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FEBRUARY
2003

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**Meet Memphis's
SOUTHERN GENTLEMEN**



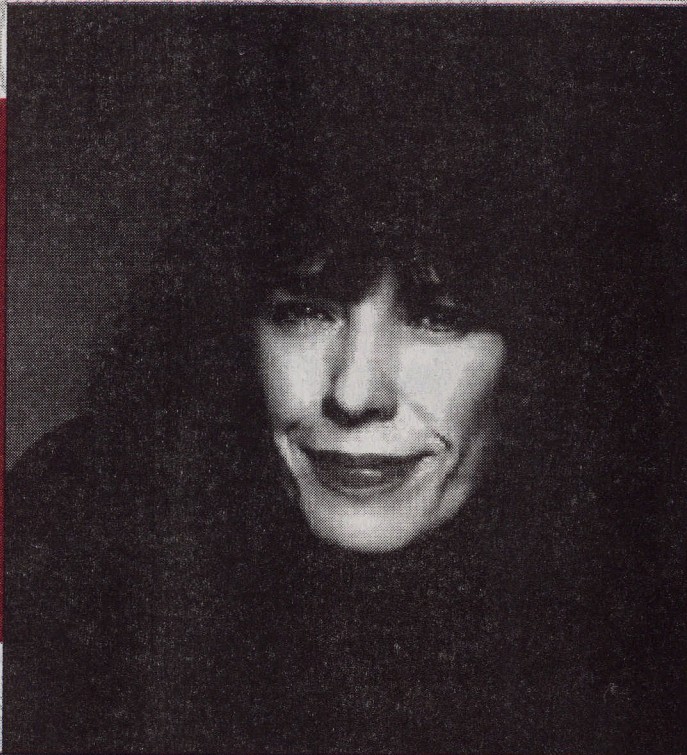
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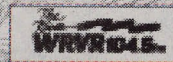
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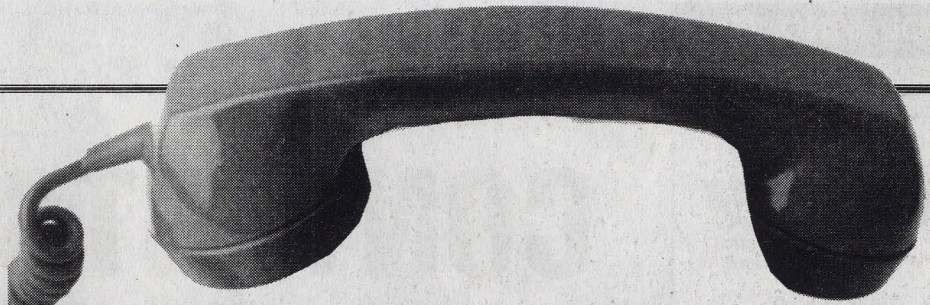
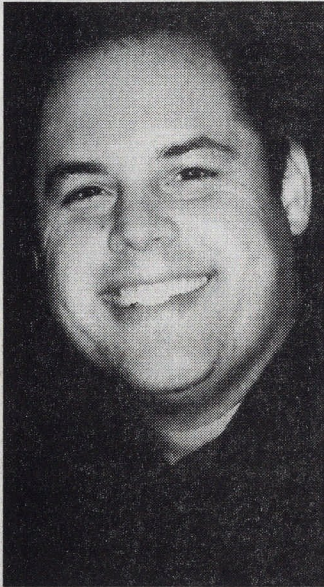
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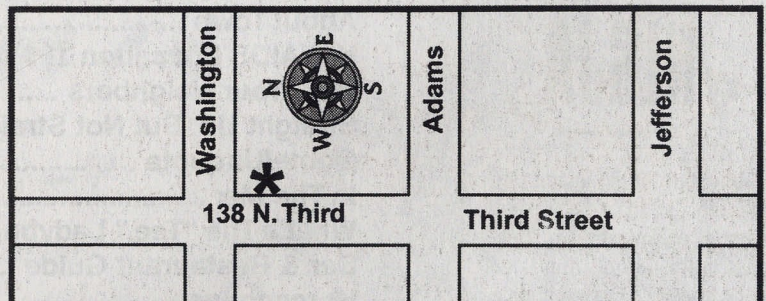
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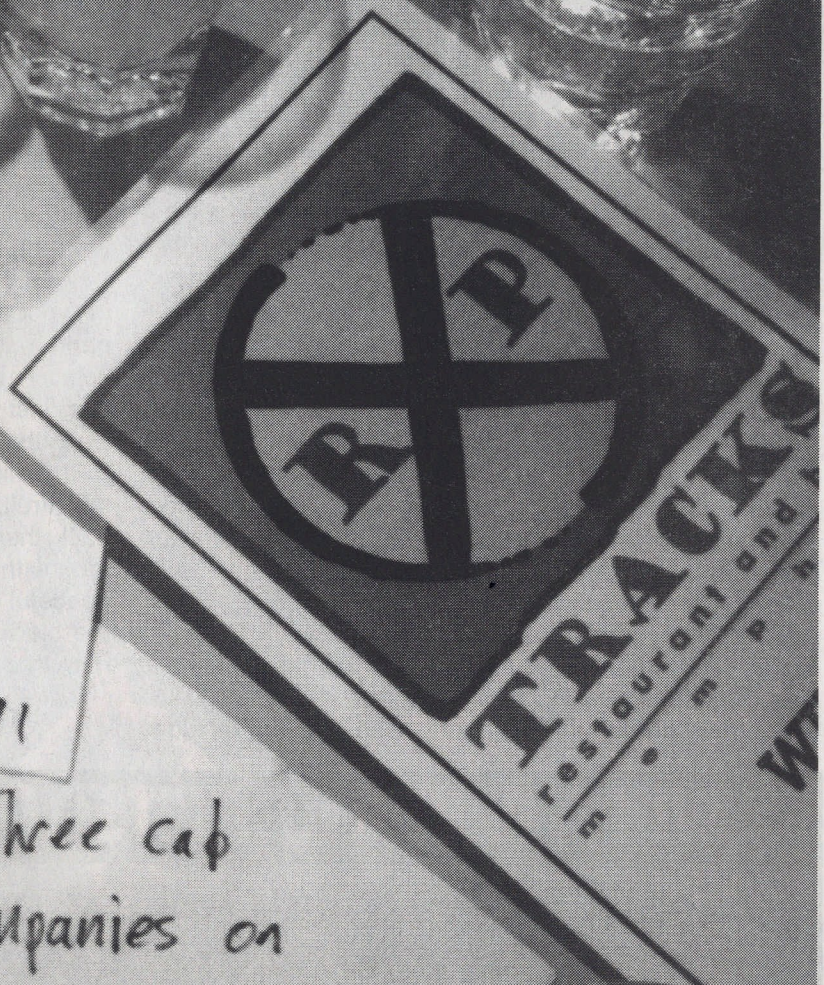
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With Bush, things aren't always as they seem

You know, things aren't always as they seem. And things often aren't as bad as they look.

In January, The Bush Administration nominated Jerry Thacker to the Presidential Advisory Commission on HIV/AIDS. Unfortunately, the HIV-positive Thacker seems to be extremely anti-gay, as evidenced by his own words published on his own website at www.scepter.org. One example: he refers to homosexuality as a "deathstyle." Thacker makes it clear he contracted the virus from his wife, who received it during a blood transfusion. He is not gay.

Not being gay is one thing, but such negative propaganda toward a group of people is another. Especially from a person holding a national public office representing all the people.

Uh oh, we thought as we hit the print button for the press release, another right-wing fundamentalist moves into a power position. "What do we do now?," fear whispered in our ear. "Do we need to go back in the closet? Is it safer there?"

Fear is an ugly thing. It is the long shadow of someone or something coming around the corner. Fear lies to us and paralyzes us. Fear is what puts those questions in our minds. But, in the end, we know that truth sets us free.

Within a couple of days, things weren't as they seemed. Thacker's appointment met a brick wall in the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community, among others. With a flood of correspondence landing on the desks of the powers that be, including stern opinions from The Human Rights Campaign, as well as the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association, expressing their opinion that Thacker would only cause division on a panel whose makeup includes

those of the GLBT community, not to mention the purpose of which is making important decisions for many GLBT persons who are HIV positive.

Thacker stepped down.

Looks like Thacker is just a man and wasn't as big as his shadow was.

It seems since Bush took office there have been many scares such as this with GLBT appointments, or the lack thereof. Whereas Clinton appointed close to 100 GLBT individuals to his administration, Bush has left it at the "token" level which you can count on two hands.

But, perhaps, the people's voice is much louder than Bush's choices for his administration. Perhaps the administration is not as powerful as it seems and appears to, at least sometimes, bow to the wishes of the people. Remember, we are still a democracy.

With Bush biting at the bit to have a war with Saddam, or whoever, Americans have returned to the streets and parks with their placards demanding a more peaceful solution. All across America, as well as the world, peace demonstrations were held in January to make it known to Bush that not everyone agrees with his warmongering.

It is nice to know that the '60s has come around and born fruit. All those anti-Vietnam War rallies and marches back then, all by the seat of our collective pants, have taught the new generation how it's done. Likewise, the peaceful demonstrations of the black movement, whereby the black man and woman made it known to the white man that prejudice and discrimination would no longer be

See And Our Point, page 10

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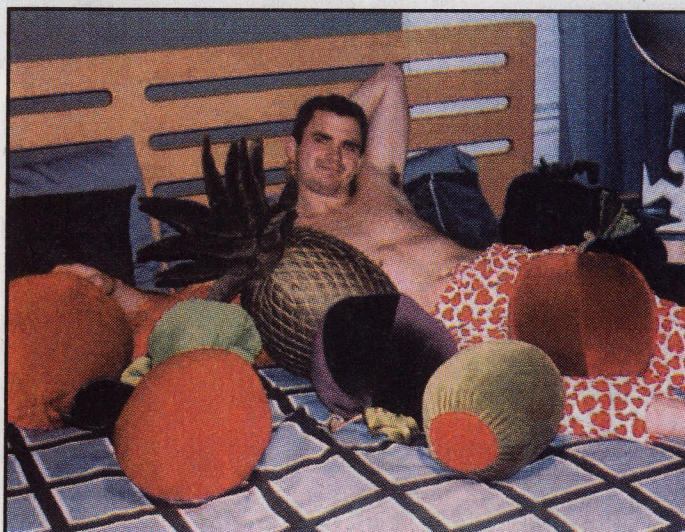
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In honor of Black History Month

4 gay African-Americans are among those making history

By ANITA MOYT, managing editor

Black history month, February, looks at all those of African descent who have left their marks on history, whether it be to the benefit of the black man and woman or all of mankind. Many, many men and women of African descent, who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender, are included in those numbers.

Family & Friends selected four of the abundance of individuals who easily qualify to be in this honored group. Here we would like to introduce you to Keith Boykin, Dr. Rev. Shirlene Holmes, Bishop Kwabena Rainey Cheeks and Chief Justice Deborah Batts.

Keith Boykin

Keith Boykin is an author, a lecturer, a commentator, an educator, a lawyer and was a former special assistant to President Clinton.

"I graduated from Harvard in 1992," Boykin told *Family & Friends* in a telephone interview, "and moved to California to work for a law firm. Shortly before taking the law review, the Clinton campaign called me and offered me a job. I quickly agreed, moving to Little Rock, Ark. I had no idea he would win.

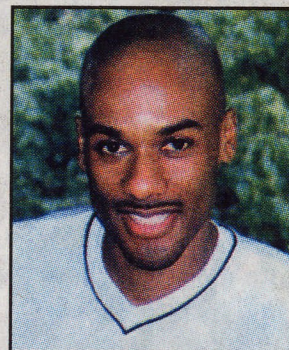
"I then applied for a position at the White House," Boykin continued. "I held several jobs there, including director of news analysis and director of specialty media.

"Leaders of various organizations, including the Human Rights Campaign and the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, met with President Clinton before the 1993 March on Washington," Boykin, who is credited with organizing that historical meeting between a gay and lesbian delegation and a president of the United States, said.

From September 1995, to February 1998, Boykin served as the executive director of the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum.

He spoke at a rally before the 1995 Million Man March and his "A Poem for the Millennium March," was featured from the stage of the Millennium March on Washington in 2000.

His first book, *One More River to Cross: Black and Gay in America*, is still in use as a textbook in colleges and universities across the U.S. His second book, *Respecting the Soul: Daily Reflections for Black Lesbians and Gays*, won the 1999 Lambda Literary Award for Spirituality.



Keith Boykin

See Black Gay History, page 58



We're **out** to show you a good time!

The top four teams in women's college basketball are making a fast break to Atlanta for a week of championship fun, April 4-8. Get into the game by visiting the city that embraces inclusion — in political leadership, business policies and gay-friendly neighborhoods where couples walk hand-in-hand. **A city that celebrates diversity.**

A city full of possibilities and endless choices. Check out the sports action from open practices to autograph sessions as excitement builds for the big games.

Chill out at the Victory Fund's "Winning Women" party with MC Kate Clinton and women leaders from all walks of life on April 7. Hoops week in Hotlanta — a slam-dunk of a good time!

Atlanta welcomes you!

Visit www.gay-atlanta.com and book your trip now!

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

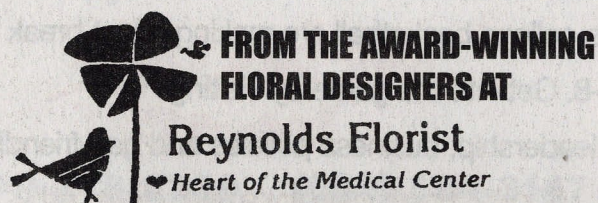
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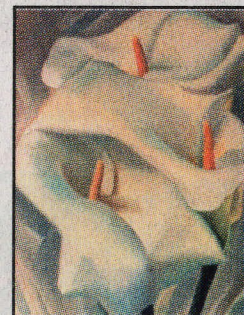
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Brooks to host lily exhibit

"Georgia O'Keeffe and the Calla Lily in American Art, 1860-1940," the first exhibition to examine this exotic bloom as a popular and essentially modern subject, will be on display Feb. 23 through May 4 at the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, 1934 Poplar Avenue in Overton Park.

The exhibit includes 50 depictions of this elegant bloom by more than 30 different artists, such as Imogen Cunningham, Charles Demuth, Marsden Hartley, Georgia O'Keeffe, Joseph Stella and Edward Weston. O'Keeffe, with eight paintings included in the exhibit, became known as "The Lady of the Lily" in the 1920s because of her intense interest in the calla, which she depicted frequently and in marvelously proactive ways.



Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, and 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. On the first Wednesday of each month the museum is open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Admission is \$6 for adults; \$5 for seniors (65+), and \$2 for students with valid ID. For more information, go online to www.brooksmuseum.org or call (901) 544-6200.

And Our Point

from page 6

tolerated, has taught us equally. Was it easy for any of them? No, it was hard as hell to stand up against "the way things are." But, in the end, truth prevailed.

At what point was Rosa Parks a free woman? We say when she told the white man she was not giving up her seat to him on that bus. Yes, she broke the law – blacks could sit near the front of the bus only until a white person showed up and then had to relinquish the seat to them and move to the back of the bus.

As part of the GLBT community, we would all do well to learn that we don't have to wait for the law to change, for the "white man" to say it is okay, before we take our seat anywhere on the bus. As GLBT individuals, we have to know in our heart what we are doing is right. If we are fired from our job because, if for no other reason, that we are homosexual, then the law prevails at this point. Although losing a job is not at all something we would wish on anyone, it is important that we do not give into the temptation of being a victim of discrimination, but instead, walk with our head held high and do all we can to find a job that is not run by ignorant individuals with hate on their mind. It is important that we get up from the back of the bus and sit where we want. It won't always be easy, it never is.

Our point is this, Let's not wallow in self-pity but take up our rightful place in this democracy we call America.

Who said chivalry is dead?

Meet Memphis's SOUTHERN GENTLEMEN

By LAINE MCNEIL, senior staff writer

Who ever said chivalry is dead in the 21st century has never met Memphis's Southern Gentlemen.

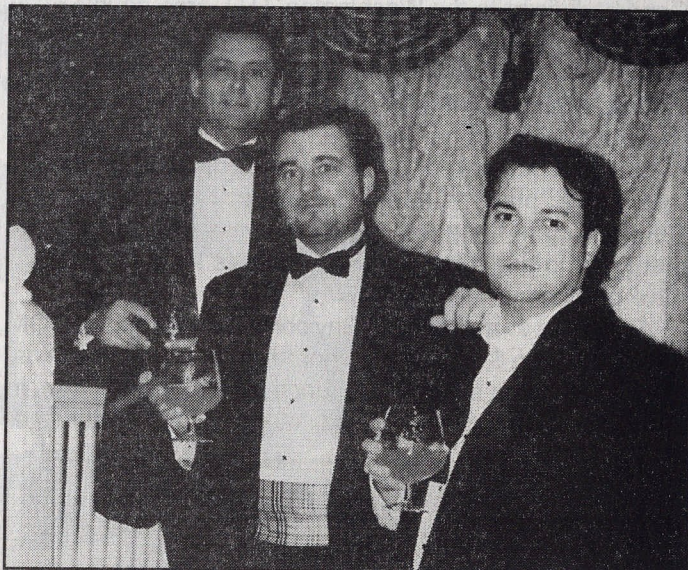
Like knights in shining armor, or rather elegant tuxedos, this group of gay Memphians, rode into Memphis's GLBT community on their noble steeds, okay, more accurately, they sat behind the steering wheels of their Beemers and Benzes, etc., and have gallantly been slaying the funding dragon with their philanthropic swords.

And, for those who think we jest in calling these guys "knights in shining armor," just ask Shelia Tankersley, founder and executive director of Loving Arms, a major recipient of the Gentlemen's deeds for the past 14 years.

Thanks to the Southern Gentlemen's annual fundraising Christmas Party, more than \$15,000 was raised in 2002, alone, to help Loving Arms provide toys to Memphis-area children infected and affected with HIV/AIDS. Other organizations that have benefitted from the Gentlemen's generosity since the organization's inception in 1988, include Gensis House, the gay softball league, Friends For Life and the American Heart Association.

Of course we would be remiss if we didn't note that the monies raised by the Gentlemen come mostly from the guests of the events, however, the events wouldn't be possible if it weren't for the Southern Gentlemen.

In fact, the group's annual, invitation only, Christmas Party, which was first hosted at The Flower Shop and attended by 75



Looking dashingly handsome are Southern Gentlemen, from left, Billy Buchanan, Stephen Swords and Dr. Shawn Hayden.

people in 1994, has continued to grow to the point every year that about the only venue in Memphis large enough to accommodate the party next year may very well be the Pyramid. This year's party boasted more than 700 attendees.

Billy Buchanan founded the Southern Gentlemen, along with his friends and charter members Ben Como, Chris Miller, Rick Beasley, Rob Tarbell and Kerry Palmertree, as a "group of friends who would get together, have a party for their friends to celebrate the holiday season and give something back to the community." This mission still applies today and the group's by-invitation-only membership presently numbers 15.

A Southern Gentlemen's party, for those who've never attended one, is a party with a capital "P." Through the years, the venues have been varied, the entertainment top-notch and the guest list celebrity-studded, which has included the likes of Cybil Sheppard, Justin Timberlake and Britney Spears.

"The hosts personally pay all the expenses associated with a party, so the charity receives all the money raised, without incurring any costs — they receive the gross profits raised," noted Southern Gentleman Stephen Swords.

The group plans to seek its 501(c)3 status as a non-profit organization in the future.

"Gallantry, charm, hospitality and the gentility of the Antebellum days, coupled with a good sense of humor," is how Buchanan describes a 21st century Southern Gentleman.



Some members of the Southern Gentlemen hosted a Friends For Life A Place At The Table dinner party this past fall, complete with a cabaret-style performance during dinner. Pictured here with some Gentlemen hosts of the party are some of the evening's entertainers.

Born one minute after midnight, January 1, 2003, a five-pound, two-ounce BABY GIRL came into the world to greet her parents, HELEN RIBIN, 33, and JOANNA BARE, 35. Congratulations to the Washington, D.C.-area couple.

Family & Friends sends out its deepest sympathies to the family of ANTHONY HARDAWAY in the passing of his mother, ABERDEAN "MS. ABBY" CRAWFORD, on Jan. 3. Our prayers are with her family.

On the tube, look for NATHAN LANE in another sitcom, where he plays Charlie Lawrence, an openly-gay Congressman. Lane will hold the reigns on this engagement, set to begin in March on CBS, as lead actor, executive producer and writer.

According to a report on Gay.com/PlanetOut.com, TOM CRUISE won a \$10 million judgement in his lawsuit against Chad Slater who stated in a French magazine interview, in 2001, that he and Cruise had had an affair. Slater later

recounted his story and admitted his story was made up.

The annual KING AND QUEEN OF HEARTS fundraiser for FRIENDS FOR LIFE will be held at the Madison Flame, 1588 Madison Avenue, on Sunday, Feb. 9, at 7 p.m. This is the 12th time around for the event's founder Jimmy Gray. Although the girls of APHRODITE did a great job last year putting on the show, Gray has returned to the helm of this fundraiser solo with a new band of volunteers. Vote for your king or your queen and help a great cause at the same time.

FRIENDS FOR LIFE CORPORATION has come up with a different idea for getting tested for HIV/AIDS. How about a party? You invite the folks and throw the party; FFL will send out trained staff to give free OraSure tests, which uses a saliva sample, as well as providing info on HIV/AIDS. For more information, call (901) 272-0855.

We understand the first black gay club has been opened in CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. It is called MI-NITE and is located at 27 West 19th Street. It is open Thursday through Sunday, 9 p.m. to 3 a.m.

For you "AMERICAN IDOL" fans, KELLY CLARKSON is appearing in the gay-themed film *Issues 101*. The film is premiering on the OutoftheCloset.tv Internet Film Festival during the month of February.

NASHVILLE'S METRO COUNCIL had set Jan. 21 as the date for voting on a proposal to add homosexuals and people with disabilities to the city's fair employment and housing laws. However, amidst the heated discussions from the gallery, including the damnation comments of so-called Rev. FRED PHELPS, the council instead voted 20 to 17 in favor of DEFERRING THE BILL for two meetings. Go online to www.equalitytennessee.org to find out more.

According to an MGLCC press release, "THE MGLCC NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY was a great success, with over 50 in attendance. Guests were entertained by emcees Anna Mae & Emma Rae, as well as the comedic lyrics of our very own Vincent Astor. Kevin Dugan provided music throughout the evening..."

THE ST. PATRICKS INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT (SPIT) is fast approaching its annual bowling event set for the weekend of St. Patrick's Day. To help this group cover the costs of the tournament, everyone is invited to "come out for an evening of outrageous fun with Memphis' grandest dames" at the Madison Flame, 1588 Madison Avenue on Friday, Feb. 21, at 10:30 p.m. for the "LADIES OF SPIT" SHOW.

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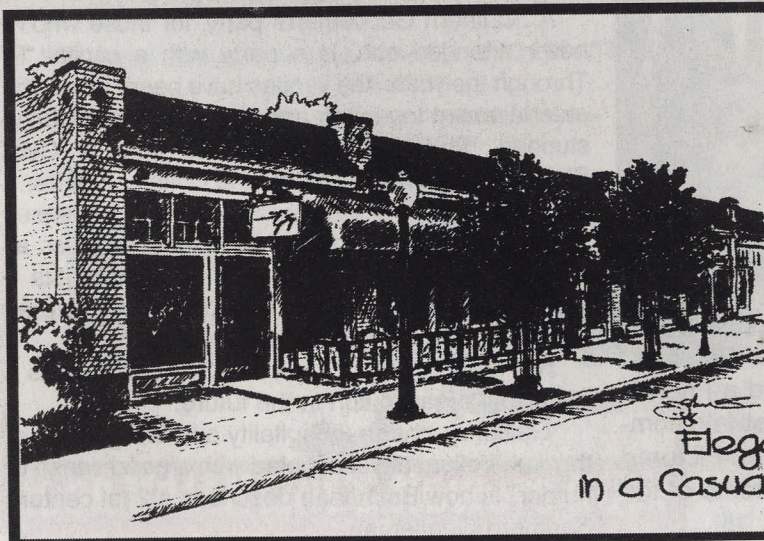
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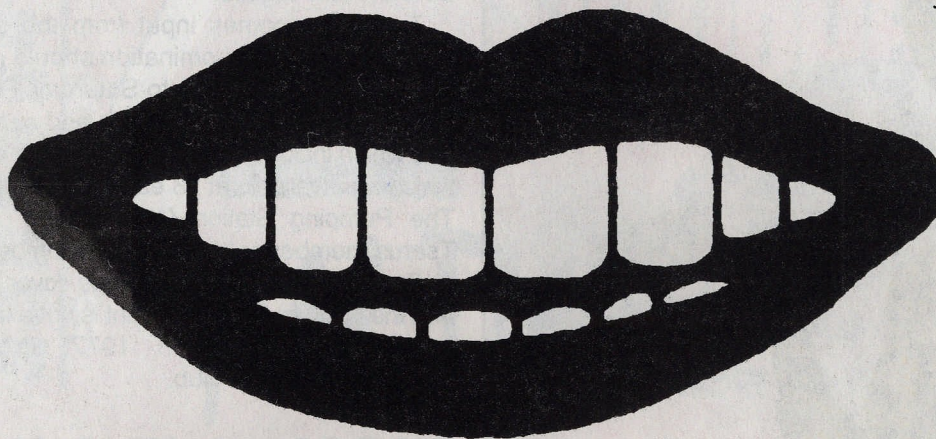
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Tsarus's Man of Year set

Tsarus will present its 19th annual Man of the Year Award for Outstanding Service to the Gay and Lesbian Community on Tuesday, Feb. 18, at Crossroads, located at 111 North Claybrook at Jefferson, during a banquet beginning at 7 p.m.

Past awards have been presented to not just men, but organizations and women. A donation of \$500 will be made to the charity of the winner's choice. Tsarus members are not eligible.

Tsarus welcomes input from the community. Anyone wishing to make a nomination should call (901) 358-3051 or (901) 358-5356 prior to Saturday, Feb. 15.

Members of Tsarus prepare and serve the banquet dinner, which includes soup, salad, entree and dessert. Tickets, which are available at \$8 each, are available at Crossroads, The Pumping Station (1382 Poplar Avenue), from any Tsarus member or by calling the numbers listed above.

Proceeds from the ticket sales cover the cost of the meal and the \$500 award. This event is not a fundraiser for Tsarus.

Tsarus, founded in 1977, is Memphis' oldest Levi/Leather men's club.

MLGCJ to officially disban, membership to merge

On Saturday, Feb. 8, the Memphis Lesbian & Gay Coalition for Justice will officially dissolve as a separate organization to merge with Equality Tennessee, a statewide organization working for the civil rights of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people in Tennessee.

Equality Tennessee is a statewide GLBT non-profit organization working to promote equality and the elimination of prejudice and discrimination in the state.

Through the education of the citizens of Tennessee about GLBT life, history, social issues and civic responsibility, Equality Tennessee seeks to promote the defense of human and civil rights for members of the GLBT community.

The statewide board of Equality Tennessee will be meeting in Memphis on Saturday, Feb. 15, at noon, in the fellowship hall of First Congregational Church, 1000 South Cooper.

Prior to the board meeting, Equality Tennessee will hold a townhall meeting beginning at 11 a.m. to meet with individuals of the Memphis GLBT community to discuss issues and concerns that can be addressed locally and statewide. Everyone is invited and welcome to come to this meeting to share ideas and suggestions, and learn about Equality Tennessee and its mission.

Equality Tennessee also will host a reception on Saturday, Feb. 15, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Monks, located at 2158 Central Avenue in the Mid-Town Food Co-Op, for anyone interested in learning more about this organization.

For more information, visit Equality Tennessee's website at www.equalitytennessee.org. or call Jim Maynard at (901) 327-2677 or email him at jmaynard@midsouth.rr.com.

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join us on this joyous occasion to celebrate our 2nd anniversary and enjoy

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\$ **1** domestics

SATURDAY february **8th**

All Day!
from 3p-3a

Can you tell me how to get to the



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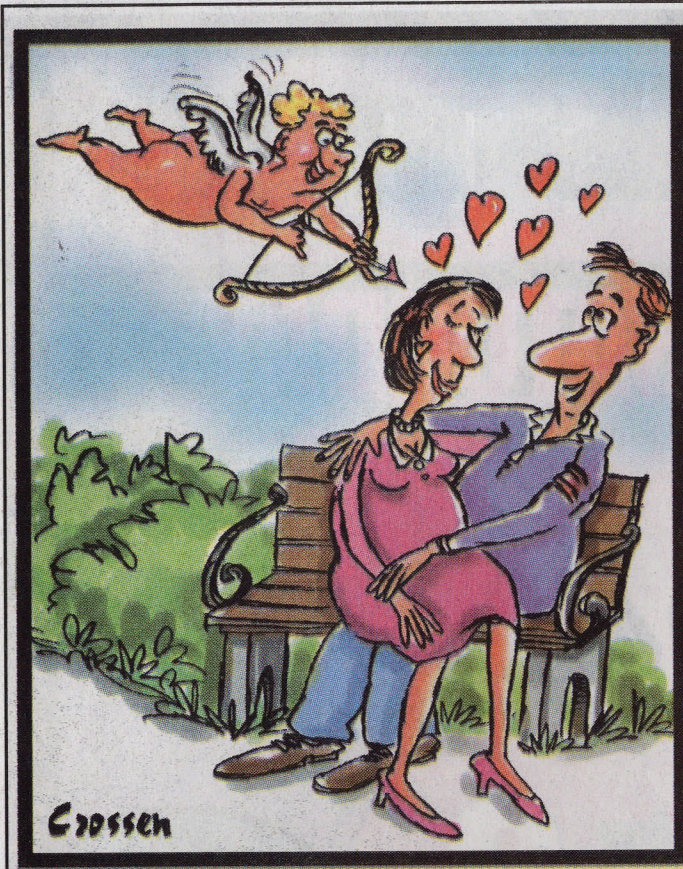


SATURDAY february **22nd**

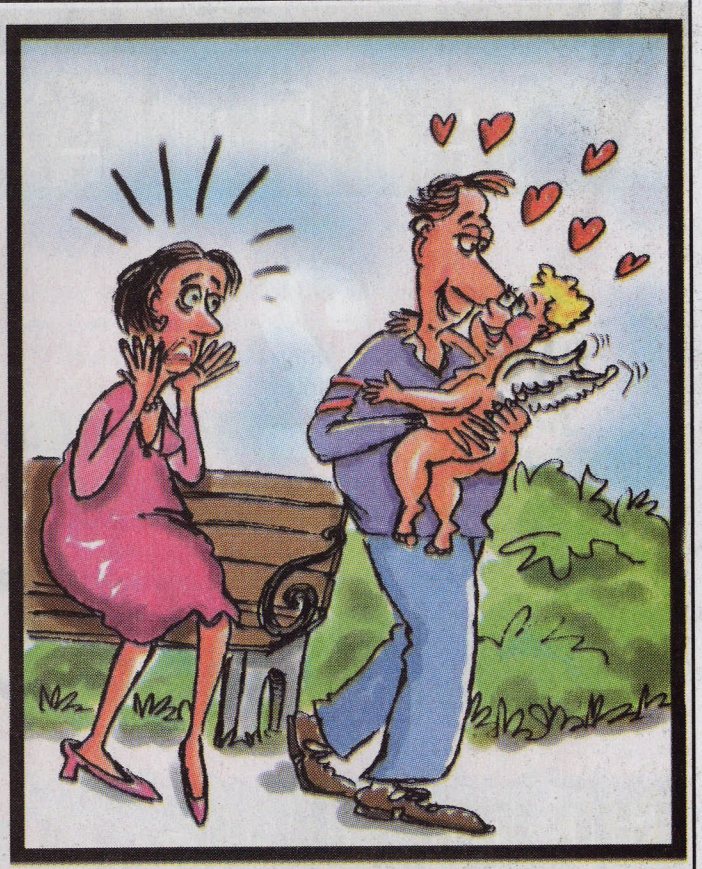
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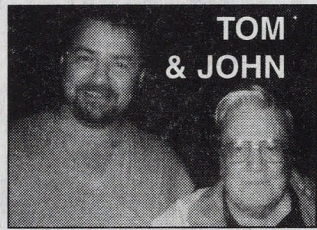
Thanks to you, children infected & affected by HIV/AIDS
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TOM
& JOHN

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Day

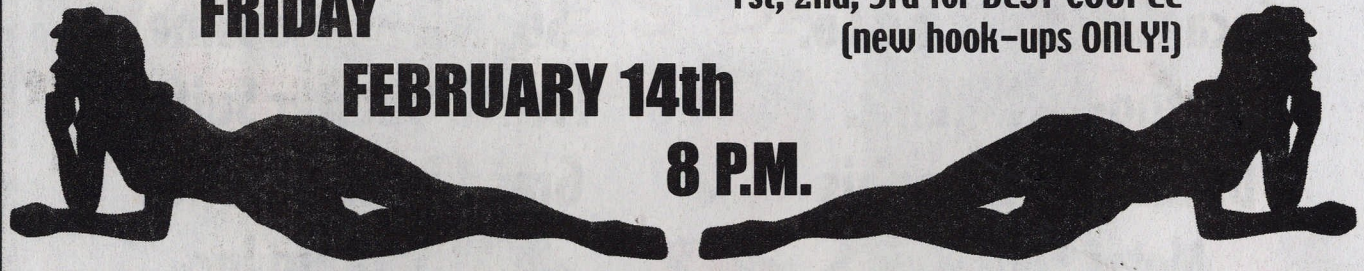
SINGLE WOMEN, come
 out and get **TRASHY**
 and "hook-up!"



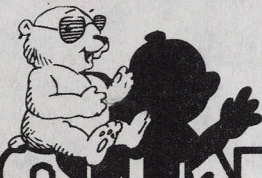
FRIDAY
FEBRUARY 14th

1st, 2nd, 3rd for **BEST COUPLE**
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8 P.M.



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PARTY!!!

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It's great to give, but can you deduct it?

"It's tax deductible," doesn't always mean "It's tax deductible." Unfortunately, in the world of taxation, especially that by the Internal Revenue Service, questions regarding taxation often are not a black and white issue, but a hazy one at best, with lots of "ifs, ands or buts" required to answer what one thought was just a "simple" question.

In order to shine a little better light on the subject of the IRS tax benefits of donations to charitable organizations, *Family & Friends* went to the "horse's mouth" and this is what we found:

Give For Good Measure

Reprinted from www.irs.gov/newsroom

"... You may be able to use your gifts to tax-exempt charitable and religious groups to reduce your taxes.

"There also are some simple steps to keep in mind to make sure you get appropriate benefit for your generous donations. In particular, there are some important guidelines for donating used cars and other property, such as stocks and bonds.

"The tax benefit from charitable contributions is only available for taxpayers who itemize deductions – about one third of all filers. Those who take a standard deduction receive no additional tax benefit for their contributions.

"In 1999, the last year for which complete data is available, about 35.5 million taxpayers made deductible charitable contributions totalling nearly \$125.8 billion. Of these gifts, nearly \$88.3 billion were cash donations.

"Only contributions actually made during the tax year are deductible. For example, if you pledged \$500 in September 2002, but paid the charity only \$200 by Dec. 31, your 2002 deduction would be \$200. You can include credit card charges and payments by check in the year they are given to the charity, even though you may not pay the credit card bill or have your bank account debited (a.e. the check clear the bank) until the next year.

"Those itemizing deductions reduce their taxable income by the total contributed to qualified tax-exempt organizations, with some limits. The tax savings usually equals the deduction times the marginal tax rate – the top rate for the person's (couple's) income level.

"For example, an individual with a taxable income of \$50,000 donates \$2,000 to his or her church. The tax savings from this generosity will be \$540 – \$2,000 times the taxpayer's marginal tax rate of 27 percent.

"Donations of stock or other property are usually valued at the fair market value of the property. For stocks and bonds with an active market, the fair market value is the average price between highest and lowest selling price on the valuation date.

"Figuring the value of other personal property can be more complicated. For example, determining the value of a donated used car requires weighing several factors. Some car donation program operators have mistakenly suggested that donors can take as a deduction the full

value listed in an established used car pricing guide.

"The tax law, however, allows a deduction for only the fair market value of the car. Fair market value takes into account not only the year, the model and the mileage of the car, but also the local market and the vehicle's condition. As a result, the fair market value of the taxpayer's car may be substantially different than the average price listed in an established used car guide.

"You should also keep appropriate records to substantiate the value of your gifts. For example, for any single gift of \$250 or more, you must have a written acknowledgment from the charity by either the date you file your tax return or the filing deadline, including extensions, whichever is earlier. If you donated property valued at more than \$5,000, you must get a qualified written appraisal.

"For more help with donations, refer to Publication 526: Charitable Contributions. A second referral, Publication 561, Determining the Value of Donated Property, may answer many of the questions donors have when they make noncash contributions."

Both of these publications are available online at www.irs.gov. The publications also are available by calling (800) TAX-FORM (829-3676).

It's TAX TIME

Individual Income Tax Preparation

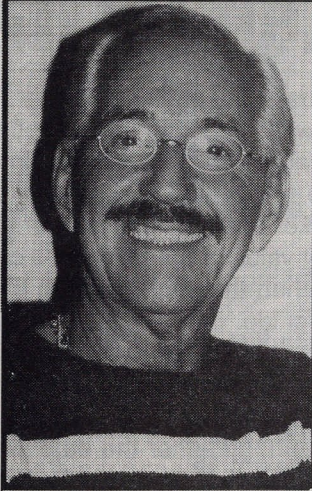
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Lambda Legal files brief in hopes of legal change

Lambda Legal filed its brief on Jan. 16 urging the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn Texas's "Homosexual Conduct" law, which criminalizes oral and anal sex by consenting gay couples and is widely used to justify discrimination against lesbians and gay men. A diverse array of some of the nation's most respected organizations, including conservative groups, civil rights organizations, religious groups and health professionals, filed friend-of-the-court briefs on Lambda Legal's behalf, also asking the U.S. Supreme Court to declare the Texas law unconstitutional.

Lambda Legal represents John Lawrence and Tyron Garner, who were arrested in Lawrence's Houston home and jailed overnight after officers, responding to a false report, found the men engaged in private, consensual sex. Once convicted of violating the "Homosexual Conduct" law, they were forced to pay fines and are now considered sex offenders in several states.

"This is a tremendously important case for gay people and for everyone who believes in basic freedoms. These laws are an affront to equality, invade the most private sphere of adult life and harm gay people in many ways," said Ruth Harlow, legal director at Lambda Legal and the lead attorney in the case.

"The state should not have the power to go into the bedrooms of consenting adults in the middle of the night and arrest them," Harlow said. "But that's only the beginning of the damage done by this law and others like it around the country. These laws are widely used to justify discrimination against gay people in everyday life; they're invoked in denying employment to gay people, in refusing custody or visitation for gay parents and even in intimidating gay people out of exercising their free speech rights."

In addition to Texas, three states – Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma – still have consensual sodomy laws that apply only to gay people. Nine states – Alabama, Florida, Idaho, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia and Utah – and Puerto Rico – still have consensual sodomy laws that apply to straight and gay adults, but are invoked almost exclusively against lesbians and gay men in everyday life. These laws typically ban oral and anal sex and carry penalties that range from fines to 10 years in prison.

Organizations in Texas and all of the other states with sodomy laws are among the scores of groups that filed more than a dozen friend-of-the-court briefs on Jan. 16 urging the U.S. Supreme Court to strike down Texas's law. Those groups include:

- The CATO Institute, telling the court that laws like the one in Texas violate personal liberties and contradict the nation's historical commitment to freedom from governmental intrusion.

See Lambda Legal, page 35

Make plans now to see Lily Tomlin in March

Out lesbian comedian and winner of six Emmys, a Tony and a Grammy Lily Tomlin is headed to Memphis next month as a guest in the 75th Anniversary Speakers Series, presented by The Orpheum and Union Planters Bank.

She is scheduled to discuss her life and career in "An Evening with Lily Tomlin" on Monday, March 3, beginning at 7 p.m. at The Orpheum as part of the 2003 Speaker's Series. Following her discussion, Tomlin will answer questions from the audience.

Tomlin, whose birth name is Mary Jean Tomlin, was graduated from Wayne State University in Detroit, which is where she put her academic ability in math and science towards a pre-med degree. However, during her sophomore year she appeared as a walk-on in her first play, *The Madwoman Of Charlotte*. Additional theater performances followed, and in her junior year, she dropped out of school and moved to New York to pursue a career as an actress.

One of Tomlin's first gigs was as a waitress at Howard Johnson's on Broadway near Times Square. Her comments to customers and staff heard over the restaurant's mic attracted her first real audience. During her salad days, she studied mime from Paul Curtis and acting with none other than the great Thespian Charles Nelson Reilly.

Tomlin got her first big break as a cast member of

"Rowan And Martin's Laugh-In," creating some of her most memorable characters, like telephone operator Ernestine (one ringy-dingy, two ringy-dingy) and Edith Ann, the irresistible six-year old child with a 42-year old's vocabulary. "Laugh-In" led to numerous nightclub appearances and successful comedy record albums.

She made her film debut in 1975, in Robert Altman's *Nashville*, winning wide acclaim for her role as the mother of a hearing-impaired child, which earned her an Oscar nomination for Best Supporting Actress. Additional cinematic success followed with *The Late Show* in 1977, *9 to 5* in 1980, and *All Of Me* in 1984.

Tomlin also collaborated with her partner, award-winning writer Jane Wagner, on two Tony-award winning Broadway shows, *Appearing Nitely* and *The Search For Intelligent Life In The Universe*, which was revived by Tomlin around the country. More recently, Tomlin was a regular on "Murphy Brown" and appeared in the films *Get Bruce* and *The Kid*.

Tickets, which range in price from \$55 to \$35, can be purchased at The Orpheum Box Office, the Orpheum counter at Davis-Kidd Booksellers and all TicketMaster locations; charged by phone by calling (901) 525-3000 or (901) 743-ARTS, or online at www.orpheum-memphis.com.

SEE AND BE SEEN

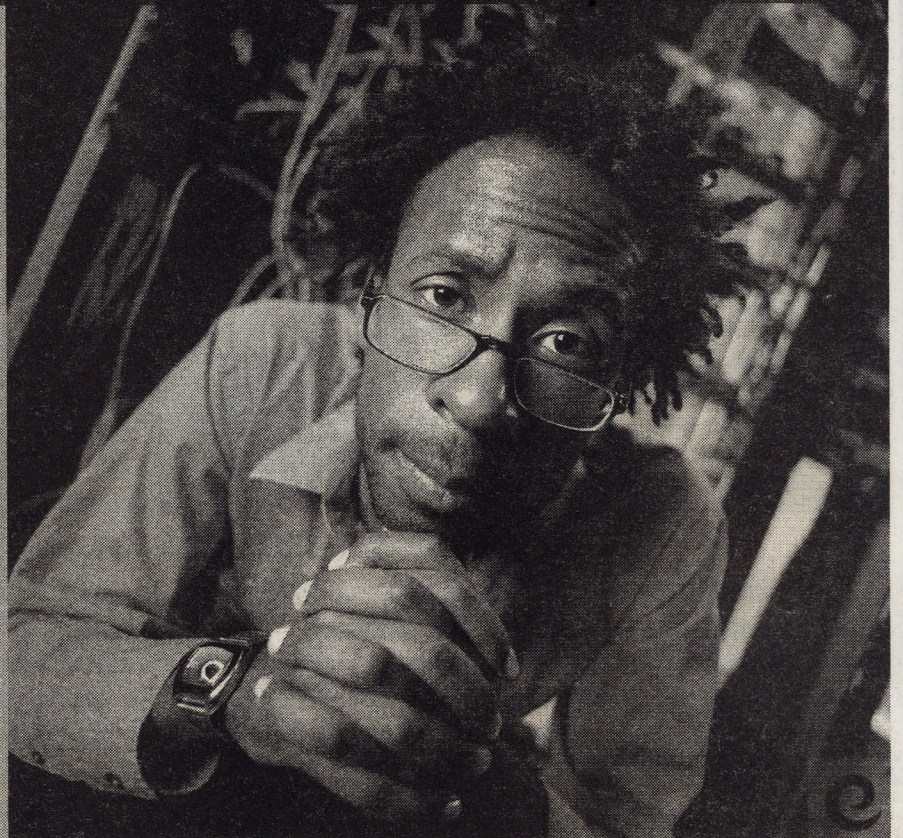
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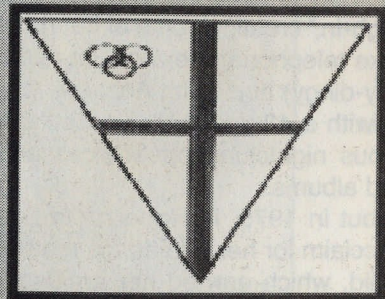
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Based on Toscano's real life experience in Memphis' Love in Action Ex-gay ministry, he weaves together humor, program jargon and outrageous eye witness accounts to form a piece that is hilarious, poignant and inspirational. From the daily rap sessions on appropriate male dress to the surreal Family and Friends Weekend, prepare yourself for a rocky and raucous tour of the Homo No Mo Halfway House, and see for yourself if our hero comes OUT alive!



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- ◆ March 1, 5:30PM Brief Service of Dedication
- ◆ March 2, 11:00AM Sunday Service

Come Travel With Us July 14-25, 2003

Holy Trinity Community Church will be making a trip to England this summer and we would like for you to join us. We have secured a wonderful 12 day tour, where will be staying in London, Bath, Stratford on the Avon a Brighton. If you would like to learn more about this exciting trip please phone the church at 320-9876 or email us at htcmemphis@aol.com. We will provide you with a complete itinerary and information.



Mississippi group files brief

On Jan. 16, Equality Mississippi, Mississippi's statewide gay and lesbian civil rights organization, submitted an amicus brief as part of a case the U.S. Supreme Court will hear regarding the Texas sodomy law.

The case, brought by national gay and lesbian legal organization Lambda Legal, challenges the constitutionality of Texas's "Homosexual Conduct" law, which criminalizes oral and anal sex by consenting gay couples and is used widely to justify discrimination against lesbians and gay men.

The U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in this matter could also affect sodomy laws in 12 other states, including Mississippi.

Mississippi's sodomy law applies to both heterosexuals and homosexuals and refers to sodomy as "unnatural intercourse." The law makes it a felony for consenting adults to have oral or anal sex and provides for penalties of up to 10 years in prison.

In one case where the sodomy law was involved, a Mississippi man was denied custody of his own child based on the presumption that since he was gay, he was in violation of the state's sodomy law.

In early 1994, residents in Overt, Miss., circulated petitions to urge the enforcement of the Mississippi sodomy law, as part of their stance against a lesbian couple, Brenda and Wanda Henson, buying land and building a campground in the area. Although this petition was aimed at gay and lesbian people, the Mississippi law is neutral both as to gender and marital status, so the anti-gay people unwittingly were urging prosecution of themselves.

The women did buy the land and built Camp Sister Spirit, which is still there today, going strong.

"I know that even in conservative Mississippi," said Equality Mississippi Executive Director Jody Renaldo, "Christian couples and Mississippi lawmakers go to bed nightly and break the Mississippi sodomy law, thereby making them(selves) felons. If Mississippians knew that Mississippi law polices what they do in their own beds, they would be outraged. We find often that most Mississippians do not even know this law exists until they are charged with it. If you can't have privacy in your own bedroom, where can you have privacy?"

In 2001, Mississippi enacted a sex offender registration law. The law includes convictions for sodomy and requires those convicted of sodomy to register with the Mississippi Department of Public Safety by providing, among other things, address of residence, fingerprints, a photograph, place of employment and a biological sample such as a strand of hair or blood. Those convicted must also notify the department of any changes in address and employment.

"It's ridiculous that what consenting adults do in their bedrooms can land them in prison and on Mississippi's sex offender registry," Renaldo said.

Lambda Legal filed its brief – and an array of the nation's most respected civil rights organizations, conservative groups and health associations filed supportive briefs – with the U.S. Supreme Court on Jan. 16.

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

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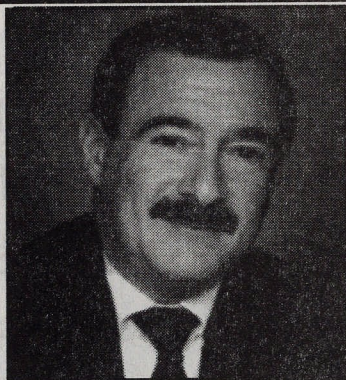
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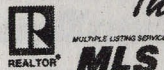
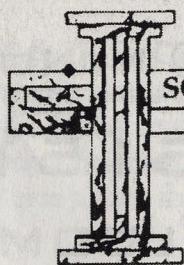
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Gay & Lesbian Business Expo set in New York City

The 10th International Gay & Lesbian Business and Entertainment Expo is set for Saturday and Sunday, March 22 and 23, at the Jarvis Center in New York City.

The promoters of the 10th International Gay & Lesbian Business and Entertainment Expo say it is the largest event of its kind in the world and has become a significant event for the GLBT community. More than 21,000 people attended the event last year.

In this business-to-business marketing environment, exhibitors are surrounded by hundreds of exciting networking opportunities, not only with attendees, but with other exhibiting companies both large and small. New products and services will be introduced and top companies will be recruiting. More than 300 exhibits are planned.

Entertainment will be provided throughout both days of the event. Special events include *The New York Times* "Time Talk Series," psychic channeller "Aunti Lynn," and an appearance by John Carrol from the CBS "Survivor" Series. Also on the agenda are adopt-a-pet, fashion shows, goods and beverages sampling, exciting travel giveaways and much more.

For exhibit or attendance information, call (800) 243-9774 or go online to www.rdpgroup.com/glexpo.

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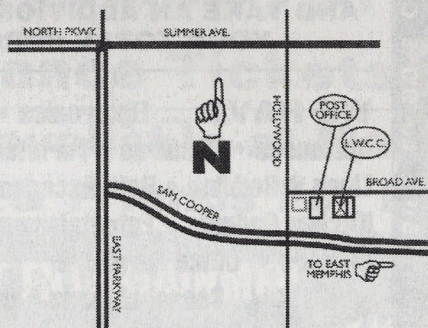
We're living in a day in which more and more people are realizing the importance of belonging to a church family. They're discovering the support and positive power for living that comes from being connected to people who are concerned about them.

Our vision here at Living Word Christian Church is to be such a place. Yes, a place to relate. A place to grow. A place where you can build relationships that last a lifetime. In other words, a powerful place to belong.

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7:00 p.m. Dolphins
8:00 p.m. Cirque du Soleil™
- Saturday**
10:00 a.m. Space Station
11:30 a.m. Michael Jordan to the Max
1:00 p.m. Alaska: Spirit of the Wild
2:00 p.m. Lewis & Clark
3:00 p.m. Dolphins
4:00 p.m. Cirque du Soleil
5:00 p.m. Michael Jordan to the Max
7:00 p.m. Dolphins
8:00 p.m. Cirque du Soleil
- Sunday**
1:00 p.m. Alaska: Spirit of the Wild
2:00 p.m. Lewis & Clark
3:00 p.m. Dolphins
4:00 p.m. Cirque du Soleil
5:00 p.m. Michael Jordan to the Max
- Monday (February 17)**
10:00 a.m. Space Station
11:30 a.m. Michael Jordan to the Max
1:00 p.m. Alaska: Spirit of the Wild
2:00 p.m. Lewis & Clark
3:00 p.m. Dolphins
4:00 p.m. Cirque du Soleil

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'Queer As Folk'



The saga of gay life on Liberty Avenue continues with the third season premiere of Showtime's "Queer As Folk," Sunday, March 2, at 9 p.m. Join Brian, Michael, Justin, Emmett, Ted, Lindsay, Melanie, Deb and Uncle Vic as a big surprise in Michael's life awaits.

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ASK LAM BY LAM MEDALLION

Dear Lam,

This is more of a compliment than a problem. I have read your column in *Family & Friends* now faithfully for four years. Because of it, Mrs. Lam, I have met a wonderful man. I should tell you I am also a man. My new beau is kind, gentle, loving and, most of all Lam, he respects me for who I am and I feel the same way about him that he feels about me.

Lam, if it had not been for the advice that you have given your countless readers over the years, I would have not been able to ask this man to be my life's partner. I hope that you will print this letter to show other people how you have helped me.

Simply Thanx

Dear Simply Thanx,

Right off the bat, let me say congratulations to finding a first-class new beau. But I must extend my thanks to you, young man.

My new year's resolution for 2003, was to send out thank you notes when appropriate. I had gotten out of the habit; I hadn't written a note for years. And recently, I had made a gift for a dear friend of mine, and when I received a thank you note via good, old-fashioned U.S. Mail, I have to admit, I was absolutely tickled pink. What a feeling it brought to my heart! I knew immediately I must resume this practice. And I did. After I had bought a pack of elegant blank cards and had written my expressions of gratitude for holiday gifts and popped them in the mailbox, in less than a week's time I received your letter. So, maybe there is something to the philosophy that "you reap what you sow."

And how delicious the reaping can be. Think of how much delight I shall bring to the receivers of a small bit of gratitude. I know I love to receive any and all appreciation. How life-affirming a small card and \$.37 can be. So, keep up the graciousness! Do you hear what I'm telling you, darling?

Let me detail my thoughts on the matter of thank you's:

1. If someone has given you a gift, you must get in the habit of sending off a quick note in your best handwriting. Electronic mailings do not suffice. There is something almost titillating about a card in the mail. I can't explain why. It is a must. Even if the gift is tasteless, cheap or recycled, it must be acknowledged. And remember, timeliness is weighty.

2. If you have gone to a party, drop the hostess a little note. But if you want to really feel good about yourself and make the hostess feel special, bring a little hostess gift to the party, and then a note following is not necessary, but do send a note if you had an especially wonderful time.

Never go to a party empty-handed. My mother never let me attend an event without something, even if it was just a small bouquet or a single flower, even picked from our suburban garden. This one is important.

Also, don't be afraid to ask if there is something you can bring. And if the hostess says, "Nothing dear, just bring yourself," for God's sake, bring something. Anything. A little box of chocolates, some home-baked cookies or a bottle of something delicious (like a good bourbon). And a related bit, if the hostess does request something, do not hem and haw. Bring it.

3. Now, as the hostess, you have quite a job if you care to do things right. You must send your appreciation to your company, especially if they have brought the aforementioned hostess gift. And, also to the guests who may have helped out or clinched the success of the gathering with witty repartee and good cheer. Something like, "Dear Gabe, what a charmer you are! Thanks for coming last night. You made my night so special."

4. If a gentleman caller has delivered the goods (so to speak), a note is always nice. In fact, I have a friend of the lady-of-the-evening type business, and when I suggested that she send out thank you notes to her "clients," her business absolutely blossomed. It is important to make people feel special,

and in her case, what better way than to jot down a little note declaring the prowess of the john to make him want to come back. Brilliant idea on my part, I must admit. Something like, "Dear John, Wow. All I can say is wow. Thanks for coming last night. You made my night so special."

5. If someone has touched you in a special way, it is imperative you let them know so. It makes no difference what they have done; if it has moved you, given them a "shout out" on an elegant slice of stationary or carefully chosen cardstock.

The beauty of thank you cards is two-fold: it raises the esteem of the receiver through appreciation of another and raises the esteem of the sender by encouraging the receiver to repeat the good deed and by knowing you have done the right thing. So, go to the stationers and purchase a supply, practice your penmanship and start spreading gratitude with graciousness. Do you hear what I'm telling you, darling?

Love, Lam

P.S. Simply Thanx: You seem like a charming, genial man, and just to let you know, if things don't work out, my gay son Sam is single.

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.

**Got news about
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organization?
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Love movies? Visit IMAX Film Festival in February

The Fourth Annual Memphis IMAX Film Festival is set for Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, now through Feb. 17, at the Union Planters IMAX Theatre located in the Memphis Pink Palace Museum, 3050 Central Avenue. Six films are offered.

Michael Jordan at the Max tracks one of basketball's greats during his last three months with the Chicago Bulls. Special effects and amazing shots, combined with up-close, personal views of Jordan's life off-court reveal a "real-life hero," in the words of Bulls coach Phil Jackson.

Dolphins takes the audience under the ocean's surface to experience a rare and close-up view into the world of some of the most graceful and extraordinary creatures on earth.

Alaska: Spirit of the Wild is a voyage into the last great frontier where nature enchants the eye with magnificent spectacles and where wildlife abounds, a journey to the land of the midnight sun and the Aurora Borealis.

Cirque du Soleil Journey of Man is a celebration of the human spirit that uses the unique artistry and original music of Cirque du Soleil to follow the stages of human development from birth to maturity.

Lewis & Clark: Great Journey West invites the audience along on the remarkable and perilous 8,000-mile journey undertaken by Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery 200 years ago as they searched for the fabled Northwest Passage.

Space Station takes the audience 220-miles above earth to join the men and women of NASA and 15 other

nations who are working together to build mankind's first international space station.

Tickets are \$7.25 for adults; \$6.75 for seniors and \$5.75 for children (ages 3-12). Combination tickets can be purchased for discount prices. For tickets, showtimes or other information, call (901) 320-6362.



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Karaoke for kids at CMOM

Each Friday at 3:30 p.m., children can take to the stage at the Rising Stars Theatre at The Children's Museum of Memphis, 2525 Central Avenue, where they can sing their favorite tunes Karaoke style. All ages are welcome. Admission to the museum is \$6 for children (1-12) and seniors (62+), and \$7 for adults. For more information, call (901) 458-2678 or go online to www.cmom.com.

Cartoons characters to teach

"Sol & Company," set for Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. and Sundays at 4 p.m. at the Sharpe Planetarium, located in the Memphis Pink Palace Museum, 3050 Central Avenue, features cartoon characters Sol and his sidekick Astro who explore the nine planets that make up our solar system. Admission is \$4.25 for adults and \$3.75 for seniors and children (ages 3-12). For more information or reservations, call (901) 320-6362.

Stories of history to be told

Children can learn about black history during story time at The Children's Museum of Memphis, 2525 Central Avenue, on Saturday, Feb. 15, at 1:30 p.m. Admission to the museum is \$6 for children (1-12) and seniors (62+), and \$7 for adults. For more information, call (901) 458-2678 or go online to www.cmom.com.

MSO joins Platypus Theatre

The Memphis Symphony Orchestra will perform "Rhythm In Your Rubbish" with the Platypus Theatre on Sunday, March 2, at 2:30 p.m. at the Cannon Center, located at 255 North Main Street at Poplar Avenue. "Rhythm In Your Rubbish" follows two tramps who wander into a junkyard. As they settle down for the night, they discover music lurking in unexpected places. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 the day of the concert. To order tickets, call the MSO Box Office at (901) 324-3627 or Ticketmaster at (901) 525-1515 or visit any Ticketmaster location.

Yarn-spinning at POTS

Playhouse on the Square, 51 South Cooper, presents a time of adventure for children as they hear the stories of different places and times during its Saturday Morning Matinee Series. On Saturday, Feb. 1, Michael J. Vails guides the audience through an African jungle, introduces them to a German ghost and visits a city in France. On Saturday, Feb. 8, Bill Jones will share stories about growing up in a small town in Alabama in the 1950s and on Saturday, Feb. 15, Annie McDaniel returns with her tales and wisdom about growing up on a Mississippi River riverboat. All shows begin at 10:30 a.m. and admission is Pay-What-You-Can. For more information, call (901) 726-4656.

Kids to share hopes with others with UNICEF cards

Children throughout the U.S. are being encouraged to share their hopes for children around the world for the 12th annual Pier 1/UNICEF Greeting Card Contest, which begins on March 1, 2003. "Children's Dreams of Peace" is the theme for the second consecutive year, based on the enormous response to the 2002 contest. Submissions will be accepted throughout March and the deadline is April 11, 2003.

Blossoming artists, ages 13 and under, are invited to submit greeting card designs. A winner will be chosen from each of two categories: ages eight to 13 and ages seven and under. Two grand-prize winners will be chosen: their designs will be reprinted as UNICEF cards and sold nationwide at Pier 1 Imports stores and online at www.pier1.com beginning September 2003. The two grand prize winners also will win a trip to New York City and \$500 cash.

"We hope that in addition to raising needed funds, the annual Pier 1/UNICEF greeting card contest introduces children to an important tool in life – social responsibility," said Charles J. Lyons, president of the U.S. Fund for UNICEF. "The contest is not only fun and creative, but it also is a way for UNICEF to help children around the world since the sales of these cards bring in millions of dollars."

Entries must be hand-drawn and received at the home office of Pier 1 Imports by April 11, 2003. The entry forms are available at Pier 1 stores nationwide and also at www.pier1.com or www.unicefusa.org starting March 1. For Pier 1 store locations or for further contest information, call (800) 245-4595.

The largest retailer of UNICEF greeting cards, Pier 1 has raised more than \$15 million from the sale of the cards since 1985, with 100 percent of the proceeds going to the U.S. Fund for UNICEF. This year's holiday cards will be sold at Pier 1 Imports stores and online at www.pier1.com beginning in September.

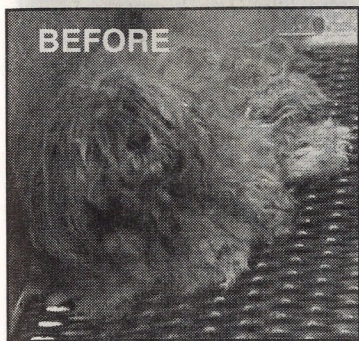
Funds from the sale of cards support UNICEF programs that provide lifesaving medicines, vaccines, nutritious foods, primary education, clean water and sanitation and emergency relief for millions of children and women in more than 160 countries and territories.

Improve your GLBT I.Q.

Read Family & Friends

Dog talks about getting a new leash on life

Hello there, I'm a Liaso Apso, although that's a little hard to tell from my "before" picture.



I used to live on the streets of Memphis, that is until one day the dog catcher got his hands on me and took me to "the big house," aka The Memphis Animal Shelter. Once there, I was put into a cage to wait, although I didn't know what for at the time because if they were waiting for my owners

to claim me I was gonna be outta luck. I hadn't had an owner in a long time.

Then, a nice woman and her son came and saw me. They read my card. But, after a few minutes they left. Then, a few days later, the woman came to see me again, this time with another woman. They took me out of my cage and talked to me, but again I was returned to my cage.

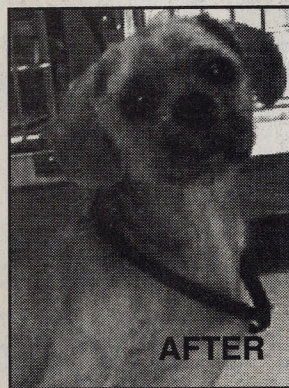
About an hour later, the two women came back to my cage and took me out again, this time for good. I went to

see someone they called a "vet," and I had all my hair shaved off, had surgery, a bunch of shots and a blood test. They said I had something called "heart worms."

After my visit to the vet, the two women took me to their home where they have two more dogs (one looks like me) and a cat. The boy was there, too. Now, I have food every day, water, a warm bed and lots of room to play. I really love to have my head and ears rubbed, but sometimes I still feel protective of my food, water, bed and toys. And, they said I will have to take lots of medicine to get well, but that's okay.

It's great to have a family. I hope my friends at the big house get one, too, real soon.

(Editor's Note: For a nominal fee, The Memphis Animal Shelter has a wide variety of dogs and cats ready for adoption, as does the Memphis Humane Society. The House of Mews on Cooper has a plethora of feline friends also looking for good homes.)



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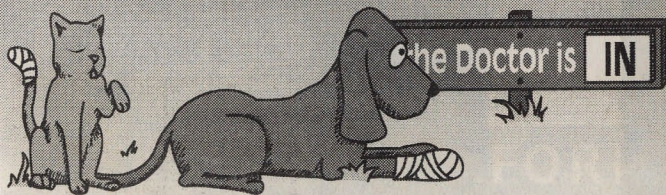
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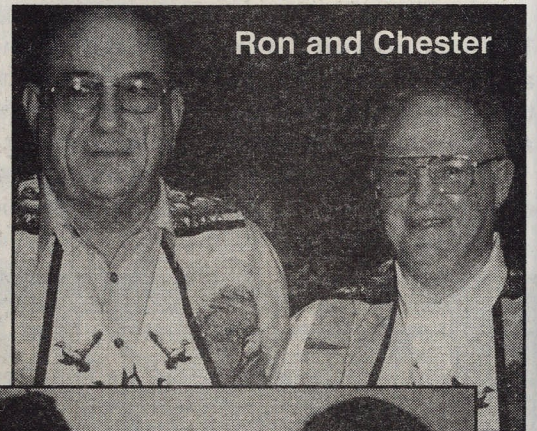
Vicki and Anne



Dixie, left, and Jan enjoy cuttin' a rug.



Gwen, Gail and Kathleen



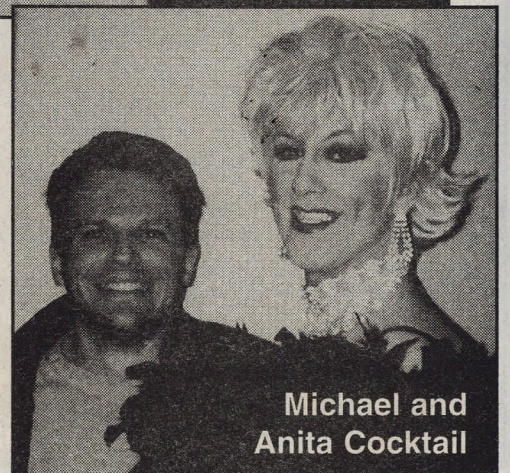
Ron and Chester



Alison, Edie, Ivan and Audrey



Leigh and MO



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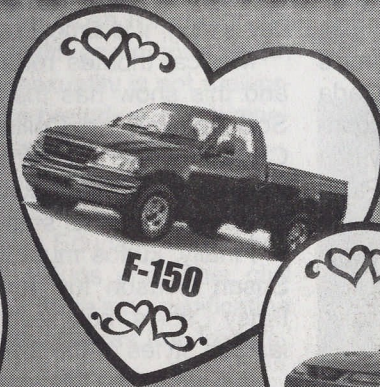


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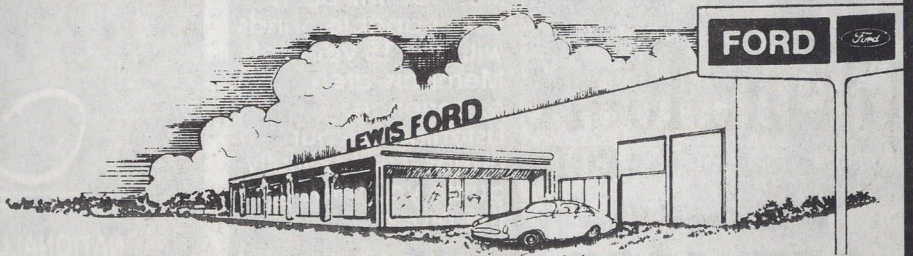


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FROM THE FRONT ROW BY KEVIN SHAW



I stood in line to pick up my opening night tickets to see *A Closer Walk With Patsy Cline* at Circuit Playhouse about 30 minutes before the show was to begin and I noticed something rather odd. The line to buy tickets was quite short and the lobby was virtually empty. How could this be?

Wasn't this the show that had been brought back multiple times due to its enormous success? Where was everybody? As it turns out, they were already in their seats waiting for the show to begin! That's right, a full half-hour before the curtain, the show was completely sold out and almost every seat had been filled in anticipation of witnessing the tale of Patsy Cline's climb to stardom, multiple successes, and finally, her premature death.

Revived for the third time (Can anyone say, "Third time's a charm?"), a favorite of Memphis audiences, Carla McDonald has finally stepped into the role of the gutsy country music legend and made this part her own. Not only has McDonald captured that incredible vocal sound of Patsy through music, she even talks like her. Whether she's singing "Walkin' After Midnight," "Crazy" or even the traditional "Amazing Grace," McDonald has left no stone upturned in bringing Cline's music and sound to The Circuit Playhouse.

Backed by the Jordanaires, played by Ken Fleshman, Jason Cooper, Michael A. Ingersoll and Drew Stark, McDonald's Patsy sounds even better. In fact, their separate rendition of "First Day in Heaven," almost brought the opening night audience to its feet.

The narrator of the story, played by Michael Paul Duggan, also provides much of the comic relief. As Little Big Man, the WINC disc jockey who "spins" the tunes, as well as the life story of Patsy Cline, Duggan is a sheer delight. His DJ character magnifies the love America felt, not only for Patsy's music, but also for her as a person. His alter ego's portrayals of the stand-up comics at Nashville's Grand Ole Opry also are right on the money. Although the jokes are as "corny as the day is long," it is almost impossible to control your laughter.

Musical tributes require authentic, talented musicians and this show has them. The band, consisting of Ernie Scarbrough, Mark Collins, Eric Lewis, Chris Rutledge and Chris Vickers, not only sounds great, but also lets its members shine with solos that had the audience clapping and stomping in its seats.

Finally, kudos must go out to Rebecca Y. Powell and Susan Neason for their outstanding costume designs. Patsy Cline's multiple outfits authentically re-created the fashion styles of the era.

It is clear why this show continues to be revived. People love not only the story, but also the music of Patsy Cline. So, buy those tickets fast and sit in those seats even faster.

A Closer Walk With Patsy Cline runs at The Circuit Playhouse, 1705 Poplar Avenue, now through Feb. 16. Showtimes are Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Also, performances are set for Sundays, Feb. 2, 9 and 16, 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 The Circuit Playhouse Box Office at (901) 726-4656 or visit its website at www.playhouseonthesquare.org.

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Lambda Legal

from page 20

- The Libertarian Institute for Justice, saying that sodomy laws give the government inappropriate and unconstitutional power to invade people's privacy.
- The Republican Unity Coalition, arguing that it's improper for a state to use a law to express its disapproval of gay people.
- More than two dozen religious groups, explaining that even though some denominations don't approve of or support homosexuality, they and the majority of religions all oppose laws criminalizing private, consensual intimacy between lesbian or gay couples.
- The National Association of Social Workers (along with its Texas state branch), the American Psychological Association and other respected health and mental health groups, telling the court that homosexuality is not a disorder and that sodomy laws reinforce prejudice, discrimination and violence against lesbian and gay people.
- The Mexican-American Legal Defense & Education Fund, the Puerto Rican Legal Defense & Education Fund, the Asian-American Legal Defense & Education Fund and more than two dozen gay rights groups and other civil rights organizations, explaining that there's no justification for branding gay people as deviant with laws like Texas's.

• Law scholars, historians, international human rights experts, public health authorities and others, telling the court that sodomy laws are unconstitutional and harm gay people in many ways.

"Some of the most diverse and respected voices in this country are lining up to tell the Supreme Court that these laws are contrary to American values," Harlow said. "Conservative groups are coming forward to say that the government has no business in people's bedrooms. Mainstream civil rights organizations are speaking out about the inequalities and blatant discrimination these laws create. And our nation's leading health advocates are unequivocally saying that these laws don't serve any public interest."

For more information, go online to lambdalegal.org.

(Editor's Note: See *Equality Mississippi's* comments on this issue on page 23.)

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Sam's Town lines up concerts

Sam's Town Tunica is bringing singer-songwriter Erykah Badu to the stage of its River Palace Entertainment Center, located inside the casino, on Saturday, Feb. 15, at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$34 and \$44 for this show. Sam's Town also is bringing popular Latin sensation Julio Iglesias to its River Palace stage on Sunday, Feb. 16, at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$35 and \$45 for this show. Tickets are available at the River Palace Entertainment Box Office; at any TicketMaster location; by calling Sam's Town at (800) 456-0711 or Ticketmaster at (901) 525-1515, or online at www.ticketmaster.com.

Museum to display metalworks

"Transformation 3: Contemporary Works in Jewelry and Small Metals" is on exhibit at the National Ornamental Metal Museum, 374 Metal Museum Dr., Feb. 25 through April 27. The 36 pieces on exhibit highlight a variety of techniques and forms – jewelry, vessels and sculptural pieces – all addressing the theme of transformation. The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays and from noon to 5 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$4 for adults, \$3 for seniors (62+) and \$2 for students. For more information, call (901) 774-6380 or go online to www.metalmuseum.org.

Engage senses at planetarium

Experience the "delicate, thunderous sounds" of Pink Floyd at "LaserRock: Pink Floyd's Dark Side of the Moon" now through March 8 at the Sharpe Planetarium located in the Memphis Pink Palace Museum, 3050 Central Avenue. This show features some of the best Pink Floyd tunes choreographed with laser lights, slides and lighting effects on the Planetarium's domed starfield. Showtimes are Fridays and Saturdays at 8:30 and 10 p.m. Tickets, which are \$6.25 each, are available by calling (901) 320-6362.

Integrity to host conductor

Integrity Memphis will hold its monthly meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 18, at 6:30 p.m. at Calvary Episcopal Church, located at Second and Adams. A short worship service, led by Rev. Tim Meadows of Holy Trinity Community Church, will be followed by dinner. The evening's program, featuring Vince Danner, associate conductor of the Memphis Symphony Orchestra and conductor of the Memphis Youth Symphony Orchestra, begins at 7:45 p.m. For more information, go online to www.geocities.com/integrity_memphis/main.html.

Film links Memphis, its river

A new documentary, airing on Wednesday, Feb. 19, at 7:30 p.m., on WKNO-Channel 10, will examine what Memphis would be like without the Mississippi River. Narrated by Memphian Gene Katz, *Memphis on the Plain* looks at the river's impact on the businesses, arts, tourism and character of the city.

MGLCC to meet in building

The Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center will hold its first townhall meeting in its new building, located at 892 South Cooper, on Sunday, March 2. The final ratification vote for Len Piechowski as president of MGLCC and the first ratification vote for Kevin Dugan as member-at-large, will take place at this meeting, as well as a final reading of MGLCC by-law changes. For meeting time or more information call Len at (901) 857-8523.

Giuliani to visit Davis-Kidd

Davis-Kidd Booksellers, located at 387 Perkins Extended in the Laurelwood shopping center, welcomes former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, who will sign copies of his new book *Leadership* (Talk Miramax Books, 2002, \$25.95) on Tuesday, Feb. 18, at noon. Line tickets are presently available with purchase of *Leadership*. Only copies purchased at Davis-Kidd Booksellers will be signed.

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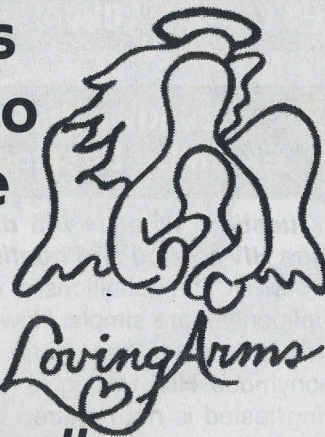
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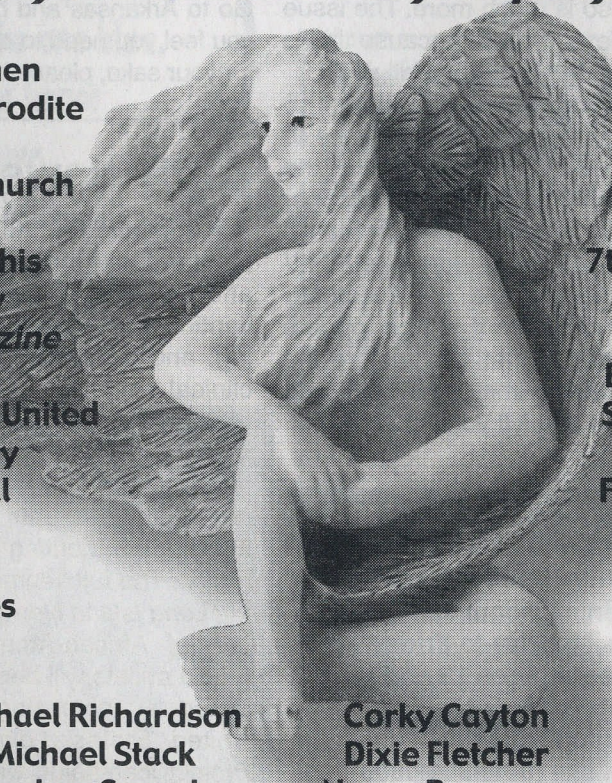
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The Loving Arms Staff and Families would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped make a Christmas miracle come true.



The Children all had a very blessed Christmas. Thank you for the role you played!



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Please excuse any omissions, we are grateful to all ...



By **KIM MOSS**, guest writer
Executive Director, Friends For Life

Question: What is the difference between anonymous HIV testing and confidential HIV testing?

Answer: The definitions of the words "anonymous" and "confidential" are simple. However, the simplicity changes when you place the words "HIV testing" after them. Anonymous HIV testing is when the individual's name being tested is not required whereas confidential testing requires the person to give his/her name. This is definitely an issue of privacy, but it also is much more. The issue of HIV testing is an issue of life and death because this is one situation where what you don't know can kill you.

From the perspective of a person living with HIV for 16 years and one who has provided supportive services to persons with the disease for the same length of time, the main issue is knowing one's HIV status and, the sooner the better. If you know your status, you can seek medical intervention as appropriate. If you do not know your HIV status and you have HIV, the disease will eventually destroy your immune system and then it will be too late because there are no medications that can restore the immune system to health. Without an immune system, you are susceptible to illnesses that can kill you.

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

Over age 24: \$35 blood test • \$40 OraSure

For more information, call (901) 544-6808

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.

With the knowledge of one's status, you can make informed decisions such as, if HIV positive, when to begin medication. You also can make sure you don't engage in behaviors that might infect others. If HIV negative, you can continue to be safe and remain that way.

Confidential HIV testing is the law in Tennessee. However, it is possible in Arkansas to have an anonymous HIV test. Privacy is an important right that we must always seek to protect. I encourage anyone who has had unsafe sex in the past 20 years to be tested to learn your HIV status. Then, make informed decisions about the direction of the rest of your life. Go to Arkansas and be tested anonymously if that is what you feel you need to do in order to protect your privacy. But, for your sake, please be tested somewhere.

AIDS News in Brief

- According to "AIDS Treatment News," a new government website has gone online at www.aidsinfo.nih.gov and provides official guidelines for treatment and prevention of HIV; guidelines for HIV testing and counseling, and a database of both government and industry clinical trails.


- On the Jan. 13 NPR's "All Things Considered" show, Michael Alvear, a nationally-syndicated sex advice columnist, spoke about the "culture of politeness and indirectness" of inhabitants of the Southern United States as being a contributing factor to the spread of HIV in that region. The full segment is available online in RealPlayer.

- *Long Island Newsday* reported on Jan. 17 that a coalition of African-American print, broadcast and online media outlets will begin a 'massive' campaign in February aimed at increasing HIV/AIDS awareness within the United States's black communities. The "Drumbeat Project" campaign will include feature stories on AIDS in nine leading magazines; an eight-part series covering topics, such as vaccines, testing, men who have sex with men, treatment and AIDS in prisons, that will appear in 200 newspapers; HIV/AIDS public service advertisements on the American Urban Radio Network; television programs on the Black Entertainment Network; and a website, www.blackaids.org.

- On Jan. 16, the FDA proposed a new label for over-the-counter contraceptives that contain the spermicide nonoxynol-9, warning that the substance does not protect against HIV or other sexually transmitted diseases and may increase the risk of HIV and STD transmission.

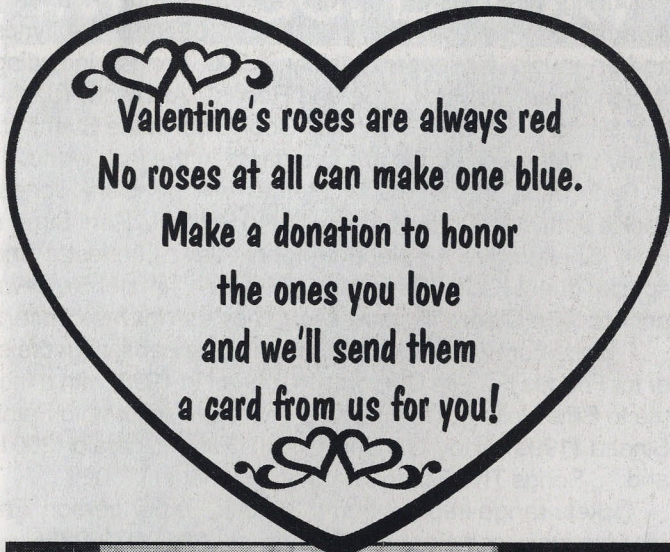
- The *AP/Arizona Daily Star* reported on Jan. 21, that former NBA star Magic Johnson is appearing in a GlaxoSmithKline advertising campaign targeting urban blacks and promoting the company's antiretroviral drug, Combivir.

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HIV-positive

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Music of Johnny Mercer to highlight FFL concert

It's time for the annual Friends For Life Fabulous February Concert. This year, the music of legendary songwriter Johnny Mercer will be showcased in "The Music of Johnny Mercer ... A Night of Wine & Roses." The event will take place on Sunday, Feb. 23, at 6:30 p.m. at the New Daisy Theatre, 330 Beale Street.

During his lifetime, Mercer received four Academy Awards and several Oscars. Mercer penned the lyrics and/or music for approximately 1,500 songs, including "Moon River," "Days of Wine and Roses," "Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe" and "In The Cool, Cool, Cool of the Evening." Many of Mercer's songs are standards in the jazz world.

Performing the works of Mercer will be Gary Jones, Jackie Johnson, Chris Hudson, Doug Saleeby, Reni Simon, Holly Shelton, the 18-piece Memphis Jazz Orchestra and special guest Kallen Esperian. WMC-TV Channel 5's news anchor Kym Clark will serve as the hostess for the concert.

Friends For Life's Fabulous February Concerts, a fundraiser for Friends For Life Corporation, began in 1998, with a tribute to Billie Holiday. The following years saw tributes to Frank Sinatra (1999), Judy Garland (2000), Ella Fitzgerald (2001) and "... Songs That Made The Cities Famous" (2002).

Tickets range in price from \$35 to \$250 per person. For reservations, call Friends For Life at (901) 272-0855 or, after hours, call Butch Valentine at (901) 606-3316.

It's time to 'Cowboy Up'

The Texas Gay Rodeo Association (TGRA) is cowboying up for The Cowtown Rodeo, set for March 28 to 30, at the W. R. Watt Arena at the Will Rogers Memorial Center in Fort Worth, Texas.

"Gay Rodeo Virgins" are encouraged to attend. The Cowtown Rodeo includes 13 events, some found in traditional rodeos, some are only run at gay rodeos. Besides the rodeo action, you will find dancing, shopping, parties and events galore.

TGRA is celebrating 20 years of rodeos and supporting local Texas charities this year. Since its inception in 1983, TGRA members (individual and commercial), royalty and the community have raised and donated more than \$2 million to Texas charities - primarily, though not exclusively, AIDS-specific.

The objective of TGRA is to elevate the image of women and men in the sport field of rodeo.

Tickets are \$14 in advance for one day or \$25 in advance for two days or \$15 at the gate (per day).

The host hotel for The Cowtown Rodeo is the Green Oaks Hotel, located at 6901 West Freeway (I-30) in Fort Worth. A special TGRA rate of \$71 per room (1 to 4 persons) is available by calling (800) 433-2174.

For more information, go online to www.tgra.org, call (214) 346-2107 or email Karroll Parker, rodeo director, at cowntownrodeodirector@tgra.org.

Meet Your Neighbor

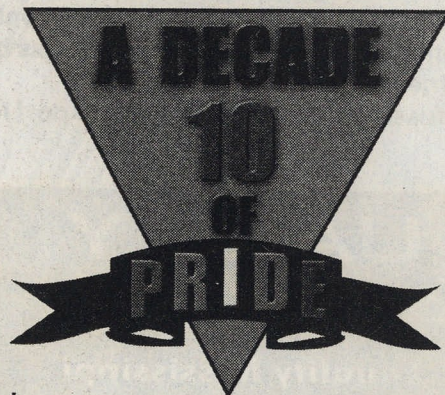
Michael Divoky



Name: Michael Divoky (on right)
Place where you were born: Omaha, Nebraska
How long have you lived in Memphis: 9 years
Partnership status: celebrated 6th year anniversary to Rodney Brown (aka Anita Cocktail) on Jan. 19, 2003
Sexual orientation: gay
Occupation: accountant
Hobbies: playing piano and organ, singing, cooking and spending time with my 3 poodles
Favorite Food: Mandarin Chinese
Favorite Color: blue
Favorite Animal: dog
Favorite Singer: Josh Groban
Favorite Song: "You're Still You," by Josh Groban
Favorite Movie: *Torch Song Trilogy* & *Some Like It Hot*
Favorite Restaurant: P.F. Changs
Favorite Drink: leaded coffee, any flavor
Favorite Thing About Memphis: it's where I met my sweetie!
Least Favorite Thing About Memphis: being in the Bible belt, discrimination of all sorts
Finish this phrase: My friends think I am "just a bot-tom, no seriously, the best friend I can be."

2003

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Memphis Pride
Parade & Festival
Saturday, June 7, 2003**



STRAIGHT UP, BUT NOT STRAIGHT

BY J. SHANE WILSON, MS, NCC, LPCC

Dear Straight Up,

My name is Max. I am 16 years old and I have been dating my 16-year old boyfriend for about a year. In the beginning, our relationship was great. His parents found out about us and sent him away. I waited for his return. Now that he has returned, he has changed.

The relationship is no longer how it used to be. Now when we go out, I find him staring and making comments about other guys. I have even found emails where he has asked guys to hook up with him, and he has met, that I know of, one guy. I confronted him about the emails and he said they were jokes between him and a friend.

I am confused and don't know what to do. I love him

but do want a faithful partner. I am scared that I am going to lose him and I don't want that to happen. What can I do?

Dear Teen,

First, you and he are both 16 years old. I know that we all want those fairytale romances and first loves to be the last, but relationships, especially gay ones, rarely last from age 16 till death. I know you think you love him, but the truth is, chances are slim that this is the person you will spend the rest of your life with.

Don't be blindsided by the fairytale, and look past reality, which is staring you in the eyes. He is either cheating on you or wants to. Also, at this young age, many gay guys feel the need to sow their wild oats, if you know what I mean.

I would just cut my losses, cry my tears and move on. At the very least, sit him down and tell him that you are not happy with your relationship as it stands. This will be a great communication experience for the real jerks you will meet in the years to come.

At any rate, I sense this situation is no good! Life without your present lover seems impossible, I know, but trust me, life goes on!

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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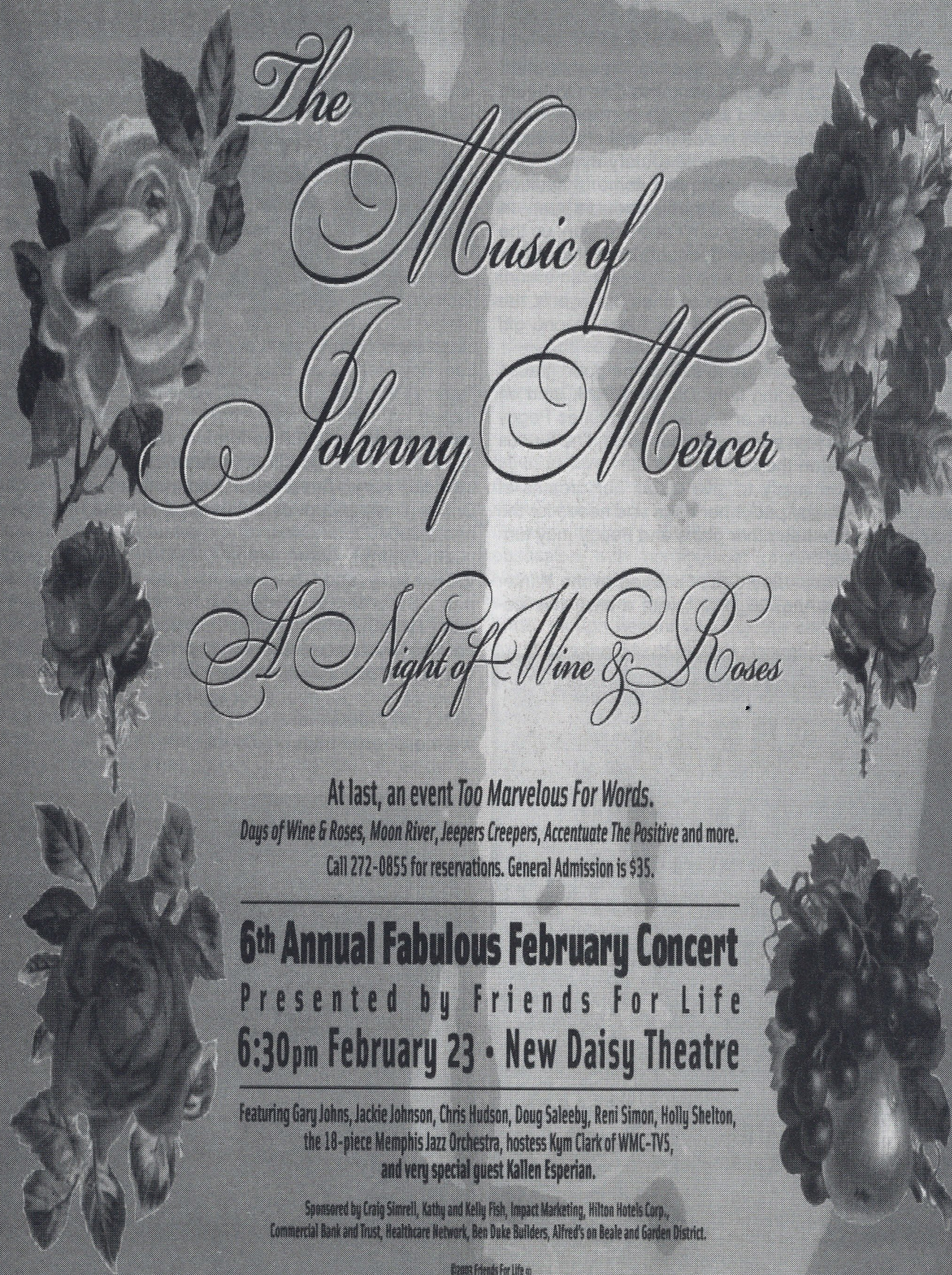
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42nd Street: Come witness the revival

There's gonna be a revival going on in Memphis when the Broadway musical *42nd Street* takes The Orpheum stage by storm Tuesday, Feb. 11, through Sunday, Feb. 16.

Based on the classic 1933 movie musical of the same name, *42nd Street* tells the story of a stary-eyed young actress named Peggy Sawyer who has come to audition for the new Julian Marsh musical that is about to open on Broadway. Unfortunately, Peggy can't seem to work up the nerve to walk through the stage door until it's too late – the auditions are over.

But, not to worry. Peggy soon catches the eye of the famous director, and when the chorus turns up one girl short, Peggy gets her big break.

However, Peggy can't seem to stay in the good graces of the show's aging leading lady, Dorothy Brock, and on opening night, another dancer accidentally pushes Peggy into Ms. Brock, who falls and breaks her ankle. The furious director fires Peggy on the spot.

Discouraged and ready to give up all her dreams of becoming a star, Peggy packs her bags and heads for the train station, but fate has other plans and Peggy may turn out to be a star yet.

The award-winning *42nd Street* opened at the Winter Garden Theatre on Aug. 25, 1980, with a cast that fea-

42ND STREET

ured Jerry Orbach (of "Law And Order" fame) as Julian, Lee Roy Reams as Billy, Wanda Richert as Peggy and Tammy Grimes as Dorothy. The original production, which moved to the Majestic Theatre on March 30, 1981, enjoyed a run of 3,486 performances.

Winner of a 2001 Tony Award for Best Revival of a Musical, *42nd Street* also was honored with a 2001 Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Revival of a Musical and a 2001 Outer Critics Circle award.

Showtimes for *42nd Street* are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 7:30 p.m., Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 2 and 8 p.m. and Sunday at 1:30 p.m. Tickets, which range in price from \$45 to \$15, can be purchased at The Orpheum Box Office, the Orpheum counter at Davis-Kidd Booksellers and all TicketMaster locations; charged by phone by calling (901) 525-3000 or (901) 743-ARTS, or online at www.orpheum-memphis.com.

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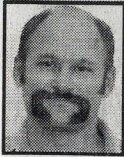
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from your **FAMILY** at

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QUOTE / UNQUOTE BY REX WOCKNER

"NO LOITERING IN SEAGRAPES."

— **A new twist in the genre of police signs posted in gay cruising areas to discourage men from having sex amid the vegetation, seen at Miami's Haulover Beach Park nude beach, Dec. 10, 2002. Seagrapes are trees.**

"You see a lot of young actors who have no problem with it (being out). But they're young; they haven't lived through the shame! They've come up in another generation, where they pop out of the womb and into a parade! On a big float! I came from a very, very, you know, working class — this was not — it's this huge issue to overcome, just on a personal level."

— **Gay actor Nathan Lane to New York City's *Gay City News*, Jan. 3.**

"As one who has never really been in the closet, it doesn't seem like a big event to come out. It's the first time I ever spoke to media about it, but it certainly wasn't a secret. ... I'm a conservative, entrepreneur, investment-banking politician from rural Nova Scotia who drives a Volvo stationwagon and has two Nova Scotia duck-tolling retrievers; it's pretty hard to peg me as a radical."

— **Canadian Member of Parliament Scott Brison, Dec. 7, 2002. Canada has three other openly-gay federal MPs, Svend Robinson, Real Menard and Libby Davies.**

"I've learned a lot from my drag queen fans! They have hooked me up, they have helped me in makeup. My fashion, they showed me how to talk. ... They helped me out a lot, they don't even realize it."

— **Singer Toni Braxton to San Diego's *Buzz Magazine*, Dec. 12, 2002.**

"I have always been attracted to both men and women, even when I was a little girl. When I'd have little girls spend the night, I'd try and put the moves on them. I thought it was fantastic. And I liked boys, too. Later, I had crushes, but never a full-on relationship, with a woman because all the women I liked were straight and were, like, 'What is happening?'"

— **Megan Mullally, Karen on "Will & Grace," to *Out* magazine, January issue.**

"Gay left-wingers, many nursing hangovers from the '60s. ... spend most of their time arguing with each other, usually with the firm belief that unless you share their personal views, you are probably a registered sex offender or shortly will be. Even more intriguing than neocons."

— **Advocate columnist Bruce Vilanch in the Jan. 21 issue.**

"On paper, the story sounds promising: Middle-aged doctor finds love but stays deep in the closet, comes out during a clash with her homophobic boss, struggles with her own homophobia, endures humiliation, is outed by a

lover, grows as a person, stands proud. On screen, though, the story was given scant time. Viewers had to connect the dots to figure out what was going on. NBC promos avoided mentions of the plot. And now that she's out, 'ER' doesn't know what to do with (Dr. Kerry) Weaver."

— **Columnist Rae Riebe writing in the Iowa daily newspaper *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, Dec. 26, 2002.**

"She smelled so nice. You kiss an actor and you don't know what they are going to smell like. But you kiss a girl and she is going to smell good. And she's very soft. They're soft and they smell nice. Guys don't."

— **Actress Julianne Moore on kissing actress Toni Collette in the new film *The Hours*, to Britain's *Sunday Mirror*, Dec. 29, 2002.**

"In the mid-'30s, (veteran gay activist Harry Hay) had fallen in love with a charismatic young actor named Will Geer and followed him into the (Communist) party. But the man who would one day be known as television's Grandpa Walton just didn't understand his lover's growing obsession with homosexual organizing, and most of Harry's straight comrades were openly aghast at his shamelessness. They finally bullied him into choosing a bride, though neither she nor the children they adopted could turn the tide of Harry's desires."

— **Author Armistead Maupin writing in *The New York Times*, Dec. 29, 2002.**

"I have lost a quarter of a million dollars over the last six years and I just can't take it anymore. ... The impact of the chain bookstores has been large. They cherry-pick us. They get the benefit of the best sellers so they pick up the best sales."

— **Larry Lingle on his decision to close the legendary Oscar Wilde Memorial Bookshop in New York City's Greenwich Village, to *The New York Times*, Jan. 7.**

"Bill Clinton's (100 or so) gay appointees met with fierce resistance in the Senate, with none other than Trent Lott blocking Clinton's efforts to make openly gay James Hormel the ambassador to Luxembourg simply because he was gay. It's clearly a sign of progress that Republicans didn't do the same to their own president. But if it weren't for the advances that Clinton and the Democrats accomplished in the 1990s ... George W. Bush would have not even appointed these measly six individuals, and, if he had, the Republican party would not have stayed quiet about it."

— **Columnist Michelangelo Signorile, *New York City's Gay City News*, Jan. 3.**

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.

Rod Stewart

***It Had To Be You* (☆☆)**

What brilliant record executive came up with this idea? Let's get a singer who hasn't had a hit in a couple of decades to cover songs from a couple decades before that and sell a million copies. In all fairness, Rod Stewart is a great rock vocalist or at least he was once upon a time. And all the songs on this album are true American classics, like "The Way You Look Tonight," "Moonglow" and "It Had To Be You." But the combination of Stewart and the songs just refuses to mesh.

The beauty of the melodies will surely strike any listener coming upon these songs for the first time. And the band playing behind Stewart is truly brilliant. But once you hear Stewart tackle the classics of Billie Holiday, Ella Fitzgerald or even Frank Sinatra, Stewart's wheezy flat vocals just don't fit the bill. Where Stewart once rocked, he now flatly wheezes with a noise too nasal to do justice to the composers of these great American classics.

This album isn't without its charms. As I said before, the band is really tight and plays wonderfully. And Rod's vocals do have a certain sadness in them that do justice to some of the slower tunes like "It Had To Be You." But, even when Stewart sounds his best, he leaves me wishing for Frank, Ella, Billie or anyone with a wider vocal range.

I recommend this album to only diehard Stewart fans who can't get enough of his voice. And, a note to all those people out there buying this album and the other similarly bad light adult jazz albums being made these days: Please stop buying them. Go buy some Billie Holiday, Ella Fitzgerald, Bessie Smith, Miles Davis. Don't be afraid to treat yourself to some really good jazz music, because, to be rather frank, folks, this record would be pure mush if it wasn't for the band continually making up for Stewart's lacking vocals. Also, go buy Joni Mitchell's *Both Sides Now*; it's one of the best jazz albums made

in the last decade.

—> Highlights include "It Had To Be You" and "That's All."

◆◆◆

TLC

***3D* (☆☆☆)**

Reviewing the final album from a group is never a joyous task. But I am indeed stuck here with what will

assuredly be the final offering from TLC pumping through my stereo. *3D* stands as less of a proper studio album from the talented trio and more of a final goodbye compilation for their fans.

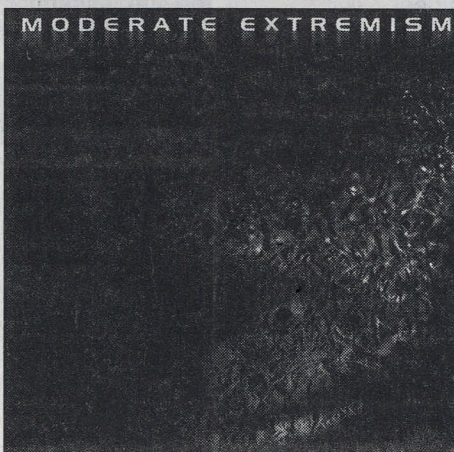
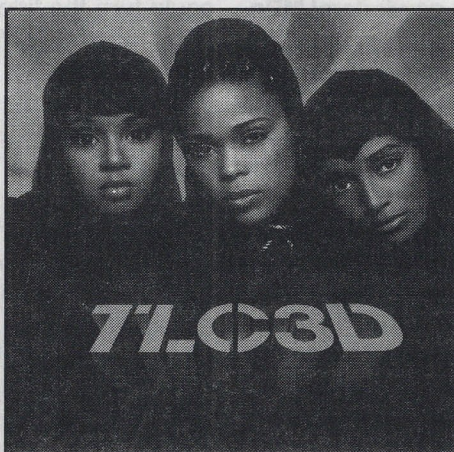
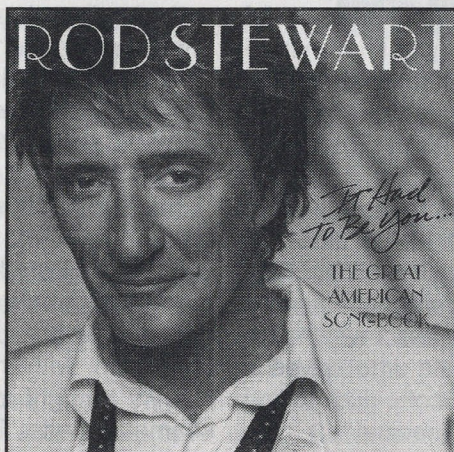
With the tragic death of TLC's third member, Lisa "Left-Eye" Lopes, lurking in the back of my mind, I can't help but hear certain sadness in this record. *3D* isn't the fun joyous affair *Fanmail* was.

While I have to admit I haven't always been the greatest of TLC fans, I do have a deep admiration for the statements they made for women in songs like "Scrubs" and "Waterfalls." With that said, I was really disappointed with the song "Girl Talk," which seems to celebrate a female tendency to gossip. Other tracks, like "In Your Arms Tonight" and "Over Me," just lack any intensity or power of the old TLC.

The album was produced by Antonio "LA" Reid. Reid seems to be producing everyone these days and maybe it is his over exposure that has eroded the difference between the albums he has recently worked on. All of Reid's work is starting to sound the same, which isn't a good thing for TLC. This album is slow and at times seems to try for the more soulful sound of Pink's latest record and then on the next track tries to shift seamlessly into something more hip-hop oriented. It is this disjointed feel that lends this album to sounding more like a collection of studio out-takes and leftovers than a true studio album.

3D is the type of record that may cause many people to question its existence. Because, from the opening intro through to the last notes of "Give It To Me While It's Hot," the album fails to meet the expectations set by past TLC efforts. But the one obvious thing is that this album wasn't made for critics and the mass media at large; it was a labor of love by a grief-stricken group for its fans.

Sadly, this will most likely be the last of TLC, unless they try to replace Lopes, something I seriously doubt, but it isn't the best of TLC. For their



See In The Mix, page 47

In The Mix

from page 46

last of TLC, unless they try to replace Lopes, something I seriously doubt, but it isn't the best of TLC. For their best work pickup *Fanmail* and *Crazy Sexy Cool*. For diehard fans, this album will be a must to complete their collection, but I doubt it will be as remembered or as played as the other two.

—> Highlights include "Good Love" and "Hey Hey Hey Hey."

V*I*R*G*O

Moderate Extremism (☆☆ 1/2)

My initial reaction to this record was, "what the f**k is this?" V*I*R*G*O is the ugly love child of cheesy '80s new wave, Nine Inch Nails and The Cure. Now, I should add here that all three of those things are among my favorite things, but alas, V*I*R*G*O is not.

The album opens with a lush instrumental bit that promises something worth sticking around for and then never delivers on that promise. His cover of the Billie Holiday classic "Strangefruit" is offensive enough to have this album forever banned from my stereo. But, if you skip past that track and ignore the not-so-great lyrics and vocals (he's no Trent Reznor), you find V*I*R*G*O has created a very danceable light version of industrial rock.

This album definitely doesn't have any mass appeal. It's a love-it or hate-it type of record and, to be totally honest, I don't love it. When V*I*R*G*O's press release compares his work to Nine Inch Nails, it is almost laugh-inducing. The densely-layered, musical inward journey that is Nine Inch Nails is decades beyond what V*I*R*G*O has created here. Think of V*I*R*G*O as Reznor's nerdy goth little brother who got his hands on some of his brother's musical equipment and started fooling around.

If *Moderate Extremism* didn't try so hard to be a deep goth record, it might actually have stumbled onto being a good record. In fact, V*I*R*G*O's slightly more dance floor accessible single, "Alpha Male," is better than anything on the record. Still, it isn't as good as buying some Nine Inch Nails or Skinny Puppy and enjoying dark industrial music at its best.

—> Highlights include "Alpha Male" and "Rent Boy."

MGLCC to open new building, plans ribbon cutting event

The community is invited to a ribbon cutting for the Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center, 892 South Cooper Street, on Saturday, Feb. 15, at 3 p.m.

Mayor W. W. Herenton will honor the Memphis gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community with his presence as he cuts the ribbon to the new MGLCC building.

Afterwards, visitors can enjoy refreshments as they tour the new 1,300-square-foot facility.

A dedication of a Benefactor Hall and a dedication of the Vincent Astor Community Archives are scheduled for later in the year.

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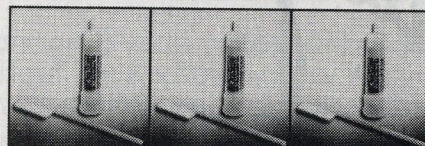


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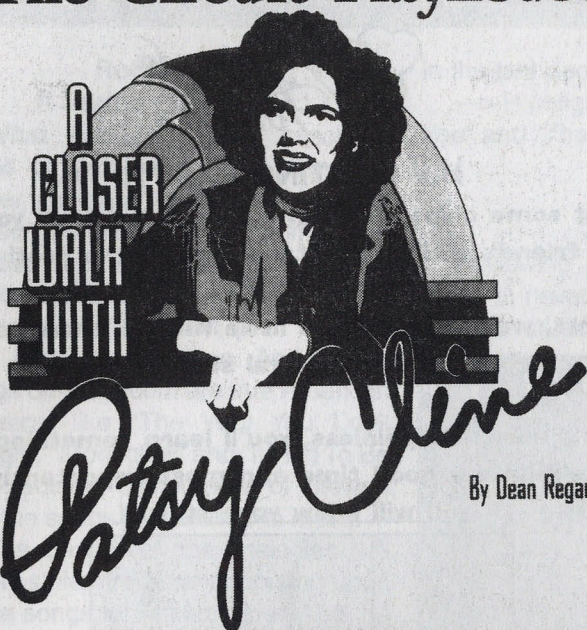
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Ex-Gay Bianco sells stock, hopes to wed

By REX WOCKNER, contributing writer

The founder of the gay-press syndication company Q Syndicate, David Bianco, announced to staff and contributors Jan. 16, that he is selling his remaining share of the company to Rivendell Marketing because he is no longer gay.

Rivendell, which places ads in the gay press, bought most of Q Syndicate from Bianco in 2001.

Q Syndicate is the world's largest gay-press content provider, unless more column inches are filled by the Associated Press news wire service.

Bianco said he will continue to write his syndicated "Over The Rainbow" column in which he recently announced that, for religious reasons, he no longer has sex with men. Bianco is Jewish.

"Nobody asked me to leave (the company) because of my column," Bianco said in an interview. "But the fact that I no longer consider myself gay meant I was uncomfortable having gay journalism be my life's work.

"I believe that within a couple years, I'm probably going to be married with a growing family, God willing," he said.

In another recent column, Bianco denounced gays and lesbians who have babies, calling them "selfish" for purposefully depriving offspring of a mother or father.

Q Syndicate content, which appears in local gay and lesbian newspapers, includes Hastings Wyman's "Capital Letters," Romeo San Vicente's "Deep Inside Hollywood," Paula Martinac's "Lesbian Notions," Andrew Collins's "Out of Town," the history column "Past Out" and Simon Sheppard's "Sex Talk."

The company also provides the gay press with cartoons (A Couple of Guys and Bitter Girl), editorial cartoons, book reviews, crossword puzzles, movie reviews, horoscopes and word-search games.

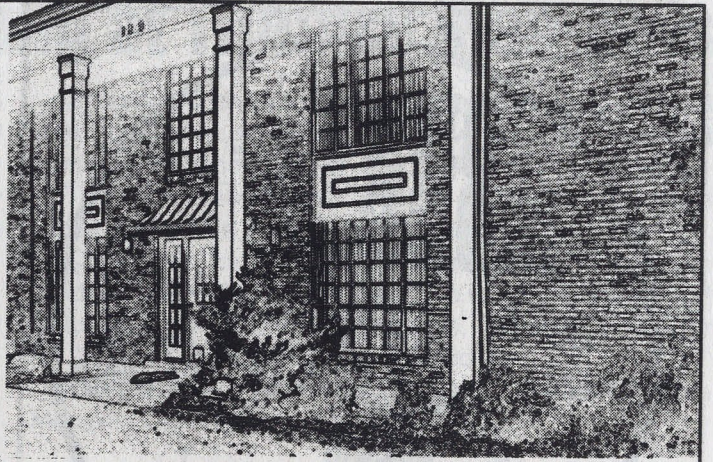
Other major players in gay-press syndication include Alison Bechdel (Dykes To Watch Out For), Eric Orner (The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green) and Rex Wockner (International News, Quote Unquote, The Wockner Wire and breaking news stories). Several independent columnists – including Michael Alvear, Mubarak Dahir and Marc Acito – are syndicated on a somewhat smaller scale, as is D.C.-based news reporter Bob Roehr.

(Editor's note: Rex Wockner briefly worked part-time as a Q Syndicate consultant several years ago.)

Bianco also produced the Vice Versa Awards for Excellence in the Gay and Lesbian Press. Family & Friends was awarded Second Place, Division B Best Editorial for 1997-98 and Best New Publication for 1998-1999.)

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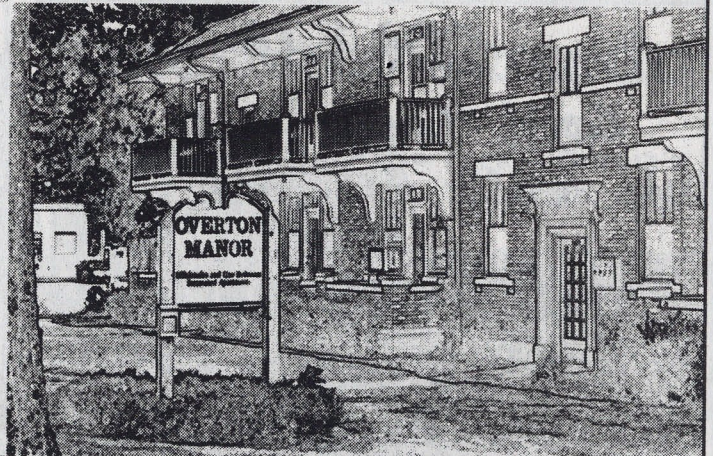


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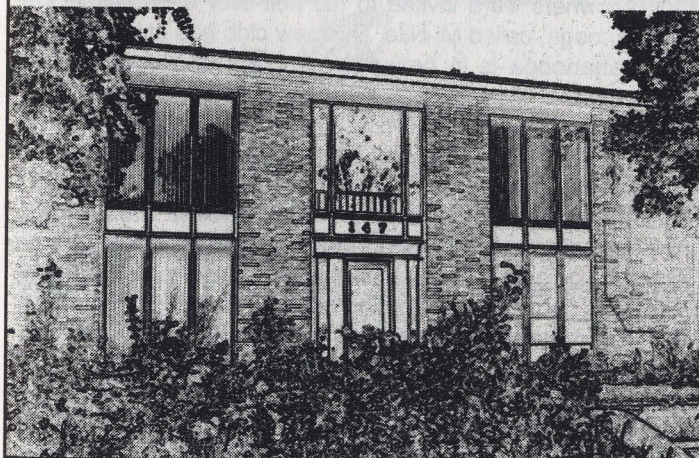
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WHAT'S THE 'TEE' LADYBUG ?

BY ANTHONY HARDAWAY

January, the beginning of a new year. My first major event was the transition of my biological mother in body and spirit. You, the reader/village truly touched my heart with the love shown to me and my family. My mother and I had an opportunity to talk as a black same-gender-loving son/man to a heterosexual, loving mother/woman. So, as the church world would say it, "We got it together." She had stopped by the "Haven" on Dec. 28 and gave us, "the chil-ren," her blessings on the work that is being done in the black community.

I have learned two things about life since her transition. No one really dies - their spirit lives on in us each day, and we are only on this earth for a season of time. I believe our job is to be a blessing to ourselves and others each and every day. My mother belonged to God first, herself second and a mother and wife last.

My job now, in honoring her life, is to respect myself as a single black gay man of the South by living up to the lessons taught to me by her and God. So, allow me to share with you something she said she learned from coming to our past events in the black gay community,

"Hating and disliking people for whatever reason is like a cancer," she said, "it eats at the individual, hating from the inside out. Remove negative things, thoughts and feelings from your daily living and replace them with positive goals and outcomes. So LOVE and LIVE each day as if someone passed you a note from your Divine stating, 'Today is your last day in this life form.'" Rest in God's love, Ms. Abby ... Your baby ... Anthony.

Brothers United of Chattanooga, Tenn., did it again with their MLK Holiday Anniversary Extravaganza. Yearly, brothers from all over the nation pack out Chuck's Place on Saturday night to help celebrate with the chapter members of the network.

Sunday afternoon, Chattanooga Cares (the local agency) hosted a workshop at the Days Inn Hotel's conference room. The attendance was very good.

Sunday evening, the tea dance was in memory of one of our brothers named "Billy Boy." Brother Chris (the emcee) did an outstanding job with the show. The entertainers that performed lit the stage up with energy and fun. After the show, we and the out-of-towners were invited to the first-ever black gay club in Chattanooga, called Mi-Nite. This new club has great potential.

Chattanooga is in between Nashville and Knoxville and only an hour away from Hot-lanta. Y'all chil-ren better "work out" in Chatt-town.

As we celebrate love and history this month, take the time to send an old friend a card or pay a visit. And, for history sake, make it your business to learn about someone black and gay by reading a book, watching a video, listening to a CD by a gay artist, or going to talk to someone who has been "in the life" who you can learn something from. If you enjoy this newly-found knowledge, continue learning throughout the year.

Then, you can join in with me when all of God's "special" chil-ren - black/white, rich/poor, religious/non-religious - stand together at any gathering and wave with hands held high, shouting, (say it with me) "Happy pride, chil-ren, happy pride!"

Ain't Misbehavin' running at Theatre Memphis

Ain't Misbehavin', *The Fat's Waller Musical Show* is on stage now through Feb. 16 at Theatre Memphis, 630 Perkins Extended, on the Lohrey Stage.

This warmhearted, high-energy, fast-moving, blockbuster musical thrilled Broadway audiences for more than 1,600 performances and won every award in sight, including the Tony Award for Best Musical (1978), the Drama Critics Award, the Outer Critics Circle Award, the Drama Desk Award and even a Grammy Award.

Ain't Misbehavin' is an extraordinary portrait of the explosively talented Thomas "Fats" Waller, a composer, piano-player and charismatic entertainer. His story is brought to life by this rollicking, swinging, finger-snapping revue. Waller rose to international fame during the Golden Age of the Cotton Club, honky-tonk dives along Lenox Avenue, rent parties, stride piano players and swing.

Although not quite a biography, *Ain't Misbehavin'* evokes the delightful humor and infectious energy of this American original as a cast of five struts, strums and sings the songs he made famous in a career that ranged from uptown clubs to downtown Tin Pan Alley to Hollywood and concert stages in the U.S., Canada and Europe.

One of the most popular and well-crafted revues of all time, the show is sometimes sassy, sometimes sultry, with moments of devastating beauty. It is simply unforgettable.

Bringing the show to life is director/choreographer Mitzi Hamilton and music director Andrew Bryan, the team that made TM's season opener *42nd Street* such a triumph.

The cast includes Tasha Gwin, Deneka Lewis, Keith Miller, Justin Tate and Melissa Van Pelt.

Showtimes for *Ain't Misbehavin'* are 7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays; 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, and 2 p.m. on Sundays. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$15 for students with valid ID.

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

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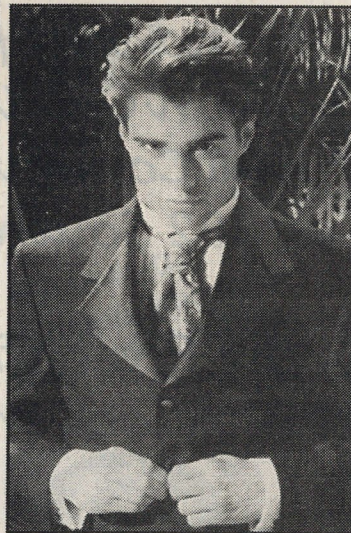
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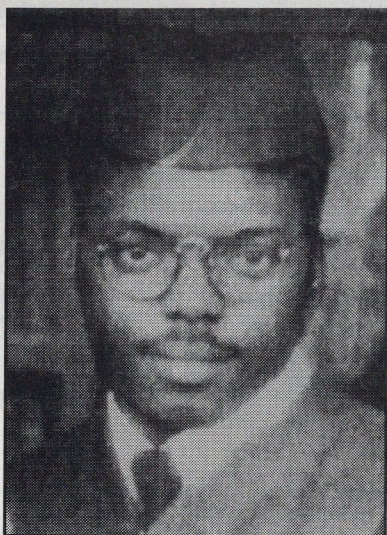
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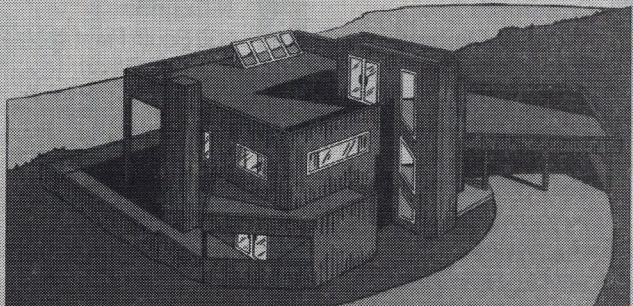


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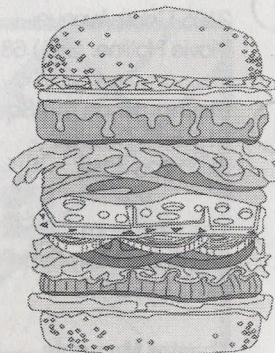
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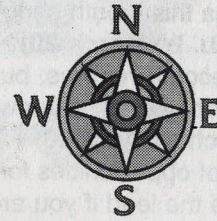
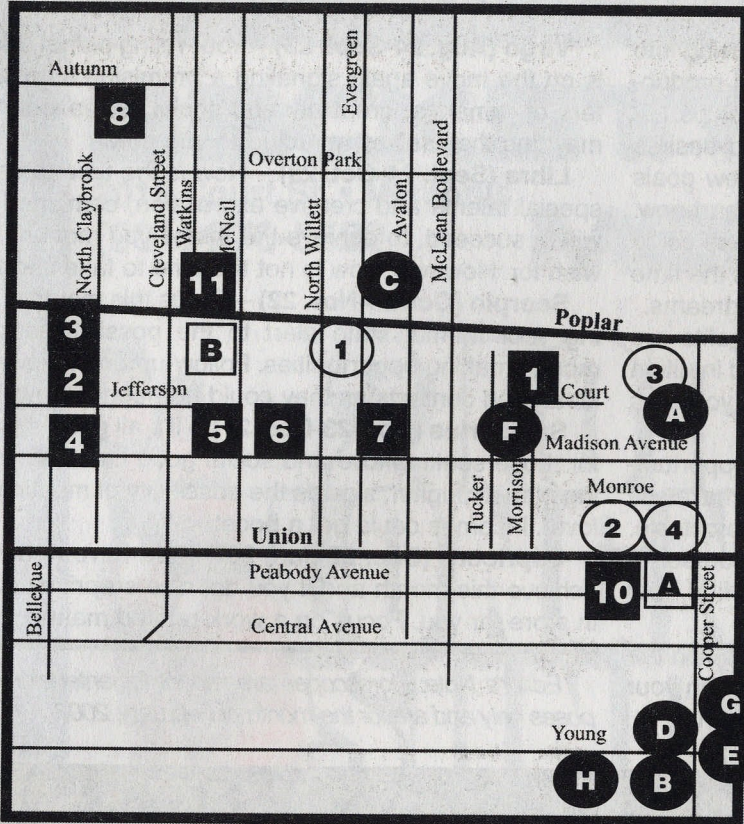
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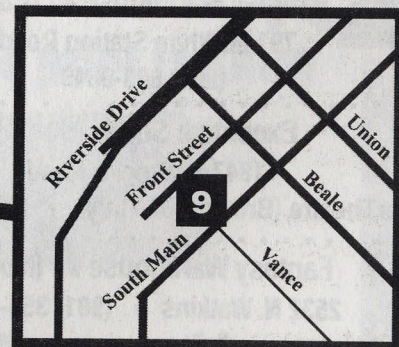
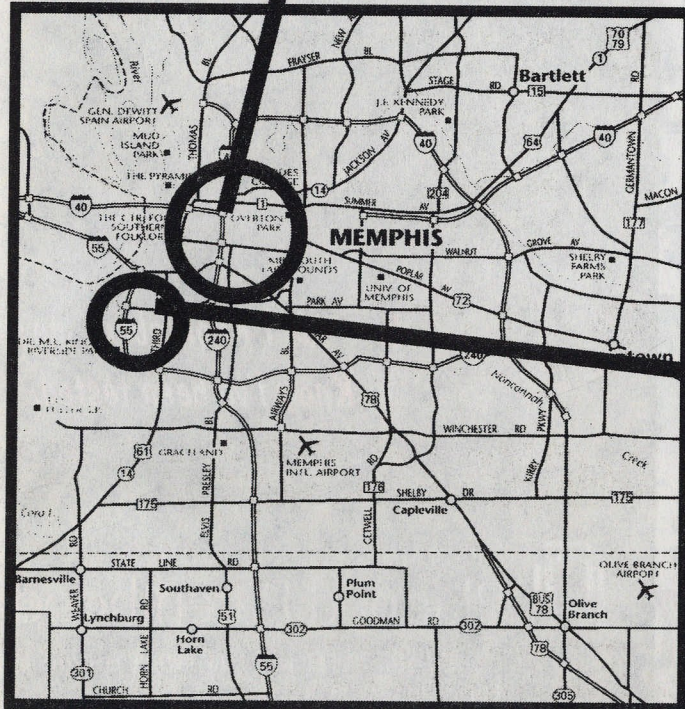
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MEMPHIS BAR, RESTAURANT & THEATER GUIDE



*Maps are not to scale;
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HOROSCOPES

Aquarius (Jan. 21-Feb. 19) – A new moon moving into your sign should bring with it a period of mental productivity. The focus this month should be on relationships.

Pisces (Feb. 20-March 20) – Your hopes and desires could soon become realities, but only if you review goals and eliminate obstacles in your way. Follow your heart now.

Aries (March 21-April 20) – Travel in your future could open a world of opportunities for you now. Now is the time for you to take the lead if you are to obtain your dreams.

Taurus (April 21-May 21) – Investment benefits are likely this month, but only if you listen to combined intuition and experienced knowledge. Security could be yours as the result of a real estate venture.

Gemini (May 22-June 21) – Look for positive opportunities in education and far away places as the Sun makes its move. Making wise investments now could prove profitable.

Cancer (June 22-July 23) – You may find yourself a real social butterfly this month. Singles may find real romance and positive relationships this month.

Leo (July 24-Aug. 23) – Now is the time to look on the bright side of things as Lucky Jupiter moves through your sign. Focus on matters concerning work and health.

Virgo (Aug. 24-Sept. 23) – Your ruling planet, Mercury, is on the move again signaling a promising time for matters of romance, creativity and social endeavors. Others may find themselves attracted to you now.

Libra (Sept. 24-Oct. 23) – Now is the time to use your special talents and creative expression, combined with a will to succeed, to achieve the things you most hope and wish for. However, now is not the time to take short cuts.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) – Focus this month on keeping your mental state alert to the possibilities of new, money-making opportunities. Follow-up on old investment ideas and contacts as they could be needed now.

Sagittarius (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) – It's all good this month for those seeking love and social good times as your ruling planet, Jupiter, signals the possibility of meeting a new lover. Incomes could get a boost.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 20) – You have to believe to achieve this month and if you do, nice surprises could be in store for you. Focus on a work-related matter.

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

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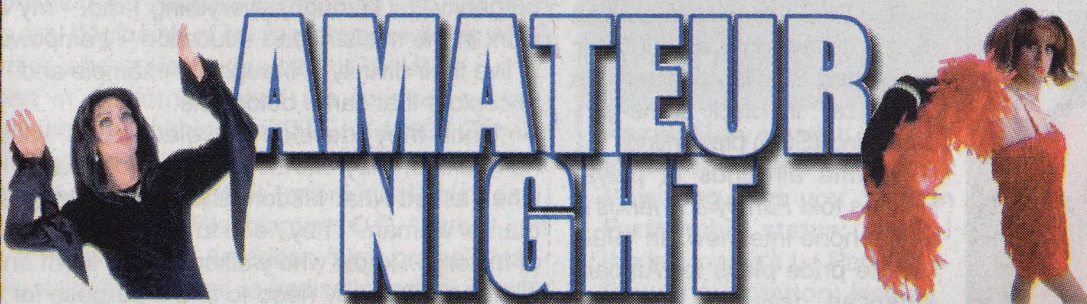
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Black Gay History

from page 8

While at Harvard Law School, Boykin took a bold step when he filed a lawsuit against the school for discrimination, seeking more women of color and others of diversity on its teaching staff.

"I was learning about the law from Harvard and at the same time getting hands-on practice in the lawsuit against Harvard," Boykin said. "It was the best legal education I got..."

"I am writing and lecturing fulltime, visiting 20 to 25 colleges a year," Boykin said, explaining where he is presently on his career path. "Usually (I talk) about race and sexual orientation ... my life experience of being black and gay."

"I am also working on my memoir, tentatively titled *From Harvard to Harlem*," Boykin continued, "and writing other articles and columns. I also write a daily commentary on my website, www.keithboykin.com."

What would Boykin want the world to remember him for 50 years from now?

"For being passionate about making a difference in the world," Boykin said. "... My passion is the work I do and the ideas I believe in. It is far more important (to me) than material wealth..."

And what advice does Boykin offer to the next SGL generation?

"The best advice I can offer is to love yourself and don't let anybody else tell you not to...be it parent, teacher, friend or preacher," Boykin replied. "Don't let anyone get in the way of self-love."

Dr. Rev. Shirlene Holmes



Shirlene Holmes

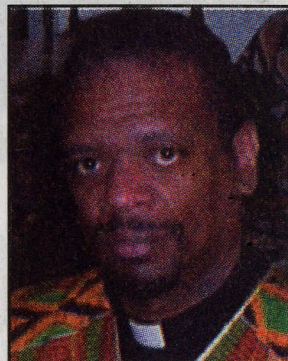
Rev. Dr. Shirlene Holmes is an author, a playwright, an educator, a minister. She is considered a "trailblazer" in Black same-gender-loving (SGL) playwriting.

"I write all kinds of plays," Holmes told *Family & Friends* in a telephone interview. "In 1990, I wrote pride plays for African-American gays and lesbians, thus putting African-American gays and lesbians on stage. Their artistic work helped them

to be seen more fully. I feel I've also done the same thing with women and marginalized and disenfranchised people. Theater is a vehicle for social change, I believe."

Holmes earned a B.A. in English from York College of the City University of New York; she also earned an M.F.A. in theater/playwriting, as well as a doctorate in speech from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. She was a University Women of Distinction Winner-Doctoral Student in 1989, while at SIU.

She is presently an associate professor in



Rainey Cheeks

the communications department at Georgia State University.

A Real Read of Chicago, Ill., took her play, *A Lady and a Woman*, to the stage. The production was nominated for a Chicago Black Theater Alliance Award in 1999, for original script and for Best Leading Actress (Elizabeth Shivers).

"I was very honored for them (A Real Read) taking on these risky works," Holmes said. "Many theater companies were afraid to stage them."

Another of her many plays, *Conversations with a Diva*, the oral history of an HIV-positive black man, also has been staged nationally.

Holmes, as she said, doesn't limit her subjects to just gays and lesbians. Presently, she is working on a play called *Three Daughters*, about a family with a white, an Asian and an African-American daughter.

"I am eclectic and don't (stick) to just one topic. I don't pigeon-hole. I am an artist and do as I am inspired ... writing about the issues of the day. ... I write in the way of black women before me. (I desire) my work to liberate someone to be proud, gay, woman, Christian, etc."

Holmes, ordained in 1999, also is a minister at Hillside Chapel and Truth Center in Atlanta.

"I battled cancer from 1994 through 2000," she said. "(Because of) that journey, when I minister to others, I speak from experience, not (just) what I think, I consider myself a light of the world liberating and serving humanity....serving all people."

"I want to be remembered for a life of dedication," Holmes said when asked what she would want to be remembered for 50 years from now. "... dedicated first to the spirit and to humanity ... (Through) everything I did - my artistic work, work in the ministry and education - I empowered (others) to live their divinity ... I taught by example and I honored the ancestors that came before me."

"Until they develop a relationship with spirit and humankind, they will be constantly in pain," Holmes said when asked what wisdom she would offer to a young SGL man or woman. "They need to have spirituality and a sense of history ... know who walked before them and honor that with their life. They need to find a purpose for their life."

"Even if they love the recreation of life and expression of their sexuality," Holmes continued, "someone has to write the book, be the teacher, etc. They need to take up their

place in serving humanity. ... they have a debt to the generations coming after them. They need to fully define a culture and a history."

"There is a lot of talent and inspiration and dreamers and people with aspirations," Holmes concluded. "I encourage them to go on and become entrepreneurs, go on into the ministry, and not live timidly but live boldly."

Bishop Kwabena Rainey Cheeks

Bishop Kwabena Rainey Cheeks is one of the pioneers of churches targeting the

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Black Gay History

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African-American gay and lesbian community. He also founded the Washington, D.C.-based HIV/AIDS agency Us Helping Us: People Into Living (UHU).

Cheeks, 50, born and raised in Washington, D.C., continues on a life journey of many paths. Before his ecclesiastical journey, Cheeks studied martial arts for 30 years, reaching the Top 10 list of marital artists in the '70s and '80s, Cheeks traveled the world, earning world-championships along the way.

"I am a master teacher," Cheeks told *Family & Friends* in a telephone interview. "Although Cheeks no longer competes, he still conducts martial arts workshops on occasion.

A second path led Cheeks into the fast-paced world of clubs as manager of the legendary Washington, D.C., club, the Clubhouse. Many a celebrity entertained at the Clubhouse, including Patti LaBelle, Martha Wash and Nona Hendryx. As the manager of the club, by 1985, Cheeks realized far too many people were falling victim to a new disease, AIDS.

In 1985, Cheeks formed Us Helping Us: People Into Living (UHU), an organization designed to "take care of our own," through holistic living and positive thinking. Although The Clubhouse closed its doors in 1990, UHU continues today under the executive direction of Ron Simmons. Cheeks has held emeritus status since 1993.

"My ministry started 21 years ago," Cheeks said. "I was ordained in 1982. At that time I was doing mostly street outreach, founding Us Helping Us: People Into Living in 1985. ... The real beginning of my ministry was doing AIDS work, education and outreach (as part of UHU).

"Carl Bean in California asked me to start a Unity Fellowship Church in Washington, D.C., in 1993," Cheeks continued. "I was the founder and pastor....In 2002, I left Unity Fellowship and continued as Inner Light Ministries ... an independent church in Washington, D.C. "Inner Light worships in a more African-American 'high praise' (manner)," Cheeks said. " ... I say it is 'radically inclusive,' with members who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, heterosexual, couples and singles, and children. ... We have to keep knocking down walls and turning the walls into bridges. For me, if I focus only on African-Americans that are gay and lesbian, I am doing exactly what other people have done to us."

What would Cheeks want to be remembered for 50 years from now?

"That I gave it my best," Cheeks responded. "I gave it my best everyday to help people out. If I do that in any way I am blessed."

And what advice does Cheeks offer the younger SGL generation?

"Fall in love with yourself," Cheeks admonished. "... If you honestly love yourself, you won't let and accept people

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Meet Your Neighbor

Mary Hamlett



Name: Mary Hamlett

Place where you were born: Memphis, Tennessee

How long have you lived in Memphis: all my life

Partnership status: married 6 years (that's her on the left, name's La Paula)

Sexual orientation: lesbian

Occupation: grad student/social services worker

Hobbies: movies, traveling, reading and trivia

Favorite Food: any Oriental food

Favorite Color: blue

Favorite Animal: dinosaurs

Favorite Singer: Barry Manilow

Favorite Song: "Bohemian Rhapsody" by Queen

Favorite Movie: *The Other Sister*

Favorite Restaurant: J. Alexander's

Favorite Drink: Kilian's Red

Favorite Thing About Memphis: the cost of living; affordable real estate

Least Favorite Thing About Memphis: the level of racism and bigotry

Finish this phrase: My friends think I am "dependable and reliable."

Diary of a DJ: Part II

By DJ RON, contributing writer

For five years we had a ball, but I began to do more drugs and work less.

I was beginning to live a double life. Insanity began to take over my mind and body. Reality was a thing of the past. By now, the Apartment Club was big business. It was at its capacity four nights out of the week. People crowded in from the Tri-State area.

The owner of the club, Dave, had purchased a new Lincoln, but I was slowly beginning to lose everything I had. Sex became abundant. I left with someone different every night, sometimes more than one person. I was throwing caution into the wind. Even the majority of the showcast were hooked on drugs and sex. Orgies were sometimes held in the club.

By the mid to late '80s, a new STD was introduced into the club scene. At the time, we weren't too concerned about the disease. Penicillin kills everything, or so we thought. More clubs began to spring up in the city. A list of them consisted of The Other Side, Oops, 14K, Reflections and The Hideaway. George's relocated on Front Street and changed its name to GDI. With all of these grand openings, this new disease became more prevalent.

Not only was a new illness introduced but new drugs became more prevalent. Rush and speed became popular on the club scene, but the most prominent was cocaine, especially crack cocaine. It was the "in thing." Everyone would gather before and after leaving the club to "get their mind together."

By the early '90s, the new disease (AIDS) began taking lives rapidly. Basically, the only medicines available were antibiotics and AZT. They seemed to only speed up the process of the illness.

With all the sudden deaths, people began to use drugs more frequently, even me. I had lost two of my closest friends to the virus and it bothered me so much; I turned more and more to cocaine. I knew that the possibility of me acquiring HIV was great since me and my closest friends slept with the same people. Like most people, I felt that what I didn't know wouldn't kill me. Of course, I was so wrong.

The next person I lost to the illness was Dave. He had a cold for over a year. Not only that, he had to deal with my drug problem and the opening of a new club called Escape. It became too much for him. He eventually visited a doctor and discovered he had Tuberculosis. Dave became so ill that he never recovered.

Other people tried to manage the club, but most of the customers had relocated to the new club.



I turned to drugs even more. I eventually withdrew from the club scene, and found comfort in drugs. I was lost in the drug scene for years and couldn't see my way clear. Despair and grief became my companions. I found my only solitude in jail.

One day I ran into a longtime friend who was now the owner of a new club, N-cognito. He offered me a job and I accepted. I guess he saw something in me that I couldn't see in myself. I had lost most of my friends to AIDS and drugs and my new associates were only using me for what I had to offer.

I began working at N-cognito, but drugs still dominated my life. It became noticeable to the employees who had befriended me. I tried to conceal my problem but I started to miss more and more days from work. The owner of the club, "T," was losing patience with me, yet he continued to stand by me. During the next few years, I had periods of sobriety, but I continued to find comfort in drugs and sex.

I took a leave of absence from N-cognito to get my head together, but I only got worse. A year had passed, another new club opened and I started spinning records there, but I just didn't feel comfortable. Club Liquid only lasted for a few months. Depression was beginning to take over and I couldn't fight it. I even thought of just throwing in the towel. On that very day I thought of suicide, I ran into Terry, owner of N-cognito and I guess he saw the despair in my eyes and offered me another position.

Terry reminds me of Dave in certain ways. He's very concerned for his friends and family. He has gotten me over a lot of difficulties in my life. I thank God for him and the other employees at N-cognito, including Ladybug. What I have learned through all of this is that in your darkest hour, God will always prevail.

I'm still presently employed at N-cognito looking forward to the move to the new club.

The message I want to give to the *Family & Friends* readers is that we are never alone; someone is always watching over us and loves us. Many of us find comfort and acceptance in the club scene, but we shouldn't let that be our whole life. We sometimes tend to get caught up in the glitter and glamour of the night life, but along with the excitement, comes danger and disappointments. Enjoy your life, but be careful and thoughtful of others. This is DJ Ron signing out. Love to all my friends.

P.S. I also am living with the virus and have been for 10 years and I'm okay with that. I have family and friends who care for me and that are concerned for my well-being. Agencies like Friends For Life give me a lot of moral support. I'm never alone, even when I think I am.

(Editor's Note: Dairy of a DJ, Part I was published in the December 2002, issue of Family & Friends magazine. If you missed that issue and would like one mailed to you, call the Family & Friends office at (901) 682-2669.)

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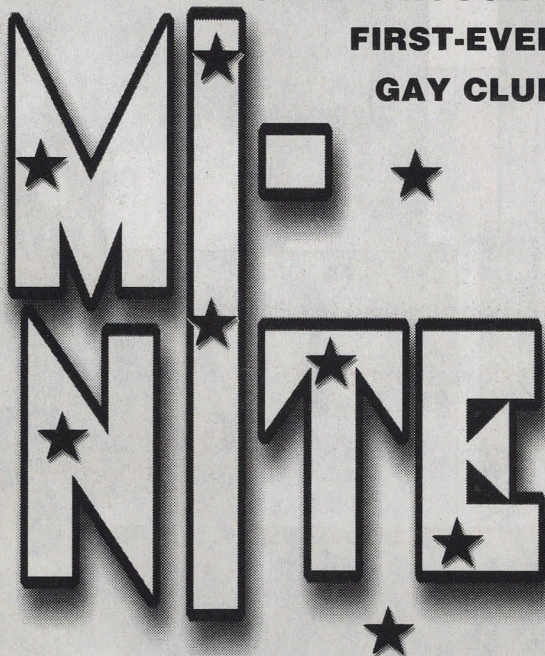
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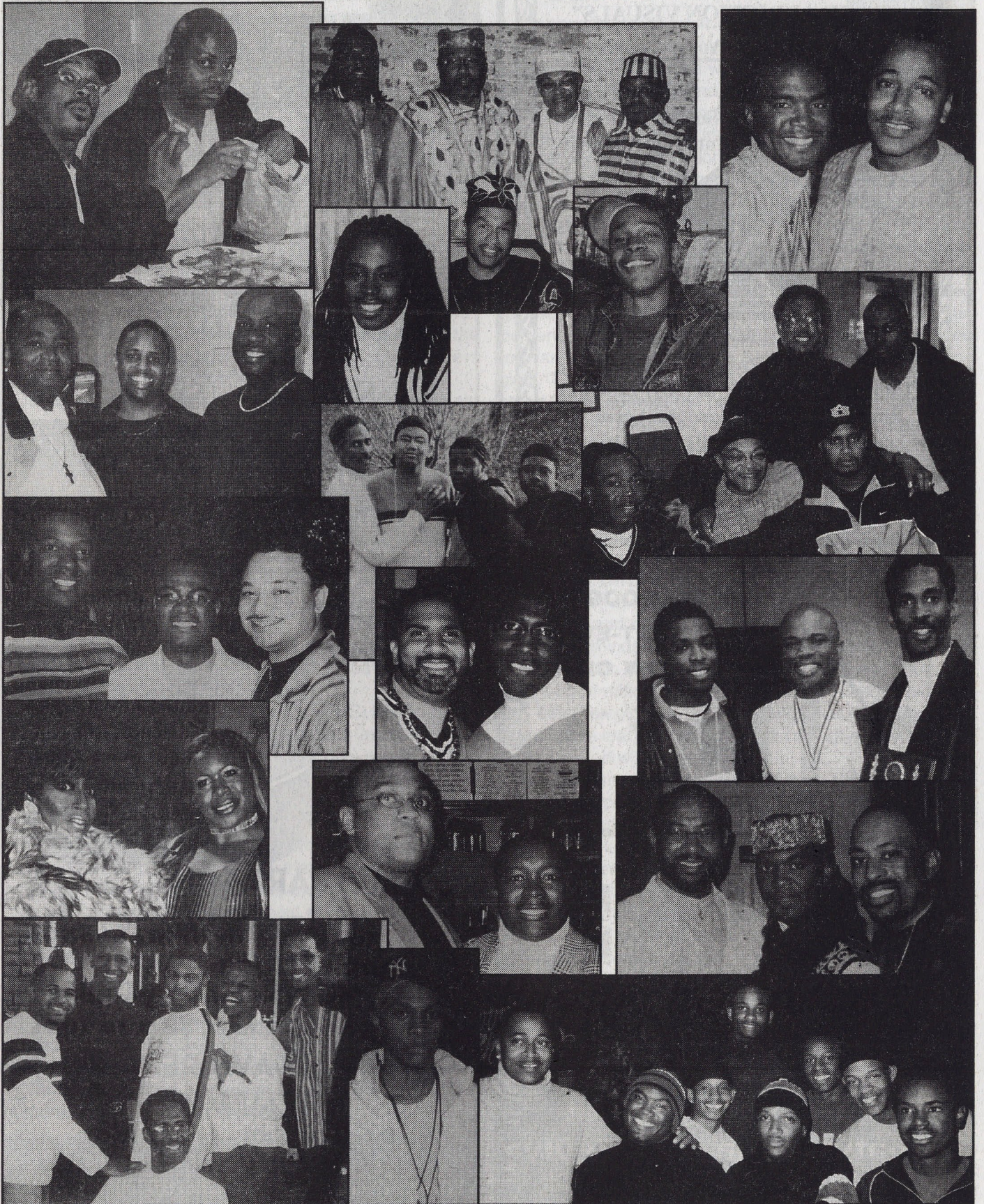
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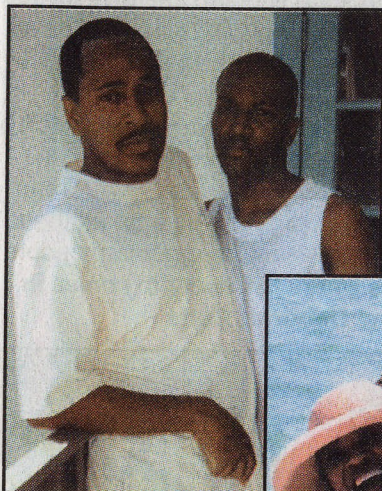
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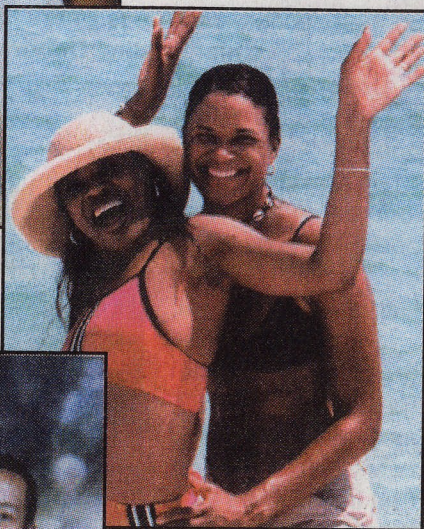
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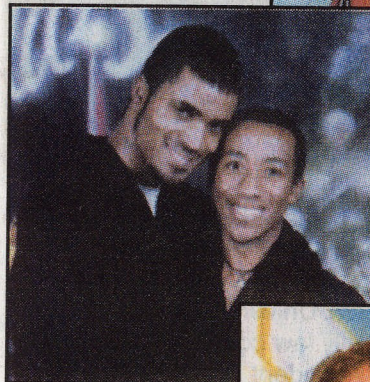
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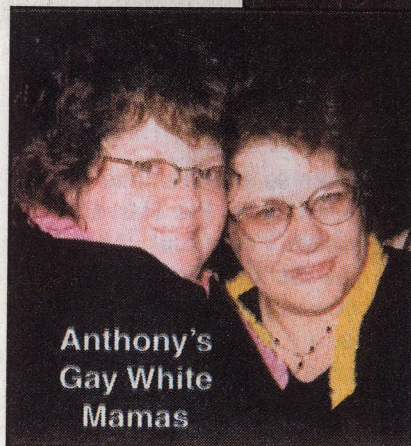
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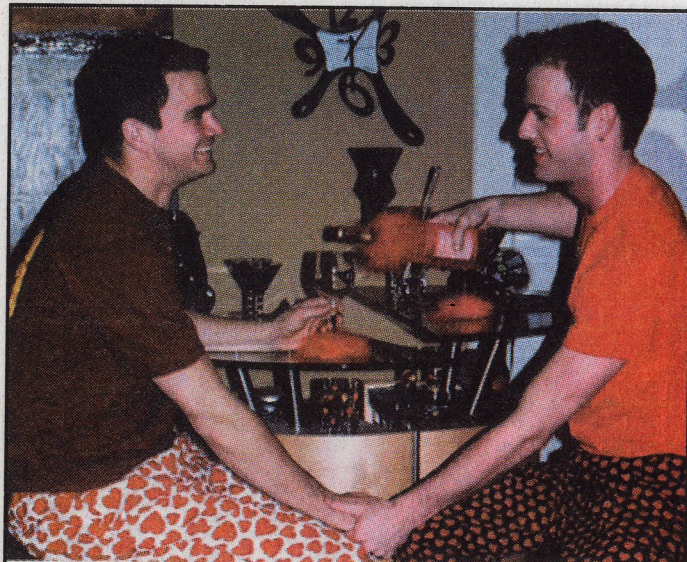
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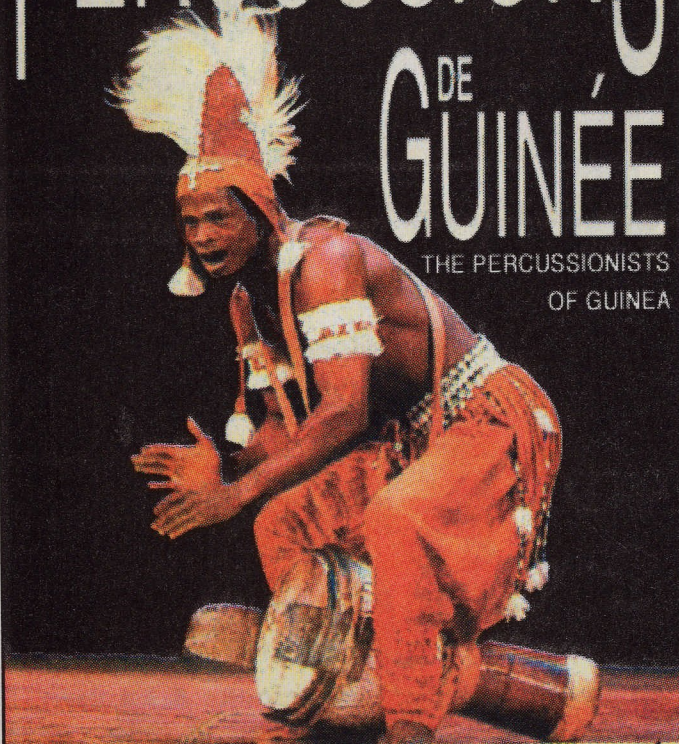


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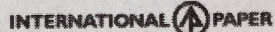
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Black Gay History

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treating you just anyway. Educate yourself and give it your best. If you don't love yourself, you will drink and drive, have unprotected sex, settle for second best and stay in abusive relationships.

"Find out what your passion is and live your passion," he added. "Whatever your dream is, know that you can."

Cheeks offered one more token of advice to our readers: "We need to support each other, then we break these cycles of depression and oppression. Congratulate people on their successes. That is where the strength comes in."

Chief Justice Deborah Batts

Deborah Batts is the nation's first openly lesbian African-American federal judge. Her portrait now hangs in the halls of The Harvard Law School.

Judge Batts was graduated from Radcliffe in 1969, and from Harvard Law School in 1972. She first clerked for a federal judge then joined Cravath,

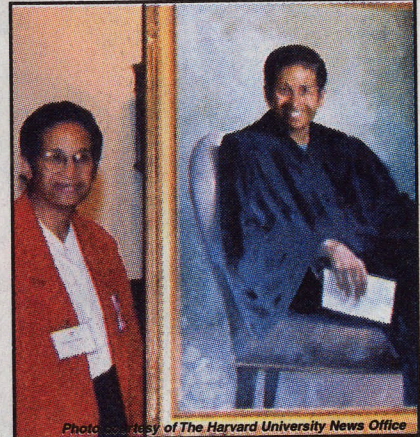


Photo courtesy of The Harvard University News Office

Deborah Batts

Swaine & Moore as a litigator for six years. She was an assistant U.S. attorney in New York for five years before taking a position at Fordham University in 1994, where she taught property and family law courses.

That same year, former President Bill Clinton nominated Batts for a judicial seat. Her nomination was confirmed by the U.S. Senate with no challenges. In June of 1994, she was sworn in as a United States District Court Judge for the Southern District of New York (Manhattan).

"Being a lesbian is definitely part of my life," she told the *Washington Blade*, "... It is also one of many parts of my life. I am also a very devoted mother, I'm an attorney, a former prosecutor, and I'm an African American. If people assume any one of these aspects is going to predominate it would create a problem."

"Lawyers practicing before Judge Batts have found her intellectually curious, thoughtful and fair," written at www.law.harvard.edu/news.

Judge Batts's portrait, by notable artist Simmie Knox of Silver Spring, Md., was presented to the Harvard Law School by the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Alumni/ae Committee of the Harvard Law School, Oct. 27, 2001. Of the 323 portraits and busts now at the Law School, seven are of African-Americans, six are of women. Batts is the first openly gay graduate whose portrait hangs at HLS.

(Editor's Note: Family & Friends requested an interview with Judge Batts, but was unable to arrange such.)



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

- Mae West

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Committed Couples of Color plan first event

Seeing a need in the Memphis gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community, Dexter and Gaylon St. John have started a new group, Committed Couples of Color (CCC).

The new organization will host a kick-off party, "A Valentine Lover's Gathering" on Friday, Feb. 14, beginning at 8 p.m. at Club Paragon, 2865 Walnut Grove Road. Admission is \$5 per person, with \$2 of the admission price being donated to HIV/AIDS awareness and the Memphis Black SGL Alliance. Both couples and singles are encouraged to attend.

The couple told *Family & Friends*, "We want to see couples together."

"We met 10 years ago at a party at my house," Gaylon said, explaining how he and Dexter met. "We spoke briefly for 10 years." However, they didn't actually go out on a date until just last year when Gaylon was visiting Isaac Hayes Music, Food, Passion where Dexter was an employee. Dexter asked Gaylon out and the two have been committed ever since.

"We realized we are so close ... and we wanted to share this with other people; help them work things out," Gaylon continued. "We want to mentor younger couples; (we've noticed) they watch us and want to be like us."

"We know friends that are just living together as couples," Dexter added, "and we want them to recognize all

the good parts of being together and spend more time together. ... We have so much fun.

"Some couples come out (to the clubs) but rarely are together," Dexter said. "If you didn't know they were together you wouldn't know they were a couple. They split up at the door."

Dexter and Gaylon are quick to point out that CCC is for the entire rainbow of same-gender-loving individuals, black and white included.

The mission of CCC is to give support to those in same-gender relationships; provide "marital" consultation to the black same-gender-loving community; create new ways of supporting (the) community; teach the SGL community how to be happy with one mate; show the world that to be "gay" is not being promiscuous, and to act as a beacon of hope for the lonely.

CCC is sponsored by The Memphis Black Same-Gender-Loving Alliance.

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

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"Loved By Many ...

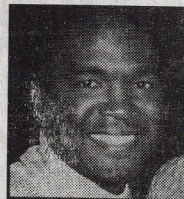


ABERDEEN CRAWFORD

... Best By GOD"

Thanks so much to the Same-Gender-Loving Community nationwide for the love you expressed to me and my family during the transition period of my mother.

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DISCOVERY, 1021 Jessie Road, (501) 664-4784, Sat. only, 9 p.m.-5 a.m., [website: Latenightdisco.com](http://www.latenightdisco.com)

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](http://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

MYSTIC KREWE OF APHRODITE, a social and service organization, women only, P.O. Box 11483, Memphis, TN 38111-1483, email: aphroditemem@yahoo.com, [website: www.geocities.com/aphroditemem](http://www.geocities.com/aphroditemem)

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

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 Aveune, at 10 p.m. • MEN ONLY, Email: info@tsarus.org, [website: www.tsarus.org](http://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/glbfb

USM GAY/STRAIGHT ALLIANCE, email: GSAlliance@usm.edu or thespy_ms@yahoo.com, [website: www.usm.edu/gsa](http://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](http://www.safe-harbor-nea.netfirms.com)

WHOLENESS continued

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

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

NICOTINE ANONYMOUS MEETING, Saturdays 10 a.m., Christ United Methodist Church, 4488 Poplar Avenue. (901) 278-6234

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, Overt, 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@equalitytennessee.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)

Vetrinarians

BARBARA WOWK, DVM, AT EAST PARK ANIMAL HOSPITAL, 3698 Summer Avenue, Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri. 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Wed. & Sat. 8 a.m.-noon, (901) 324-9186 for an appointment

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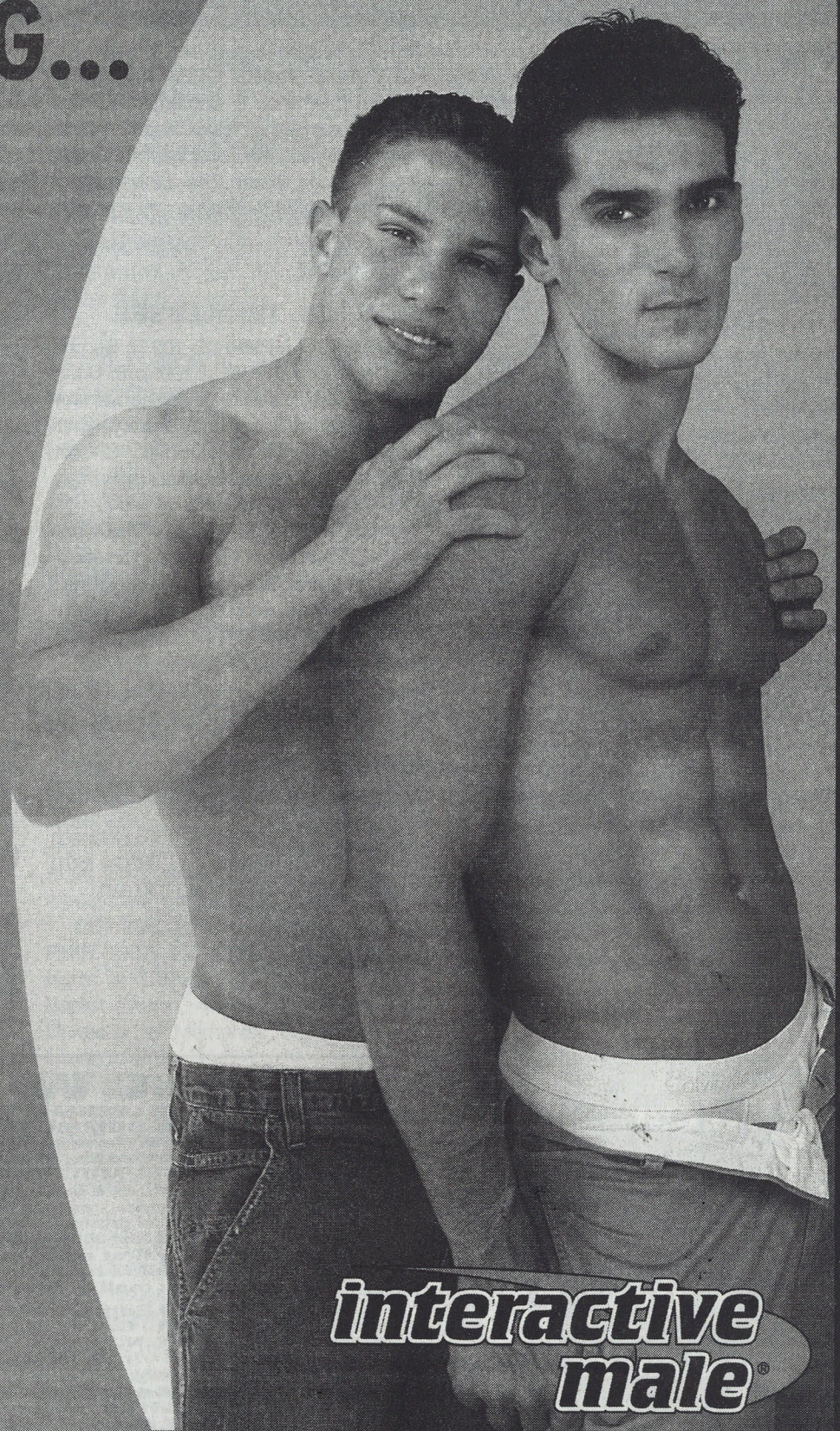
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