE OraSure • appointments may be required

For more information, call (901) 272-0855

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

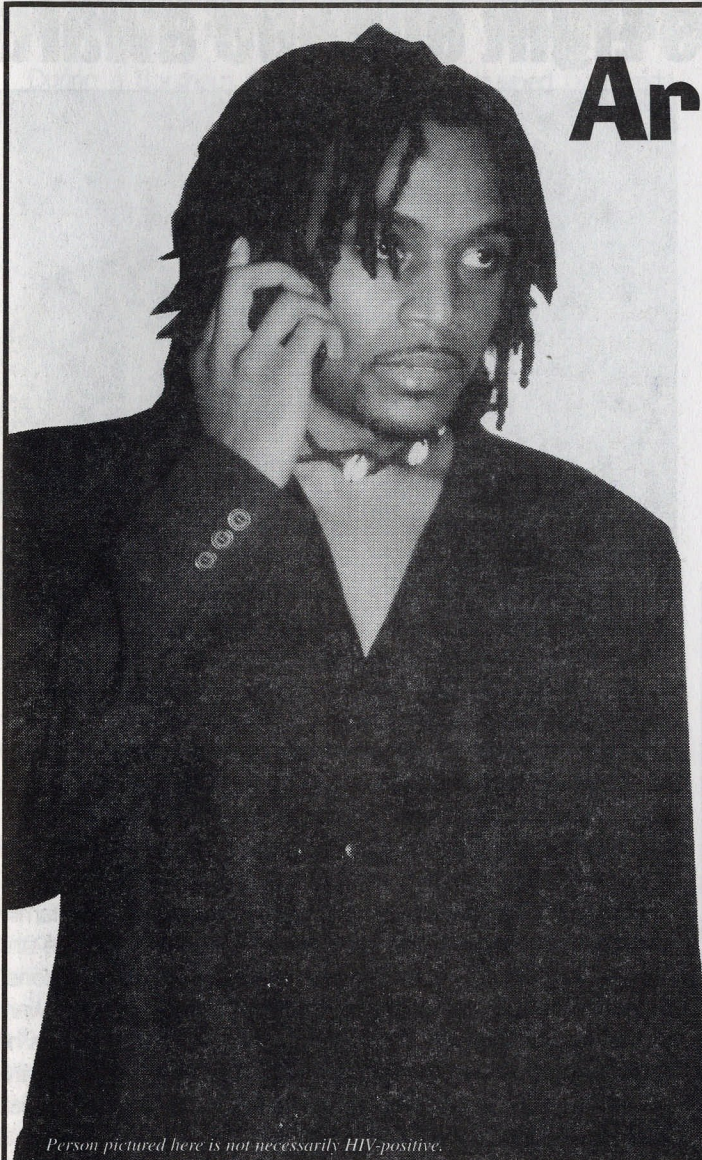
David Scondras is the founder and chairman of Search For A Cure and developed the nationally-recognized HIV treatment series, "Reasons For Hope." For more information on Search For A Cure, call (617) 536-2474, fax (617) 266-0051, email hope@sfac.org or go online to www.searchforacure.org.

AIDS News in Brief

- U2's lead singer, Bono, along with actress Ashley Judd, toured the U.S. in the seven-state Heart of America Tour in December. Their purpose was to raise awareness of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Africa and urge President Bush and Congress to increase funding to Africa. The pair spoke to 2,000 college students at the University of Iowa; truckers in Walcott, Iowa, and a high-school health class in Davenport, Iowa. "We've come to Iowa to grow a movement. We're here because politicians have told us that people in the Midwest don't care about issues outside of America – and we are here to prove them wrong." Bono said in a Dec. 3, 2002, *Des Moines Register* article. Other stops on the tour included Chicago; Indianapolis; Cincinnati; Louisville, Ky., and Nashville, Tenn.

- *The Baltimore Sun* reported on Dec. 4, 2002, that health officials and AIDS advocates said they are "alarmed" by the high rate of AIDS among gay teenagers and young adults, and they fear that "a complacency may have settled in since the advent of drug thera-

See AIDS News, page 41



Are You Sure?

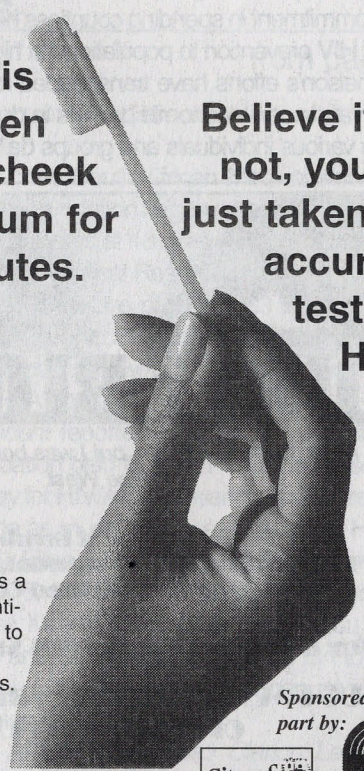
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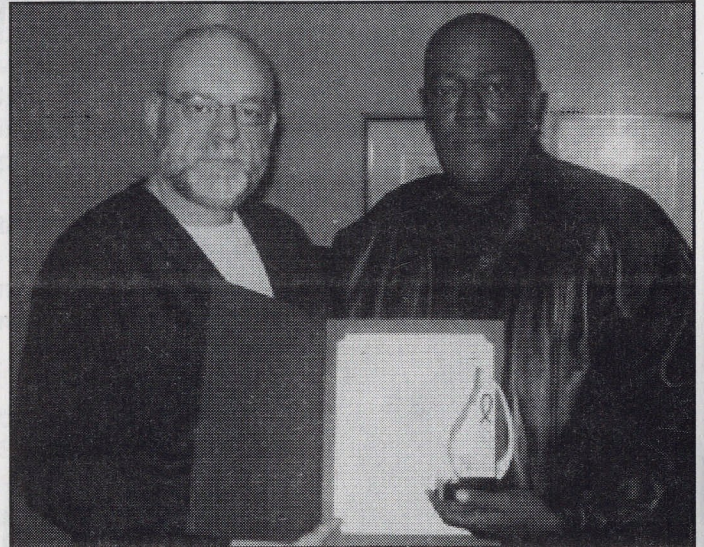
1000 South Cooper

Call 901-726-6022 for an appointment

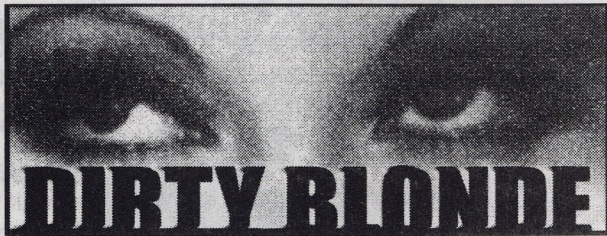
FFL educator receives Light of Hope award

Ernest Donelson II was presented the Light of Hope Award by the Memphis /Shelby County Health Department on Dec. 2, 2002, during a World AIDS Day ceremony at LeMoyne-Owen College. MSCHD Director Yvonne Madlock presented the award to Donelson.

The award read, in part, "For his tireless and unwavering efforts while working as an HIV/AIDS Educator for Friends For Life Corporation AIDS Resource Center in support of HIV/AIDS education and prevention during the year 2002, in Memphis and Shelby County ... having displayed leadership, devotion and exceptional commitment in spending countless hours delivering the message of HIV prevention to populations at high-risk for HIV infection. Mr. Donelson's efforts have transcended racial, ethnic, sexual orientation and socio-economic barriers in delivering his message of hope to various individuals and groups daily. On behalf of the resi-



Friends For Life Executive Director Kim Moss, left, and FFL Educator Ernest Donelson II show their pride in Donelson's being recognized.



*"I made myself platinum, but I was born a dirty blonde."
-Mae West*

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dents of Memphis and Shelby County, the Memphis and Shelby County Health Department and the Shelby County Government, Mr. Donelson is selected as the recipient of the individual 2002 Light of Hope Award for his distinguished service."

"I would like to thank each and every one of my friends, family, co-workers and community partners who, without your love and support, I would not have been able to do any of what I've done," Donelson said in accepting the award. "To receive this award shows that the work we do is important and the role I play is no larger than the role each of you play daily, as we strive to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS in our community. Let us continue to spread the light of hope to individuals living with HIV/AIDS and educate everyone within our reach."

"It is very appropriate for Ernest to get such an award," said Friends For Life Executive Director Kim Moss. "Of anybody in Memphis and Shelby County, Ernest understands the importance of the message of HIV prevention to be taken to all people. All people meaning not only school kids and church folk, but the young men who frequent area gay bars and prostitutes who walk the street at night. His unique personality and communication skills help make his voice be heard."

Donelson also was selected by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention to participate in the 2003 CDC Institute for HIV Prevention Leadership, to be held in Atlanta later this year.

Who Am I?

By Sancho McCall

I am black, blue, red and white
I am green, orange, yellow and bright

I am tall, short and wide

I have many colors in my eyes

I am you, I'm her, I'm him, I'm me

Who am I?

- HIV

GET TESTED TODAY!

Leaders call for action in Southern AIDS crisis

During a Southern AIDS Conference convened by Florida AIDS Action in Tampa, Fla., in December 2002, AIDS leaders from across the Southeast region of the U.S. announced a federal call to action to address funding disparities and healthcare standards in relation to the burgeoning Southern AIDS crisis.

The states included in this crisis include Alabama; Arkansas; Florida; Georgia; Kentucky; Louisiana; Mississippi; North Carolina; South Carolina; Tennessee; Texas; Virginia; Washington, D.C., and West Virginia.

More than 85 participants, including leaders from national organizations such as AIDS Alliance and AIDS action, as well as representatives from the United States Departments of Health and Human Services, and Health Resources and Services Administration, participated in the two-day conference.

"We intend to be very loud and very forceful because our people are dying all over the South," said Dr. Gene Copello, executive director of Florida AIDS Action. "Portions of the South where the epidemic is so grave are beginning to mirror the Third World. Without more funding, an entire generation may be wiped out."

United in fighting their unique issues in the battle against HIV/AIDS in the South, Southern AIDS Conference participants reached a consensus on two main points – advocating for "fair funding" for the South and a "core set of services that can be offered to anyone" living with HIV/AIDS in the United States. Additional issues discussed included "housing as medicine" for people with infrastructure and access to treatment. Furthermore, the group formed a regional advocacy network for the South, selected a steering committee to continue its work and decided to meet again in the near future.

"The Southern AIDS Conference has drawn national exposure to the current state of AIDS in our nation. We've put a face on the emerging AIDS epidemic – the impoverished, minorities, women and children – and given it a name: the Southern AIDS epidemic," said Tom Liberti, chief of the Bureau of HIV/AIDS for the Florida Department of Health.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, and The Kaiser Family Foundation:

- The South represents just over one third of the U.S. population (36 percent), but accounts for 40 percent of people estimated to be living with AIDS and 46 percent of estimated new AIDS cases.

- Seven of the states with the 10 highest AIDS case rates in the

U.S. are located in the South.

- About one fifth of people estimated to be living with AIDS in the South are women.

- In 2001, the South led the nation in numbers of new HIV cases with more than 18,364 new cases, versus the Northwest with 11,336; the West with 6,199, and the Midwest with 4,011 new cases, respectively.

For more information, call the Florida AIDS Action at (813) 232-5886 or go online to www.floridaaidsaction.org.

AIDS News

from page 38

pies that are keeping many patients alive and healthy enough to work."

- In December 2002, the South African Medical Association and the Nelson Mandela Foundation began a free HIV/AIDS treatment program for 9,000 patients at 18 sites.

- According to a Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America 2002 survey, there are presently 83 new HIV/AIDS treatments, including 14 new vaccines and 33 antiretroviral drugs, in the development "pipeline," all of which are either in human clinical trials or waiting for FDA approval.

- London's *Independent* reported on Dec. 5, 2002, that the Elton John AIDS Foundation held its fourth "Out the Closet" sale in London to raise money for HIV/AIDS prevention and care worldwide. "We do this to raise as much money as we can for HIV and AIDS," David Furnish, Sir Elton John's partner, said in an interview with the *Guardian*, Dec. 5, 2002. "It is a disease that knows no boundaries or prejudices. It's a very small thing we do. You can go through your wardrobe and say, 'Get it out,' and it's fun to do. It's very therapeutic and you know how much you can do with the money, so it's a great thing."

- According to the *AP/Jackson (Miss.) Clarion Ledger*, Dr. Hamza Brimah, who was originally from Nigeria, died Dec. 9, 2002, at his home. After moving to the Delta in 1996, Dr. Brimah opened the Magnolia Medical Clinic/Greenwood Leflore Hospital HIV Program in 1997. The Delta was then considered one of the poorest areas in the nation with one of the highest rates of HIV-infected individuals in the state of Mississippi.

- On Dec. 1, 2002, World AIDS Day, Ineudira Barbosa of Cambridge, Mass., was chosen from among 20,000 applicants to be the first recipient of the Lisa Lopes AIDS scholarship, named in memory of Lisa "Left Eye" Lopes of the R&B group TLC. The scholarship, in the amount of \$25,000, is sponsored by LIFEbeat and MTV as part of their "Fight for Your Rights: Protect Yourself" campaign.

- *The Los Angeles Times* reported on Dec. 19, 2002, that a group of Democrats, led by Rep. Henry Waxman (D-Calif.), sent a letter to HHS Secretary Tommy Thompson wanting to know why instructions on how to properly use a condom and information from studies indicating that sex education classes for students, which includes that condom information does not increase early sexual activity, have been eliminated from the CDC website.

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



STRAIGHT UP, BUT NOT STRAIGHT BY J. SHANE WILSON, MS, NCC, LPCC

Dear Straight Up,

My boyfriend and I have been dating for two years, and I love him very much. The problem is I'm bisexual and he knows this. I have had encounters with women in my past, but there haven't been any since I have known him. However, I've been having urges lately, and when I try to talk to him about it, he always brushes me off. This is a part of me.

I have met a woman who I care for a lot, but I won't jeopardize my relationship; I also have told her this. But it's getting harder, because he just won't talk to me about it. I love them both, but I need someone who will listen to me. She makes me feel good, partly because she is there for me when I have the need to talk about him. I fear that if he continues to turn away from feelings and this conversation, he will turn me straight to her.

I can't continue to hide what is important to me. What can I do to make him understand?

Confused

Dear Confused,

I agree with you. It seems to me that you are very confused. I think it's inappropriate to talk with your boyfriend about your feelings for a woman. While you would usually talk with him about your

feelings on other matters, talking to him about this is punishment. If you're having trouble figuring out which sex you want to be with or which person, it would be far better to seek a counseling professional to help you decide.

It's also inappropriate to talk with the woman about your boyfriend. That creates an intimacy bond with her. This often happens in affairs, when the cheating spouse talks with the mistress about his wife. He forms a bond with the mistress at the wife's expense. It's not fair to the wife to be discussed with a sexual partner who competes with her for time and energy.

Most people, straight or not, have the capacity to love more than one person at a time. We stay faithful because we want to and because we believe it's the right way to treat someone, not because we don't ever experience any interest in someone else. It's normal for married people to find other people attractive, and from time to time, to find themselves really attracted to someone. However, the proper thing to do is to find ways to reduce the feelings to tolerable levels and keep the behavior appropriate, i.e., faithful and monogamous. The only difference in your situation is that you are potentially attracted to 100 percent of the adult population.

If you want the relationship to work with someone who is either straight or gay, you'll need to decide who you want and stay faithful. Determine what you want to do in this specific situation, and also figure out how you want to shape your future relationships.

J. Shane Wilson has a master's degree in the counseling field from The University of Memphis. He presently is a Licensed Professional Counselor residing in Louisville, Ky. 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.

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HTCC round-ball team to take court

Holy Trinity Community Church's (HTCC) women's basketball team is working on another victorious season. Catch them in play at the following games:

Thursday, Jan. 9, 8:15 p.m., HTCC vs. Germantown Baptist at St. Luke United Methodist Church, 480 South Highland.

Thursday, Jan. 16, 8 p.m., HTCC vs. 2nd Presbyterian at Second Presbyterian Church, 4055 Poplar Avenue, east court.

Tuesday, Jan. 21, 7:30 p.m., HTCC vs. Bartlett Methodist at Bartlett United Methodist Church, 5676 Stage Road.

Thursday, Jan. 30, 7 p.m., HTCC vs. St. Luke's Methodist at St. Luke's United Methodist Church, 480 South Highland.

Tuesday, Feb. 4, 8:45 p.m., HTCC vs. Golden Gate Full Gospel at Bartlett United Methodist Church, 5676 Stage Road

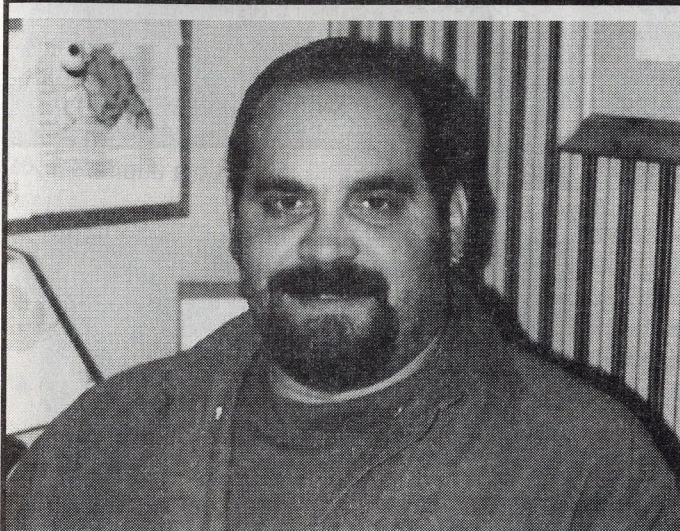
Monday, Feb. 10, 6:45 p.m., HTCC vs. Idlewild Presbyterian at Idlewild Presbyterian Church, 1750 Union Avenue.

Monday, Feb. 17, 8 p.m., HTCC vs. Advent Presbyterian at Advent Presbyterian Church, 1879 North Germantown Parkway.

For more information, call HTCC at (901) 320-9376.

Meet Your Neighbor

Brian Daubert



Name: Brian Daubert

Place where you were born: Warwick, N.Y.

How long have you lived in Memphis: 15 years

Partnership status: married since June 1998, to Gary Hayes

Sexual orientation: gay

Occupation: executive assistant at Friends For Life, which also includes work as the board of directors liaison, a computer tech and work in the area of human resources.

Hobbies: snow skiing; camping; outdoorsy activities; walking the dogs, a Doberman, a Boxer and a Boston Terrier, and bowling.

Favorite Food: home-cooked Sicilian food

Favorite Color: purple

Favorite Animal: dolphin

Favorite Singer: Bonnie Raitt

Favorite Song: "Dream On" by Aerosmith

Favorite Movie: *Torch Song Trilogy*, *The Wizard of Oz* and *The Women* (1939)

Favorite Restaurant: The Lotus on Summer Avenue

Favorite Drink: vodka tonic with lime

Favorite Thing About Memphis: the people

Least Favorite Thing About Memphis: the lack of tolerance

Finish this phrase: My friends think I am "genuine, good-natured and generous; giving of self."

MGLCC finally gets a place to call 'home'

The Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center recently announced it "has secured a location in which to conduct both its existing and future programs and services."

According to the Dec. 14, 2002, press release, the building is located at 892 South Cooper Street, the former home of the Cooper-Young Development Association.

"The building measures 1300 square feet," the MGLCC press release read, "and contains space for town hall and small group meetings, storage, offices, kitchen space and space for the gay community archives. MGLCC plans to take possession of the property in late January."

Herb Zeman, who was the presiding president of the MGLCC, resigned his position with the organization in order to avoid any appearance of a conflict of interest. This is because Zeman actually purchased the building in his name on Nov. 26, 2002, and has entered into a 15-year lease/purchase agreement with the MGLCC.

"The Board of Directors (of the MGLCC) is planning three major events in late winter and early spring as part of the grand opening festivities," the press release read.

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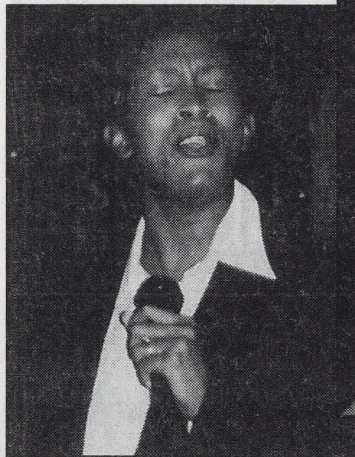
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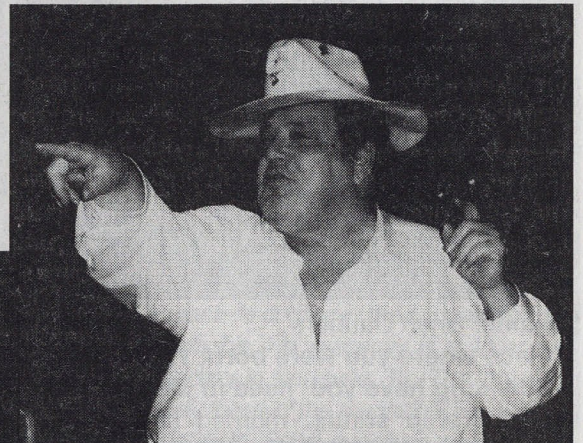
Rachel Edwards



Terrell Lee Love



Gina Lola Jupiter



Girth Brooks



Norma Lee Knot



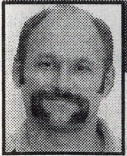
Mr. Mann



Tiny Peters



Peter and Sissy Biggers



QUOTE / UNQUOTE BY REX WOCKNER

"I don't remember exactly (the details of how it got reported that I had come out as a lesbian), but this woman reporter (for *Curve* magazine) asked why did I think lesbians like me so much or why was I so popular with lesbians, and I said it was probably because they thought I was one of them, meaning that I don't believe in gay or straight and I don't believe love is conditional. But obviously the reporter ran with it and the paper hyped it, because it probably sold a lot of issues, and really, I was quite happy for them to do that. ... I made the choice to say what I said, and I said it knowing they would sensationalize it. I guess it's a bit of that Irish sense of mischief."

— **Singer Sinead O'Connor to *The Advocate*, Nov. 26, 2002.**

"Unfortunately we're not further along and there is still discrimination against homosexuals in our society. ... When I first took office, there were some attacks that were clearly below the belt. I didn't realize the chance at first, but I now see it's important to get the message out against discrimination. As a gay mayor I feel I have a responsibility."

— **Berlin Mayor Klaus Wowereit to Germany's RTL network, Nov. 13, 2002.**

"I love Cher. She's awesome. But my all-time favorite — you want to know? My all-time favorite is Bette Midler."

— **Three-hundred-ten pound former NFL player Esera Tuaolo, who recently came out, to *The Advocate*, Nov. 28, 2002.**

"We need to move beyond thinking of people as being just gay or straight. People's behaviors are complicated and don't always fall into these predetermined categories, and (HIV) prevention directed toward gay and bisexual men will miss these men who (have sex with men yet) consider themselves to be straight."

— **Los Angeles County Department of Health Services HIV epidemiology head Amy Rock Wohl to PlanetOut.com, Nov. 14, 2002, discussing a study, which found that 16 percent of poor, self-described "straight" black men and 37 percent of poor, self-described "straight" HIV-positive black men have had anal sex with men.**

"I have a lot of gay friends. I am very comfortable with my sexuality and am able to enjoy friendships with everyone. In fact, one of my good friends is going through the same issues that my character goes through in (the new movie) *Far From Heaven*. He can't come to terms with his (homo)sexuality and it is taking a toll. That is the problem with many men who are my age or older, especially. We were raised in a different time. A time when there was no

such thing as coming out of the closet. If you were gay, you got married, pretended to be in love with your wife, had children and lived a lie. Thankfully, today, though the world is not perfect, many children, especially in this country, are raised to accept everyone and to be who they are. My feeling on the subject of homosexuality is that love is love. You cannot help being attracted to who you're attracted to."

— **Actor Dennis Quaid to the *Windy City Times*, Nov. 13, 2002.**

"When I first started editing *GQ*, it gave the impression of being, and in fact was, a gay magazine. There were female models in it and there were women on the cover but the boys were always much, much more beautiful than the girls. There was never any eye contact between men and women, and never any tension on the page. What I wanted to do in repositioning the magazine was make it very clear very quickly that this was a heterosexual magazine. I'm sure we have a large gay readership, and I want anyone who enjoys the magazine to read it. But the message I wanted to send was that it's not aimed at a gay audience. But I didn't just add women to the pages, via beautiful photographs of them, I added articles by women, expressing their points of view."

— ***GQ* Editor-in-Chief Art Cooper to mediabistro.com.**

"I am very excited, kind of slightly alarmed by how much brouhaha it's causing, actually, because it's not even a script yet. I don't even know if they will pick it up as a series. I'm sure the poor writer (Robert Palm) is freaking out."

— **Actor Alan Cummings who is slated to star in ABC-TV's gay-detective program "Mr. and Mr. Nash," which is in development.**

"Aww, hell no! I don't want any faggots on my team. I know this might not be what people want to hear, but that's a punk. I don't want any faggots in this locker room."

— **San Francisco 49ers running back Garrison Hearst to the *Fresno (Calif.) Bee*, Nov. 1 2002.**

"Other actors call me all the time because they want to know if they should (come out) or not! The bottom line is, I cannot identify an area where it has hurt me."

— **Chad Allen, who is most well-known for his role on TV's "Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman," to *Out* magazine, December 2002 issue.**

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.



HOROSCOPES

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 20) – It's your birthday time of year so celebrate! The force will be with you in 2003. If you've got ideas, plan to share them this year. You've got the edge.

Aquarius (Jan. 21-Feb. 19) – Now is the age of Aquarius, so make the most of it. Highlight should be on employment matters and health concerns. Something positive is coming your way.

Pisces (Feb. 20-March 20) – The new year will bring a new outlook on your future. Now is not the time to be shy. Romance is possible if you make the first move.

Aries (March 21-April 20) – Now is the time to rethink your career. If you are creative, things are looking up if you focus on your abilities and talents as the new year begins.

Taurus (April 21-May 21) – Financial matters could take a turn for the better if you heed the advice of those far away. The new year allows you to overcome obstacles and find solutions to problems. Remember, you're only as good as you think you are, so keep your chin up.

Gemini (May 22-June 21) – This is not a good time to engage in risky behavior when it comes to your finances. Focus is on renewing ties with influential people far from home.

Cancer (June 22-July 23) – As the new year begins, your social popularity is highlighted as it can help you reach your

goals. Relationships improve this month, especially for those who are single. Those who are partnered also will find things on the up-swing.

Leo (July 24-Aug. 23) – Dealings with important people are favored during this period, but only if you use your talents wisely. Now is the time to move forward in your career.

Virgo (Aug. 24-Sept. 23) – If you're hoping for something, now is the time to ask for it. A hobby could lead to an additional source of income in the new year. New romance lurks on the horizon.

Libra (Sept. 24-Oct. 23) – Avoid new creative endeavors and romantic relationships as 2003, begins. Now is not the time to leave things to chance, but instead take control of them yourself.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) – Changes the new year brings will work on your behalf. Wise thinking and intuition could improve your financial situation. Now is the time to reach for the stars.

Sagittarius (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) – You've got a knack for being optimistic and your good-natured attitude should begin to influence others. Good news awaits in money matters.

Editor's Note: Horoscopes are meant for entertainment purposes only and are for the month of January, 2003.

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OUT IN MISSISSIPPI

Commission recommends penalizing judge

On Dec. 20, 2002, a state commission on judicial conduct recommended that the Mississippi Supreme Court penalize a local judge who publicly advocated that gays and lesbians should be institutionalized.

The recommendation is in response to an ethics complaint Lambda Legal filed with the commission early in 2002, saying that the judge's comments clearly violated the state's Code of Judicial Conduct and indicated that he would not decide cases involving gays and lesbians fairly and impartially.

The recommendation marks only the second time that a judicial commission in the South has recommended penalizing a judge for anti-gay bias and is the first such recommendation in Mississippi. Mississippi, and a growing number of states, explicitly include sexual orientation in their codes of conduct which prohibit judges from demeaning people based on gender, race, religion and other factors.

"This is a significant step forward for Mississippi and for the South," said Greg Nevins, the staff attorney in Lambda Legal's Southern Regional office handling the ethics complaint on behalf of Equality Mississippi, a statewide gay civil rights group. "Judges are duty-bound to give a fair hearing to everyone, and these kinds of extremely homophobic statements make gays and lesbians, who often face an uphill battle for equality, feel that the justice system is closed off to them."

In March 2002, Mississippi Justice Court Judge Connie Wilkerson wrote a "letter to the editor" published in the *George County Times*, saying: "In my opinion, gays and lesbians should be put in some type of mental institute instead of having a (domestic partnership) law like this passed for them." Judge Wilkerson was referring to an Associated Press article about the ability of gay and lesbian survivors to sue for the wrongful death of their partners. "I got sick on my stomach as I read the news story," he wrote. The judge invoked the Bible and (cited) Romans 1:32, which suggests that those who break God's law "are worthy of death."

A right-wing Christian organization, American Family Association's Center for Law and Policy, is defending Judge

Wilkerson in the proceedings dealing around the ethics complaint.

This recommendation from the Mississippi Commission on Judicial Performance asks the state Supreme Court to publicly reprimand Judge Wilkerson and fine him \$150 for violating the Code of Judicial Conduct. In early 2002, the Mississippi Supreme Court formally amended the state's Code of Judicial Conduct to specifically call on judges to avoid "expressions of bias or prejudice," including demeaning remarks based on "sexual orientation."

"We are thrilled that the Commission on Judicial Performance is making a public statement that the state will not stand for officials expressing bias or prejudice against any group of people," said Jody Renaldo, executive director of Equality Mississippi. "This is a very important step for the civil rights of gays and lesbians in Mississippi."

In recent years, a handful of states have reprimanded judges for anti-gay bias. The only other reprimand of a Southern judge for anti-gay bias was in Texas, where a judge was censured several years ago. Judges in Alabama, Illinois, Michigan and Delaware also have faced complaints of anti-gay bias in recent years.

For more information, go online to www.lambdalegal.org or www.equalityms.org.

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Indeed, the (P)Lott thickens for senator

(Editor's Note: This column was received Dec. 18, 2002)

Trent Lott is like the latest round of nut gnats – that's also known as crabs for all of you uncultured types – because he just seemingly won't go away.

So what does the Trent Lott saga have to do with homosexual people?

Well, besides the fact that he was a cheerleader at The University of Mississippi (also known as Ole Miss) and a few of his family members are avowed queens in this portion of real estate known as Mississippi, absolutely nothing, probably.

Of course, there is the parallel of discrimination towards black people and gay people.

Sure, we now know that Lott fought to keep black people out of his fraternity at Ole Miss. We also know that Lott voted "no" to establishing a national holiday to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. We know that Lott voted twice not to extend the federal voters rights act. There are the numerous speeches Lott made before the modern-day klan organization known as the Conservative Citizen's Council (formerly known as the White Citizens Council) – and the numerous columns he wrote that appeared in its newsletter. Let's not forget Lott supported the vote to keep the Confederate flag as part of the Mississippi state flag.

Then, there is this unreported portion of Lott's resume:

Said Mississippi U.S. Senator James Eastland in an address to the White Citizens Council in 1956:

"When in the course of human events it becomes necessary to abolish the Negro race, proper methods should be used. Among these are guns, bows and arrows, slingshots and knives ... All whites are created equal with certain rights, among these are life,

liberty and the pursuit of dead niggers (sic)."

Lott led the movement to name the Eastland Federal Courthouse in Jackson, Miss., after Eastland, a staunch segregation supporter who was a Mississippi U.S. Senator from 1943 to 1978.

How about this tidbit from Lott's own U.S. Senate web site:

"Senator Lott was recently pleased to attend a U.S. Capitol ceremony and deliver remarks for the unveiling of a portrait of the late U.S. Senator James O. Eastland of Mississippi."

Lott did get his start in politics as an aide to Eastland, arguably the biggest racist in Congress at that time.

Lott can verbally deny he is a racist until he's blue in the face, but the facts are recorded.

So where's the parallel to homosexuals?

In 1998, Lott made remarks while taping an interview for "The Armstrong Williams Show" on the American's Voice Television Network, saying homosexuals should be helped "just like alcohol ... or sex addiction ... or kleptomaniacs."

So where was all the uproar in 1998?

From the homosexual community, of course, but it was a ghost-town once you hit the Gay City limits. The Republicans didn't cry foul once.

Like racism, homophobia is just another propaganda tool to inflame the ignorant and promote intolerance in society.

All too often, those who promote this hate do so in the name of religion and morality. It really is just hypocrisy. Your son could be banging every cheerleader on the high school squad and that would be all right as long as they are all girls, but let another boy into the mix and it becomes the work of the devil.

The right wing has long been especially hypocritical when it comes to homosexuality.

When Ronald Reagan and the conservative wing of the Republican Party came to power in Washington in 1981, the leader of the National Conservative Political Action Committee was Terry Dolan, a master fundraiser and leading spokesman for the party.

Dolan was gay. Everyone knew it and chose to look the other way as the NCPAC issued press releases denouncing homosexuality and the party pursued an anti-gay agenda. Yet, when Dolan died of AIDS in 1986, some had the gall to actually claim they were shocked to learn he was gay.

Homosexuals have headed the political operations of the National Republican Congressional Committee, worked on Republican campaigns and served in high posts in Republican administrations, but, with few exceptions, they have stayed in the closet and helped their party promote anti-gay issues.

So, when you hear the screams of hysteria and prediction of doom and gloom on how homosexuals are destroying society, rest assured that some of those calls are coming from people who



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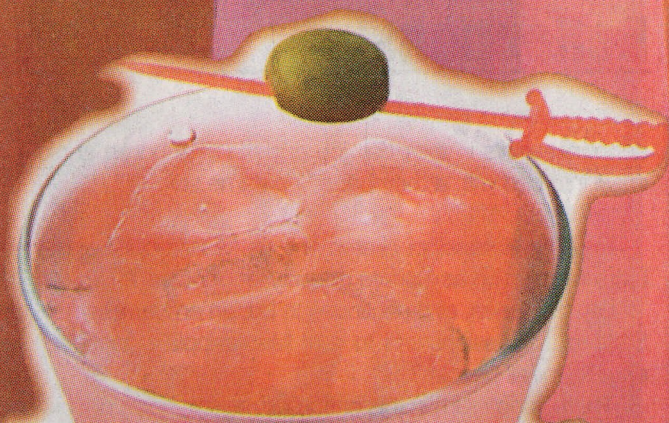
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ACLU of Mississippi releases GLBT booklets

The ACLU of Mississippi and staff attorney Sandi Farrell, in association with Equality Mississippi, have released a series of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender rights booklets.

Farrell is presently completing the second year of a two-year Equal Justice Works fellowship. The fellowship project focuses on GLBT rights in Mississippi, especially in the area of family law and relationship recognition.

"All individuals should have the right to determine the course of their lives and the structures of their personal relationships

with personal dignity, respect from others and legal equality," Farrell said. "I chose this fellowship project in order to advance that principle."

The three publications in the series are:

- "Life Planning: Protecting Your Rights as a Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual Mississippian," which covers such topics as wills, health care directives and cohabitation agreements, as well as providing a summary of anti-gay Mississippi laws.

- "Child Custody: A Guide for Lesbian and Gay Parents in Mississippi," which covers Mississippi law regarding child custody and visitation as it affects lesbian, gay or bisexual parents.

- "Real Estate Ownership Rights And Options For Unmarried Couples," which covers law relating to joint property ownership and occupation by unmarried, unrelated individuals, including tax consequences.

"Although, in general, the laws of the state of Mississippi are not favorable to GLBT people, there are several ways in which committed couples and single individuals alike can use the law to protect their rights and ensure that their wishes are respected," Farrell said. "Knowing that these options are available is the first step."

These publications are available online in PDF format at www.equalityms.org. They also are available by writing Equality Mississippi at P.O. Box 6021, Jackson, MS 39288-6021 or calling (601) 936-7673, as well as by writing ACLU of Mississippi at P.O. Box 2242, Jackson, MS 39225 or calling (601) 355-6464.

Circuit Playhouse to hold auditions for show

On Saturday, Jan. 18, from 2 to 5 p.m. and on Sunday, Jan. 19, at 7 p.m., The Circuit Playhouse, located at 1705 Poplar Avenue, will hold auditions for two men and one woman, ages 35 to 65, for roles in *Copenhagen*.

Cold readings from the script are required. Scripts are available for check-out at the Playhouse on the Square administrative offices located at 51 South Cooper.

Copenhagen will be directed by Jasson Minadakis, artistic director of the Cincinnati Shakespeare Festival. This play is set in 1941, in enemy-occupied Denmark, where German physicist Werner Heisenberg and his Danish counterpart, Niels Bohr, come together to look for answers. But being on the opposite sides of a world war, friendship crosses enemy lines and the real-life meeting of two great minds is fraught with danger and remains a mystery to this very day.

Copenhagen is set to run June 6 to July 13 at The Circuit Playhouse.

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Reflections

from page 48

denounce gays in their day job and then go home at night and crawl into bed with a member of the same sex.

...

Equality Mississippi Statement on Mississippi Senator Trent Lott's resignation as Senate majority leader Dec. 20, 2002.

Lott has been, and continues to be, an embarrassment to the State of Mississippi and to real Mississippians who believe in equality for all people.

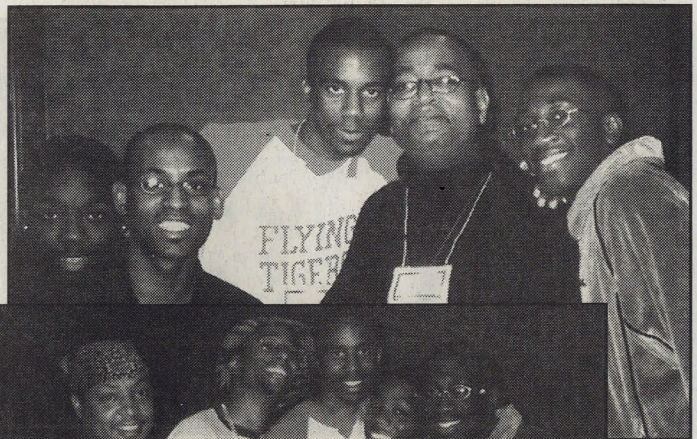
There is no room in this nation for racism, homophobia or bigotry, regardless of whatever political party and religion a person may identify with. Lott's human relations resume is indicative of the opposite.

Equality Mississippi applauds Lott for putting the State of Mississippi out of its embarrassment misery. We can only hope now that he fully resigns from the United States Senate.

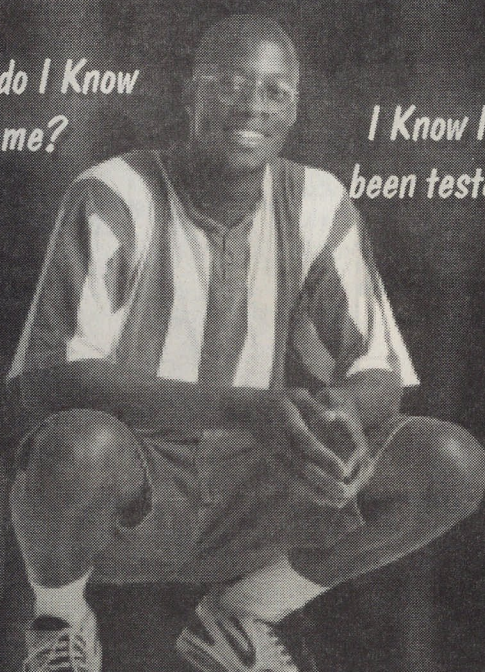
Equality Mississippi was founded in March of 2000, and exists to conduct public policy research and further public education on the social, political, economic and health issues affecting lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Mississippians, and to protect the equal rights of all Mississippians.

Jody Renaldo is executive director of Equality Mississippi. He can be reached by phone at (601) 936-7673 or at www.equalityms.org.


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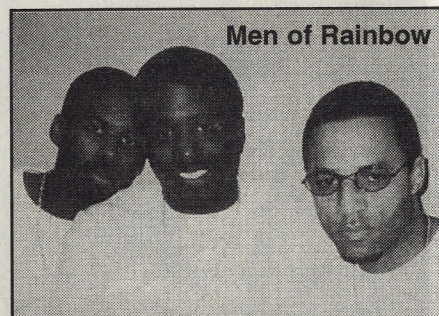


*from
Tony, Tony & Ron*

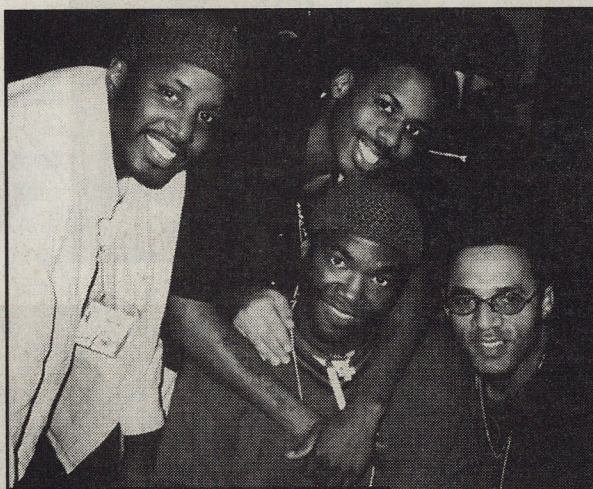
FAMILY ALBUM BROTHERS UNITED RETREAT



Brothers United models 2002



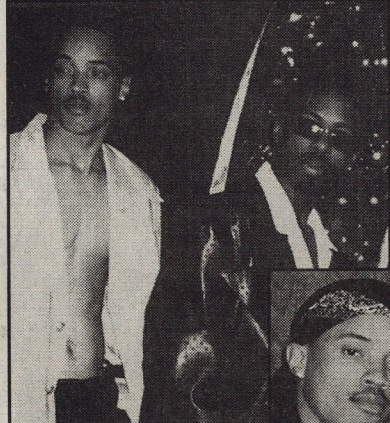
Men of Rainbow



Jared and Jerome



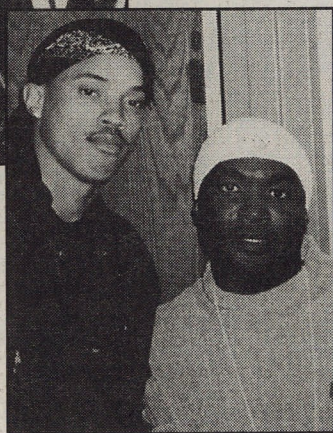
James and Lady Bug



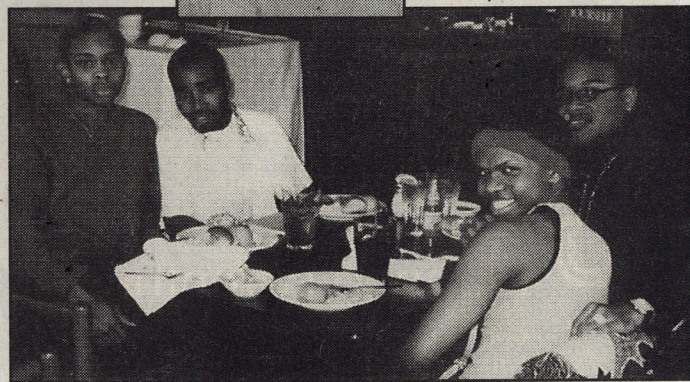
Ricky and James



James



Ricky and Anthony



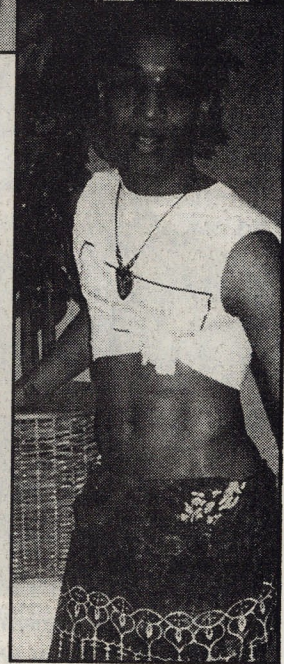
Young chil-ren hangin' out



Founder of Men of
Rainbow, Marlowe of
Virginia.



Anthony and Sam



Sexy Marlowe and
First Lady Hardaway



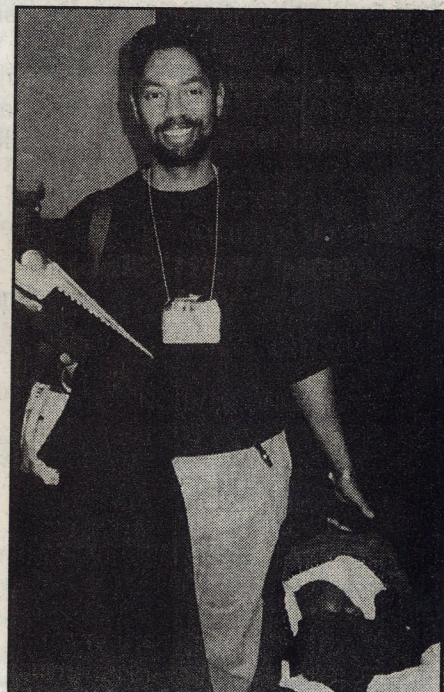
Mother and Son



Lady Bug and Sanford



First Lady Hardaway
and James



Meet Your Neighbor

Shari Walker



Name: Shari Walker
Place where you were born: Cleveland, Ohio
How long have you lived in Memphis: 23 years
Partnership status: committed six years to Stacey McKnight (that's her on the right)
Sexual orientation: in love with my own femininity
Occupation: industrial controller and photographer
Hobbies: wine making, photography and fishing
Favorite Food: seafood
Favorite Color: all colors
Favorite Animal: cat
Favorite Singer: Patti LaBelle
Favorite Song: "This Is My Promise To You" by The Temptations
Favorite Movie: *Minority Report*
Favorite Restaurant: I've got two, On The Border and J. Alexander's
Favorite Drink: S.S. Vineyard's red wine (S.S. is our own vineyard)
Favorite Thing About Memphis: the food
Least Favorite Thing About Memphis: the segregation and racism
Finish this phrase: My friends think I am "outspoken and sincere."

Men of Rainbow offer versatile entertainment

At the Brothers United of Tennessee Winter Retreat VI, held at Montgomery Bell State Park in Burns, Tenn., in December 2002, besides the workshops and fellowship, this gathering of black, same-gender-loving men was treated to some great entertainment by a musical group known as Men of Rainbow.

"We started out as Rainbow Models," said Marlowe Simms, founder and spokesman for the group. The Rainbow Models had a lineup of 15 models. From that group, four were chosen to create Men of Rainbow. Men of Rainbow, at present, includes three men: Simms, James McMichael and Roy James.

"The main mission (of the group) is to be positive role models for the young, gay community and give them something positive to do," Simms said.

"From (modeling), we stumbled into doing backup talent for drag queens for pageants," Simms continued. "Then, we moved into actual lip-sync performances. We've now expanded from lip sync performances to conducting workshops on youth issues and diversity and to producing our own fashion shows. We have our own clothing line, as well."

The clothing line is a high-fashion courtier men's line that features a little bit of everything, including shirts, pants and coats. The line will be available on the Men of Rainbow website at menofrainbow.com. And, the group will expand its repertoire to include live singing and a CD. The CD is expected to be released in March 2003.

"Lip-sync is the most popular," Simms said, explaining the group's most requested form of entertainment. "We do 'old-school,' such as the Temptations." And, yes, Simms said they have the moves down, as well.

Simms, 34, has been with the group since its inception in 1998, and has been modeling for about 15 years. Originally from Baltimore, Md., he now resides in Virginia Beach, Va. When not modeling, Simms works as a branch manager for a loan company.

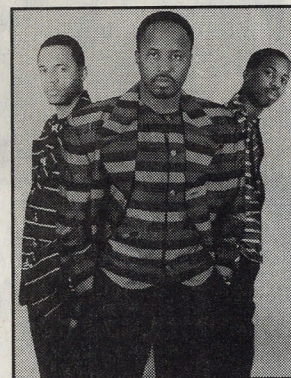
McMichael, 24, originally from Port Arthur, Texas, also resides in Virginia Beach, Va. McMichael, who works as a medical assistant, has been with Men of Rainbow for almost a year.

James, 35, originally from Montego Bay, Jamaica, now lives in Baltimore, Md. He is a chef by trade and also has been with the group its full five years.

The Men of Rainbow has performed in more than 400 shows and events since its inception in 1998, which includes 19 cities throughout the U.S. and The Bahamas. The Men of Rainbow have opened for such stars as Crystal Waters, CeCe Penniston, Ultra Nate, Jennifer Holiday and Pat Benatar, among others.

"We do about 25 pride festivals a year," Simms added.

For more information, call (757) 313-0565 or email Men of Rainbo@aol.com or go online to www.menofrainbow.com,



Men of Rainbow



WHAT'S THE 'TEE' LADYBUG?

BY ANTHONY HARDAWAY

December, the last month of each year ... what a month. World AIDS Day, the Brothers United Network of Tennessee Annual Retreat, pageants, Christmas, Ladybug and Butch's birthdates and many other events.

The same-gender-loving community came together to commemorate the ones of us that are living with, have died and are affected by HIV/AIDS on this past Dec. 1. You, as the reader, should be commended on being part of such an event.

The Brothers United Annual Retreat was mighty cute. Gay celebrities that were in attendance were Sanford Gaylord, Gregory Victorienne, Keith

Barbee, Stricklin L. Chase, R. Bryant Smith, Dr. Christopher Harris, Presiding President of Black Prides Worldwide Earl Fowlkes and Men of Rainbow.

Marlowe, James and Roy gave us a different flair at the 2002 retreat. They recruited from their newly-found Tennessee family members to help out in their high-energy, very colorful fashion show. The Temptations have nothing on Men of Rainbow of Norfolk, Va.

Other agencies, associations and social organizations in attendance were: New Directions Inc., Friends For Life, Ororo-Crossroads (all of Memphis) and Adodi.

I tell my chil-ren, associates, other same-gender-loving community/social families, the

club chil-ren and supporting straight relatives that if you are looking for a positive extended-family structure to be a part of, call Dwayne Jenkins, founder of Brothers United Network of Tennessee at (800) 845-4266, ext. 269. Now, take heed, call and make an attempt to hold a space for yourself concerning the 2003 retreat.

The legendary Tanisha Cassidine of Memphis traveled to Jackson, Miss., and won the title of Club City Lights's Ms. Studio 601. Tevin St. James was crowned Mr. Studio 601. Give them both a big hug and congratulate our stars the next time you see them.

Speaking of the capital city of Mississippi, Jackson State University Mississippi Urban

Research Center hosted a free week-long technology transfer training to help educate black gay brothers in working within their present cities and communities. If an individual is interested in any future training or opportunities, call Anthony E. Fox at (866) 578-6872.

As we celebrate the new year, the Divine has allowed each of us to see, give a warm smile and hello to someone in the community who you have never spoken to but have always wished for the opportunity to do so. Trust me, when its from the heart, you will be amazed at what blessings are returned back to you.

And, as always, happy New Year/Pride chil-ren, happy New Year/Pride.

WKNO-TV to air story of gay activist Bayard Rustin

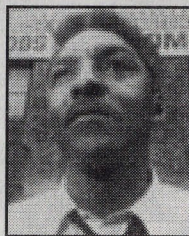
WKNO-TV Channel 10 will air, "Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin" on Monday, Jan. 20, at 9 p.m.

A master strategist and tireless activist, Bayard Rustin achieved national prominence as the organizer of the 1963 March on Washington, one of the largest and most jubilant peaceful protests ever held in the U.S. He also is credited with bringing Gandhi's protest techniques to the American Civil Rights Movement, and with helping to mold Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. into an international symbol of peace and nonviolence.

However, despite these achievements, Rustin was silenced, threatened, beaten, imprisoned and frozen out of important leadership positions — sometimes due to his uncompromising political beliefs, but most often because he was an openly gay man in a fiercely homophobic era.

Rustin was born in 1912, to a Pennsylvania Quaker family, a religion with strongly-held beliefs in peace, social justice and nonviolence. As a young man, he moved to Harlem during the tumultuous 1930s and, after dabbling in the Communist Party, found a home at A.J. Muste's pacifist Fellowship of Reconciliation. He served time in jail for resisting the draft during World War II and later for integrating interstate buses. He also worked with A. Philip Randolph and the labor movement during this time.

However, after his arrest in 1953, for a casual homosexual encounter, he was expelled from the Fellowship of Reconciliation. But that did not squelch his activism for the rights of the Black race. He went to Montgomery, Ala. in 1956, following the Montgomery bus boycott, and became a mentor in non-violence to the then 26-



Rustin

year-old Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Although Rustin continued to advise Dr. King throughout his life, Dr. King publicly broke with Rustin in 1960, when Representative Adam Clayton Powell threatened Dr. King over the issue of Rustin's homosexuality.

However, in 1963, when the March on Washington was being organized, the civil rights leadership of the day knew only Rustin could pull off such an event. And he did. "Brother Outsider," presents a comprehensive portrait of Rustin, focusing on his work for peace, racial equality, economic justice and international human rights.

"Brother Outsider illuminates as never before Rustin's fascinating public career and his equally intriguing private life," said Clayborne Carson of Stanford University. "It is a film worthy of his valuable legacy."

Memphis Black Same Gender Loving Alliance
In Memphis
(901)
274-0163



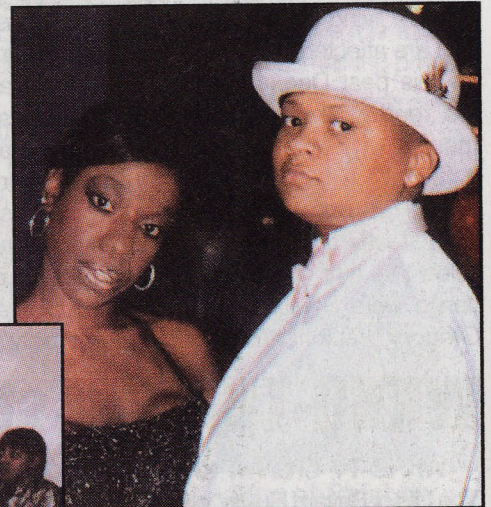
Creating a village/haven for & about us.



J.B. and Sean



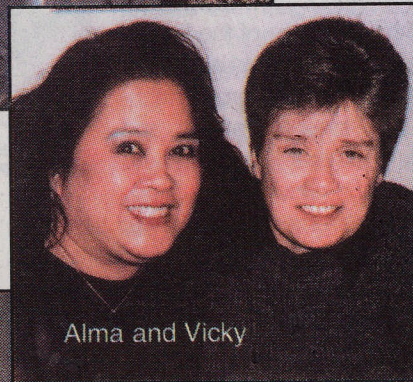
LaToya, Sharica, "Tough Stack" and Tamika, not in order



Kennady and Shandrea



The Board of Directors of H.O.P.E



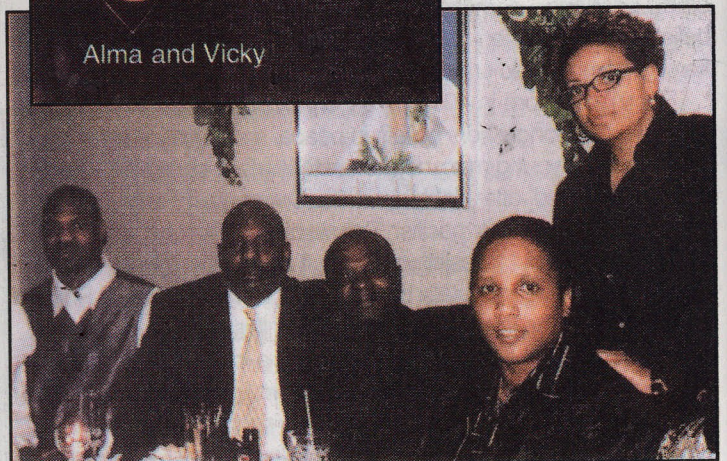
Alma and Vicky



Yvonne and lola



Candy and Pebbles



Some members of the H.O.P.E. Board of Directors

We've
to "X-SCAPE"
"N-COGNITO"

Now we got
"ALLUSION"!!!

- 2003 -

CLUB

N-Cognito

338 S. Front @ Vance
901-523-0599

MEMPHIS BAR, RESTAURANT & THEATER GUIDE

Bars & Clubs

- 1 Backstreet Memphis**
2018 Court Street
(901) 276-5522
- 2 Crossroads**
1278 Jefferson
(901) 276-8078
- 3 Crossroads 2**
111 North Claybrook
(901) 276-1882
- 4 J-Wags**
1268 Madison Avenue
(901) 725-1909
- 5 The Jungle**
1474 Madison Avenue
(901) 278-4313
- 6 Lorenz/Aftershock**
1528 Madison Avenue
(901) 274-8272
- 7 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
- 10 One More**
2117 Peabody
(901) 278-MORE
- 11 The Pumping Station**
1382 Poplar Avenue
(901) 272-7600

Theaters

- 1 Circuit Playhouse**
1705 Poplar Avenue
(901) 726-4656
 - 2 Emerald Theatre Company**
2085 Monroe Avenue
(901) 722-9302
 - 3 Malco's Studio on the Square**
2105 Court Avenue
Movie Hotline: (901) 681-2020
 - 4 Playhouse on the Square**
51 South Cooper
(901) 726-4656
- The Orpheum**
203 South Main Street
(901) 525-3000
- Theatre Memphis**
630 Perkins Extended
(901) 682-8323

Restaurants

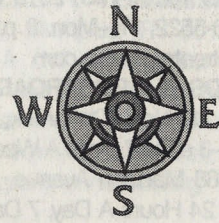
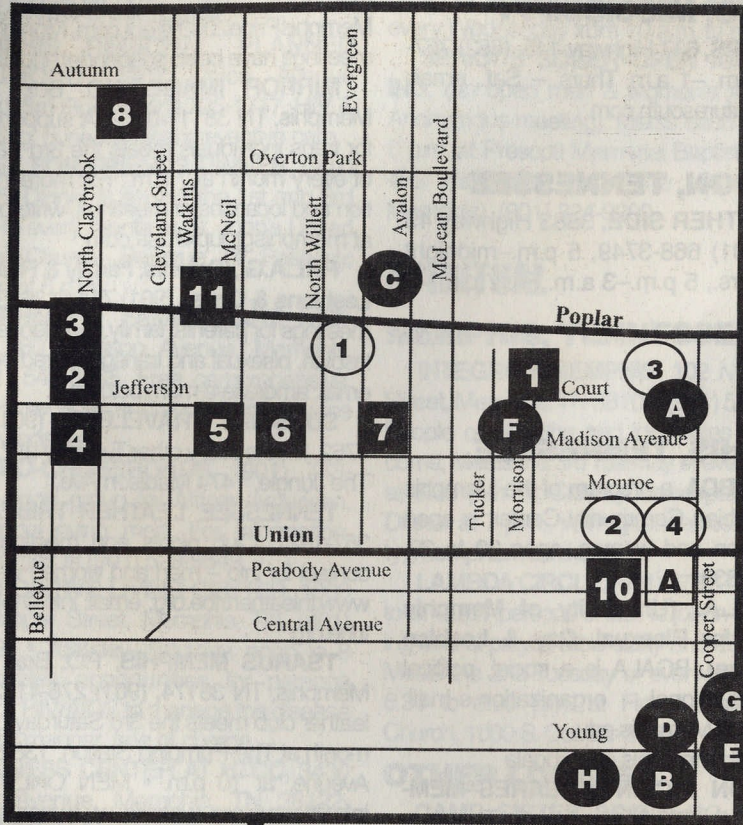
- Twain's** (inside Sam's Town Tunica) - fine dining
(800) 456-0711
(reservations suggested)
- A Bogie's Delicatessen - Midtown** - deli
2098 LaSalle Place (behind Paulette's)
(901) 272-0022
- B Cafe Ole** - mexican
2127 Young Avenue
(901) 274-1504
- C Cafe Society** - gourmet
212 North Evergreen
(901) 722-2177
(reservations suggested)
- D Lilly's dimsum thensome** - pan asian
903 South Cooper
(901) 276-9300
- E Melange** - gourmet
948 South Cooper
(901) 276-0002
(reservations suggested for dinner)
- F Molly's La Casita** - mexican
2006 Madison Avenue
(901) 726-1873
- G Buns on the Run** - home-cooked
2150 Elzey Avenue
(901) 278-BUNS
(breakfast & lunch only)
- RP Tracks** - pub grub
3547 Walker Street
(901) 327-1471
- H Young Avenue Deli** - deli
2119 Young Avenue
(901) 278-0034

GLBT Retailers

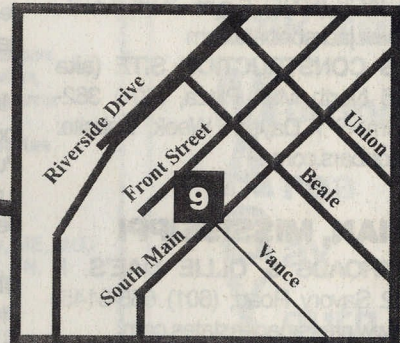
- A INZ & OUTZ Cards & Gifts**
553 South Cooper
(901) 728-6535

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.*



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, open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

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.

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

CLUB CITY LIGHTS, 220 West Amite Street, (601) 353-0059

JACK & JILL'S, 3911 Northview Drive, (601) 982-JACK (5225), 9 p.m.-? Fri. & Sat., [website: www.jacksonbars.com](http://www.jacksonbars.com)

JACK'S CONSTRUCTION SITE (aka JC'S), 425 North Mart Plaza, (601) 362-3108, 5 p.m.-? 7 Days A Week, [website: www.jacksonbars.com](http://www.jacksonbars.com)

MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI

CROSSROADS & OLLIE MAE'S, I-59, exit 142 Savory Road, (601) 655-8145, [website: www.crossroadsestates.com](http://www.crossroadsestates.com)

TUPELO, MISSISSIPPI

RUMORS, 637 Highway 145, (662) 767-9500, 8 p.m.-1 a.m. Thurs. - Sat., email: rumors@futuresouth.com

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

2xLAMBDA, a program of the Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center, is open to both men and women, ages 20 to 29, (901) 223-3331

B.G.A.L.A., (University of Memphis Students for Bisexual, Gay & Lesbian Association), BGALA is a social, political and educational organization, e-mail: BGALA@cc.Memphis.edu, www.people.memphis.edu/~bgala

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

LIFE IN THE MEDIAN, a program of the Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center, is open to men and women in their late 20s and beyond. (901) 857-8523

MEMPHIS AREA GAY YOUTH (MAGY), P.O. Box 241852, Memphis, TN 38124, (901) 335-6249, Peer support group for 13- to 21-year olds dealing with gay, lesbian, bisexual & 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, web: www.memphisbears.com

MEMPHIS GAY & LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTER, P.O. Box 41074, Memphis, TN 38174, (901) 324-GAYS (4297), townhall meetings the first Sunday of every month, www.mglcc.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, Levi-leather club meets the 3rd Saturday of every month at The Pumping Station, 1382 Poplar Ave, 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

USM GAY/STRAIGHT ALLIANCE, email: GSAlliance@usm.edu or thespy_ms@yahoo.com, website: www.usm.edu/gsa

ARKANSAS

SAFE HARBOR NEA, A confidential support and social group for GLBT individuals, ages 25 and under, in northeast Arkansas., (870) 932-6545, P.O. Box 226, Jonesboro, AR 72403, website: www.safe-harbor-nea.netfirms.com

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

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

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

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

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

YWCA ENCORE, MedPlex, 880 Madison Avenue, (901) 754-4356, Support

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

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

SPIRITUAL

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, Ovet, MS 39464, Feminist education/cultural/retreat center, www.campsisterspirit.com, email: sisterspir@aol.com

MCC OF THE 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@equalitytennesse.org, website: www.equalitytennessee.org

MISSISSIPPI

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

MEDICAL

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

Doctors

DR. DANIEL P. MARSHALL, M.D., general practitioner, 515 North Highland, (901) 323-1200

Optometrists

DRS. MICHAEL D. WEINBERG & JASON DUNCAN at **THE ECLECTIC EYE**, 242 South Cooper Street, (901) 276-EYES (3937)

CRISIS CENTER

24-hour telephone hotline

(901)

274-7477

GAYELLOW PAGES

INFORMING THE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY SINCE 1973

All editions include a separate **WOMEN'S** section and a separate **ETHNIC/MULTICULTURAL** section

Complete gay-friendly resources & businesses: accommodations, bars, bookstores, dentists, doctors, lawyers, therapists, travel services, organizations, media, religious groups, help lines & HIV/AIDS resources. Index & fast access phone list.

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EAST and SOUTH Edition: \$12 by first class mail
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Find us at **gay-friendly stores like Inz & Outz, Memphis 901-728-6535**
Outloud Books & Gifts, Nashville 615-340-0034
Outwrite, Atlanta 404-607-0082
and see <http://gayyellowpages.com/2buy.htm>

For free listing application, prices, mailing labels, etc., please send self-addressed stamped envelope to Renaissance House, PO Box 533-FF, Village Stn, NY, NY 10014
Voice: 212-674-0120 Fax: 212-420-1126
Email: gayyellowpages@earthlink.com
<http://gayyellowpages.com>

Need someone to talk to?

Memphis Area Gay Youth

A peer support & discussion group

(901) 335-MAGY

CRAVING...

LOCAL MEN

LIVE CHAT

VOICE MAIL

MEMPHIS
901-261-0006

Nashville
615-775-1010

Fayetteville
931-297-0010

Carthage
615-489-1010

Hohenwald
931-295-0010

Pulaski
931-298-0010

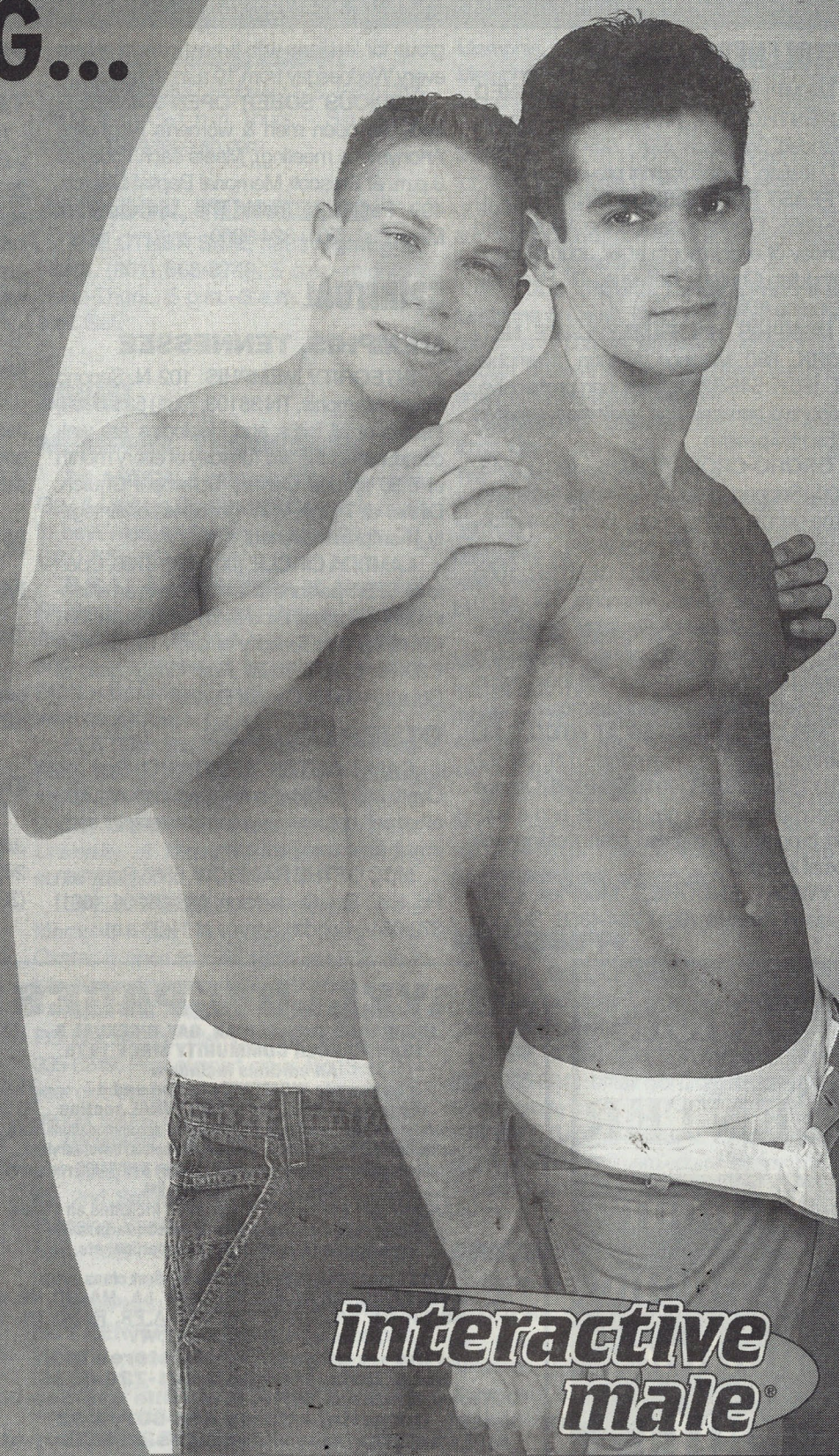
Waverly
931-299-0010

Other Local TN #'s
1-888-272-7277

FREE TRIAL

Use Code: 8373

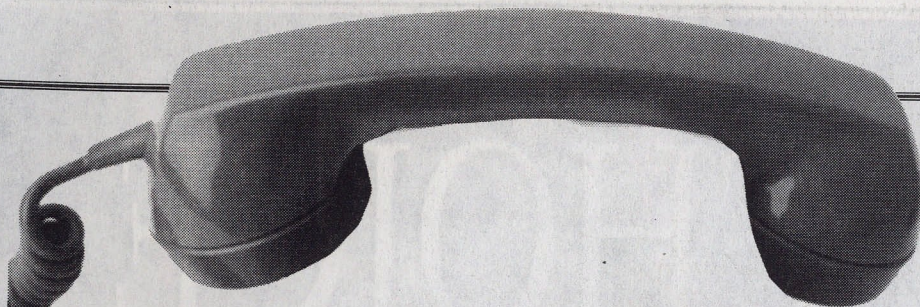
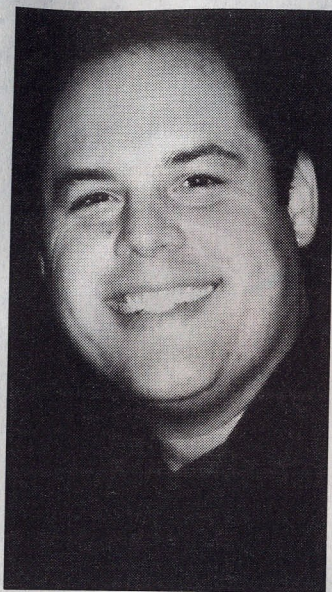
1-900-446-1212 (\$1.99/min.)



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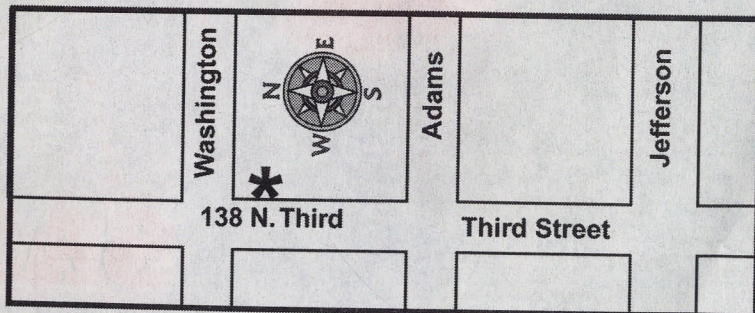
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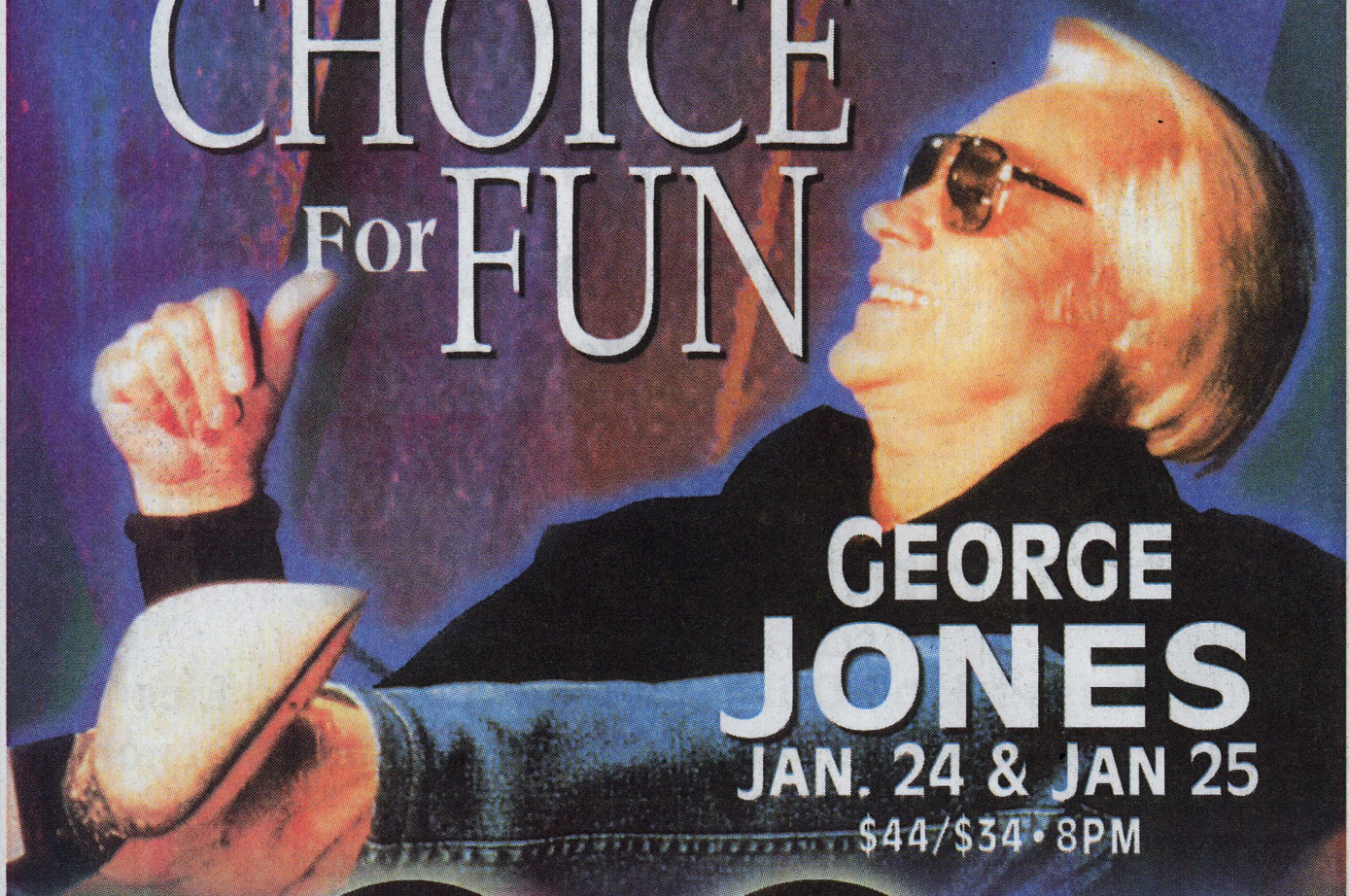
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