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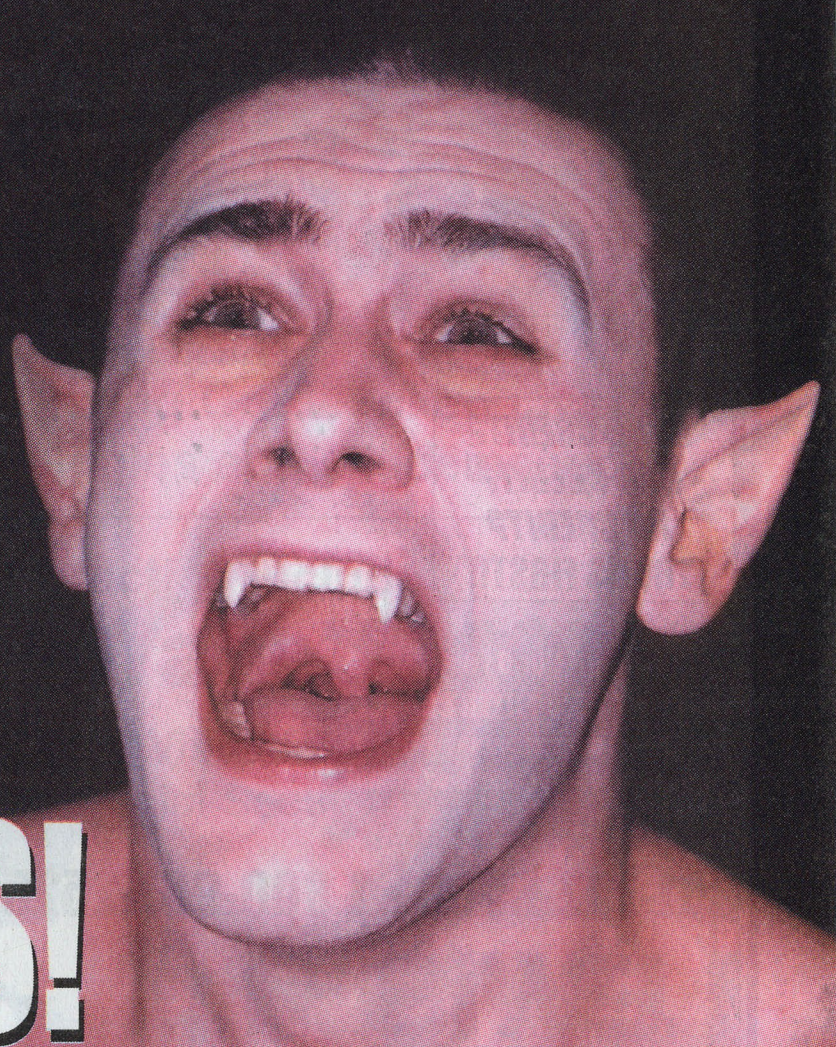
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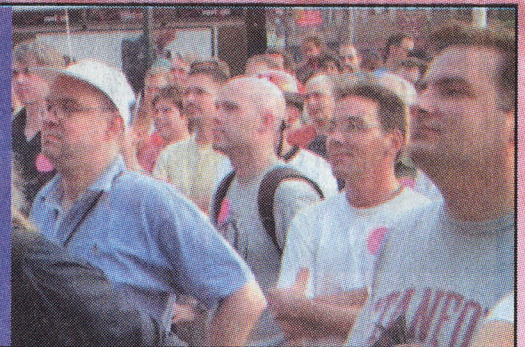
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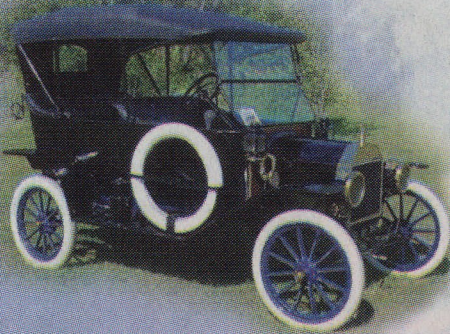
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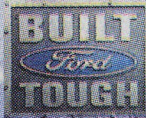


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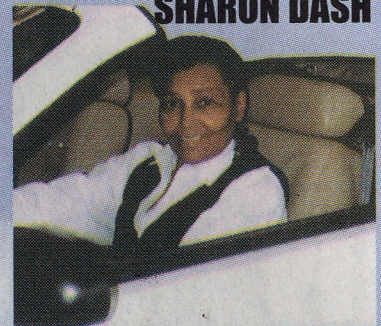
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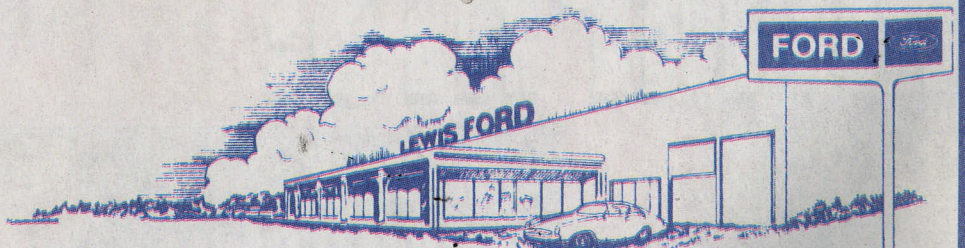
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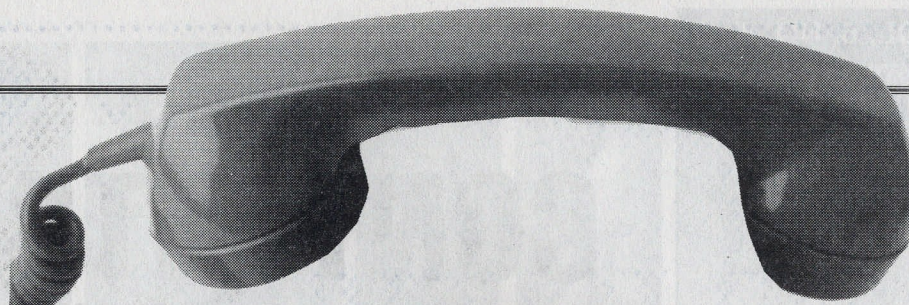


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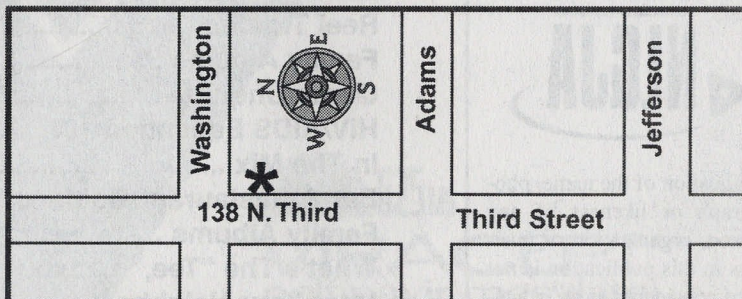
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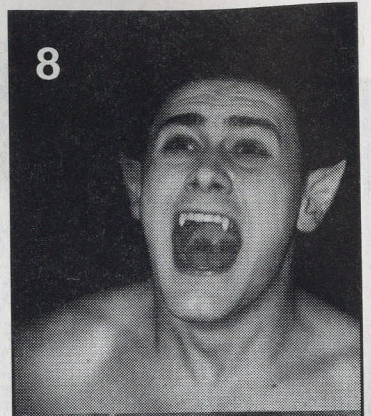
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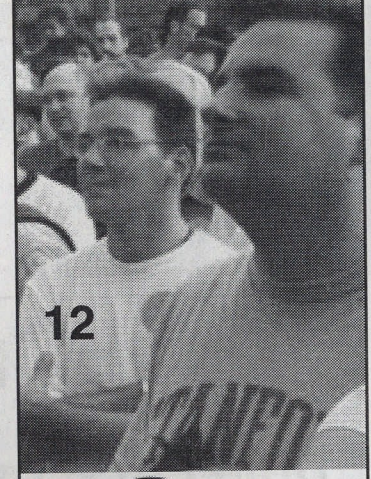
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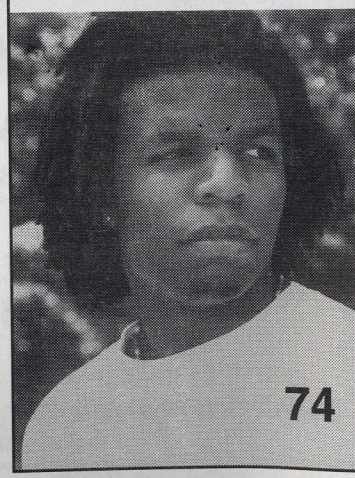
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Landmark rulings give us more to celebrate

What a month June 2003, has been. And what better way to celebrate Gay Pride Month than for two landmark decisions in the fight for gay and lesbian civil rights.

Canada has now granted the right to marry to gay people, which U.S. gay and lesbian citizens can take advantage of, even if their own country may or may not recognize it, yet. And, the U.S. Supreme Court handed down a landmark ruling making all state sodomy laws remaining in the U.S. null and void. The cascading effect of that ruling has already begun trickling down through the U.S. legal system.

Also, more and more Fortune 100 companies are coming up to speed and adding sexual orientation to their company's non-discrimination policies, not to mention, offering domestic partnership benefits. Recently Memphis' own FedEx, as well as JCPenney, added sexual orientation to their nondiscrimination policies. What is interesting is it wasn't a GLBT civil rights group that led to the policy changes at these two mega-corporate giants. It was stockholders, specifically investment firms and NYCERS, the people responsible for New York City's retirement and pension plans. Funny, guess money does talk. As significant shareholders of FedEx and JCPenney stock, respectfully, the investment firms made it clear that discrimination was a no-no, considering it was gay retirees's funds and gay investment funds that the corporate giants were using to capitalize their businesses.

...

With these positive steps for the GLBT community, the right-wing religious folks may have to start looking for a new scapegoat for the failure of their ultra unrealistic family-oriented paradigm.

We have heard this paradigm for most of our life: Man + women + 2.3 children + car + house = Everyone lives

happily ever after. Not!

As we sat in church and listened to the sermons on families and the announcement of the family-oriented events, with the postscripts that singles are welcome to attend, we become more and more aware that something wasn't quite right. We remember Paul, a new-testament author, saying it was better not to marry. But we never heard one sermon on that one. Guess that was for a handful of missionaries in the deepest parts of the South American jungle, but not for anyone in the USofA. And Jesus Christ was quoted by New-Testament authors as saying he came to divide brother against brother. Doesn't sound like a way to keep a family together to us.

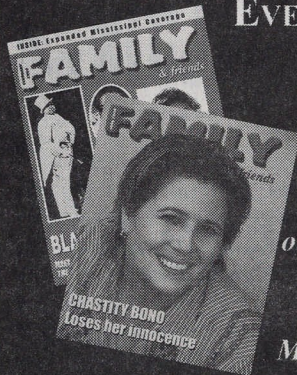
Actually, finding the scriptural justification for "the family," is harder than finding it for "the rapture." Perhaps the religious leaders preaching this doctrine, as well as elected officials basing their votes on the "family" paradigm, need to be reminded that the book of Revelation, which, as it were, was a disciplinary letter written to the church, not to the world at large. It seems that many church congregations have forgotten their roots and prefer the glory of the moment. Many look only to their traditions, past on from generation to generation, even as dogmatic beliefs, but fail to go to the source and find out for real what the Bible had to say about the matter.

During the past decades, one target of blame for the failure of the "family," was interracial dating and marriage, specifically blacks and whites. Then women who worked "outside the home" and women who were divorced and were now single parents were blamed for the "family" unit in America falling apart. (It is still amazing how the men got left off the hook on that one. Don't get us started.)

See Landmark ruling, page 47

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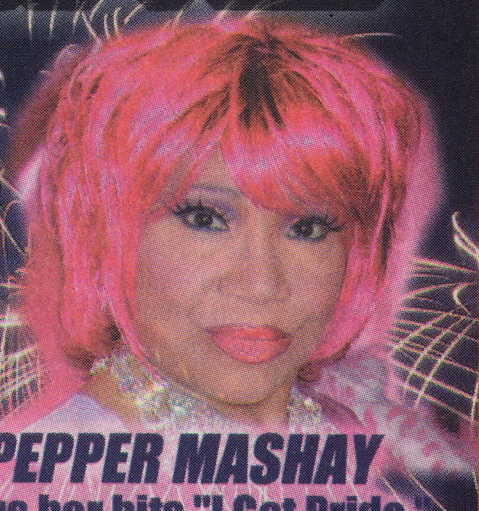
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BAT BOY SIGHTED IN MEMPHIS!

Last seen at Playhouse on the Square!

By Kevin Shaw, contributing writer

Bat Boy: The Musical, now on stage at Playhouse on the Square, 51 South Cooper, through July 27, is one musical you can add to your "must see" list.

Memphis audiences have been spoiled this theater season. Not only have they been offered a number of quality "straight" (non-musical) plays to savor, they've been given perhaps some of the best musical productions this city will see for a time. With the Ostrander Awards coming up in August (Memphis's equivalent to the Tony Awards), theater judges will be hard pressed to select only one "Best Musical" award winner.

While Playhouse on the Square's recent production

Theater Memphis's 42nd Street should win for Best Overall Musical Production,

Bat Boy: The Musical at Playhouse on the Square, is easily, hands down, the most fun you'll have in any theater this season. Under the direction of guest director Scott Ferguson, this musical romp delivers like a "bat out of heaven." Every aspect of this show will leave you wanting more and perhaps even scheduling a return trip.

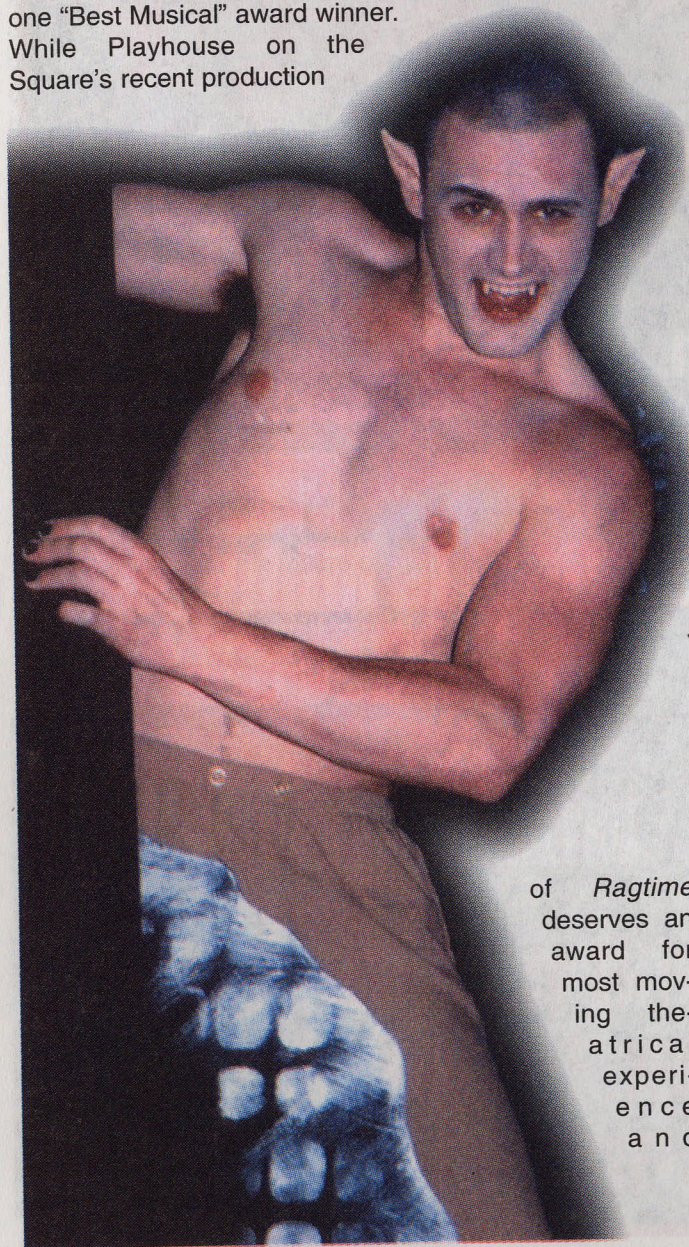
Based on *The Weekly World News* articles on the fictitious (I'm assuming here) discovery of a "bat boy" in West Virginia, playwrights Keythe Farley and Brian Flemming have chosen to "steal" from the most successful musicals of recent memory. Shows like *The Phantom of the Opera*, *The Little Shop of Horrors*, and even *The Lion King* were obvious templates for this manifestation. Movies, such as *Beauty and the Beast*, *My Fair Lady* and Mel Brooks's outrageous *Young Frankenstein*, also were clearly drawn-upon inspirations.

All of these shows have a similar theme: Misunderstood monsters need love, too. What sets *Bat Boy* apart from these shows, though, is the wonderful way in which the cast plays it straight in this laugh-out-loud comedy. There is no "wink, wink, nudge, nudge," performances from this cast. They take this experience seriously, so that the audience can laugh its head off. This show makes you care about this freak of a boy and then laugh at yourself for caring.

Creatively, this show is oozing from top to bottom, left to right. It's impossible to tell where the script left off and where director Scott Ferguson picked up. He has assembled a cast that also leaves you wondering just how much came from their own imaginations versus the script.

In the title role of the bat boy, Michael A. Ingersoll perfectly inhabits the body of this man/creature. He squeaks and grunts convincingly enough, only to evolve into a master elocutionist who can cook, clean and even do your taxes. Ingersoll is quite funny in this role and sings beautifully (especially in falsetto).

As the country-bumpkin, nymphomaniac Shelly Parker, Angela Groeschen (Ingersoll's real-life fiance) is downright hilarious. She is totally believable as a white-trash



of *Ragtime* deserves an award for most moving theatrical experience and

See *Bat Boy*, page 9

Bat Boy

from page 8

teenager looking to get knocked up by the nearest boy or bat in town. Her comic timing is flawless and her singing voice is glorious. The city of Memphis is indeed fortunate to have her gracing our stages for the next year. This girl is going places fast.

Playing Shelly's mother, Meredith Parker, is the very funny Leah Bray Nichols. As a woman on the verge of a nervous breakdown, Nichols portrays a range of emotions, including lust, anger, betrayal and graciousness, often at the same time. Her vocal duet with Groeschen in the song, "Three Bedroom House," is perhaps the finest moment on any Memphis stage this year.

Kent Fleshman is back playing another meddling, deceitful con man with a magnificent singing voice (see *Zombie Prom*). As the local veterinarian who is asked to put down Bat Boy, Fleshman is convincing as a sadist, eagerly seeking his masochist to torture.

This is truly an ensemble show and the remaining six actors actually play 16 other roles. This is where the madness of this show achieves new heights. A la *A Tuna Christmas*, these actors play boys, girls, doctors, preachers and animals – often having to change costumes onstage instantaneously. With the show set in the back woods of rural West Virginia, it made perfect sense to have the girls a little manly and the boys a bit sissy at times. With a few extra mullets thrown in for good measure, these redneck, illiterate bumpkins populate a very believable small, southern town that encounters a bat boy.

Especially delightful was Jason Cooper, inhabiting the roles of both Mrs. Taylor, the butt-kicking, hysterical mother of those three poor, little Taylor children who die prematurely, and Reverend Hightower, the evangelical preacher who hopes to heal the bat boy in the show-stopping number "A Joyful Noise."

Brian James Porter effectively portrays both men and women in the show, but almost steals the show vocally with his rendition of "Children, Children."

Jordan Nichols, Katie Deal, Raine Hicks and Drew Stark round out this phenomenal ensemble. Watching them inhabit so many hilarious characters will make you wish you could join them onstage for all the fun.

Musically, this may be the best sounding show at Playhouse on the Square this year. Not only is the cast full of gifted singers, but also you can actually HEAR them singing. Too often, this season, the orchestra has overpowered the singers. Not this time. Music Director/Conductor Paul Seiz has properly allowed the performers onstage to shine, while his very capable band of musicians beautifully supports the vocalists. Kudos to

Sound Designer Phillip Hughen, as well, for ensuring every word was heard.

Along with every other aspect of this show, the choreography by Scott Ferguson and Jay Rapp is just as clever. Often utilizing small, red penlights, the ensemble was able to create numerous "eerie" lighting effects, including bat eyes. The choreography in "A Joyful Noise" and "Children, Children" are high points.

Scenic Designer Mark Guirguis literally put the writing on the wall for this one. Taking actual articles from *The Weekly World News*, Guirguis blanketed the cavernous, dark set with words that actually glowed. One of the best effects in the show was seeing the kids of this small town actually repel from the sky into the bat boy's dark cave.

While finding multiple costumes for this relatively small cast must have been tricky, it's not until the second act that Costume Designer Rebecca Y. Powell decides to pull out all the stops. With a shameless nod to *The Lion King*, Powell's costume creations in the animal sex-o-rama, "Children, Children," will leave you in awe and in stitches. I didn't know which was more engrossing – the fact that people were dressed as funny-looking animals, or that they were dressed as funny-looking animals AND humping onstage. Once again, this is just another example of the boundless creativity to be found in this show.

Good lighting design doesn't call attention to itself. The actors are always

clearly visible and the appropriate moods are adequately established with color, intensity, etc. Lighting Designer Lee Burckes manages to maintain the sinister mood of this show without distracting from the action.

The best part about *Bat Boy: The Musical* is that the cast is obviously having so much damn fun doing this show. Getting to sing and dance and act silly dressing in drag can't be beat. With a "camp" factor through the roof, gay men and lesbians will love this show. Since we are always about three seconds ahead of straight people, we'll be able to keep up with all the jokes and explain them to our straight friends on the way home. But, I would suggest planning on seeing the show twice. With all the laughing going on, those straight friends may interrupt your enjoyment of the show by asking, "What did I miss, what did I miss?" The moment it'll take to say, "I'll tell you later," may cost you a missed laugh or two.

Showtimes for *Bat Boy: The Musical* are Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$28 for adults; \$18 for seniors; \$16 for students and military personnel, and \$12 for children.

For tickets or more information, call the box office at (901) 725-0776.

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E. Lynn Harris shares life story in new book

Bestselling author E. Lynn Harris shares his life story in his newest release, *What Becomes of the Brokenhearted*, his long-awaited memoir.

In little more than a decade, Harris has gone from being an unknown, self-published writer to being a *New York Times* best-selling author of eight novels that have captured the imaginations and enriched the lives of readers



E. Lynn Harris

everywhere. His compulsively readable tales of love, family and friendship have resulted in the sale of more than three million copies of his books, starting with *Invisible Life* in 1991, and continuing through his most recent bestselling novel, *A Love of My Own*, published to great acclaim in the summer of 2002.

With the press coverage that has accompanied Harris along the way, many readers feel that they have gotten to know the author behind their favorite books. But until now, no one outside of Harris's closest family and friends have known about the man prior to his success. Finally, through *What Becomes of the Brokenhearted*, the world will become acquainted with the Harris they never knew before – the young boy who felt “different” but didn't know why; the teenager who felt he had to lie about himself to win friends, and the man who struggled with low self-esteem, crippling depression and the fear that he would never find someone to love.

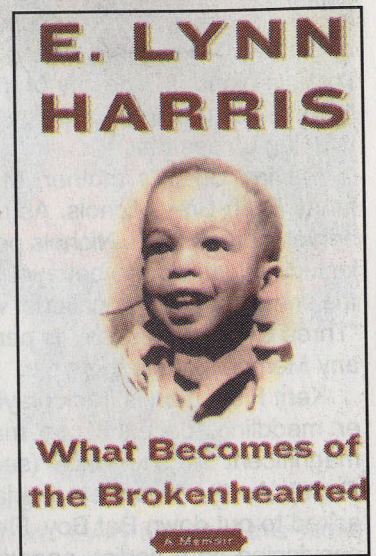
Harris's memoir begins with a retelling of his suicide attempt in Washington, D.C., on a summer evening in 1990, when all hope seemed to be lost. Harris then goes back to the very start of his life, growing up with his mother, father and three sisters in Little Rock, Ark. During his childhood and teen years, Harris sensed that he was “different” from most boys his age but couldn't quite figure out why.

Harris recounts his years at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, where he learned how to drink, party, lie about his life, had his first serious crush on a man, and first experienced the depression that would recur throughout the next decades of his life. He finished his college career as editor of the yearbook, the school's first black male cheerleader and the recipient of numerous honors.

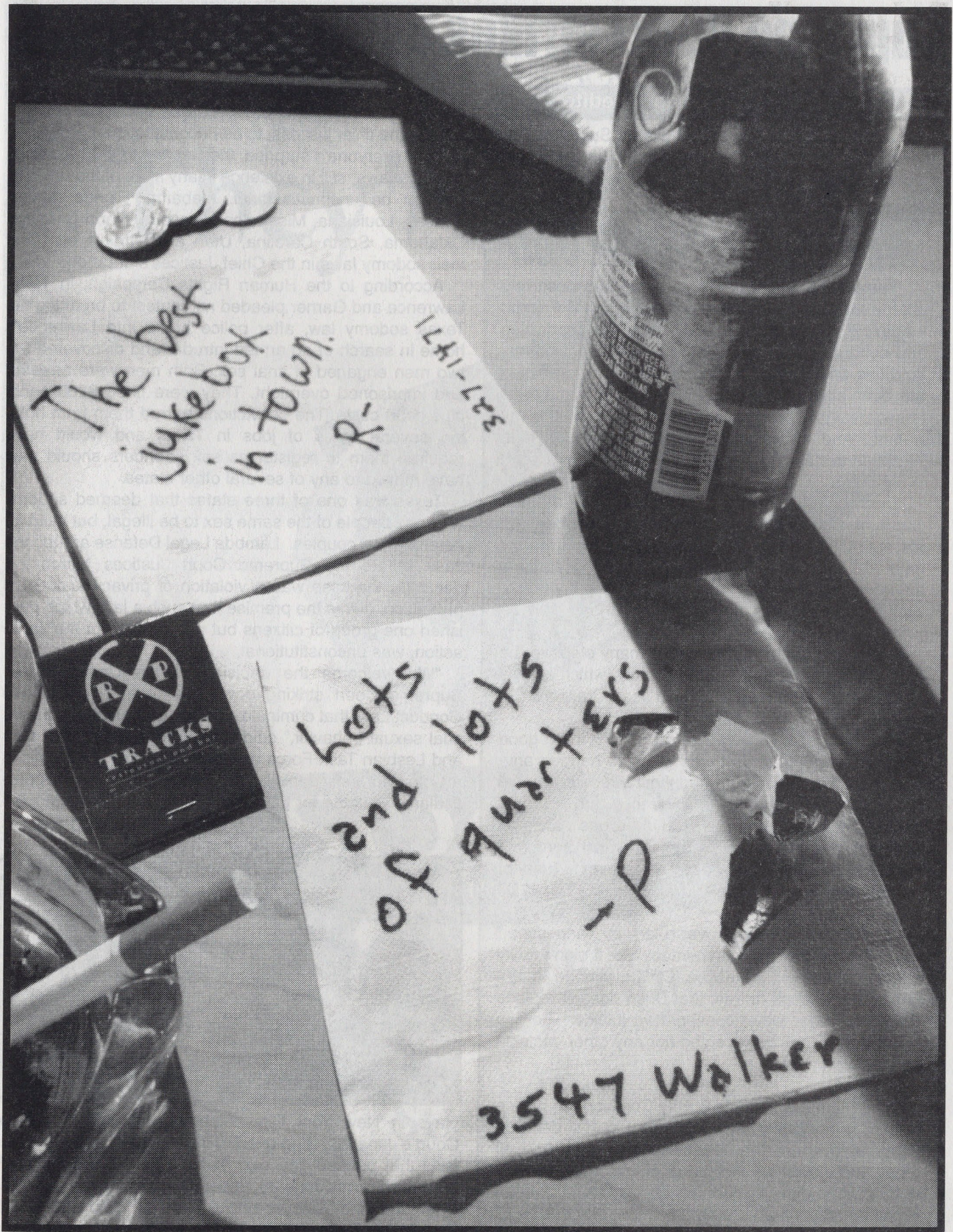
“Everything was falling into place,” Harris said, “but there was one thing missing. I was still looking for love.”

What Becomes of the Brokenhearted follows Harris to his first post-college job, with IBM, in Dallas, Texas, and then to New York City, Chicago and Washington, D.C., where he “would experience a little bit of heaven and a whole lot of hell, which only depression can bring.” He continued to struggle with his sexuality.

“I knew that being gay and not accepting it was going



See E. Lynn Harris, page 69



Supreme Court strikes down sodomy laws

By Anita Moyt, managing editor

On June 26, 2003, the United States Supreme Court made history when it handed down its decision in the case of John Geddes Lawrence and Tyron Garner v. Texas.

Memphians Speak Out!

"Yesterday's Supreme Court ruling has positively got me exhilarated!," Jim Easter told *Family & Friends* magazine. "I am so proud. My homosex proclivities and conduct in my bedroom are no longer criminal activities anywhere in this land. Our right to privacy has been affirmed by the highest court in the country. I never really thought such a ruling would come in my lifetime. And a basically conservative court did it. WOW! Is this a great country or what?"

...

"I was delighted and pleased when I heard of the Supreme Court ruling," commented B.J. Hefner. "... It's about time that they started changing laws for gays. I've always felt that it is wrong anytime someone tells me what I can or can't do in my home. That includes if I was straight."

...

"I believe that this is the first of many steps to the ultimate goal of the GLBT community, which is total equality with heterosexuals," said Jean Crawford.

...

"I'm glad," said Tommy Stewart. "I think it is a good thing that it happened. It was going to happen anyway, if the Supreme Court hadn't intervened. It would have gone away on its own since they aren't prosecuting anyone anymore (on charges alleging sodomy). The prosecution rate is almost zero and they use it only when they need something to (use to) go after someone."

...

"Sodomy is already over-ruled in Tennessee," Attorney Joe Ozment commented. "So, it didn't really effect anything in Tennessee. Let's just hope that, if one of the justices retires, that Bush doesn't replace (him/her) with another conservative justice. There is no reason it can't be reversed nor any other decision by the Supreme Court."

...

"The Memphis Lesbian & Gay Coalition for Justice (MLGCJ) applauds the Supreme Court's decision today to overturn the Texas 'sodomy' law, and all other such laws, as violations of our basic human rights," wrote Jim Maynard, co-chair of MLGCJ, in an Email dated June 26, 2003.

The Texas "Homosexual Conduct Law," under which they had been arrested and charged, was declared, in a 6-3 vote by the chief justices, to be unconstitutional. However, to most everyone's surprise, the Supreme Court found all "sodomy laws" still in existence in any state of the union to likewise be unconstitutional. Alabama, Florida, Idaho, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Utah and Virginia also lost their sodomy laws in the Chief Justices's decision.

According to the Human Rights Campaign, in 1998, Lawrence and Garner pleaded no contest to breaking the Texas sodomy law, after police broke into Lawrence's home in search of an armed intruder and discovered the two men engaged in anal sex. Both men were arrested and imprisoned overnight. They were fined \$200 each, plus court costs. The convictions barred them from holding several types of jobs in Texas and would have required them to register as sex offenders should they have moved to any of several other states.

Texas was one of three states that deemed sodomy between people of the same sex to be illegal, but valid for heterosexual couples. Lambda Legal Defense argued the case before the Supreme Court Justices March 23, declaring the case was a violation of privacy and equal protection. It was the premise that such a law, which punished one group of citizens but not another for the same action, was unconstitutional.

"We welcome the decision of the United States Supreme Court striking down the Texas 'Homosexual Conduct Law' that criminalized same-sex private, consensual sexual behavior," said Matt Foreman, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force executive director. "While this is a victory for individual liberties of all Americans, it is particularly welcome for gay people, who have been singled

See Sodomy, page 58



Gays in New York City celebrate the U.S. Supreme Court's June 26 ruling overturning the 13 remaining state laws that banned gay sex. At least 35 other cities held organized rallies June 26, under the coordination of Robin Tyler and Andy Thayer of the National Supreme Court Civil Rights Rally.

Photo: Andres Duque, Wocker News

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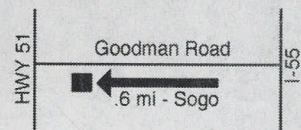
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BULLETIN

Congratulations to BILL BURTCH and MELANGE on a great show. Burtch's cabaret act, only his second show there, entertained patrons at the popular Cooper-Young restaurant in June in celebration of gay pride month. His first show was back on Valentine's Day. We understand this is a show you don't want to miss, so keep your head up for his next venture with MELANGE.

Keyboardist DAVID PAICH, of the band TOTO, took a leave of absence from the group's 2003 summer tour. The reason: sex reassignment surgery. Davida will return to join Toto on its fall "Night of the Proms" tour.

Congratulations to MICHAEL MEEHAN and THOMAS DYSARZ of Lexington, Ky. They are expecting their FIFTH CHILD. The two men made history July 2002, when their quadruplets, three girls and a boy, were born by a surrogate mother who underwent in-vitro fertilization with Meehan being the biological father. The same surrogate mother is carrying the fifth child, also conceived by in-vitro fertilization, but with Dysarz as the biological father.

Twenty DRAG QUEENS in HAMBURG, GERMANY, participated in such events as the handbag triathlon; a race in highheels; synchronized ironing, set to music and accompanied by dance routines, and the pearl necklace jumprope event before a crowd of about 300 people as part of the world's first INTERNATIONAL DRAG QUEEN "OLYMPICS."

Mark your calendars. MISSISSIPPI PRIDE is set for Saturday, Sept. 27, from 1 to 5 p.m., at Smith Park in downtown Jackson, Miss. For more information or vendor booth details, call Ken at (601) 650-7316, email MSPride@netdoor.com or write Mississippi Pride at P.O.Box 320462, Jackson, MS 39323.

Although the Cradle of Liberty Council of the BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA, located in Philadelphia, Penn., also the third largest council in the U.S., went out on a limb when they put forth a new policy for nondiscrimination against homosexuals, BSA National leadership quick-

ly scared them back down the tree, with alleged threats to revoke the Cradle of Liberty Council's charter and replace its board of directors. Maybe next time.

The MEMPHIS GAY & LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTER will hold its annual meeting and elections on Sunday, July 13, from 2 to 4 p.m., at the center's building, located at 892 South Cooper.

THE MEMPHIS GAY & LESBIAN COALITION FOR JUSTICE also will hold an open board meeting on Saturday, July 19, at 2 p.m. at the MGLCC, 892 South Cooper, for present and prospective board members. The public is invited. For more information, call Jim Maynard at (901) 327-2677 or go online to www.geocities.com/mlgcj.

FEDEX and JCPENNEY are adding "sexual orientation" to their respective company's nondiscrimination policies.

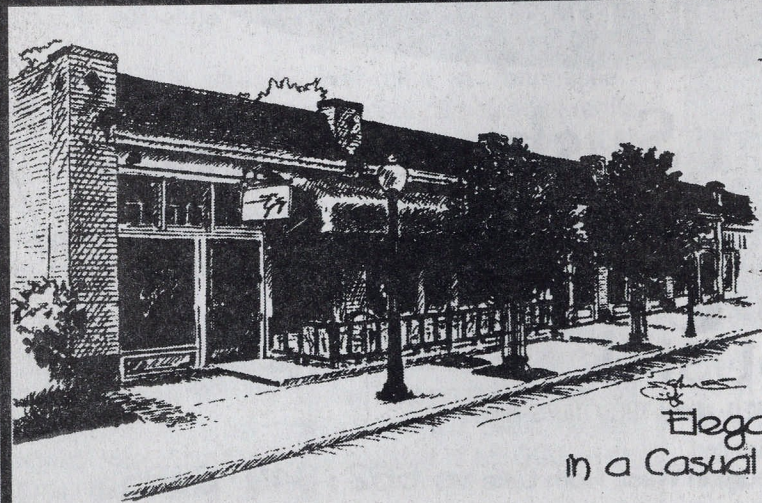
Add THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, as well as GENERAL ELECTRIC CO., one of the nation's largest and oldest manufacturing and financial services companies and the owner of the NBC television network, to the ever-growing list of corporations adding domestic partner benefits for its gay and lesbian employees. According to the HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN, after the addition of GE to the list, 64 of the Fortune 100 companies now offer domestic partner benefits.

The SECOND ANNUAL GLBT CONSUMER ONLINE CENSUS will be available online July 7 to Aug. 18, at WWW.GLCENSUS.ORG. The census, operated by the GL Census Partnership, a joint venture of Syracuse University and OpusComm Group, examines spending habits and overall economic structure of the GLBT community across the country. *Family & Friends* is a proud media sponsor of this project.

With elections coming up, and specifically the U.S. presidential election in 2004, we at *Family & Friends* have initiated a new campaign to encourage every GLBT person reading this magazine to go to the polls and cast your vote. OUT YOUR VOTE IN 2004 starts with voter registration

information and making voter registration applications available to all our readers, whether you are a resident of Tennessee, Arkansas or Mississippi. See page 67 for more.

More than 190 Family Album PICTURES are included in this issue of *Family & Friends*, along with 24 PAGES OF COLOR in 88 PAGES, which makes this our biggest issue ever! And we want to thank all those who stayed in contact with us, so that we could bring the most news to our GLBT COMMUNITY.




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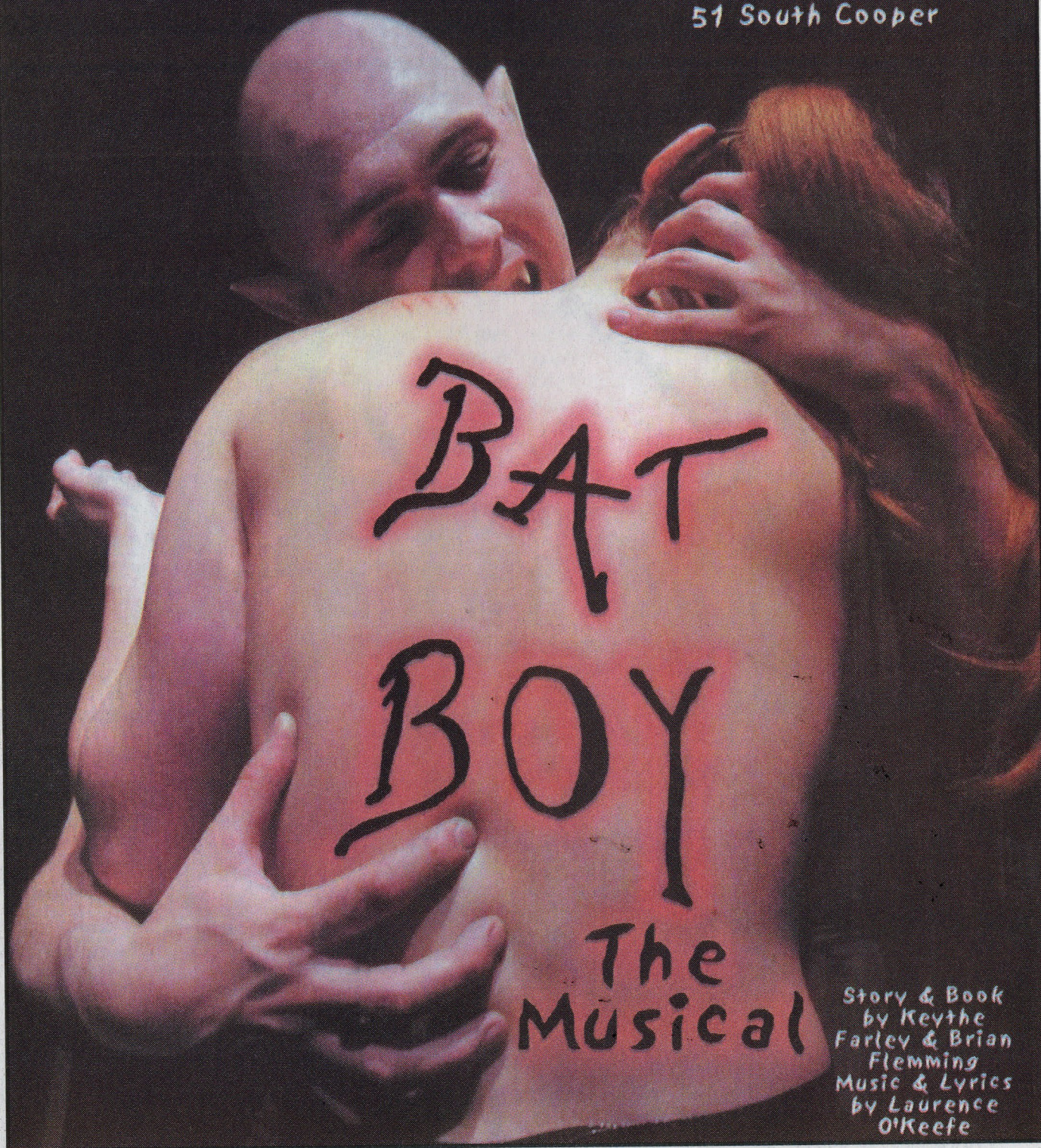
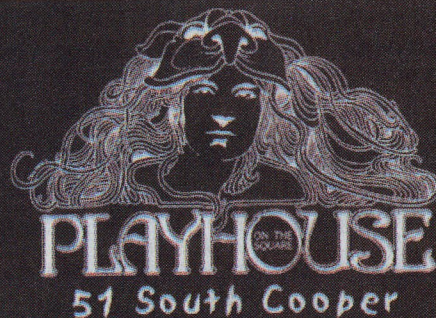
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MGLCC members drop individual lawsuits

By Patricia Pair, publisher

When the legal battle between the Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center and *Family & Friends Magazine* began almost a year ago in August 2002, we promised to keep you informed of any developments in the case as they occurred.

For those who may not remember, the Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center Inc. and then-members Jason Crockett, Herb Zeman, Michalene "Miki" Zulewski, Angela Lamb, B.J. Massengale, Ranetta Jackson, Daniel Cole and Len Piechowski, filed a lawsuit against, among other defendants, A&P Publications Inc. (which owns *Family & Friends*). The \$700,000 lawsuit alleges that two stories published in the magazine's July 2002 issue entitled "Burns in conflict with MGLCC Board" and "Burns comments on charges," contained "false, misleading, slanderous and defamatory statements."

Since the original filing of the suit, A&P Publications Inc., dba *Family & Friends Magazine*; Managing Editor Anita Moyt, and Publisher Patricia Pair, have filed their answer to the plaintiffs' complaint.

In response to the answer, the plaintiffs, through their attorney, proposed a settlement, which, contrary to reports, contained a demand for cash among other things.

A&P Publications Inc. and its editor and publisher, through their attorney, rejected the settlement offer and responded by submitting interrogatories to each separate individual named via the plaintiffs' attorney.

Instead of answering the interrogatories, Crockett, Zeman, Zulewski, Lamb, Massengale, Jackson and

Piechowski dropped their individual suits against A&P Publications and its publisher and editor this past month. Cole dropped his suit against the magazine and its publisher and editor months earlier before interrogatories were ever sent.

The only lawsuit still pending is the one filed against A&P Publications Inc., Pair and Moyt, by the MGLCC as a Tennessee non-profit corporation. The MGLCC's attorney has suggested mediation, however, no such attempt had been scheduled at press time.

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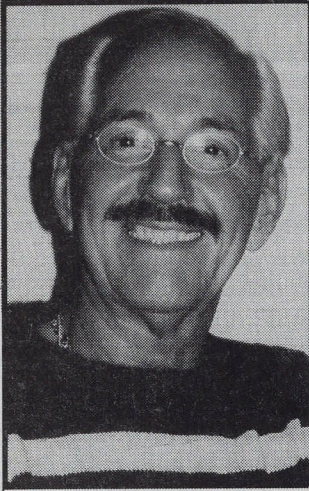
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For first time, GLBT people invited to march for civil rights

On Saturday, Aug. 23, the nation's civil rights community will commemorate the 40th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s historic march on Washington with a new march and rally in Washington D.C. It was 40 years ago that Dr. King made his infamous "I Have A Dream" speech.

Dr. King's son, Martin Luther King III, and his wife, Coretta Scott King, are among the march organizers. The theme is the same as in 1963 – "Jobs, Peace, Freedom." The theme refers to jobs, which are free from discrimination; peace at home, abroad and on our streets, and freedom to be who we are without fear of discrimination or violence.

The gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community is invited to join in this event, marking the first time the GLBT community has been asked to participate, from the ground up. Moreover, the goals and aspirations of the GLBT community will be included in the march's call for action.

"The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) and Southerners on New Ground (SONG) have volunteered to coordinate efforts to bring as many GLBT people to Washington as possible," said Matt Foreman, executive director of the NGLTF, "to join in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in the civil rights struggle and to rededicate ourselves to racial justice, economic justice and equal rights for all people."

"Moreover, under SONG's leadership, our community will again celebrate and recall Bayard Rustin's visionary – but often unrecognized – leadership in the civil rights movement with a special program and showing of *Brother Outsider*, tentatively scheduled at the Kennedy Center," said Mandy Carter, co-founder of SONG. "...Bayard Rustin, an out African-American gay man, was the principal organizer of the 1963 march, one of Dr. King's most trusted co-workers, and a founder of several leading civil rights organizations, including the Southern Christian Leadership Conference."

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

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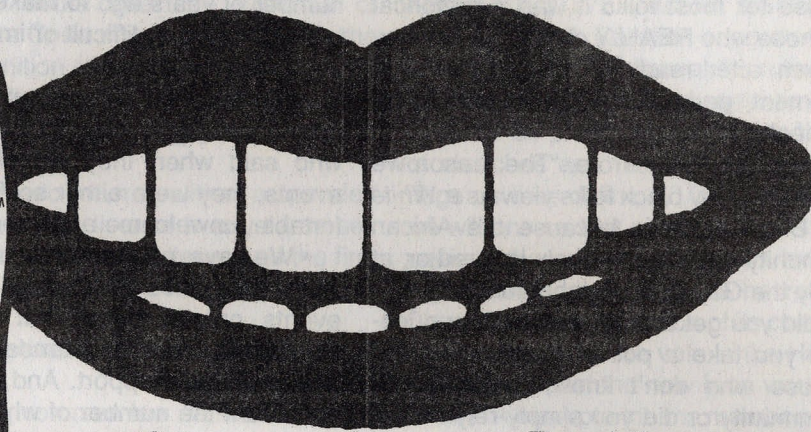
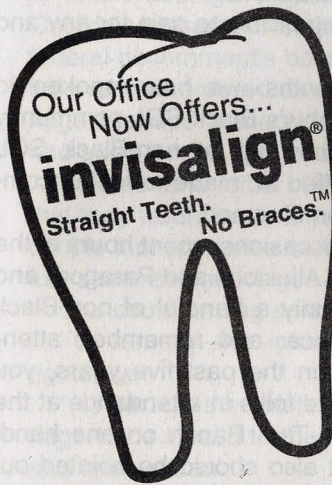
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In the June 2003 issue of the *Triangle Journal News*, Publisher/Editor Allen Cook posed a "Question of the Month" in his "Quick Clips" column regarding the necessity for both a "Black Pride" and a "White Pride" celebration.

When we first read the question, we merely excused it as ignorance because for most folks it was a rhetorical question, meaning those who REALLY care already knew the answer. However, after reading Cook's July 2003 "Quick Clips" installment, perhaps the record should be set straight, so to speak.

In his July 2003 column, Cook wrote, "The reason we have a Gay Pride (which many black folks view as a *White* Gay Pride) and a Black Pride is because the African American gay community sees itself largely ignored or, at best, underserved by the Gay Pride celebrations."

Where on earth did you get that answer to your question Mr. Cook? Did you take a poll of members in the Black SGL (for those who don't know, that's Same-Gender-Loving) community or did you simply rely on the musings of your only local, dare we actually say, Black, staff member?

If the latter is the case, shame on you for assuming that one person knows all or, at the very least, can read the minds of ALL the Black SGL leaders across the country (remember, many cities bigger and less-rationally motivated than Memphis have annual Black Pride celebrations, too).

If the latter was NOT the case, then, certainly, we apologize for the previous paragraph and any negative connotations it might have implied (sure wouldn't want another lawsuit, now would we?). But, if you actually did pose your question to leaders of the collective Black SGL community, you sure didn't bother to attribute the answer you apparently received to anyone. But, based on your past non-attributions, why steer a different course now?

Let me attempt to answer your question, having done the necessary research that goes with responsible reporting. According to the website www.blackpride.virtualave.net, "Black Pride is knowledge of who you are (Africa descendant), what you are made of (heritage), where you came from (past), where you are (present), where you are heading (future). We know knowledge is power, and without knowledge of yourself leaves you powerless."

The aforementioned quote from Cook's July 2003 "Quick Clips" says "the African American gay community sees itself largely ignored or, at best, underserved by the Gay Pride celebrations."

We must give Cook a small bit of credit as there is a bit of truth to that statement. Yes, Memphis's Black SGL community does, at times, feel ignored, but NOT by the board members of Memphis Pride Inc., and I can say that since I am, after all, the co-chair of Memphis Pride Inc.

If the Black SGL community of Memphis feels ignored,

this feeling may come from members of the collective Memphis GLBT community (race aside) who don't respect or recognize members of the Black SGL community. What do we mean by that? Here's some examples:

- Within the past month, we spoke to a (white) GLBT bar owner who told us the lengths to which he/she went a number of years ago to make admittance to his/her business either very difficult or impossible to gain for any and all African-Americans.

- In the past several months, we have spoken to numerous members of Memphis's Black SGL community who said when they did show up at non-Black SGL events, they were either scoffed at, made to feel uncomfortable, unwelcome and even shunned.

- We have, on numerous occasions, spent hours at the Black SGL clubs (N-Cognito, Allusions and Paragon) and events, only to realize that only a handful of non-Black individuals were in attendance, and remember, attendance equals support. And, in the past five years, you can count the number of white folks in attendance at the Black Pride Picnic at Tee-To-Tam Ranch on one hand. We know, we were there. It also should be pointed out that organizers of the Black Pride Picnic at "The Ranch," have made it clear each year that ALL members of the GLBT community, without regard to race, sexual orientation, age or cooking ability, are welcome to attend the day-long "Pride Picnic."

(In his July column, Cook also wrote, "... it was great to see a lot more of my black brothers and sisters at the Gay Pride Festival ... wish I could say the same about my white brothers and sisters at the Black Pride events." Gee, Mr. Cook, we have NEVER seen you at any Black SGL event in the past five years.)

But, I can say in all honesty, the leaders and organizers of Memphis's Black Pride events (those sanctioned and non-sanctioned by the Federation of Black Prides) DO NOT FEEL IGNORED by Memphis Pride Inc. or *Family & Friends Magazine*.

In your July 2003 "Quick Clips," Mr. Cook, you wrote, "Now is the time for the leaders of the two events to start approaching each other ... not next May."

Where have you been? Think back, if you will, to the past few years when Memphis Pride Inc. had to seek sponsors for its Pride T-shirts. N-Cognito's name and sponsorship were there. And, this year's Memphis Pride Award for Best Club went to N-Cognito/Allusions. And, I also know for a fact that none of the Black SGL leaders in Memphis will ever say they have NOT been approached by members of Memphis Pride Inc. They not only have been approached, but weighed heavily in Memphis Pride Inc.'s decision to move the annual Pride Celebration forward a week as not to divide and compete for attendance

See Over My Shoulder, page 25

Gay earthquake up north

By **REX WOCKNER**



Canadian court legalizes gay marriage

Same-sex couples began getting married in Toronto June 10.

Under the regular marriage laws.

The weddings began hours after the province of Ontario's highest court, the Court of Appeal, ruled that the federal government's definition of marriage was unconstitutional and ordered the Toronto city clerk to issue marriage licenses immediately to several gay couples who had sued for the right to marry.

Toronto and other Ontario municipalities responded that they would issue a marriage license to any same-sex couple that otherwise met the license criteria. And the first full, same-sex marriages in North America began.

The court's ruling said:

"To remedy the infringement of these constitutional rights, we:

"(1) declare the existing common law definition of marriage to be invalid to the extent that it refers to 'one man and one woman';

"(2) reformulate the common law definition of marriage as 'the voluntary union for life of two persons to the exclusion of all others;'

"(3) order the declaration of invalidity in (1) and the reformulated definition in (2) to have immediate effect;

"(4) order the Clerk of the City of Toronto to issue marriage licenses to the Couples, and

"(5) order the Registrar General of the Province of Ontario to accept for registration the marriage certificates of Kevin Bourassa and Joe Varnell and of Elaine and Anne Vautour."

Bourassa and Varnell and the Vautours were married in 2001, by a Metropolitan Community Church minister but the province refused to register their marriages. They were married via the ancient Christian tradition of "publishing the banns of marriage," (asking in church on three consecutive Sundays if anyone objects to the marriage) which is a legal alternative in Ontario to obtaining a marriage license from the city.

Following the ruling, one of the couples at the heart of the legal challenge wasted no time in getting hitched. Michael Leshner and Michael Stark tied the knot before an Ontario Superior Court justice that afternoon as Leshner's 90-year-old mother and a gaggle of reporters looked on.

"We're blissfully happy," Leshner said. "The bench has wished us a long, happy marriage and we hope to fulfill that. ... Go tell (Prime Minister) Jean Chretien it's dead. The argument's over. No more political discussion, we've won, the Charter (of Rights and Freedoms) won, it's a great day for Canada."

Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms forbids discrimination that cannot be "demonstrably justified in a free

and democratic society."

Hundreds of gay weddings have taken place throughout Ontario since June 10.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AGREES WITH RULING

On June 17, Chretien announced that the federal government would not appeal the ruling and would rewrite the marriage laws to include same-sex couples.

"We'll be proposing legislation that will protect the right of churches and religious organizations to sanctify marriage as they define it," Chretien said. "At the same time, we will ensure that our legislation includes and legally recognizes the union of same-sex marriage. As soon as the legislation is drafted, it will be referred to the Supreme Court (for a determination of its constitutionality). After that, it will be put to a free vote in the House of Commons."

Chretien said the new laws would be written within two weeks. A free vote means members of Parliament can vote contrary to their political party's position without retribution.

"We don't want there to be a long period of uncertainty," Chretien said. "We want to complete this ... and deal with it as quickly as possible, and as soon as we have the reference (on constitutionality from the Supreme Court) then the House of Commons will vote."

In addition to pronouncing the new legislation constitutional, the Supreme Court, in the wake of the Ontario ruling, may well further state that prohibiting same-sex marriage is unconstitutional.

Should Parliament thereafter refuse to legalize same-sex marriage nationally, it is unclear what would happen, as the refusal itself would be unconstitutional. But that is unlikely to happen, as it appears the government has the votes to pass the measure.

In Ontario, meanwhile, gay weddings continue to take place daily and provincial officials are registering them.

"We said during the appeal process that the province of Ontario would follow the (Ontario) court ruling," provincial Attorney General Norm Sterling said.

A court in Quebec and British Columbia's highest court also recently declared the opposite-sex definition of marriage unconstitutional but both courts gave the federal government more than a year to change the law before having it forcibly changed by the court. The Ontario ruling left no such gap.

A different mood has emerged in the conservative province of Alberta. Premier Ralph Klein said there will be no gay marriages there, and gay marriages from elsewhere won't be recognized either.

In it unlikely Alberta has the power to carry through on Klein's threat. He promised to invoke a very rarely used section of the Constitution called "the notwithstanding

See Gay Earthquake, page 42



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

Dear Straight Up,
I am a 16-year old gay guy and soon I am going to meet a man I met on the Internet who is twice my age. We call each other and talk a lot. It is getting very serious between us, and he makes me feel like no one else ever has. I am asking your advice on how safe it is to meet a man you have only talked to on the computer and phone. Any suggestions?

Johnny

Dear Johnny Quest,

I think you wrote to me because you already know what the answer is. Any relationship between a 16-year old and a 32-year old is unhealthy and totally inappropriate. And yes, it is very dangerous to meet a guy who cruises the Internet looking for teens.

I don't know what else is going on in your life that you aren't socializing with people your age, but that's what

you should be doing. Besides hanging out with your peers, you can probably find kids you can relate to on the Internet.

You said you feel this relationship is getting serious because that's what he wants you to feel. The only thing any 32-year old wants with a 16-year old is sex. And I hope you think you have more to offer than that.

In case I haven't convinced you not to meet this predator, and I hope I have, and should you decide to meet him in spite of the risk, do not go alone. Take somebody with you and meet in a public place, like a coffee shop, where there are lots of people. Do not go anywhere alone with him.

A lot of teens read this advice column, and I just so happen to know of a local organization where teens can get together with other teens in a safe environment and make new friends. If you would like more information, call MAGY at (901) 335-6249. Meantime, please stay put.

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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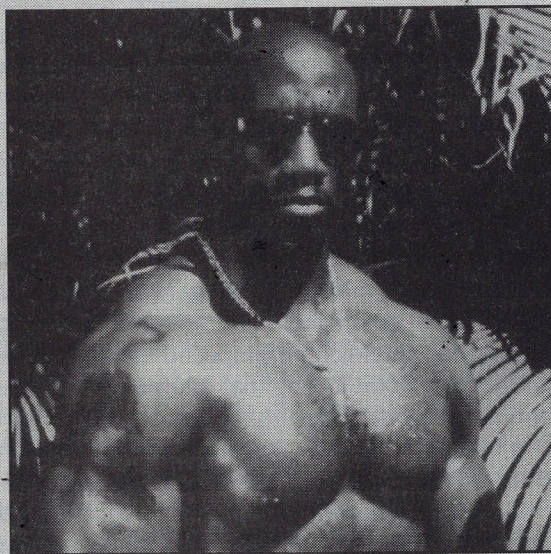
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HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED ...

EDITORIAL BY JIM EASTER

– Why we citizens have a U.S. Supreme Court? The answer is to protect our constitutional rights.

On June 26, 2003, just two days before the 35th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, the impetus toward achieving gay rights, our U.S. Supreme Court ruled that we have a right to privacy in our bedrooms and that right is guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. Although I don't believe this historic decision to be nearly as far reaching as *Brown v. Board of Education*, which affected many more people, the 6-3 decision is a milestone in assuring that what is done in bedrooms by consenting adults is not the government's business.

Five of the assenting justices agreed with the right to privacy issue. The sixth, Sandra Day O'Connor, wrote that the Texas law was illegal because it violated the Fourteenth Amendment right to equal protection. Justice O'Connor's opinion could well be the key that opens the door to future lawsuits against unreasonable, discriminating statutes.

June is the "official" pride month. Now we have even more reason to be proud. Thank you John Lawrence and Tyrone Garner.

(Editor's Note: This is an editorial/opinion piece. The views expressed by the author of this editorial are not necessarily those of Family & Friends Magazine.)

Results are in from deaf leather, bear, cub contests

The International Deaf Leather and Deaf Bear & Cub Organization held its leather contest in Orlando, Fla., June 5.

Juan Zazueta was named International Mr. Deaf Leather 2003, and Reneta Millet was titled International Ms. Deaf Leather 2003. Both are from San Diego, Calif. Zazueta also holds the title of Mr. San Diego Deaf Leather 2003, while Millet holds the title of Ms. San Diego Deaf Leather 2003.

Jerry Garmany of Washington, D.C., was first runner-up and Jerome Seabolt of Michigan was second runner-up in the International Mr. Deaf Leather 2003 contest.

The Deaf Bear & Cub Organization named David Pikington of London, England, Mr. Deaf Bear 2003; George Shishmanian of New Jersey, Mr. Deaf Grizzly 2003, and John Maxwell Jr., also of New Jersey, Mr. Deaf Cub 2003.

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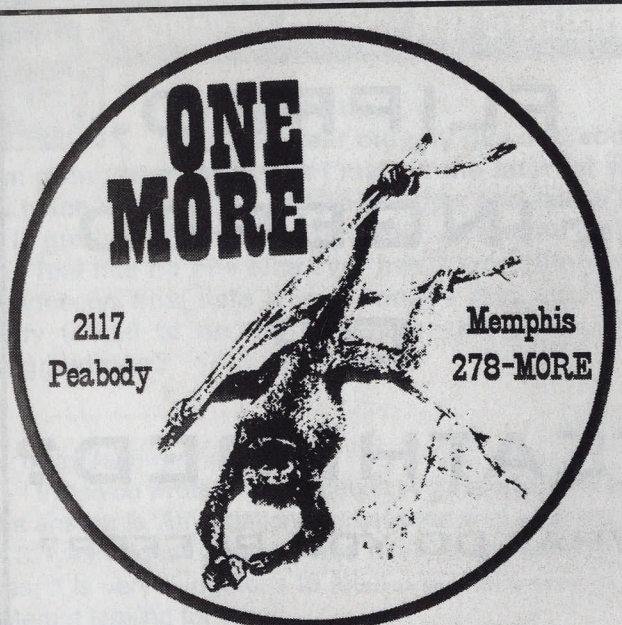
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Look For Something NEW on Saturday!

MGLCC announces future plans for 2023

By Anita Moyt, managing editor

On Saturday, June 7, Len Piechowski, presiding President of the Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center (MGLCC) and Heidi Williams, a MGLCC member, made an announcement from the Overton Park Shell stage during the 2003 Memphis Pride Festival. The announcement was to briefly inform the community of where MGLCC is today and where it plans to be in 20 years.

"The speech was actually an abbreviation of a standard speech that Heidi and I did for each of the Pride festivities at MGLCC," Piechowski wrote *Family & Friends* in an email dated June 11. "The speech, coupled with the welcome address, is the vision for MGLCC 2023."

After introducing themselves to the spectators, the speech, as submitted to *Family & Friends* by Piechowski on June 11, read as follows:

"... A lot has been happening at MGLCC since our ribbon cutting on Feb. 15," Williams began. "In these three short months, we've been able to move in, renovate, paint and start up services such as the Gay and Lesbian Book Club, youth supportive services, an Alcoholics Anonymous support group, monthly potluck birthday celebrations, support for a MGLCC softball team, as well as being able to provide space for the activities for the 20-Something and 30-Something social groups."

"But we're just getting started," Piechowski said, read-

Over My Shoulder

from page 20

with the Black SGL Pride events, which, I believe pertains to another question you posed recently.

As for *Family & Friends*' support of the Black SGL community, let's just say our editorial and photographic content, not to mention our in-house advertising discounts, speak for themselves (we attend events and take pictures rather than send in a token staff member to ask that pictures be sent in).

The answer to your question as to why Memphis has both a Black Pride and a "White" Pride celebration is multi-faceted. For starters, the word "Black" doesn't necessarily refer to skin-color, but to cultural heritage (I don't see you getting your panties in a wad when people of Italian, Greek, Jewish or Polish descent have a festival to celebrate their heritage). Secondly, Black Pride celebrations across the country are comprised of events such as (I'm quoting Earle Fowlkes, International Federation of Black Prides president, here) "workshops on health, lifestyle and education; receptions; cultural arts activities, festivals, picnics and marches." The latter three are the

ing from the prepared speech. "We have been blessed with several very generous persons whose portraits (are) displayed ... in (MGLCC's) Benefactor Hall. Those individuals were responsible for donating a total of \$72,000 in seed money to make this community center a reality. Due to their sacrifices and generosity, we were able to open these doors on Feb 15th, with Mayor Hérenton present. On that day, the board of directors welcomed us to this oasis in the desert of our struggle; to this playground of safety where our children would not have to grow up as we did; to this nursing home where our seniors will grow old with dignity, courtesy and respect; to this courtroom where we will hold each other accountable. The entire welcome address ... is our vision of things to come."

"The words of welcome spoken at the ribbon cutting were metaphors," Williams continued. "The goal of the Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center in the next 20 years is to transform those metaphors into reality. By 2023, MGLCC will have become known as the Memphis Gay & Lesbian Consortium of Care, a charitable parent corporation under whose auspices will be the agencies of child services for gay kids of the Mid-South, who have been orphaned by homophobic parents; nursing homes so our senior citizens can grow old with people who are like them; legal services to help right the wrongs committed against us by a homophobic society, to name a few."

"Our benefactors have done their part, and continuously astound us with their willingness to do even more," Piechowski said. "They got us started but now it's up to the rest of us."

"It's going to be a busy (and expensive) next 20 years," Piechowski continued. "Our city is filled with gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and same-gender-loving people who can take part in this 20-year endeavor. Won't you help to make MGLCC 2023 a reality? So that our kids will not have to grow up like we did, so our seniors can die in the community with whom they have lived, so those thirsting in a desert of hatred, strife and oppression, can rest in acceptance, peace and justice."

Piechowski did explain to *Family & Friends* more details about the MGLCC plan than time allowed them during their short presentation from the Overton Park Shell stage.

"We do not have a 20-year written plan, but instead have opted to create two- to three-year written strategic plans to get us moving toward our goals," Piechowski wrote in his email to *Family & Friends*. "The written plan in place for 2003-2004, is aimed at stabilizing the structure, programs and income stream of the community center. Once that is in place, the strategic plan for 2005-2006, will be able to aim more at creating the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Consortium of Care."

For more information, call MGLCC at (901) 324-GAYS or go online to www.mglcc.org.

See Over My Shoulder, page 56

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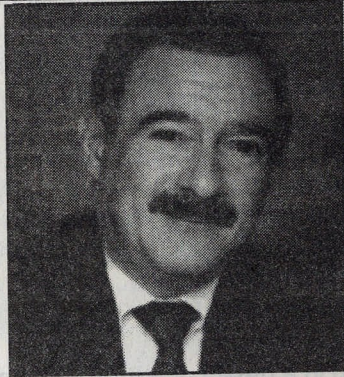
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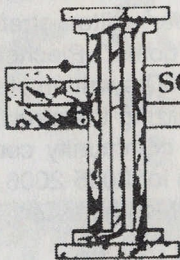
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MGLCC

**Community center
to elect new board**

The Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center will hold its annual membership meeting and board of directors elections on Sunday, July 13, at 2 p.m. at the center, located at 892 South Cooper.

The agenda will include The State of the Center Address by MGLCC President Len Piechowski, which includes a retrospective on the past year and plans for the future. C. Allen Gore, outgoing treasurer, will present the End of the Year Financial Report.

Before the election is held, each candidate, endorsed by the MGLCC nomination committee, will have three minutes to speak to the group.

The nominations for the following board positions are as follows:

Heidi Williams for vice president; Jim Maynard for secretary, and Hunter W. Johnston for treasurer. Nominees for the position of member at large (a one-year term), are Charles Bohannon, Jonathan Devin, Kevin Dugan, Skyler Goldman, John Heiser, J. Wesley McComas and Mickey Scott.

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FedEx adds sexual orientation to its policies

By Anita Moyt, managing editor

On April 4, FedEx, headquartered in Memphis, made the decision to amend its nondiscrimination policy to include sexual orientation.

FedEx was swayed by a shareholder resolution filed by several investment firms, including Walden Asset Management, Trillium, NorthStar Asset Management, Progressive Investments, ISIS Investments, Domini Social Investments and NYCERS (New York City Employees Retirement Fund).

NYCERS alone holds almost \$28 million in FedEx stock in its portfolio.

Interestingly, NYCERS also was involved in the December 2002, decision of CBRL Group Inc., the parent company of Cracker Barrel Old Country Stores, to add sexual orientation to its nondiscrimination policy.

When FedEx notified the concerned group, they were told FedEx would have the nondiscrimination policy amended within 150 days. The group withdrew its resolution.

Pam Robertson, spokesperson for FedEx, read to *Family & Friends* a prepared statement on the company's

comments on the issue.

"FedEx has never tolerated discrimination of any kind, including that involving sexual orientation," Robertson read. "We have always been committed to diversity and inclusion. And we are constantly evaluating and updating the language in our written policy and procedures to reflect this commitment.

"We are proud of the fact that FedEx is consistently recognized as one of the best companies to work for," she continued reading. "All of our written equal employment opportunity policies that do not already specifically prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation are being revised to explicitly prohibit this discrimination. We expect these revised policies to be incorporated into our policy and procedural manual by September."

"This has been in the works for several years," Robertson told *Family & Friends*. "In the course of the company's expansion and growth, it has taken some time to match the policy and procedures from the subsidiaries to the corporate policy. In those instances where it wasn't stated, it was understood that we don't discriminate."

Robertson added that she was not aware of potential domestic partner benefits at FedEx.

Harrah's fires woman, Lambda Legal gets involved

Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund filed appeal papers in federal court on June 16, on behalf of a woman who was fired from her job as a bartender at Harrah's Casino in Reno, Nev.

In August 2000, Darlene Jespersen was fired from her position as a bartender at Harrah's Casino Reno after the company enacted a new dress code, called the "Personal Best" program, requiring all women in the beverage department to wear makeup, specified as foundation or powder, blush, lipstick and mascara. The women also were required to wear their hair teased, curled or styled, and to wear nude or natural color stockings. Women wishing to wear nail polish were limited to clear, white, pink or red colors only.

(A spokesperson with Harrah's Tunica Casino & Hotel, located 30 minutes south of Memphis, said the Tunica property does apply the "Personal Best" program to its beverage staff.)

During her 21 years of working for Harrah's, Jespersen's supervisors consistently rated her "highly effective" in all aspects of her work, including her personal appearance. However, because Jespersen felt wearing makeup made her feel sexualized and uncomfortable, she did not do so and was fired for violating the Personal Best policy.

"To me, wearing makeup should be a personal choice," Jespersen said. "I'm doing the same job as male bartenders, and they don't have to wear makeup."

After she was fired, Jespersen filed a federal lawsuit

accusing Harrah's of sex discrimination, which is prohibited under federal law. Federal civil rights laws have been seen as allowing employers to have dress codes or other standards that impose different but essentially equal burdens on men and women. But, (in Lambda Legal's opinion,) Harrah's Casino's "Personal Best" program is not an equal burden on men and women, since men are required only to keep their hair cut above the collar, fingernails trimmed and their face free of makeup. In addition, the law has become increasingly clear that employers violate federal law if they required either male or female employees to conform to outdated, oppressive gender stereotypes as a condition of their job.

Late last year, a federal judge ruled against Jespersen, saying the appearance standards were applied evenhandedly to both sexes, and Lambda Legal stepped in to help handle her case at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit.

"Employers are certainly allowed to require their workers to present a professional appearance," said Jennifer G. Pizer, senior staff attorney in Lambda Legal's Western Regional Office, "but Harrah's went too far by requiring women to fit extreme, burdensome stereotypes, which is exactly what federal civil rights laws forbid."

Lambda Legal's appeal on behalf of Jespersen argues that Harrah's Casino demeaned her as a person and held

See Harrah's, page 28

On stage now

Cats returns to Orpheum

Cats, the longest running show in Broadway's history and the show that revolutionized musical theater, returns to The Orpheum Theater, 203 South Main Street, Friday, July 11, through Sunday, July 13. *Cats*, which tells the tale of the tribe of Jellicle Cats, is scored by Andrew Lloyd Webber. Showtimes are at 8 p.m. on Friday, July 11; 2 and 8 p.m. on Saturday, July 12, and 1:30 and 7 p.m. on Sunday, July 13. Tickets, which are \$20-\$55 each, are on sale at the Orpheum Box Office, at David Kidd Booksellers, located at 387 Perkins Road Extended in the Laurelwood Shopping Center or at any TicketMaster outlet. Or you can order by phone at (901) 525-3000 or (901) 743-ARTS.

TM premieres musical

Theater Memphis, 630 Perkins Extended, will produce the Tennessee premiere of *The Last Five Years* on the Lohrey stage, July 25 through Aug. 10. This new musical, by Jason Robert Brown, is an intimate, two-person musical that tells the compelling story of Jamie, a nice Jewish boy, and Catherine, a good Irish Catholic girl, who fall in love, get married and fall apart over the course of five years. Traditional Jewish and Irish musical themes are played against the sounds, pace and complexity of contemporary life in New York City. *The Last Five Years* is directed by Bob Hetherington and Andrew Bryan is the musical director. Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. Thursdays; 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and 2 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$15 for students with valid ID card. For reservations or more information, call (901) 682-8323.

Auditions set around town

Playhouse on the Square, 51 South Cooper, will hold auditions for three shows scheduled for the 2003 holiday season.

On Monday, July 14, at 7 p.m., auditions will be held for adults for roles in *Babes in Toyland*, *Peter Pan* and *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*. Those auditioning will sing 16 bars of a song.

Nine men and four women, ages 18 and up, are needed for roles in *Babes in Toyland*, scheduled to run Nov. 1 through Dec. 21 at The Circuit Playhouse. Those cast in roles must be available for school matinees during the week.

Adults, ages 18 to 40, are needed to play pirates and/or Indians for *Peter Pan*, scheduled to run Nov. 7 through Jan. 9, 2004, at Playhouse on the Square. Again, those cast in roles must be available for school matinees during the week. *Peter Pan* will be directed by Karen Lamb.

And two men and one woman, ages 18 to 40, are needed for *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*, which is set to run Nov. 14 through Jan. 4, 2004, at Playhouse on the Square. Kevin Shaw will be the show's director.

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

Damsel-in-distress spoof at Circuit

The Circuit Playhouse, 1705 Poplar Avenue, will stage Charles Busch's hysterical play, *The Lady In Question*, July 25 to Aug. 31. This ingenious comedy spoofs the classic, yet trashy, damsel-in-distress vs. Nazi movies when Gertrude, an American pianist, finds herself on a whirlwind tour of Bavaria, "the land of beer, Wagner and terror." Falling in love with Professor Maxwell, in the classic Golden Age of Hollywood way, Gertrude flames through an era of political intrigue, espionage and trenchcoats. Directed by Brian Mott (*Anton in Show Business*), Mary Buchignani (*Anton in Show Business*, *The Laramie Project*) stars as Gertrude. Showtimes for *The Lady In Question* are 8 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and 2 p.m. on Sundays. The Pay-What-You-Can performance is set for Thursday, July 31, at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for adults; \$18 for seniors; \$16 for students and military personnel, and \$12 for children. For reservations or more information, call The Circuit Playhouse Box Office at 726-4656.

Dog or spouse is choice in Sylvia

Back by popular demand, P.O.T.S. at The Works will stage *Sylvia*, a comedy which follows the travails of Greg and Kate, a middle-aged couple, and their unexpected new dog, Sylvia, July 11 through Aug. 3. Greg has no desire to lose his wonderful new playmate, but Kate's patience quickly wears thin, and war between the species sets in. It's either Kate or Sylvia and Greg doesn't have much time to choose. Directed by Ann Marie Hall (*Sylvia*, *The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told*, *The Santaland Diaries*), *Sylvia* features Keith Salter as Greg, Emily Angel Baer as Kate and Cyndii Hartley as Sylvia with Kyle Barnette rounding out the cast. Showtimes for *Sylvia* are Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. The Pay-What-You-Can performance is set for Thursday, July 17, at 8 p.m. *Sylvia* is being staged at Theatreworks, located at 2085 Monroe Avenue in Overton Square. Tickets are \$16 each. For more information or reservations, call the Playhouse on the Square Box Office at (901) 726-4656 or go online to www.playhouseonthesquare.org.

Harrah's

from page 27

her to a more confining and unfair standard of dress than her male co-workers. Lambda Legal argues that Harrah's Casino's "Personal Best" policy goes much farther than what is reasonable, because it is so extreme in requiring women to dress in such an ultra-feminine appearance, which is far more stereotyped and oppressive to women than what is usual in the contemporary workplace.

For more information, go online to lambdalegal.org.



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Explore your senses at exhibit

Experience art in a whole new way in Sense II, an exhibition that is primarily based on tactile sensations, at The Children's Museum of Memphis, 2525 Central Avenue, now through Nov. 16. Although this hands-on interactive exhibit was created for people who are blind or have visual impairments, the art in the exhibit appeals to everyone. The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. Admission is \$6 for children (ages 1-12) and seniors (ages 62+), and \$7 for adults. For more information, call (901) 458-2678.

Peter Pan auditions slated

Playhouse on the Square, located at 51 South Cooper, will hold auditions on Saturday, July 19, from 9 a.m. to noon, for roles in *Peter Pan*, set to run Nov. 7 through Jan. 9, 2004. Director Karen Lamb will cast 20 males and females, ages seven to 13. There will be double-casting for the roles of Michael, John and The Lost Boys. No experience is necessary, however, movement and singing experience is helpful. Those auditioning need to come dressed to move and will learn movement and lyrics to "I Won't Grow Up." Those who are cast must be available for rehearsal after school and in the evenings, and be willing to miss school mornings for matinees. For more information, call Courtney Oliver at (901) 725-0776 or email her at courtney@playhouseonthesquare.org.

CMOM offers summer camps

The Children's Museum of Memphis, 2525 Central Avenue, offers Kidventures Summer Camp Session III: Above the Clouds, Monday to Friday, July 7 to 11, and Session IV: Art Expedition, Monday to Friday, July 14 to 18. In Above the Clouds, children will launch a rocket, meet a pilot, learn about the forces of flight and pilot a flight simulator. In Art Expedition, children will make a Japanese fish print, paint, sculpt and weave. Kidventures

Get up close, personal with pandas in IMAX film

China: The Panda Adventure is showing now through Sept. 1, at the Union Planters Imax Theatre, located in the Memphis Pink Palace Museum, 3050 Central Avenue.

The screenplay for *China: The Panda Adventure*, set in 1936, is based on the autobiography, *The Lady and the Panda*, by Ruth Harkness. Harkness was a newly-widowed New York socialite who was a fiercely independent woman who dared to take up her late husband's expedition, journeying deep into the mysterious forests of China, following his passionate quest to study the Giant Panda. However, Harkness is urgent in her quest to find the pan-

Summer Camp is open to children ages six to 10 and is held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cost is \$90 per session and a \$25 non-refundable deposit is required for registration. For more information or to register, call (901) 458-2678.

Join the fiesta at the Zoo

Everyone is invited to join the fun at the Memphis Zoo, located in Overton Park, as it celebrates its annual "Fiesta at the Zoo" Saturday, July 12, from 1 to 5 p.m. Enjoy Mariachi bands, fun Hispanic crafts, a puppet show and keeper chats, in both English and Spanish. This event is free with general zoo admission. For more information, go online to memphiszoo.org.

Central library keeps teens busy

The Central branch of the Memphis/Shelby County Public Library, located at 3030 Poplar Avenue, offers three different events to keep teens busy this month. On Thursday, July 24, at 10 a.m., in meeting room C, there will be a demonstration of Tae Kwon Do by both experts and students. Each Wednesday, July 2-23, in meeting room A, teens can explore reading, writing and publishing poetry. Registration is required for the poetry group by calling (901) 415-2726. And on Tuesdays, July 8-29, in the fourth floor reading area, teens can participate in "Talk It Up," where they can discuss current events and issues. For more information, call (901) 415-2700.

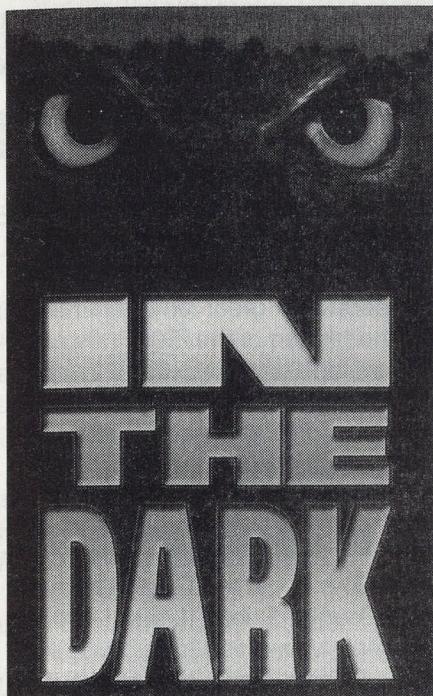
Channel 3 reads to the little ones

Children, three to five years of age, can enjoy a story read by a News Channel 3 newscaster during "Drop Everything and Read." On Wednesday, July 16, at 11 a.m., this event will take place at the Germantown branch, 1925 Exeter; on Thursday, July 17, at 10 a.m. at the Cornelia Crenshaw branch, 531 Vance; on Wednesday, July 23, at 10:30 a.m. at the Parkway Village branch, 4655 Knight Arnold Road, and on Thursday, July 31, at 10:30 a.m., at the Arlington branch, 11968 Walker.



Ruth Harkness (Maria Bello) introduces a giant panada cub to the local Chinese villages. Photo: Deana Newcomb

See IMAX Pandas, page 31



"In The Dark," a traveling exhibit produced by the Cincinnati Museum Center, is on exhibit now through Oct. 19 at the Pink Palace Museum, 3050 Central Avenue in Memphis. This exhibit offers plenty of exciting things for youngsters and those who are young at heart.

IMAX Pandas

from page 30

das first, because of Hunter "Dak" Johnston, who also is intent on hunting down the bears, but in order to bring back the panda skins for profit.

China: The Panda Adventure was directed by award-winning documentary and feature filmmaker Robert M. Young.

Showtimes for *China: The Panda Adventure* are daily at 4 p.m. Tickets are \$7.25 for adults, \$6.75 for seniors and \$5.75 for children (ages three to 12).

For more information, or tickets, call (901) 320-6362.

...

PANDA FACTS

- There are only about 1,000 Giant Pandas living in the wild and approximately 100 in captivity. Their habitat occupies about 5,000 square miles scattered across six mountain ranges in southwestern China.

- A panda can hold a fertilized egg for up to three months. Pandas usually have twins.

- The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) reported that habitat loss and hunting are the most pressing threats to the Giant Panda.

- U.S. institutions must meet rigorous criteria to qualify for importing captive Giant Pandas from China. The policy dictates that at least half of the funds associated with a panda loan – as much as \$1 million per year – must be channeled into the conservation of wild Giant Pandas and their habitat.

- In the United States, in addition to the pandas at the San Diego Zoo, there also are Giant Pandas on loan to the Atlanta Zoo and the National Zoo in Washington, D.C. Most recently, in April 2003, two Giant Pandas, Le Le and Ya Ya, were loaned to the Memphis Zoo.

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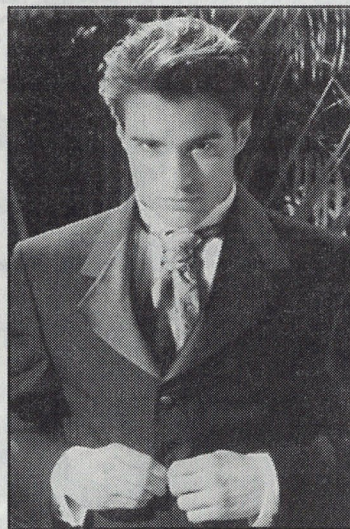
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New exhibit to begin at AMUM

The Art Museum of The University of Memphis will exhibit, "Joseph Whitt: Neverland," July 12 through Sept. 5. An opening reception is set for Friday, July 11, from 5 to 7:30 p.m. The museum, which is located in the communication and fine arts building on campus, is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The exhibit is free to the public. For more information, go online to amum.org or call (901) 678-2224.

Integrity plans July 15 meeting

The next regular monthly meeting of Integrity-Memphis will be held Tuesday, July 15, at 6:30 p.m. at Calvary Episcopal Church, located at Second and Adams. Integrity serves to promote understanding between the gay community and the Episcopal Church. All are invited. The meeting begins with a short worship service, led this month by Jack Rogers. After dinner, Cap Pinkham from Calvary will present information on Habitat for Humanity. For more information, go online to www.geocities.com/integrity_memphis.

Sam's Town to host street rods

The 4th annual Delta River Cruisin' Car Show, presented by Sam's Town Tunica and the Memphis Street Rods, will take place at the casino Friday, Saturday and Sunday, July 11-13. The weekend will bring together beautiful cars, food, vendors and great entertainment, including Jan and Dean, the hit duo of the '50s, '60s and '70s, who will be in concert on Saturday, July 12, at 8 p.m. at Sam's Town Tunica's River Palace Entertainment Center. Tickets for the concert are \$10 each and available at the River Palace Entertainment Box Office or by calling (800) 456-0711.

Memphis music to be discussed

On Tuesday, July 8, at 6:30 p.m., at the Central branch of the Memphis/Shelby County Public Library, 3030 Poplar Avenue, enjoy "Making Memphis Music," with live music and guest speaker Deanie Park, director of the Stax Museum of American Soul Music. Cost is \$10 per person. For more information, call (901) 415-2842.



Barflies to play in Chicago softball tourney

By Anita Moyt, managing editor

The Barflies, a softball team that is part of the Bluff City Sports Association, will take to the ball field in Chicago, July 4 to 6 for the Chi-Town Softball Classic.

The Chi-Town Softball Classic is a sanctioned event of the NAGAAA (North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance) and the third largest softball tournament in the country. The Barflies will compete in the C-Rec Division against 11 other teams.

"We will play a minimum of five games, and a maximum of nine games, in two days," Steve Birkla, player and captain of the team, told *Family & Friends* magazine.

"Tonya Shropshire is our coach," Birkla said, "she used to coach women's softball at Rhodes."

Shropshire played softball and basketball for The University of Tennessee at Martin, where she earned a degree in both psychology and sociology. From there, she coached one year at the University of North Alabama, one year at Christian Brothers University and six years at Rhodes.

Shropshire said she favors coaching over playing.

"I like to do both, but I get more reward from coaching

and teaching someone the game," Shropshire told *Family & Friends*.

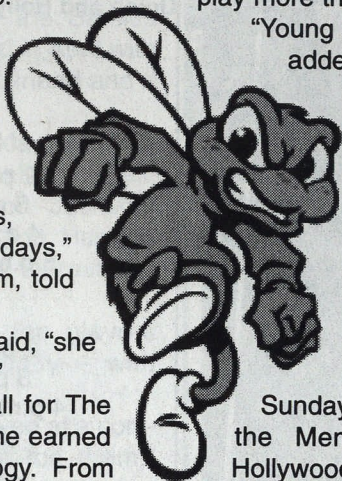
Birkla explained that the Cooper-Young deli and music hot spot has seen their sponsored teams in tournament play more than once.

"Young Avenue Deli is an amazing sponsor," Birkla added. "They proudly display the 3rd place trophy we won at the Nashville Classic (last year).

"We are trying to get Memphis's NAGAAA standing back in the league," Birkla continued. "This will help all the players in the Bluff City Sports Association. ... We are all excited to help make the league that much stronger. This year is a strong year for Bluff City Sports. It's been a competitive year with five good teams."

Birkla sees the softball games, held each Sunday afternoon at Tobey Field #1, located behind the Memphis Board of Education building on Hollywood, near Central Avenue, as being valuable to more than just the players.

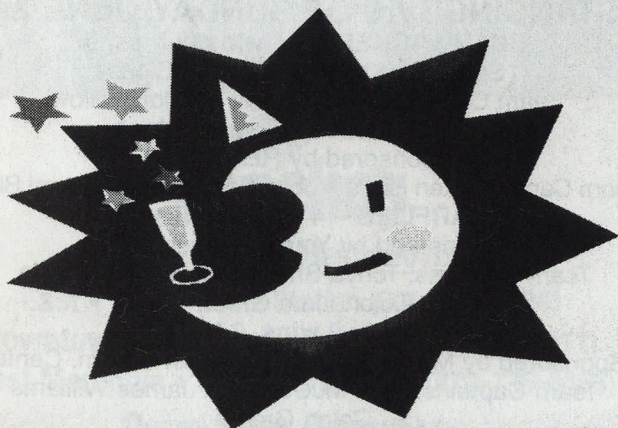
"The softball games are one of the best things for the (Memphis GLBT) community to get involved with," Birkla



See Barflies, page 35

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BLUFF CITY SPORTS SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

All games are played at Tobey Field #1, located behind the Memphis City Schools Board of Education building near Union and Hollywood.

SUNDAY, JULY 6

No Games

SUNDAY, JULY 13

2 p.m. – Out Fielders vs. MGLCC
3 p.m. – Barflies vs. Locomotion
4 p.m. – MGLCC vs. Bushwackers
5 p.m. – Locomotion vs. Out Fielders

SUNDAY, JULY 20

2 p.m. – Bushwackers vs. Barflies
3 p.m. – Locomotion vs. MGLCC
4 p.m. – Bushwackers vs. Out Fielders
5 p.m. – Barflies vs. MGLCC

SUNDAY, JULY 27

2 p.m. – MGLCC vs. Locomotion
3 p.m. – Bushwackers vs. Barflies
4 p.m. – Locomotion vs. Out Fielders
5 p.m. – off

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3

2 p.m. – Bushwackers vs. MGLCC
3 p.m. – Barflies vs. Out Fielders
4 p.m. – Bushwackers vs. Locomotion
5 p.m. – off

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10

possible tournament or rain date

SUNDAY, AUGUST 17

rain date

STANDINGS AS OF SUNDAY, JUNE 29

BUSHWACKERS – 4 wins, 2 losses

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LOCOMOTION – 5 wins, 1 loss

Sponsored by RP Tracks

Team Captains: Ken Hicks & John Foard • Color: Royal Blue

BARFLIES – 4 wins, 3 losses

Sponsored by Young Avenue Deli

Team Captains: Tonya Shropshire & Steve Birkla

Color: Lime Green

MGLCC – 0 wins, 6 losses

Sponsored by Memphis Gay & Lesbian Comm. Center

Team Captains: Wes McComas & James Williams

Color: Gray

OUT FIELDERS – 3 wins, 4 losses

Sponsored by Ike's (on Union) & Sowell & Co. Realtors

Team Captain: Kevin Coleman • Color: Cyan & Gray

Barflies

from page 33

said. "We moved the location of the games from East Memphis to Midtown a couple of years ago, so it is in a more centralized location now."

"Myself and Steve Birkla formed the team, the Barflies," Shropshire said, explaining how the Barflies came to be. "We were all friends. We started in April with four or five players and each one brought a friend and it went from there."

The Barflies consist of Shropshire, Birkla, Trent P., Michelle Homer, Patrick P., Leslie Jones, Tanille Wardell, Greg Hadsall, Lisa R., Kin Meredith, Jon Jackson, Russel Cardwell and Charles Ettinger. Chris Haskins and Chris Balton will join the Barflies for the tournament in Chicago.

Shropshire explained that she hopes the players will leave Chicago with more than a trophy – with experience.

"This is the first time that (many) have played at a competitive level; it is a great opportunity for them," Shropshire said. "Only two or three have been to a competitive softball tournament before. It is a chance to see a lot of talent."

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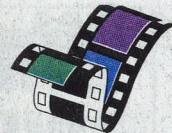
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REEL TWISTED BY LAINE MCNEIL



One of the hottest trends in the 21st century has got to be the making of GLBT films. Why, do you ask? Because our GLBT film library continues to grow by leaps and bounds, thanks to all the "review" copies which continuously pour in from all across America.

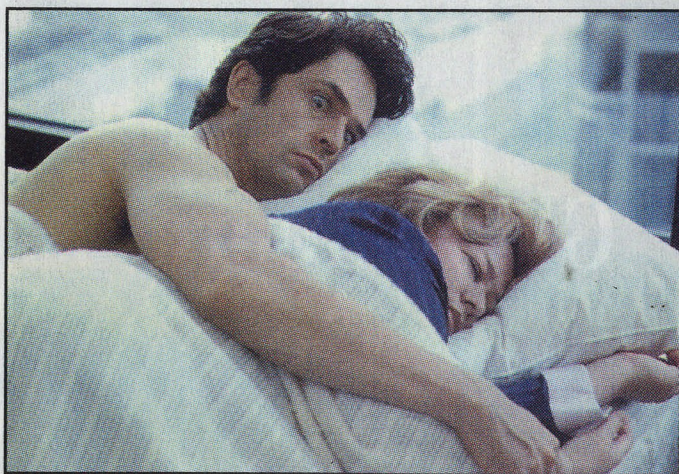
While we have received several films during the past couple of months, we'll only look at two this month, due to space limitations.

UNCONDITIONAL LOVE, run time: 121 minutes



Claiborne), out gay actor and two-time Golden Globe nominee Rupert Everett (*My Best Friend's Wedding* and *An Ideal Husband*), Dan Aykroyd ("Saturday Night Live," *Blues Brothers* and *Driving Miss Daisy*), Meredith Eaton ("Family Law"), Jonathan Pryce (*Jumpin' Jack Flash*, *Glengarry Glen Ross* and *Evita*) and Peter Sarsgaard (*Boys Don't Cry*). The film also features performances by Lynn Redgrave, Julie Andrews, Sally Jessy Raphael and Barry Manilow.

From the producer and director of *My Best Friend's Wedding*, *Unconditional Love* is one woman's search for love,



Rupert Everett and Kathy Bates star in *Unconditional Love*.

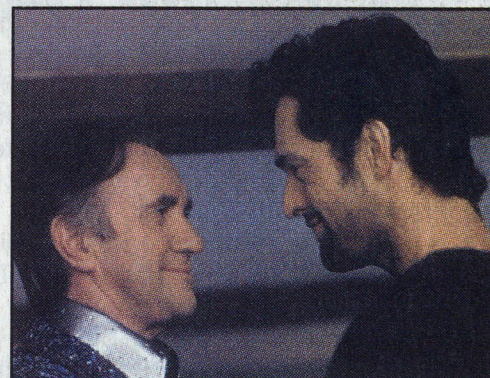
Photo: Suzanne Tenner, © 2003 New Line Cinema

This film, presented by STARZ! Pictures and New Line Cinema, features Academy Award and Golden Globe winner Memphis Kathy Bates (*About Schmidt*, *Misery*, *Steel Magnolias*, *Primary Colors* and *Dolores*

truth and who killed the lounge singer.

The first thing that catches the eye is the DVD cover, which sports a picture of Bates (*The Housewife*), Everett (*The Valet*) and Eaton (*The Dwarf*). This is the first clue of the humor that lies ahead, mostly provided by Eaton's more than biting, sarcastic wit.

Eaton plays, Maudey, Bates' daughter-in-law. It is Maudey's wit that serves as a perfect balance to Bates's ho-hum housewife routine and Everett's often dark, scowling portrayal.



Jonathan Pryce and Rupert Everett star in *Unconditional Love*.

Photo: Suzanne Tenner, © 2003 New Line Cinema



Lynn Redgrave stars in *Unconditional Love*.

Photo: Suzanne Tenner, © 2003 New Line Cinema

This film is an off-beat comedy in which a middle-aged Chicago housewife and a British valet unite to avenge the death of the man they mutually treasured. As these mismatched misfits carry out their plan, they embark on a memorable adventure.

Grace Beasley (Bates) was living the life she thought she wanted. Married to a modestly-successful lawyer, Max, (Aykroyd), she began and ended every day the same way. She had created a safe and loving home, raised two children and never expected anything to change. But, one morning her life comes to a screeching halt when Max announces he is leaving her because he is getting older and misses the excitement of life.

Frightened and alone for the first time in 25 years, Grace's only salvation is the concert ticket she recently won promising her a front row seat to see

See Reel, page 65



From left, Michele Greene, Erica Schaffer and Helen Lesnick star in *A Family Affair*. For more on this film, see page 65.

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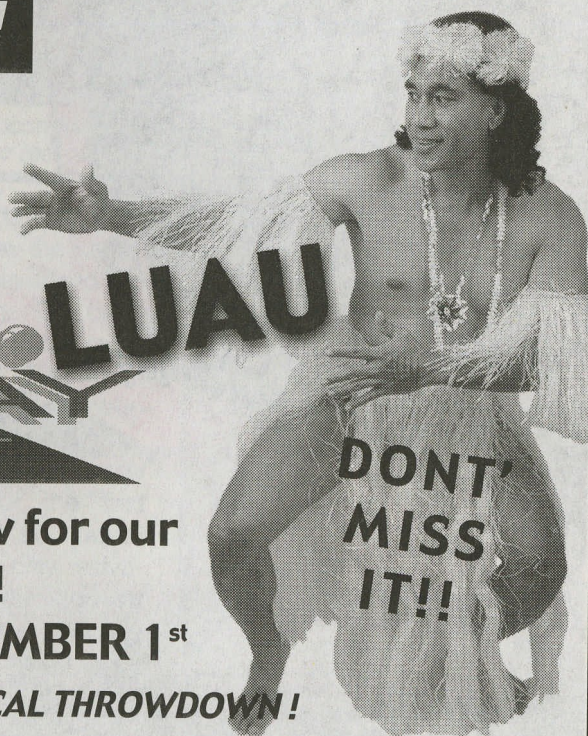
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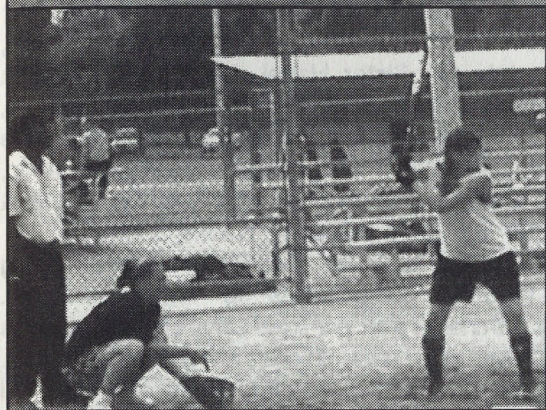
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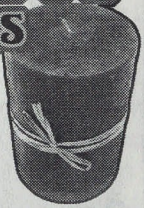


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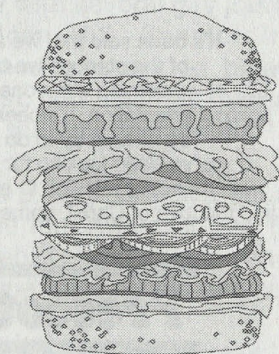
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International Paper employees form GLBT group

By Anita Moyt, managing editor

Several employees of International Paper (IP) in Memphis are organizing a gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender employee group.

"There is a group of us that are involved in it," Melanie Russell, human resources manager at IP told *Family & Friends* magazine. "We started in early May; the few of us that met concluded there was a need for such a group at International Paper."

International Paper Corp. is one of a growing number of Fortune 500 corporations which includes sexual orientation in its corporate non-discrimination policy, as well as offering domestic partner benefits to its employees.

At present, the individuals putting together the employee group are meeting on an informal basis, but are taking the necessary steps to bring the group to receive the full support of IP.

"We went to the diversity council and asked for advice," Russell said. "We are working through the diversity council and provided them with information ... they are looking at it."

Russell explained that the group, which plans to meet monthly, has already begun making plans.

"What we are doing," she said, "we are working on education, both for ourselves and (our fellow employees,) so people will feel more comfortable; a socializing network;

bringing in speakers, such as a local attorney to talk about legal issues; taking group outings, and building awareness."

Any present employee of International Paper who is interested in joining should email Russell at Lmrussell98@aol.com.

Memphis Jam! to hit Mud Island

The Memphis Jam! offers lots of great music at the Mud Island Amphitheater for \$3 per person. Gates open at 5 p.m. and music is from 5 to 11 p.m.

The summer line up is as follows: July 5: Violent Femmes, Porch Ghouls, Marc Brussard, Stout; July 12: Better Than Ezra, Cowboy Mouth, Pete Schmidt, Retrospect; July 19: Sister Hazel, Ingram Hill, Virginia Coalition, Gavin DeGraw; July 26: Everclear, Maroon 5, Billy Talent, Kill Hannah; Aug. 2: special guest, Frankie Perez, Pat McGee Band, Antigone Rising; Aug. 9: Tonic, Tantric, The Clarks, special guest, and Aug. 16: Hootie & the Blowfish, Paul Thorn, Jonas, Native Son.

Tickets are on sale at all TicketMaster locations; by calling (901) 525-1515 or going online to Ticketmaster.com. Ticketmaster will charge a \$1 per ticket service charge. Or, you can get your tickets at the gate; all tickets are general admission.

Some event restrictions apply. Food and beverages will be for sale at the event.

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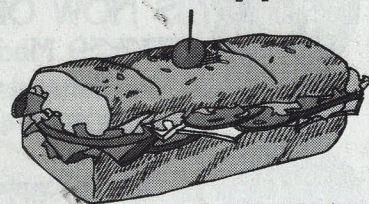
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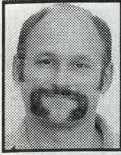


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QUOTE / UNQUOTE BY REX WOCKNER

"I'm not a romantic leading man anymore so I don't need to nurture that public image anymore. I can talk about it now because I'm not afraid anymore. ... When I grew up, being gay, being a sissy or anything like that, was verboten. I disliked myself intensely and feared this part of myself intensely and had to hide it and become 'Perfect Richard, All-American Boy' as a place to hide."

— **Newly-out actor Richard Chamberlain ("Dr. Kildare"), 69, on Dateline NBC, June 1.**

"It was wonderful; we had our best friends and sort of made vows that we created ourselves. It was a wonderful experience."

— **Actor Richard Chamberlain ("Dr. Kildare"), on his commitment ceremony 20 years ago with his partner of 26 years, Martin Rabbett, to AP Radio, June 5.**

"Do I believe (Florida Republican Congressman Mark) Foley is gay? In addition to fairly persuasive reports in both the gay press and, more recently, the Broward edition of *New Times*, a friend of mine said he was at a social gathering with Foley a few months ago at which the congressman introduced his partner and said the two of them had been together for more than 19 years. Do I care that Foley is gay? No. But I do care if he is being a hypocrite. (He) can't hold himself up as a defender of gay rights while at the same time denounce as 'revolting and unforgivable' questions about whether he is gay."

— **Columnist Jim DeFede in the *Miami Herald*, May 27.**

"I don't have a partner, no. I'm not interested in just having a boyfriend anymore, and a partner isn't something you can just pluck out of a nightclub. When it's supposed to happen, it will happen. I'm learning to live in acceptance of what is. I've spent a lot of my life not doing that. It's an abundant universe with enough love for everyone. Too often, we operate on the 'scarcity model,' the theory that there's not enough love to go around. That causes people to (go) out (to) bars hunting for it rather than trust that it's there."

— **Actor Robert Gant, "Queer As Folk's" Ben Bruckner (Michael's lover), to D.C.'s *Metro Weekly*, May 29.**

"There was a time when many of our nation's leaders would have preferred that gays and lesbians stay in the closet and stay out of the way. Sadly, for some of our leaders, that time is still now. But I am running because I believe in my gut and in my heart and in my mind that that time must end."

— **Democratic presidential candidate Sen. John Kerry speaking in Chicago, May 31.**

"There's been an enormous change, if you compare what's out there with what was out there 15 years ago."

Back then we had no visible gay characters, or the ones we did have were used only in angst-y docudrama situations (which) illustrated their sad, lonely lives. Now we are in the era of 'Will & Grace,' and that's been a great leap. To be successful, a movie or show has to appeal to general consumers, and everyone wants to watch 'Will & Grace.' I mean, Madonna didn't turn up on 'Everybody Loves Raymond.'

— **Playwright/screenwriter Paul Rudnick to *USA Today*, June 1.**

"Leaders of the extreme right are demanding that the GOP back away from any association with the gay community. The right is calling into question what little outreach the (Republican) party had to gay voters at the crossroads of an election season. While I can't speculate on the reasons for her decision, Mary Cheney's departure definitely comes at an interesting time."

— **Human Rights Campaign spokesman David Smith on the resignation of U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney's lesbian daughter from the board of the gay organization Republican Unity Coalition, to *Advocate.com*, June 2.**

"At Avis, domestic partners are automatically included as additional drivers. No extra fees charged. No questions asked. That's been our policy for the past 10 years. So, why have we waited so long to tell you? Well, let's just say we came out in our own time."

— **From a full-page ad by the Avis rental-car company in the July issue of *Out* magazine.**

"We believe our country has been hijacked by the far right. The President putting his arm around Senator Rick Santorum and saying how inclusive he was, was despicable."

— **Democratic Presidential candidate Howard Dean in a June 18 phone interview with several gay journalists. Santorum, a Republican U.S. Senator from Pennsylvania, recently likened gay sex to bigamy, polygamy, adultery and incest, and said gay marriage would be "the death knell of the American family."**

NEW YORK (AP) — It was a night for being out and proud. A ceremony that saw the Tony Award for Best Play go to a drama about a gay baseball player also had an on-camera kiss between a longtime male couple and reference to same-sex partners."

— **Lead sentence from the Associated Press, the world's largest news operation, June 9.**

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.

Gay Earthquake

from page 21

clause" that allows provinces to enact temporary laws that contradict the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Such laws, however, cannot usurp federal power – and the definition of marriage is a federal matter in Canada.

"If there is any move to sanctify and legalize same-sex marriages, we will use the notwithstanding clause. Period. End of story," Klein said.

"The Ralph Klein government (is) beyond their jurisdiction on that," responded Carleton University political-science professor Miriam Smith. "It likely wouldn't survive a court challenge from a same-sex couple wishing to marry in Alberta. Ralph is spouting off hot air to appease the right-wing voters in Alberta. He always does that and then he backs down and says, 'The courts made us do it!'"

A poll taken after the Ontario court's ruling found that residents of most provinces support equal marriage rights.

The Centre for Research and Information on Canada asked just under 3,000 people if they agreed or disagreed with gays and lesbians being allowed to marry. The percentage of respondents who agreed was: Nova Scotia, 62 percent; Quebec, 58 percent; Manitoba, 58 percent; British Columbia, 57 percent; Newfoundland, 56 percent; Prince Edward Island, 54 percent; New Brunswick, 52 percent; Ontario, 52 percent; Alberta, 44 percent, and Saskatchewan, 40 percent.

GAY FOREIGNERS CAN MARRY IN ONTARIO

You do not have to be Canadian to get married in Ontario.

There is no residency requirement and foreign visitors can obtain a marriage license and get married the same day.

American gay couples can travel to Ontario and get married now.

Here are the details from the Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Business Services:

"A civil marriage can be performed by a judge or a justice of the peace under the authority of a marriage license. A religious marriage can be performed by a person who is recognized by a religious body to perform marriages and is registered in Ontario to perform marriages under the Marriage Act. The marriage can be solemnized under the authority of a marriage license or the publication of banns, depending on the denomination.

"A marriage license can be obtained from the clerk of most cities, townships, towns or villages. ... The marriage license is valid anywhere in Ontario for three months from the date of purchase. The bride or groom (or both) apply in person to the Marriage License Issuer to obtain a license. They will need to bring identification, such as a birth certificate (along with any change-of-name certificates), current passport, Record of Immigrant Landing or Canadian citizenship card, along with photo identification, for both the bride and the groom. There is a set fee for purchasing a marriage license. Contact your municipal office for the current fee. (There also is an additional charge for a civil marriage.)

"You must be at least 18 years old to be married in Ontario by license or under the authority of the publication of banns, without authorization or parental consent. If you are 16 or 17 years old, you may marry if you have the consent in writing of both parents. Other restrictions may apply.

"After the marriage, the bride and groom may receive a 'Record of Solemnization of Marriage' giving their names, the date of the marriage, the names of the witnesses and whether the marriage was performed under the authority of a license or the publication of banns. This is a souvenir document and not a legal record. The person who performed the marriage must forward documentation to the (provincial) Office of the Registrar General for registration. Allow approximately 12 weeks from the date of marriage before applying for your marriage certificate."

The relevant forms can be downloaded on the Web at www.cbs.gov.on.ca/mcbs/english/4U4V5Z.htm.

"Publication of banns" is an ancient Christian rite that is legally recognized in Ontario. In place of getting a marriage license from the city clerk, a couple can choose to have their impending marriage announced in church on three consecutive Sundays. The three announcements themselves create a legal marriage license.

So, if you've been waiting to get married, is now the time to rush to Toronto?

"People should understand that if (gay) Americans go to Canada and get married and come home, first and foremost, they are legally married," said Evan Wolfson, executive director of the U.S. organization Freedom To Marry. "This is not just signing up on a list. ... They are as legally married as any people on the planet, even if they face uncertainty or discrimination back home in the U.S.

"This is a tremendously historic day, a really wonderful step forward, and proof that we can end marriage discrimination in this country, too – and sooner than people think," Wolfson said. "The Canadian decision is going to give us a tremendous opportunity to show non-gay Americans that the sky doesn't fall when same-sex couples are married."

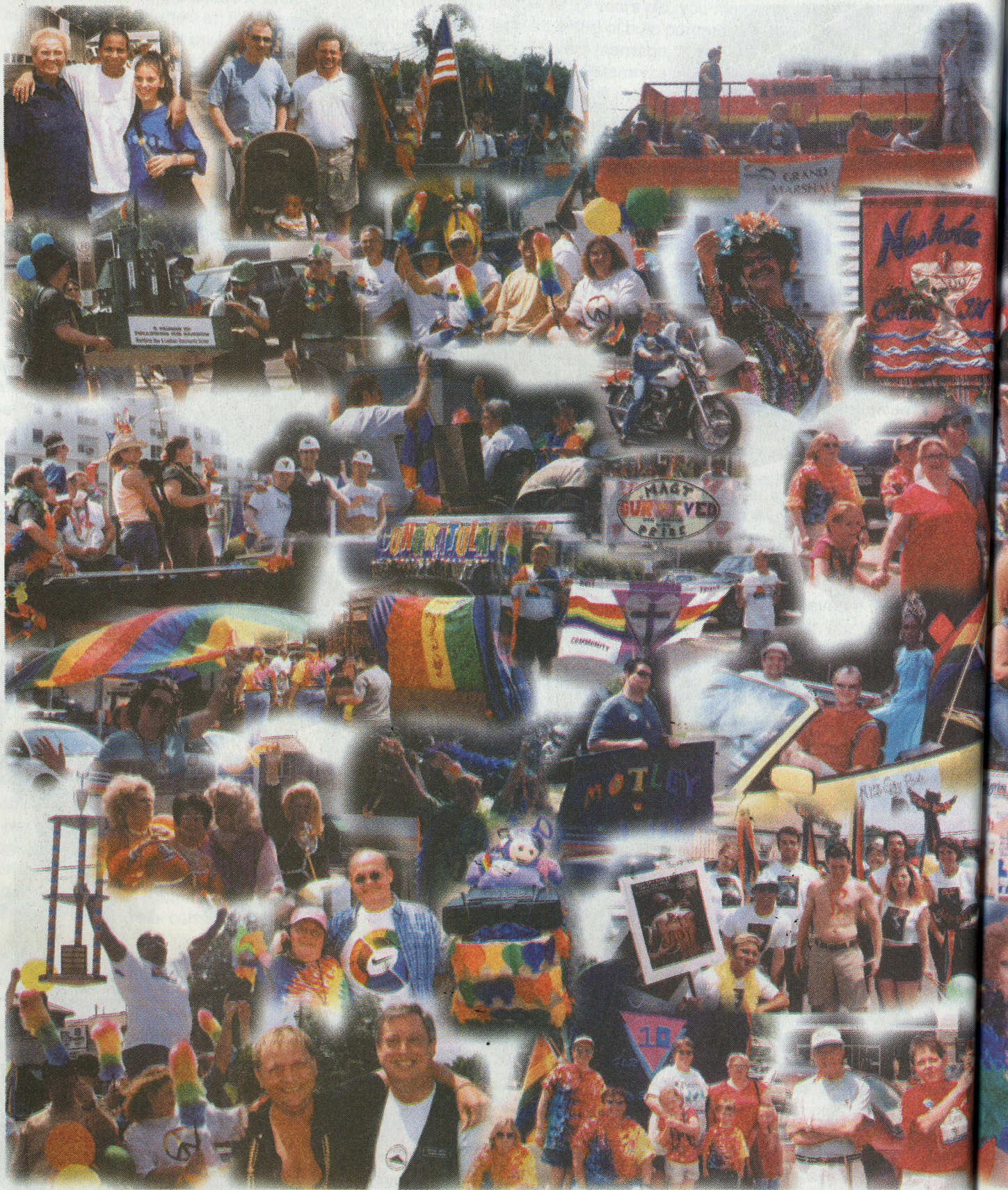
Canadian and other foreign marriages are recognized in the U.S. via the legal concept of "comity," which, Wolfson said, "is the respect given by jurisdictions to other jurisdictions. ... The bottom line of 'comity' is that, in almost all cases, a marriage that is legal where celebrated is respected elsewhere so that people have the security of knowing their family is intact as they travel."

In reality what will happen in the U.S. with gay couples who get married in Ontario is "a patchwork of recognition and resistance," Wolfson said.

"Inevitably, some will litigate to defend their families and secure their rights," Wolfson noted. "I urge people ... to make decisions about litigation very carefully in consultation with groups like the Gay & Lesbian Advocates and Defenders in Boston, Lambda Legal and the National Center for Lesbian Rights. This is a civil-rights struggle and it's not going to be won just because we rush into court one day. ... Couples need to make careful decisions about whether to marry, about the legal uncertainty they may face, and the conse-



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Santa Phelps is coming to town

Fred Phelps, a Baptist preacher from Kansas who runs the GodHatesFags.com website, was reportedly all set to head to Provincetown in June. Phelps is known for his outrageous site and his penchant for showing up at gay people's funerals and waving signs saying they're all going to hell (he did this at Matthew Shepard's funeral). This time Phelps was reportedly planning to come picket the Provincetown International Film forum because it's "immoral." Having said that, Phelps has a history of threatening more protests than he actually makes, so I'd be curious to hear if he actually showed up in Ptown.

Which leads me to another point. These religious right, anti-gay bigots sure seem to spend a lot of time in gay venues. I mean, they're in Ptown, they're at Gay Disney, they're at dungeon dances, and they're at all the black, white, etc. parties taking covert photos. You know something's wrong when the bigots have a better "gay lifestyle" than me.

Baptist bigots want to save us

The Baptists love us. Really, they do. I mean it. And apparently they love us so much that they're going out of their way to save us. The Southern Baptist Convention announced a new initiative to convince gays that we can become straight if we simply accept Jesus as savior. Of course, no one has the heart to tell the Baptists that a lot

of us accepted Jesus a long time ago, and somehow, Jesus seemed perfectly happy leaving us gay, thank you very much. But of course, MY Jesus loves his neighbor, doesn't cast stones, doesn't tell women they're subservient to men and didn't defend slavery – so what do I know?

Landmark rulings

from page 6

That went by the wayside and then the homosexuals were next in line to be blamed for the decline of the family unit.

As time went on, people got used to each scapegoat and realized that being friends and loving them was a far better use of energy than trying to keep tabs on why you should consider that person less than you. Or maybe they remember that Jesus Christ was quoted as saying there were only two commandments in his opinion: love God and love your neighbor.

Want to bet on the next scapegoat?

...

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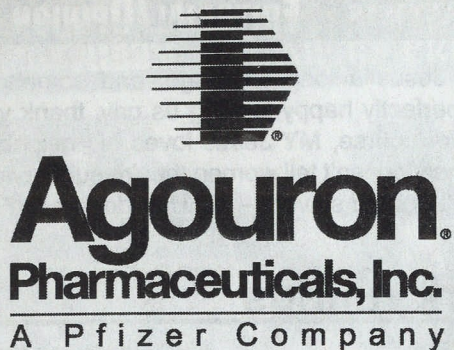


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HIV/AIDS EDUCATION 101

Question: Last month, we were told that a low T-cell count indicated a person had too few T4 cells, a type of white blood cell. That meant their immune system is weakened and cannot fight infections as it once did. So, what is a viral load test, which also is a regu-

lar test for those who are HIV-positive?

Answer: A viral load test measures the amount of the HIV virus a person has in their blood. The higher the number, the more of the HIV virus a person has in their bloodstream. The viral load test results are paired up with the T-cell count for a person's doctor to determine when to start or change HIV medications.

In some individuals, the viral load test may come back "undetectable." Although the virus is still present in the blood, the test is not able to give a count because the quantity of the HIV virus is so minimal. This, of course, is one goal of HIV treatment.



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

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FREE OraSure testing for ages 13-24

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

AIDS News in Brief

- According to a press release from Hope for African Children Initiative, leading AIDS advocates and singer Alicia Keys appeared before the U.S. Congress on June 3. They were addressing the need to assist children affected by HIV/AIDS and appropriate money to fund the global AIDS bill, recently signed by President Bush.

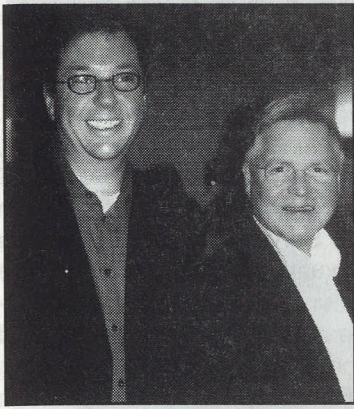
- Tionne "T-Box" Watkins and Rozanda "Chilli" Thomas, of the R&B group TLC, on June 3, helped launch Agouron Pharmaceuticals's national HIV/AIDS education initiative, "Dialogues: Education and Treatment for a Well-Planned Future." The program provides free printed materials, which offer "easy-to-understand" HIV/AIDS information and "quick-reference" materials.

- The AP/*Wichita Eagle*, reported on June 7, that about 300 black church pastors and advocates attended the Balm in Gilead conference in May, 2003. The conference focused on slowing the spread of AIDS in the black community through education and support networks for people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS through churches and other faith-based organizations.

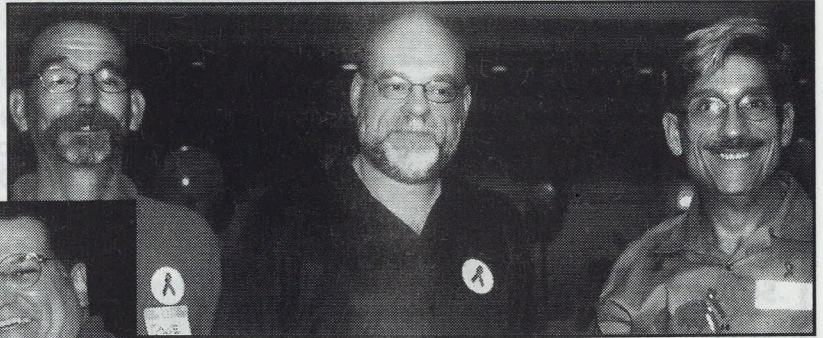
- AFP/Yahoo! News reported on June 6 that legendary guitarist Carlos Santana plans to donate all of the pro-

See AIDS News, page 50

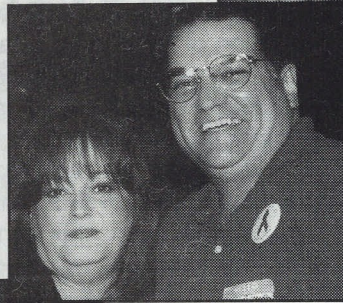
FRIENDS FOR LIFE'S 16TH ANNUAL AUCTION AGAINST AIDS **FAMILY ALBUM**



David and Frank



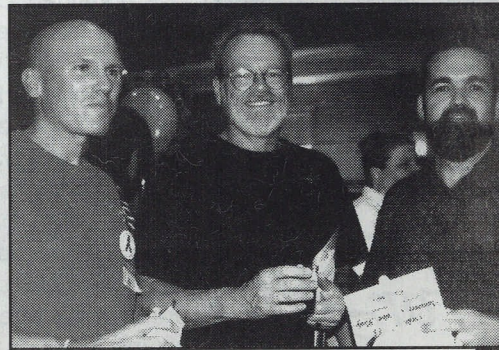
Dave, Kim and Butch



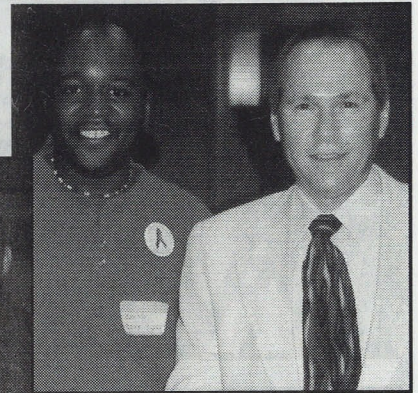
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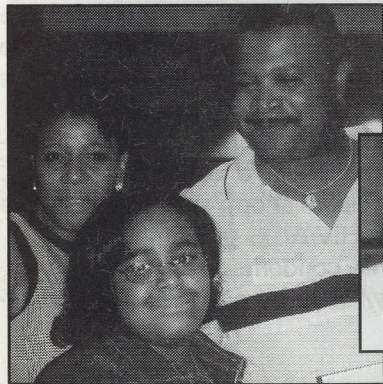
Patrick, Kym and Michael



Mark, Arnie and Rick



Bennie and John



Juanita, Jessica and Tommy



Kay, Carrie and Sharon



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Friends For Life

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- ALL THOSE WHO ATTENDED THE 16th Annual Auction Against AIDS
- ALL THOSE WHO BID ON ITEMS AND PURCHASED ITEMS DURING THE AUCTIONS
- ALL THOSE WHO VOLUNTEERED THEIR TIME AND TALENTS TO MAKE THE AUCTION A SUCCESS!
- THE AUCTION SPONSORS:
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- THE AUCTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS
- KYM CLARK & TOM PRESTIGIACOMO
- HOLLY SHELTON AND RENE KOOPMAN
- THE FRIENDS FOR LIFE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ceeds from his upcoming 23-city concert tour to Artists for a New South Africa's Amandia AIDS Fund. Santana hopes his efforts will raise more than \$3 million and spread a "spiritual virus" of compassion for HIV-positive people.

- According to a story in the June 16 issue of *USA Today*, the CDC has notified the San Francisco-based Stop AIDS Project that some of its programs are unacceptable and in violation of the Public Health Service Act, which prohibits programs that "encourage sexual activity." According to the *San Francisco Chronicle* on June 14, Dr. Mitch Katz, director of the San Francisco Department of Public Health, said that the programs would continue, funded solely through city tax dollars. "We in San Francisco believe that to reach the men who have sex with men, who are at highest risk of HIV transmission, we need to speak the same language they do, and we need to have workshops that draw them in," Dr. Katz told the *Philadelphia Inquirer* on June 16.

- Jonathan Cohn, senior editor of the *New Republic*, wrote in his op-ed on June 30, that the AIDS death rate in Brazil has fallen by more than 70 percent during the past 10 years. He noted that the apparently successful HIV/AIDS programs in Brazil include the provision of condoms and generic antiretroviral drugs, as well as "frank talk about sex."


- The *Rochester Democrat and Chronicle* reported on June 18 that a federally-funded survey conducted by the Metro Council for Teen Potential in Rochester, N.Y., found that HIV/AIDS prevention messages aimed at teenagers are best delivered by trusted, known adults in a comfortable setting, such as home, church, school or youth group. The survey found that HIV prevention messages to teenagers did not "get through" when delivered by strangers.

- The *Charleston Post and Courier* (S.C.) profiled several beauty and barber shops in a story on June 23. Stylists and barbers at these shops participate in the "Heads Up for Shop Talk" HIV/AIDS prevention program, providing literature and free condoms to customers.

For more news on HIV/AIDS, go online to www.kaiser-network.org.

Friends For Life's

COFFEE SHOP

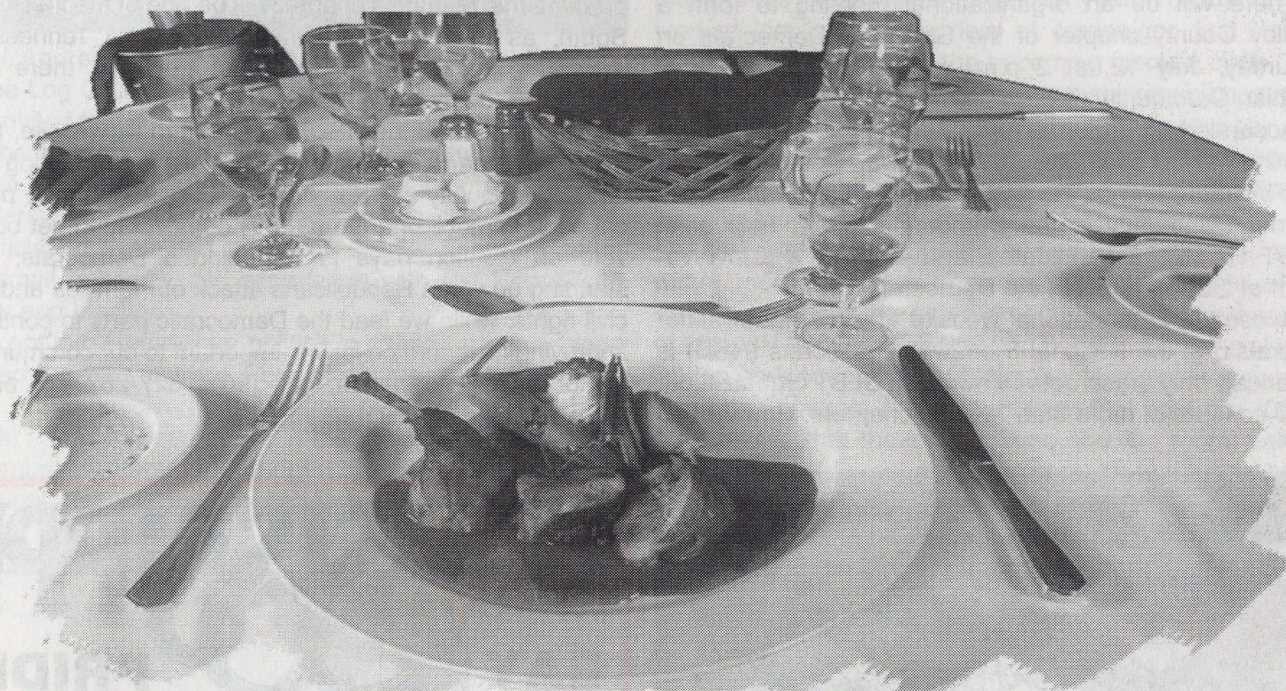


The first cup's on us!

Those who are HIV-Positive (and their partners) can attend July 14 and 28, from 6 to 8 p.m.
For location & info, call 901.272.0855

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Friends For Life's programs are funded in part by the United Way of the Mid-South and the City of Memphis. A Place at the Table is an official Friends For Life fundraising event.



Meeting set to form local chapter of STONEWALL DEMOCRATS

There will be an organizational meeting to form a Shelby County chapter of the Stonewall Democrats on Saturday, July 12, at 2 p.m. at the Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center, 892 South Cooper.

According to organizer Jim Maynard, the purpose of forming a local chapter of the Stonewall Democrats is to help build support for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community in the Democratic Party; help elect GLBT supportive candidates, and increase the involvement of GLBT people in the Democratic Party.

According to its national website at www.stonewalldemocrats.org, the National Stonewall Democrats (NSD) is America's only grassroots Democratic GLBT organization. NSD consists of more than 70 local chapters. However, at

present, this Memphis chapter will be one of the first in the South, as there are no other chapters in Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi or Alabama. However, there is a chapter in Atlanta.

The purpose of the NSD, according to its website, is to focus on creating change in three ways: educating the GLBT community about the differences between the political parties; mobilizing the (GLBT) community to get out to vote on election days for fair-minded Democrats, and standing up when Republicans attack our families and our civil rights, while we lead the Democratic party to continue improving its record on issues important to our community."

For more information, call (901) 327-2677 or email jmaynard2@earthlink.net.

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Meeting set to form local chapter of LOG CABIN REPUBLICANS



By Anita Moyt, managing editor

W. Andrew Strickland is organizing a Memphis chapter of the Log Cabin Republicans (LCR). All those interested are invited to the first meeting set for July 20, at 1:30 p.m., at The Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center, 892 South Cooper. This meeting will focus on organizational matters, seeking input from all attending.

Stickland explained to *Family & Friends* magazine, in an email interview, his experience with the Republican Party and elections.

"I got into Republican politics in college when a friend invited me to a college Republican meeting," Strickland said. "...My involvement with the party has grown from there. ... I have been active in the Young Republicans for a number of years. ... I attended both the 1988 and 1992 National Republican Conventions, and who knows how

many state conventions over the years. (And) I have worked locally on a number of campaigns and (I am) extremely excited about the upcoming election cycle."

According to its website at www.logcabinrepublicans.com, The Log Cabin Republicans is the nation's largest gay and lesbian Republican organization. This will be the first chapter in the southeastern U.S. region, with the closest chapter being in Atlanta.

According to its website, the mission of LCR is to work within the Republican party for the equal rights of all Americans, including gay men and women. The mission of the LCR derives from (its) firm belief in the principles of limited government, individual liberty, individual responsibility, free markets and a strong national defense. (LCR) emphasizes that these principles, and the moral values

See Log Cabin Republicans, page 64



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TALES OF WAR BY SANFORD E. GAYLORD

I am a United States citizen, born in the South and raised in what has become known as the world's richest nation and only superpower by the start of the 21st century. Although I am a U.S. citizen, all of my life I have heard about rumors of war, taught about war in school, seen it first-hand and been part of war. In my childhood and youth I was instructed what to do in case of nuclear war, while coming of age during the Cold War.

One can never really understand the tragedy, horror or the impact of war unless you have been affected by it, lived it or were unfortunately a casualty of war. It can leave you riddled with scars, mentally and physically, that seem as though they will never go away. It can destroy relationships and haunt you into a grave.

Within the last two decades of the 20th century, we saw war televised live as the world was informed about HIV and the threat that it posed to humankind. The Persian Gulf War and Operation Desert Storm gave us minute-by-minute details of war 24 hours a day. Although that war was declared over in record time, I think it kept simmering for another 10 years as sanctions were placed on Iraq.

The 9/11 terrorist attacks caused a rippling effect throughout the U.S. and the world. Complacency and denial were shattered on that day, as well as the lives and households of many Americans and others across the globe. It was a time when testing positive had a new meaning. In America, for a brief moment in time, we went from AIDS to Anthrax, although we had been at war with HIV for 20 years. With both diseases, we learned how each was transmitted. Many people were wearing latex gloves because they feared HIV the way they wore masks in Asia to combat and protect themselves from the SARS virus.

At nearly a million dollars a missile and carte blanche approval of funds to fight Operation Enduring Freedom, Afghanistan was bombed daily as America struck back and declared a global war on terrorism. Afghanistan was already a war-devastated country and we still are not sure where Osama Bin Laden is to date. During this conflict, my concern grew that we might have lost focus with a war at home on U.S. soil that many of us in the trenches have been fighting since the very beginning.

There were severe thunderstorms here in Chicago the night special broadcasts announced the U.S. and its Coalition were at war with Iraq. War ignited again this year due to alleged weapons of mass destruction. Thousands of million-dollar cruise missiles were launched on Iraq. Operation Iraqi Freedom began at the cost of our own civil liberties and freedom that we may take for granted.

Iraq is allegedly liberated now, in part because of another round of million-dollar cruise missiles and hundreds of millions of dollars spent for the campaign. The conflict is over, but now Iraqi citizens and others who have

been affected by the war will have to try to rebuild shattered lives. The world still waits to see evidence of weapons of mass destruction and if Saddam Hussein is alive or has perished.

However, the war that haunts me is the war with HIV. The bloodiest war for me is this one, because it is constant and there is no foreseeable end. As a young adult, I was drafted into a war that was declared on humankind more than 20 years ago. I was placed on the frontline more than 13 years ago when HIV invaded my body. I saw the tragedies of war as I lost one friend after another to HIV and attended tearless funerals that had brimstone overtones from the pulpit. I have gone from youth to middle age with HIV inside of me; a daily war that rages within that has me fighting for ground, mentally and physically.

War is not a pretty thing. When you are at war, the last thing you want to concern yourself with is being attacked by your allies or within your ranks.

Under the Clinton Administration, we were given tools that combated homophobia to a degree and at least funds and acknowledgment that HIV/AIDS had become a critical issue. It took years after the discovery of the virus, that we now know as HIV, to be acknowledged under the Regan administration.

Flash back with me for a moment. Do you recall how it wasn't long after George W. Bush took the office of President, that Chief of Staff Andrew Card informed the U.S. society that the office of National AIDS Policy, that was created under the Clinton administration, would be closed? The announcement sent a message to the American people that AIDS was over and that was far from the truth, especially within communities of color.

George W. Bush, through his press secretary, Ari Fleischer, released a statement expressing that the office would continue under the Bush Administration and that Mr. Card's statement was made in error. I never stopped wondering how much truth there was in the initiative to close the office in the first place. I also wondered what would have happened if activists hadn't gone on red alert and raised hell about the statement and implications behind such a move from a president with a fundamentalist Christian ideology.

This Spring, individuals working in HIV/AIDS prevention and research talked amongst themselves and online about rumors of old McCarthy-era tactics and witch-hunts. The news eventually made *The New York Times* and other forms of media, but we cannot forget about this particular attack because it has the potential to take us back to the dark days of the '80s when HIV declared war on humanity.

Many organizations that are involved in a variety of HIV

See, Tales of War, page 55

Tales of War

from page 54

prevention research and social service programs targeted to educate and prevent the spread of HIV are, in essence, under attack. Many of these organizations rely primarily on funding from the federal government. When you apply for federal funding, you have to be very specific and be able to produce data.

In the reports from *The New York Times*, the American public was informed that if it corresponds with the National Institutes of Health, it shouldn't use words like "men-who-have-sex-with-men," "anal sex," "gay," "lesbian" or "transgender" without the risk of possibly being audited or failing to gain grant funding. How can you apply for money when you can't be specific about the population that is most affected? Must we live in gilded cages of shame?

All of war, with its major loss of life, dignity, justice and civil liberties, affects all of humankind. Is this a nightmare, Posttraumatic Stress Syndrome, propaganda or the truth shattering the denial that is thrown constantly at us to keep us numb and, in some cases, dumb? People of color are now at greatest risk globally for HIV/AIDS. I pray my nightmare about the end of races of people does not become a reality in my lifetime. There is no country on the planet that has reported a case of HIV that can say they have stopped the spread, but only slowed its advance on humankind.

After the second war in Iraq concluded, the office of Homeland Security raised its terror alert to the second highest level because of renewed risk of terrorist attacks. What about having a security advisory system on HIV/AIDS? If there were, it would be at the highest level. Recent data from the Centers for Disease Control indicates there are close to 950,000 individuals living with HIV in the U.S. and that a quarter of those may not be aware of their HIV status.

There also are an estimated 40,000 new infections a year and in these days, how many people don't know at least one person who has been infected or affected

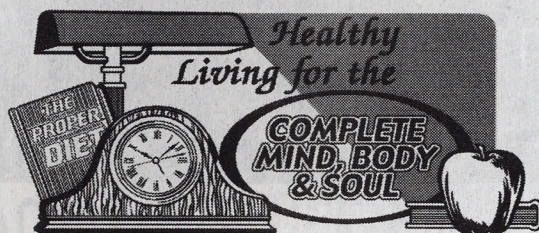
by HIV/AIDS? What do we do as a superpower when we don't have men or women to fight for our freedom, our lives and those of our children? What do we do when we need to liberate some oppressed people or continue the war on terrorism and can't because we've lost men and women to the War on AIDS on our own soil, maybe by our own hands?

All Americans, all of humankind, needs to be united, not only against terrorism; we need to focus on the fact that we have already been engaged in a war for 20 years with HIV. We need to learn from our past to protect and insure that there will be a future for all of humankind.

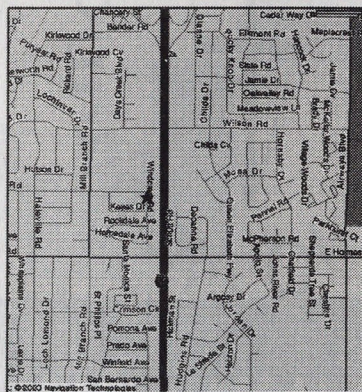
(Editor's Note: This is an editorial/opinion piece. The views expressed by the author of this editorial are not necessarily those of Family & Friends Magazine.)

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Friends For Life becomes United Way 'partner'

Friends For Life Corporation (FFL) recently was awarded two grants and achieved the designation of "Partner" agency from The United Way of The Mid-South.

In a June 4 letter from David May, chair of fund distribution for The United Way of The Mid-South, to then Friends For Life Board Chair George Mabon, May wrote, "The (United Way) volunteers were impressed with the (FFL) staff's dedication to the agency and its clients. The volunteers commend Friends For Life for achieving a 'Partner' agency designation. Friends For Life demonstrates continued commitment to (the) United Way through its internal agency campaign; participation in the United Way campaign; positive identification with the United Way in agency materials, and dedication to outcome evaluation."

"This is just such an honor," said FFL Executive Director Kim A. Moss. "Not many agencies obtain a partnership status with the United Way, and certainly not agencies as new to The United Way as Friends For Life because Friends For Life has only been a United Way agency for three years. This is truly an accomplishment for all the staff, the board and the volunteers to be proud of."

Friends For Life will be receiving funding from The United Way in the amount of \$95,653.

In addition, FFL recently received approval of a \$225,000 grant from the Plough Foundation. The money,

according to the grant application, is to be used for renovation of FFL's Shelter Plus Care apartment building located at 35 North Claybrook.

"Our board recognizes the importance of this project, and we are pleased to be able to assist you with your request," wrote Barbara Sax Jacobs, Plough Foundation program director.

Over My Shoulder

from page 25

ONLY things we've ever seen at Memphis Pride Inc. events in years past.

Let's be honest, how many members of Memphis's GLBT community do you think would actually attend workshops on health, lifestyle and education?

Lastly, and perhaps the biggest reason for two different and distinct Pride celebrations in Memphis is this: Racism, which Memphis is infamous for. Ask yourself how long you would put up with being treated like a spot on a Dalmatian before creating your own voice.

The rainbow is a national symbol of ALL people who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, same-gender-loving, queer and homosexual. The iconic Rainbow Flag bares the colors of red, orange, yellow, green, blue and purple, NOT black or white.

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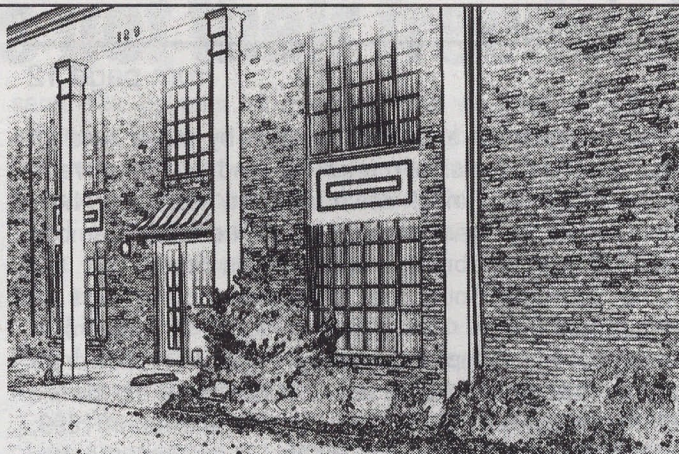
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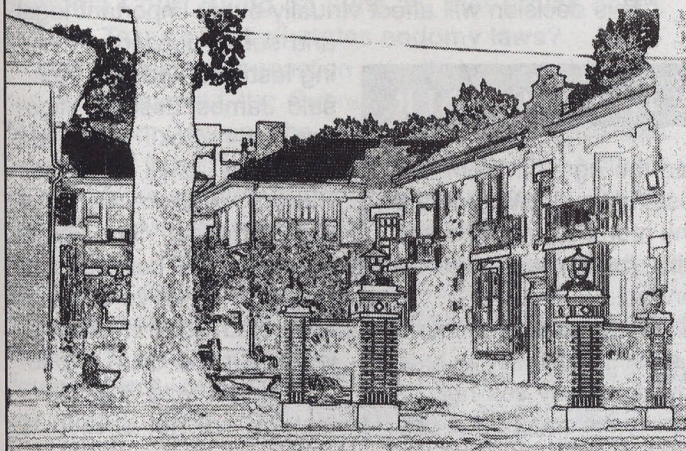
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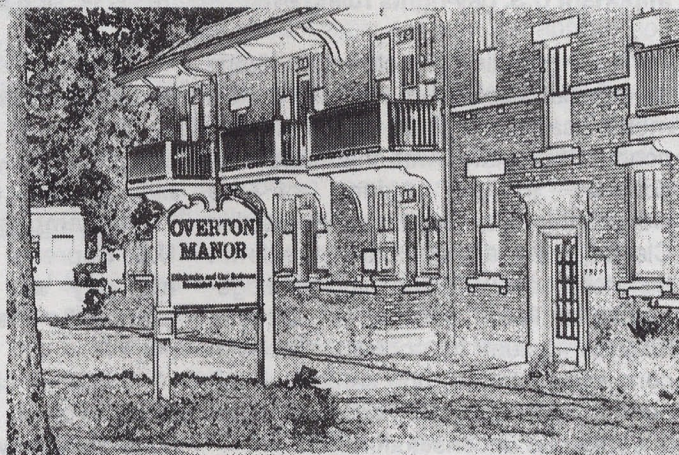
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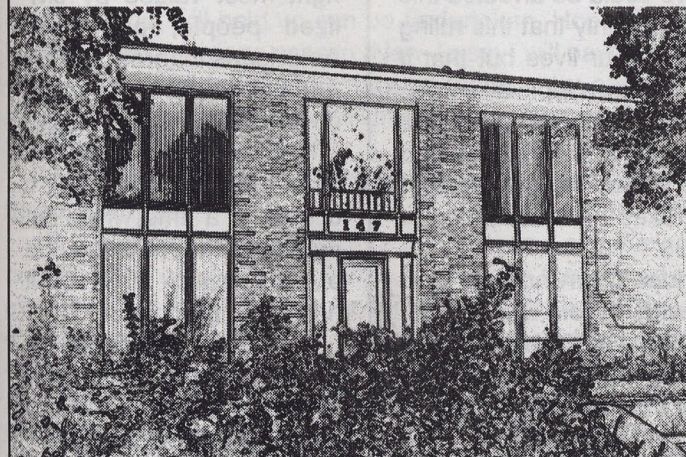
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Sodomy

from page 12

out for persecution and discrimination by these laws for decades. This decision marks the end of the government's authority to knock down bedroom doors anywhere in this nation. We thank our friends and heroes at Lambda Legal for their extraordinary work on this case."

The Supreme Court cast away the sodomy laws by overruling its own 1986, 5-4 decision in *Bowers v. Hardwick*, which upheld sodomy laws. The Georgia sodomy law, which was at issue in *Bowers v. Hardwick*, was struck down by the Georgia Supreme Court in 1998.

According to the Human Rights Campaign, the late

Justice Lewis Powell Jr., who joined the majority in *Hardwick*, later expressed regret for voting to uphold the discriminatory Georgia law.

"I think I probably made a mistake in that one," Justice Powell told law students in 1990.

"Bowers was not correct when it was decided, and it is not correct today," the Court said June 26, when it struck down its previous ruling in *Bowers v. Hardwick*.

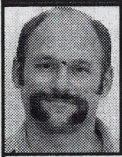
According to the American Civil Liberties Union, since 1986, lower courts have relied on *Bowers v. Hardwick* to take away or limit custody to gay parents and to uphold firing or refusing to hire gay people. *Bowers* has frequently been invoked in legislative debates as a reason not to protect gay people from discrimination.

"This decision will affect virtually every important legal

and social question involving lesbians and gay men," said James Esseks, litigation director for the American Civil Liberties Union's Lesbian and Gay Rights Project. "For years, whenever we have sought equality, we've been answered both in court of law and in the court of public opinion with the claim that we are not entitled to equality because our love makes us criminals. That argument — which has been a serious block to progress — is now a dead letter. From now on, cases and political debates about employment, custody and the treatment of same-sex couples should be about merit, not about who you love."

"Justice Brandeis said over 75 years ago that the 'right to be let alone' is the right most valued by civilized people, and most Americans agree," said Anthony D. Romero, executive director of the ACLU. "This decision is all the more important because it comes at a time when the right to privacy is under one of the greatest assaults it has ever faced."

"This is an historic day for fair-minded Americans everywhere," said HRC Executive Director Elizabeth Birch.



QUOTE / UNQUOTE SPECIAL EDITION BY REX WOCKNER

"Bower was not correct when it was decided, and it is not correct today. It ought not to remain binding precedent. *Bowers v. Hardwick* should be and now is overruled."

— **The U.S. Supreme Court overturning its own 1986, anti-gay decisions and thereby legalizing gay sex nationwide, June 26. Activists are calling it the most important U.S. gay-rights ruling ever.**

"A law branding one class of persons as criminal solely based on the State's moral disapproval of that class and the conduct associated with that class runs contrary to the values of the Constitution and the Equal Protection Clause, under any standard of review. I therefore concur in the Court's judgment that Texas' sodomy law banning 'deviate sexual intercourse' between consenting adults of the same sex, but not between consenting adults of different sexes, is unconstitutional."

— **U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor June 26, voting to legalize gay sex nationwide, but for a different reason than five other justices, who cited "private conduct in the exercise of their liberty under the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution."**

"Today's opinion is the product of a Court, which is the product of a law-profession culture, that has largely signed on to the so-called homosexual agenda,

by which I mean the agenda promoted by some homosexual activists directed at eliminating the moral opprobrium that has traditionally (been) attached to homosexual conduct."

— **U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, dissenting from the June 26 ruling that legalized gay sex nationwide by overturning the court's anti-gay 1986 decision in *Bowers V. Hardwick*.**

"The most significant ruling ever for lesbian and gay Americans' civil rights. ... The ruling starts an entirely new chapter in our fight for equality for lesbians and gay men."

— **Lambda Legal, on the June 26 U.S. Supreme Court decision legalizing gay sex nationwide. Lambda argued the case before the high court.**

"We never chose to be public figures or to take on this fight. But we also never thought we could be arrested this way. We're glad not only that this ruling lets us get on with our lives but that it opens the door for gay people all across the country to be truly equal. We're grateful to everyone who has respected our privacy over the last few years, even if the state of Texas did not respect it that night in 1998."

— **John Geddes Lawrence, 59, who was arrested with Tyron Garner, 35, on Sept. 17, 1998, in Garner's bedroom for violating Texas's law against "deviate sexual intercourse."**

GLBT Mississippians get their freedom

By Anita Moyt, managing editor

Although the states of Arkansas and Tennessee struck down their sodomy laws previously, the state of Mississippi has been directly effected by the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling, which effectively finds Mississippi's sodomy law unconstitutional. *Family & Friends* contacted Jody Renaldo, executive director of Equality Mississippi, the state's GLBT civil rights organization, for his take on the landmark decision.

Family & Friends: What was your reaction to the Supreme Court ruling on June 26, that struck down, not just Texas's, but all states sodomy laws?

Jody Renaldo: My reaction was that of surprise, as I had fully expected the Supreme Court to strike down Texas' sodomy law and the other three states whose laws only applied to homosexuals, but not mess with the others where the law applied to both heterosexuals and homosexuals, as Mississippi (sodomy) law does.

F&F: The Supreme Court ruling already is having a trickle down effect on our nation. One is that the sodomy laws of the state of Mississippi are now deemed unconstitutional. What do you foresee as some of the changes that will be happening in the state?

JR: Well, we definitely have the door open now to a good challenge against Mississippi's ban on same-sex adoption and same-sex marriage; more so, the challenge against same-sex adoption. The marriage issue needs more judicial precedence in the United States before a challenge that will hold up can be undertaken. Hopefully, the same-sex marriage case in (New Jersey) will pave the way for gay and lesbian marriage in the country and in Mississippi. That case may eventually end up in front of the Supreme Court, as well.

F&F: Do you foresee a battle in the courts to allow these changes?

JR: I definitely do. Mississippi's ban on same-sex marriage is unconstitutional, as it was put in place through an executive order by former Governor Kirk Fordice. The governor does not have the authority to do that. Unfortunately, the Attorney General failed to strike down Fordice's order and it officially stands as law in Mississippi. We've been working on getting together

same-sex couples as plaintiffs, and working on getting attorneys willing to take the case to challenge the same-sex marriage ban. It hasn't been an easy task, just because of this being Mississippi. No one wants to be THAT out yet. It will happen eventually but we have to make sure we have the best plaintiffs, best attorneys and best argument.

F&F: We realize Mississippi also is the headquarters for several right-wing organizations. Have you heard any reactions from any of these groups?

JR: Yes. Tupelo, Miss., is the worldwide headquarters of the American Family Association. They've had their say on the court ruling, basically accusing the Supreme Court of overstepping its authority.

F&F: If a same-sex couple were to engage in "sodomy" tonight, do they still have anything to fear from the government in Mississippi?

JR: Until the state finds some other way to prosecute consensual sex in the privacy of one's home, same-sex couples have nothing to fear. The Supreme Court has ruled and Mississippi's law is effectively null and void.

F&F: Can heterosexuals engage in sodomy? What do you understand sodomy to mean, at least in the state of Mississippi?

JR: Mississippi's sodomy law applied both to heterosexuals and homosexuals. Mississippi's sodomy law is known as "unnatural intercourse." The Mississippi Supreme Court interpreted, in prior cases, that "unnatural intercourse" means any sexual penetration other than a penis into a vagina. This means oral sex and anal sex was against the law.

F&F: With the burden of the illegality of sodomy in the state of Mississippi being lifted, what would you say to the gays and lesbians of your state about what they need to do to claim their civil rights?

JR: Gays and lesbians in Mississippi need to be more vocal. They need to put a face on the issue. Mississippi is a majority rural state and, as such, GLBT Mississippians live in hiding and fear. They need to let political candidates know about their lives – that as GLBT Mississippians, we vote; we pay taxes; we own businesses; we teach their children in their local school district; we perform their heart surgeries; we fight their fires as officers of their local fire departments, and we police their neighborhoods as officers of their local enforcement. The apathy among the Mississippi GLBT community is overwhelming and before we can expect others to accept us on an equal ground, we have to have pride in ourselves. Maybe this ruling is the much-needed spark.

“ Until the state finds some other way to prosecute consensual sex in the privacy of one's home, same-sex couples have nothing to fear. The Supreme Court has ruled and Mississippi's law is effectively null and void. ”

**— Jody Renaldo
Equality Mississippi Executive Director**

See GLBT Mississippians, page 63

(Disclaimer: Okay, so I realized that I gave all three albums a perfect five-star rating, which has never happened, so I wanted to put a little disclaimer up here, cause I don't want anyone thinking I've gone soft. I'm still a picky bastard, but hey, great music is great music and each of these new releases is simply worth five stars.)

ROSANNE CASH

Rules Of Travel (★★★★★)

During the past few months, we've had a rash of new albums by daughters of established music legends. First, it was the awful ear torture of Kelly Osbourne and then the tone-deaf, drag queen styling of Lisa Marie Presley. But now, all musical daughters are redeemed by Rosanne Cash. She is, of course, the daughter of country legend Johnny Cash, who's new album I highly recommend.

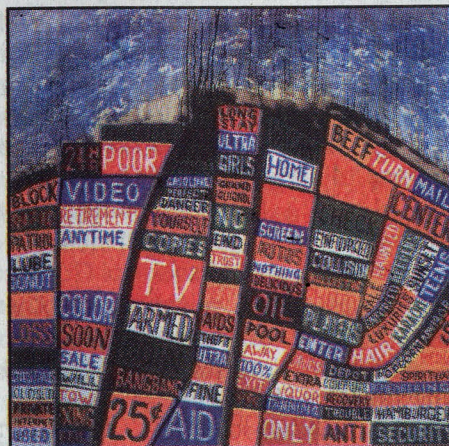
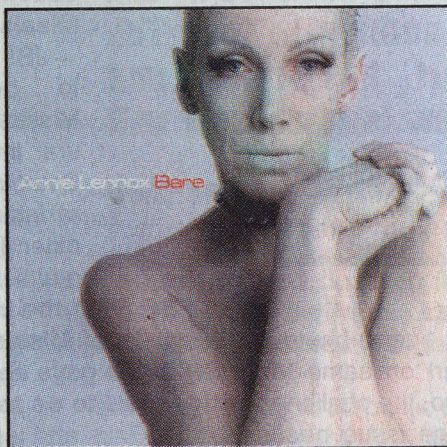
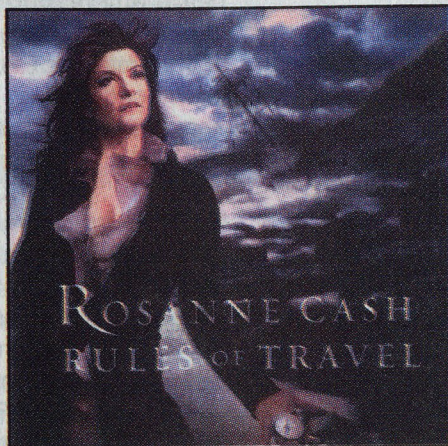
Rules Of Travel is truly a traveling album. It is the perfect soundtrack for a journey, both external and internal.

The album opens with the soft "Beautiful Pain," which features guest vocals by Sheryl Crow (is it just me or is Crow working with everyone these days?). Anyway, the song is simple and elegant, as is the entire album. Rosanne isn't a great songbird, but there is something comforting in the tone of her voice and simple lushness of the textures of these songs.

Nothing here is over-produced. It is simple, pure and comforting. Rosanne could have as easily recorded this in my living room as in a fancy studio. On "44 Stories," she relates the story of a woman in her 40s (I'm guessing 44), who has gained the experience and knowledge of a life half-lived and desires to share her stories. Unlike her father's country story songs, which often tell the tale of some uniquely Johnny Cash character, a high plains drifter or a boy named Sue, Rosanne seems to be singing about her life.

On the poignant, moving, nearly tear-inducing "September When It Comes," she sings, "The baby was

me." Which is underscored by the fact that she duets with her father on the song. The effect of Johnny's distinct voice, which resonates with such a darker undertone, such sadness, juxtaposed against the youthful tones of his daughter's voice is so hauntingly beautiful that I had to pull off the road the first time I heard it.



Rosanne is truly a modern singer-songwriter carrying on the proud tradition of the likes of her father, Bob Dylan, and even Joni Mitchell. And though the sound she makes is nothing like any of those three, the idea, the soul of the thing is the same. She's distilling some truths of her life, her experiences and fears into lyrics and marrying them to sound. And that is music at its finest. And, I also have to nominate her for the best question of the year, "When there is no reason to breathe/will you remember me?" Which is something I think we all, in some way or another, want to ask someone special. Well, at least I know I do.

Anyway, if you like your music to gently drift around you with a calm sophistication of a woman with some wisdom of life's truths, then this is the CD you must have. It's also good if you need to inject something with some substance into a diet of too much dance music and pop (I have nothing against either, but listening to nothing but pop and dance is like eating nothing but sugar and candy. We all need something nutritious and nurturing in our life and, musically, Rosanne is that.) So, stop reading my rant and go buy the record (well, okay, you can read my other reviews first, but then you need to buy the record, seriously.)

—> Highlights include "September When It Comes," "Beautiful Pain" and "44 Stories."

...

ANNIE LENNOX

Bare (★★★★★)

Finally, after what seems like waiting forever, Annie Lennox has completed her third solo album. Lennox started with the Eurythmics and then moved into a solo career with *Diva* and *Medusa*, and now we have *Bare*. An album which is so breathe-taking, I will forgive Lennox for taking so damn long to make it.

As always, the center piece of the

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In The Mix

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album is Annie's voice, which is truly one of the wonders of the natural world. She manages to be at once vulnerable, powerful, bitter and filled with longing. With a whisper, she can express more longing, grief, rage or envy than most singers can ever hope to muster with their entire vocal capacity.

Honestly, that is the beauty of her voice; it is an exercise in understatement. She doesn't have to yell or push her voice to the point of cracking. She doesn't have to perform vocal acrobatics to be powerful and dramatic, which is no small feat. Words truly fail to express the complex beauty and power of her voice and all I can tell you is to go buy all her albums and listen and understand. Many people have said Aretha Franklin is what they envision as the voice of God, but personally, I want to hear Lennox sing for me for eternity.

As for the songs on *Bare*, well they are just that – bare. This is Lennox at her most vulnerable, her most exposed. While she sang songs of love, life and loss on *Medusa*, those were the words of other songwriters. These are her words. Each song seems culled from some life lesson and, as we see on the album's cover, Lennox is putting it out completely, unobstructed by pretty packaging. Which isn't to say that the instrumental arrangements on this album aren't pretty, because they, in fact, seem perfectly mated to Lennox's voice. Like her voice, the notes seem to capture hints of blues, occasionally the new wave sound that launched her, and, at other times, the simple elegant flutterings behind her voice.

In the subtle and understated "Pavement Cracks," Lennox croons about love. On "The Hurting Time," she gets tender with a touch of blues. And while the lyrics on *Bare* may not be as brilliant as those on *Medusa*, there is something more alive about them. On *Medusa*, Lennox sang beautiful lines penned by the like of Paul Simon and Neil Young and while they made for stunning moments, they never had the emotion of *Bare*. Then again, Lennox's voice has so much emotional power I think she could sing "Yankee Doodle" and make a listener feel like the song can reveal some deeper truth of life.

Bare is an expression from a woman who, in the face of fame, continued to thumb her nose at tradition, instead opting to blur the lines and run across boundaries. This album is the culmination of her life lessons learned thus far. To listen to it is to share something intimate with the singer. When she sings a sad song, you're sad with her and sometimes close. "Oh God (Prayer)" seems to capture that feeling we've all had when we're at the end of our proverbial rope and just want to be saved. It's a breathtaking song and I have to admit, it made me cry. Only someone with a heart of stone could listen to the beauty of Lennox's voice and the words she has written and not be moved. This is beauty.

—> Highlights include: "The Hurting Time," "Pavement Cracks," "Oh, God (Prayer)" and "A Thousand Beautiful Things."

...

RADIOHEAD

Hail To The Thief (★★★★★)

A band doesn't become hailed as being among the greatest musical visionary forces recording today without breaking a few rules and, basically, redefining what exactly is music. On their last two albums, *Kid A* and *Amnesiac*, Radiohead abandoned the safety of the critically-acclaimed and commercially-successful style of their landmark album, *OK Computer*, for something new and challenging. The band's new direction left some fans confused, bewildered, put-off, even. It was as if the newly-appointed heroes had abandoned their post as completely as Nirvana, well Kurt Cobain, had years before.

But, Radiohead hasn't abandoned their faithful. In truth, they have challenged them. By refusing to be predictable, Radiohead has returned music to what it once was. To a time when every track on an album was an integral part of some greater whole. They aren't about catchy hit singles. It's about an entire album of frighteningly, brilliant music. And *Hail To The Thief* delivers the brilliance in spades.

Somewhere between *Kid A's* total abandon of anything resembling traditional rock structure and *OK Computer* and *Amnesiac's* occasional normalcy (well, Radiohead normal, anyway) *Hail To The Thief* is the perfect balance of what was and what is Radiohead; it is truly an amazing pioneering album. I honestly didn't think they could possibly top themselves, but Thom Yorke and the boys of Radiohead have proved me wrong (and that doesn't happen too often). The name of the album alone hints at some underlying anger. Without even hearing a note, you feel something about this album. You know they aren't happy with the things happening in the world around them and while this album doesn't contain any traditional protest songs, it is angry and defiant.

Unlike the anger found in most rock music, Radiohead doesn't have to yell and thrash guitars and play loud to express what they're feeling. Their anger, like their music, seems to have transcended to another level. In fact, there are moments when the album is down-right stark, where there is nothing but beats and texture, like on "Backdrifts," but even the texture is hinting at something. The opening salvo of this opus, "2+2=5," is far and away one of the most brilliant, unique, yet somehow classically-edgy rock songs I've heard in years. Nothing about the song makes you think of the simplistic chord progressions of typical heavy metal tunes, yet the kiss-off attitude is still there. The song's title seems to be an obvious jab at hypocrisy, and I for one love it. And the insane beat arrangement on the second track, "Sit Down, Stand Up," simply blew my mind. I must've scanned back and listened to it at least a dozen times and it still amazes me every time I hear it. On

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In The Mix

from page 61

songs like "Sail To The Moon," with its beautiful, subtle piano intro, the band sounds almost like a traditional, four-piece, rock band, but that doesn't last for too long.

Radiohead isn't the typical flavor for those waiting for the next Creed album, but for people who are seeking out the music that is really making a difference, that's challenging – well, that's Radiohead. Plus, they have the best song titles: "We Suck Young Blood," "A Wolf At The Door," "Where I End And You Begin."

There is something angry, even gloomy about this record and there is a part of me that wishes Yorke would simply come out and scream about what has him so pissed, but I think it's better this way. After all, screaming and yelling and trashing guitars has been done. What Radiohead is doing hasn't. They're one of the few bands recording today that is so entirely a musical island unto themselves that I can only think to call their genre Radiohead music. This is music at its best, raw and surging toward some brave new meaning of what music is.

—>Highlights include "2+2=5," "Sit Down, Stand Up," "We Suck Young Blood," "Sail To The Moon" and "Scatterbrain."

Black lesbians, bi women sought

The Mautner Project is seeking black lesbian and bisexual women, ages 18 and older, to participate in the first comprehensive national survey of African-American lesbian health. Led by Mautner Project Health Promotion and Research Director Cheryl Pearson-Fields, the groundbreaking "Spirit Study" is designed, implemented and evaluated by African-American lesbians and draws on partnerships with national and community-based organizations serving black women who partner with women.

"As members of two medically-underserved populations, African-American lesbians may face double jeopardy in terms of mortality and morbidity from cancer and other diseases," said Pearson-Fields. "But because black women who partner with women have not been well represented in health studies, very little is known about our health status and health needs. Our hope is that the Spirit Study will help bridge the information gap preventing black lesbians from receiving the health services they need and deserve."

The Spirit Study is completely confidential and participants can complete the survey at their convenience online at www.spiritstudy.org or can request copies by phone at (202) 332-5536; by email at mautner@mautnerproject.org, or postal mail at Spirit Study, 1707 L Street NW, Suite 230, Washington, DC 20036. The Mautner Project includes a postage-paid return envelope with every survey requested.

Founded in 1990, the Mautner Project is the national lesbian health organization. Its mission is to improve the health and well-being of women who partner with women and their families through direct services, education, research and advocacy.



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GLBT Mississippians

from page 59

F&F: How do you see this ruling helping Equality Mississippi to grow?

JR: We submitted an amicus brief in this case. We're definitely proud that we can say we had a hand in this, no matter how small. Equality Mississippi grew before the ruling because we made heterosexual Mississippians realize that (Mississippi's sodomy) law applied to them, as well; that what they were doing in the privacy of their bedroom with their wives or girlfriends or husbands or boyfriends was rendering them felons and sex offenders in Mississippi. They got on board to help in fighting (this) law. I think we will further grow based on a synergy effect of this ruling. As I said, this ruling may be the much-needed spark to bring Mississippi GLBT people out of the closet and, for those already out of the closet, it may be the spark that lights their passion to see an equal Mississippi and because of that, they may seek to get involved in Equality Mississippi, both personally and financially.

F&F: What would you say to the Supreme Court justices, if you had the chance?

JR: I would say, "Thank you for realizing that I am a human being and that my love for my partner is just as valid as your love for your wife or husband."

F&F: Any final thoughts?

JR: Yes. Look at the divorce rate among straight people. Let gay people marry; we can't do any worse. Honestly, I think gay people will do better at marriage because we ... want it so bad. We are passionate about that right because we want to be official with the one we love in the eyes of the law and in the eyes of every single person in the world – and for gay Christians, in the eyes of God."

For more information on Equality Mississippi, go online to www.EqualityMS.org, call (601) 936-7673 or write Equality Mississippi, P.O. Box 6021, Jackson, MS 39288-6021.

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tell you, "No,"
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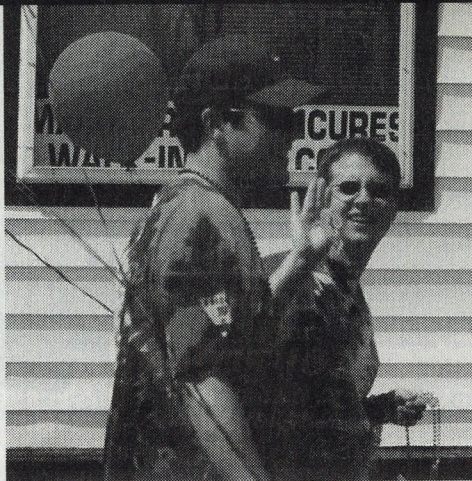
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Meet Your Neighbor

Allen Gore



Name: Allen "Tipper" Gore – that's me waving

Place where you were born: Memphis

How long have you lived in Memphis: since birth

Partnership status: married to Jason Crockett, above left

Sexual orientation: totally gay

Occupation: unemployed as of June 28, 2003

Hobbies: movies and playing the piano

Favorite Food: Manicotti

Favorite Color: blue

Favorite Animal: Koala bear

Favorite Singer: Josh Groban

Favorite Song: "You're Where I Belong" by Trisha Yearwood

Favorite Movie: *Defying Gravity*

Favorite Restaurant: Rafferty's and On The Border

Favorite Drink: Pepsi

Favorite Thing About Memphis: The diversity of food

Least Favorite Thing About Memphis: the racism aspect

Finish this phrase: My friends think I am "accident prone."

**Allen and Jason will be relocating to Tucson, Ariz., around the middle of this month so Jason can attend graduate school at The University of Arizona in pursuit of his doctorate degree in sociology, hence our mention on the cover of this issue. We're gonna miss you guys! Best of luck.*

Log Cabin Republicans

from page 53

that under lie them, are consistent with the pursuit of equal treatment under the law for gay men and women. ... Through education, (the LCR) intends to demonstrate that Republicans, who also are openly gay, can, in a spirit of solidarity and integrity, contribute substantially to the building of (the Republican) Party and to the electoral success of (the Republican) Party's standard-bearers.

Strickland explained his reasons for forming a Memphis chapter of LCR.

"I have been involved with Log Cabin in the past," Strickland said. "(I) believe strongly that (LCR) provides a vehicle to educate those within the Republican Party as to who we (gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender individuals) are, as people. ... Granted, there are those whose minds and hearts we will never win over, but we (GLBT Republicans) are loosing potential allies in the Republican Party if we allow the only message within the Party to be a message of 'attack those queers!'... I have seen the growing numbers in the GLBT community who consider themselves to be Republican, and they need to be brought together to work as one."

Knowing that many individuals who are anti-gay are part of the Republican party, Strickland explained how he felt alienated while attending last year's Republican convention.

"Last year, I sat in a convention and listened to the speaker rant and rave about how we need to 'fight those homosexuals,'" Strickland said. "An uneasiness fell over me, because I thought I was going to be the only one who was not applauding. When I looked around at those straight Republicans who knew me, I found myself not alone. Many of them looked madder than I felt as they sat there with their arms crossed and frowns glaring. All of the conversations I had been in over the years had paid off. There are those who know that the vast majority of the GLBT community does not fit those awful stereotypes, that so many of our opponents spew, simply because one of us got to know them.

"It is always easier to hate someone if you do not know them," he continued. "The radical-right has used this to their advantage to dominate the Party, and we have allowed them to get away with it for long enough."

However, Strickland explained that he is not a dyed-in-the-wool Republican.

"I do not agree with everything that is contained in the Party platform," Strickland said. "I do not know many people who do agree with it 100 percent, and we do not have to agree with everything. That is one of the great things about this country!"

For more information, email memphislcr@yahoo.com or join the groups communication group at groups.yahoo.com/group/MemphisLCR.

Reel Twisted

from page 36

her favorite pop singer, the flirtatious and romantically-handsome Victor Fox (Pryce). But, life deals her yet another devastating blow when she learns her beloved Victor has become the most recent victim of the serial murderer, "The Crossbow Killer" (Sarsgaard).

Defying the warnings of her concerned family, Grace packs her bags and travels to England so that she can attend Victor's funeral in his hometown. Upon arriving, she stumbles upon a very big secret: Victor's valet, Dirk Simpson (Everett), was his lover. Rather than comfort Dirk in his time of misery, Victor's family desperately tries to hide him and his relationship with Victor from the public.

In spite of his aversion to frumpy, middle-class housewives, Dirk finds himself charmed by Grace's warm and loving manner and together the unlikely soul mates give each other the courage to embark on a madcap adventure. Charged with their new adventurous spirit, Grace and Dirk's next stop is Chicago, where they brave the evil night streets to seek out the murderer who stole their cherished Victor.

Of the two films reviewed this month, this is definitely and without a doubt the better of the pair. While its storyline is cute (its only serious point is how families can treat

their loved-one's partners after a death), it is the superb performances given by the actors that make *Unconditional Love* a must-see.

The second film had, perhaps a better message, but one of its actor's uncanny inability to act caused it to nose-dive dramatically, no pun intended.

Unconditional Love premieres Saturday, Aug. 2, on STARZ! at 9 p.m. ET/PT (with subsequent plays throughout the month). For complete schedule information and the film's microsite, visit www.starzmovies.com.

A FAMILY AFFAIR, run time: 100 minutes

As I mentioned earlier, *A Family Affair* certainly offers viewers an interesting and important message dealing with love and fidelity. But, you've got to stay focused on the message and the film's main plot because the lead character's poor comedic timing and inability to act is more than a little distracting.

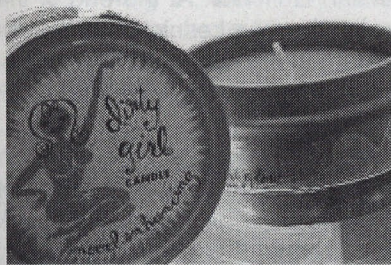
The course of true love doesn't always run straight ... this is the message. Unfortunately, the comic description, "My Big, Fat Greek Wedding meets *Kissing Jessica Stein*," doesn't hold true.

A Family Affair couldn't be a more suitable title as the film follows dyed-in-the-wool and newly-unpartnered New Yorker Rachel (Helen Lesnick, *American Cyborg*) as she moves to San Diego looking for a new life and a new

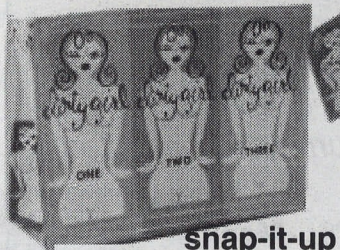
See Reel Twisted, page 66

Whether you're a ...

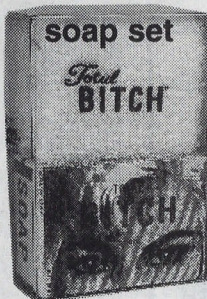
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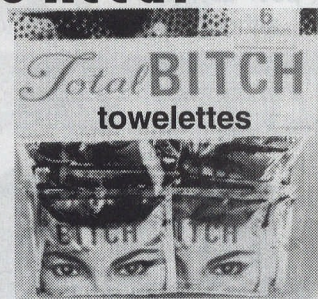
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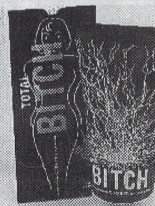


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Reel Twisted

from page 65

romance. That's where her almost too-supportive PFLAG parents live. Rachel is surprised to find how they've adapted to the laid-back California scene, and totally shocked when her mom (Arlene Golonka, *The In-Laws*, *The Gum Shoe Kid* and *My Tutor*) wants to set her up on a blind date.

At first she refuses, but eventually Rachel lets her mother introduce her to Christine (Erica Schaffer, *Three On A Match*). Soon, she finds herself in a real romance, in spite of herself.

But, just when the two women begin to plan their wedding, Rachel's old flame, Reggie (Michele Greene, "L.A. Law"), makes a comeback attempt.

Perhaps the funniest moments of the movie occur when Reggie joins Rachel and Christine for dinner in the couple's San Diego home. If you've ever stood by while your lover and your ex meet and talk for the first time (and stand silently by is about all you can do in that situation), you'll find this scene hysterical (Lesnick doesn't have many lines here). Actually, this is when Schaffer's true acting ability shines through, too, because for the first time in the film, you realize she isn't really a "flighty blonde."

Lesnick's inability to act and her poor comic timing quickly told us two things: 1) the film is more than likely autobiographical (her real-life mom even makes an appearance), and 2) she was the film's writer, director and co-executive producer, which makes the poor acting and timing inexcusable, although we do want to point



out *A Family Affair* is her first screenplay.

But hey, it's only my opinion. The film picked up two awards, the Audience Award in Philadelphia's Independent G&L Film Festival and the Best Film of the Festival Award at the Madrid G&L Film Festival.

A bit more about Lesnick for those inquiring minds ... Lesnick previously wrote a one-woman show entitled *Point*



Reggie steals a kiss from Rachel.

Of Departure, which she also produced, directed and performed. The play was selected to take part in the Gay Pride festivals in Jerusalem (did we forget to mention she's Jewish, which lends itself to an interesting sub-plot in the film?) and Tel Aviv, Israel, and she also performed the show stateside in San Diego.

She was graduated with honors from the University of Pennsylvania. After college, she studied at the American Conservatory Theatre and Catholic University Graduate School for Drama. She then made the pilgrimage to New York City where she studied with Michael Howard and acted off-Broadway. In 1988, she took a "hiatus" from acting and entered The Jewish Theological Seminary to study to be a Rabbi. She studied for three years with her third and final year spent in Israel, which also was the year of the Persian Gulf War. At the end of the academic year, Lesnick left her rabbinical studies and returned to acting. She lived in Israel until September 1998.

Again, kudos go out to Schaffer and Greene for their performances. Just one question, though, how did Lesnick get someone of Greene's celebrity to join the cast? Could it be there's something Greene forgot to tell the partners in that once-great law firm?

Whoops, almost forgot ... as of June 29, *A Family Affair* was available on Wolfe Video's website, www.wolfevideo.com, for \$29.95 (VHS) or \$22.46 (DVD), which is a 10 percent web discount from its regular price of \$24.95.

TOP SELLING TITLES AT WOLFE VIDEO

(as of June 29, 2003)

DVD

1. *Sordid Lives*
2. *Beautiful Thing*
3. *The Sum Of Us*
4. *Food Of Love*
5. *Will & Grace*
6. *Gay Games VI - Sydney*
7. *Chicago*
8. *Queer As Folk 2 - US*

WOMEN

1. *By Hook Or By Crook*
2. *Watching You*
3. *The Hours*
4. *Sordid Lives*
5. *Treading Water*
6. *Lianna*
7. *Journey To Kafiristan*
8. *Frida*

MEN

1. *River Made To Drown In*
2. *Sordid Lives*
3. *Food Of Love*
4. *Gay Games VI - Sydney*
5. *My Beautiful Laundrette*
6. *Just Can't Get Enough*
7. *Get Your Stuff*
8. *P.S. Your Cat Is Dead*

OUT YOUR

VOTE

IN 2004[©]

Family & Friends begins campaign to get GLBT Mid-Southerners registered to vote

By Anita Moyt, managing editor

Family & Friends wants you to "Out Your Vote in 2004!" Out Your Vote in 2004 is a campaign by *Family & Friends* magazine, created to encourage our readers to not only register to vote, but to cast a vote in all the elections, between now and the U.S. Presidential race in November 2004.

No other time has seen the gay and lesbian vote being so sought after. During the past years, many candidates have slid under the wire to their seat in government, whether at the local, state or national level. Many won their race by only a few percentage points. Every vote counts, without a doubt.

It is not a matter of who you vote for or voting for the winning candidate. It is a matter of each gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender citizen of the U.S. going to the polls and letting their opinion be known when the votes are counted.

For those just turning 18 years-old; for those who have never registered to vote before; for those moving to another state; for those who have moved across town and need to change their address to vote in their new neighborhood; for those needing to change their name on the voter registration records, voter registration is for you.

Generally, to register to vote in the states of Tennessee, Mississippi or Arkansas, one must be a U.S. citizen; be a resident of the state for 30 days before the first election you want to vote in; must be at least 18 years old on or before the date of the first election you will be voting in; must not have been convicted of a felony, or if you have, your full rights of citizenship must have been restored (or you received a pardon), and have not been declared mentally incompetent by a court of law.

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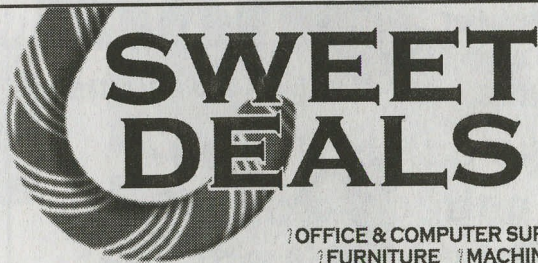
To register to vote in Tennessee, forms are available online at www.state.tn.us/sos/election/outlines.htm.

To register to vote in Mississippi, forms are available online at www.sos.state.ms.us/elections/VoterRegistration.

To register to vote in Arkansas, forms are available online at www.sosweb.state.ar.us/elections_voter_registration.html.

Or you can email *Family & Friends* at FamilyMag@aol.com and we will forward you a PDF file of the appropriate state's voter registration form or call us at (901) 682-2669 and we will mail you the appropriate form.

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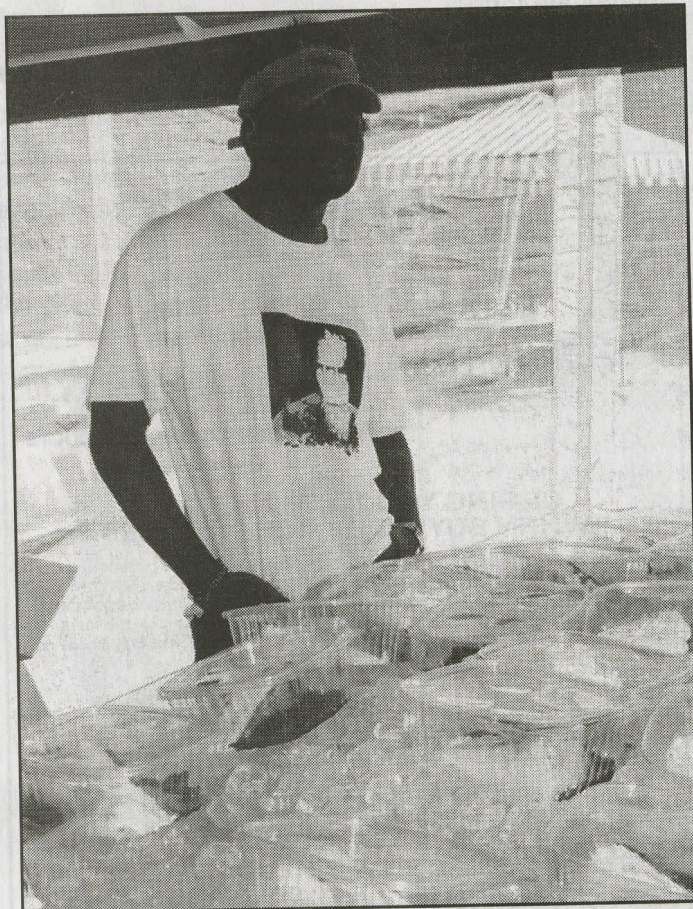
Black SGL partners, both in business and in life, offer variety of sweets and treats

By Anita Moyt, managing editor

Set up at the Memphis Black Gay Pride Celebration at the Te-To-Tam Ranch June 15, was a yellow tent with white mesh walls. Inside, two men scurried about pouring ice into trays. They left. They came back carrying more containers. Before long, they had hung an air-brushed sign on the tent: "Cakes & Things."

Finally, curiosity got the best of us. Through the white mesh doors of the tent was a wonderful surprise....cakes and pies and wonderful desserts. With carefully placed food coloring, the pies and cakes sported the colors of pride.

Inviting us in was Johnny Hardaway. He showed us the many baked goods to choose from. The caramel cake was his favorite but the sound of key lime pie, sporting rainbow pride colors, was what our tastebuds found most tempting. Taking it back to our picnic area, it was clear with the first forkful of key lime pie, we knew this key lime pie fell in the "perfect" category. Of course, since it was pride, the light green creme sported specks of colors of pride. Later that afternoon, we returned to the tent.



Johnny Hardaway offered desserts at Black Pride.



Johnny Hardaway, left, and partner Barry Huddleston

Looking at the pecan pie, the cheesecakes, the velvet cake and the rest of the tempting treats, it was the smartly colored coconut cake that won out this time. And it was well worth the \$2.50 we paid for the slice. It was light, moist and tasty, with a fresh coconut icing, again, sporting various colors of pride in the icing.

It turns out Hardaway's life and business partner, Barry Huddleston, had baked each of these culinary creations from scratch.

When Huddleston met Hardaway, Huddleston had already been graduated from the Memphis Culinary Academy and was a partner in Baker's Choice, a wholesale bakery in Memphis. Huddleston has 20 years experience in the baking business.

So, how did Cakes & Things come about?

"Johnny approached me," Huddleston told *Family & Friends*. "We met and he talked to me about doing a business together." With Huddleston's skills as a cake specialist, not to mention catering, and Hardaway's skills as a florist and planner, the two had all the bases covered.

"We do more than wedding cakes," Huddleston said, showing us a photo album of exquisite wedding cakes and creative grooms cakes. "We do the whole nine yards. We can do finger foods or we can do a full-scale dinner. We even do ice sculptures."

"I've been doing flowers for three years," Hardaway said. "I'm also a fashion coordinator and a model instructor." Hardaway also is a vocalist.

So, for your next party, whether it's a small get together or a major event; or for your commitment ceremony or wedding, Cakes & Things has you covered.

For more information, call (901) 348-4047

E. Lynn Harris

from page 10

to destroy me," Harris said.

Bouts of depression culminated in a suicide attempt. With the help of family, friends and treatment for his depression, his life started coming together again. For the first time he realized that he had choices – not in his attraction to men, but when it came to living a life in which he felt comfortable with himself.

In 1991, Harris moved to Atlanta, where he finally began his first novel.

"I set out to write a story for me because I realized I might be the only one who would read it. I wanted to write a story that would capture the pain and joy of being black and gay. I wanted it to be a love story because the one problem I had with admitting that I was gay was that I had to give up having true love like in the movies."

He finished the semi-autobiographical novel, *Invisible Life*, with the help, encouragement and critiques of friends. After receiving a stack of rejection letters from publishers and agents, he decided to publish the book himself. The beginning was slow, but word of his book began to spread and eventually caught the attention of an editor at Anchor Books (a division of Doubleday), who published *Invisible Life* in paperback.

Unbeknownst to all, a new literary star was born – and a new, more optimistic life had begun for Harris.

At turns heartbreaking and uplifting, despairing and joyful, *What Becomes of the Brokenhearted* is like becoming more acquainted than ever with a close friend – someone who has suffered alone through years of pain, self-doubt and depression, only to come through it all.

"By truly embracing the three Fs, I've never been ashamed of – my faith, my family and my friends," Harris wrote in the book's Epilogue.

In his no-holds-barred memoir, Harris is certain to please, inspire and touch the heart of fans old and new.

...

E. Lynn Harris is presently on a reading and signing book-tour to promote *What Becomes of the Brokenhearted*. He is scheduled to make stops in both Atlanta and Little Rock at the following locations:

On Friday, July 18, at 7 p.m. Harris will be at Borders-Buckhead, 3637 Peachtree Road NE, Atlanta; on Saturday, July 19, at 2 p.m. at Shrine of the Black Madonna, 946 Abernathy Blvd. SW, Atlanta, and on Sunday, July 20, at 7:30 p.m. at Outwrite Books, 991 Piedmont Avenue, Atlanta. On Friday, Aug. 1, at 6 p.m., Harris will be at Pyramid Gallery, 500 President Clinton Ave., Little Rock, and on Saturday, Aug. 2, at 7 p.m., at Barnes & Noble, 11500 Financial Center Parkway, Little Rock.

For other tour dates or more information, go online to www.randomhouse.com/features/elynnharris.

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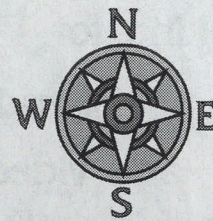
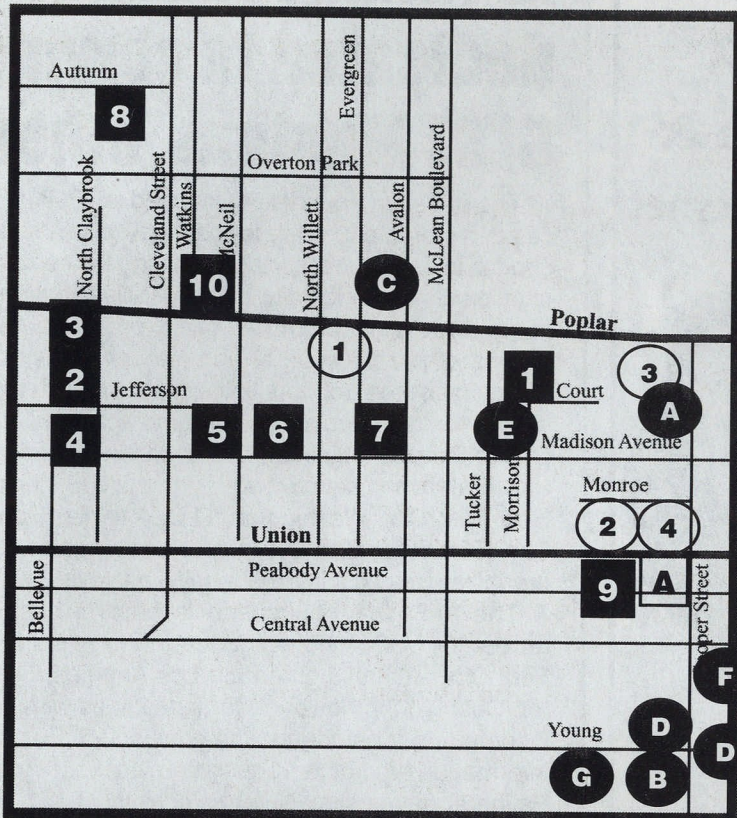
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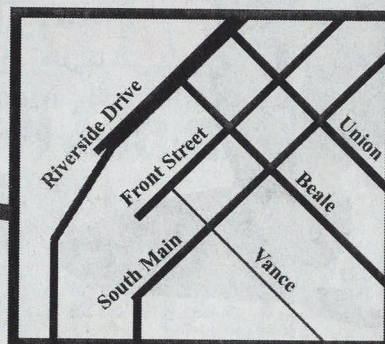
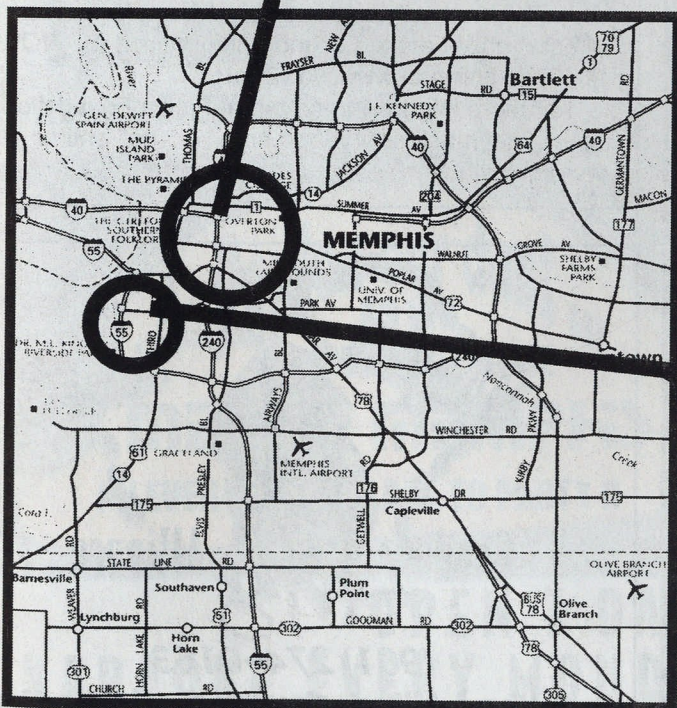
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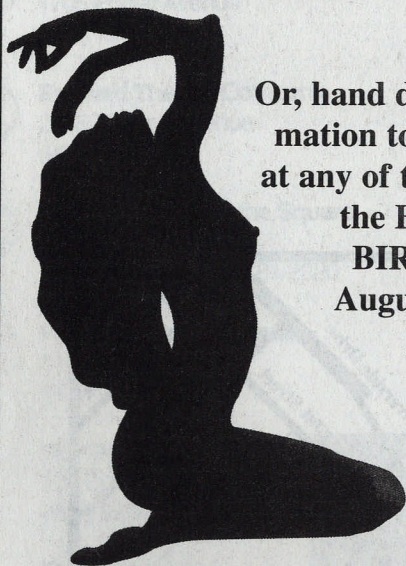
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Al-Fatiha Foundation dedicated to serving GLBT Muslims, others

The Al-Fatiha Foundation, founded in 1998, is dedicated to Muslims who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, questioning, exploring their sexual orientation or gender identity, and their allies, families and friends. Al-Fatiha promotes the progressive Islamic notions of peace, equality and justice. It envisions a world that is free from prejudice, injustice and discrimination, where all people are fully embraced and accepted into their faith, their families and their communities.

Al-Fatiha has seven chapters in the U.S., including New York City, Washington, D.C., Atlanta, Houston, San Francisco, San Diego and Los Angeles. Sister organizations exist internationally, as well.

The Al-Fatiha Foundation is hosting a spiritual retreat for LGBTIQ Muslims and their Allies in New York City, August 1-3, and in Los Angeles, Oct. 24-26. Cost is \$35; however, for individuals with limited income and for students, the cost is \$25. For retreat information and/or a registration packet, email Al-Fatiha at gaymuslims@yahoo.com.

Also, Al-Fatiha will be represented at the Welcoming Our Witness Conference – WOW 2003, set for Aug. 14-17, in Philadelphia, Pa. Presenters include Imam Abdullah, the first openly gay Imam and scholar of Islamic Theology; Parvez Sharma, director of *In The Name of Allah*, and Faisal Alam, founder and director of Al-Fatiha. For more information on WOW 2003, go online to www.wow2k.org

For more information on the Al-Fatiha Foundation, email gaymuslims@yahoo.com or go online to www.al-fatiha.net.



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Author Tim'm West to visit Memphis

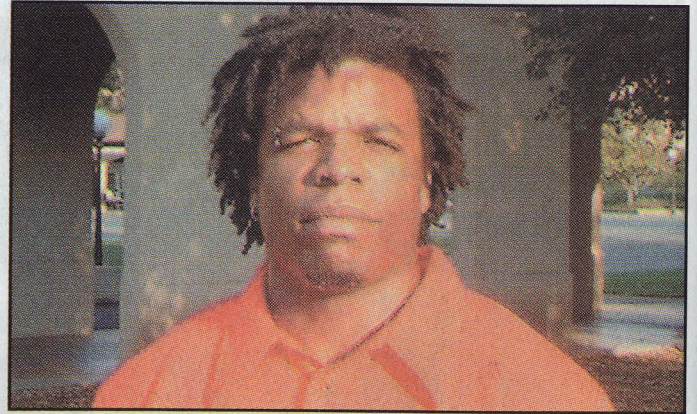
By Anita Moyt, managing editor

Tim'm West, author of *Red Dirt Revival: A Poetic Memoir in 6 Breaths* will be at the Memphis Black SGL Alliance, 28 North Claybrook, on Wednesday, July 9, at 7 p.m. The public is invited to meet West, purchase *Red Dirt Revival* (at \$15 each) and have him sign it. Food and giveaways will round out the Memphis reception for West, who is on a 15-city tour.

When you open *Red Dirt Revival*, a book of poems and shorts, the first thing you notice is the use of the term "Breaths."

"I wanted to do a lot with wordplay," West, 31, told *Family & Friends* magazine in a telephone interview from his home in Oakland, Calif., explaining his use of the term "Breaths" as opposed to "Chapters."

"I wanted something that would break the norm in the style of the book," he said. "(The term 'breath') signifies some sort of movement through life. Breath is universal and everyone can relate to it; every-



Tim'm West



one needs it. The process of going through the different experiences (in my life) was about keeping my breath."

West further explained the use of the term, from the reader's standpoint.

"I've had people tell me they had to take a deep breath after they read a piece," West said. "My experiences strike a chord with people with similar experiences."

The other noticeable trademark of West's writing is his wordplay. He is not limited to Webster's dictionary for the letters that form his thoughts. Just a few examples from the content page: "coming to rhyting," "Diss Course," "About Radicalia Feminista," "iffection" and "templates of hem."

"I feel as often marginalized, gay people of color we have to invent new language to describe our new experiences," West said, explaining his use of wordplay, "because the language that is available is not able to describe our experiences."

West said his experience as a hip-hop artist with DDC and having recorded his own solo CD, also influenced his use of wordplay.

According to West, *Red Dirt Revival* is a product of 11 years of his writing, from 1990 to 2001.

"There are no dates on the pieces," West said. "It is interesting, you can read the book and not know which year a piece was written. I like it that there is a certain continuity in my conscience. ... I didn't want the dates to guide people's reading of the story. I wanted them to let the story touch them."

West shares his heart and soul in *Red Dirt Revival* as he describes his experiences as a young black gay man, growing up in Arkansas, both in Little Rock and a small town called Taylor.

"A lot of things in my book I think I have outgrown," West said. "A person can write about an experience and (later) look back on it; they can move beyond it."

"I was probably in grade school," West said, explaining when he first took up the writer's quill. "The stuff I wrote then was my own secrets. I was aware of my sexuality at

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See Tim'm West, page 77

FILMING OF *KEVIN'S ROOM II* IN CHICAGO FAMILY ALBUM





WHAT'S THE 'TEE' LADYBUG? BY ANTHONY HARDAWAY

The spirit of Pride is in the air chil-ren! The 10th Annual Memphis Black Pride was held Fathers Day Weekend 2003. It was for sure the place to be for some great, not to mention, sexy fun. You could really feel the family-like connections among the chil-ren the whole weekend.

We had Nashville, Tenn.; Texas; Mississippi; Georgia; Louisiana; Detroit, Mich., and Arkansas in the house to help us celebrate. Celebrity sightings during the weekend included Jerry Boles of *Shock!!! Magazine*, Lyntwood Jenkins, Ray and Tony of "Dark Addiction Visuals," to name a few. Memphians welcomed them all with open arms and smiles.

Thursday night's male revue felt like a regular Saturday night and the legendary Tommie Ross gave us fever when she ignited the stage. Male exotic dancers, Sex Appeal, Dicksman, T-Love, Malice, Bombay and K-Rock, along with our very own show cast members from Club Allusions, gave us our moneys worth!

The women showed out with their standing-room-only event on Friday night. Saturday goes into the new "Hall of Fame" for club entertainment. Amber Starr graced us with her presence, as well as Jasmine Bonet. Terry ("My Butch") Buckner, owner of Club Allusions and founder of Memphis Black Pride, had the outside parking lot open and we were still crowded!

Ms. Libby and Kevin of Nashville won our pool party contest. The other contestants were fierce, as well, but the masses tossed it up (new Chi-town phrase) for Libby and Kevin.

The rain came by to visit the chil-ren on Sunday at Tee-To-Tam Ranch and we STILL had a good time in the mud. At the ranch, the chil-ren had the opportunity to go horseback riding or on a hay ride, as well as even go fishing, if they wanted. Tents were pitched on the lawn, grills were smoking, the music was bumping and everyone had a great time hanging out, talking, playing cards and dominoes, and just plain relaxing. That afternoon, Club Allusions's very own J-Setters lit the main stage up at the ranch and we all reveled in the energy.

I am so very proud and humbled by the participation from the community on everything that happened for this year's Memphis Black Pride. Let me toss it up to the Volunteer Committee for their work and dedication during this year's pride celebration: Corey Kitchens, Tiona K., Donald Jordan, Matthew, Ms. Co-Co, Dee and others. I jokingly suggested to Butch that we should consider moving Memphis Black Pride to the Mid-South Coliseum. Chile, now wouldn't that be hot? The chil-ren would just live for that!

I made it to Chicago and was able to look in the room where *Kevin's Room 2* (*KR2*) was being shot. It was quite fascinating. One thing I have learned, taping is a lot of hard work, energy and personal dedication. It was impor-



On the set of *Kevin's Room 2*

tant for me to be there because of the personal connection I have with two of the main characters in the film, to Janice Layne and Executive Producer Lora Branch. It was an honor to have been invited.

Lora; Sharon Zurek, the director, and Israel Wright, the set photographer, made me feel connected to what was going on all around me. I hit it off instantly with Nsilo Ward, from wardrobe, and it was great meeting the editor, Anna Nakajima. Everyone seemed to be very comfortable with each other and I will say there was a genuine respect for each other on the set.

I must say that diversity and growth is a part of the casting and script of *KR2*. You are going to love the old and the new characters in this film. Malik S. Middleton, who plays "Teddy," is an adorable person, both on and off screen. He is a warm brother who is very comfortable with his work. Film and stage veteran Bryon S. Stewart, who plays "Paris," kept me laughing on the set. That chile is a hoot!

To see gay men and women working together to create something for the now and generations ahead made my heart skip a beat. Coming together to create, help, entertain and be bold enough to put it on film for the common good – now, baby, that is powerful! No one can say SGL people have not done something for the village in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Individuals who say they want to be on screen or want to be a model really need to know that there is a lot of DISCIPLINE that goes along with the work. A shot of a scene

See, What's the Tee?, page 77

Black Lesbian & Gay Leadership Forum to be last

This year's 16th Annual National Black Lesbian & Gay Leadership Forum (the Leadership Forum) Conference, set for Thursday through Saturday, Aug. 21-23, in New Orleans, will be the Leadership Forum's final meeting.

For more than a decade, the Leadership Forum has held annual conferences in cities across the country to empower and to advocate for the African-American gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community.

After 15 years of sharing ideas, building bridges, educating the public, increasing media visibility, grooming solid leaders and providing mutual support, the Leadership Forum has announced it will discontinue its annual conference.

"It is with much sadness, as well as a sense of great accomplishment, that the board of directors has decided that this year's conference will be the last one for the Leadership Forum," said Alvan Quamina, who will resign at the conference as executive director of the Leadership Forum. Quamina said limited resources forced the Leadership Forum to drop its conference.

At the conference in New Orleans, the Leadership Forum and the Oakland (Calif.)-based Sexual Minority Alliance of Alameda County (SMAAC), will partner to pro-

vide training for both adults and youth.

The theme for the Leadership Forum is "Elevating Your Reign." The theme for youth participants attending the SMAAC youth conference is "Grasping the Reigns." The youth conference will include a four-day intensive Leadership Training Institute for selected youth participants.

Quamina wrote a special letter to (prospective) attendees urging them to participate en masse in what will be a "historic experience." During the years, the conference has evolved to become an oasis of information for the African-American GLBT community, tackling a variety of issues, including concerns regarding the rise of HIV/AIDS in the black community.

"These conferences have been arenas for the black GLBT community to come together to share strength, information and ideas on how to keep the community healthy and prosperous," Quamina said. "This year's conference will certainly maintain the high standards of conferences past."

To inquire about participating in the conference as a lecturer or as a panelist, contact the conference coordinator at (510) 985-8410 or email natblkforum@aol.com Registration materials also can be retrieved at www.blglf.org.

What's the Tee?

from page 76

can start early in the morning and go until eight at night. Baby, that is work! It takes so many people to make a scene or a "take" become reality.

We hear of make-up, lights, wardrobe and stuff. You also have people who dictate your every move; people writing down the different frames of the scene, and people keeping up with your body movements. The actors really don't belong to themselves while they are on a set. Everyone has a piece of you ... everyone! But all of these pieces come together for the big picture.

This sequel, like the first one, is being made for the community, the village, to identify with. When I think about Chicago and how we as Southerners view the North, I now come back home KNOWING we, as the Gay South, have a connection. The South will be proud to know that one of her very own had a presence in the making of *Kevin's Room 2*.

My next stop is Chicago Black Pride for the July 4th Weekend Celebration and then Jacksonville, Florida's Black Pride in August. Will I see you at either of the two?

And, by the way, stop by the Memphis Black SGL Alliance, located at 28 North Claybrook, on Wednesday, July 9, at 7 p.m. and meet hip-hop recording artist and author of *Red Dirt Revival*, Tim'm West. The book will be on sale for \$15 and we will have food and plenty of giveaways.

Until then, happy pride, chil-ren, happy pride!

Tim'm West

from page 74

a very early age. As soon as I had a concept of what marriage was, I knew that I wanted (to be married) to a man. It wasn't sex (as I was a child and unaware of sex), but that I wanted to be with a man."

West, who is HIV-positive, talked about coming out twice.

"HIV/AIDS is still in the closet. People are in awe that I am open about my status. I think one has to choose to be out (about your HIV status). If you go out of one closet and go back into another closet, there is a problem. After one coming out process, I decided I couldn't go back and live that way.

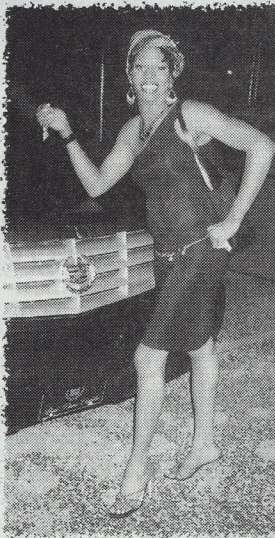
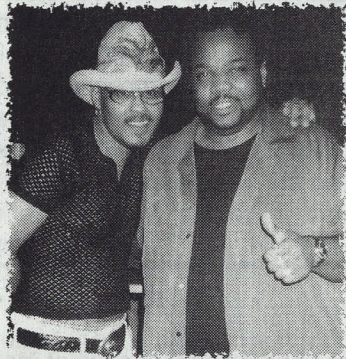
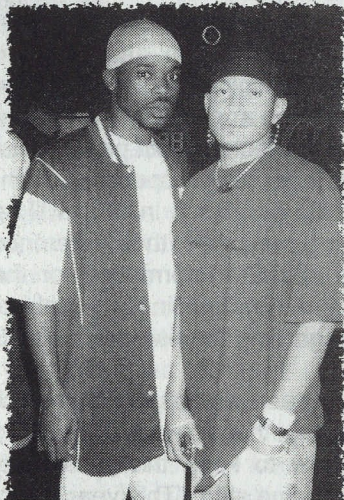
"I came out to my family at 17," West continued. "And at 27, I tested positive. I decided then that I wasn't going to go home and lie about my life anymore. I was always polite and (tried) not to upset anyone. Everyone knew but no one talked about it. I wanted them to accept me fully and completely. I told them, 'I am a loving son and brother. You are proud of all my accomplishments but deny this part of me that is a part of me.'"

West said he has received a lot of response from "A Letter to Mom," a segment in *Red Dirt Revival*, which expounds on his coming out process.

"A new book is in progress," West said, who also is an Oakland middle school teacher, referring to his first novel, as yet unnamed, to be released in 2004.

See Tim'm West, page 83

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FAMILY ALBUM BLACK PRIDE/ALLUSIONS POOL PARTY



Tim'm West

from page 77

Family & Friends asked West what advice he could offer a young gay man who is coming to terms with his sexuality.

"What I tell my students is that anything that would have them hate the very essence of who they are is not something they should involve themselves with," West said. "That goes for the church institution, the family institution and peers. It is important for them to find people in the community who can support and consult them around various situations. Also, one's sexual orientation doesn't necessarily have to be verified. A lot of kids, who are having feelings for someone of the same sex feel they have to go validate it and it leads to a life of sexual exploration that is not healthy."

Finally, curiosity got the best of us. With not many people having a first name spelled as his, we asked if it was his birth name or a creative author's pseudonym.

"Tim'm' embraces an impediment," West said, explaining that the name was a result of other children's teasing. "When I was younger I stammered. I decided to use 'Tim'm' for a 'hey, back acha,' and make it a name you would remember."

As a black SGL writer, quickly moving up the national literary ladder, we are sure many will remember Tim'm West's name.

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Thursdays: Karaoke with DJ Rodney • 9 p.m.
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Sundays: After Park Set: Doors Open at 9 p.m.
• FREE before 10 p.m. • Show Starts at 12:30 a.m.

KITCHEN IS OPEN
Must be 21 or older to drink • ID Required!

Meet Your Neighbor

Rob Bundy



Name: Rob Bundy

Place where you were born: Detroit, Michigan

How long have you lived in Memphis: I don't live in Memphis. I live in Detroit. I came to this wonderful Pride celebration.

Partnership status: courtin'

Sexual orientation: lesbian

Occupation: network engineer

Hobbies: computer geek, traveling, international playa

Favorite Food: pork barbecue ribs

Favorite Color: burgundy

Favorite Animal: none, I hate animals

Favorite Singer: Celine Dion

Favorite Song: "Maria" from *West Side Story*

Favorite Movie: *Payback*

Favorite Restaurant: A&R Barbecue

Favorite Drink: Cherry Coke

Favorite Thing About Memphis: my "Pooh"

Least Favorite Thing About Memphis: That my "Pooh" lives here and not in Detroit

Finish this phrase: My friends think I am "simply fabulous!"

BARS/NIGHTCLUBS

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

BACKSTREET MEMPHIS, 2018 Court Street, (901) 276-5522, Fri. & Sat. 8 p.m.-6 a.m., Sun. 8 p.m. to 3 a.m., www.backstreet-memphis.com

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

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

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

LORENZ/AFTERSHOCK, 1528 Madison Avenue, (901) 274-8272, open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

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

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

ALLUSIONS, 3204 North Thomas in the Northgate Shopping Center (in the back), (901) 357-8383. Open at 9 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

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

PARAGON, 2865 Walnut Grove Road, (901) 320-0026, Thurs.-Sun. 8 p.m.-?

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

CHATTANOOGA, TENN.

MI-NITE, 27 West 19th Street, (423) 504-3650, Thurs.-Sun. 9 p.m.-3 a.m.

IMAGES, 6005 Lee Highway, (423) 855-8210, 5 p.m. to 3 a.m., 7 days a week, www.mirage-complex.com, Email: mirage_complex@hotmail.com

JACKSON, TENNESSEE

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

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

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

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

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

MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI

QC DISCO, 125 Russel Drive, (601) 484-4111, 8 p.m.-2 a.m. Thur.-Sat., 6 p.m.-? Sun., email: QCDisco@aol.com

TUPELO, MISSISSIPPI

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

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

BACKSTREET-LITTLE ROCK, 1021 Jessie Road, (501) 662-2744, Fri.-Mon. 9 p.m.-5 a.m., [website: Backstreetdanceclub.com](http://www.Backstreetdanceclub.com).

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), a social, political and educational organization meets the first and third Monday of each month, 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, www.memphisbears.com

MEMPHIS GAY & LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTER, 892 South Cooper Memphis, 38104, (901) 324-GAYS (4297), townhall meetings every other month; Thurs-Fri, 6 to 10 p.m.; Sat and Sun, 2 to 10 p.m. and Mon, 6 to 10 p.m.

MEMPHIS PRIDE INC., P.O. Box 111265, Memphis, TN 38111-1265, email: Memphisprideparade@earthlink.net, 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 Avenue, 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.

MGLCC BOOK CLUB, a program of the Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center, 892 South Cooper, meets the third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. email: bmoody@mem.net

MISSISSIPPI

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

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

USM GAY/STRAIGHT ALLIANCE, email: GSAAlliance@usm.edu or thespy_ms@yahoo.com, [website: www.usm.edu/gsa](http://www.usm.edu/gsa)

SOCIAL continued

ARKANSAS

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

WHOLENESS

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.

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

Unity in Community!

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@equalitytennesse.org, website: www.equalitytennessee.org.

MEMPHIS LESBIAN & GAY COALITION FOR JUSTICE, P.O. Box 241363, Memphis, TN 38124, (901) 327-2677. Email: mlgcj@yahoo.com, website: www.geocities.com/mlgcj.

MISSISSIPPI

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

SPORTS

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

BLUFF CITY SPORTS ASSOCIATION, P.O. Box 41803, Memphis, TN 38174-1803, (901) 461-0891, email: memphisgaysoftball@yahoo.com, Softball league open to GLBT individuals.

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

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)

Dentists

WILLIAM N. CASTLE, DDS, general dentistry, 79 North Cooper Street, Memphis, TN 38104. Call (901) 685-5008 for an appointment.

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HOROSCOPES

Cancer (June 22-July 23) — Have faith in yourself and the sky will be the limit, even when it comes to romance.

Now is the time to allow yourself to shine at work. Remember, if you can visualize it, you can achieve it.

Leo (July 24-Aug. 23) — Your creative side will take a huge leap this month and could prove profitable. Focus is on both your social life and love life, especially for singles and those searching for romance.

Virgo (Aug. 24-Sept. 23) — Your focus should be on setting priorities this month, which should include home remodeling projects, real estate and domestic issues. Always remember, love comes from the most unexpected places, especially when you're not looking for it.

Libra (Sept. 24-Oct. 23) — New opportunities may be just around the corner, if you know where to look. While ability is a good thing to have, persistence is what pays off in the long run.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — If you're single, it is likely you'll find romance through an organizational connection this month. Renew severed ties, especially with co-workers and family members. Your social life gets a much-needed boost this month.

Sagittarius (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Listen to that inner voice this month, as it could be steering you in the right direction. Do away with things that are holding you back. Focus only on the positive forces around you.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 20) — Now is the time to reconsider your hopes and dreams. Pay special attention to business and personal partners. If you're serious, now is the time to commit. If you're not, don't complain too loudly when what you want passes you by.

Aquarius (Jan. 21-Feb. 19) — Those who are involved in relationships will begin to see happy results. Be careful of what you wish for, it might come true.

Pisces (Feb. 20-March 20) — New opportunities may present themselves through business and personal acquaintances. Have faith in yourself and stay focused. Things worth having are worth waiting for.

Aries (March 21-April 20) — If you're looking for a home-based financial opportunity, now may be the time to showcase your talents. Lots of new things will come your way, especially with the right connections.

Taurus (April 21-May 21) — Your talents could prove profitable soon. Focus on family, creativity, financial matters and future endeavors. Keep reaching for the stars; they are within your grasp.

Gemini (May 22-June 21) — Your ideas will soon get the attention of others. Positive results will occur when you focus on both personal and business ties. Money matters are highlighted this month.

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



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BOBBY BLAKE'S 46th Birthday Bash

**AUGUST
8, 9 AND 10**

FRIDAY August 8, 9 p.m. until 3 a.m.

at The Ramada Inn, 1837 Union Avenue – NO COVER
DJ Chris Johnson from L.A. • Free Food & Beverages
After Party hosted by Atlanta's Men of Jaguar

SATURDAY August 9, 10 p.m. until ?

at The Premiere Palace, 629 Monroe – NO COVER
The Official Bobby Blake Birthday Bash. Two levels of
dancing • Guest DJ from New York • Free Food &
Beverages • And one of Memphis's own, and we don't
mean Bobby, will be honored. After Party hosted by
Atlanta's Men of Jaguar and Detroit's DNA Productions

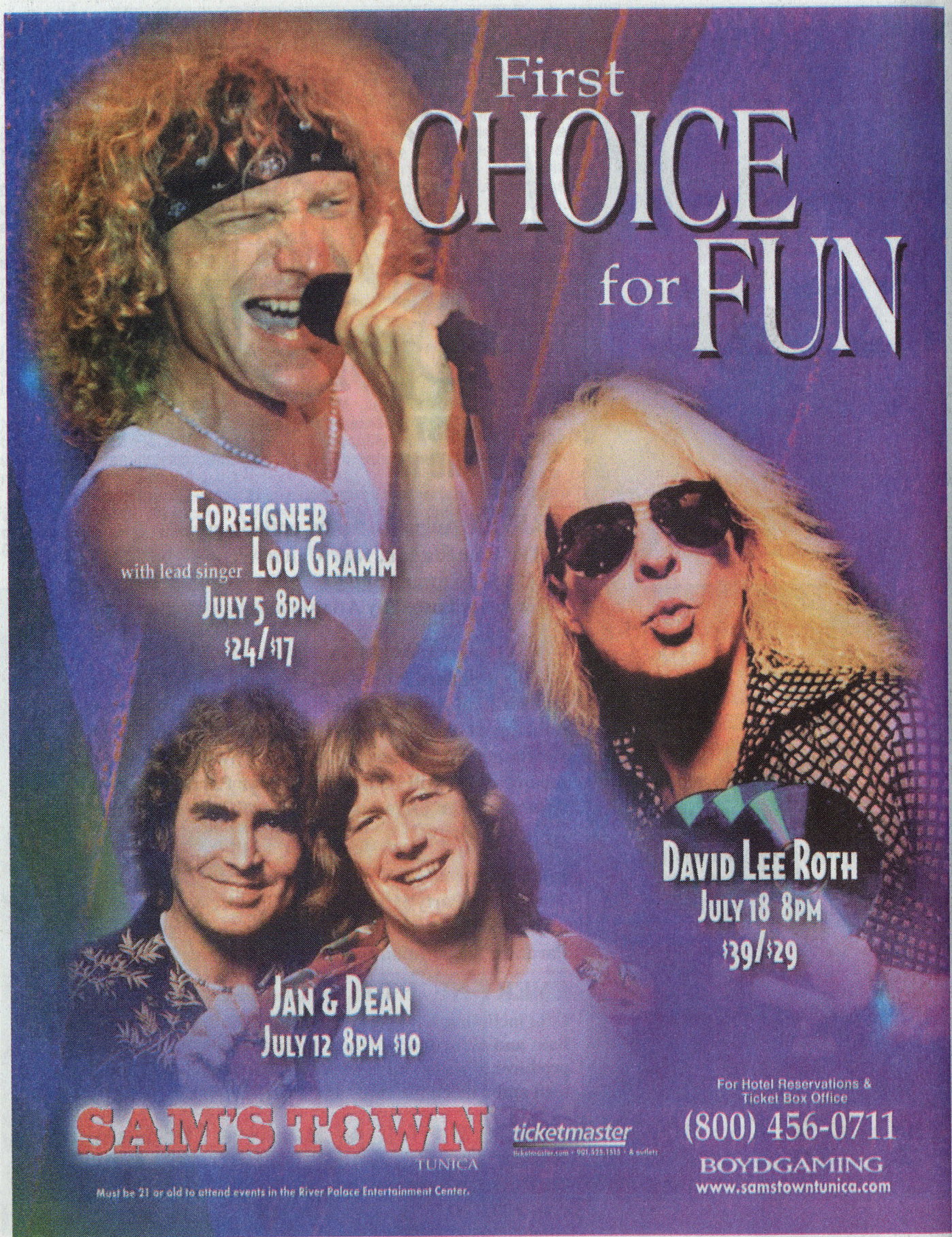
SUNDAY August 10, 10 p.m. until ?

at The Paragon, 2865 Walnut Grove - \$10 COVER
The "Black Party" • The St. John Family & brothers from
across the U.S.A. will be in the house. Movie company
Pardoux Corporation sponsors "Who Wants To Be A Star?"

EVERY NIGHT Enjoy male dancers from across the
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The host hotel for BOBBY BLAKE'S BIRTHDAY BASH is The Ramada Inn, 1837 Union Avenue. Ask for the Bobby Blake Birthday Bash discount rate of \$65 per night for kings and doubles. Call (901) 278-4100 for reservations.



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