

MID-OCTOBER  
2003

# FAMILY

*& friends*

**SOPHIE B. HAWKINS**

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want to be her lover?**

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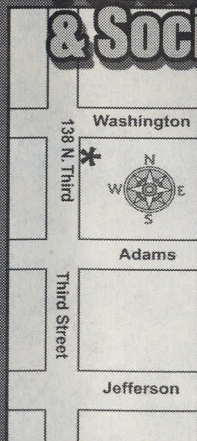
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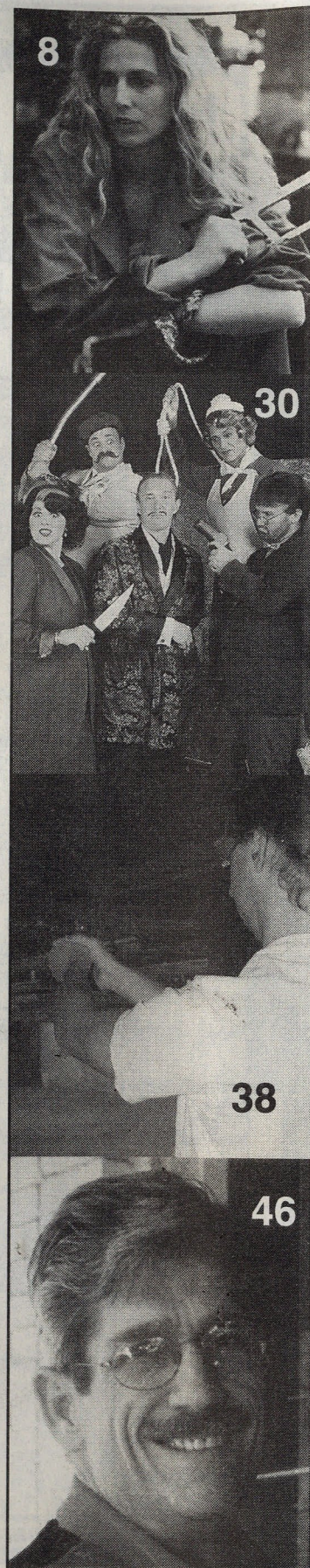
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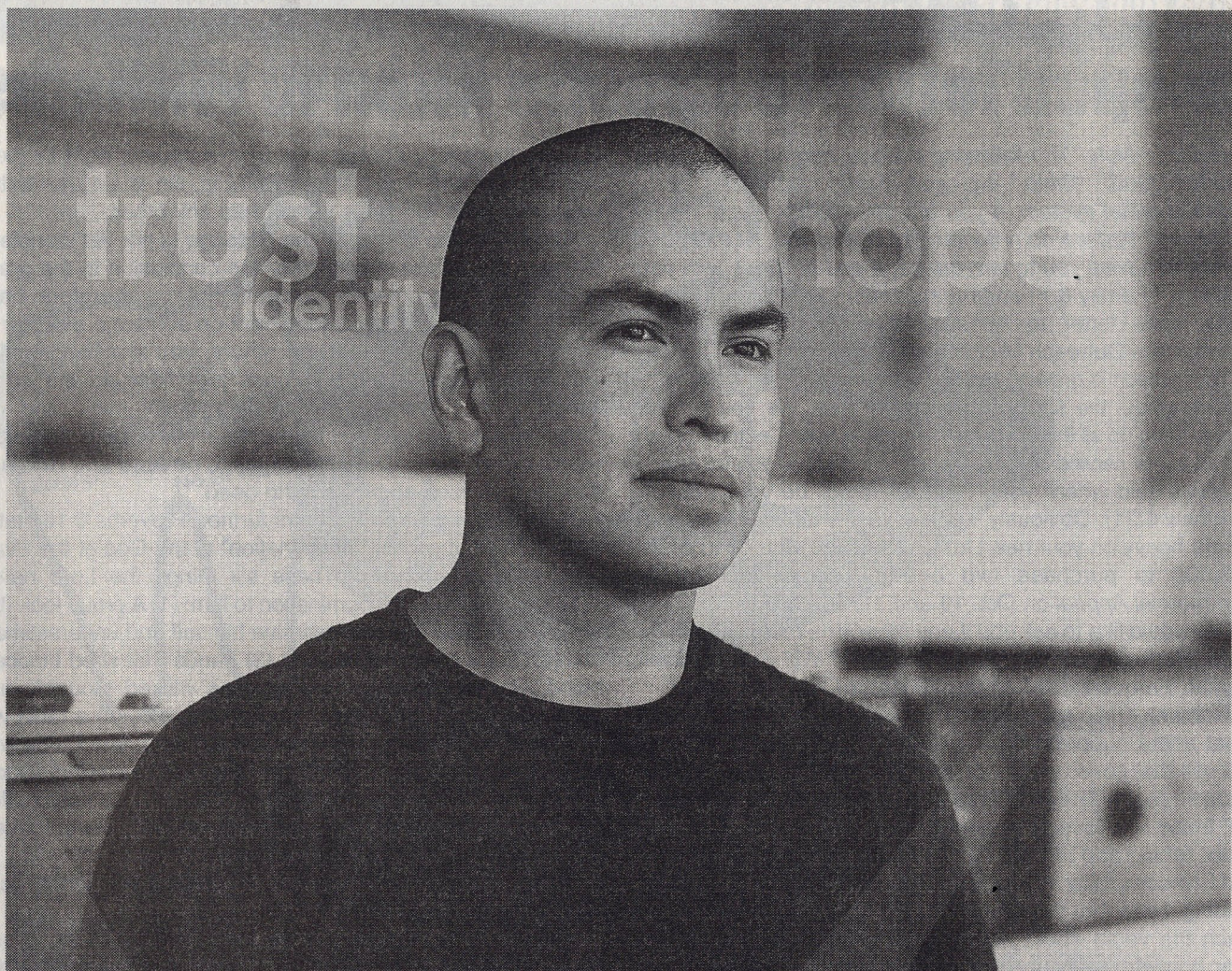
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trust  
identifi

hope

Because I live  
for today,

but think  
for tomorrow.



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# An open letter to Apostle Alton R. Williams

*(Editor's Note: The following editorial contains the words, "Jesus," "God," "Bible," etc. and makes references to the Christian belief system. If you are offended by such, please be advised that we do not intend to offend you. At this point, we would advise you to turn the page and continue with your reading of Family & Friends magazine.)*

An open letter to Apostle Alton R. Williams, World Overcomers Outreach Ministries Church:

Your church is growing strong as it spreads its wings of service throughout the southeast Memphis area. We see you are quickly filling up all the buildings purchased from Central Church, and all to the service of the Lord and we applaud you for that.

Jesus said where your heart is, so will be your treasure (Matthew 6:21). Obviously, homosexuality and/or homosexuals are heavy on your heart for you and your church to spend \$13,000 to purchase two one-half page ads in *The Commercial Appeal* on Oct. 10 and 11, 2003.

We would like to ask you if any other sins mentioned in the Bible weigh on your heart just as heavily? Will you be paying to print "Frequently Asked Questions" for any other sins?

Romans 1 is a great place to find a "sin" to preach about. What about suppressing the truth by wickedness (wouldn't you call that coverups?); not being thankful to God; worshipping idols (both Catholic saints and pagan gods and goddesses); those who love "the created things" more than God (how about fishing and hunting?). You already covered lesbianism and homosexuality in your ads. But hang with me here. Keep reading. Note that the list of "sins" is not complete when you reach the verse about homosexuality. The sins, mentioned after homosexuality, include every kind of wickedness, evil, greed, depravity, envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice, gossiping, slandering, hating God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventing ways to do evil, disobeying parents, senseless, faithless, heartless and ruthless. Were the writers of the Bible confused or something, putting gossip, which can very likely be found on any street corner, office cubicle, church office,

student lounge or church pew in this county, right in there with murder and God-haters? Point is, sin is sin, no matter what you call it. No sin is worse than any other.

However, with that said, the passage is not yet complete. Romans 2:1 makes it very clear the conclusion to the previous chapter's argument – Don't judge: "You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge the others, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things." Hello! We are all equal in God's eyes...and the Christian faith is based on the fact that our hope is not in our works but in Jesus Christ, and the life he lived and died and that he was risen again from the dead.

Now, to push home the point further, Proverbs 6:16 states there is more than one "abomination" to the God of the Bible, not just homosexuality. "These six things the Lord hates, indeed, seven are an abomination to him: (1) A proud look (the spirit that makes one overestimate himself and underestimate others), (2) a lying tongue, and (3) hands that shed innocent blood, (4) a heart that manufactures wicked thoughts and plans, (5) feet that are swift in running to evil, (6) a false witness who breathes out lies (even under oath), and (7) he who sows discord among his brethren." It looks like sowing discord among the brethren ranks right up their with homosexuality. However, it should be noted that homosexuality never made it into the Top 10 (The Ten Commandments) either.

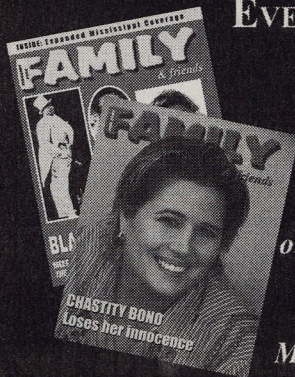
Now, in closing, as the old, wise preacher once said, "Read the red words."

"Beware of the teachers of the law," Jesus said, as recorded in Luke 20:46-47. "They like to walk around in flowing robes and love to be greeted in the marketplaces and have the most important seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets. They devour widows' houses and for a show make lengthy prayers. Such men will be punished most severely."

Our point is this – let's not condemn ourselves or others; let's love one another instead.

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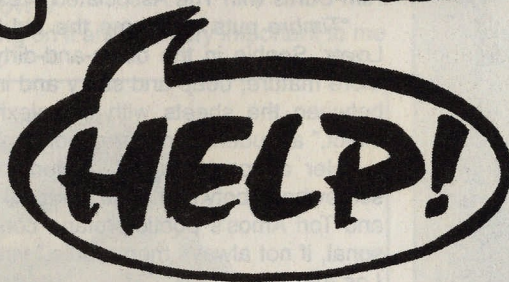
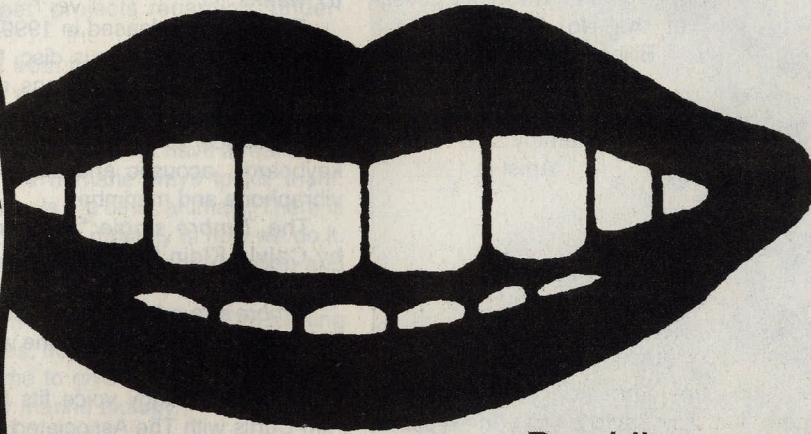
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# Sophie B. Hawkins to perform at GPAC

By ANITA MOYT, managing editor

Sophie B. Hawkins, hit singer/songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, actress, activist and soon-to-be novelist, will be in concert at The Germantown Performing Arts Centre, 1801 Exeter in Germantown, Saturday, Nov. 8, at 8 p.m.

In 1992, Hawkins debuted *Tongues and Tails*, which put "Damn, I Wish I Was Your Lover," at the No. 5 spot on the Billboard Hot 100 Single's chart. That album led to her nomination for a Grammy as Best New Artist in 1992.



"What better song to be associated with?" Hawkins is quoted as saying on her website, [thecreamwillrise.com](http://thecreamwillrise.com). "It's still my favorite song to perform. It represents the part of me that rose up from the street, pure emotion."

Her follow-up album, released in 1994, *Whaler*, featured the Top 10 hit "As I Lay Me Down," one of the longest-charting radio tracks in the history of *Billboard Magazine*, logging in at 67 weeks.

*Timbre* was released in 1999, by Sony. In 2001, *Timbre* was re-released with a bonus disc, two new songs, remixes, video enhancement and two videos on Rykodisc, via Hawkins' own imprint, Trumpet Swan Records. Hawkins did it all on the record, from producer to singer/songwriter to vocalist, to playing piano, keyboards, acoustic and electric guitars, banjo, udu, djembe, vibraphone and marimba.

The *Timbre* single "Walk In My Blue Jeans," was used by Calvin Klein for an ad campaign for a new line of jeans for women.

*Timbre's* re-release garnered a multitude of press coverage for the return of Hawkins to the world of music after taking a four-year hiatus.

"Hawkins' craggy voice fits her lusty lyrics perfectly," wrote Kim Curtis with The Associated Press.

"*Timbre* puts to shame the old 'Damn, I Wish I Was Your Lover' Sophie in the down-and-dirty department. Her voice is more mature, deep and sultry and in control, and she sings life from the sheets with complexity, obsession and ecstasy intact," a student.com correspondent wrote.

"Her atmospheric, often bluntly passionate work – falling somewhere between Paul Simon's percussive, sweeping pop and Tori Amos's poetic-profane confessions – is uniquely personal, if not always memorable," wrote Natalie Nichols with the *Los Angeles Times*.

Born and raised in New York City, Hawkins began weaving her musical tapestry at the age of 14 by studying African drums with a protege of Babatunde Olatunji and eventually with Olatunji himself. She studied classical percussion at the Manhattan School of Music for one year. She then found a home in various bands, where she played the drums and sang the songs she had written. Those bands found a stage at such New York clubs as CBGB's and the Bitter End. A stint playing jazz vibraphone was followed by playing her djembe for dance classes at New York University. She even tried her skills at acting off-off-Broadway.

While working as a coat-check girl, she gave a 50-song demo tape she had made on a friend's recording equipment, which included "Damn, I Wish I Were Your Lover," to Mark Cohn. That demo tape led to her voice on the jingle for Nestle's Sweet Dreams white chocolate bar, a stint as a percussionist on tour with Bryan Ferry and her record deal with Columbia.

*Family & Friends* talked with Hawkins by phone; here is what she had to say.

F&F: Have you played in the South before?

Hawkins: I have played Memphis before. I liked it pretty well; it was great.

F&F: When is your next CD going to be released?

Hawkins: *Wilderness* is set to come out the end of January 2004.

F&F: How was it making *The Cream Will Rise* docu-

**See Sophie B. Hawkins, page 9**



## Sophie B. Hawkins

from page 8

mentary, dealing with your past?

Hawkins: The good thing about that documentary is that it shows it. It was incredibly truthful and the truth is always very hard. As you see it on the documentary is how it was.

F&F: On your website you talk about several organizations that you are supporting, including The Breast Cancer Site, and that you did a documentary in Coast Rica about sea turtles. What are your present "pet" projects regarding "underground activism?"

Hawkins: Protecting animals from being tortured is foremost in my mind and heart. The way we treat them is horrible. And I want to raise the consciousness that humane ways are ways to treat them. The need to move about freely and have a real life ... the way they used to. There are humane ways to kill them. People will always eat meat. Animals eat other animals. There is nothing wrong with killing to eat; it's the morality of how we do it.

F&F: What else would you like to do as far as activism and the environment?

Hawkins: I have a huge dream of devoting myself (to) making the world better for humans, trees, dolphins, all of it. (It is) a lifetime project and I don't have time to give 24 hours a day but I hope to one day. I want to study marine biology.

F&F: What about your novel?

Hawkins: I am just working on it and it is very important to me



"... But I have no problem getting up and saying I live with a woman, I'm passionately, madly in love. Committed."



and I am not sure it is important to anyone else. I thought I would be finished by now. But I had more than I thought I had and started to rethink the structure of it. There are so many things I do, I don't want to push myself to put out things not of quality. My opinion of my records is every one is quality ... perfection ... throw away things that aren't good. I work hard and am very patient with myself. People get impatient with me.

F&F: You seem to be pursuing many dreams with your vast musical capabilities, documentary, CDs, activism, etc. What else would you like to do?

Hawkins: Paint. I find myself, like when I go away, painting and it is a real passion and I have a vision. I don't expect anyone to go "Wow!" I do it for myself. If it fulfills me it may fulfill others and give them courage to find out what they can do for themselves.

**See Sophie B. Hawkins, page 28**

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BACKSTREET  
MEMPHIS

Since so many of our readers have four-legged furry "children," *Family & Friends* begins a new pet care column, "PASSIONATE ABOUT PETS," with this issue. *Family & Friends* welcomes veterinary technician KATIE HIESTAND to our contributing writer staff. By the way, she has many pets herself, including dogs, cats, snakes and other critters.

Congratulations to DR. HERB ZEMAN, associate professor of biomedical engineering and radiology at The University of Tennessee-Memphis and former president of the Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center, on being interviewed for an Aug. 21 story in *THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL*, entitled "UT takes high-tech to new heights." Zeman engineered a VEIN VISIBILITY DEVICE, which "takes an infrared picture of the veins on (an) arm, transforms that into a visible picture and re-projects it onto (the) arm." So what does it do? It makes finding a vein for a blood sample or for putting in an intravenous line easier for healthcare workers and far less painful for the patient than being stuck repeatedly to find a "good vein."

Happy anniversary to Atlanta's OUTWRITE BOOKSTORE AND COFFEEHOUSE, which will celebrate 10 years as the Southeast's premiere gay and lesbian community bookstore on Nov. 8.

CONGRATULATIONS to the NOBLE KREWE OF HATHOR in receiving tax exempt, or (501)(c)(3), status from the Internal Revenue Service. Darren Sanford, Hathor's president, notes that if one is able to itemize their deductions on his/her federal income tax return, only donations made to IRS-recognized (501)(c)(3) organizations are deductible.

After being honored at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's 14th Annual Leadership Awards on Sept. 28, ROSIE O'DONNELL pledged \$100,000 to the NGLTF and encouraged others to match her gift to likewise support the work of this GLBT civil rights organization.

Having played a lead role in *Jeffrey*, PATRICK STEWART ("Star Trek: The Next Generation," *X-Men*, among others) portrayed another gay man on NBC's "Frasier" on the episode that aired Sept. 30. Stewart played the role of Alastair Braithwaite, one of the best opera directors in the world, who Frasier develops a much desired friendship with. However, Braithwaite's feelings for Frasier go much deeper.

Speaking of TV, LAURA INNES (Dr. Kerry Weaver on NBC's "ER") will receive the Artistry Award on Nov. 2 at the Third Annual Power Premiere. The award is from the Professional Organization of Women in Entertainment Reaching UP (POWER UP), a non-profit organization which promotes the visibility and integration of gay women in the entertainment industry. JUDITH LIGHT and BRAVO NETWORK will receive the Premiere Award.

*FAMILY & FRIENDS* extends its deepest sympathy to TIM JOHNSON, Memphis Pride Inc. board member, in the loss of his father Oct. 6. Bill Johnson was a retired Memphis firefighter, residing in Hot Springs, Ark.

This year, APHRODITE will hold two shows to raise money to buy Christmas toys for the children served by LOVING ARMS. Mark your calendars for a great show, a great time and a great cause. The first show is set for Sunday, Nov. 9, at 8 p.m. at THE MADISON FLAME. The second show will be held at ONE MORE in December.

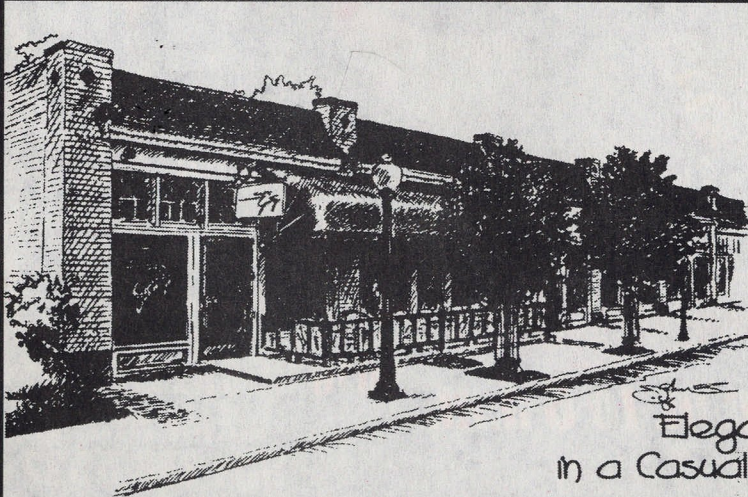
...

If you happened to be driving past the STARBUCKS on Poplar just west of Highland the other night and thought you saw a miracle in progress, or perhaps you thought you were hallucinating, we're here to tell you that your eyes weren't deceiving you. That's right, seated at one of the outdoor tables in front of the coffee establishment were none other than ANGELA LAMB, RANETTA JACKSON, ANITA MOYT AND PATRICIA PAIR. And, yes, we were all seated at the SAME table. However, if you happened to see the four of us sitting there and noticed the police car or two nearby, let us explain.

No, the police were not there to break up a fight between the employees of Memphis's only two GLBT publications, nor were the "guys in blue" (although we think those uniforms look black) there because the four of us were having any kind of argument, well at least not amongst ourselves.

The police were called the first time (yes, they were called more than once because of us) because one of the four of us parked in a parking space that the nighttime supervisor of Starbucks, ETHAN, still claims to this day is marked as a handicapped parking space (his justification is that the space is striped for a wheelchair lift for a handicapped vehicle parked in the space to the right - only problem is, those lifts work on the right side of a vehicle and

**See Bulletin, page 54**



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Set your clocks **BACK**  
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to bed Saturday,  
October 25!

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS  
TIME ENDS AT 2 AM  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26**

# Don't Spend Your Entire Holiday in the Kitchen ... *Let us Help with the Cooking!*

## CAKES

Banana Cake

Carrot Cake

Chocolate Cake

German Chocolate Cake

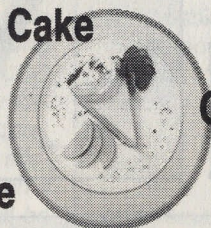
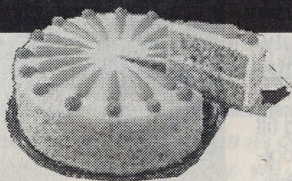
Italian Coconut Cake

Lemon Cake

Red Velvet Cake

Strawberry Cake

Yellow Cake



## PIES

Apple Pie

Banana Creme Pie

Cherry Pie

Chess Pie

Chocolate Pie

Coconut Creme Pie

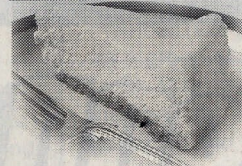
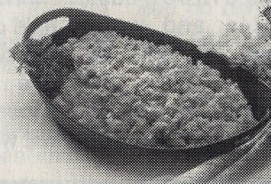
Egg Custard Pie

Key Lime Pie

Lemon Ice Box Pie

Pecan Pie

Pumpkin Pie



## SIDE DISHES

Sweet Potato Casserole

Cornbread Dressing

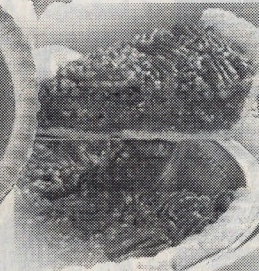
## CHEESECAKES

Blueberry

Chocolate

Chocolate Chip

Strawberry



*So Good  
They'll Just  
Think it's  
Homemade!*



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Your Order ... Want Something  
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We'll See What We Can Do!

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just east of Cooper

# Win shoes, book signed by Dixie Carter

How would you like to own an autographed pair of actress Dixie Carter's black pumps or an autographed copy of her book, *Trying to Get to Heaven*?

Byron Brewer is holding a most unusual fundraiser for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. He purchased the two items from Carter at her "rummage sale" she held at her residence in Tennessee, and now will use them to raise money for the internationally-known children's hospital, treating children for such diseases as cancer, HIV/AIDS and sickle cell anemia.

The shoes are size 8 AAAA, custom made for Carter, and were worn by Carter on the set of "Designing Women."

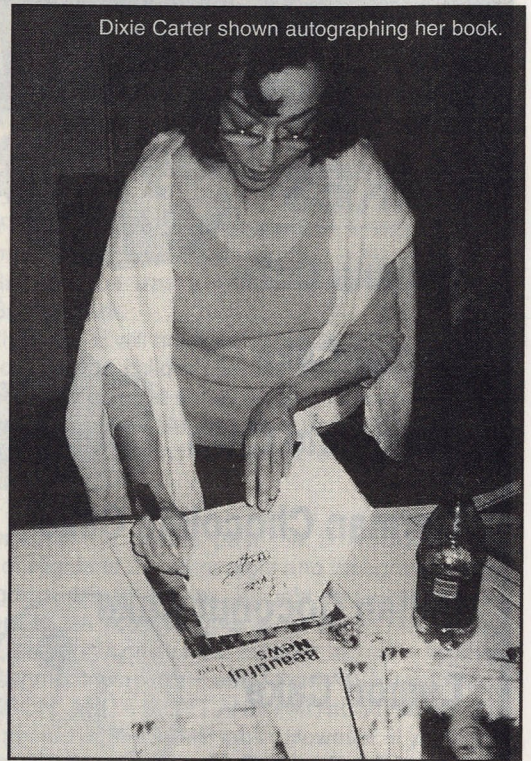
In her book, *Trying to Get to Heaven*, Carter tells the reader

about the people who have inspired her; talks about such things as yoga and decorating; shares her favorite memories, and shares her views on the subject of beauty. According to Amazon.com, the book is now out of print.

To enter, make a \$1 donation and fill out a coupon and deposit it in the collection box at either Metro Memphis, 1349 Autumn Street, or Backstreet Memphis, 2018 Court Street. There is no limit on how many times you can enter for the drawing. And you do NOT have to be present to win.

The drawing for the items will be held on Friday, Nov. 7, during the midnight show at Backstreet Memphis. The first name drawn will win the shoes and the second name drawn will win the book.

Dixie Carter shown autographing her book.



**CHECK OUR OUR 'HOLIDAY SHOPPING GUIDE'  
ON PAGE 79 OF THIS ISSUE**

**M**  
Oct 24  
NOV 9  
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# LEND me A TENOR

By Ken Ludwig

Directed by Anthony Isbell

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# SPECIAL REPORT

## MGLCC under fire again, we report, you decide

By **PATRICIA PAIR**, publisher  
& **ANITA MOYT**, managing editor

*(Publisher & Editor's note: In an attempt to be as objective as possible in the reporting of the following story, we will simply report the facts and allegations given to us in such a way as to allow you, the reader, to form your own opinions of the situations at hand. In addition, some people have been granted anonymity by us in an attempt to reveal the truth. In addition, all content identified as "letters to the editor" are the opinion of the author(s) and not those of Family & Friends Magazine or A&P Publications Inc. Any editorial context written by Family & Friends will be so identified by italics.)*

*The Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center is again at the center of allegations of wrong doings, some made by MGLCC members and some made by former MGLCC board members. Because there are two sets of allegations, which co-mingle only on a few points, the allegations will be presented as two separate sets in the story that follows.*

*Before we go any further, however, it is important to note that in July 2003, new officers were elected to the MGLCC board, Len Piechowski, president; Heidi Williams, vice president; Jim Maynard, secretary; Hunter Johnston, treasurer, and members-at-large, Charles R. "Chuck" Bohannon, Jonathon Devin, Kevin Dugan, Skyler Goldman, John Heizer, J. Wesley McComas and Mickey Scott. Just prior to the beginning of our investigation last month, McComas officially resigned from the board. Since the middle of September 2003, Dugan, Goldman and Scott also have resigned their positions on the MGLCC board of directors (for official letters of resignation, see inset this page).*

### ALLEGATIONS, SET ONE

*(Publisher and Editor's Note: Because this set of allegations deals with a minor child (the alleged "victim"), his/her name will not be disclosed here. In addition, because to our knowledge at presstime no*

*formal charge(s) had been filed against the alleged perpetrator, we will refer to him throughout this story as "Raymond.")*

*On Sept. 8, Family & Friends received a letter to the editor via fax from two concerned citizens and members/users of the MGLCC, both of whom have been given anonymity. The letter spelled out very serious allegations against a person who was serving as a member of the MGLCC board at the time the letter was received, allegations of a criminal nature.*

*After numerous calls to the Memphis Police Department, Family & Friends, as of presstime, has been unable to confirm or deny whether a formal complaint has been filed on behalf of the alleged victim against the alleged perpetrator.*

### ALLEGATIONS MADE IN THE LETTER TO THE EDITOR

1) The Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center ... is willing to disregard certain allegations concerning a new board member.

2) In July 2003, (allegedly just a few days before the 2003 MGLCC board elections) this new board member (allegedly) bought alcohol for a group of teenagers.

3) That same night, the board member (in question) (allegedly) got drunk and (allegedly) had sexual relations with a 16-year old boy, who also had (allegedly) become intoxicated at that point.

4) Prior to this night, the board member (in question) (allegedly) received positive HIV test results and (allegedly) neglected to inform the young man (hereafter referred to as the alleged victim) of his present status.

5) This (alleged) situation was (allegedly) brought to the attention of Mr. Piechowski. Firsthand information was received from the (alleged) victim upon Mr. Piechowski's request.

6) Following the revelation of this (alleged) scandal, the board member was (allegedly) no longer allowed to attend and lead (the youth group meetings at the MGLCC), and the position was assumed by Mr. Piechowski.

7) The only further action (allegedly) taken was to deny the board member his soon-to-be position as director of youth initiatives.

## Board members resign

In an email dated Sept. 1, 2003

As of September 1, 2003, I resign from the Gay and Lesbian Community Center Board. I feel that my purpose and goals for the community center are not the same as the majority of the board. I wish the Community Center well.

Sincerely,  
Wes McComas

In an email dated Sept. 11, 2003

Dear Board:

I hereby resign my position as a board member-at-large of MGLCC. With your permission and blessing, I will continue to volunteer and help out as I always have - this is, of course, at your discretion, and I will understand if you don't approve.

Sincerely,  
Kevin Dugan

In an email dated Sept. 13, 2003

Dear Board,

I am sorry to bring this at a time when two people have already resigned, however, due to the fact that I am stretched so very thin by school and now my job and the other numerous things that are going on in my life, I feel that I have no other choice but to resign. This is the only thing that I can give up without hurting myself in the long run. Due to the stress that I am receiving by doing too many things, I am going back into a bi-polar phase and I can not allow that.

I do apologize if there has been any inconveniences from this.

Skyler

In an email dated Oct. 9, 2003, from **Mickey Scott**

As of this date, 10-9-03, I am submitting my resignation from the board. I am no longer able to commit to this obligation due to a conflict of interest in part due to my work schedule.

**See, MGLCC, page 16**

from page 15

8) While I (we) highly commend Mr. Piechowski's (alleged) efforts made regarding the youth group, I (we) are extremely disturbed by the fact that he (Piechowski) and the other leaders of the Community Center (allegedly) have allowed an (alleged) pedophile to remain in a position of power at a place where several youth are involved.

The letter to the editor further states, "I (we) ... find this discomforting, intolerable and quite frankly, revolting. ... I (we) ... no longer have a desire to become a member (members) of an organization which at first appeared to have wonderful intentions and great potential, but now seems to condone (alleged) statutory rape, a felony, and the (alleged) purchasing of alcohol for minors, a misdemeanor. I (we) sincerely hope the rest of the community comes to realize that the lack of action taken on the MGLCC's part reflects very, very negatively both upon the Center and the GLBT community as a whole.

"I (we) would trust that by informing the community of this (alleged) wretched occurrence, the MGLCC might be encouraged to take an appropriate course of action." *The author/authors names are being withheld for several reasons, but are on file.*

*In all fairness, Family & Friends contacted Raymond, age 27, by telephone on Oct. 14, 2003, at 1:23 p.m. at his home to discuss the allegations made against him.*

When asked if he purchased alcohol for minors, Raymond said, "Not true."

When asked if he had sexual relations with a 16-year old male, Raymond said, "No, it's not true, and the person in question (the alleged victim) is 17, not 16. And, yes, the party was held at his house."

When asked if he was HIV-positive, Raymond answered, "No," and added, "And we didn't have unprotected sex because we didn't have sex. I know the people who are making these accusations and I don't know why they are attacking me like this. One of the people and I have been friends for three years and this started happening and I have no idea what's going on."

On Oct. 14, Raymond told us he resigned from the MGLCC board because, "I've been extremely busy and am about to graduate from college and have no time for extracurricular activities."

*This, of course, brings us to the interview of Piechowski on Sept. 15, regarding the above mentioned allegations. (Note: this meeting took place in the office of MGLCC attorney Susan Mackenzie with the following people present, Mackenzie, Piechowski, Heidi Williams (MGLCC vice president), Anita Moyt (F&F managing editor), Patricia Pair (F&F publisher) and Family & Friends attorney, Joseph Ozment. The meeting also was recorded on audio tape. During the course of our interview of Piechowski, he told us that Raymond had resigned from the board two days earlier.)*

**PIECHOWSKI:** On July 13, Raymond was elected to the Community Center board of directors, that was a Sunday afternoon. Six days later, on July 19, we (the MGLCC board) had planned a board of directors retreat. Friday evening, the night before the board of directors retreat, a group of kids came to me with this concern. ... The following Friday (July 18) two groups from the Motley Blue approached me. The first group came in with the (alleged) victim and three informants. The three informants were livid and out for blood and they recounted to me what Raymond had (allegedly) done. They told me that he had (allegedly) bought alcohol for teens and had (allegedly) had sex-

ual relations with the (alleged) victim, who was sitting there.

**FAMILY & FRIENDS:** Did they (the three informants) mention that Raymond had (allegedly) found out he was HIV positive and did not share this with the (alleged) victim?

**PIECHOWSKI:** No they did not. However, I knew Raymond was HIV positive because he had confided that in me several months prior. Okay, I've known Raymond for awhile; he hasn't been on the board but I've known him. He's been going through all that stuff so I've been doing soft-shoulder counseling with him. The (alleged) victim, his tone was very different from the three other informants. His tone was, well, first of all, the three informants were very angry and very hostile; that I needed to do something and I needed to take him off the board immediately. And so I said, "Well, you know, I have to ask some questions because I don't know you and you may be making this up and I certainly don't have enough information yet to make a decision." I said, "Whatever decision I do make is certainly going to make, I promise you is going to be the fairest for, uh, everybody involved." So, I then turned to the (alleged) victim and I said, "How are you doing?" He said, "I'm okay," and I said, "Do your parents know,?" and he said, "Yes." And then he immediately said, "Neither my parents and I want to notify the authorities."

Now, somewhere in there, this idea of HIV was either vocalized or, because I had known him (Raymond), I don't remember, meanwhile all these danger signals are flashing inside me because I know Raymond is positive, and I knew the (alleged) victim. I tested the (alleged) victim on National HIV Testing Day at the Community Center about four weeks prior to that. I guess it's alright (looks at MacKenzie) the (alleged) victim was HIV negative at the time that I had tested him. I then began to talk to him about wanting to test him again. And I asked if I could speak with the (alleged) victim alone because I wanted to really access what was the nature of the behavior that had occurred regarding what the exposure could have been. So the three informants left and I spoke with the child.

*The three informants were identified by Piechowski as a male, a female-to-male transgender and a female.*

*MacKenzie asks if the three informants said when the alleged incident occurred.*

**PIECHOWSKI:** They never said, but I asked him (the alleged victim) when did this happen, and at that point he said it was three weeks ago. And I remember that because what I then said to him was, "We need to wait another week to test you for antibody activity," because I would like four weeks from the potential exposure in case he's in a window period to start showing antibody activity. So, what I told him was, "Can you come to Friends For Life this week and I will test you," and he said, "I can't." He doesn't have a lot of transportation and he works and all that kind-of stuff. I said, "May I bring a test here next Friday night when you come to the MAGY meeting and I'll test you?" And he said, "Okay, that's fine."

As it turned out, he never showed up that night and I never did test him for another two weeks, but we did get a test and again, the test after six weeks since the exposure was negative and I told him he needed to be tested again in three months, etc.

I don't know how specific I need to get in terms of the nature of the behavior because I made a judgement in terms of what I felt was the likelihood of his exposure at that point. I don't know if we need to go there or not. But what I'll do then, is I'm just going to say, after we finished talking and made our arrangements that we were going to test him next week, he then left only

**See MGLCC, page 32**



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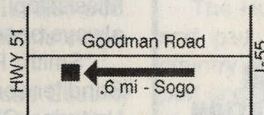
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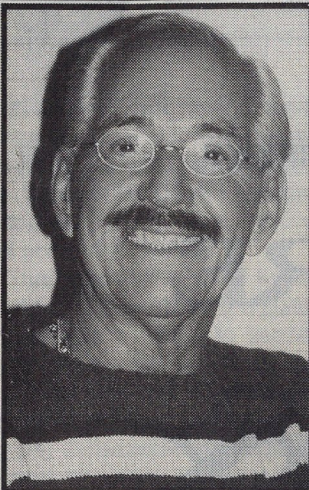


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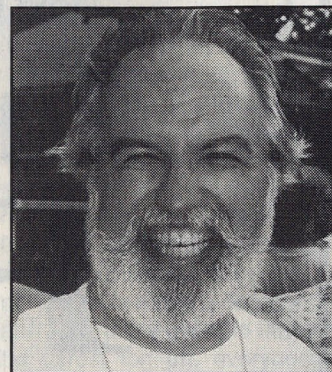
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**Memphis's own Vincent  
Astor to play calliope**

Vincent Astor has been offered a most unusual invitation, but one that he is aptly qualified for.

"I've been engaged by the Memphis Queen Line to fly to Cincinnati to play the calliope on the Island Queen during the Tall Stacks gathering of riverboats," Astor told *Family & Friends* magazine. "I will be on the riverfront playing calliope music from Friday, Oct. 17, through Sunday, Oct. 19.



**Vincent Astor**

There will be 17 vessels on display from the Mississippi Queen and Delta Queen to local excursion boats, many of them stern-wheelers. Tall Stacks is to riverboats what Tall Ships is to sailing vessels."

So how did the event organizers in Cincinnati find Astor, a resident of Memphis?

"It was at one or two of those (Pride River Rides/Cruises) (that) I played the calliope before boarding," Astor said, mentioning the former annual party cruise on the Mississippi River, which took place during each year's Gay Pride celebration. "Captain Dale Lozier remembered me and called me to play for this event."

For more information on Tall Stacks, go online to [www.tall-stacks.com](http://www.tall-stacks.com).

**MS Pride sees 200 attendees**

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Pride in Mississippi was celebrated Sept. 27 in Smith Park in Jackson.

"Mississippi Pride 'Gay Pride' was a big success this year," wrote Eddie Sandifer, director of MS Gay/Lesbian Alliance Inc. in a press release. "More than 200 persons took part. The rainbow flag and rainbow colors were everywhere."

According to Sandifer, song and music were provided on stage by Ms. Laura Summers, Ms. Christy, Ms. Kolby, Ms. Cheney, Ms. Alicia Stone and Ms. Daniell.

Vendors included Safe Harbor Family Church, Pizza Hut, Buds-N-Berries Embroidery, MCC of Jackson, Equality Mississippi, University of Southern Mississippi Gay/Straight Alliance, MS Gay/Lesbian Alliance, Southern AIDS Commission, Camp Sister Spirit, Mississippi Black Gay Pride and "Out" for Dean Mississippi.

Sandifer, who has been interviewed for several books and publications on the history of the gay movement in the state of Mississippi, noted how the organization he is the director of has always been a primary sponsor of gay pride events in the state.

"Smith Park has been used for gay pride since 1976," Sandifer continued. "(However,) Gay pride was celebrated at the Unitarian Church in 1974 and 1975. The MS Gay Alliance was the sponsor from 1974-1985 and (with a updated name) the MS Gay/Lesbian Alliance sponsored it from 1987-1992."

By the way, the MS Gay/Lesbian Alliance, which was chartered in 1972, with the help of the Lambda Legal Defense Fund, will celebrate its 30th anniversary in November 2003.

# Friends For Life plans new fall fundraiser

Friends For Life Corporation will premiere a new three-day fundraising event, "Having A Ball In Fall!," Oct. 24-26.

"Unfortunately, because of increasing numbers of new HIV infections, Friends For Life is growing every day and our annual budget is now \$1.9 million, but only 75 percent is covered by grants and other funding sources," said Butch Valentine, Friends For Life director of fundraising and founder of the event. "A major new fundraising event is definitely needed to help make up the difference."

Here is an overview of the entire weekend.

"The Diva and the Dude," is set for Friday, Oct. 24, at the Brooks Museum of Art, located in Overton Park. This evening of elegant dining, opera and classical piano begins at 6 p.m. with a VIP Champagne reception with piano entertainment by Robert Boozman. Dinner will be served at 7 p.m. in the Dunavant Rotunda. The menu consists of spicy young greens with Dijon vinaigrette and fresh herbs; filet of beef with Shitake bourbon butter; black peppercorn mashed potatoes and Haricot Verts and, for dessert, mocha turtle chocolate cake. The Germantown Symphony String Quartet will compliment the fine dining experience. Lyrico Spinto Soprano Anita Protich of Los Angeles and classical pianist David Troy Francis, a former Memphian now residing in Los Angeles, will offer a presentation of opera and classical piano in the Brooks Auditorium at 8:30 p.m. A coffee reception will end this memorable evening.

Tickets are \$200 per person for the VIP champagne reception, dinner concert and coffee reception; \$150 per person for dinner, concert and coffee reception, and \$100 per person for the concert and coffee reception only. Prepaid reservations are required.

Saturday, Oct. 25, from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., is the premiere of "A Night in Red MasquerAIDS Ball," similar to the High Hats, High Heels Ball of years gone by.

Since the event is the weekend before Halloween, formal wear, street wear and costumes of all sorts are expected ... but in red and with masks. The Tropix and D. J. Skittlebrau will provide the entertainment for the ball, set at The Vine (formerly Fantasia), 1819 Madison Avenue, next to Neil's Bar and Restaurant.

Tickets are \$35 per person in advance or \$40 per person at the door. Complimentary wine, beer and non-alcoholic beverages will be provided. VIP tickets also are available at \$100 per person, and entitle the bearer to a complimentary full bar, delicious buffet and seating in the Overlook Lounge.

"Cabaret at the Cafe" is set for Sunday, Oct. 26, at Cafe Society, 212 North Evergreen. Seatings are available at noon,

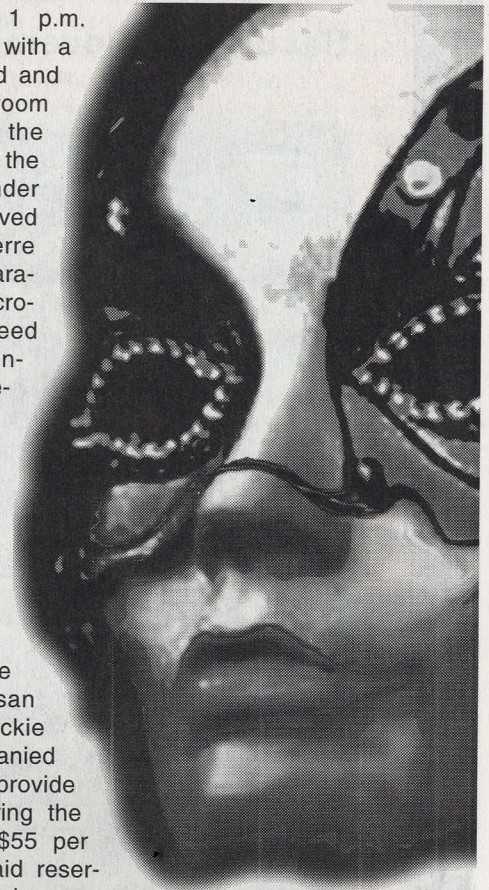
12:30 p.m. and 1 p.m.

The menu starts with a bibb lettuce salad and wild mushroom bisque. For the entree, there is the choice of flounder and crabmeat served with saffron burre blanc, fresh asparagus and risotto croquette or sauteed smoked pork tenderloin with bordelaise sauce and served with potato dauphinaise and apple pear compote. And for dessert, double layer cheese-cake - dark and white chocolates drizzled with creme anglaise. Susan Marshall and Jackie Johnson, accompanied by Nat Kerr, will provide entertainment during the brunch. Cost is \$55 per person and prepaid reservations are required.

Tickets for the MasquerAIDS Ball are available at Friends For Life, 1384 Madison Avenue; Inz & Outz Cards and Gifts, 553 South Cooper; Dabbles Hair Co., 19 North Cooper; Millennium Interiors in the Oak Court Mall, and The White Gardenia, 820 South Cooper.

Tickets for "The Diva and The Dude" and "A Cabaret at the Cafe," are only available at the Friends For Life offices, 2025 Madison Ave.

For reservations or more information, call Valentine at (901) 272-0855 or (901) 606-3316 or email him at ButchFFL@bellsouth.net.



## HRC announces grant recipients, 3 in F&F reader area

On Sept. 26, The Human Rights Campaign announced the recipients of its first round of Equality Fund grants for fiscal year 2004. Twenty-three advocacy groups working for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender equality will receive a total of \$85,500. Three of those organizations are in the *Family & Friends* magazine readership area.

According to an HRC spokesperson, The Arkansas Equality Network will receive \$3,000 to advance safe schools legislation, to organize a series of townhall meetings and to build skills of local activists to lobby Congress to pass safe school legislation.

Georgia Equality will receive \$5,000 to conduct a statewide poll to identify support for an anti-discrimination bill.

And, PROMO (Personal Rights of Missourians) is set to

receive a grant of \$4,000 to advance legislation that will protect all Missourians from discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

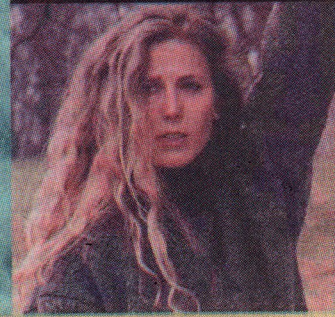
The Human Rights Campaign is the largest national lesbian and gay political organization with members throughout the country. It effectively lobbies Congress, provides campaign support and educates the public to ensure that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Americans can be open, honest and safe at home, at work and in the community.

For more information about HRC, go online to [www.hrc.org](http://www.hrc.org). For more information on The Arkansas Equality Network, go online to [www.arequality.net](http://www.arequality.net), for Georgia Equality, go online to [www.georgiaequality.org](http://www.georgiaequality.org) or for PROMO, go online to [PROMOonline.org](http://PROMOonline.org)

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# DHS issues new rules to airport, law enforcement

According to a Sept. 13 press release from The National Transgender Advocacy Coalition (NTAC), the U.S. government issued new rules in September to airport security and law enforcement agencies, which will impact the transgender community.

According to the agency's Press Release #238, (available at [www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/interapp/press\\_release/press\\_release\\_0238.xml](http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/interapp/press_release/press_release_0238.xml)) intelligence collected globally by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) apparently leads them to believe that soft targets, and more clever approaches, including use of disguise, are considered the next trend in terrorism.

Quoting the DHS alert to the pertinent agencies, "Previous attacks underscore Al-Qaeda's ability to employ suicide bombers – a tactic which can be used against soft targets and VIPs. Terrorists will employ novel methods to artfully conceal suicide devices. Male bombers may dress as females in order to discourage scrutiny."

Soft targets include apartment complexes, hotels, gas stations, shopping malls and restaurants.

For the transgender community, this means that airport screeners and other law enforcement agencies will be much

more vigilant than usual. It also means they may be more likely to commit unwitting abuses. At the minimum, the transgender community should be mindful of the new alerts and prepare accordingly when traveling, especially if flying.

Crossdressers should seriously consider doing any air travel in male garb until reaching their destination. With a focus on soft targets, even more casual pursuits such as shopping or going to restaurants could also potentially draw scrutiny.

Even for those who've transitioned, issues may arise if authorities suspect something. When traveling, it is advisable to consider bringing your court-ordered named (and gender) change papers. While terrorists may make fake identifications, they won't carry name change documents signed and notarized by a court.

In either case, be prepared to openly explain the truth about your transgender status if stopped and questioned by authorities. As frightening as this scenario may appear, hesitation or evasive answers will only draw more intense scrutiny and could

**See DHS, page 54**

# Georgia judge grants trans' request to change name

On Sept. 11, a Georgia state judge granted a Richmond County transgendered woman's request to legally change her name to reflect her gender.

"This is a happy ending to a common barrier that many transgendered people experience," said Greg Nevins, an Atlanta-based senior staff attorney for Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, which represented Vickee Gatliff. "Now, Vickee will be able to write a check, use a credit card and fly on an airplane – all things the rest of us take for granted – without the ordeal she previously faced because she couldn't get identification that matched her gender and her appearance."

When Gatliff, a male-to-female transgendered woman, first requested a name change, a judge denied her application, saying she first needed to undergo complete sex reassignment surgery.

Established medical guidelines say that people seeking sex

reassignment surgery should live fully as a member of the gender to which they are transitioning. The law allows people to change their names unless there's a reason to suspect that the name change is being requested to commit criminal fraud, according to Lambda Legal.

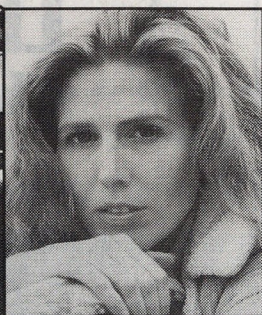
"There is no legal basis for denying name changes like this," Nevins said. "When state judges deny these name changes, transgendered people are put in a double bind – judges say they must have surgery before being granted name changes, and doctors say they have to change names before having surgery."

Lambda Legal is a national organization committed to achieving full recognition of the civil rights of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgendered people, and people with HIV or AIDS through impact litigation, education and public policy work.

For more information, go online to [www.lambdalegal.org](http://www.lambdalegal.org).

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## STRAIGHT UP, BUT NOT STRAIGHT

BY J. SHANE WILSON, MS, NCC, LPCC

Dear Straight Up,

I am a 29-year-old gay, white male. About seven years ago, I pushed the most wonderful man out of my life because I was not ready for a relationship. He was everything I could have wanted. He was loving, attentive to my needs, compassionate – not to mention passionate, and he was always there for me no matter what. I was young, stupid and wanted to “play the field.” Now, I want him back in my life, and hopefully, pick up where we left off.

How do I go about finding him, and when I do find him, what do I say to him. Is there a chance for us?

Ready for Love

Dear Ready Freddie,

You may have a better chance at winning the lottery. However, if you want to find this Mr. Wonderful, try running for public office in the next election!

All too often I hear gay men discuss their regrets of pushing the love of their life away because “they weren’t ready at the time,” and how they wished they had Mr. Magnificent back in their life.

Newsflash, honey! What do you expect us great catches to

do? Are we suppose to sit around and pine over the fact that no matter what we do, you are still going to push us away? Surely, you aren’t asking that of us. I mean, come on ... how many times can you cheat on us, bitch us out, and make bumbling fools of us before we decide we’ve had enough and our efforts to spark that flame are useless.

Part of growing up is learning from our mistakes. Yes, undeniably so, some of our decisions as young gay men return to haunt us. But, as with any decision, there are consequences. And if we are mature enough to make decisions, then equally so, we should be mature enough to accept and cope with the consequences, no matter what they are.

I say use this experience as a learning tool. And when you meet another wonderful man who truly exhibits genuine love, concern and care for you, dig your claws into that hunk of man, and ride the wave into the morning hours of sweaty bliss, but don’t forget to give him your number!

...

Dear Straight Up:

I’m a lesbian who’s kind of shy and I find that it’s difficult to become friends with other lesbians because they seem to be so cliquish. Any advice on how to break into their circles?

Walking on Broken Glass

Dear Glass Slippers:

If you already find it difficult to make friends in the lesbian community because you feel they are too “cliquish,” then why bother trying to be a part of that circle? I mean if it is that distasteful to you, then find a group of friends that are not so shallow and mingle! And leave those “Cliquesters” be. Chances are, if they are as cliquish as you have portrayed, you wouldn’t truly be accepted and end up with your feelings hurt or feeling betrayed.

Try joining a bowling league or volunteering with some organizations where you can meet other quality individuals (both female and male) and have a blast. Before you know, you will be screaming for some solitude! Stop wasting your time being what others want you to be. Honey, grab your best running shoes and get out!

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.

## Stephen Pair

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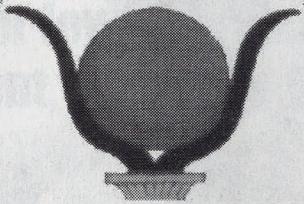
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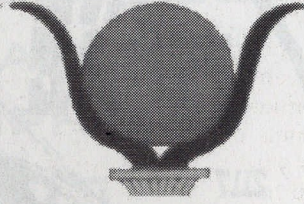
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## THE NOBLE KREWE OF HATHOR 1ST ANNUAL VARIETY SHOW IS A SUCCESS!

The Noble Krewe Of Hathor



I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the individuals who worked so hard to make The Noble Krewe of Hathor's 1st Annual Variety Show the success that it was.

To Tommy Stewart, regardless of what people say, I think the world of you. Thanks so much for giving back to the community.

To Lee, who hosted the show, thumbs up! You work great under pressure.

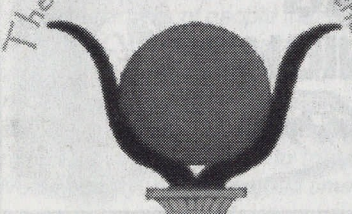
To all the performers, Leslie, Sonoma, Victoria, Laura Lee Love, Norma Lee Knott, Geraldine and Lynn, you were terrific. Scarlett, thanks ever so much for working with me. To Casey (aka Pool Boy), thanks so much for the performance and for your help in getting the stage together. Very special thanks to Norma Lee Knott for making me laugh when I thought I wasn't going to make it and for all your encouraging comments. Your theatrical performances never cease to amaze me. I meant to do that!

To the bartenders at JWags, you guys rock! To John, the DJ, you did an awesome job!

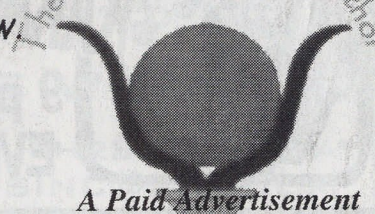
To Robert and Stephanie, thanks for doing a great job and taking a responsible role at the door. Might I say, Robert, you are one hot Egyptian. To Mary and Red, you make great memories.

Last, but definitely not least, thanks to Wade for everything you did to help me make this show fabulous for everyone involved. You went above and beyond the call of duty with all my requests of you and for that I will be eternally grateful.

To all those who came to see the show, your support is greatly appreciated and is the reason it was produced. Thank you so very much!



Looking forward to next year's show!



Sincerely,  
Darren Sanford, President  
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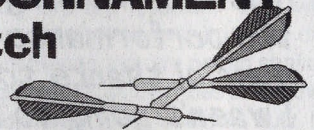
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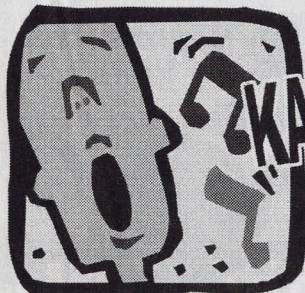
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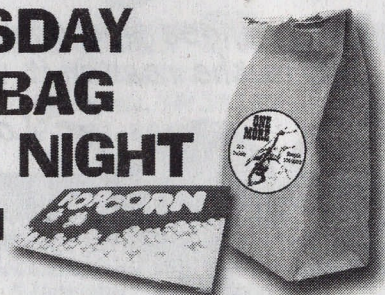
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## FROM THE MAIL ROOM

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## After low attendance at charity event, reader voices concerns

Well, what can I say? I hoped for more than I got. No surprise there. This is Memphis. However, I do apologize for the small crowd. Not sure if it was bad timing on my part or what. I think we did a good job, had fun, and we all slept well that night. Our intentions were two-fold. To raise money for our favorite AIDS charity and to bring a little spirituality back into our community. So, for those organizations/churches that chose not to attend or help, "I'm heartily sorry for having offended Thee." And I thank you for reminding me of the reason I became a Buddhist 12 years ago. I guess actions do speak louder than words.

The families afflicted with HIV/AIDS will appreciate the money we raised. And on that note, a nice portion of my life insurance has been earmarked for Loving Arms, as well as other AIDS charities (even those who bothered not to help).

A list of kind souls who, in some manner, made this benefit happen include, Sharon Wray and Carol for the use of Madison Flame; Debbie at Ace Wigs in the Sierra Nevadas; Sr. Emily of Catholic Supplies, Northern Missouri; Divas Las Vegas; Footwear by Jean Claire, England; Herr Hats, Germany; Prescott Memorial Baptist Church; Curb Records; Memphis Drum Shop; Michael Eddlemon (set design); the entire cast and crew of Allusions Entertainment; her loveliness, Alison Tate; Cats Music; Cavalier Cleaners; Jimmy Gray (master of ceremonies and friend); Mike Lutz ("Ruby"); Sonoma and Victoria from J-Wag's (Tommy Stewart really does hire the best), and XZAVION (better than Al Green).

*Thanks,  
Mikey Einspanjer*

*(Editor's Note: Mikey Einspanjer held an "All-Gospel Drag Show," to benefit Loving Arms, Sept. 14, at the Madison Flame. Einspanjer's benefit show was mentioned in the "Bulletin" in the September issue of Family & Friends magazine.*

*Einspanjer, in a telephone interview with Family & Friends magazine, said the event raised approximately \$300 for Loving Arms and featured local performers lip-syncing gospel songs recorded by such divas as Dolly Parton, Pattie Labelle and Wynonna Judd. About 30 to 40 people attended the Sunday night event. As far as comments about offending the churches/organizations, Einspanjer said, "That's a little humor, that's all." Einspanjer produced the event himself, with some help from others, as indicated above. He said he realized afterwards that one month wasn't enough time to plan for a benefit show. Einspanjer said he had faxed and called several churches and organizations about the event, and even posted it on a couple of websites, however, he was too late to run print ads in either Family & Friends magazine or the Triangle Journal News.*

*"I contacted lots of people that night and the help I got showed up that night," Einspanjer said. "The bottom line to me was when Sheila Tankersley (founder and executive director of Loving Arms) came back to the dressing room and hugged me and thanked me and that was the highlight of the evening. Her smile on her face ... I was happy to (put on the show) for (her smile). (Overall,) everyone had a good time and were dancing around to the music; even those playing pool were watching the stage."*

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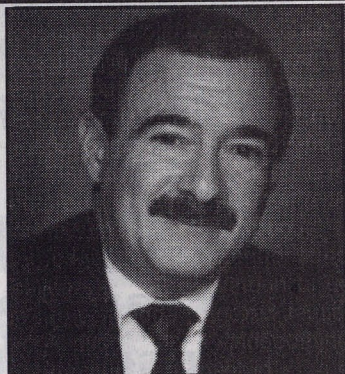
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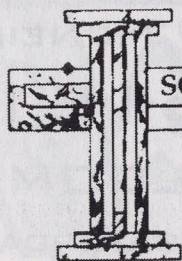
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Steve Solomon

*Thanks!*

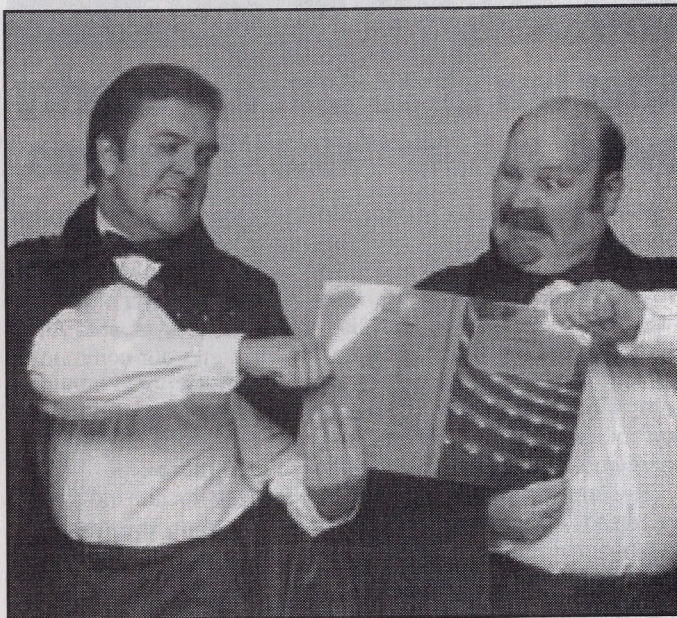


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**Lend Me A Tenor**



John Moore as "Max" and Keith Salter as "Tito" are the two tenors in Ken Ludwig's howlingly funny farce *Lend Me A Tenor*, on the Lohrey Stage at Theatre Memphis Oct. 24 - Nov. 9. *Lend Me A Tenor* has everything for non-stop merriment, including mistaken identities, secret connivings, a jealous wife, a bungling assistant and a singing bellboy. The cast also includes Lyric Peters and Tracie Hanson.

Photo by Steve Roberts

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## Lesbians, bisexual women sought for UofM study

Researchers at The University of Memphis are asking lesbian, bisexual, women-loving-women or transgender women who are or have been in a same-sex relationship to complete two surveys that will generate an appreciation of the complexity of same-sex relationships and gender expression. This research team is GLBT-positive and interested in furthing an understanding of the representative experiences of women's diversity in sexual and gender orientation for advocacy purposes.

Each survey takes approximately 30 to 45 minutes to complete.

The Gender Expression Survey/Study explores how participants (regardless of their relationship status) experience their gender and how it influences factors such as social support and discrimination.

The Same-Sex Relationship Survey/Study explores how participants experience same-sex relationships. You must be in a relationship that has lasted at least six months to participate in this study. Surveys are online at [www.psychdata.net/users/4218survey.asp](http://www.psychdata.net/users/4218survey.asp).

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## Meet Your Neighbor

Jo Neeson



**Name:** Jo Neeson

**Place where you were born:** Denver, Colorado

**How long have you lived in Memphis:** 7 and a half years

**Partnership status:** happily single

**Sexual orientation:** lesbian

**Occupation:** contractor

**Hobbies:** golf, reading, shooting pool, drinking beer and chasing women, not necessarily in that order.

**Favorite Food:** steak

**Favorite Color:** any shade of green

**Favorite Animal:** my dog, Jack

**Favorite Singer:** Jimmy Buffet

**Favorite Song:** "Mack The Knife"

**Favorite Movie:** *Pretty Woman*

**Favorite Restaurant:** Sidestreet

**Favorite Drink:** Bud Light

**Favorite Thing About Memphis:** the music

**Least Favorite Thing About Memphis:** Everybody's been here forever, there is no new blood.

**Finish this phrase:** My friends think I am "fun."

## POTS to stage *Macbeth*

Playhouse on the Square, 51 South Cooper, brings the Thane of Cawdor into the 21st century with its fast and furious interpretation of the Shakespeare classic and epic war drama, *Macbeth*, now through Oct. 26. Drew Fracher directs this production, which features David Engle as Macbeth and Angela Groeschen as Lady Macbeth. The cast also includes Kyle Barnette, Michael Detroit, Michael Ingersoll, Jonathon Lamer, Dave Landis and Courtney Oliver. Showtimes are Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$26 for adults; \$18 for seniors; \$16 for students and military personnel and \$12 for children. For more information or to make reservations, call (901) 726-4656 or go online to [www.playhouseonthesquare.org](http://www.playhouseonthesquare.org).

## *La Boheme* on stage at Orpheum

*La Boheme*, the story of Mimi and Rodolpho, ill-fated lovers, whose romance is mirrored in comic fashion by their friends Musetta and Marcello, is on stage at The Orpheum Theatre, 203 South Main, Saturday, Oct. 18, at 8 p.m. and Tuesday, Oct. 21, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets, which range from \$20 to \$70 each, are available at all TicketMaster locations or at Opera Memphis's offices at 6745 Wolf River Parkway at Kirby Road, online at [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com) or [www.operamemphis.org](http://www.operamemphis.org), or by calling (901) 257-3100.

## TM to stage *Lend Me A Tenor*

*Lend Me A Tenor*, the howlingly funny farce by playwright Ken Ludwig, will be staged on the Lohrey Stage at Theatre Memphis, 630 Perkins Extended, Oct. 24 through Nov. 9. Set in the world of professional opera, this wildly energetic comedy mixes celebrity worship, backstage maneuverings and mistaken identities to tell the story of a simple guy who rises to the top! Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays; 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and 2 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$20 for adults; \$12 for children (ages 12-18) and students with a valid college ID card, and \$8 for children under 12. A special \$5 discount is available for any adult ticket purchased for performances on Oct. 24-30. For reservations or more information, call the Theatre Memphis Box Office at (901) 682-8323.

## Mississippi tale produced

Playwright's Forum presents *Cymbals and Sounding Brass* now through Oct. 25 at Theatreworks, located at 2085 Monroe Avenue behind Overton Square. Penned by Memphian Billy Pullen and directed by Pete Montgomery, *Cymbals and Sounding Brass* is a Mississippi tale of love, lies and a riding lawn mower and all that goes on at the small town wake for Buster Freeman. Showtimes are Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10 each. For reservations, call (901) 725-2040.

## Dark comedy slated by ETC

Emerald Theatre Company will present *The Western Park Album*, a dark comedy written by Playwrights Forum Co-Founder Howell Pearre and directed by ETC Co-Artistic Director Hal Harmon, on Fridays and Saturdays, Nov. 14-15 and 21-22, at 8 p.m. and on Sundays, Nov. 16 & 23, at 2 p.m., at Theatreworks, located at 2085 Monroe Avenue, behind Overton Square. *The Western Park Album* treats the audience to a night

of stories about the lives of more than 25 characters who live in Western Park, Tenn. Tickets, which are \$10 general admission, can be reserved by calling (901) 722-9302.

## UofM to produce *Twelfth Night*

The University of Memphis Department of Theatre & Dance will stage William Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* Friday and Saturday, Oct. 31 & Nov. 1, and Monday to Saturday, Nov. 3 to 8. A ship wreck, cross-dressing and a world tinged with loss, *Twelfth Night* is a moving comedy which explores the lengths we will go to in pursuit of our heart's desire. All shows are at 8 p.m. Tickets, which are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students and seniors, are available by calling (901) 678-2576.

## UofM to stage dance concert

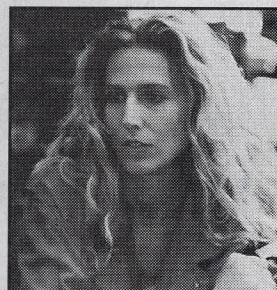
The University of Memphis Department of Theatre & Dance will present "Endangered Species," a dance concert, Thursday through Saturday, Nov. 20 to 22, at 8 p.m. A high energy celebration of dynamic young dancers and cutting edge choreographers offers a wide variety of modern dance, full of colors and flavors. Tickets, which are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students and seniors are available by calling (901) 678-2576.

## Sophie B. Hawkins

from page 9

F&F: Do you plan or go with the flow?

Hawkins: I do both. I plan so much that I have to let go and go with the flow. ... I have to plan because I won't be able to do anything. I am extremely willful and as a human being I have to go with the flow. I have gotten good (at) focusing for a certain amount of time and then letting go and go to the next level. But, I am not neurotic.



Sophie B. Hawkins

One of the most important things is not to do anything. Like go to the park and walk with my dog. That's something I have learned. ... What is most important is creating a world full of love. It is important to be part of humanity and do things.

Although Hawkins told *Family & Friends*, "I never discuss my personal relationships in the press," she at least has hinted at it in a couple of other published articles in the past.

"I've never been ashamed of living with a woman," Hawkins was quoted as saying in the October 2000 issue of *Girlfriends* magazine. "I've never been ashamed of being with a man, except I've only had one serious relationship with a man, and that's not in the present. I don't have a traditional viewpoint. And there's no way that I could get up and say I'm a lesbian. I've never felt like a lesbian. I've never lived like a lesbian. But I have no problem getting up and saying I live with a woman, I'm passionately, madly in love. Committed."

Tickets to see Hawkins are \$37 each, and are available by calling the GPAC box office at (901) 757-7256. Tickets are also available by calling New Era Tickets toll-free at (877) 698-4974 or going online to [neweratickets.com](http://neweratickets.com). New Era Tickets charges a \$3 service fee.

## FROM THE MAIL ROOM

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

This letter comes to thank all the wonderful people who attended the 10th Anniversary Celebration at Camp Sister Spirit on Sept. 21. About 40 folks came bearing covered dishes, their families and good wishes.

Much has changed since 1993, when shots were being fired around our heads, dead dogs left on the mail box and bomb threats being sent through the mail. Gone now are the FBI agents, the community service relations people sent by then Attorney General Janet Reno. Gone now are the hate-filled stares of people in the tiny town of Ovett, Miss., and the lack of cooperation by the Jones county sheriff. Gone, too, are the fears that Camp Sister Spirit would in some way damage this town.

Today, Camp Sister Spirit proudly calls many in Ovett, friends. Many of the clergy know if we can help in the community, we will, whether it is an emergency food box, clothing, school supplies, or fund raiser etc. for neighbors in need. Today, things have come full circle. Today, we have warm and friendly neighbors who come by often to volunteer. We have good relations with the fire department, neighborhood grocery and other businesses in the area.

What does the future hold? I hope more of the same. Groups from family reunions to church youth groups, board meetings to club camp outs, USM students and some from Ole Miss. We make Camp Sister Spirit available at VERY reasonable rates whether for groups or individuals. We have small cabins, bunkhouse, RV/tent sites and much more. Please go to our web site ([www.campsisterspirit.com](http://www.campsisterspirit.com)) and see what a wonderful sanctuary we have built in the piney woods of Jones County!

*In Sisterspirit, Brenda Henson, sisterspir@aol.com*

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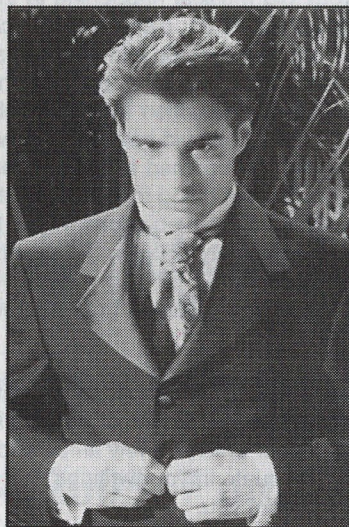
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## FROM THE FRONT ROW BY KEVIN SHAW

There is a pretty big musical happening in the Mid-South now through Oct. 31. *Clue: The Musical* is its name and I am the director and choreographer for the show. My editor suggested we do a story on the show just as we would on any other production that we might cover. I explained to her that this meant I would have to sit down with myself and "interview" myself. She seemed to support this idea and so I am now left with the task of doing to myself what I normally do with other people. (Not that I haven't done things to myself before, but not in such a public way ... okay, maybe just a few times, but I've never been caught.)

F&F: Well, Mr. Shaw ... By the way, is it okay if I call you Mr. Shaw?

Me: Yes, I prefer it.

F&F: Well, let me start off by saying it's truly an honor and a privilege to get to talk to you. I've always been a big fan of your work.

Me: Why, thank you. I've read your articles a few times and I must say that you're splendidly adequate in your writings.

F&F: That means a lot coming from you.

Me: Before we get to the topic of me, though, I'd like to point out that the picture you use in the upper left hand corner of this article, is perhaps one of the worst pictures of you I've ever seen. Are you aware of that?

F&F: Yes, I'm aware of it.

Me: You look more like a lesbian than a man, bordering on androgyny. Almost like the Pat character from "Saturday Night Live."

F&F: Yes, I know. It's not the look I was going for, but the picture was taken more than 10 years ago and I was trying to look "smart" with those glasses.

Me: So, you don't wear glasses?

F&F: No, I was just trying to look smart.

Me: You failed. Miserable. If you ever want to get laid again, I'd suggest finding a new picture.

F&F: Thanks for that public word of support. Can we now get to you and the show you have coming up?

Me: Certainly, although I don't want this to be all about me.

F&F: I understand. Running every Saturday in the month of October is *Clue: The Musical* at The Millennium Theatre at Gold Strike Casino in Tunica. Tell me, how did this show come about?

Me: Well, about six months ago, I got a call from Gold Strike Casino asking me if I could put together a murder mystery dinner experience for some of their VIPs. It was a rather small-scale production that really impressed the executives and the VIPs. Immediately after that, they contacted me about putting together a full-fledged musical in their larger theater, The Millennium Theatre, for the month of October. They knew they wanted some type of audience interaction show similar to the murder mystery production, but they didn't know what. I started thinking about shows that might have some name recognition, as well as providing some interaction for the audience. I was talking this over with a friend of mine and she said, "I wonder if there is some version of *Clue*, like the movie?" I ran to my computer and found *Clue: The Musical*! I did some fast research on the show and discovered that it was a hit Off-Broadway in New York and that many theaters across the country were picking it up for their seasons. I immediately obtained the rights and the show will be making its Mid-South premiere.

F&F: That was a rather long-winded explanation. In fewer words, would you say this is the first "book musical" to ever be done at one of the casinos in Tunica?



*Clue: The Musical* characters are, from left, Mr. Green, The Detective, Mrs. Peabody, Colonel Mustard, Mr. Boddy, Mrs. White, Professor Plum and Miss Scarlett.

Me: Uh huh.

F&F: Nicely done. Tell me about the audience interaction aspect of this show.

Me: Well, the show plays out just like the board game (it's really not at all like the movie, though). Before the show each night, a murderer, weapon and room card are drawn and placed in the confidential envelope. Based on these cards, the musical is presented in a way that reveals clues about these selected items.

F&F: So every show is different?

Me: Yes, there are six suspects, six weapons and six rooms. Therefore, there are 216 possible outcomes each night. The audience will be given ballots before each production and they are to play along with the show. At the end of each performance the audience will submit their ballots and winners will be drawn each night. Lots and lots of money will be given away after each performance. The neat thing is that if you don't win the first time, you can come back and see the show again and play again.

F&F: Wow! What a neat idea. So, it's a musical, right?

Me: Yes, *Clue: The Musical* is a musical. You have to wake up pretty early in the morning to pull one over on you. ...

F&F: Tell me about the cast: Will gays/lesbians enjoy this show?

Me: Yes, the gay crowd will love it. It's very corny and full of over-the-top performances. Tommy Clifton (one of the gals in *Pageant*) is playing Mrs. White (he just refuses to go onstage in men's clothes); Kim Justis (*Parallel Lives: The Kathy and Mo Show*) plays Mrs. Peacock; Kent Fleshman (*Bat Boy: The Musical*) plays Mr. Green; Billy Pullen (local playwright) plays Professor Plum and Lisa Bryant (newcomer to Memphis) plays the sexy vixen, Miss Scarlett. Rounding out the cast are Michael Gravois (*Love, Valor, Compassion*) as the narrator of the show, Mr. Boddy, and a new character, the Detective, will be brought in and played by that acting novice Ann Marie Hall (*Nunsense*, among many others).

F&F: Wow! This is probably one of the best casts I've heard about in a long time.

Me: They'd be nothing without me. The show runs every Saturday night in the month of October at 8 p.m. The last show will be presented at 9 p.m. on Halloween, Friday, Oct. 31. Tickets are absolutely free (first come, first serve) and no one under the age of 21 will be allowed to attend. The show only runs about an hour in length and I'm certain you'll have a ball playing the game

**See Front Row, page 54**

"It's A Girl Thing"

... *Memphis Style!*

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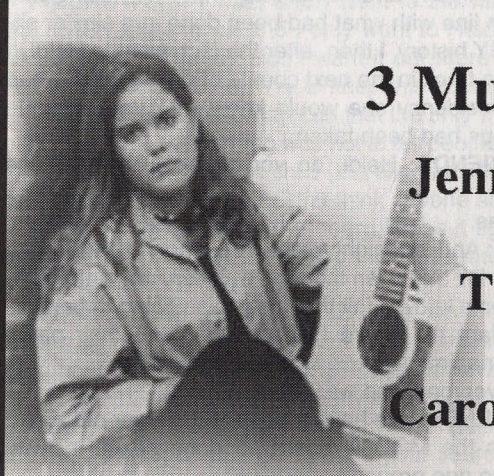
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to return about 20 minutes later with informants four, five, six, seven and eight, a completely different group of kids, also from the Motley Blue.

These kids were very, their tones were completely different from the first group. The second group asked me, "Please, we know what so and so and so are trying to do. They're trying to get even with Raymond for some stuff that's been going on. Raymond is a wonderful person, we love him. He did a stupid thing but he has a lot of talent and we don't want you to take him off the board of directors."

And the (alleged) victim was there again, okay? And the (alleged) victim's tone was consistent with the tone he had in the first group. And he acknowledged that informants one, two and three were out for blood and were being vindictive. Again he stressed to me that neither he nor his parents wanted to inform the authorities. I said to them I didn't know what I was going to do but because the child wanted this to be, and the parents wanted this to be as private as possible. I immediately said to them, "I know this is like spitting in the wind, and I know since obviously a lot of the Motley Blue people know about this I'm still going to ask you try to keep it contained. Don't let this out anymore than what it is already." And I said, "I'm not sure what I'm going to do at this point, I'm certainly going to talk to Raymond to find out what his side of the story is and so on and so forth, and then I will make a decision, that to me seems to be the best decision."

*At this point, Piechowski indicates that he talked with Raymond that evening, July 18, but the context of their conversation is considered confidential and, therefore, off the record.*

**PIECHOWSKI:** I just don't want to hurt anybody -- after my discussion with Raymond, I determined that my course of action I was going to take the following morning at the retreat, had to be altered considerably. What I had decided, ... I told him (Raymond), that I would not permit him to be in charge of the Motley Blue, if the Motley Blue was going to be under the umbrella of the Community Center, and that I would put another director from the board in charge of the youth initiatives.

Now, what I had planned to do on Saturday morning at the retreat ... I had 10 new board members and I had 10 different avenues of responsibility ..., so I was going to make one person in charge of volunteers, another in charge of public relations and marketing (and so on) ... so all these different funnels in the organization were going to be taken care of. One person was going to be appointed director of youth initiatives and given the fact that Raymond had this glowing reputation, ... I tell him he can't, and consequently, "Even if I can't get anybody else, I will take over direction of the youth initiatives. I will keep you on as an advisor because I need to ask questions about the history of the Motley Blue, what has happened before and so on and so forth."

Without getting very specific, alright, it was very firm, my discussion with him, but at the same time, I was trying not to demonize or objectify him and the reason is I've known him for a long time, and this is a thinking, feeling human being that has just found out a few months before that he's HIV positive. There are other things going on, I mean other illnesses, emotional illnesses, with this guy who, he's really struggling, so rather than, our first tendency is to demonize the (alleged) perpetrator, but this is a flesh and blood, feeling human being whom I also had a responsibility to in my estimation. He's fine with that (not being named director of youth initiatives.)

The next day, my whole plan of action is blown because I was going to make this clear cut, you know, and as it turns out, all I did was I shared the 10 job descriptions with various directors and I had said that I was going to talk with everybody this week... Now, the reason I did that was, I was trying to keep things as tightly controlled as I could because I knew the kid, the (alleged) victim, and his parents did not want to press charges.

**FAMILY & FRIENDS:** Did you ever speak to the (alleged) victim's parents yourself?

**PIECHOWSKI:** No, I did not.

**FAMILY & FRIENDS:** Did you share your knowledge of this alleged incident and the information obtained from Raymond with any of the other MGLCC board members?

**PIECHOWSKI:** Two. One other board member aside from Heidi.

**FAMILY & FRIENDS:** Who?

**PIECHOWSKI:** Jon Devin. I went to him because he was one of the founding members of the MAGY organization and I figured this cannot possibly be the first time this has ever happened. I made a conscious decision not to go to the entire board at this point and the reason was that the child (the alleged victim) said that he did not want a lot of fanfare. I felt that keeping this as tightly controlled as I could while going to appropriate people to get advice was the best course of action. So, I went to him (Devin) to get his advice. He went back through his notes from the early days (of MAGY) and he felt that what I was doing was appropriate and in line with what had been done in a similar situation in the MAGY history. I then, after the fact, went to Heidi in case I was hit by a truck in the next couple of days and she had to assume the presidency she would know what my rationale was and what steps had been taken.

**FAMILY & FRIENDS:** Heidi, do you agree with the steps taken by Len?

**WILLIAMS:** Yes.

**PIECHOWSKI:** And last night (Sept. 16), when this went into the public forum, I felt that even though I was very uncomfortable letting a lot of people know, I felt that if this was going to be publicized, I didn't want the board to be caught with their pants down. They are unanimously supportive of my actions.

**WILLIAMS:** Everyone who was there.

**FAMILY & FRIENDS:** We have a possibly 16-year old and a 27-year old, does the MGLCC board condone sexual activity between these two age groups?

**PIECHOWSKI:** Absolutely not.

**FAMILY & FRIENDS:** Does the MGLCC condone the purchase of alcohol for minors?

**PIECHOWSKI:** Of course not.

**FAMILY & FRIENDS:** You kept Raymond on the board with this alleged behavior problem? Do you see nothing wrong with it?

**MACKENZIE:** It (the alleged incident) (reportedly) occurred prior to the (MGLCC) election.

**FAMILY & FRIENDS:** Did you, as the MGLCC president, not feel it was important enough to prefer charges upon Raymond with the rest of the board and to begin an investigation?

**MACKENZIE:** He (Raymond) wasn't a board member at the time the act was (allegedly) committed.

**FAMILY & FRIENDS:** So, that's the legal justification for leaving Raymond on the board?

**PIECHOWSKI:** No, I don't care what the legal justification is. I want you to understand that I certainly weighed all these options very carefully, okay? This was not an arbitrary or capri-

**See, MGLCC, page 33**



scious decision on my part. I wanted to listen very carefully to the (alleged) victim. I wanted to listen to the children in the Motley Blue, I was getting conflicting information from the kids however, one of the originally informants, informant number three, the male, came back to me a few days later and said informant number one and two manipulated him that night and he wanted to let me know he had changed his mind and that he didn't want to see Raymond leave the board.

So, I was trying to pay attention to the kids. I was trying to keep it as tightly controlled as I possibly could and I wanted to honor the (alleged) victim's wishes and the (alleged) victim did not want him (Raymond) to be taken off the board. So, that is what, and also, having soft-shoulder counseled Raymond for all these months, I was trying to preserve some human dignity, as well, Yeah, I did agree it was abominable and all that, okay? At the same time he (Raymond) is still a human being who is struggling with a lot of very serious issues at this time. That was the best course of action as it appeared to me at that time.

**FAMILY & FRIENDS:** Why did you not take it before the full board sooner?

**PIECHOWSKI:** I was trying to keep it as tightly controlled as possible.

**FAMILY & FRIENDS:** So, you were trying to control it?

**PIECHOWSKI:** I was, and I went to the MAGY, the person with MAGY experience and I only went to Heidi because she is the successor. The kid didn't want it out there and that's why I said to the Motley Blue, "Try to keep this controlled."

**WILLIAMS:** I agreed with Len that the only way for people not to find out about something was not to tell people, and the biggest concern I had was for the child (the alleged victim) and he didn't want anyone to know so I didn't think anyone should be told.

**FAMILY & FRIENDS:** The board keeps it tightly contained, I mean, the board is not supposed to discuss matters outside of a closed session, correct?

**PIECHOWSKI:** How many boards have you served on? Human beings are human beings and I certainly expect a professional confidentiality from my board, however, um, you know as well as I do, how our community is, okay, so realistically I had to keep it very contained. ... I've also counseled the informants and there's a lot of stuff going on, if your sources are the same as informants one and two.

*At this point, Family & Friends tells Piechowski that according to our sources, the alleged victim had reportedly not told his parents about the incident as of the Sept. 15 meeting.*

**PIECHOWSKI:** My rationale on the parental thing; my decided impression, and this is a judgement call and people are going to disagree with my judgement any number of times and always have and always will, but in my decided impression, this kid (the alleged victim) was being honest with me. Why I say this is because when I spoke with him one-on-one and asked about specific sexual behaviors, he was very uncomfortable and told me exactly what was happening, or what happened that night, so I had the decided impression this kid was being very truthful and I had no reason to doubt him that he said that his parents knew and that his parents nor him wanted to inform the authorities.

**FAMILY & FRIENDS:** If it had been any other board member other than Raymond, someone you hadn't soft-shoulder counseled, would you have handled it in the same manner?

**PIECHOWSKI:** Given the same set of circumstances, um, let me say it this way, I'm too close to the situation to say that I've

learned something here and would do something differently, that's going to take me a little time. Certainly I can see how someone could have said you should have just demanded his resignation right then and there, I can understand that and I certainly contemplated that, but given the situations I was being given, what the children were telling me and my past experience with Raymond, demanding a resignation of a board member six days after the election would have raised a lot of flags and attention to the situation. So, I have got to say, given the same set of situations, uh, circumstances, I would have done the same thing. Now maybe another two or three months, after having some distance from this, I'd be able to say, well, I made a mistake and I would have handled it different, but I'm too close to that right now to be able to honestly say that.

All I can say, is you can disagree with my judgement all you want, and I know that I'm in a position in this community where people are going to second guess me – Monday morning quarterback me every step of the way – and I'm ready for that, that's fine. But, based on what the kids told me, and what the (alleged) victim told me, I tried to keep it as hush, hush as I could, so I just beat the shit out of him (Raymond) privately, verbally, because he's a very fragile human being struggling with all kinds of mental disorders.

**FAMILY & FRIENDS:** Has Raymond been professionally diagnosed?

**PIECHOWSKI:** No physician has told me that (diagnosis of mental disorders), he (Raymond) has told me that.

#### **ALLEGATIONS, SET TWO**

*On Thursday, Oct. 9, 2003, Family & Friends sat down with Angela Lamb, former MGLCC vice president, treasurer and member-at-large, and Ranetta Jackson, former MGLCC vice president, at which time Lamb presented a letter to the editor to us.*

*Before we get to Lamb's letter, we want to point out that she was elected as an MGLCC board member-at-large in the 2002 elections, a position she later resigned.*

"I didn't re-run as treasurer (in 2002) because of the whole Darren Burns thing," she told us. "I had nothing to hide, but we just felt it would be better if I didn't run as treasurer so I ran as a member-at-large and was elected. I later resigned for 'personal reasons' which included feeling that Herb (Zeman, who was elected MGLCC president in 2002) lacked leadership skills. I just felt like I was banging my head against the wall."

*In addition, at the time of the interview, Lamb also went on record with us as being opposed to selecting the building presently being used by the MGLCC.*

#### **LAMB'S LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

"I would like to make you aware of some wrong doings at the Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center (MGLCC), a local non-profit organization. MGLCC has a fund called the "Benefactor Club." When a person became a Benefactor, they donated their money towards the purchase of a building to be used as a community center for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender populations of Memphis. Since enough money was not raised to outright purchase a large enough building to suit the community center's needs and in a "friendly" neighborhood, it was agreed to lease a building instead. One of the Benefactors purchased the building located at 892 S. Cooper and agreed to lease it to MGLCC for \$1,000 a month. After giving that Benefactor a substantial amount of money for a down payment on the building, MGLCC was never listed as a co-owner of the building.

Monies raised in the Benefactor Fund have (allegedly) been misappropriated. The monies raised were to be used, first

**See, MGLCC, page 55**

# FOR YOUR Kids

## Skies tell story at planetarium

The Sharpe Planetarium, located in the Memphis Pink Palace Museum, 3050 Central Avenue, presents "The Stars of Jade" now through Nov. 23. "The Stars of Jade" examines the stars in Chinese sky lore, including the story of the Weaving Princess and the Herdsman. Showtimes are Saturdays, at noon and 3 p.m., and Sundays at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$4.25 for adults and \$3.75 for seniors and children (ages 3-12). For more information, call (901) 320-6362.

## Preschoolers to enjoy 'Raindrops'

The Lichterman Nature Center, 5992 Quince Road, presents "Raindrops," an hour-long interactive program for preschoolers and their parents on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, from 10 to 11 a.m. On Tuesday, Oct. 21, and again on Wednesday, Oct. 22, the subject of the nature program is "Creatures of the Night;" and on Oct. 28 & 29, the subject is "Costumes and Tales;" on Nov. 4 & 5, the subject is "Fly Away with Me;" on Nov. 11 & 12, the subject is "Rascally Raccoons," and on Nov. 18 & 19, the subject is "Naptime in the Forest." Cost is \$5 for a child and chaperon. Reservations are required by calling (901) 767-7322, ext. 121.

## CMOM to note Mexican holiday

Visit the Art Smart area of the Children's Museum of Memphis, 2525 Central Avenue, on Saturday, Nov. 1, at 11 a.m. and make Mexican paper flowers. And further celebrate the Day of the Dead with La Espiga Bakery at 2 p.m. Admission to the museum is \$7 for adults and \$6 for children (ages 1 to 12) and seniors (62+). For more information, call (901) 458-2678 or go online to cmom.com.

## Mr. Chuck Storytime slated

Mr. Chuck, WKNO children's television personality, will read stories to children, ages three to five, at the East Shelby branch of the Memphis/Shelby County Public Libraries, located at 7200 E. Shelby Drive, on Wednesday, Oct. 22, at 11 a.m. and at the Gaston Park branch, 1040 South Third, on Thursday, Oct. 30, at 10 a.m.

## CMOM to host pottery workshop

On Saturday, Nov. 8, at 11 a.m., children are invited to The Children's Museum of Memphis, 2525 Central Avenue, to learn about Native American pottery and even create their own pottery design as Judith Dierkes tells Native American stories. Admission to the museum is \$7 for adults and \$6 for children (ages 1 to 12) and seniors (62+). For more information, call (901) 458-2678 or go online to cmom.com.

## Old-fashioned fun set at Zoo

The Memphis Zoo invites the public to its Harvest Fest, Saturday, Nov. 8, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Take a step back in time and join the Zoo "down on the farm" for some traditional harvest festivities. Watch artisans demonstrate their unique crafts, play old-fashioned games, hear live bluegrass music, learn about square dancing and enjoy a variety of fun activities. The event is free with regular Zoo admission, which is \$6 for children (ages 2-11); \$9 for seniors (ages 60+) and \$12 for children (ages 12+) and adults. For more information, go online to memphiszoo.org.

## Help children feel safe

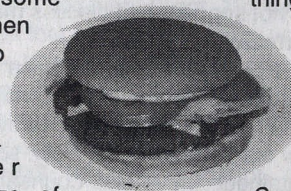
On Saturday, Nov. 1, from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., WKNO and Baptist Pediatric Care will present "Mr. Chuck's Parenting Workshop: Helping Children Feel Secure in an Insecure World." This free event will be held at Oak Elementary School, 3573 Oak Road in Bartlett. Experts will offer important parenting messages on helping children feel safe. P.D. Parrott will be there to entertain the little ones. Child care is offered for children, ages two to 10, at a cost of \$3 per child. Reservations are required by calling WKNO at (901) 458-2521. For more information, go online to www.wkno.org.

## What's a Deez?

By Rodney Ormon, age 11

I had a Deez magnifi- cent, juicy hamburger. Now, if you want some- thing little, then don't go to Deez.

If you want to have a hamburger about the size of



Texas, then Deez is the place. They will put anything you want on it.

(Editor's Note: Deez Big Burgers is located at 1068 South Cooper at Southern.)

## Kids can enjoy non-frightening Halloween event at CMOM

Children can enjoy Halloween without the howls at The Children's Museum of Memphis, 2525 Central Avenue, on Saturday, Oct. 25, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Celebrate with safe, non-frightening activities in the Pumpkin Patch, an interactive learning environment that offers children and their family members excursions through Autumn Atrium, Spider Station, Weird Science Lab and Shadowland.

Visitors to Autumn Atrium weigh and measure different size pumpkins and can use leaf shapes and stamps to decorate their own treat bags. They also help a squirrel puppet search for nuts and seeds in piles of leaves.

In Spider Station, children gaze at a live tarantula and other spiders and then make their own spider craft. They also weave

**See Kids Halloween, page 37**

# American Bar Association supports children's rights

In August, the American Bar Association (ABA), the largest voluntary professional membership association in the world, with more than 410,000 members, went on record as supporting the legal rights of all children in all of America's families. The following resolution was adopted by the ABA House of Delegates: "Resolved, that the American Bar Association supports state and territorial laws and court decisions that permit the establishment of legal parent-child relationships through joint adoptions and second-parent adoptions by unmarried persons who are functioning as a child's parents when such adoptions are in the best interests of the child."

"This is a great day for millions of children who just gained one more important ally in the fight for their most basic right to a legal relationship to both their parents," said Lisa Bennett, director of Human Rights Campaign FamilyNet, the family project of the Human Rights Campaign Foundation. "It reflects a growing consensus among leading medical, psychological and legal organizations that the best interest of children lies in supporting – not undermining – their families."

A proposal for the resolution was prepared and submitted by Mark D. Agrast, chair ABA Section of Individual Rights and Responsibilities; Joel D. Tenenbaum, chair ABA Section of Family Law; Bruce A. Boyer, chair ABA Steering Committee on the Unmet Legal Needs of Children, and Amy B. Johnson and Michael L. Lovitz, co-chairs National Lesbian and Gay Law Association.

"Second-parent adoption (also called co-parent adoption) is a legal procedure that allows an unmarried partner in a family relationship to adopt her or his partner's child without terminat-

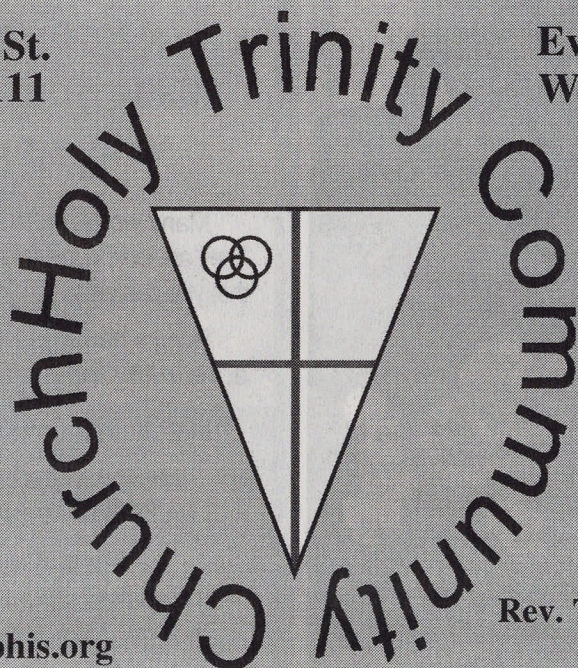
ing the first legal parent's rights," the report read. "Joint adoption is a legal procedure in which both adults in a family relationship simultaneously adopt a child who has no prior legal relationship to either parent. Second-parent and joint adoption protect children in unmarried parent families by giving these children the security of having two legal parents.

"Second-parent and joint adoptions entitle these children to crucial financial benefits," the report continued, "including inheritance rights, wrongful death and other tort damages, Social Security benefits and child support. In many situations, second-parent adoptions also are important to ensure health insurance coverage for the child and to allow both parents to make medical decisions for the child. In addition, second-parent and joint adoptions foster children's emotional and developmental health by recognizing the children's actual relationship to both adults in such families."

The ABA already had several existing policies which promote the best interests of children in families headed by unmarried or same-sex partners. The Uniform Adoption Act (1994), allows second-parent adoptions, with the consent of a minor's custodial parent, in the same circumstances as step-parent adoptions. Another policy supports legislation and public policies which ensure child custody or visitation rights are not denied or restricted on the basis of a parent's sexual orientation. And a 1999 resolution supports legislation and public policies which do not allow sexual orientation to be a factor in consideration of adoption, when the adoption is determined to be in the best interest of the child.

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## PASSIONATE ABOUT PETS BY KATIE HIESTAND

Greetings all! My name is Katie Hiestand and I've been a veterinary technician at Walnut Grove Animal Clinic for the past eight years. I was recently asked to write a monthly column on the health and care of some of our best friends – the furry ones. For this first installment, it was suggested that I address issues concerning grooming. So, with no further adieu ...

Certain breeds require regular grooming. For the most part, they are the smaller breeds, although a few of the larger ones also need regular haircuts. During the warmer months, most owners get "summer cuts," a cut that is short in the style appropriate for the breed. Now that we are moving into the colder months, it is best to go with a longer cut. A common style is a teddy bear cut, which leaves the hair longer to provide some protection from the cold.

The longer hair does necessitate diligent brushing; daily is ideal. Getting your animal used to brushing is important with the higher maintenance breeds. Actually, using a slicker brush on any dog is helpful, as even short hair breeds do well to have dead hair removed and the skin stimulated. Besides, spending some time brushing your pet regularly provides some great bonding time.

When you take your dog in for grooming, always make sure to ask the groomer to check the ears for hair growing in the canals and to pluck any hair growing there. Some dogs grow hair down in their ear canals, which makes ear infections much more likely. The hair holds moisture and dirt in the ear, creating the

perfect environment for bacteria and yeast. Keeping the canals free of hair reduces the risk of infection.

Another thing to keep in mind in regards to preventing ear infections is to always keep the ears dry. If you bathe your dog at home, or if one of his pastimes is swimming, always wash out the canals afterwards with a solution that has a drying agent in it. There are commercial brands you can buy from your veterinarian or a pet store, or you can make your own by mixing 50%/50% white vinegar and water, plus a dash of alcohol as the drying agent.

When you drop your dog off for grooming, or even just for a bath, there are a few other services you should always make sure are included. The ears should be cleaned, the nails trimmed and the anal glands expressed.

Dogs (and cats too) have two anal glands, one on either side of the rectum, which produce a very smelly fluid used for identification in the animal kingdom. Normally the glands are emptied during defecation. It is sort of an "I've been here" type of thing. Some dogs (and much less commonly cats) have a tendency for the glands to fill up and not be emptied properly. During a bath is the perfect time to have those glands expressed. Speaking of the glands, if your dog starts scooting across the floor dragging his/her bottom, the first thing to have checked is the anal glands.

One final note on grooming. At the clinic we are often asked about bathing cats. The only time we ever recommend bathing a

**See Pets, page 37**

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 [www.memphishumane.org](http://www.memphishumane.org)

## Pets

from page 36

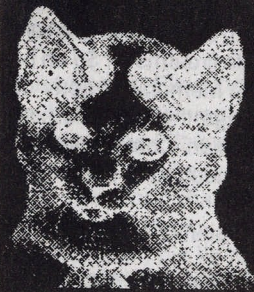
cat is if it has gotten really dirty, especially by something like tar or anything else really difficult to get off. Cats are very fastidious groomers, and will keep themselves clean as far as daily grime. Most cats hate water, and bathing them becomes very stressful for them; often cats must be sedated to do it safely. Even cats with fleas need not be bathed; several flea preventatives available from your veterinarian (Frontline and Advantage being two excellent choices) will kill the fleas and your cat will clean him/herself. Brushing also is a very good idea with cats, especially with medium to long hair felines.

I hope to address issues of concern to you, the reader, so feel free to send any questions or comments to me c/o *Family & Friends Magazine*, P.O. Box 771948, Memphis, TN 38177-1948 or by email to [Familymag@aol.com](mailto:Familymag@aol.com). Have a great month, and remember: dogs have masters, cats have staff.

*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](mailto:FamilyMag@aol.com).*

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## Kids Halloween

from page 34

a spider web and try to maneuver their way through a giant spider web maze without getting "caught."

Conduct experiments with wacky concoctions and magnets in the Weird Science Lab. Children even make their own fizzing "potion."

In Shadowland visitors search for animals of the night, investigate a "bone yard" and make a raccoon mask. Children also explore Cosmic Corridor – a fun, glow-in-the-dark hall.

The cost to visit Pumpkin Patch is \$4 per person. If visitors desire to visit the Children's Museum, as well, admission is \$7 for adults and \$6 for children (ages 1-12) and seniors (62+).

For more information, call (901) 458-2678 or go online to [www.cmom.com](http://www.cmom.com).

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E-mail: [carole.moore-slater@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:carole.moore-slater@vanderbilt.edu)

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

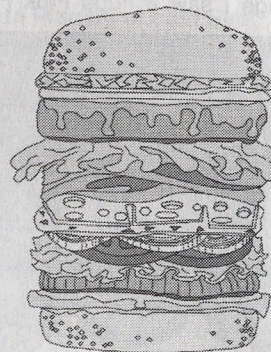
*This office provides information about disability supports and community services available to individuals, families, and agencies in TN.*

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# Local Pink Pistols chapter enjoys shooting

By PATRICIA PAIR, publisher

Size may not matter, but apparently caliber does as evidenced by the Pink Pistols slogan, "Pick on someone your own caliber."

For most folks who aren't familiar with the organization, the first image that comes to mind when they hear "Pink Pistols" is a gaggle of gun-weilding drag queens decked out in long, flowing magenta gowns complete with matching accessories. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Internationally, the Pink Pistols are a 34-chapter organization with presence in 25 states, one province and two countries. In Memphis, the local chapter has just recently been organized.

Founded July 4, 2003, the Memphis chapter of the Pink Pistols is still cutting its proverbial teeth. According to the local chapter's website ([www.pinkpistols.org](http://www.pinkpistols.org)), "Some of us are new to using a gun, some shoot competitively, some are men, some are women, some are single, some are partnered, some are gay, some are straight (but not narrow)."

Want to know what the Pink Pistols really is? Check out the "frequently asked questions" section of the group's website and you'll find the answer: "We are a shooting group that honors diversity and is open to all shooters. We help bring new shooters into the sport and provide a fun, social environment for all our members. We work to build bridges between the shooting community and other communities, such as those based on alternative sexualities."

*Family & Friends* recently sat down with two of the group's founding members, Mickey Brannan and Wayne Hastings, to find out what wearing pink and packing heat have to do with the GLBT community in the Memphis and Mid-South area.

When asked what prompted the men to start a Memphis chapter, Hastings, an interactive website designer, replied, "He (Brannan) has been talking about starting a Memphis chapter (of the Pink Pistols) since I've known him, about two years ago."

"I was working for Impulse and I saw an article about Matthew Shephard in a magazine one night," Brannan, a gay security officer and former Alabama deputy, explained. "When I turned the page I saw a huge Pink Pistols ad with the words 'No more

Matthew Shephards' on it. I read the article on the Pink Pistols and thought it might be something for the community here. I let it stew awhile and we finally founded the Memphis chapter on July 4, 2003, with four members, three men and one woman."

Today, the Memphis chapter of the Pink Pistols has 15 members with a 75-to-25 ratio of men to women. While the growth from four members to 15 seems like a lot, Hastings pointed out that more members are still needed in order to take care of some of the administrative duties of starting a local chapter.

"Just like several other groups in our community here, like the Stonewall Democrats for example, we are having a little trouble locating people who want to get involved with our group." Some members come out to the monthly shoots, but the turn out at the monthly meetings is much less, he added.

While there are some who believe that owning and carrying guns begets violence, there are others who believe that learning to defend oneself, whether it be by knowing how to use and carry a gun or by learning karate, lessens one's chance of becoming a victim of violence.

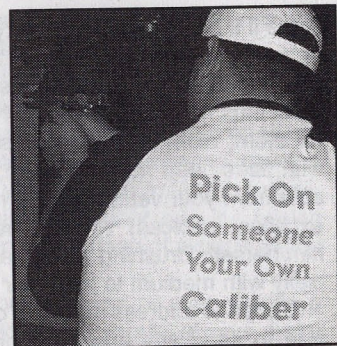
"In deciding to start a Memphis chapter of the Pink Pistols, I thought it might be time to let the (hate crime perpetrator) community know that they need to find another target for their hate crimes besides the GLBT community," Brannan said. "You never know who's willing and capable of defending themselves, armed or un-armed. Being a member of the Pink Pistols isn't just about self-defense, it's also about having fun on the range." In fact, one of Brannan's personal goals, he said, is to eventually begin an anti-violence campaign.

"The goal of the Pink Pistols is to educate its members and members of the community about gun safety, the proper use of guns and to help people who are interested obtain their personal carry license," Hastings added. The Pink Pistols encourages and supports responsible gun ownership in the GLBT community.

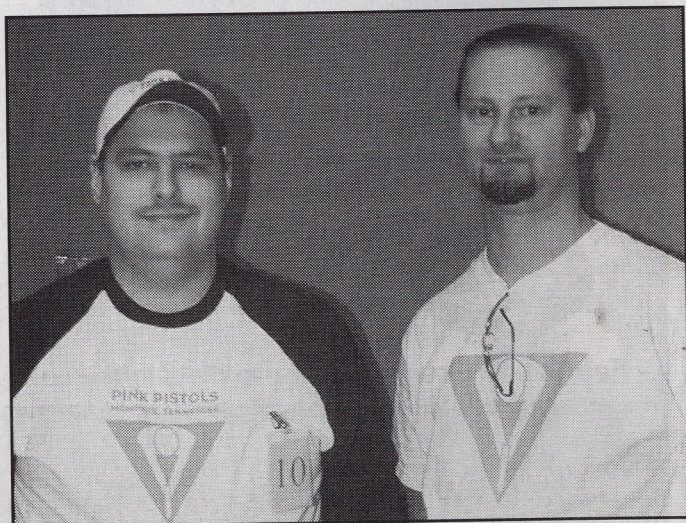
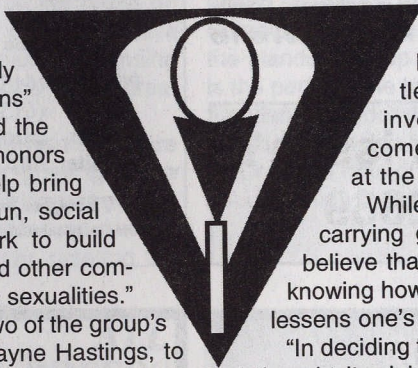
The Memphis chapter of the Pink Pistols holds its monthly shooting events, which are referred to as "target practice," at Range USA, located at 2770 Whitten Road, from 2 to 4 p.m. the fourth Sunday of every month. The next shoot is scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 26. While there is no membership fee or monthly dues in order to belong to the group, the cost for attending the shoots is \$10 for members for one lane or \$15 for two members to share a lane, plus the cost of ammunition, targets and gun rental if you don't own a firearm (Range USA rents firearms for \$5 an hour).

In addition to the monthly shoots, the Memphis chapter of the Pink Pistols also holds monthly meetings the last Thursday of the month at the Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center beginning at 7 p.m. The next monthly meeting is set for 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 30.

"At the present time we're hoping those meetings (the month-



Mickey Brannan at the range.



Mickey Brannan and Wayne Hastings

**See Pink Pistols, page 57**



## QUOTE / UNQUOTE BY REX WOCKNER

"I wanted to be a lesbian, I tried to be a lesbian, I would have been a great lesbian, but, you know, fate would have it, I have to be a heterosexual, which is no f\*\*\*ing picnic."

— **Actress Camryn Manheim on the VH1 program "Totally Gay," Sept. 19.**



Photo by Rex Wockner

"I didn't flaunt things. I know when Tony and I went to the movies, he would say, 'Let's go in disguise.' We always wore baseball caps. Or he'd say, 'You go at a certain time. I'll go later.' I knew people were talking. I didn't like that."

— **1950s screen idol Tab Hunter on his years-long gay relationship with actor Anthony Perkins, to *The New York Times*, Sept. 9.**

"Word has it that none other than Secretary of State Colin Powell is amused and intrigued by the hit Bravo cable show ('Queer Eye for the Straight Guy'). Don't know if we can actually call Powell a closet fan, but a good source reports the nation's chief diplomat TiVo's 'QE' each week – so as not to miss an episode. It is interesting to hear this, considering it was under Powell's watch as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff that they came up with the 'don't ask, don't tell' policy regarding gays in the military."

— **Chicago Sun-Times columnist Bill Zwecker, Aug. 29.**

"Separate is never equal. Civil unions are a step in the right direction. But they almost always offer less than the full roster of rights that marriage entails – and they still stigmatize same-sex relationships as deserving only second-class recognition."

— **Human Rights Watch Executive Director Kenneth Roth, Sept. 4.**

"Now that everything is over with, we're trying to see how it all works out. We have so much more time. The (prize) vacation ... isn't (until March) so we have plenty of time to just let it all settle in and sink in. We'll just take it slowly. Wes lives in San Diego and I live (in Los Angeles). We don't see each other a lot. We talk on the phone. We e-mail. We do see each other when we can. We're trying."

— **"Boy Meets Boy" star James Getzlaff to PlanetOut.com, Sept. 15. Getzlaff selected Wes Culwell from among 14 potential suitors, seven of whom were secretly straight.**

"Some people said, 'It's brave of you to play a gay man.' And I think that's very dated. Don't you?"

— **Actor Hugh Jackman on playing gay songsmith Peter Allen in the Broadway musical *The Boy From Oz*, to *The Advocate*, Sept. 16.**

"Out lesbian Ellen DeGeneres is having fun on her new talk show, but she's coming off completely sexless (unless you count her saying Brad Pitt is perfect and acting a bit smitten with Justin Timberlake). It's like the early days of "Rosie" all over again! I totally understand that Ellen was the world's first pet lesbo – a same-sex guinea pig, in a way – and, as such, she suffered all kinds of disdain, but I'd hoped that by now, she'd be able to sap- phically rise above all that and not do an Anne Heche."

— **Village Voice columnist Michael Musto, Sept. 15.**

"I have never made out with a woman off-camera. I have to admit that I like being paid for it. Does that make me a whore?"

— **Actress Mariel Hemingway on the VH1 program "Totally Gay," Sept. 19.**



Photo by Bob Gordon

"I hope that lesbians are less politically correct than they were 10 years ago. It has its place but is also becomes another kind of prison."

— **Advocate Editorial Director Judy Wieder on the VH1 program "Totally Gay," Sept. 19.**

"Vanessa Redgrave."

— **"Everybody Loves Raymond" actress Doris Roberts when asked backstage at the Emmys, "If you had to kiss another actress, who would it be?"**



Photo by Bob Gordon

"I worked in restaurants for years. ... You know every restaurant has that really kind of snarly, bitchy, nasty queen? Me."

— **British talk-show sensation Graham Norton on "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno," Sept. 23.**

"I've done a lot of sexual exploring – a lot. I'm like a sexual Captain Nemo. But it really hasn't given me anything emotional in the end. In the end, I've felt quite bankrupt. I'm happy about what happened, but I'm really looking for love."

— **Openly gay singer Rufus Wainwright to D.C.'s *MetroWeekly*, Sept. 25.**

"Europeans are so much more open to nudity than Americans, it makes sense to me that Schwarzenegger, as a European, would pose nude and have it be no big deal. Robert did not have sex with Arnold, though. He had sex with a lot of his models, but not with him."

— **Jack Fritscher, ex-lover of the late photographer Robert Mapplethorpe, confirming to PlanetOut.com Sept. 26 that Mapplethorpe did take nude photos of Arnold Schwarzenegger. Fritscher said he has sold some of them on eBay.**

"I get checked out a lot by gay guys now and I feel more comfortable. It makes me feel good. It might sound weird coming from a straight guy, but if gay guys are checking you out, then you know you're good-looking, you know?"

— **John Bargeman of Jersey City, N.J., who was made over by "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy's" Fab Five on the July 29 episode, to the *Union City Reporter*, Sept. 28.**

*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.*

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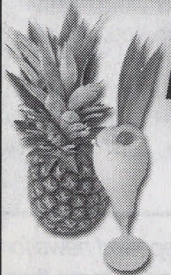
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## HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED ... EDITORIAL BY JIM EASTER

• Why the Bush administration is renegeing on its funding of anti-AIDS programs in Africa?

• Which of the magnolia state's gubernatorial candidates was responsible for all those job losses? The two protagonists have slung enough Mississippi mud in their TV ads to dredge a new channel in the Big Muddy. Tennessee and Arkansas citizens, who cannot vote in Mississippi, together comprise more than one third of the rebel state's population. Neither candidate's ads demonstrate any fiscal responsibility.

• What do John Michael Bailey; Gatti, Keltner, et. al.; Corey B. Trotz; Johnny Cochran, and Eley Parker have in common? They are all practicing attorneys whose ubiquitous TV ads rival those of Ronnie Musgrove and Haley Barbour. At least the two politicians's ads will soon disappear.

• Which of the automobile insurance companies offer the lowest rates for your particular situation? I let my "fingers do the walking" and requested quotes from several of the TV advertisers. Progressive, Safe Auto, Direct, Auto Plan and the Hartford all had higher rates than my insurer. Someone has to pay for those ads. Guess who?

• What cable TV's franchising authority (the mayor) actually does? It obviously has no power or control over Time-Warner's constantly increasing rates.

• If presidential hopeful Joe Lieberman mispronounced a word when describing how the Halliburton Co. wrote specifications and then received the no-bid, sole service contract for certain reconstruction projects in Iraq? He said it was a case of the foxes guarding the foxes while the middle class hens were "getting plucked."

• If "Deep Pockets" George Flinn can defeat Carol Chumney in the run-off election Nov. 13 for the city council district 5 seat? Without the help of defeated contender Jim Strickland, the former Shelby County democratic committee chairman, the outlook is hazy. Flinn will (very likely) bombard us with TV ads as he did last year in his unsuccessful race for county mayor.

• When Veep Dick Cheney, formerly CEO of Halliburton, is going to exercise his stock options in the company?

• Where the seldom silent chronic complainer sits while carrying out her twice monthly duties as a member of the Memphis city school board? Apparently, Sara Lewis won't sit her posterior in the chair provided because she fell out of it once. I've fallen out of chairs, too; but it wasn't the chair that was tipsy.

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# DINING OUT IN THE HEART OF MIDTOWN MEMPHIS

A RESTAURANT REVIEW BY ANITA MOYT

DINING OUT

## For great food, try One Love

Memphis is more and more becoming a city of diversity. And that diversity is seen in the cuisine served up by its hundreds of restaurants, cafes and other food establishments. Strangely, it is often the food that gives us our first glimpse into those diverse cultures.

By a series of events, we found ourselves in the cafe of a very good and dear friend of ours from years past. Her name is Enjeri and over the years she has explored her African heritage and has embraced it.

She is also a vegan, a type of vegetarian who doesn't consume any meat or even dairy products. And, she also has learned, during the years, how to make a most delicious meal without those meat or dairy products. And it is those meals and beverages that she shares with the public

at One Love, located at 2158 Central Avenue (enter the Midtown Food Coop and follow the wonderfully enticing smells to the right).

We have to admit that our first thought when we saw the menu when we first visited One Love was, "Oh, no. I can't eat any of this. It is strange. It is different." Boy, were we wrong.

However, during our first visit we did partake of a couple of smoothies; they seemed safe enough. Out of the 16 plus smoothies on the menu (they will make up what ever combination you so desire), we tried the Orange Dream. We were pleasantly surprised. It was refreshing and tasty, made with orange juice, bananas and almond milk. Thick as milk, the smoothie was a blend of tastes with just the right amount of sweetness - and from natural sources, to boot.

Other smoothies on the menu

See, Dining Out, page 43



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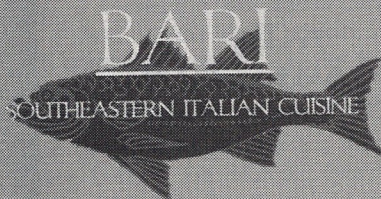
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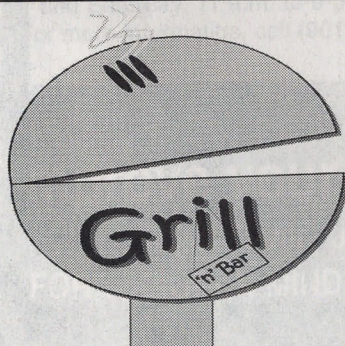
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## Dining Out

from page 41

include Beta Carotene (ginger, almond milk, carrot, banana and maple); Tropic Dream (mango, pineapple, pineapple coconut juice and banana); Red Velvet (pineapple, strawberries, mango and orange juice), and All Berry (strawberries, blueberries, raspberry and apple juice). For those who want something extra, bee pollen, spirulina or protein powder can be added at an nominal cost.

First cousin to the smoothies are the juices made from any combination of carrot, celery, cucumber, spinach, parsley, broccoli, and/or tomato. For the stout of heart, there are green fusions, made with wheatgrass.

Feel a chill coming on? Let Enjeri make you a cup of hot juice or hot tea; Jamaican Brew (pineapple juice, lemon juice, ginger & cayenne), or Sea Moss (sea moss, almond milk, cinnamon leaves, vanilla, nutmeg and maple.)

Yes, some of the foods offered at One Love are different than the foods most of us are accustomed to. But who would have ever thought that pinto beans, greens and cornbread (some of the best in town, no doubt) could be called a vegan meal. Hmmm, I know my mom and dad would have considered that a meal unto itself, vegan or not.

On a recent lunch visit, we tried the BBQ Sunflower sloppy joe, without the bread (trying to watch the carbs, you know). It was different but very tasty. The redness made me think of beets, but that wasn't the case. The crunchy texture blended well with the flavor of the sunflower seeds. It was served with some of the best cole slaw I've eaten in a long time. My partner tried a bowl of the pinto beans and cornbread. Those used to grabbing a salt shaker might want to BYOSS (bring your own salt shaker) as salt is not available on the tables. The Mr. Dash just didn't seem to get the salt taste, and, the beans would have been better without it.

I had to indulge in a bite of the cornbread, as I had read Fredric Koeppl's encouraging comment in *The Commercial Appeal*: "... serves the best slab of dark, nutty, wholesome cornbread ..." And he was totally correct. We were likewise blessed that the cornbread was literally hot from the oven and it didn't even need butter. The cornbread was packed with flavor, a factor Enjeri contributes to the use of whole-grain corn meal.

Other items of interest on the menu include Avocado Pita, sunflower burger, Ra Humas Pita, Mock Tuna, Marinated Portabella, BBQ Tofu Sandwich and Vegan Loaf.

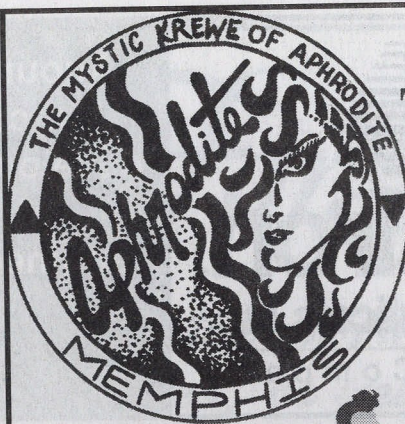
One Love offers a casual atmosphere and is not a fast food diner. Each meal/drink is prepared to order. Take time and relax and enjoy your lunch or dinner. Also, One Love is a no smoking environment.

One Love is open Monday to Thursday, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. For more information, call (901) 722-7878.

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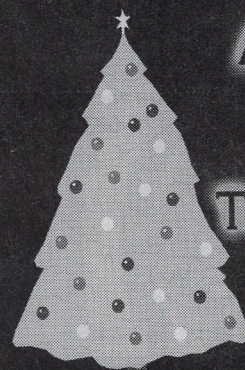


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## HIV/AIDS EDUCATION 101

**Question:** Why is it many people with AIDS have a similar change to their face over time? They appear to have drawn or sunken cheeks.

**Answer:** The condition is known as "facial wasting" or "lipoatrophy." Although it is debated whether lipoatrophy is a condition of HIV/AIDS or a side effect of medication, what happens is there is a loss of fat in the cheeks and temples causing a bony, emaciated appearance.

It should be noted that the wasting condition is not indicative of the degree or stage of HIV/AIDS the individual is diagnosed with. Sometimes, people with facial wasting are incorrectly

assumed to be fatigued and sick, when in fact, they feel fine and go about their daily activities with little or no hindrances from the disease.

However, there is a secondary effect of lipoatrophy – many deal with various psychological issues, such as depression, anxiety, social isolation, reduced confidence, etc., because of the way they see themselves in the mirror or how the world around them reacts to them.

As time has gone on, and more and more has been learned about HIV/AIDS, individuals do not have to be satisfied with the effects of lipatrophy to their face. Plastic surgeons are now applying their skills to overcome the wasting look from the condition and thus improve the client's self-esteem. Various methods are used to "fill out" the cheeks, including injections under the skin, and even cheek implants.

Friends For Life Corporation's Director of Fundraising, Butch Valentine, recently underwent such surgery. Read his story on page 46.



## HIV/AIDS TESTING SITES & INFORMATION

### Memphis & Shelby County Health Department

814 Jefferson Avenue, Room 221  
 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday to Friday  
 Testing conducted on teens, ages 13 and up, without parental consent. HIV Test Cost: FREE  
 For more information, call (901) 544-6808

### Memphis Regional Planned Parenthood

1407 Union Avenue, Third Floor  
 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Thursday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday  
 FREE OraSure testing for ages 13-24  
 Over age 24: \$35 blood test • \$40 OraSure  
 For more information, call (901) 544-6808

### Friends For Life & The Positive Living Center

1384 Madison Avenue / 1000 South Cooper  
 Call Friends For Life for dates and times  
 FREE OraSure • appointments may be required  
 For more information, call (901) 272-0855

### New Directions Inc.

4466 Elvis Presley, Suite #310  
 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday - Friday  
 Appointments Required  
 HIV Test Cost: FREE  
 For more information, call (901) 346-5497

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

## Earvin 'Magic' Johnson to talk about HIV/AIDS

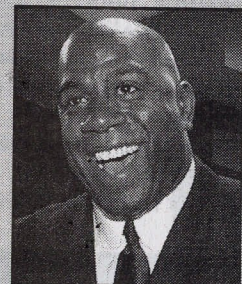
Come hear what Earvin "Magic" Johnson has to say about HIV on Tuesday, Nov. 18, at Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church's Fellowship Hall, 70 North Bellevue Blvd.

Hear how a simple test helped Johnson know his status, protect his family and get the medical care he needed. He will tell his story 12 years after being diagnosed as HIV-positive.

A health fair at the church will be held from 3 to 5 p.m. and a community forum is set from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Light food and beverages will be provided at the health fair.

You must register to reserve seats for this event by calling (888) 212-4684.

For more information, go online to [www.magicand-hiv.com](http://www.magicand-hiv.com).





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# THE MANY FACES OF BUTCH VALENTINE

In an effort to combat the effects of HIV/AIDS, he goes under the knife

By ANITA MOYT, managing editor

A couple of months ago, Butch Valentine, director of fundraising for Friends For Life Corporation, took a deep breath and stepped out into the unknown and did something for himself. He had plastic surgery.

But his surgery wasn't a nose job or eye lift. He is one of the many men and women with HIV/AIDS who are seeking help to overcome the effects of facial wasting, or lipoatrophy.

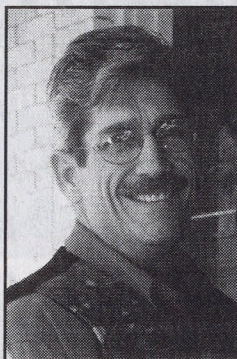
Facial lipoatrophy refers to the loss of subcutaneous fat in the cheeks and temples and causes a bony, emaciated appearance in individuals with HIV/AIDS.

Early on, Valentine feared the stigma of the "look of AIDS."

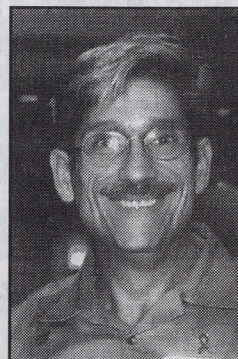
"When I was diagnosed (with HIV/AIDS) 10 years ago," Valentine told *Family & Friends* magazine, "the first thing I thought was, 'Lord, let me die young and pretty' as I never wanted to look like I had AIDS and there I was."

So, after 10 years, what made Valentine seek surgery now?

"When I was sick New Years 2000-2001, I went on a ventilator for eight days ... I lost 30 pounds in 17 days," Valentine said, beginning his recollection. "I lost all my muscle tone. I was a sick puppy. When I came home I saw myself in the mirror for the first time and I was horrified. I couldn't believe what

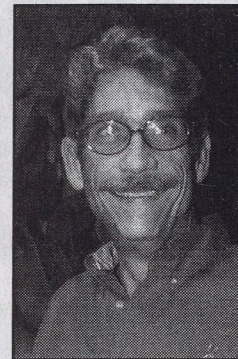


pre-2000



Butch Valentine ...

pre-implant surgery



after implant surgery

I was seeing. Although I was able to eventually gain some weight back, I wasn't able to get back my muscle loss in the temple and cheek area.

"This is a decision I struggled with for several years," Valentine continued. "I did my research. ... I was aware there are injections of collagen, silicone, etc., but they are not permanent ... I couldn't afford to go back every four to six months for touchups. ... Yes, it is a vanity issue and I am not trying to hide that I have AIDS. Lord knows, I am the AIDS poster boy. I just wanted to restore my face to what it was before I got sick. That's what sold it to me - restoration and reconstruction."

Valentine, seeking a more permanent solution, talked with his surgeon in detail about different procedures.


"So, (I) ... went to a plastic surgeon I know, Dr. John Hodges. I wanted to do a fat cell implant, hoping to transplant from my stomach to the area of need on my face. (However, Dr. Hodges said) (m)y defect was too severe for that. Which really bummed me out. But Dr. Hodges did recommend permanent artificial implants. Well, I wasn't thrilled at first. After thinking about it, I figured he knows what he is doing, I don't. I had to rely on his expertise to lead me in the right direction."

Valentine discussed the details of the operation, which cost


**See Butch Valentine, page 49**

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Nov. 29

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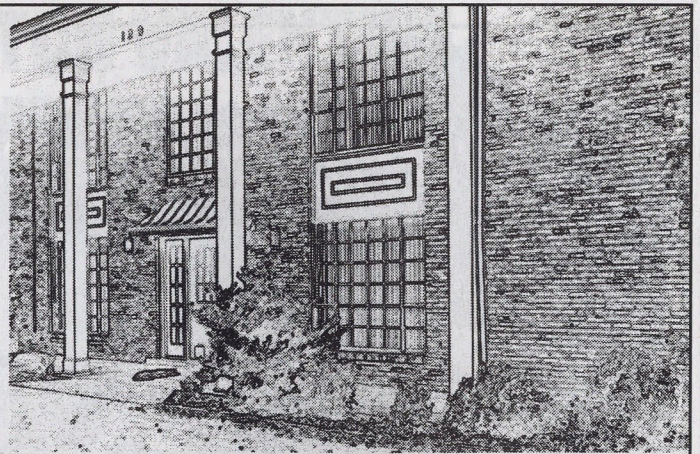
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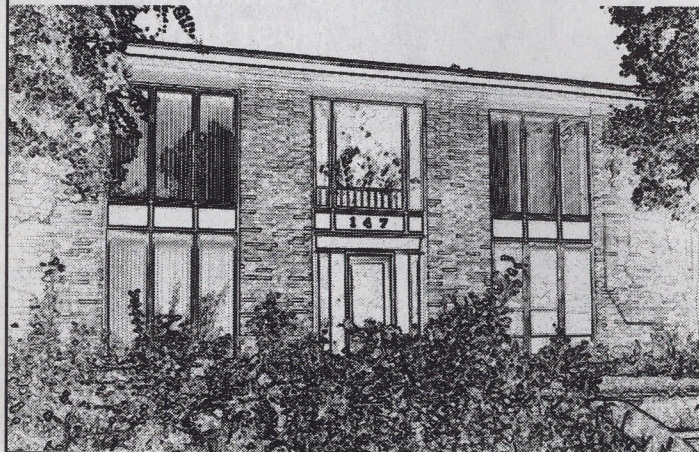
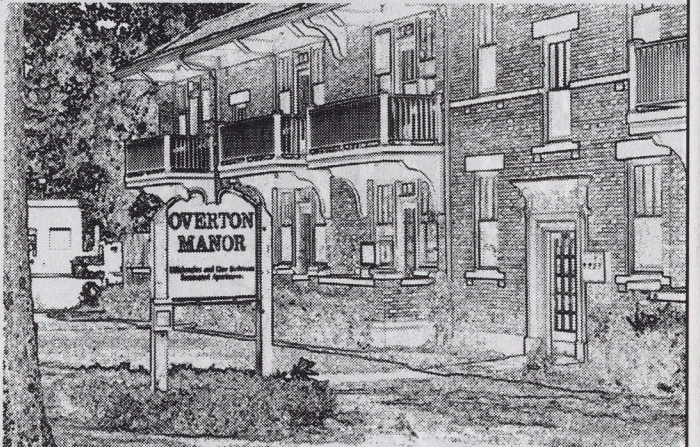
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## Butch Valentine

from page 46

about \$3,000 and was not covered by insurance.

"It was an outpatient procedure under local anesthesia," he explained. "I was asleep and don't remember anything. The procedure lasted about an hour and was done at a surgical center. An incision is made between the gum and the cheek and they make a pocket and place (the implant) in there and stitch it into place. It is made of flexible solid plastic. (My face) was swollen and I nursed it with ice packs. I took a week off from work. I slept in a sitting up position, propped up on the couch. "

So was the surgery worth it?

"It was about a week before I could begin to see the effects of the surgery," Valentine said. "Wow, what a difference. People complimented me, saying, 'You look so healthy ... your hair?' The change was so subtle that those complimenting me weren't sure what they were seeing, but, boy, do I like what I see in the morning!"

Cause a Seen ...  
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## Public invited to attend Calvary concert, lunch

Each Wednesday, at 12:05 p.m., Calvary Episcopal Church, 102 North Second Street, invites the public to its 19th annual concert and luncheon series. Lunch tickets, which are \$6 each, are available at the door. Each concert lasts 30 minutes.

On Oct. 22, Richard Graham and Friends will bring the music of the world, along with wit, wisdom and lots of rhythm. Calvary Chef Emmett Bell will prepare a lunch of beef burgundy over rice. On Oct. 29, Kirk Whalum will make a joyful sound with his sax. Lunch will be barbecue from the Rendezvous.

On Nov. 5, Joyce Cobb will serenade listeners with her own special Memphis-flavored blues and jazz. McEwen's on Monroe will prepare Grits & Grillades for lunch (spicy beef over cheese grits). On Nov. 12, opera star Kallen Esperian will share in a song or two. Salisbury Steak and vegetables will be prepared by Huey's Catering. On Nov. 19, The Navy Band Mid-South will entertain and the Peabody's new restaurant, Capriccio, will prepare a lunch of Penne y Pollo and freshly baked breads.

For more information, call (901) 525-6602 or log onto [www.calvaryjc.org](http://www.calvaryjc.org).

Avoid the holiday  
shopping madness ...

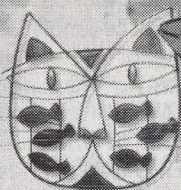
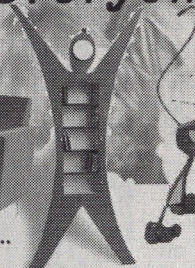
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**Alien Ant Farm**  
*Truant* (☆☆☆)

*Truant* is the follow up to Alien Ant Farm's debut album, which yielded the hit single "Smooth Criminal." "Smooth Criminal" was a remake of a moderately successful Michael Jackson song. I'm sure we all remember the unique, fun Alien Ant Farm version with the sing-a-long chorus and their music video. But there is always something suspect about a band whose only hit single is a cover of a hugely successful artist. I mean how hard is it to play a catchy melody, with great movement, and a killer chorus when it was written by an extremely talented song writer? And, it always leaves me wondering why the band didn't choose something they wrote as their first single.

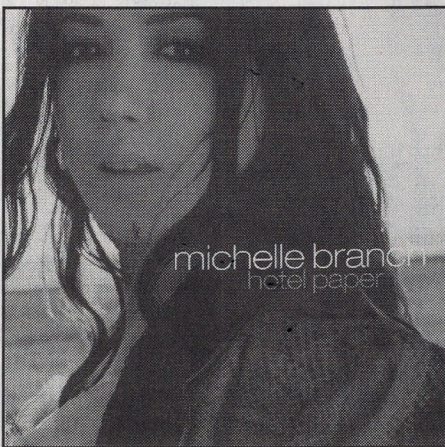
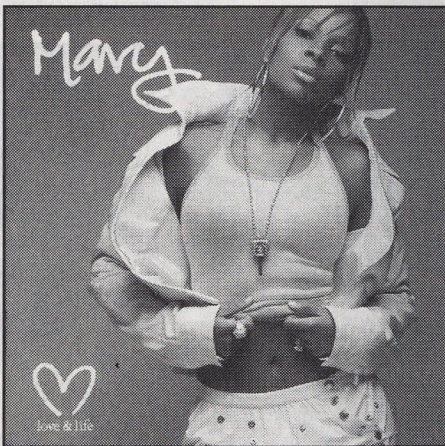
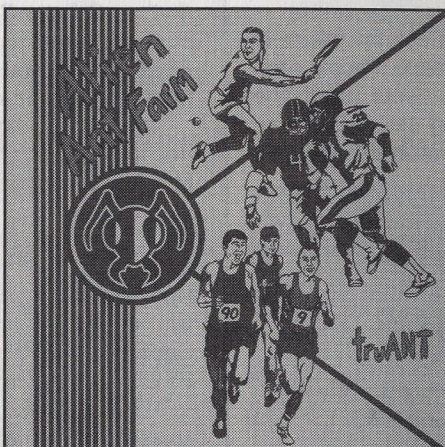
Well, after listening to *Truant* several times through, I know the answer to that question. These guys aren't exactly the greatest tune-smiths. Though I have to admit the line, "I'll be the fuse she blows," from the song "Glow" is fun in a mind-in-the-gutter, perverted sort of way. Much of the lyrical content seems grounded in the albums high school motif. Even the liner notes are made to look like graded essays or something. And I honestly think the band put too many A's and A+'s at the top of their papers. Lyrically, this is low-C material at best. It lacks in creativity. It doesn't tell any stories or involve the listener. And it isn't particularly good for singing along with either. Just about every other mid-tempo, pop-mixed-with-punk band has recorded these same type of songs and done a better job of it (like Jimmy Eat World, for example).

*Truant* also fails to break any new ground musically. It's the same guitar-driven light punk that has been dominating the airwaves of late. Which isn't to say that these guys can't play. As we saw on or heard on "Smooth Criminal" they have a heck of a bass player and the guitarist can really rock. On the song "Never Meant" guitarist Terence Corso hits an almost U2 or Police jangle vibe. And, the trump and hints of jazz on "Never Meant" are an interesting interlude, but singer Dryden Vera Mitchell's voice really doesn't lend itself to the slowed down moments, so it is understandable that the band tends to stick with the faster stuff.

The only really tight Top 40 song on the album has to be "These Days," which is featured in the new Madden 2004 video game (Madden rocks). Anyway, "These

Days" is a really fun sing-a-long song, much like "Smooth Criminal." And, interestingly enough, this song is also guaranteed to annoy you after the 10th time you've heard it (just like "Smooth Criminal," if I hear that song again I'm going to snap).

Personally, I just don't get the vibe of this record, but maybe I'm, missing some-



thing. It isn't a bad record, but it honestly annoys me. If you own their last record and really liked it, odds are you'll like this one, too, but otherwise, I wouldn't recommend rushing out to get this, but, hey, it's up to you.

Oh yah, the Ants have also included a bonus disc of multimedia material, so if you get tired of the music you can always watch the movie. Personally, I'd prefer bands to stick to making good music and stop worrying about adding all these extras, but maybe that's just me being old-fashioned.

→ Highlights include – well all the songs really sound the same, but "These Days" is the best.

...  
**Mary J. Blige**  
*Love & Life* (☆☆☆☆)

After taking some time for some rest and relaxation Mary J. Blige is back. On *Love & Life*, Blige reunites with the producer who started her career, Sean "P. Diddy" Combs.

The album opens with a phone conversation in which Combs calls Blige and asks if she is ready and then Jay Z raps about Blige for several minutes. Maybe it is just me, but it annoyed me that I had to wait until the second track to hear Blige sing. But, hearing Blige sing is worth the wait. Combs refers to her as the queen of hip-hop soul and, for once, I have to agree with him. Blige's rough exterior and street-wise demeanor and songbird voice make her the best mix of the rough, street-thug sound and the sultry beauty of soul. (Okay, I think Lauryn Hill is a little bit better, but in fairness to Blige, Hill is in a league of her own.)

So, what does *Love & Life* sound like? Well, when Mary is just singing, like on "When We," it is a joy to listen to. But, like everything Combs touches, the album is over-produced. A truly great producer tries to tap into the musician and bring out the soul of that artist in the record. Combs always seems to impose his style on the artist. I mean, seriously, have you ever seen an album produced by Combs that he hasn't rapped on? Still, on the track "Feel Like Making Love," Blige's beautiful voice shines through Combs' excessive background noise and we are carried away by her.

Some are calling this Blige's come-

**See In The Mix, page 51**

## In The Mix

from page 50

back record; personally, I didn't know she was gone. While I have never been a big fan of hip-hop, I love Blige. She is the honest, bold, urban-woman, street-poet. She puts her life bare into her music and I appreciate that. Maybe that's why the excessive production doesn't work. Blige's vocals are so raw and exposed, her lyrics are so tender, it seems like a shame to cover them in layers of noise.

What's the verdict? Well, this is obviously a must have for fans of Blige and hip-hop, and I think it might make Blige some new fans, but I don't think it is as good as some of her past releases. In all honesty, this is my least favorite Mary J. Blige album, and I think that has a lot to do with the harder direction Combs has taken the record in. I mean, the duet with 50 Cent seemed to be a bit much.

The single "Love @ First Sight," which features Method Man, could be a truly beautiful song if the annoying beats were pulled out of the background and they got rid of Method Man. Sometimes less is more. Still it will be a big dance floor favorite.

If you already own some Blige, go buy this record. If not, you should buy some, but I recommend something of her past work.

—> Highlights include "When We," "Feel Like Making Love," "Love @ First Sight" and "All My Love."

\*\*\*

### Michelle Branch

*Hotel Paper* (☆☆☆)

Some critics are calling Michelle Branch the next Sheryl Crow, which I think is really insulting to Crow. While I do think Branch is a talented young lady who might make a few more albums, she is not very likely to enjoy the success Crow has seen, because her songs simply aren't as good, neither is her voice.

Branch can sing and write decent songs, but Crow has a truly multidimensional voice, and writes songs that don't seem so stuck in the context of when they were released. Just the other night I was listening to Crow's debut album, *Tuesday Night Music Club*, and it still sounds as fresh as it did so many years ago (ah, I'm dating myself). Anyway, Branch's first single off this album, "Are You Happy Now?," already sounds dated (and if I hear it again I'll scream!)

The songs on *Hotel Paper* range from lightly rocking to being tenderly mellow. Typically, the tracks occupy the safe middle ground between these two extremes. Instead of going for the gusto, Branch seems to be playing it safe. Each time I listened to the record I found myself waiting for that one big moment. You know, that moment when chills run down your spine and you're like, "Damn, that was good." But, that moment never came. I suppose the fact that I thought this record had the potential to be that good is saying a lot, but it is like an empty promise; a defunct slot machine that never pays out.

This might be just me, but Branch's voice really started to irritate me after about the second listen. Maybe it was just listening to the record so many times in a few-days period, but her tendency to hit a sort of nasally quality is, well, irritating. Like I said, maybe it is just me, but I couldn't listen to a lot of this; heck, after writing this I probably won't listen to this record again.

The best song, not surprisingly, is Branch's duet with Crow on the song "Love Me Like That." The song still isn't as good as anything on any of Crow's albums, but it is still better than everything else on *Hotel Paper*.

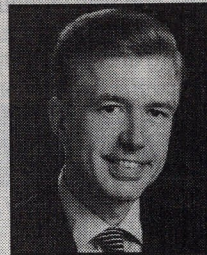
Honestly, if you like Branch, try listening to Crow, she's much better. And if you're a Crow fan wondering if you should invest in

this disc, don't bother. It is midtempo mush. Why so many reviewers have praised Branch and this album I may never understand. I mean it isn't god-awful crap, but it is very much more of the same, and why should anyone go shell out \$18 to hear something they've heard a billion times before. If you really love "Are You Happy Now?" you might like this entire album, but honestly, I don't recommend it. Buy at your own risk.

—> Highlights include "Love Me Like That" and "Are You Happy Now?"

## California's Gray Davis signs bill legalizing domestic partner rights

California Governor Gray Davis signed Assembly Bill 205, The Domestic Partner Rights and Responsibilities Act of 2003, into law on Sept. 19. This law grants registered domestic partners in California nearly all of the state level legal protections and rights presently available only to married couples.

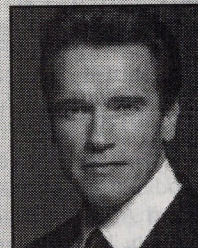


Gray Davis

The law, set to take effect Jan. 1, 2005, will provide couples who reside in California and who are registered as domestic partners in that state with protections, such as child custody and child support requirements; the right to make funeral arrangements; community property; financial support during and after a relationship; mutual responsibility for debts, and death benefits for surviving partners of police and firefighters.

\*\*\*

On Oct. 7, actor Arnold Schwarzenegger was voted into office as Governor-elect by the people of California, the result of a recall election which removes Governor Gray Davis from office.



Arnold Schwarzenegger

Schwarzenegger's official campaign website posted a statement supporting gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender rights, according to the Human Right Campaign.

"I am for equal rights for all," Schwarzenegger wrote at the website, "... I do believe that gay couples are entitled to full protection under the law and should not be discriminated against based on their relationship."

\*\*\*

According to the Human Rights Campaign, California Senator Pete Knight has filed both a lawsuit and a ballot referendum seeking to overturn AB 205. HRC plans to work with Equality For California Families, the campaign committee formed by Equality California to protect this important civil rights measure for GLBT families.

For more information on the Human Rights Campaign, go online to [hrc.org](http://hrc.org). For more information on Equality California, go online to [www.eqca.org](http://www.eqca.org).

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS OBITUARIES/MEMORIALS

### SHELLEY CAROLE MCDANIEL



A memorial service was held for Shelley Carole McDaniel Oct. 4, 2003, at Holy Trinity Community Church. McDaniel, 38, died at her home Sept. 17, 2003.

A veterinary assistant, McDaniel grew up in a small town in Alabama, and moved to Memphis in the fall of 1987. When she first arrived in Memphis, she was like a child in a candy store with so much to see and do. Shortly after arriving in Memphis, she went to WKRB

where she was introduced to her first drag show starring Billie Jo Casino, Simply Vonna and others. McDaniel loved the illusion of knowing underneath the make-up and hair there was a man. She had several local favorite performers, including Summer Holiday, Kirby Kincaid and SoFonda Peters.

McDaniel also had a love for animals. During her lifetime she owned several poodles. Her first was a toy named Chachi, whom she loved dearly. Later came other poodles, including the one she owned at the time of her death, a white standard named Teddy.

In addition to her love of animals, McDaniel also enjoyed listening to jazz. Among her favorite artists were Nancy Wilson, Sarah Vaughn and Luther Vandross.

McDaniel is survived by her poodle, Teddy; her mother, Judy Carle, and a sister, Karen Stewart, both of Demopolis, Ala.; a niece, Mandy Stewart of Fort Payne, Ala.; a nephew, Matt Stewart of Linden, Ala., and several friends who cared deeply for her.

Her Memphis friends request memorials be made to Shetland

Sheepdog Club of Memphis Sheltie Rescue, 3961 Brennan Drive, Memphis, TN 38122.

The family requests memorials be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

\*\*\*

### DAVID WILLIAM DUBOIS

David William DuBois, 41 of Memphis, died Sept. 30, 2003, of pneumonia at the Regional Medical Center at Memphis.

He leaves a sister, Debra DuBois of Duvall, Wash., and two brothers, Robert DuBois Jr. of Spring Grove, Ill., and Richard DuBois of Island Lake, Ill.

A memorial service will be held at The Full Moon Club located on the second floor of Zinnie's East at 1718 Madison Avenue on Saturday, Oct. 18.

The family requests memorials be sent to Friends For Life.

\*\*\*

### TENNESSEE VALS MEMORIAL SERVICE

The Tennessee Vals will hold a memorial service as part of the National Transgender Day of Remembrance on Friday, Nov. 21, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., at St. Ann's Episcopal Church, located at 5th and Woodland Streets in Nashville.

Posted at the website:

[www.rememberingourdead.org/about/core.html](http://www.rememberingourdead.org/about/core.html) is a complete list of those trans individuals who are being remembered during this memorial service, which is being observed nationwide.

The Tennessee Vals is a social and support group for crossdressers, transsexuals, transgenderists and significant others. The group meets on the second Saturday of every month.

For more information, write to the Tennessee Vals at P.O. Box 92335, Nashville TN 37209; call (615) 664-6883 or visit its website at [www.transgender.org/tg/tvals](http://www.transgender.org/tg/tvals).

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS WEDDINGS/COMMITMENTS

### Dorothy "Dodie" Adelman and Cynthia Kerman

Dorothy "Dodie" Adelman and Cynthia Kerman exchanged wedding vows Aug. 30, 2003, at the Lemp Mansion in St. Louis, Mo., with Rabbi Andrea Goldstein officiating.

Dodie Kerman, nee Adelman, is the daughter of the late Richard Adelman and Dorothy Adelman of Memphis. Wilbur and Betty Kerman and Joanne Kerman, all of St. Louis, are Cynthia's parents.

The couple committed themselves to one another in a Jewish wedding ceremony complete with various Jewish rituals, customs and symbols, all of which were explained in a program so that the more than 100 guests could enjoy the couple's simcha (joyous celebration).

The ceremony began in private with only the couple, the Rabbi and two witnesses present for the signing of the couple's ketubah, or marriage contract. According to Jewish tradition, the marriage officially takes place when the wedding couple and their witnesses sign the wedding contract. The women wrote their own ketubah.

The ceremony took place under a special chupah, or wedding canopy, which is a symbol of the home the couple will create and share. The couple's siblings each held one of the four corners of



Mrs. and Mrs. Cynthia and Dorothy Kerman of Memphis

**See Wedding Announcement, page 53**

## Wedding Announcements

from page 52

the chupah, which was made of squares created by the couple's family and extended family. Holding the chupah were Dodie's brothers, Ronald Adelman of Bolivar, Tenn., and Richard Adelman of Madrid, Spain, and Cynthia's brother, Andrew Kerman, and sister, Julia Kerman, both of St. Louis.

Dodie wore a Miss America bouquet of flowers in similar colors, including orchids. Her dress was an ecru-colored, strapless, beaded gown with a detachable train.

Cynthia carried a hand-tied bouquet of pink and violet flowers with blues mixed in, which matched the colors chosen for the wedding ceremony. She wore a candlelight-colored, backless, silk gown with a full train.

Andrea Zucker of Memphis was the photographer.

Immediately following the ceremony, the couple retreated for a few minutes to a private room for their yichud or union, before joining their guests for seudat mitzvah, the first meal shared together as a married couple.

Following the wedding night, which was spent in the bridal suite of the Lemp Mansion, the couple was treated to brunch by Cynthia's father. The couple honeymooned in North Carolina before returning to make their home in Memphis.

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## Lesbiliscious cookbook on sale from Camp Sister Spirit

*Lesbiliscious: The Cookbook of Camp Sister Spirit* is now available for purchase, just in time for holiday giving.

The cookbook was compiled, printed and bound by Kim Gillow and contains recipes, song lyrics, stories, pictures and more. All of the recipes were submitted by friends of Camp Sister Spirit, including Alix Dobkin, Sandy Rapp, Bonnie Morris, Pat Hight, Dr. Ruth (no, not that one), Trish Williams and many more.

*Lesbiliscious*, at a cost of \$10 plus \$3 postage and handling, is available by sending a check or money order, payable to Camp Sister Spirit, to P.O. Box 12, Ovett MS 39464.

Camp Sister Spirit, is a wooded retreat located near Hattiesburg, Miss., which offers meeting and retreat space, as well as hosts several annual events including the Gulf Coast Womyn's Festival.

For more information, go online to [www.campsisterspirit.com](http://www.campsisterspirit.com).

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ARKANSAS: [www.sosweb.state.ar.us/elections\\_voter\\_registration.html](http://www.sosweb.state.ar.us/elections_voter_registration.html)

OR contact *Family & Friends* at [FamilyMag@aol.com](mailto:FamilyMag@aol.com) or (901) 682-2669  
and we'll email/mail you the appropriate form.

**CAST YOUR VOTE Thursday, Nov. 13**

City of Memphis Runoff Election

City Council District 5: Carol Chumney vs. George Flinn

Board of Education Runoff Election

District 1: J.M. Bailey vs. Willie Brooks

from page 21

possibly lead to police holding one temporarily for further interrogation. Lack of cooperation with authorities will likely be treated unfavorably and unapologetically.

"This isn't a request for everyone to be 'out and proud' or scare tactics," said Vanessa Edwards Foster, chair of NTAC. "We're trying to avoid having innocent transgenders jailed because a hesitant answer was inaccurately deemed as hiding terrorist motivations," as a result of the DHS security alert.

NTAC also asks for reports of any incidents where a transgendered party is forthcoming with all requests, and consequently is verbally or physically abused, or arrested under questionable pretense. If something of this nature occurs, NTAC encourages those parties to keep a detailed report of all actions taken.

"While the worse-case scenarios appear rather alarming, we don't want to discourage the community from traveling or conducting themselves as before," Foster said. "There's still a good chance this won't affect most travelers.

"Live your lives," Foster suggested. "Just be forthright when the situation calls for it – and be prepared."

Founded in 1999, NTAC is a (501)(c)(4) civil rights organization working to establish and maintain the right of all transgendered, intersexed and gender-variant people to live and work without fear of violence or discrimination.

For more information, go online to [www.ntac.org](http://www.ntac.org).

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from page 12

not the left). Needless to say, a ticket was issued.

Now, as Paul Harvey used to say, here's the "rest of the story..." Apparently the argument between the owner of the vehicle supposedly illegally parked and Ethan became heated once the police issued a parking ticket, and of course picking up their free cup of coffee from Starbucks (we were later told by store manager, Laura, that it is Starbucks's policy to give the police free coffee).

The argument apparently became so heated between the two inside the store that some cookies, actually cinnamon twists, and, according to Ethan, some coffee beans were broken by the vehicle's owner. A few minutes later, Ethan came outside and ordered the four of us "off the property, now!"

When we asked what the other three of us had done, Ethan said, "Guilt by association!" Ethan then called the police again and this time two squad cars (four cops in total) came to Ethan's rescue from the four lesbians. Long story short, we left, but not before promising to only patronize the Midtown Starbucks in the future. Ethan still refuses to apologize for his behavior.

**Front Row**

from page 30

and watching the show at the same time. For more information, call Gold Strike Casino at (888) 24K-PLAY.

F&F: Well, thank you for taking the time to sit down and talk to me. I must say that this was a rather self-indulgent experience though, wouldn't you?

Me: I would not. I disagree with you completely.

F&F: What's new?

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from page 33

towards the purchase of a building, then secondly, towards the rental or lease if a purchase was not possible. Period. Monies were not intended for phone bills, utility bills, maintenance, repairs nor upkeep. Monies were donated strictly for the purchase of a building. Monies donated to a different fund, the 500 Club, were designated for bills and repairs to the building.

Last year I made a donation to the Benefactor Fund in the amount of \$500. This past August, I made a request to the current board of directors that my donation be returned to me. I have enclosed a list of reasons as to why I requested my \$500 donation to be returned; this is the same list that I presented to the current board, with the exception of numbers 21, 22 and 23. These three reasons were brought to my attention at a later date.

I requested the return of my donation not because of the money, but because the integrity of the Community Center is being compromised. I offered the current board a list of solutions to the problems that I see occurring and they neglected to even consider those.

Angela J. Lamb (signed)"

*Before we attempt to list only some of the 28 allegations made by Lamb in her "enclosed list," we offered Piechowski and Johnston a chance to speak to the allegations made in Lamb's letter.*

**FAMILY & FRIENDS QUESTION TO PIECHOWSKI:** "When donations were being sought for the Benefactor Club, were potential donors told their donations would be used ONLY for the purchase, lease or rental of a facility?"

**PIECHOWSKI:** First, let me say that Angela (Lamb) is a very angry person and she is very upset with me right now.

I don't remember using the term "only." Hunter (Johnston) has the document from the Community Foundation that shows where Angela signed off on the release of the Community Foundation money to be used for rent, utilities, etc.

*During our interview with Lamb and Jackson, we asked Lamb when Piechowski made the "promise" referred to below.*

*She replied, "We (Lamb, Miki Zulewski, B.J. Massengale, Daniel Cole, Herb Zeman and Piechowski) had an intervention at Jason's apartment. We called a 'special meeting' so he (Piechowski) would attend. During the intervention we told him (Piechowski) how much we loved him and wanted to help him. We told him we didn't want him to leave the board, but that we felt he should remain sober for one year before taking a leadership role in the MGLCC."*

### ALLEGATION #1

Len Piechowski, Len broke his promise to remain sober one full year BEFORE seeking an executive position on the board of directors of MGLCC, especially the position of president.

**PIECHOWSKI:** When the confrontation was made to me regarding my alcoholism, I voluntarily made a commitment not to seek an executive position on the MGLCC board. However, eight months later when Herb (Zeman) had to resign, no one else was willing or able to become president so I stepped forward. It (the shortening of his "commitment") was brought before the public in two town halls where it was ratified not once, but twice. And then, the board unanimously approved it.

### ALLEGATION #2

MGLCC gave Herb Zeman a very large sum of money from the Benefactor Fund as a down payment for the building, yet MGLCC is not listed as a co-owner.

**JOHNSTON:** We have a lease-purchase agreement with Herb. There are provisions to get out of the lease if the MGLCC cannot continue to operate. There is a provision that if some-

thing happens to Herb, we are well taken care of. The entire down payment was Herb's contribution, the part he gave to the Benefactor Fund. The MGLCC is paying for insurance, utilities and taxes because it's not in our name yet, but Herb is making no profit off this whatsoever.

### ALLEGATION #3

The money in the Building Fund is being spent in ways other than that were originally established. The Building Fund was produced through the Benefactor Club, which includes individuals and couples who donated \$500 or more to the Building Fund. The Building Fund was originally established to purchase a building and nothing more. Since enough money was not raised to out-right purchase the building, the money was supposed to be used to pay rent only. Any other expenses were supposed to be raised and spent from a different fund, namely the 500 Club.

**JOHNSTON:** After receiving Angela's letter I went over to the Community Foundation and I asked them for a clarification on how the money could be spent, but I didn't give them any of the details. The lady came out with a letter on MGLCC letterhead, stating that the money could be used for mortgage payments, rent or lease, utilities, insurance, taxes and any other funds involved in maintenance or improving the physical facility. The letter was signed by three MGLCC officers (who were serving at the time of the letter), Herb as president, Len Piechowski as vice president and Angela Lamb as treasurer. The only thing not specifically covered in the letter that we're spending money on now are telephone charges, but according to board, the telephone charges are necessary to operate the Center, due to the

**See MGLCC, page 56**

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hotline and the alarm system, both of which are tied into the phone line. The phone bill is not specifically mentioned, but we feel it falls under the guidelines. I might also point out, if I interpret the rules correctly, the ongoing 500 Club money still being donated is going into the building fund. Sometimes it doesn't go into the Community Foundation fund, it goes into our checkbook, but I keep a double set of books. It can only be used for the same purposes as the money from the Community Foundation. The money we're using for other programs is money that comes from memberships, fundraisers or general donations that are not designated.

**ALLEGATION #4**

Donations, other than monetary ones, are not being used for their intended purposes. Two computers and a laptop have been donated, one specifically for providing Internet services, and none of them are in use.

**JOHNSTON:** I'm not first-hand on this. I've been told one of the computers is a laptop donated by Wes (McComas), which was infected and not usable, and it was given back to Wes. Internet connections cost money every month and we're doing things that we feel are higher priority at the present time. We have two computers, neither were in working order when we got them, but one is up and running now, but the other is still not operational.

**ALLEGATION #15**

Lack of fundraising. Since the building has been acquired, not a single large fundraiser has been established to assist with funding. However, I have heard of several "planned" fundraisers by the Social Events Chair for them to be cancelled at a later date, in particular the Bachelor/Bachelorette Auction and a Riverboat Ride.

**JOHNSTON:** Chuck Bohannon is the director of special events. I have been the director of routine events. Part of the reason is we have been focused on doing things in the MGLCC building. We just acquired it and want to focus on using it. We are looking at things further down the road. Chuck has talked about having the Bachelor/Bachelorette Auction in February and tying it into Valentine's Day. A riverboat ride has been discussed, but no plans have been made. I think a big part of the problem is lack of communication.

**ALLEGATION #16**

Making me jump through hoops to get a reimbursement for the softball bats stolen from me by Darren Burns, one of the past vice presidents, after being promised a reimbursement.

**JOHNSTON:** I was not on the board at the time and was not privy to what happened at the time. I do not know if she was asked for receipts or what. I can tell you that during the Cooper Young Festival a tent donated to us for our use for the event was damaged and we did ask for a receipt from the owner before reimbursing them for the tent.

**ALLEGATION #17**

Len Piechowski making decisions for the Center without getting board approval. Need I remind you that the president has absolutely no authority without the approval of a majority of the board.

**PIECHOWSKI:** It is true? Probably on minor issues, however, if she (Lamb) is making insinuations about "stacking the nominating committee" (for the 2003 elections) with three of my friends, I want to say that I approached 12 people of all genders and races about serving and all agreed, but only three showed up for the meeting. As for the award I gave Jason (Crockett, former MGLCC board president), I categorically deny that I decided to give it on my own. The board approved it and I paid for it.

*Let us mention Lambs allegation numbered 28, which read, "The 'camel's back was broken' when Len Piechowski presented Jason Crockett with an award from MGLCC (without the knowledge of the rest of the board members) at the Annual Meeting. Len thanked Jason for 'sustaining the Center when there was no one else to do it.' I was never elected as the president of the Center, but I acted as one every year I was in office, especially the year that Ben Mendoza (former MGLCC president) dropped out of his presidency. I was the one to bring Jason to the Center and I was the one who led Jason through his term as president."*

**ALLEGATION #20**

If you were afraid of setting a precedent by returning my donation, then why was another member's laptop returned to him after requesting it?

**JOHNSTON:** Angela's donation to the Benefactor Club came with a requirement that the money be used to acquire a building, which we did. The laptop was donated with the stipulation that it be used to establish Internet service at the MGLCC. Because we felt that taking on the cost of monthly Internet service was cost-prohibitive at this time, we returned the laptop to the person who donated it.

**ALLEGATION #21**

Accepting financial support from a known pervert; a person who gropes males as they enter his business. This was done after an agreement was made to never accept money from this particular individual or business.

**PIECHOWSKI:** I don't remember such an agreement. We (the MGLCC) would never put ourselves in a position of moral judgement against any potential benefactor.

**ALLEGATION #22**

Len Piechowski covered up a crime of one of the board members that involved the molestation, and possible rape, of a minor.

**PIECHOWSKI:** She is misinformed in that I'm trying my best to uphold the wishes of the (alleged) victim and the (alleged) victim's family by not drawing any additional attention to the situation and abiding by the (alleged) victim's wish that the (alleged) perpetrator be given another opportunity to serve, nevertheless, I removed the (alleged) perpetrator from contact with our young adults and attempted to follow the wishes of the (alleged) victim by allowing the (alleged) perpetrator to serve in another capacity.

**ALLEGATION #23**

The MGLCC board of directors made a motion and approved the removal of their umbrella organization, 2xLambda. This group is a social outlet for 20- to 29-year olds away from the bar scene. The board removed the group because they were informed by the group's leader that 2xLambda did not want to associate with MGLCC if Len Piechowski remained the president. Again, I feel the board believes that one man is greater than the community as a whole.

**PIECHOWSKI:** As for 2xLambda, their leader, Ranetta (Jackson) read a letter to the board (Sunday, Oct. 4, 2003) stating many of these allegations and that the group decided to break away from the MGLCC if I was not removed from the board. At the end of the meeting, someone made a motion to disassociate the 2xLambda with the MGLCC to honor the wishes of 2xLambda, because the board had no intention of removing me from office. It was unanimously approved. However, Ranetta was told she would receive an official response to her complaints within three weeks.

*When we asked Jackson specifically about the board meet-*

**See MGLCC, page 60**



# Pink Pistols

from page 38

ly meets at the MGLCC) could be used to formalize the administrative details, such as creating our bylaws, etc.," Hastings said. "But, because of our low turnout, we haven't been able to get these things done."

Before you decide whether or not picking up a gun and joining the group is for you, there are a couple of things Brannan wants you to know.

"We are not affiliated with the NRA (National Rifle Association) and NRA membership is not required (to be a member of the Pink Pistols)," Brannan said. "You don't have to like guns to be a member of our group either, just have the mentality of not being a victim. As for an age requirement for membership in the Pink Pistols, we believe you need to be at least 16 years old to be a member, however, you must be 21 to shoot at Range USA (and to carry a firearm) or if you're between 16 and 21, you must have an adult sponsor in order to shoot."

Other things potential members might want to know about membership include the fact that identifying as GLBT is not a requirement and neither are experience in shooting or knowledge of firearms. In addition, potential members don't need a gun permit to join either, just an interest in firearms, safety and their proper use.

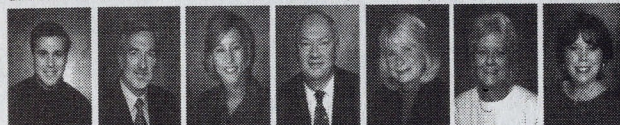
So, how does one become a member of the Pink Pistols Memphis? It's simple, Brannan said, just show up at a shoot or at a monthly meeting and "we'll get you signed up."

For additional information, visit the Pink Pistols Memphis's website at [www.pinkpistols.org](http://www.pinkpistols.org), email a request for information to [memphis@pinkpistols.org](mailto:memphis@pinkpistols.org) or call (901) 383-9110.

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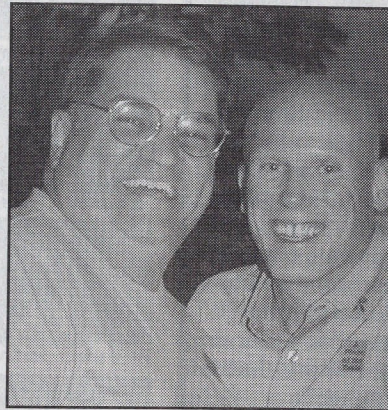
*Rev. Martha Brahm, Pastor*

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901-327-8479  
[www.prescottchurch.org](http://www.prescottchurch.org)

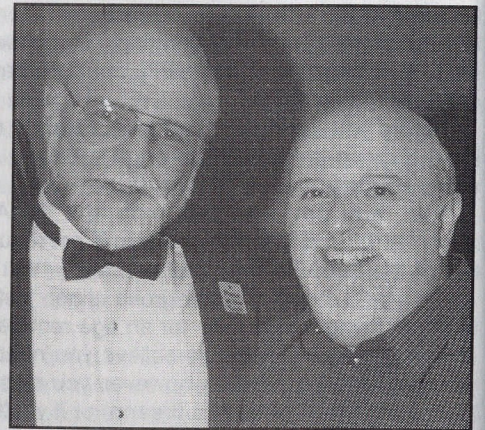
**FAMILY ALBUM** FRIENDS FOR LIFE'S APATT PARTY



**Bradley and David**



**Chuck and Mark**



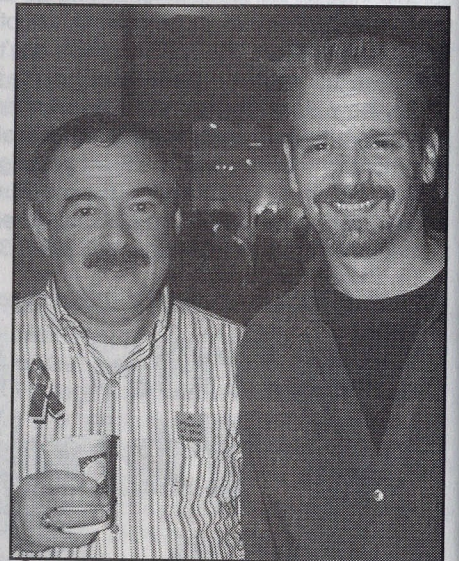
**Joel and Gary**



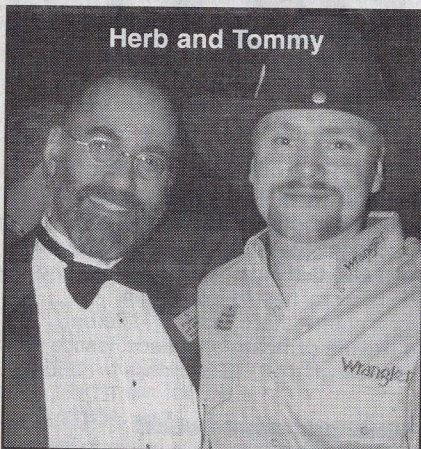
**Mickey and Ken**



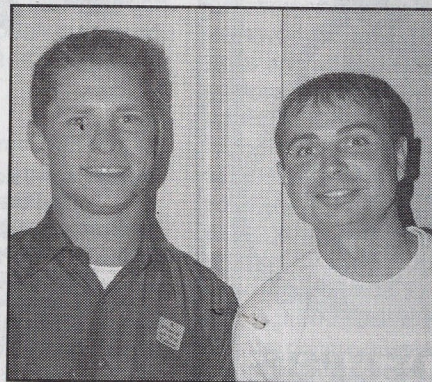
**Penny and Nora**



**Steve and Sean**



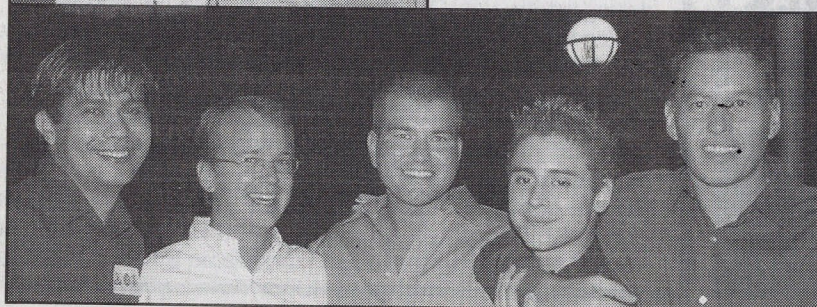
**Herb and Tommy**



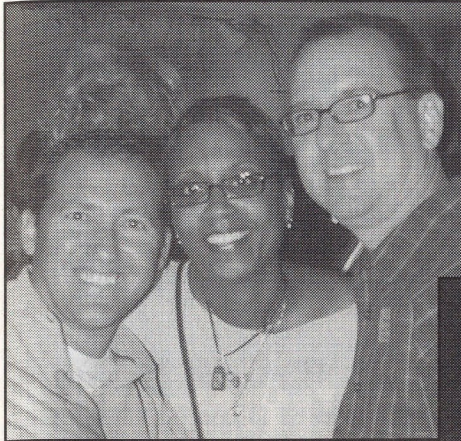
**Brian and David**



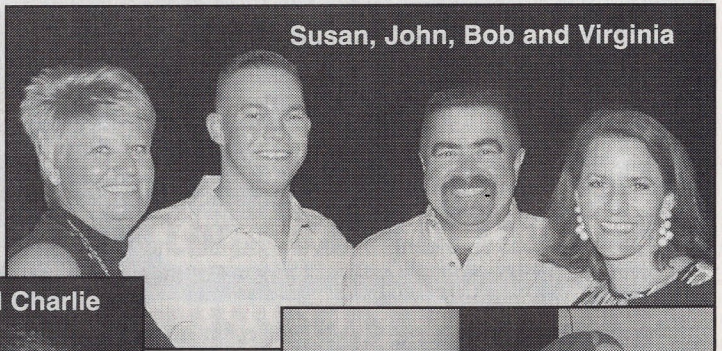
**Noel and Stephanie**



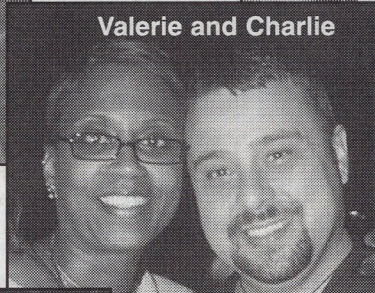
FRIENDS FOR LIFE'S APATT PARTY **FAMILY ALBUM**



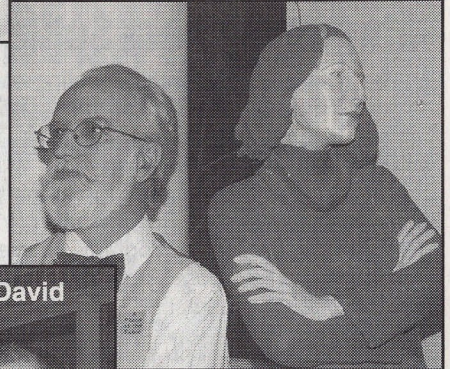
Patrick, Valerie and Randy



Susan, John, Bob and Virginia



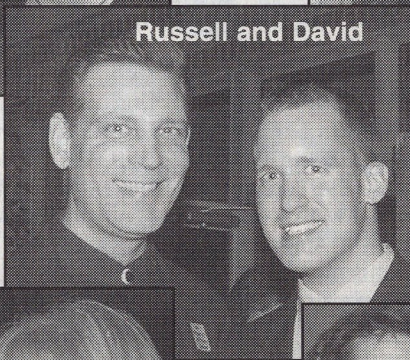
Valerie and Charlie



Vincent & The Lady



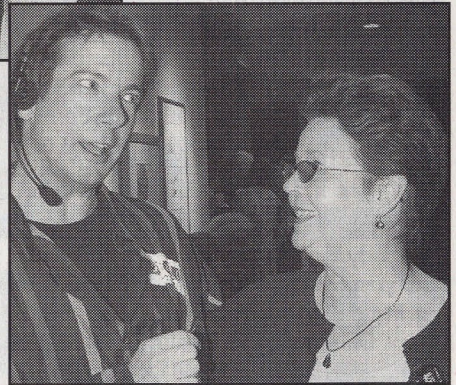
Jimmy, Pat and Butch



Russell and David



Jo and Lisa



Sandy and Teresa



P.J. and Paulette



Kevin, Billy, Jerry, Jay and Quitman

## View lunar eclipse November 8

Observe a lunar eclipse on Saturday, Nov. 8, from 6 to 8 p.m., on the front lawn of the Memphis Pink Palace Museum, 3050 Central Avenue. Enjoy views of the moon as it is eclipsed and view other celestial objects through telescopes provided by the Sharpe Planetarium staff and SLO astronomy group. Admission is free. Blankets and lawn chairs are permitted, however pets, radios or alcoholic beverages are not allowed. Observings are canceled if the sky is cloudy. For more information, call (901) 320-6320.

## Integrity to host Schiefelbein

The next regular monthly meeting of Integrity-Memphis will be held Tuesday, Oct. 21, at 6:30 p.m. at Calvary Episcopal Church, located at Second and Adams. This meeting will begin with a short worship service. Dinner will follow at 7 p.m. at a cost of \$10 for members, free for first-time guests. At 7:30 p.m., local author Michael Schiefelbein (*Vampire Thrall, Blood Brothers*) will present a program. All are invited, regardless of faith tradition. For more information, go online to [www.geocities.com/integrity\\_memphis](http://www.geocities.com/integrity_memphis).

## Merriweather exhibit at Brooks

Now through Nov. 23, at the Brooks Museum of Art, located at 1934 Poplar Avenue in Overton Park, the work of Lester Julian Merriweather is on display. Merriweather "draws" with black photographic tape, either directly on the wall or on vellum. His work explores the position of black males in American society through imagery appropriated from advertisements. Museum hours are Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. On the first Wednesday of the month the Museum is open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Admission is \$6 for adults, \$5 for seniors (65+) and \$2 for students with valid ID. For more information, call (901) 544-6200 or go online to [www.brooksmuseum.org](http://www.brooksmuseum.org).

## Carol Plunk local dates set

Carol Plunk will be in song at One More Bar & Grill, 2117 Peabody, on Sunday, Oct. 19, 5 to 7 p.m.; on Sunday, Nov. 2, 5 to 7 p.m., and on Wednesday, Nov. 5, 7 to 9 p.m. She also will be in concert on Friday, Oct. 31, from 5:30 to 8 p.m., at The Black Diamond, 153 Beale Street and on Tuesday, Nov. 4, at 8 p.m., Otherlands Cafe, 641 South Cooper. For more information, go online to [carolplunk.com](http://carolplunk.com).

## Central Library site of book sale

The Friends of the Library Book Sale will be held at the Central branch of the Memphis/Shelby County Public Libraries, located at 3030 Poplar Avenue, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Oct. 23 to 25, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Great deals on books, videos, music and more will be offered.

## WKNO offers treasures to viewers

The Roadshow BMW Gallery 10: The WKNO Art & Antiques Auction is set to air on Channel 10 Saturdays and Sundays, Nov. 8-9 and 15-16, from noon to 11 p.m. More than 600 pieces of art and antiques will be offered during the live auction. For more information, including a list of items up for bid, go online to [www.wkno.org](http://www.wkno.org).

## Kevin Mitchell displays works

Kevin Mitchell will have an art opening at Durden Gallery, 408 South Front Street, #107, in the South Main Arts District in Memphis. An opening reception is set for Friday, Oct. 31, from 6 to 9 p.m.

## Sierra Club to hold meeting

The Chickasaw Group of the Sierra Club will hold its monthly gathering at Otherlands Coffee Bar, 641 South Cooper, on Thursday, Nov. 6, from 6 to 8 p.m. For more information, call Jill Johnston at (901) 278-2713.

## Laura Blackley Band to perform

The Laura Blackley Band will be in concert at P&H Cafe, 1532 Madison Avenue, on Saturday, Oct. 25, at 9 p.m. The group spoons up Appalachian Soul – music that is 100 percent homemade and homegrown. For more information, go online to [www.laurablackleyband.com](http://www.laurablackleyband.com).

## Two fundraisers to benefit Brooks

The Memphis Brooks Museum's oldest support group, the Brooks Museum League, will host "Treasures From The Attic," a fabulous holiday shopping spree of antiques, collectibles, vintage items and gifts at Regency Travel, 397 Perkins Road Extended in the Laurelwood Shopping Center, Wednesday through Tuesday, Nov. 12 to 18. A "First Chance Wine and Cheese Party" will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 12, the first day of the event.

Also, the League's Gala Celebration is set for Thursday, Nov. 20, from 7 p.m. to midnight at the Brooks. A \$75 ticket includes a cocktail buffet, music by Joyce Cobb, as well as live and silent auctions. The live auction, entitled "The Art of the Box," will include unique art pieces designed by 25 different artists. Call (901) 544-6200 for more information.

## MGLCC

from page 56

*ing she attended, she answered, "On Sunday, Oct. 5, I attended an MGLCC board meeting during which time I asked Len to resign as president citing fundraising and past decisions of the former board. I asked him to resign then I told the board I would start the formal removal process. They (the board) were very quiet. I also told the board that 2xLambda would leave (the MGLCC) if Len stayed. I understand the board is willing to let 2xLambda go because they 'didn't need the hostility.'"*

### ON A PERSONAL NOTE: ALLEGATION #24

I was informed by Len Piechowski over a lunch meeting that I was not ready to be the president of the Center and that I should not run for that position in the 2002 election, even though at the time I had four years of experience on the MGLCC board. Instead, he offered to "groom" me and wanted me to run as the vice president and he would run as the president.

**PIECHOWSKI:** I don't remember using the word "groom," but I do remember talking to her about the fact that I taught leadership at FedEx. I suggested that she explore these and I offered to share some of the leadership models with her. I told her I didn't think she was ready. But, what I didn't tell her was that others had asked me to have that conversation with her.

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# Nashville Black Pride celebration is planned

Nashville Black Pride will be celebrated for the first time Halloween weekend, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 31 through Nov. 2.

The host hotel, The Comfort Inn (formerly Shoney's Inn), located at 1501 Demonbreun Street in Nashville, is offering a special rate of \$54 per night. Be sure to ask for this special "Black Pride" rate.

The schedule of events are as follows:

Friday Oct. 31

3-5 p.m. Activism Panel on Gender, Sexuality and Political Action; Vanderbilt University; free

6-8 p.m. "Opening Wine and Cheese Reception," In the Gallery, 624 Jefferson Street. Posters donated by photographer Greg McNeal for sale. Poetry showcase; free.

10 p.m. - 3 a.m. SIMBE Social #8 "Little Shop of Horrors," The Onyx Room, 624 Jefferson Street. DJ Robbie Rob from Cleveland; The Nashville J-Setters and the city's finest male & female illusionists, shows begin at 1 a.m. Prize for best in costume. Cost: \$7 before midnight and \$10 afterwards. Take an HIV OraSure swab test and get a \$3 discount.

Saturday, Nov. 1

11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.- "Keeping It Real," Nashville CARES, 209 10th Avenue South, Suite 160; explore and discuss the challenges and triumphs of others. Refreshments provided. Free. The following tracks are offered:

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Men's Track: "Brother to Brother: Conversation Between Gay & Straight Men," facilitated by Dwayne Jenkins; Women's Track: "What's Love Got To Do With It?" facilitated by Shelia Dennie; Transgender Track, facilitated by Marisa Richmond from T-Vals.

1:30-2:30 p.m. Youth Track: "The Daytin' Gaymz" facilitated by Antyon Wallace and the Y-BU Volunteers.

3 - 4:30 p.m. "A Peek Into The Closet" Nashville CARES, 209 10th Avenue South, Suite #160. Exclusive 76-minute screening of *The Closet*, a drama series about black male-to-male relationships.

5 - 8 p.m. "An Evening with James Earl Hardy," The Onyx Room 624 Jefferson Street. Best-Selling Author Hardy will be reading, selling and signing all of his books, including the *B-Boy Blues Series* and *Love the One You're With*."

10 p.m. to 3 a.m. "It's Your Birthday Party," The Onyx Room, 624 Jefferson Street. Featuring *Black Inches* model Dicksman, DJ Robbie Rob and The Spin Doctor. First show at 12:30 A.M.; door prizes. Cost is \$7 before midnight and \$10 afterwards.

Sunday, Nov. 2

9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. "Whom So Ever" Come as you are to Metropolitan Interdenomination Church, 2128 11th Avenue North for a dose of spiritual healing and affirmation sponsored by Men of Faith/Men of Color.

Noon to 4 p.m. "Sunday Brunch & Matinee" Nashville CARES, 209 10th Avenue South, 160. Enjoy food, popcorn and flicks, including *All God's Children*, *PUNKS* and *Kevin's Room*. First screening at 2 p.m.

7-10 p.m. "Break Me Off a Piece of Jazz," featuring vocalist Kevin Whalum and saxophonist Boney James at TPAC-Andrew Jackson Hall. Sponsored by WFSK 88.1 FM, Smooth Side Up & *Nashville Scene*. Tickets are \$37.50, \$42.50 and \$47.50.

Monday, Nov. 3

6-8 p.m. "They Said We Couldn't Do It" Nashville CARES, 209 10th Avenue South, Suite 160. Join the BP Team for its official debriefing meeting.

For more information, call DeWayne Jenkins at (800) 845-4266 ext. 269, email him at [brosunited@aol.com](mailto:brosunited@aol.com) or go online to [www.brothersunited.com/blackpride.htm](http://www.brothersunited.com/blackpride.htm).

**EQUALITY**  
*mississippi*

**Equality Mississippi**  
Mississippi's definitive statewide  
LGBT civil rights organization

**Gay? Lesbian? Bisexual?**  
**IN MISSISSIPPI?**  
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[www.EqualityMS.org](http://www.EqualityMS.org)



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Feminist Education/Cultural Retreat  
Groups/Individuals welcome.

Clean/sober, no violence in word or deed.

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library, walking trails, RV hook-ups.

CSS, Box 12, Ovett, MS 39464

[www.campsisterspirit.com](http://www.campsisterspirit.com)

# New Directions opens Exodus doors

New Directions Inc. opened the doors to Exodus House, a drop-in center for African-American men, ages 13 to 29, who have sex with men, in March 2003.

According to Darrell Lowe, of New Directions Inc., an average of 30 people a week visit the drop-in center, where young men can hang out, surf the web, talk, participate in weekly activities or even take an Orasure HIV test.

The center is open Tuesday through Saturday, from 2 to 9 p.m.

"We want to create a social environment where people in our target population can gather and come and talk about safer sex and making it a community norm" Lowe said, "and an environment where the target population can come together and talk about issues, feel comfortable and hang out."

Exodus House is patterned after the Mpowerment Project model, which is already implemented in Eugene, Ore.; Santa Barbara, Calif.; Albuquerque, N.M.,

and Austin, Texas.

The Mpowerment Project is a community-level HIV prevention intervention for young gay and bisexual men ages 13 to 27," read the Abstract on the Mpowerment Project provided by Lowe. "The program seeks to build a strong, supportive young gay and bisexual men's community where young gay and bisexual men nurture and protect each other, particularly with regard to HIV prevention. The program's theoretical framework draws from the fields of diffusion of innovations, community organizing, peer influence and personal empowerment. The Mpowerment Project promotes a norm for safe sex through a variety of social, outreach and small group activities. The project is run by a "core group" of 12 to 15 young gay and bisexual men who, with volunteers, design and carry out all project activities.

For more information about Exodus House, call (901) 274-1024.

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Be hair-free, dahling, now we wax!"

**Dare to be Different!**

TUE-FRI 9-7 • SAT 9-3

WALK-INS WELCOME



## TRUE NEWS FLASH

"New Vatican Dictionary defines HOMOSEXUALITY as a condition without ANY SOCIAL VALUE"

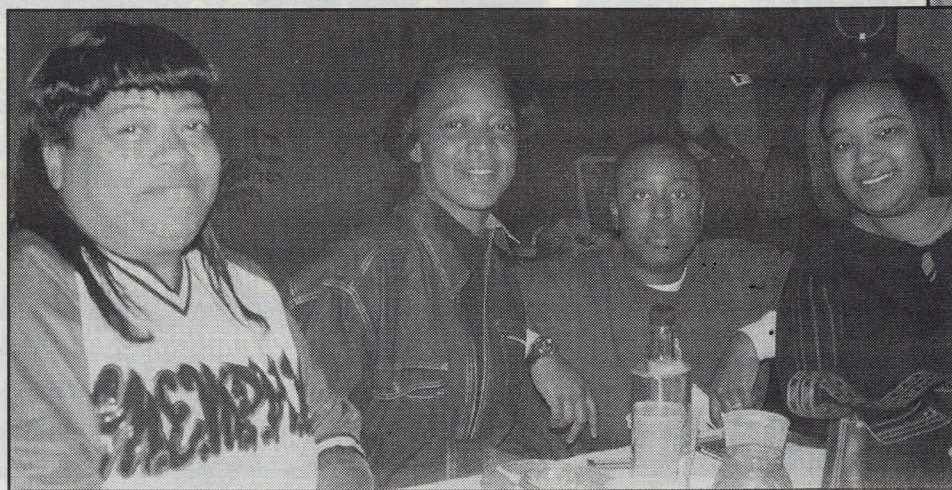
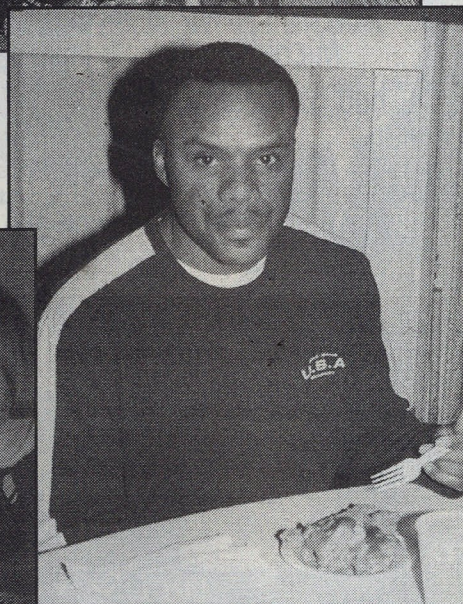
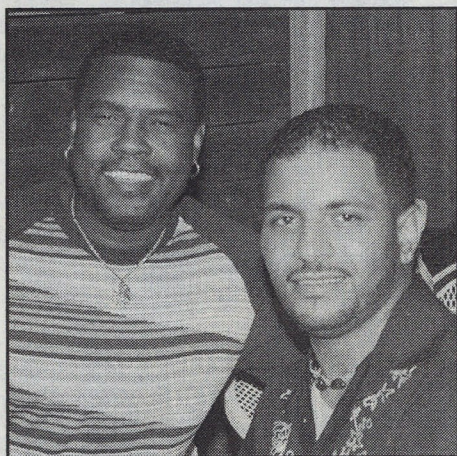
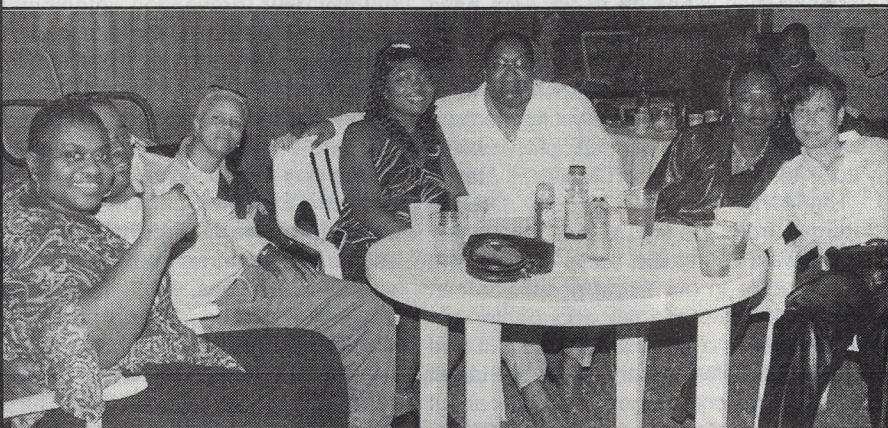
The  
*Brothers & Sisters*

**Bowling League**  
Invites You To  
**JOIN UP!**  
League Play  
Sundays @ 6 pm

Cost: \$13 a week  
1-time sanction fee, \$13-\$18  
All games at  
Winchester Bowl  
3703 S. Mendenhall @ Winchester

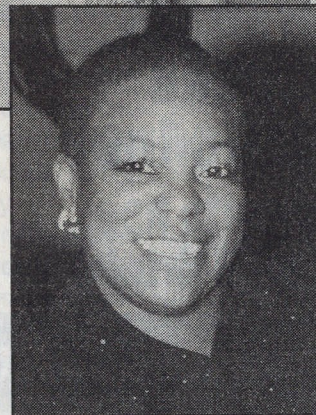
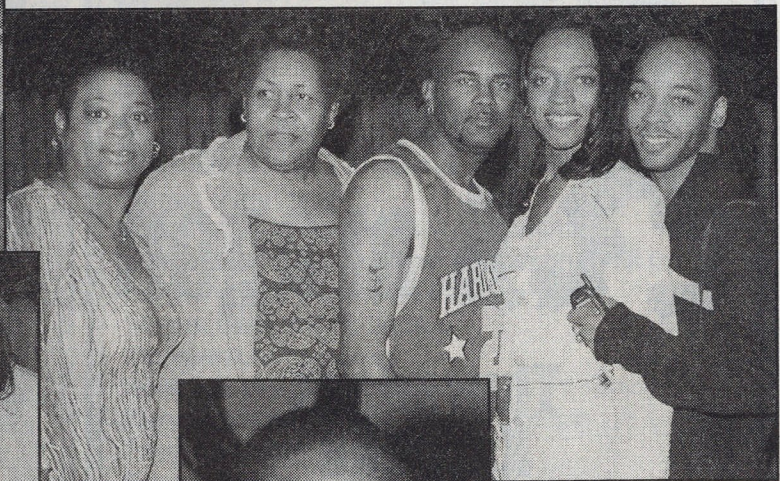
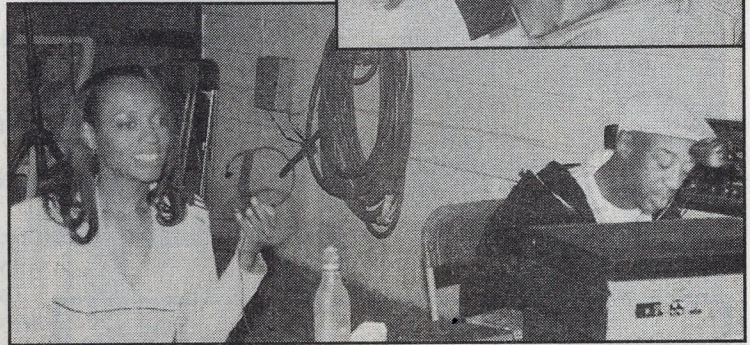
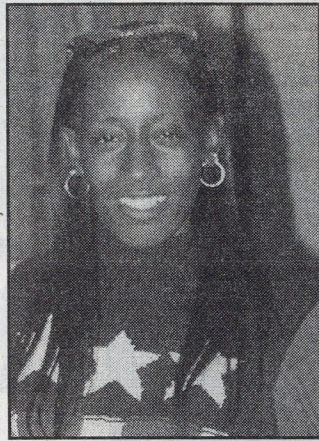
For more information, Call  
Tony Matics • 901.722.5236 or  
Richard Andrews • 901.465.4271 or  
Email: [memphisgaybowlin@aol.com](mailto:memphisgaybowlin@aol.com)

**FAMILY ALBUM** IOLA WOODSON'S ANNUAL WILD GAME DINNER

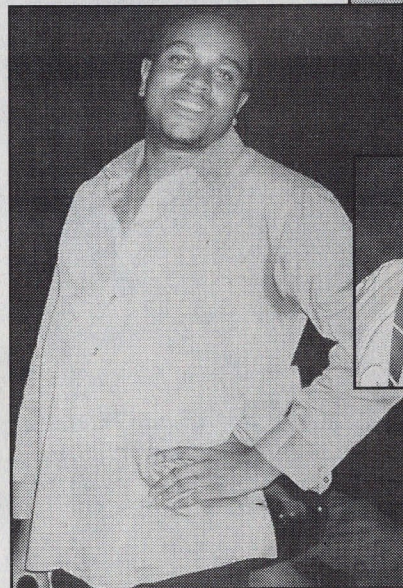
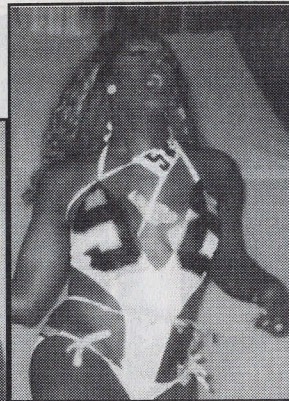




IOLA WOODSON'S ANNUAL WILD GAME DINNER **FAMILY ALBUM**



**FAMILY ALBUM PARTYIN' AT THE PARAGON**



2865 Walnut Grove  
(901) 320-0026

**Thursdays  
Karaoke  
with DJ Rodney  
\$2 domestic beer  
2-for-1 well drinks**

**DOORS OPEN AT 9 P.M. till 1:30 AM**



(901) 274-0163

Creating a village/haven for & about us.

# Inaugural Mississippi Black Pride event is set

The inaugural Mississippi Black Gay Pride event is set for Friday and Saturday, Nov. 7 & 8, in Jackson, Miss. The theme is "Voices From the Village."

The host hotel is the Clarion Hotel & Conference Center, located at 400 Graymont Avenue.

The schedule of events, all at the Clarion Hotel unless otherwise specified, are as follows:

Friday, Nov. 7

8 a.m. Continental breakfast

9 a.m. "Living Positively" Empowerment seminars and workshops

1 to 5 p.m. Community-based expo

7 to 9 p.m. "Meet & Greet" social at The Smith Robertson Multipurpose Center

Saturday, Nov. 8

8 a.m. Continental breakfast

9 a.m. "Voices From the Village" Empowerment seminars and workshops

3:30 p.m. Townhall meeting

7 p.m. Hair & Fashion Extravaganza at The Alamo Theatre.

Cost \$5 per person

10:30 p.m. Illusions with a Twist & Exotic Dancer Review, at Club City Lights

"There is free lunch during the workshops & seminars and entertainment will be provided during lunch, as well," Event Organizer Michael Robinson told *Family & Friends* magazine.

Keynote speakers for the event include Earle Fowlkes, president of the International Federation of Black Prides; Don Sneed, a member of the President's Advisory Board for HIV/AIDS and executive director of Renaissance III, located in Houston, Texas; Denise Sweet, musician and poetic lyricist, and James King, a noted speaker on men on the "down low."

For room reservations at the Clarion call (601) 969-2141.

For more information on Mississippi Black Gay Pride, call Michael at (866) 578-6872 or (601) 942-6817, or go online to [www.mississippiblackpride.com](http://www.mississippiblackpride.com).

## BU Winter Retreat is set for December 4-7 in Tennessee

The Brothers United Winter Retreat VII is set for Thursday through Sunday, Dec. 4-7, at Montgomery Bell State Park, in Burns Tenn., located approximately 50 miles outside of Nashville.

The registration fee of \$195 per person includes six buffet style, "all-you-can-eat" meals, lodging, commemorative T-shirt, workshops and entertainment.

Event organizers expect 50 to 100 African-American same-gender-loving men from around the country to attend this increasingly popular retreat.

For more information, call the Brothers United program office at Nashville CARES at (615) 259-4866, ext. 269 or (800) 845-4266, ext. 269; emailing [brosunited@aol.com](mailto:brosunited@aol.com), or checking out the Brothers United website at [www.brothersunited.com](http://www.brothersunited.com).

# Meet Your Neighbor

## Mary Bailey



**Name:** Mary Bailey

**Place where you were born:** Memphis

**How long have you lived in Memphis:** all my life

**Partnership status:** partnered

**Sexual orientation:** lesbian

**Occupation:** caregiver

**Hobbies:** bowling, basketball and sight-seeing

**Favorite Food:** shrimp, lobster and fish

**Favorite Color:** purple and red

**Favorite Animal:** love birds

**Favorite Singer:** Kim, a jazz singer

**Favorite Song:** "Step To The Name of Love" by R. Kelly

**Favorite Movie:** *Bringing Down The House*

**Favorite Restaurant:** Olive Garden

**Favorite Drink:** Heinichen

**Favorite Thing About Memphis:** Beale Street

**Least Favorite Thing About Memphis:** nothing

**Finish this phrase:** My friends think I am "funny."

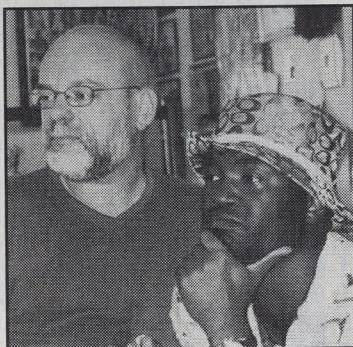


## WHAT'S THE 'TEE' LADYBUG? BY ANTHONY HARDAWAY

Chil-ren, we did it again. Southern Heritage Classic Weekend 2003 was a success the entire weekend.

Celebrity guest photographer Greg McNeal arrived at Memphis International Airport at 7:30 a.m. Thursday. The male exotic dancers arrived about five hours later. The Thursday night male revue was hot but the chil-ren must have forgotten about the announcement made the weekend before. Trust me, we made up for it that Saturday night. Allow me to go back to Friday night. Those nieces of mine, "The Kouvosiers," showed out again. These ladies really know how to give us a show. When they performed "Taste My Ice Cream," I almost went crazy myself. Keep up the good work, babies, your Auntie is so proud of you.

The Saturday morning pre-classic game event at 28 North Claybrook (at "The Haven") was disturbed around 10 a.m. by heavy rain. But around 11:45 a.m. it cleared up and the sun came out. Around 30 to 50 beautiful brothers and sisters and friends stopped by The Haven to meet and purchase the artistic work of Greg McNeal and to learn



Kim Moss and Ladybug

about safe sex from the founder of Brothers United Network of Tennessee, Dwayne Jenkins. Everybody was very pleased with the knowledge Dwayne left us with concerning HIV/AIDS. Executive Director Kim Moss of Friends for Life (and my boss) stopped by and stayed for the entire event. That was a great honor. I told Kim the chil-ren are going to start calling him Uncle Kim. It's beautiful to be a part of a family/village. Upcoming legendary Memphis SGL artists in attendance were photographer Shari L. Walker and graphic artist Leon Thomas Jr.

Allow me to acknowledge Saturday night at Club Allusions but first, let me ask you, the reader, "Were you there?" Then, I don't ever have to write about it - do I chile? I'll just send a shout out to my "Butch" (Terry) ... you are working it out!!! The show was off da hook (just like the movie) with the out of town performers, R. Darius of Atlanta, and others; the dancers "K-Rock" and "Blaze" of Atlanta; Earl "The Dicksman" of New Orleans; "Black" of Dallas; Club Allusion showcast members, and the music of all three of our D.J.s.

I was wondering if Greg was okay. Baby, I looked up and he was occupied with a BIG BEAUTIFUL smile on his face. I think it was the entire weekend plus the boys. Ha! Ha! Focus, Ladybug, Focus!

Sunday night Newcomer and Junior Ms. Pageants were the perfect way to end the weekend. All the contestants looked good that night. The attendance was very nice. The young lady that did the centipede performance for talent ... that was cute, baby. And it was good (as always) to see Niesha Dupree and Monte St. James from Atlanta.

I started off video recording but chile, I was already tired from the weekend, so around 3 a.m., the doll's eyes started getting heavy.

Anyone wanting to purchase a video copy of the pageant, call (901) 274-0163 or ask the front desk person at Club Allusions. Donations are welcome, it helps out with the HIV outreach at the club and in the community.

Proud sponsors of the 2003 event held during Southern Heritage Classic weekend were Friends For Life, Club Allusions, Statscript Pharmacy, Brothers United Network of Tennessee, *Family & Friends* magazine and Memphis Black SGL Alliance.

Next step of travel: Nashville, Tenn., for its first Black Pride event Halloween weekend.

And, as always, "Happy pride, chil-ren, happy pride!"

2865 Walnut Grove  
(901) 320-0026



**THURSDAYS:** Karaoke with DJ Rodney • 9 p.m.

**FRIDAYS:** Hip Hop, R&B and a twist of house  
with DJ Wild Bill • 10 p.m.

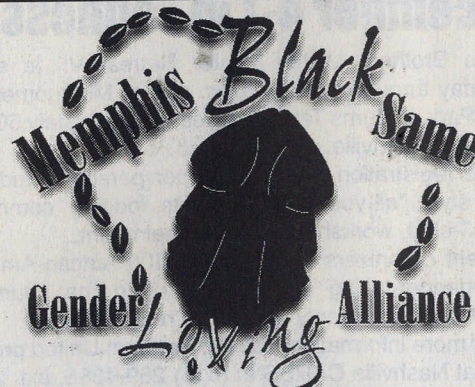
**SATURDAYS:** Dance Night • NO COVER!  
BLACK OUT AT 1 A.M.

**SUNDAYS:** Doors Open at 9 p.m.

Show Starts at 12:30 a.m.

**KITCHEN IS OPEN**

**Must be 21 or older to drink • ID Required!**



(901) 274-0163

Creating a village/haven for & about us.

# Congratulations

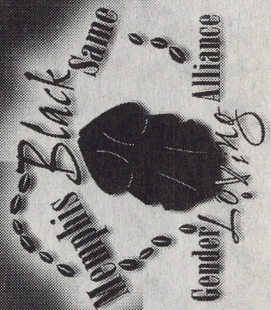


**PAGEANT  
WINNERS**



**Nashville Black Pride  
Halloween Weekend  
"By Our Own Definition"  
Oct. 30 to Nov. 2, 2003**

**Host Hotel:**  
**The Comfort Inn**  
**1501 Demonbreun St.**  
**For Info & Schedule**  
**contact Dwayne Jenkins @**  
**615-259-4866 ext. 269**  
**brosunited@aol.com**  
**www.brothersunited.com**



**Paid For By**

**Ms. Newcomer**  
Diamond St. James

**Mr. Newcomer**  
Desmond Dupree

**Ms. Junior Miss**  
Mahogany Tymes

**Mississippi Black Pride  
November 7-8, 2003  
Jackson, Miss.**

**Host Hotel: (601) 969-2141  
Info: (866) 578-6872**

**FRIDAY**

- Welcome Breakfast • "Living Positively"
- Empowerment Seminars & Workshops
- Community-Based Organization Expo
- "Meet & Greet" Social

**SATURDAY**

- Welcome Breakfast • "Voices from the Village" Empowerment Seminars & Workshops • Town Hall Meeting • Hair & Fashion Extravaganza • Illusions With a Twist • Exotic Dancer Review

**ALLUSIONS**

Entertainment Complex

**"A" Triple "T"**  
Productions

Saturday, October 25, 2003

# The Vine

1819 Madison Avenue

at the corner of Madison and McLean  
(formerly Fantasia)

9:00 - 1:00

*Featuring*

## The Tropix

## DJ Skittlebraü

### Ticket Outlets

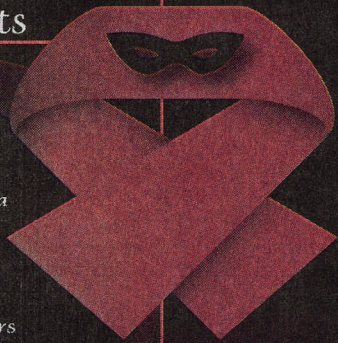
Inz & Outz  
553 South Cooper

Dabbles Hair Co.  
19 North Cooper

The White Gardenia  
820 South Cooper

Friends For Life  
1384 Madison

Millennium Interiors  
Oak Court Mall



- \$100<sup>00</sup> VIP**
- Complimentary Full Bar
- Delicious buffet
- VIP Overlook Lounge

- \$35<sup>00</sup> Advance General Admission**
- \$40<sup>00</sup> At The Door**
- Complimentary wine, beer, non-alcoholic

Friends For Life  
*presents*

# A night in red Masquerade AIDS Ball

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DATE  
CHANGED  
FOR PAGEANT

# CLUB ALLUSIONS

Entertainment Complex

3204 North Thomas  
Northgate Shopping Center  
(901) 357-8383

## Mr. & Ms. HOT MEMPHIS Pageant

Sunday, Nov. 9, 2003

### PRESENTATION

Creative Costume  
Business Attire  
Evening Gown/Formal Wear

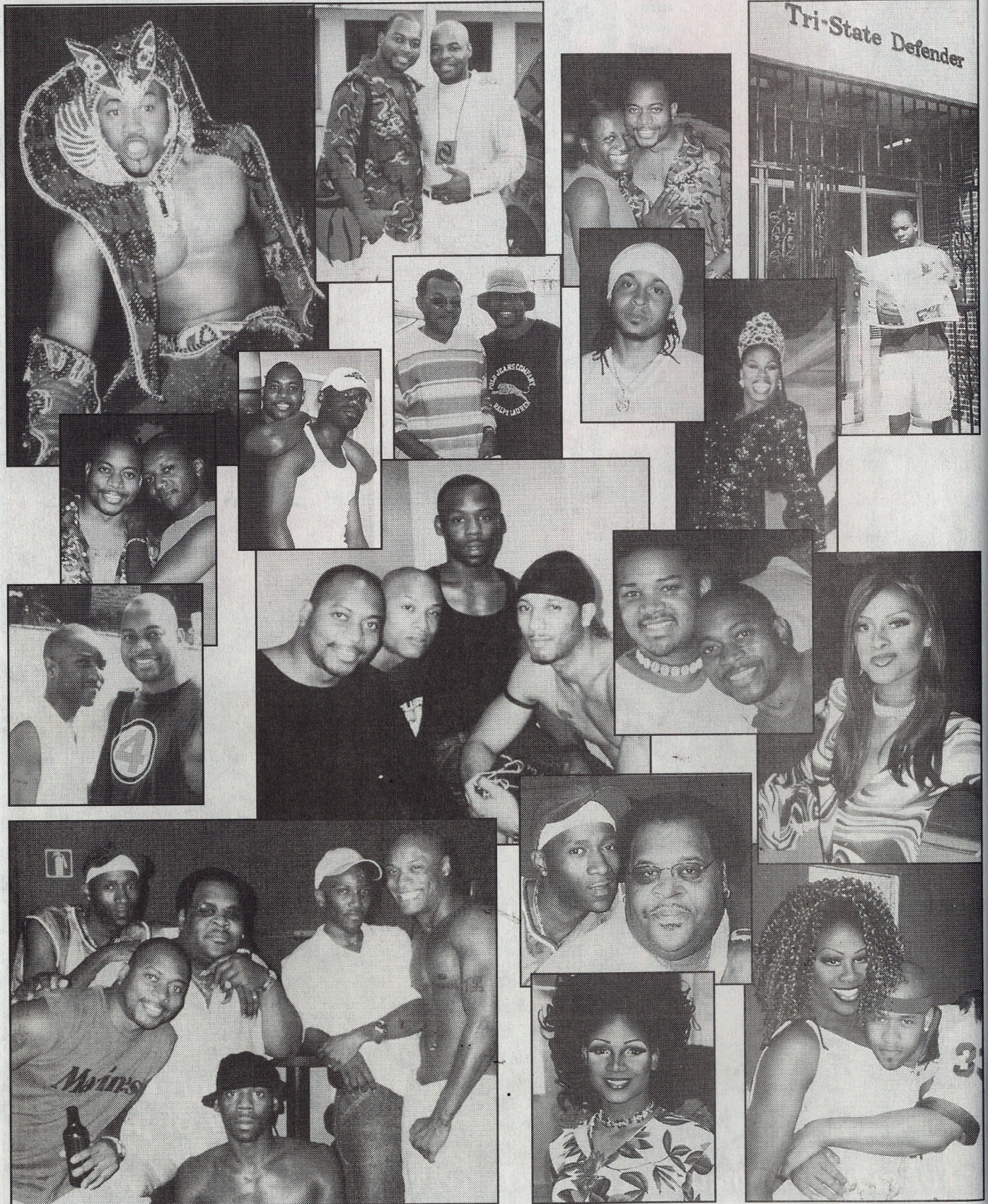
### TALENT

7 minutes  
(3 minutes for set-up)

Entry Fee: \$100  
\$2,000 in cash & prizes

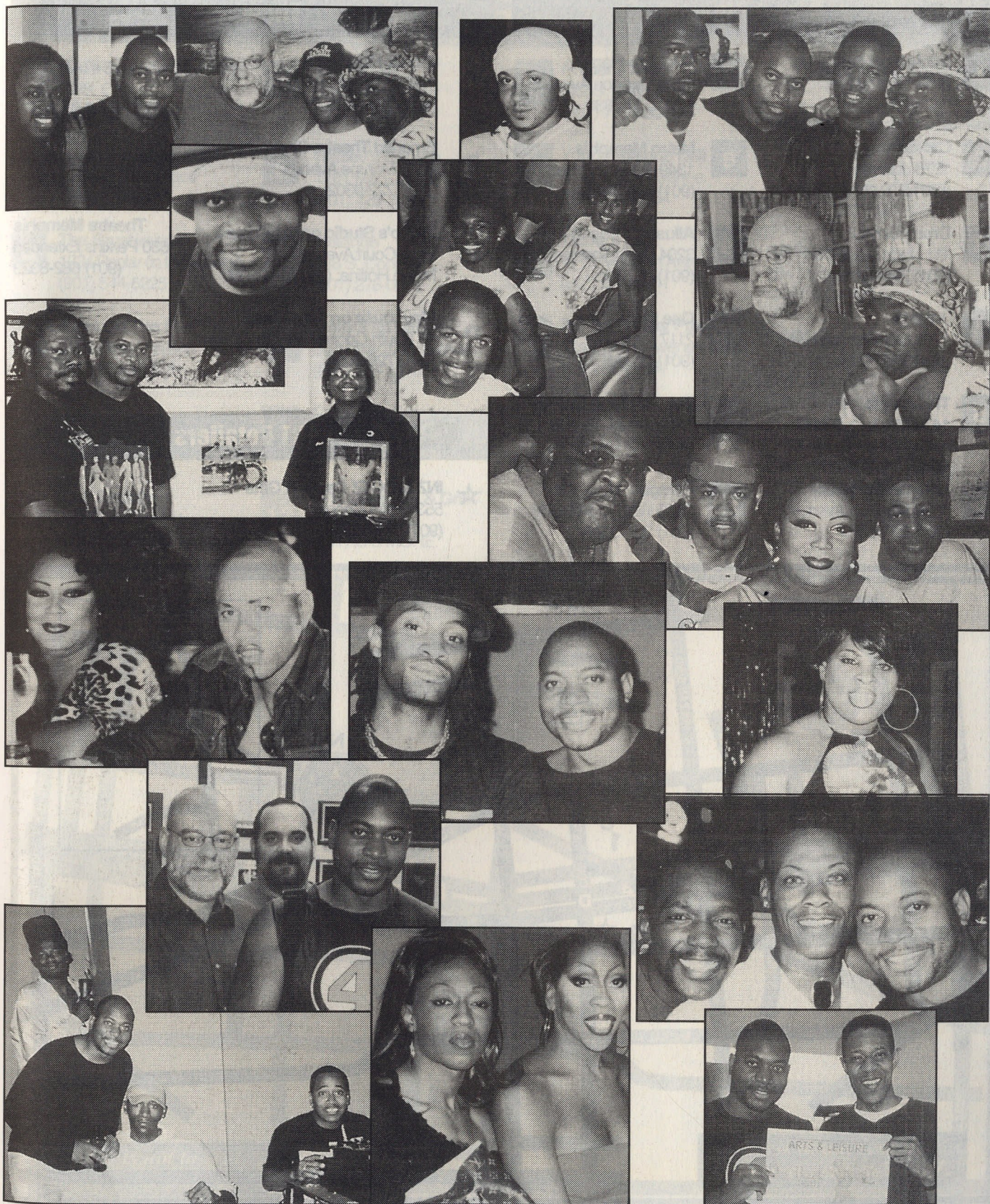
Registration/Rehearsal  
3 p.m. day of pageant

For more information, contact Terryl or Tony at (901) 406-3894





SOUTHERN HERITAGE CLASSIC/GREG MCNEAL WEEKEND **FAMILY ALBUM**



# MEMPHIS BAR & THEATER GUIDE

## Bars & Clubs

- 1** **Backstreet Memphis**  
2018 Court Street  
(901) 276-5522
- 2** **Crossroads**  
1278 Jefferson  
(901) 276-8078
- 3** **Crossroads 2**  
111 North Claybrook  
(901) 276-1882
- 4** **J-Wags**  
1268 Madison Avenue  
(901) 725-1909
- 5** **The Jungle**  
1474 Madison Avenue  
(901) 278-4313
- 6** **Lorenz/Aftershock**  
1528 Madison Avenue  
(901) 274-8272
- 7** **Madison Flame**  
1588 Madison Avenue  
(901) 278-9839
- 8** **Metro Memphis**  
1349 Autumn Street  
(901) 274-8010
- 9** **Allusions (inset)**  
3204 North Thomas  
(901) 357-8383
- 10** **One More**  
2117 Peabody  
(901) 278-MORE
- 11** **The Pumping Station**  
1382 Poplar Avenue  
(901) 272-7600
- 12** **Paragon**  
2865 Walnut Grove Rd.  
(901) 320-0026

## Theaters

- A** **Circuit Playhouse**  
1705 Poplar Avenue  
(901) 726-4656
- B** **Emerald Theatre Company**  
2085 Monroe Avenue  
(901) 722-9302
- C** **Malco's Studio on the Square**  
2105 Court Avenue  
Movie Hotline: (901) 681-2020
- D** **Playhouse on the Square**  
51 South Cooper  
(901) 726-4656

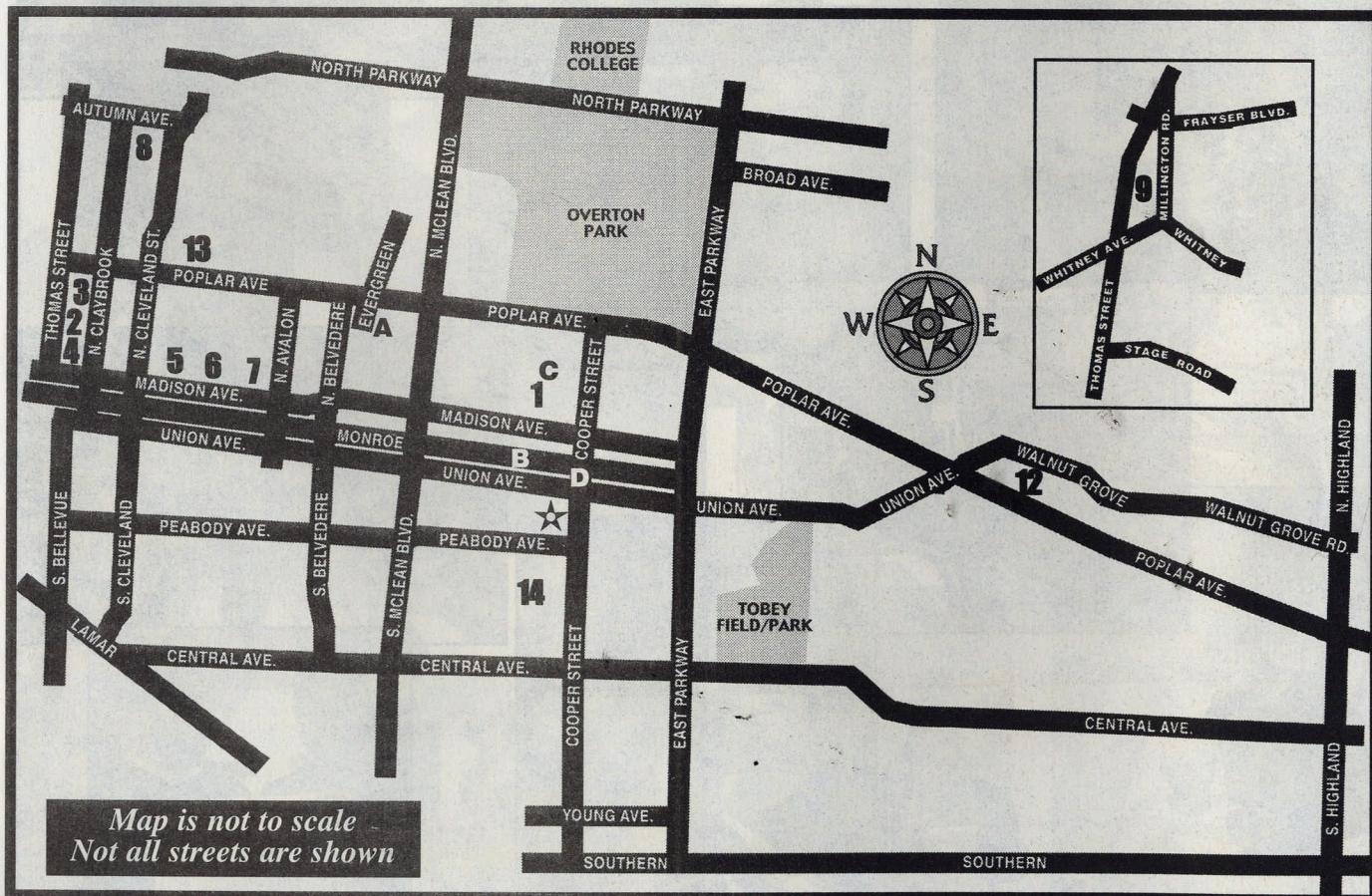
## NOT ON MAP

**The Orpheum**  
203 South Main Street  
(901) 525-3000

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

## GLBT Retailers

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



## AREA RESTAURANTS

**1 BARI Southeaster Italian**  
22 S. Cooper  
(901) 722-2244

**2 Bogie's Delicatessen**  
2098 LaSalle Place  
(901) 272-0022

**3 The Brushmark**  
1934 Poplar (in the Brooks)  
(901) 544-6225

**4 Buns On The Run**  
2150 Elzey Avenue  
(901) 278-BUNS

**5 Cafe Ole**  
2127 Young Avenue  
(901) 274-1504

**6 Cafe Society**  
212 N. Evergreen  
(901) 722-2177

**7 Grill 'n' Bar**  
326 S. Cleveland  
(901) 725-9809

**8 Hattley's Garage**  
1761 Madison Avenue  
(901) 726-3815

**9 Melange**  
948 S. Cooper  
(901) 276-0002

**10 Molly's La Casita**  
2006 Madison Avenue  
(901) 726-1873

**11 One Love Cafe**  
2158 Central Avenue  
(901) 722-7878

**12 One More Bar & Grill**  
2117 Peabody  
(901) 278-MORE

**13 Printer's Alley**  
322 S. Cleveland  
(901) 725-9809

**14 Young Avenue Deli**  
2119 Young Avenue  
(901) 278-0034

**15 Zinnie's East**  
1718 Madison Avenue  
(901) 274-7101

**16 Pie In The Sky Pizza**  
2149 Young Avenue  
(901) 276-7437

### NOT ON MAP

#### Pancho's Mexican Restaurant

- 717 N. Whitestation  
(901) 685-5404
- 87 S. Second Street  
(901) 522-0011

#### RP Tracks

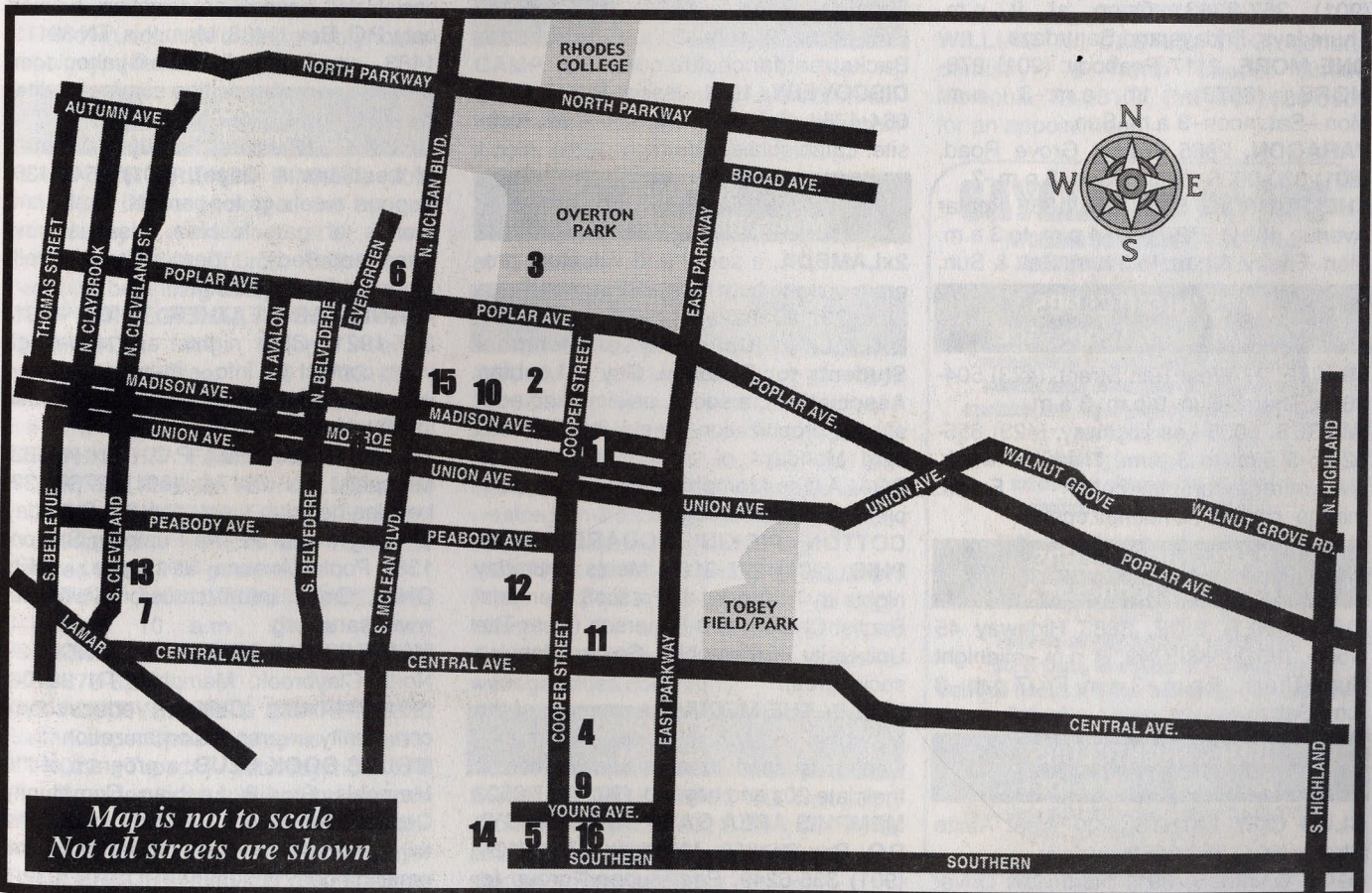
3547 Walker Street  
(901) 327-1471

#### SOGO

1255 Goodman Road  
Hom Lake, MS  
(662) 349-6565

#### Twain's

inside Sam's Town Tunica  
(800) 456-0711



## 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.backstreetmemphis.com](http://www.backstreetmemphis.com)

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

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

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

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

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

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

**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.

## BARS/NIGHTCLUBS Chattanooga, Tennessee

**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](http://www.mirage-complex.com), Email: [mirage\\_complex@hotmail.com](mailto:mirage_complex@hotmail.com)

## BARS/NIGHTCLUBS 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.

## BARS/NIGHTCLUBS 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)

## BARS/NIGHTCLUBS 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](mailto:QCDisco@aol.com)

## BARS/NIGHTCLUBS Tupelo, Mississippi

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

## BARS/NIGHTCLUBS Hot Springs, Arkansas

**OUR HOUSE**, 660 East Grand Avenue, Hot Springs, Ark. (501) 624-6868, Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m. to 3 a.m., Sat., 7 p.m. to 2 a.m.

## BARS/NIGHTCLUBS Little Rock, Arkansas

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

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

## SOCIAL Memphis, Tennessee

**2xLAMBDA**, a social and volunteer program 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 Mondays of each month, e-mail: [BGALA@cc.Memphis.edu](mailto:BGALA@cc.Memphis.edu), [www.people.memphis.edu/~bgala](http://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](http://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@memphis-bears.com](mailto:info@memphis-bears.com), [www.memphisbears.com](http://www.memphisbears.com)

**MEMPHIS GAY & LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTER**, 892 South Cooper Memphis, 38104, (901) 278-4297, town-hall 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](mailto: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](mailto:memphisgroup@usa.com)

**MYSTIC KREWE OF APHRODITE**, a mystical and service organization, women only, P.O. Box 11483, Memphis, TN 38111-1483, email: [aphroditemem@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.tnleathertribe.org), email: [info@tnleathertribe.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:bmoody@mem.net)

**SOCIAL**  
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/glb

**USM GAY/STRAIGHT ALLIANCE**, email: GSAlliance@usm.edu or thespy\_ms@yahoo.com, website: www.usm.edu/gsa

**SOCIAL**  
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.safeharbornea.com

**SOCIAL**  
Missouri

**VISIONS OF PRIDE COMMUNITY CENTER**, 30 North Pacific, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701, (573) 651-6220, email: DeltaDyke@aol.com, hometown.aol.com/deltadyke/myhomepage/gaypride.html

**WHOLENESS**  
Memphis, Tennessee

**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

**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

**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.

**SPIRITUAL**  
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.equalitytennesse.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.

**POLITICAL**  
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: memphis-gaysoftball@yahoo.com, Softball league open to GLBT individuals.

**BROTHERS & SISTERS BOWLING LEAGUE**, Winchester Bowl, 3703 S. Mendenhall @ Winchester, (901) 722-5236 or (901) 465-4371. Email: memphis-gaybowlin@aol.com. This co-ed bowling league meets every Sunday at 6 p.m.

**WELLNESS**  
Memphis, Tennessee

**DOCTORS**

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

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

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# HOROSCOPES

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Aries (March 21-April 20)** — The important people in your

life will be more supportive of you than ever. Don't underestimate yourself because your methods will be noticed.

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

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

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

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

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

*Editor's Note: Horoscopes are meant for entertainment purposes only and are for the month of mid-October to mid-November, 2003.*



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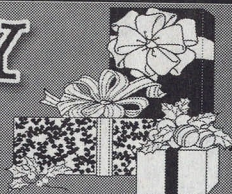
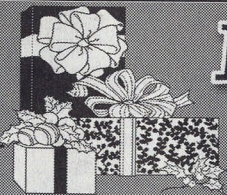


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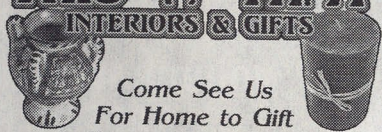
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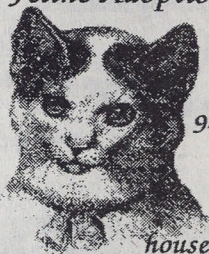


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