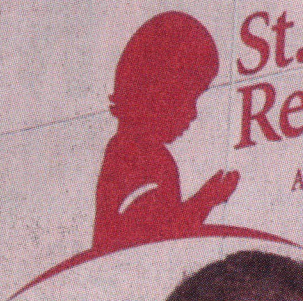


HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

MID-NOVEMBER
2003

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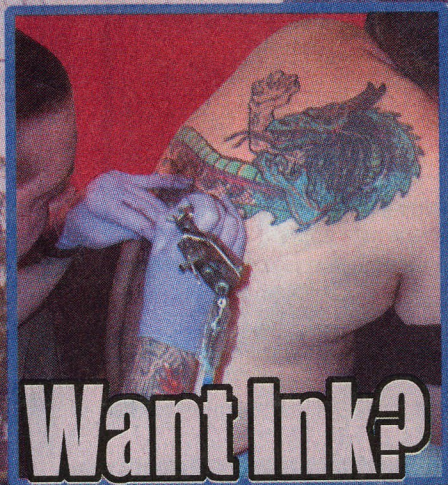
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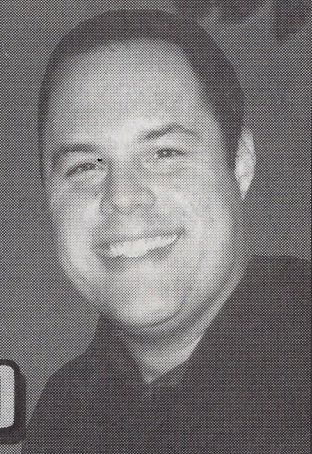
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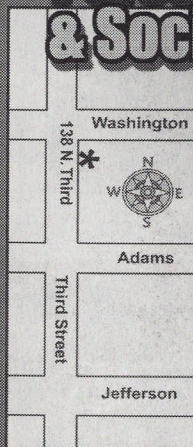
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REX WOCKNER
JOHN CROSSEN
KEVIN SHAW
JIM EASTER
KATIE HIESTAND
LAER GIB RETAE
Contributors

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Memphis Office:

P.O. Box 771948
Memphis, TN 38177-1948
(901) 682-2669
(901) 685-2234 FAX
Email: FamilyMag@aol.com

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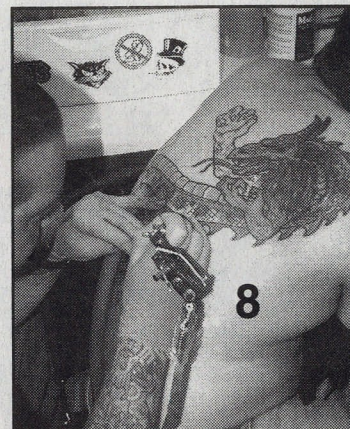
CONTENTS

Mid-November 2003

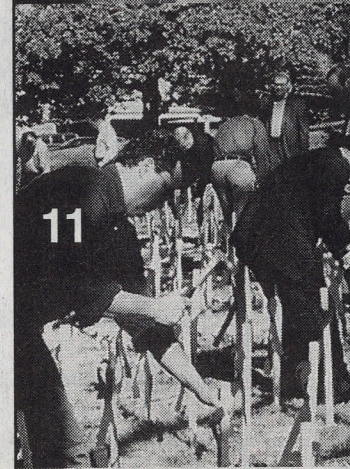
- 8 WANT INK?**
Tattoo artist Dave Evans talks openly about the dos and don'ts of wearable art
- 11 WORLD AIDS DAY**
December 1 observances are plentiful
- 16 ONE MAN CAN**
Local man rolls up his sleeve to help find a vaccine for HIV at St. Jude
- 30 GAY LEADS STRAIGHTS**
"Drama" abounds at Playhouse on Square
- 81 NEED GIFT IDEAS?**
Family & Friends' Holiday Gift Guide is full of gift ideas for just about every budget

COLUMNS

- And Our Point Is 6
- Bulletin 12
- Straight Up, But Not Straight 22
- On Stage Now 32
- For Your Family 34
- Have You Ever Wondered? 37
- Arts & Leisure 39
- Quote/Unquote 41
- Community Announcements 43
- HIV/AIDS Education 101 44
- Passionate About Pets 48
- About Town 56
- Restaurant Guide (map) 58
- Dining Out 59
- Horoscopes 65
- Family Albums 68-69, 74-75, 77, 84, 88-89
- Letters to the Editor 70-73
- Holiday Shopping Guide 80-82
- What's The "Tee," Ladybug? 83
- Rainbow Directory 91-93
- Bar & Theater Guide (map) 94



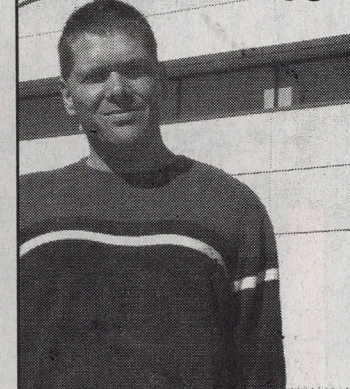
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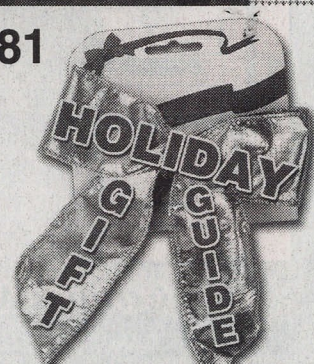
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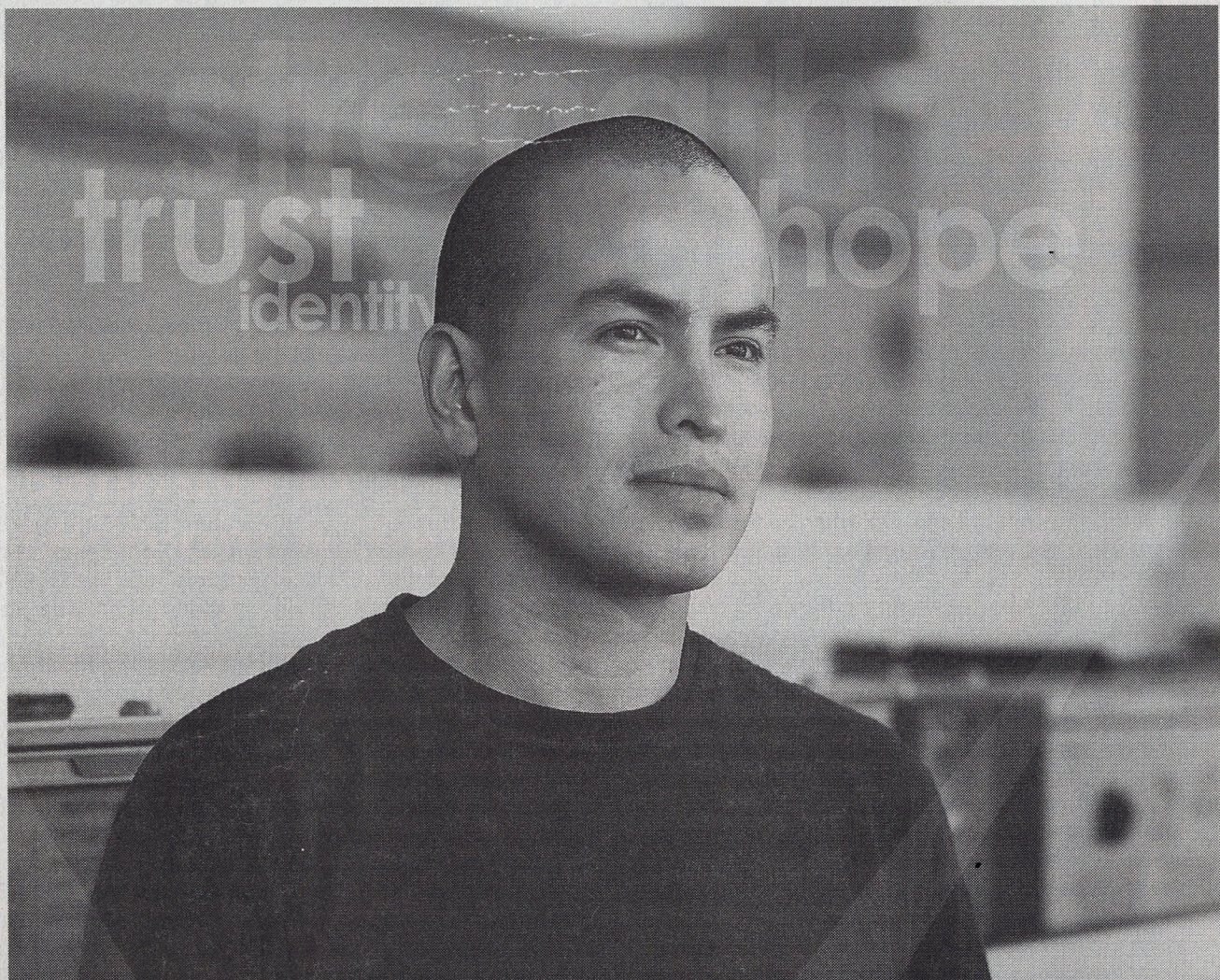


16



81





Because I live
for today,

but think
for tomorrow.



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Try a different approach to HIV education

The African-American Pastor's Consortium will hold a fundraising gala on World AIDS Day, Monday, Dec. 1, at 7 p.m. at the Holiday Inn at The University of Memphis, located at 3700 Central Avenue. Tickets are \$100 each/\$1000 table. The proceeds will be used to purchase a facility for AIDS orphans in Idutywa, Africa. For more information call (901) 323-1515.

We applaud the African-American Pastor's Consortium for holding this event and bringing the plight of HIV/AIDS, even in African children, to the attention of Mid-Southerners. At least this shows that this group of African-American pastors are acknowledging the disease as a reality. That's at least a start.

Sometimes, the subject of children can break down doors so those who don't want to listen, will; whereas the subject of other groups infected with HIV/AIDS will turn that same listener off.

These African children, for whom the Pastor's Consortium are raising funds, were born with the disease; they didn't do anything to get it. Same for children born with HIV/AIDS in America. They are all innocent. And that innocence could well be a key to breaking through the hardheadedness of many who care not to deal with this epidemic, whether they reside in America or Africa.

Ironically, just as we have some voices in our African-American community trying to educate about HIV/AIDS, there are likewise a few voices in Africa, who are trying to teach the truth about this disease to their people. Both in Africa and America, ignorance and lack of knowledge continue to breed prejudice and complacency.

Here in America, sometimes banging on the front door, of churches in this case, and screaming are not the way to get in. Sometimes the backdoor approach can work. And, once your foot is in the door, then the door will open or it will close. And it is no secret that the doors of many churches have been slammed shut when the congregations, black or white, are asked to address the issue of HIV/AIDS.

Let's not waste our precious time on people and churches, or other groups, who don't want to know the truth. There are plenty out there who are willing to listen and act on the truth. Our goal should not be to get the hell-fire-and-damnation preacher to change his message; that is like spitting into the wind.

However, we suggest that HIV/AIDS educators, and those who understand the basics of the disease, should attempt to share the truth with their colleagues and friends when the topic of discussion allows it. What about offering HIV 101 classes for the general public to educate them so their voices can educate throughout our community, even on an introductory level?

If the churches don't want to talk about HIV/AIDS, fine. But those people attending those churches don't attend church 24/7. They eat at restaurants, they get their hair fixed, they go shopping, they do lots and lots of other things. There are many establishments and organizations in the Memphis and Mid-South community, including our African-American community, who are willing to disseminate the truth about AIDS. Recently, we heard of one group educating some barbers and hair stylists in their city on safe sex techniques and HIV/AIDS and provided the locations with free condoms to distribute.

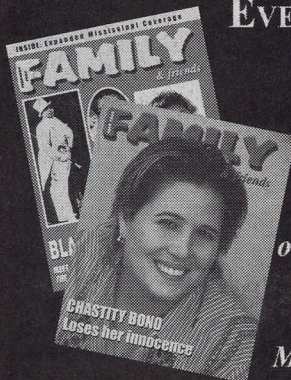
It may be easier to approach people from these venues than from the pulpit. If people are totally dedicated to doing what the preacher says, and he says no wrong in their opinion, there isn't anything we can do to change their mind. But there are others who are willing to listen to find out the truth. What would happen if Deacon Smith got his hair cut and educated at the same time and took the message back to the deacon board, thus setting into motion the chance for his church to educate about the truth of HIV/AIDS, test for the disease and/or provide for those living with the disease.

In closing, no doubt, some in our community might be con-

See And Your Point, page 10

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TATTOOS: More than just wearable art

By ANITA MOYT, managing editor

Tattoos. Some got 'em. Some don't. Some want them. Some don't. But, look around, tattoos are everywhere. And each has a story to go with it.

Going for her second tattoo, *Family & Friends* Publisher Patricia Pair had an idea in mind. A rose vine with a black triangle in the middle of the vine. Roses, because they reminded her of her wife, Anita Moyt, and a black triangle, considered the symbol imposed on lesbians during the Holocaust by the Nazi regime.

Who is Pair's tattoo artist? Dave Evans, co-owner of Underground Art, located at 2287 Young Avenue. Evans, with 13 years experience and a very patient and likeable personality, is extremely artistic and creative. He and co-owner Angela Russell's establishment has been named *The Memphis Flyer's* Best Tattoo Parlor 1996 through 2003, consecutively.

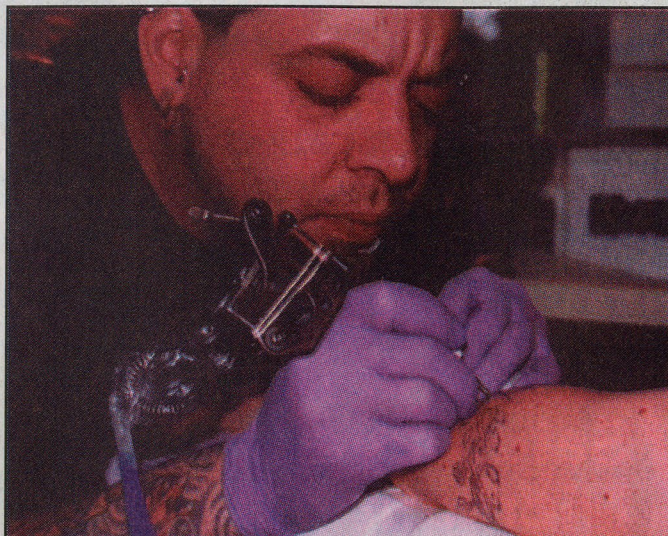
The usual rule of thumb is a \$20 deposit is put down at the time an appointment is made. Large tattoos require multiple appointments.

"We do walk-ins but prefer appointments," Evans told *Family & Friends*. "Most people bring in something that is not tattooable and needs time for artwork. Also, (I've found that) if they have to have it that night, they probably don't need it."

There are a few ground rules at Underground Art.

A valid ID is required. "This is not a spectator sport," the sign read, thus a two-guest (the person(s) you bring along for moral support) limit on the weekdays and one on the weekends. No children under the age of eight are allowed in Underground Art. No chewing tobacco is allowed... you wouldn't want to gross out the artist while delicate work is being done on your back, now would you? Sobriety is a must and those who are drunk or "excessively altered" will be asked to leave. Also, no hate- or racist-related tattoos will be administered.

With all the red-tape completed, and forms signed, Evans talked to Pair about her idea and exited for about 15 min-



Dave Evans begins to fill in Patricia Pair's tattoo with color.

utes, returning with a drawing, which he had drawn free-hand, on thin, tracing-type paper. Pair found the drawing to be exactly what she had in mind and, after placing the paper around Pair's forearm, where she had decided to place the tattoo, and determining that the size and positioning were acceptable, Evans retired to the back of the shop again to continue the process of transferring the drawing to another type of paper.

Pair then sat down in the tattoo chair with her left arm extended on the arm rest. After cleaning the selected area on Pair's left forearm the second decal-type paper image of the tattoo was transferred to Pair's flesh as the paper was dampened.

Evans then prepared his equipment, choosing the colors he would need, and attaching a sterilized set of needles which would be discarded after their one-time use. Evans first chose black ink to outline the transferred image.

Does it tickle?

"No," Pair replied.

Does it hurt?

"Every now and then it is sharp," she said.

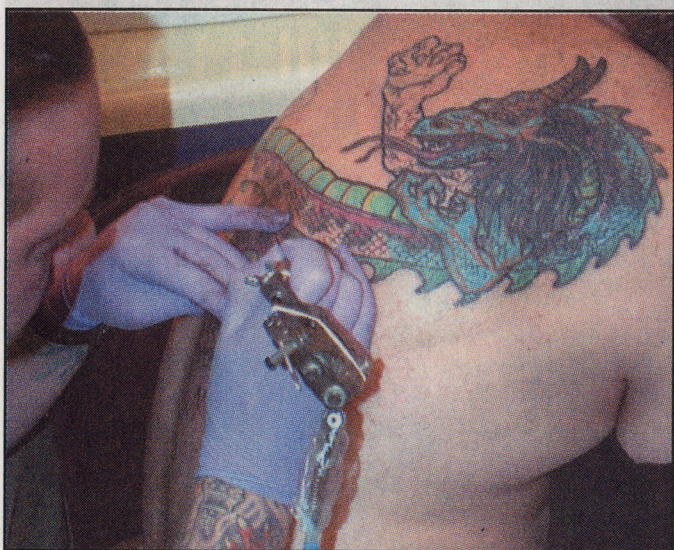
As Evans worked during the next hour or so, he was welcoming to our questions and was able to carefully continue the tattooing without missing a beat.

"One color is NOT more painful than the other," Evans said. "Usually the last color used is what hurts the most, since the skin has grown sensitive. Generally, colors are applied dark to light, with white often being the last color.

"The calf and upper arm hurt least," Evans continued. "Where nerve endings/cells congregate is where the most pain is. For example, the center of the back doesn't feel near the sensation that the sides do."

Evans told us his first love is illustrating. He even attended college for a degree in graphic design.

"I really wanted to illustrate and that's why I got into graphic arts. I do album covers, etc. for friends," he said.



Dave Evans works on a customer's dragon tattoo.

See Tattoos, page 29



December
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And Your Point

from page 6

cerned that the African-American Pastor's Consortium's event is not raising money for a HIV/AIDS agency in Memphis or the Mid-South. That is a choice for those attending, whether to give the money to the African children or not.

For the argument of why send the money out of the city, well, in the long run we will. Ultimately our increased tax dollar's will find their way to Africa as the pandemic grows and the disease-ravaged nations ask the U.S.A. to help them out. Likewise, the HIV/AIDS epidemic in other nations has a secondary effect, including the accelerated price of HIV/AIDS medications here in America to compensate for manufacturer's providing reduced-price or free medications to third-world countries.

However, should any of our readers wish a chance to help children infected and affected by HIV/AIDS in the Memphis and Mid-South area, we have two great agencies that always need your support: Loving Arms, which provides many services, including transportation, recreation, support groups, holiday presents for children, among other services, and Hope House, which is a child-care facility.

Need someone to talk to? Memphis Area Gay Youth. A peer support & discussion group. (901) 335-MAGY

NOVEMBER 2003

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World AIDS Day to be observed December 1

Every year, our country remembers those who are both living with AIDS and those who have fallen to it. Below is a list of various opportunities for the public to observe World AIDS Day in Memphis and the Mid-South on Monday, Dec. 1.

- 10 a.m., at the Memphis and Shelby County Health Department auditorium, 814 Jefferson Avenue, the Memphis and Shelby County Health department's Official Commemorative Ceremony will be held, as well as a press conference and awards reception with Mayors A.C. Wharton and Dr. W.W. Herenton presenting a joint proclamation.

- 10 a.m., the East Arkansas Family Health Center, 990 North Missouri Avenue, West Memphis, Ark., will release balloons to represent all those who had or have HIV/AIDS. This agency, in collaboration with several other agencies, will conduct a marker project Nov. 24 to Dec. 5.

- 1 to 4 p.m., at the MED's Adult Special Care Center/Medplex, 880 Madison Avenue, 5th

Markers will note those who have been lost to AIDS

Sunday, Nov. 23, 12:15 to 1 p.m., on the lawns of the First Baptist Church of Memphis and the Greater Lewis Street Missionary Baptist Church, both located on either side of Poplar at East Parkway. A total of 2,484 white stake markers with red AIDS ribbons attached will be displayed on the lawns of these two churches, representing the approximate number of children, women and men in Shelby County who have died from AIDS since 1983. The markers will be displayed from Nov. 23 through Dec. 6. Members of Alpha Rho Chi, national co-educational fraternity for architecture from The University of Memphis, have grid the sites to ensure a powerful visual presentation. Volunteers from both churches and the AIDS community are working together in making and installing the markers. The public is invited to participate, as well. For more information, call Butch Valentine at Friends For Life at (901) 272-0855.

Floor, tour the multidisciplinary clinic serving people infected with HIV; get one-on-one education on various HIV topics; take a free confidential, oral HIV test; see the "Faces of AIDS" art exhibit by People Living With HIV/AIDS, and sit down and talk with a person with HIV/AIDS one-on-one and hear their amazing personal stories.

- 1 to 5 p.m., at the Memphis and Shelby County Central Library, 3030 Central Avenue, free, confidential Oral HIV tests will be available.

- 7 p.m., at the Holiday Inn at The University of Memphis, 3700 Central Avenue. The African-American Pastors Consortium's fundraising gala; tickets are \$100 each/\$1000 table. The proceeds will be used to purchase a facility for AIDS orphans in Idutywa, Africa. For more information call (901) 323-1515.

- 5:30 p.m., a special Friends For Life's Feast For Friends at St. John's United Methodist Church, 1207 Peabody Avenue. "Feast, Hope and Remember!" will be an evening of eating, singing, dancing, poetry and remembrance of loved ones lost to the disease.



Previous Worlds AIDS Day markers at the intersection of Poplar and Parkway.

**Be
A
Friend
For
Life,
VOLUNTEER**

**contact
Angela Lamb
at Friends For Life
(901) 272-0855**

First, *Family & Friends* welcomes yet another writer to our ever-growing publication. LAER GIB RETAE (is that French or something?) will be dining around town tasting the culinary offerings of our fair city. Taking the reins of "DINING OUT," Retae will be giving our readers the scoop on the dining establishment of choice, including his opinions of the food, of the service and of the atmosphere. Enjoy!

Family & Friends wishes VINCENT ASTOR a happy 50th birthday and JIM MAYNARD a happy 40th.

The HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN has appointed Massachusetts State Senator CHERYL JACQUES (pronounced Jakes) to be HRC's next president and executive director, beginning in 2004, when Elizabeth Birch steps down citing a need to spend more time with her wife and children.

According to *The Washington Post*, on Oct. 22, PATRICIA IRELAND, was fired as executive director of the YWCA of the USA after six months on the job. The YWCA gave this reason: the YWCA "proved to be the wrong platform" for Ireland's advocacy on women's issues. *The Washington Post* reported that there appeared to have been a campaign by Andrea Lafferty, executive director of the Traditional Values Coalition, for "soccer moms across America" to boycott the YWCA, thus pressuring the organization to remove Ireland from her post. YWCA officials denied this allegation.

Thanks, BILL, for the drinks. It is something to see a straight father of a gay son enjoying a night at a gay bar. Things are changing, huh?

For the first time ever, a pro-gay measure was adopted through a ballot initiative. With 55 percent of voters in favor of a DOMESTIC PARTNER REGISTRY, CLEVELAND HEIGHTS, OHIO, was added to a list of more than 60 localities across the U.S. presently with such registries.

Family & Friends took to the streets with camera in hand HALLOWEEN night. Our favorite disguises included ANNA NICOLE SMITH (with deceased husband's ashes and pooch) and ROY after the tiger incident. See pages 74-75 for more costumed folks.

Aphrodite raised \$2,000 on Nov. 9 for Loving Arms to

buy toys for approximately 400 children, ages one to 13. They also have another fundraiser slated for Dec. 6 at One More Bar and Grill, 2117 Peabody. If you attend, remember to tip BIG.

USNA OUT filed documents on Nov. 11 with the NAVAL ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION in Annapolis, Md., to be the first-ever gay chapter of a U.S. service academy alumni association. There are 32 members to date in USNA OUT.

The HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN will spend \$1 MILLION on ads, to be placed in major national newspapers, to "humanize the issue of same-sex unions" and educate the American public about gay and lesbian families, in an effort to influence them to not support President Bush's backed constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage.

Memphis is about to see another first. Backstreet is putting the finishing touches on its addition, called THE COLISEUM. Why the name? Because it is HUGE and kicks Memphis up another notch when it comes to the club scene, gay or straight.

Speaking of club scenes, we understand that the unwritten principle that STRAIGHTS ARE WELCOME AT GAY CLUBS BUT GAYS ARE NOT WELCOME AT STRAIGHT CLUBS seems to be garnering more evidence. Apparently the key is to know what "welcome" means. We understand one Midtown straight club charges a single person price and a couple price. However, some in our community have found out the couple price only applies to heterosexual couples. Also, we've heard that gays attending certain straight clubs need to not act gay and tone down the gaydar. Some have been asked to leave when making comments to other men in the clubs. We've come a long way, baby, but not that far – yet.

HAPPY Number One ANNIVERSARY to BILLY AND CHARLES. This comes with well wishes from LINDA, too.

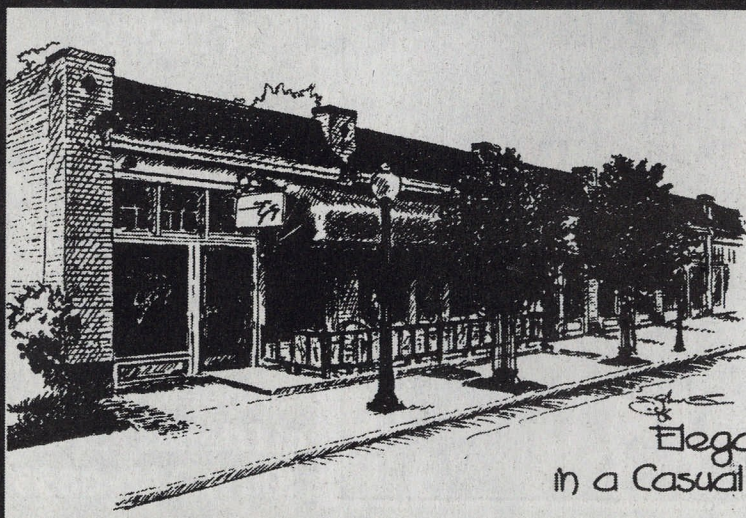
And it was good to see SHARON WRAY out and about recently. Apparently she's been keeping herself hidden as several folks hugged her and said they hadn't seen her in quite awhile.

Well, the past month has been an interesting one, if nothing else.

The MEMPHIS GAY & LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTER Board of Directors is to be commended for its swift action in writing and putting into place some policies for situations much like those we reported on last month when a board member was accused of inappropriate behavior.

The entire staff of *Family & Friends* extends a warm HAPPY THANKSGIVING to all its readers.

DEADLINE for the December issue is Dec. 9 at 5 p.m.



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Search is on for couples for television show

4 pairs needed, including those of color, gays, lesbians

The producers of "American Idol" are searching for amazing couples for their new television series, "The Complex."

"The Complex" is a reality show that involves four couples who move into an unrenovated apartment building, and over two months, restore and decorate it, room by room. Each couple gets a budget, enough to do a fantastic job, as long as they do most of the work themselves.

Finally, the apartments will be sold to the public, and each couple will keep their profits – the difference between the selling price and the cost of the apartment and its renova-

tions. The couple whose apartment sells for the highest price also receives additional cash and prizes!

The casting team for "The Complex" is looking for four real-life couples of ALL types (ethnicities, sexual orientation, etc.) who have an eye for style; home improvement skills; a fierce competitive spirit, and the guts to live on-site and work together to win. Eligibility requirements include a two-year minimum romantic relationship; 22 to 35 years old; presently living together, and able to leave work for two months. Some design experience with your teammate is a must. Couples must be able to demonstrate, in some way, their abilities to undertake and complete a home renovation project.

In order to apply, send you and your partner's names; the city where you live; your contact information; how long you've been together, and a digital picture of the two of you together to Thecomplex@fremantlemedia.com.

For more information, call (877) 662-5625.

If you're gay, patriotic, let the world know

"Why should the right wing, conservatives get all the goodies?," Philip Spotts wrote *Family & Friends Magazine* in an email. "Gay Americans are as patriotic as anyone else."

To get his point across, Spotts, owner of Phil's Leather Goods, is offering a free American Flag decal to stick right next to one's rainbow decal. To get a free decal, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Phil's Leathers, 1706 North Washington, Junction City, KS 66441.

"Junction City is the home of Fort Riley," Spotts continued, "and anyone who thinks GLBTs do not serve in our military just don't have a clue."

For more information, call (785) 762-2242.

San Fran lesbian, gay film festival taking submissions

The 28th San Francisco International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival is taking submissions for the 2004 festival, set for June 17-27, 2004.

Entries must be postmarked by Jan. 5, 2004. Entry forms can be downloaded at www.frameline.org/festival or to receive an entry form by mail, call (415) 703-8650 or email Info@Frameline.org.

In 2003, the juried \$10,000 Levi's First Feature Award recognized Kai S. Pieck's *The Child I Never Was*, which will be released in 2004, by Strand Releasing. The 2003 Stu & Dave's Excellent Documentary Award, a \$10,000 juried award, recognizing the best documentary feature, was shared between two films: Hrafnhildur Gunnarsdottir & Thorvaldur Kristinsson's *Straight Out* and Tracy Flannigan's *Rise Above: The Tribe 8 Documentary*. The 2003 Audience Award for Best Feature was given to Pieter Kramer's *Yes Nurse! No Nurse!*; the Audience Award for Best Documentary was given to Nancy Kates and Bennett Singer for *Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin*, and Debra Wilson's *Butch Mystique* won the Audience Award for Best Short Film.

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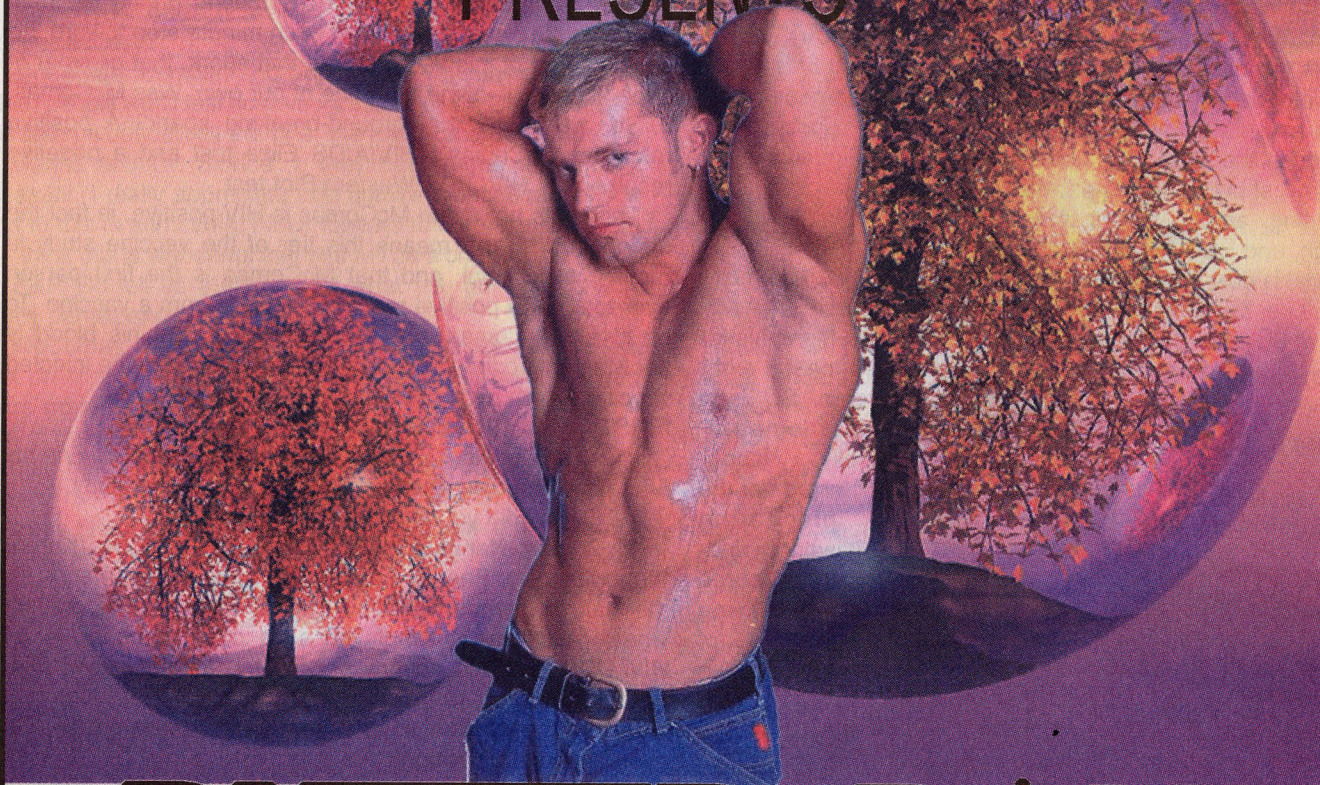
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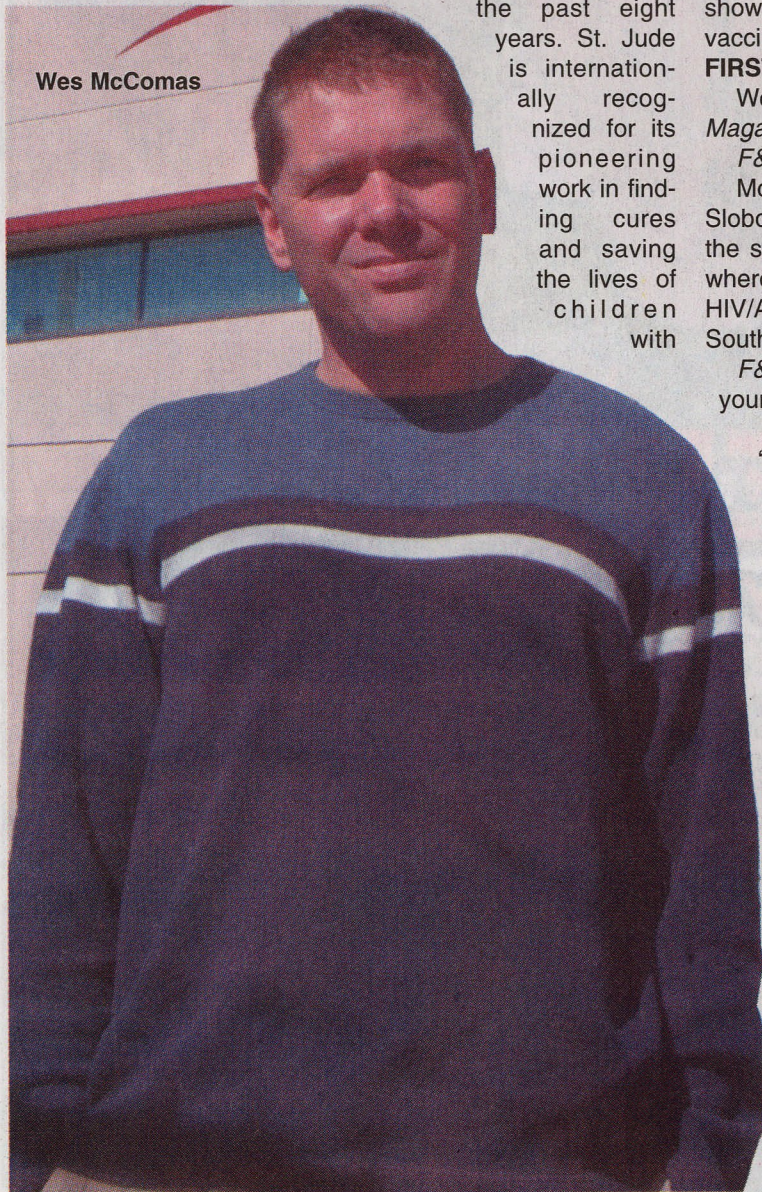
Wes McComas sacrifices self to find HIV vaccine at St. Jude

By Anita Moyt, managing editor

Imagine, if you will, a day 10 years from now. A child enters the halls of elementary school for the first time, holding onto his/her parent's hand. They approach a registration table and his/her mom or dad hands a set of papers to the person at the table. One of these is the child's immunization records, showing his/her dates of all vaccines or inoculations, including, among others, for measles, mumps, whooping cough, and, yes, HIV/AIDS.

That is now a very, very real possibility. The St. Jude multi-envelope, three-tiered, HIV vaccine project has been underway at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis for

the past eight years. St. Jude is internationally recognized for its pioneering work in finding cures and saving the lives of children with



cancer and other catastrophic diseases.

Just last month, a bit of light was seen in the dimmed tunnel the researchers have been navigating during the past eight years as they have taken each minute step toward the development of this vaccine. And that spark, that glimmer of hope, if you will, came from one of our own, Wes McComas.

So, what was that ground-breaking spark? A positive result on McComas's HIV/AIDS Eliza test and a negative result on his HIV/AIDS Western Blot test.

This does not mean McComas is HIV-positive, in fact the opposite is true. It means this tier of the vaccine study is proving successful, and that McComas is the first person ever to show a positive reading from HIV from a vaccine. To be clear, McComas is NOT HIV-positive, but his blood is showing antibodies produced by the presence of the injected vaccine, which he received as part of this study.

FIRST TEST SUBJECT

Wes McComas, 37, sat down with *Family & Friends Magazine* and discussed his role in the St. Jude study.

F&F: How did you find out about this study?

McComas: Nanna (Howlett, RN, CNP) and Dr. (Karen) Slobod came to Friends For Life and gave a presentation for the staff of Friends For Life. (Friends For Life Corporation, where McComas is employed as a case manager, is an HIV/AIDS resource agency serving the Memphis and Mid-South area.)

F&F: Why would you, as a young HIV-negative man, put yourself in this position?

McComas: It comes from growing up in the '80s and '90s and dealing with this devastation (HIV/AIDS). I did it because of the hope we would find a vaccine soon so we wouldn't lose many more beautiful people. ... If there is any chance there is a possibility of a cure, I wanted to be a part of (finding that) cure.

In 1981, I was in junior high in Clinton, Miss. I heard on the news about a "gay cancer." In 1986, I came out and people were already dying from it. By the time I was going through puberty, it was on the scene. In 1986, in Jackson, Miss., you would see people and they were dropping like flies. They would just disappear and I didn't want to know where they were.

F&F: Were you or are you scared at all?

McComas: The first shot didn't scare me. I was scared when Nanna called and told me I had antibodies of the virus. I was scared that night. Nanna educated me; I know she and Dr. Slobod have my utmost well-being in their mind.

Even though I've worked in this field since 1990, and I've seen a lot of people die, it felt strange when Nanna told me - it is as close as I've ever been to feeling what my clients go through when they are diagnosed.

See One Man Can, page 17

One Man Can

from page 16

Everytime I go for an appointment at St. Jude, they take a lot of blood, my temperature, blood pressure and weight. I have never feared for my health. I know I am in the hands of professionals.

F&F: How does it feel to be a groundbreaker, first-success story?

McComas: Humble, and hopeful we will finally see a day when people won't test positive for this disease. Other diseases will take us out but not this one. We are all doing our part.

Nanna and Dr. Slobod ... they have made this trial so pleasant. I really appreciate and admire them. Their dedication to this is admirable. I look forward to meeting with them. ... I think this is wonderful that this will be a childhood vaccine.

F&F: So tell us a little about what you go through as a study participant.

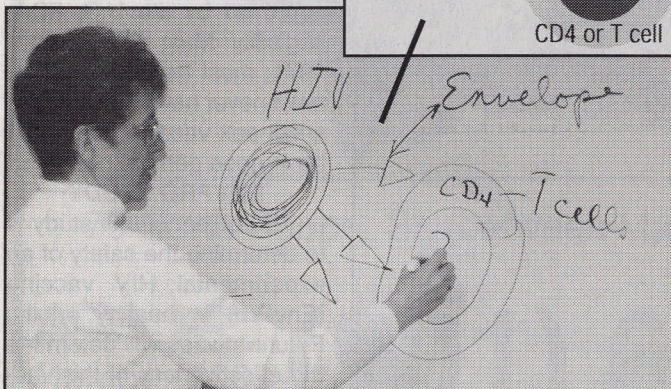
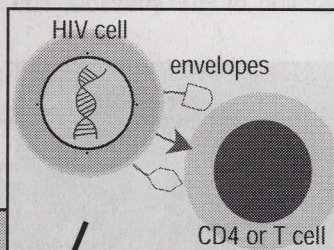
McComas: From the beginning they explained to me safe sex practices. I was very sure of what I was doing. There were no side effects, except with the first booster (and) the site of the shot was sensitive for that day. They made it clear I could contact them day or night and St. Jude would take care of me. If I got a cold or fever after the shot I was to notify them. I kept a temperature log and monitored the injection site, and let them know how I felt in the log. It feels like a full physical when I go for an appointment, and it was a big physical just to qualify (for the study).

F&F: So, even though the vaccine has produced HIV antibodies in your blood, you do not have HIV, you are still HIV negative, and you can not pass HIV to anybody else, so long as you practice safe sex and don't contract the disease from an outside source. Is that your understanding?

McComas: Yes, I cannot give HIV to anyone, because I am not HIV positive. I am only positive for the vaccine's antibody.

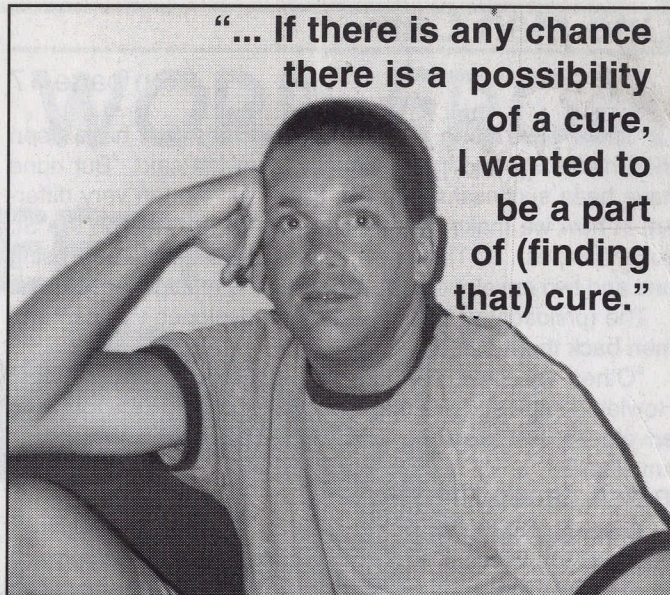
THE STUDY

Karen Slobob, M.D., associate member of the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital's (St. Jude) Department of Infectious Diseases and Julia Hurwitz, Ph.D., of the St. Jude Immunology Department,



Nanna Howlett, RN, CNP at St. Jude, uses diagrams to explain the complex theory behind the vaccine study.

“... If there is any chance there is a possibility of a cure, I wanted to be a part of (finding that) cure.”



are the leaders of the St. Jude multi-envelope, three-tiered, HIV vaccine project; they conceived the idea for the project in 1993. The vaccine is designed to protect against diverse forms of the AIDS virus.

“Such a vaccine is designed to help people of all ages,” Hurwitz said, “but St. Jude is particularly interested in making a vaccine available to the world’s children.”

Two points stand out in the study. First the “multi-envelope” aspect of the vaccine and, secondly, the “three-tiered approach” to the vaccine.

MULTI-ENVELOPE

“Envelope” is the protein that coats the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and is the part of the virus first recognized by the immune system. The St. Jude HIV vaccine is designed to overcome the problem of viral diversity that is typical of HIV. This vaccine is the first to have advanced a multi-envelope vaccine strategy into clinical testing.

Family and Friends Magazine sat down with Nanna Howlett, RN, CNP at St. Jude, who has been with St. Jude since 1985, and with this program for six years. She is in charge of the study participants.

“The HIV virus is an envelope protein,” Howlett explained, “with different insides. It exposes itself to the CD4 cell in the human body. It is like a trojan horse; if the CD4 cell knew it was an HIV virus, it wouldn't let it in. CD4 cells are T-cells, the cells that become infected with HIV.”

Howlett explained the “lock and key” symbolism of the human body's immune system. Imagine that each strain of HIV is covered with a different envelope giving it a distinguishable shape and size, as it were, a “key” to open up a CD4 cell to get inside and take over.

“The immune system makes an antibody that hooks on this and says it recognizes this,” Howlett continued. “Antibodies are specific to the correct HIV envelope.” As per our example, the body will produce an antibody, specific to a HIV shape, becoming a “lock” that recognizes that HIV shape, latching onto that HIV “key,” preventing it from entering the CD4 cell.

See One Man Can, page 18

One Man Can

from page 17

"There have been 40 different vaccines that have been tried nationally and internationally," Howlett said. "But none have been successful. We (St. Jude) have been very different in how we make our vaccine, (which is made on the St. Jude campus). ... The unsuccessful trials have been using one and two envelopes. St. Jude is using multiple envelopes. ... The (philosophy) is to give all the envelopes you can and then back them out.

"Other vaccines see one envelope and didn't work," Howlett continued. "We expose the immune system to lots of envelopes; we overshoot with an envelope cocktail with 58 envelopes."

THREE-TIERED APPROACH

According to materials provided by St. Jude, the administration of the vaccine is designed as a three-tiered approach to stimulate the immune system with many HIV envelope variants. The vaccine includes: 1) a primer composed of DNA that represents more than 50 HIV envelope proteins; 2) an injection with genetically-modified vaccinia virus (cowpox, used to inoculate against small pox) representing more than 20 HIV envelope proteins, and 3) another injection with purified HIV envelope protein. Also included on this tier is a booster. Another example of a vaccine administered in a three-tiered approach is that for Hepatitis.

"All things you are protected against by your antibodies, there is no place for all of it in the blood, so it is stored in various body tissues," Howlett said. "They have moved to memory cells in the lymph glands, brain, testicles, etc." These memory cells are the reason HIV-positive individuals can show a "zero viral load." A zero viral load indicates there is no detectable HIV virus in a blood sample; however, the individual is still HIV-positive and can still infect others.

"A three-tiered approach is taken," Howlett said. "We use a series of three shots, each increasing the number of antibodies stored in the memory cells. It makes a long lasting,

very good vaccine." The shots are given several weeks apart. Each successive shot multiplies the number of antibodies in the body's memory cells.

"When we give vaccine and let the immune system rest, it yields better results and a higher immune response and more antibodies," Howlett added.

WES MCCOMAS'S ROLE

So, how does Wes McComas, fit into all this?

"Wes got Phase III, a protein with one envelope," Howlett explained. "He showed antibody only after the booster shot on day 56. Wes is the first (person) to show antibody and the first to get a booster," Howlett said.

"We had a positive Eliza test, indicating the vaccine created an antibody, and a negative Western Blot test on Wes," Howlett added, explaining how they determined Wes's body had produced an antibody to the vaccine he had received.

A true HIV infection shows positive results on both the Eliza test, which looks at the outside of the envelope only, and the Western Blot test, which looks at the internal part of the HIV cell. With the vaccine, the Eliza test can be positive or negative and the Western Blot test is negative.

Only adults are participants in the vaccine study at this time, as required by the FDA. Each component of the vaccine is being tested in independent safety trials (on adults) before the three separate vaccine elements will be combined in a sequential series of inoculations. Two of the components are presently undergoing Phase I safety testing at St. Jude. The final component has recently been submitted for FDA approval; it is hoped to be approved no later than 2005.

"Once all three components complete Phase I safety testing individually, they will be combined in a prime-boost-boost regimen for efficacy testing in a larger group of volunteers," Slobod said.

WANT TO VOLUNTEER?

POLYENV1 STUDY

The object of this study is to determine the safety of a new HIV vaccine (PolyEnv1) in healthy young adults. Future studies will determine the effectiveness of this vaccine in the prevention of HIV infection. The study lasts about 12 months.

This vaccine cannot give you HIV or cause AIDS. This vaccine is intended to prevent HIV infection and is not for persons already infected with HIV. This vaccine study is approved by the U.S. FDA. Eligibility: Must be born after 1971; must be HIV-negative, must never have received the small pox vaccine, and must be in good general health.

ENVPRO STUDY

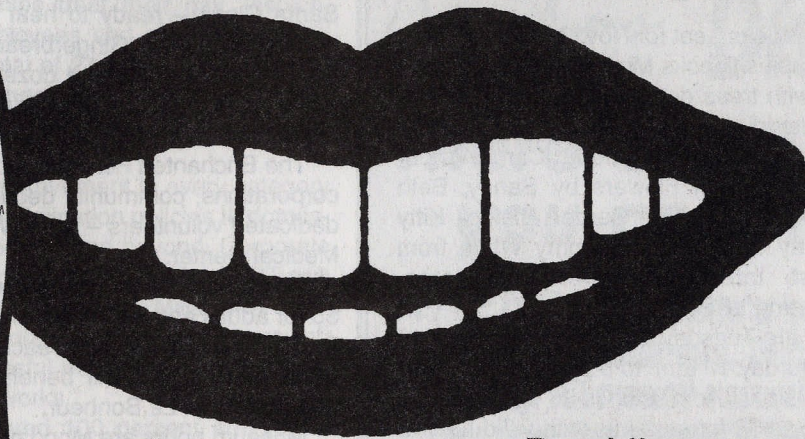
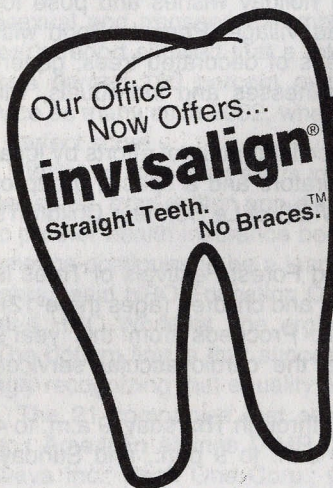
The object of this study is to determine the safety of an experimental HIV vaccine (EnvPro) in healthy adults. Future studies will determine the effectiveness of this vac-



Nanna Howlett, RN, CNP, talks about the HIV vaccine study at St. Jude.

See One Man Can, page 44

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Enchanted Forest to open November 22

You'll get into the Holiday spirit as you stroll through a magical winter wonderland in the Enchanted Forest Festival of Trees Nov. 22 through Jan. 4, 2004, in the Bodine Exhibit

Hall and on the mezzanine of the Pink Palace Museum, 3050 Central Avenue.

Walking through the Enchanted Forest, children of all ages will be charmed by the animated characters. Teddy bears beckon, elves are busy at work and penguins play in the snow. Thousands of twinkling lights will dazzle your youngster and waiting for them at the end of the forest is Santa Claus – ready to hear holiday wishes and pose for photographs. The Gingerbread Village, Penguin Pond with the Friendship Tree and dozens of decorated trees, generously sponsored by area businesses and individuals, will delight the child in all of us.

The Enchanted Forest is a collaboration of efforts by local corporations, community decorators and a special group of dedicated volunteers – the TWIGS of Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center.

Admission to the Enchanted Forest Festivals of Trees is \$5 for adults and \$4 for seniors and children (ages three-12). Santa pictures are \$10 each. Proceeds from this year's Enchanted Forest will benefit the cardiovascular services department at Le Bonheur.

Museum hours are Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 6 p.m.

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

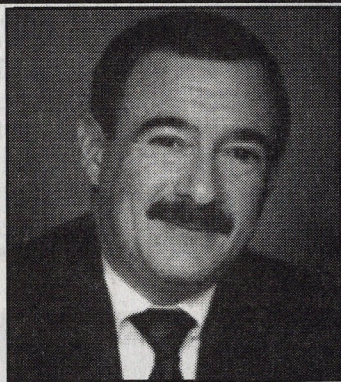
Enjoy Holiday at Brooks

"Holiday at the Brooks," set for Nov. 21 through Dec. 21, will fill the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, located in Overton Park, with trees decorated by local designers, wreaths, holiday displays and festive music.

This year's tree designers include Carol Vorder Bruegge, Jim Hartley from Flowers by Sandy, Beth Towery, Greg Campbell from the Garden District, Kitty Sting from the Kitty Sting Studio, Jimmy White from McLemore Florist, Interior Designer Tim Pierce, Holliday's Flowers and L&J Productions.

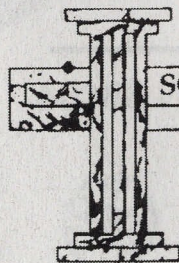
Museum hours are Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$6 for adults, \$5 for seniors (65+) and \$2 for students with valid ID. For more information, call (901) 544-6200 or go online to www.brooksmuseum.org.

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HRC index tells how companies treat GLBT employees, customers

The Human Rights Campaign released its 2nd annual Corporate Equality Index on Aug. 25. This index measures how the largest U.S. companies treat their gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender employees and consumers. This year's report showed that a total of 21 major U.S. corporations earned 100 percent ratings. That number is almost twice as many as in 2002, when 11 major companies earned a perfect score.

"What we see this year is improvement in every category measured, from written non-discrimination policies to domestic partner health insurance benefits and beyond. Corporate America continues to be a leader in the quest for GLBT civil rights," said HRC Education Director Kim I. Mills, who oversees HRC WorkNet, the organization's workplace project. "The bottom line is that successful businesses are increasingly recognizing that equality works."

The 21 companies that scored 100 percent are: Aetna Inc.; American Airlines (AMR Corp.); Apple Computer Inc.; Avaya Inc.; Bank One Corp.; Capital One Financial Corp.; Eastman Kodak Co.; Hewlett-Packard Co.; IBM Corp.; Intel Corp.; J.P. Morgan Chase & Co.; Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc.; Levi Strauss & Co.; Lucent Technologies Inc.; MetLife Inc.; NCR Corp.; Nike Inc.; PG&E Corp.; Prudential Financial Inc.; S.C. Johnson, and Xerox Corp.

No companies received a score of zero in 2003.

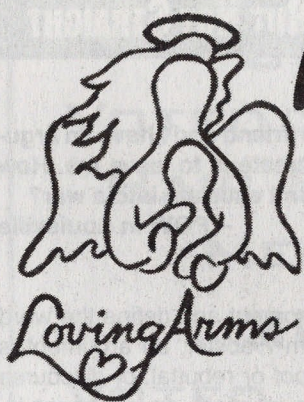
The five lowest-scoring companies, all of which rated 14 percent, were: Aramark Corp.; Domino's Inc.; ExxonMobile Corp.; Meijer Inc., and National Gypsum.

Lockheed Martin Corp. was the most-improved company in the analysis, going from zero percent in 2002, to 71 percent in 2003. Lockheed, which had been the target of a shareholder resolution asking it to add sexual orientation to its non-discrimination policy, did so – and also added domestic partner benefits.

The analysis covers 250 companies from either the Fortune 500 or the Forbes 200 largest privately-held businesses for which the HRC Foundation was able to gather data. (Other companies with at least 500 employees have Corporate Equality Index ratings but were not included in the analysis in order to compare a consistent universe from year to year.) In 2002, the report rated 217 Fortune- and Forbes-ranked companies.

The 2003 HRC Corporate Equality Index rated companies on a scale of zero percent to 100 percent on seven factors, including whether they have a written non-discrimination policy covering sexual orientation; have a written non-discrimination policy covering gender identity and/or expression; offer health insurance coverage to their employee's same-sex domestic partners; offer diversity training; have GLBT employee groups; engage in appropriate and respectful

See HRC, page 28



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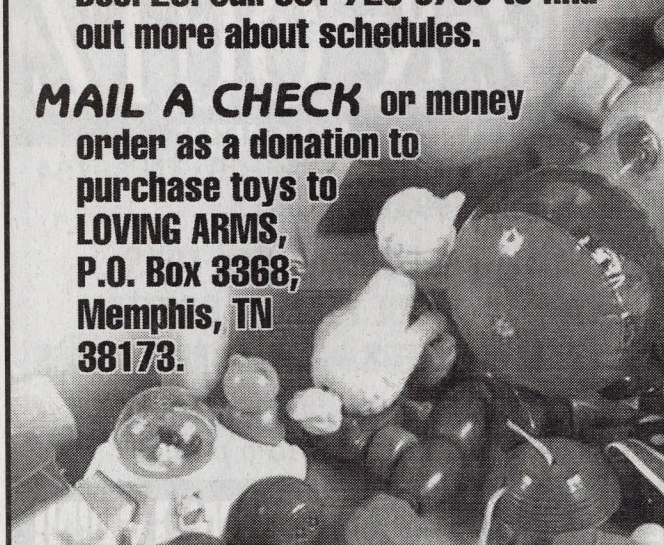
ATTEND Aphrodite's benefit show at **ONE MORE Saturday, Dec. 6, at 8 p.m.** Tip Big! All money raised is used to buy toys for 'Sheila's Kids'

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STRAIGHT UP, BUT NOT STRAIGHT

BY J. SHANE WILSON, MS, NCC, LPCC

**Dear Straight Up,
Each time my girlfriend and I have an argument, she gets so upset she threatens to leave me. How can we have arguments that don't escalate into a war?**

- POW in Louisville

Dear POW,

Good question! Let's take a moment and define the word "argument." According to Merriam-Webster, an argument is defined as "a reason given in proof or rebuttal, or discourse intended to persuade." With this in mind, an argument is, simply put, an opportunity for each side to speak openly about their differences about a particular subject matter.

We are taught as youngsters that we should "play nicely, and argue constructively." When your girlfriend threatens to leave, she isn't playing nicely, nor is she arguing constructively. Just as some kids pick up their toys and go home, your girlfriend wants to gather her belongings and run away.

The act of war takes place when one person or a group of persons allow their intense feelings to rise above the boiling, and respectively so, controllable point, to wit, an explosion

takes place, and there are incidents of tragedy. In this instance, the tragedy is one person who uses manipulation to cut at the very heart of the relationship. "If she won't do as I want, I will withhold the very thing she desires most: my love." This is not constructive! This is a spoiled little brat who can't have her way, thus threatens to take her toys and play elsewhere.

I suggest you sit her down, if possible - and the sooner the better - and explain how her redundant threats to remove herself from your life trouble you deeply. Explain that your love for her doesn't revolve around the agreement upon a particular subject matter, but runs deeper. Suggest that the two of you participate in couple's counseling as to begin the journey of learning how to talk to one another in a respectful and loving manner. If she refuses to learn new ways of communicating, then you have to ask yourself if she is the ONE.

Relationships are not easy. They take a willingness of both participants to listen and express themselves appropriately. If she isn't willing to listen - as she is eager to express - then you will have to make a decision that is in your best interest. It may be time for you to take your toys to another sandbox!

...

Dear Straight Up,

My partner and I have been together for almost two years. I am a versatile top and he is a bottom. I so want him to make love to me sometimes, and I've tried to explain my needs to him. However, he states that he doesn't feel he can perform the duties of a top-man. Furthermore, he says that I put too much pressure on him to top me. The few times he has attempted, he has been unable to keep an erection.

Eight months ago, I approached my partner about having others join our lovemaking. Reluctantly, he finally agreed. We met a couple, and have been swapping partners for sex for the past six months. We have dinner with this other couple and hang out on weekends. I know I care about this couple and want to be friends, but I find myself falling in love with the top man of this couple. It is difficult for me to separate out my feelings for this other man, because when we sleep together we don't just have sex; we make love. He and I have spoken about

See Straight Up, page 23

Stephen Pair

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A Powerful Place to Belong...

Straight Up

from page 22

our feelings, and he has expressed that he feels the same way. However, my partner and his partner have nothing in common. In fact, my partner has expressed that he doesn't like having sex with his partner.

Is it possible for me to be in love with two men at the same time? My partner has stated that he feels like this whole thing is affecting us as a couple; yet I want to continue this relationship. How can I keep my partner (because I do love him), and also keep the man I'm falling in love with?

— Swingers

Dear Swingers in Trouble

You say swapping is beginning to affect your relationship with your partner. Did you honestly think it wouldn't?

One of the things that keep us close to our partners is sharing things with them that we don't share with anyone else: secrets and intimacy, both sexual and emotional. Whenever we start including other people into our relationships, we erode the bond between our partners and us. As you have already learned, a person can love more than one person at a time. Most of us can.

The ability to obtain a legal marriage license, and present ourselves as "married" is something obviously we do not presently share with our hetero-counterparts. However, being married is simply being recognized by society as a legal binding contract. Respectfully so, a commitment between two people holds the same premise. A commitment is a binding of two people, not three, four or more. That's called group sex, not a commitment.

In order to have a healthy, mutually-satisfying commitment, we would be wise to focus our energy, including our sexual energy, on our partner and vice versa. Couples in a committed relationship would benefit from respecting the bond they share with each other and cherish it. When couples sleep with other people, even with each other's consent, they are basically weakening that bond. Over time, I would predict complications. Possibilities include those that you have described: you fall in love with the other man, but your partner doesn't fall in love with the other man's partner, or the other man doesn't fall in love with him, etc.

I would suggest that you and your partner devote your energy to making your relationship fulfilling enough that you don't need other people in bed with you. Maybe you and he could see a professional to help work out some of the present problems that exist. I encourage you to do so — now, before your relationship gets to the point where it is no longer fixable.

J. Shane Wilson has a master's degree in the counseling field from The University of Memphis. He presently is a Licensed Professional Counselor residing in Louisville, Ky. The opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the magazine. For serious problems, seek professional help. Send questions to Family & Friends, P.O. Box 771948, Memphis, TN 38177-1948, or email them to FamilyMag@aol.com.

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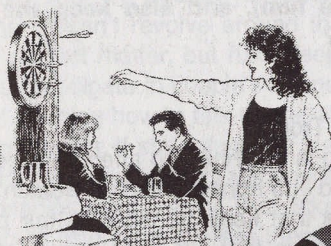
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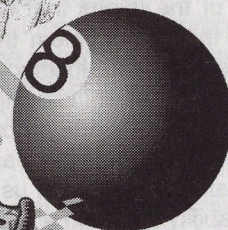
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FOOD & FUN!*

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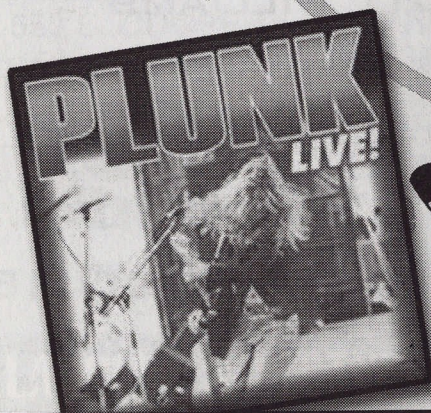
**THURSDAY NIGHT JAM from 8:30 pm till ?
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***Family & Friends* is looking for folks to share their stories**

Do you have a story to tell about how a Memphis or Mid-South agency helped you out in a time of need? What about an organization which made a significant difference in your life? Is there a particular bar or club (past or present) that means a lot to you, such as where you met your partner or where you finally came out in this gay world? *Family & Friends* wants to know and our readers want to know.

Sorry, no stories will be accepted from agencies, organizations, or business establishments themselves or from any of their board of directors or owners, respectfully. We would like stories, or testimonies as it were, from the people who have benefitted from these entities. And that includes all of our readership area.

Send your story by email to FamilyMag@aol (put "My Story" in the subject line) or mail your story to *Family & Friends*, P.O. Box 771948, Memphis TN 38177-1948. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification purposes; address and phone number will not be printed, but will be kept on file in our office.

MGLA members volunteer, deliver food to needy

Eddie Sandifer, president of the Mississippi Gay/Lesbian Alliance (MGLA), recently reported that members of the MGLA from Greenville, Jackson and Hattiesburg, Miss., volunteered at the Southern AIDS Commission, Jackson, Miss., office, in getting food to HIV/AIDS clients and other persons in need.

The MGLA volunteers reportedly provided 8,686 pounds of food to 981 persons. The recipients of the food reside from Natchez (South Central Region) to Cleveland (Northern Region) in Mississippi.

Funding for the food and part of the other services is provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Mississippi HeARTS Against AIDS, Delta Plaza Bingo, City of Jackson Department of Human and Cultural Service and other donations. A local union has provided some paper products and LDS has provided blankets and supplies for school-age children.

Som'pin's Hapnin' For the Holidays

A Benefit for the St. Patrick's Invitational Tournament and the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center

Participating Groups will have a portion of the proceeds collected by the group donated to the charity of choice.

**Friday, Dec. 12, 10:30 p.m.
at the Madison Flame**

For more information, or to sign up, contact Paul Meeks at 901-726-0712 or hospitality@spit.com

All proceeds collected by the winning group will be donated to that group's charity. All groups are welcome to raise money.

FAMILY
& Friends
MAGAZINE

SPIT !!
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**Brothers
&
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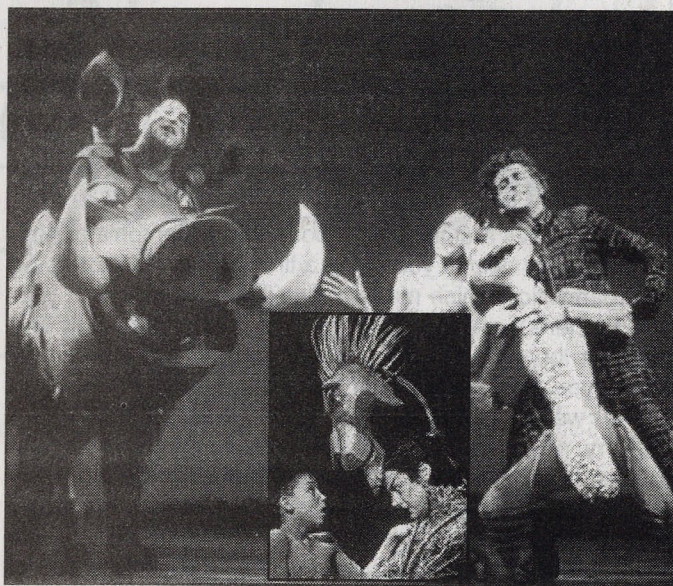
The Lion King to run November 28-January 4

The Orpheum Theater, 203 South Main Street, will bring Disney's *The Lion King*, Broadway's award-winning musical, to the stage Nov. 28 through Jan. 4, 2004. The United States National Tour is presently one of nine productions running worldwide.

Now in its sixth, sold-out year in New York at the New Amsterdam Theatre, *The Lion King*, is the winner of six Tony Awards, including Best Musical; eight Drama Desk Awards; six Outer Critics Circle Awards; the New York Drama Critics award for Best Musical; the Evening Standard Award for the Theatrical Event of the Year; two Olivier Awards; a Theatre World Award; the Astaire Award for Outstanding Choreography; two Drama League Awards, and a Grammy Award for Best Musical Show Album.

Director Julie Taymor became the first woman in Broadway history to win the Tony Award for Best Director of a Musical. Taymor, along with Michael Curry, created hundreds of masks and puppets for *The Lion King*. The score for *The Lion King* features Elton John and Tim Rice's music from the animated film along with three new songs by John and Rice, and additional musical material by Lebo M, Mark Mancina, Jay Rifkin, Julie Taymor and Hans Zimmer.

Showtimes for *The Lion King* are Tuesdays through Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.; Fridays at 8 p.m.; Saturdays at 2 and 8 p.m., and Sundays at 1 and 6:30 p.m. Ticket prices



range from \$22.50 to \$82.50. Tickets are available at the Orpheum Box Office, Davis Kidd Booksellers and all TicketMaster locations. They also can be purchased by calling (901) 525-3000 or (901) 743-ARTS or going online to www.orpheum-memphis.com.

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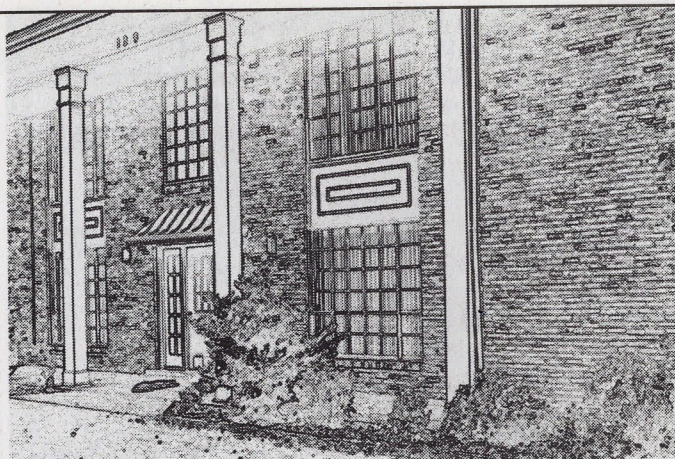
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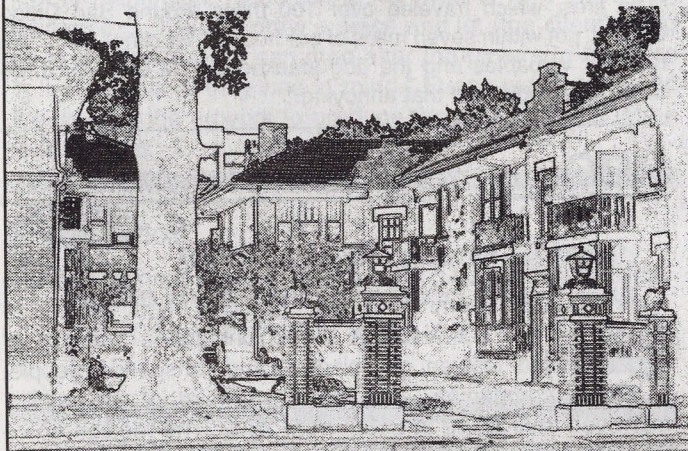
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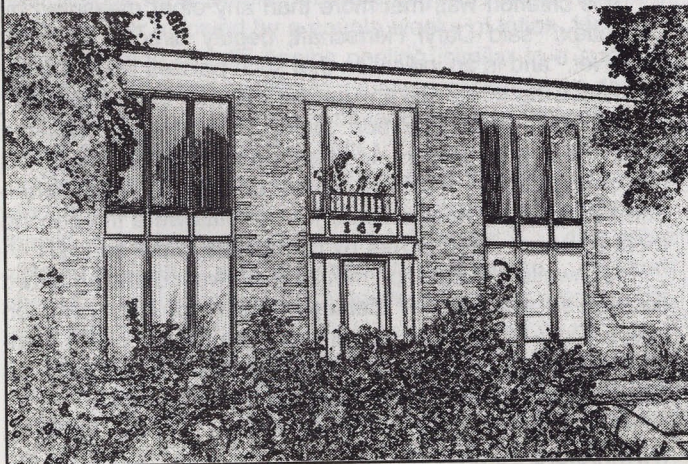
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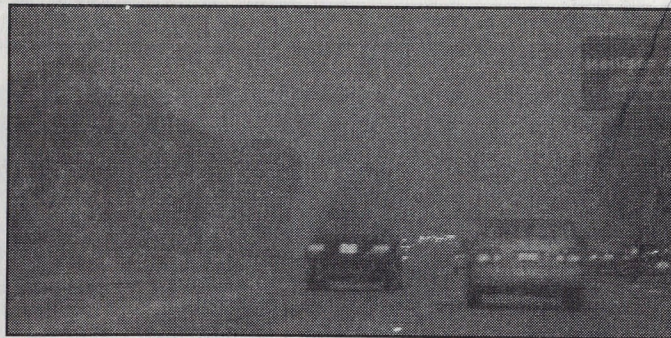
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Personal Financing Available if Qualified



Family & Friends contributing writer Rex Wockner lives in San Diego, Calif., one of the sites of the October 2003 wildfires, considered by some as California's largest natural disaster ever.

"The fires, which traveled over 100 miles around San Diego County, got within seven miles of our house," Wockner said. "We had our valuables and the dog stacked by the door for three days. The dog found that annoying."

HRC

from page 21

advertising to the GLBT community; provide financial contributions to GLBT community organizations, and decline to engage in any activities that would undermine the goal of equal rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

Eighty companies – or about one-third of the total – improved their score in 2003, from 2002. The median score for 2003, was 71 percent, compared to 57 percent in 2002.

The two other companies that had scored zeroes in the 2002 report also improved their ratings in 2003. Emerson Electric Co. moved up to 29 percent by adding diversity training and support for a GLBT community group, but the company continued to actively oppose a shareholder resolution asking it to add sexual orientation to its non-discrimination policy. Cracker Barrel Old Country Stores/CBRL Group Inc. also moved up to 29 percent. (Cracker Barrel is not among the Fortune- or Forbes-listed companies but is mentioned in the 2003 report because of its longstanding refusal to amend its non-discrimination policy, which once actually singled out gay people for firing solely because of their sexual orientation.)

Almost all of the companies rated – 238 or 95 percent – include sexual orientation in their non-discrimination policies.

"This criterion was met more than any other measured by the index," said Daryl Herrschaft, deputy director for HRC WorkNet, "and is an indication that such policies are the foundation of a fair workplace and set the stage for other initiatives."

The next most common factor was diversity training, which 184, or 74 percent, of analyzed companies have. This is a change from HRC's first Corporate Equality Index, when domestic partner health insurance benefits were the second most common criterion met by companies in the analysis.

Meanwhile, the criterion met by the fewest of the analyzed companies was gender identity in their non-discrimination policy. Only 23, or nine percent, of Fortune or Forbes companies have such a policy. However, this is up from 13 Fortune- or Forbes-listed companies a year earlier.

A copy of the report and all ratings can be found at www.hrc.org/worknet/cei/.

Tattoos

from page 8

"My friends got me to draw tattoos for them," Evans said, explaining how he first got started in tattooing. "(But) they came back and the tattoo didn't look like what I drew for them."

Soon, he found his first job in the tattoo industry.

"I worked with a tattoo artist drawing tattoos and then I learned to tattoo."

Although some tattoo artists use the computer and its graphic capabilities in their shops, Evans does not.

"I'm a hands-on illustrator," Evans said. "A computer is a tool to manipulate ideas but is not artistic. ... It lacks permanence. ... I like to draw a piece and let (the client) hang on to it a few days. I can then alter the picture to be more in line with what they had in mind." Evans wants to spend the time on the artwork to produce the best possible tattoo for his client.



Make sure they really want it, where they want it placed and if it is what they can live with.



Often there is more to a tattoo than just permanent artwork on one's skin. For many, a tattoo has a deeper meaning. For example, some get closure with an epitaph to remember people or events. We saw one woman's recent tattoo – a stained glass window and a dove of peace. Evans said praying hands are a very popular choice. The goat on Evans lower leg reminds him of the years he worked at a Greek restaurant.

Evans noted that half the work he does is cleaning up and covering up other tattoos.

As we talked, Evans changed out the colors in his equipment, one by one, coloring in the outlined tattoo. Soon the artwork was complete.

Evans applied A&D Ointment to the tattoo, wrapped the site with cellophane wrap and taped it into place. Aftercare instructions were simple: A couple days of A&D Ointment or cocoa butter followed by a couple weeks of lotion. He noted that the tattoo usually begins peeling, similar to a sunburn, the fourth day, and healing is usually complete in 14 days.

Curious? Evans offered several worthwhile points for those considering their first tattoo.

"Make sure they really want it; where they want it placed and if it is what they can live with," Evans said. "Be prepared to explain your tattoo and talk about it ... give other people an idea of what the tattoo means to you. ... Be sure the artist is able to do what you want and you are comfortable with the artist.

"Go see one done in process and ask questions to be sure," Evans continued his advice. "An artist should be able to talk to the client to put the client at ease with tattooing and art work. A good tattoo artist draws what a client wants."



Dave Evans and Angela Russell

While we were at Underground Art we heard one of the other tattoo artists tell a customer that he needed to reconsider another tattoo, as his choice of a tattoo was too big for his arm. He also was suggesting which colors would look best on the customer's skin tone.

"Certain artists have different styles," he continued. For example, "old school" is not the same style as "art deco." "Most artists stay in a genre or style they love. ... Every tattoo should have a touch of the artist in it, just like a painting. Therefore, if one doesn't like the art in the artist's portfolio (found at their tattoo studio), then they probably won't like the tattoo."

Was it worth it?

"Yes, without a doubt," Pair said. "I love this new tattoo."

Although Evans visits tattoo conventions around the U.S. regularly, and has been published often, his desire from his work is a simple one.

"I'd rather be well-known around here than in Chicago," Evans said. "If you remember your tattoo artist, I can't ask for more than that."

Underground Art offers the services of artists Evans, Tom Morse, Neil Stabeley, Jake Meeks (apprentice), and visiting guest artist, through the middle of December, Texan Mark Merchant.

Tim Homan is Underground Art's pierceer. Underground Art offers about 15 different piercings and an extensive line of body jewelry.

"Many won't get tattoos, but will get body piercings," Evans added, "because they are not permanent."

Underground Art is open for business Tuesday through Saturday, 3 to 10 p.m.

For more information, call (901) 272-1864 or go online to Undergroundartmemphis.com.

FROM THE FRONT ROW BY KEVIN SHAW



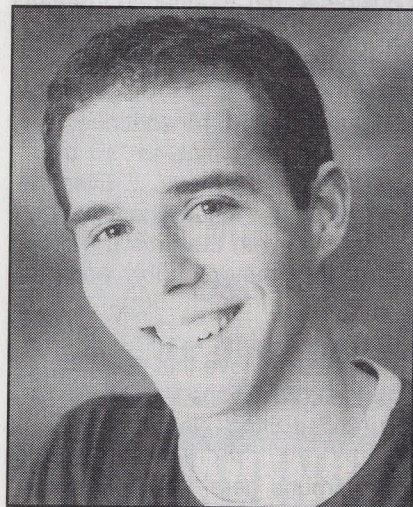
I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change –

the title says it all. Back by popular demand (The Circuit Playhouse – Spring 2000), this musical comedy revue hits close to home for anyone who has ever fallen in love, been married or simply suffered the trials and tribulations of the ever-popular “first date.”

Act one details the journey from dating and waiting, to lovers and marriage; while act two reveals the agonies and triumphs of in-laws, newborns, trips in the family car and pick-up techniques of the geriatric set. This hilarious revue guarantees to brighten the often-stressful holiday season by paying tribute to anyone who has loved and lost, who has fallen for the “wrong guy” or who has tripped up the

aisle in their wedding dress – a homage to anyone who has dared to ask, “Say, what are you doing Saturday night?” Described as “‘Seinfeld’ set to music” by *The Star Ledger*, and called “witty” and “hip antics in the age of safe sex” by *The New York Times*, *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* is a perfect travelogue of the romantic road in the modern-day mating game.

Family & Friends recently caught up with one of the stars of the show (it wasn't hard to find him since I'm the director), Brian James Porter (an intern with the company who is openly gay) to talk to him about his experiences with the show.



Brian James Porter

F&F: I know you just recently moved to Memphis to join Playhouse on the Square for the season. Where are you originally from?

Porter: Fort Wayne, Ind. It's about three hours southeast of Chicago. I also just graduated from the school there, IPFW (Indiana Purdue University at Fort Wayne). That's where I received my bachelors in theater performing, with a minor in dance.

F&F: So, when did you start acting?

Porter: Let's see ... I used to do the little church plays when I was a child, but not really until I hit high school did I start doing actual shows. My biggest part in high school was probably Bill Calhoun in *Kiss Me, Kate*.



The cast of *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*.

F&F: And you knew right from the start that you wanted to be an actor?

Porter: Oh no, not really. It took a little bit of time, but I knew it was fun to do as an extra-curricular activity, but it took a little bit of time to decide that this was probably what I would do for the rest of my life.

F&F: So, you just graduated from college?

Porter: Yes, I just graduated last December, right before I got here.

F&F: How did you choose to come to Memphis and Playhouse on the Square?

Porter: I went to auditions at the Southeastern Theatre Conference and this was actually the second choice on my list of cities to come to. The first one was Charleston Stage Company in South Carolina. I liked them because of the location and the fact that they were doing a lot of shows I wanted to be in, but especially *Ragtime*. However, they didn't offer me a job until after I had already committed to Playhouse on the Square. Ironically, I moved here early and got to be in *Ragtime* at Playhouse, after all.

F&F: So, describe the life of a Playhouse intern.

Porter: Well, unfortunately, they informed me ahead of time how rigorous it was going to be. A general day is this: We have to be at work at 10 a.m. You go to your respective shop (scene, costume, publicity, etc.). I work in the costume shop ...

F&F: (Interrupting) Because you're a sissy?

Porter: No, because I have skills in costuming.

F&F: Oh, sorry.

Porter: You go there and work from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. and then you get an hour lunch. And then, if you don't have afternoon rehearsal, you go back to work from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. And then, generally speaking, we get a two-hour dinner break (although we're not guaranteed one, we usually do).

See Front Row, page 31

Front Row

from page 30

And then at night we do a show. We get Sunday mornings and all day Mondays off. It's not as grueling as I thought it would be, but right now it's difficult because I'm doing two shows at once.

F&F: So, you're in *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* AND *Peter Pan*?

Porter: In *Peter Pan*, I play Nana (the dog) AND a pirate AND an Indian.

F&F: My God, do you ever leave the stage? Let's get to *I Love You, Your Perfect, Now Change*. Are you excited to be a part of this show? How well did you know it?

Porter: Actually, I'd never even heard of it until I auditioned.

F&F: Never even heard of the show, huh? Way to do your homework. ... So, how did you get this part anyway?

Porter: Oh, some BRILLIANT director saw this vision and cast me.

F&F: Way to kiss up. A lot of press for this show calls it a very "heterosexual show about relationships." Is it difficult being the token homo in the show and trying to play it straight?

Porter: Oh no, not at all. Mainly, because I have a director (you) who says when I'm playing it "too gay." In fact, I've had a couple of experiences with directors who've been able to point that out to me when I need to pull back. But, it's really not that difficult at all. As an actor, you're just playing different roles. You never actually play who you really are.

F&F: But there are some obviously gay actors in this town (without naming names) who seem to be unable to play it

straight when the role calls for it.

Porter: I have no judgment about those individual people, but I would agree that that could throw audience members out of the world of the play. It's bad for the show and bad for the audience because it's not believable. But, hopefully that's not me and I have a director who'll tell me when I need to correct something.

F&F: (Laughing) Oh yeah, I'll tell you ... so, do you think gay/lesbians will still enjoy seeing this show?

Porter: Oh yeah! It may be told from a heterosexual point of view, but it's all about the human condition and relationships. This play isn't that deep, but everyone can identify with being on an awkward date, or being on a date that you'd rather shoot yourself than having to continue. Plus, there are a lot of married gay couples who may also have children. Overall, this is sketch comedy that everyone can laugh at.

F&F: Speaking of relationships, audience members are going to want to know, are you single?

Porter: Actually, no, I am not.

F&F: Don't say that! People may not want to come and see the show now! Let the guys think they still have a chance with you.

Porter: Sorry ...

F&F: So, you're seriously dating someone. But, by the time this show closes in January, you could be single again? Heck, by that time, you could be married and divorced two more times. ...

Porter: (Laughing) Yeah. I guess anything is possible.

I Love You, Your Perfect, Now Change is directed for the second time by Memphis native, Kevin Shaw, and stars Leah Bray Nichols (*Bat Boy* – 2003 Ostrander nomination for Best Leading Actress; *Guys and Dolls*); Angela Groeschen (*Bat Boy* – 2003 Ostrander Award for Best Supporting Actress; *Ragtime* – 2003 Ostrander nomination for Best Supporting Actress), and Michael Ingersoll (*Bat Boy* – 2003 Ostrander nomination for Best Leading Actor, *HONK!*) – as well as featuring Playhouse on the Square performance intern, Brian James Porter (*Bat Boy*, *Guys and Dolls*).

I Love You, Your Perfect, Now Change runs at Playhouse on the Square, 51 South Cooper, Nov. 14 through Jan. 4, 2004. Showtimes vary. Tickets are \$28 for adults; \$18 for seniors; \$16 for students and military personnel, and \$12 for children. The Pay-What-You-Can performance is set for Sunday, Dec. 28, at 7 p.m. For showtimes, reservations or more information, call (901) 726-4656 or go online to www.playhouseonthesquare.org.



The *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* cast in a "twisted" moment.

Rhodes to stage *Laramie Project*

The Department of Theater at Rhodes College, 2000 North Parkway, is staging *The Laramie Project* now through Nov. 23 in the McCoy Theater. Written by Moises Kaufman and the Tectonic Theater Project, the play is based on reactions of residents of Laramie, Wyo. after Matthew Shepard was savagely beaten, bound to a fence and left to die in October 1998. Tickets are \$2 for Rhodes students, \$5 for non-Rhodes students, \$7 for senior citizens and \$10 for adults. Showtimes are at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 22 and 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 23. For tickets, call (901) 843-3838.

Landis stars in holiday story

The Santaland Diaries, by David Sedaris, is returning to the stage at The Circuit Playhouse, 1705 Poplar Avenue, Nov. 21 through Dec. 21. Award-winning Memphis actor Dave Landis (2002 Ostrander Award for Best Actor in a Drama - *Amadeus*) stars in this one-man play as Crumpet the Elf in this wickedly funny look at the absurd side of the holiday season. *The Santaland Diaries* is directed by Ann Marie Hall (*Sylvia, The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told*). Showtimes are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for adults; \$18 for seniors; \$16 for students and military personnel, and \$12 for children. The Pay-What-You-Can performance is set for Sunday, Nov. 23, at 7 p.m. For tickets or more information, call (901) 726-4656.

Peter Pan returns to stage at POTS

Playhouse on the Square, 51 South Cooper, returns to Neverland now through Jan. 4, 2004. Karen Lamb directs this production of *Peter Pan*, with Courtney Oliver and Lindsey Roberts sharing the role of Peter Pan. Kyle Barnette reprises his role as Captain Hook; Angela Groeschel is Wendy and Michael Ingersoll is Smee. Tickets are \$26 for adults; \$18 for seniors, \$16 for students and military personnel and \$12 for children. The Pay-What-You-Can performance is set for Friday, Dec. 26, at 7 p.m. For showtimes, reservations or more information, call (901) 726-4656.

Audition notices

THE WIZARD OF OZ

Playhouse on the Square (POTS), 51 South Cooper, is holding auditions for the *Wizard of Oz*, Dec. 1-2.

On Monday, Dec. 1, at 6 p.m., children, ages eight to 13, are asked to audition. Those children auditioning need to prepare to learn a song from the show at the auditions and be prepared to do a minor dance audition.

On Tuesday, Dec. 2, at 6 p.m., adults, ages 18 and up, are asked to audition. Those adults auditioning need to prepare 16 songs of a song and prepare to move and/or cold-read.

The role of Dorothy has already been filled by POTS resident company member Angela Groeschel.

This production of the *Wizard of Oz*, directed by Shorey Walker, will be staged at POTS March 12 through April 18, 2004.

Children's play featured at Circuit

Running at The Circuit Playhouse, 1705 Poplar Avenue, now through Dec. 22, is *Babes in Toyland*, a nursery rhyme neighborhood where a gaggle of Mother Goose characters make their lives. Directed by Karin Barile Hill, *Babes in Toyland* features a fresh new score, adapted and arranged by Paul Seiz. Showtimes for *Babes in Toyland* are Saturdays and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for adults; \$18 for seniors; \$16 for students and military personnel, and \$12 for children. For more information or reservations, call (901) 726-4656.

Unique expressions expected

Voices of the South stages *Pre-sent Pre-sent*, a hilarious, inspiring and provocative journey into the heart and soul of the artist, Nov. 27-29 and Dec. 4-6 at 8 p.m., and Nov. 30 and Dec. 7 at 2 p.m. at Theatreworks, located behind Overton Square at 2085 Monroe. The production's process began when 10 gifts were fashioned specifically for each of 10 recipients - actors, dancers, musicians, directors, choreographers and visual artists, wrapped in holiday style and delivered into the hands of the 10 "gifted ones." Each recipient then spent the next two months turning his or her gift of unique images, text, music and more into a live performance of their own design. Tickets are \$10 each. For more information, or to make reservations, call (901) 323-0128.

Equus on stage at Rhodes

The Department of Theater at Rhodes College, 2000 North Parkway, is staging Peter Shaffer's *Equus* now through Nov. 21 in the McCoy Theater. The play centers on the mental state of a 17-year-old boy, who has blinded six horses. Tickets are \$2 for Rhodes students, \$5 for non-Rhodes students, \$7 for senior citizens and \$10 for adults. Showtimes are at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 20, and Friday, Nov. 21. For tickets, call (901) 843-3838.

THE SOUND OF MUSIC

Auditions for DeSoto Youth Theatre's production of *The Sound of Music* is set for Nov. 20 to 22 at the DeSoto Civic Center Theatre located at I-55 and Church Road in Southaven, Miss. No previous experience or preparation is required to audition.

Director William Bailey is seeking adults and teens, ages 15 and up.

These auditions are scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 20, at 6:30 p.m. and Friday, Nov. 21, at 1:30 p.m. Those auditioning will be taught a song to be performed. Or, those auditioning may prepare and sing a short song. In such case, bring sheet music for the pianist or a back-up CD/tape that has music only. No a cappella. Dress in flexible clothes.

Also, children, ages six to 14, are needed to play the roles

See Auditions, page 33

Auditions

from page 32

of the Von Trapp children, all except Liesl. Children's auditions are set for Saturday, Nov. 22, at 9 a.m. The director is looking for strong young actors who can harmonize. Needed are two boys to play ages 10 and 14, and four girls to play ages six, seven, nine and 13. No preparation is needed. Those auditioning will be taught a song and perform it. Or those auditioning may prepare and sing a short song. In such case, bring sheet music for the pianist or a back-up CD/tape that has music only. No a cappella. Dress in flexible clothes.

The Sound of Music is set to run Feb. 19 through March 7, 2004. For more information, call William Bailey at (901) 438-6514.

THE LION KING

Disney Theatrical Productions in New York will be in Memphis Nov. 21 to 24 auditioning for top singers for principle roles, ensemble singers and young kids for *The Lion King*.

Auditions for kids (ages nine to 12 only) will be held at Playhouse on the Square, 51 South Cooper, on Friday, Nov. 21. Be prepared to wait. Sign in is between 1:30 and 4 p.m.; auditions begin at 2 p.m. Possible callbacks are scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 22, in the morning. Kids auditioning should be no more than 58 inches tall and able to sing, dance and act to play the African lion cubs Simba and Nala. Those auditioning will be taught the last verse of "Just Can't Wait to be King." All children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian who must remain at the audition site at all times.

Auditions for adults (ages 18 to 35) will be held Sunday, Nov. 23, at Playhouse on the Square. Sign in is between 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. and auditions begin at 10 a.m. Possible callbacks will be scheduled Monday, Nov. 24. Strong dynamic singers over the age of 18 are sought. Those auditioning should bring sheet music of a song in a key that shows-off one's voice and range in 16 bars; piano accompaniment will be provided. Bring a picture and resume, or a recent photo and list of performance experience, stapled together.

Individuals of all cultural backgrounds are encouraged to attend these two auditions.

Those unable to attend this audition can send a picture and resume to Binder Casting, ATTN: The Lion King, 321 West 44th Street, Suite 606, New York, NY 10036.

For casting information, call (212) 827-5450 or go online to www.disneyonbroadway.com.

TENNESSEE DISABILITY INFORMATION & REFERRAL OFFICE



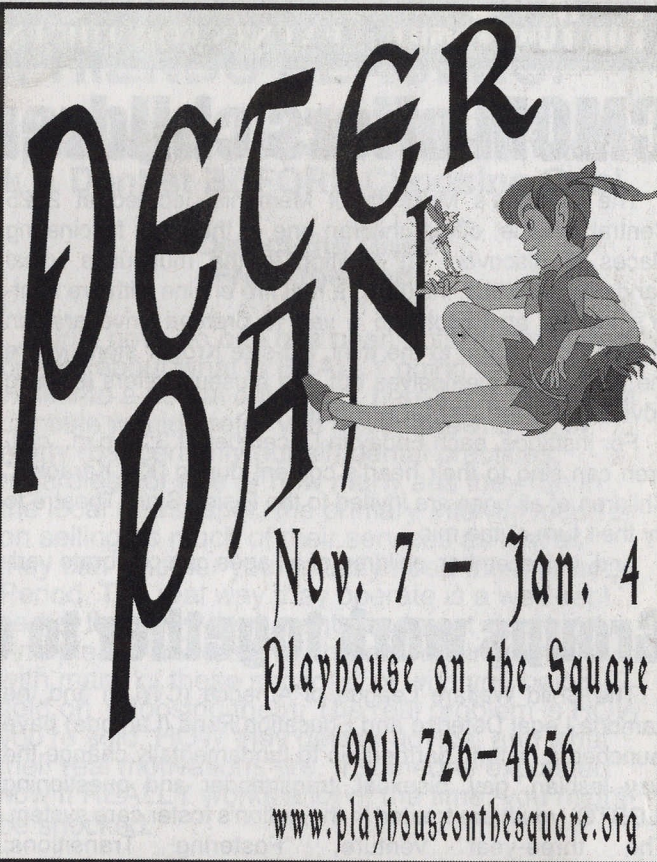
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This office provides information about disability supports and community services available to individuals, families, and agencies in TN.



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CMOM offers children a world of discovery

The Children's Museum of Memphis, located at 2525 Central Avenue, offers children one of the most fascinating places of discovery. In addition to the museum's usual hands-on activities, including a real fire engine with fire fighter's jackets and boots, to a van to pretend drive and an engine to work on, to the mini, kid-size Kroger store where the kids check themselves out, the museum offers learning adventures each day for any child.

For instance, each Friday in December at 3:30 p.m., children can sing to their heart's content during "Kid Karaoke." Children of all ages are invited to the Rising Stars Theatre to try their turn at the mic.

And, in December, children of all ages can celebrate vari-

ous holidays at The Children's Museum of Memphis. On Friday, Dec. 19, at 2 p.m., Cantor David Julian performs in celebration of Hanukkah. On Saturday, Dec. 20, at 10 a.m., Salvador Torro performs Villancicos Latinoamericanos. And on Friday, Dec. 26, at 1 p.m., Fran Isha Echols performs Kwanzaa Tales.

These events are free with regular museum admission, which is \$6 for children (age 1-12) and seniors (62+) and \$7 for adults.

Regular museum hours are Tuesday to Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.

For more information, call (901) 458-2678 or go online to www.cmom.com.

Groups work together to change treatment of youth

The Child Welfare League of America (CWLA) and the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund (Lambda) have launched a historic partnership to fundamentally change the way lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) youth are treated in the nation's foster care system. The three-year venture, "Fostering Transitions: CWLA/Lambda Joint Initiative To Support LGBTQ Youth and Adults Involved with the Child Welfare System," is supported by a grant from the Andrus Family Fund.

From neglect to sexual assault to brutal beatings and attempts at "conversion therapy," LGBTQ youth in foster care

are often unsupported, unprotected and unsafe. As a result, many become adults and age out of the foster care system badly damaged and unequipped to become healthy, productive members of society.

The CWLA/Lambda Joint Initiative will, for the first time, make LGBTQ youth a clear priority for child welfare agencies nationwide. Lambda and CWLA will create a local and national structure to increase the will and capacity of these agencies to serve and support LGBTQ youth, and will substantially improve training, publications, model programs and develop other tools to help agencies address LGBTQ youth issues.

As a first step, CWLA has hired a full-time staff member to work on the Joint Initiative to develop resources and provide direct assistance on LGBTQ issues to all of CWLA's member agencies, which include public and private agencies and every state child welfare system.



Brooks launches free membership program

The Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, located in Overton Park, has launched a free youth membership program, entitled Fresh, to encourage young people to visit the Museum galleries and participate in youth-focused art and activities at the Brooks.

"The summer collaboration with Girls Inc. was the inspiration behind the new youth membership program," said Karleen Gardner, assistant curator of education. "With the excitement of 700 teenagers in the galleries this summer, we realized the importance of encouraging this next generation of museum-goers to continue their involvement with the Brooks."

For more information, call (901) 544-6200.

ATTENTION FAMILY & FRIENDS READERS!

WARNING! Don't Even Think About Speaking To A Dentist ... Until You Know The 10 Questions You MUST Ask A Dentist BEFORE Choosing One!

Memphis, Tn - If you are currently looking for a new dentist, then you must read this article, as it may be the most important thing you've ever read! When it comes to selecting the right dentist, most people find themselves confused, frustrated and feeling like they're taking a stab in the dark! After all, who taught you:

How To Choose The Right Dentist?

It's a tough choice for most of you, because none of us are taught the TRUTH about the advancements in dentistry, let alone how to pick the right one to help you out and to make sure you are getting one that is up to speed with all the training in pain free methods, cosmetics, and latest advancements dental implants and denture. If you're like most people, you're scared and nervous, wondering things like:

- How do I know this person is really any good?
- How can I tell before I walk in, if it's going to be a practically pain free experience?
- Is he/she an expert at cosmetic dentistry?
- What questions should I ask them?
- Should I believe their suggestions?
- Are they just trying to sell me or get me to spend more money with them?
- Will this person rip me off?
- How much say do I have when it comes to making the best decisions for my own dental health?
- Will I have ALL the options to weigh before making decisions?

And the list goes on! Admittedly, how to *choose* the right dentist for you and your family is harder than knowing you need to choose one in the first place! In fact, one of the biggest questions people face is:

How To Know If They're Working In YOUR Best Interest Or For Their Own Best Interest!

This may not surprise you, but there are some people out there who are working for their own greedy personal gain, at YOUR expense! This is disgusting and it's wrong, but it happens. It's a reality we all have to accept. The truth is there are as many *good* dentists as there are bad ones, Just like in any profession. The task for you is to know how to...

Detect the Good From the Bad!

Until now, no one has been upfront, bold, and honest about what is REALLY going on when you walk into a dental office. So, here's the truth most dentists would prefer you never knew. See, in many (but certainly not all) dental practices, regardless of size or how many ads they run in the local newspaper, the primary *internal* focus is on selling as much of their services as fast as they can whether you actually need them or not. Period. The real way they operate is a well kept secret that they don't want you to get clued in on. And please understand, there's nothing wrong with many of these services, or with you being sold on choosing them. The real problem is HOW you're sold, HOW they deliver advice, and what their real motivations are. If someone explained how it REALLY works a lot of the time, you might be shocked.

FREE Report Reveals The 10 Questions You MUST Ask!

After all, choosing a dentist may be one of the most important decisions you'll ever make for you and for your family! Picking the right dentist can help you, and *picking the wrong dentist can be a big and painful mistake!* Make sure you know which is which! You cannot afford to take any chances. You need to be sure to use someone who will be *right for you!*

To get your FREE REPORT called "**10 Questions You Must Ask BEFORE You Even Think About Choosing A Dentist! How To Get Pain & Anxiety Free Dental Care,**" and learn the secrets some dentists don't want you to know, call the TOLL-FREE 24 hour Hotline

1-866-430-6995 for a **FREE NO OBLIGATION RECORDED MESSAGE** and

request Free Report **#2001!** Your Free copy of this eye opening report will be sent to you immediately. Call NOW! Armed with this free report, you'll have the ammunition you need to make sure you deal with someone who is right for you, and has YOUR best interests at heart! Don't be left in the dark any longer ... call NOW!

A paid advertisement A paid advertisement

Most adoption agencies OK with GLBT parents

In an effort to promote a more informed dialogue on the topic of parenting by gays and lesbians, the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute – funded by a generous grant from the Rainbow Endowment – conducted the most extensive systematic, nationwide research to date on the willingness of adoption agencies to work with homosexuals, as well as the extent to which agencies are placing children with parents they know to be lesbian or gay.

The study's findings yielded sweeping conclusions that are as significant as they are straightforward:

- A growing majority of adoption agencies (60 percent) accept applications from homosexuals.
- About 40 percent of all agencies already have placed children with gay or lesbian parents.
- Agencies dealing with foster care are the most likely to place children with homosexuals.
- Opportunities to become parents are greater for homosexuals than is generally understood.
- The number of gay- and lesbian-led families formed through adoption is growing steadily.

"Policymakers and professionals dealing with an array of important and controversial issues – from gay and lesbian parenting, to the historic changes occurring in the American family, to questions relating to children's welfare – too often operate on the basis of societal assumptions and preconceived notions," said Adam Pertman, executive director of the

Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute. "Now, finally, we have solid research to inform the public debate, to help shape improved policies and practices, and to assist us all in better understanding the rapidly shifting realities in our country."

The Adoption Institute study is based on surveys mailed to adoption program directors at all 51 public agencies in the United States, plus 844 private agencies (over half of all those listed in the National Adoption Information Clearinghouse database, randomly chosen within each state). The questionnaires asked about policy and practice in 1999-2000. Of those who were sent surveys, 307 responded, representing a statistically strong 41 percent response rate (eliminating surveys returned as undeliverable, and from agencies not making adoption placements). The margin of error is plus or minus five percent.

Willingness to work with lesbian and gay prospective adoptive parents was found to be a function of two primary agency characteristics: religious affiliation, or lack thereof, and program types (domestic infant, special needs or international). The agencies most willing to place children with lesbian and gay adoptive parents were public (83.3%), secular private (55.9%), Jewish- (72.7%) and Lutheran-affiliated agencies (53.3%), and those focusing on special needs (61.5%) and international adoption (51.5%).

About one-fifth (19%) of the responding agencies said they recruited homosexual adoptive parents or advertised that they were "gay friendly." Moreover, nearly half (48%) of the agencies indicated an interest in receiving training for working with lesbian and gay prospective parents.

"I think the most significant aspect of this research," Pertman said, "is that it clearly shows how extensively attitudes in our country are evolving – to the benefit of children everywhere who need permanent, loving homes."

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

The Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute is an independent, non-profit organization with no affiliations to any constituency or interest group. Its objective is to improve the lives of everyone touched by adoption – especially children – by providing accurate, researched-based information that will lead to more ethical, effective and informed policies, practices and laws.

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- If there's any such thing as a free lunch? There is. Stop in on Sundays around noon at Lorenz/Aftershock for Jerry's cooking. One Sunday it may be spaghetti, another fried chicken or pork chops. All are delicious and all are free! Be sure to bring your night vision eyeglasses as the lighting is extremely minimal.

- Why the World Overcomers Ministries seems to be obsessed with homosexuality? Last Sunday, I watched an interesting, if ignorant, discussion about lesbianism. The motor-mouthed, moralizing moderator, the wife of "Apostle" Williams, spouted the same old diatribe, i.e., lesbianism is a product of the environment in which a woman is raised. Absolutely not mentioned was the American Psychological Association's statement that sexual orientation is not a choice and cannot be altered. Despite the fact that the discussion group was composed of attractive females, it all sounded like B.S. to me.

- What is the difference between a "soft fem" and a "lip-stick lesbian?"

- If J. Edgar is kicking up his red pumps in the grave at the prospect of new domestic intelligence and security agencies? Can you say police state or KGB or STASI?

- Why one local mystical group chooses to raise funds for a national organization and another local mystical group opts to support local organizations? Both Pegasus and Aphrodite are to be commended for their efforts in the fight against HIV/AIDS. However, by keeping its donation in the local community where administrative costs are low and the needs are known, e.g., housing, school supplies for children, direct client/patient care services, etc., Aphrodite has greater impact.

- What the Republican-controlled U.S. Senate was thinking when it voted itself a \$3,200/year pay increase, but refuses to schedule debate on raising the minimum wage by 50 cents/hour? And why proscribe debate on hate crimes legislation?

- Who was the middle-aged, turkey-legged, beer-by-the-pitcher drinker that recently broke his own marathon record for consecutive days and hours spent swilling down the suds? You have 10 guesses and the first nine don't count. Even two quasi-hunky, off-duty bartenders, "Pool Boy" and "Ogre" prancing around in their bikinis were amused and amusing.

- Which of the local TV stations insist on showing a map of the Mid-South when there are no indications of bad weather? They all do. It is so boring. Super-duper radar shows nothing when there is nothing to be seen.

- Who at *The Commercial Appeal* doesn't know how to spell? The Sunday editions are never in alphabetical order.

- What a jihad is? Officially it is a war against the enemies of Islam; sort of like the Crusades, only in the reverse. Apparently some anti-American Iraqis and foreign terrorists took President Bush at his word when he said, "Bring 'em on." What a way to celebrate the Muslim holy month of Ramadan!

- Why many superstar athletes and entertainers have their astoundingly high-priced clothing lines made overseas in

countries that have questionable labor practices? If the superstars were willing to make marginally less profits, the clothing could be made in the USA, thus boosting the textile and manufacturing industry here.

- What the local TV stations will do to replace the advertising revenue realized from Mississippi politicians? In deference to Al Franken, best selling author of *Lies (and the Lying Liars Who Tell Them)*, I think the ads were all lies, not just manipulations of facts.

- Why would anyone name a coffeehouse and grill X, Y & Z? It has nothing to do with the tail-end of the alphabet. Instead, it refers to the sex chromosomes X and Y, with the Z thrown in for any contingency.

This new 24/7 restaurant/bar is owned by the folks who own the Pumping Station and managed by Matthew Gillespie, expatriate of J-Wag's. In keeping with its billing, it features 11 different coffees ranging from plain to espresso to cappacino to latte, all for \$2.95 or less. Celestial Seasonings teas are also served. Breakfast, served from 3 a.m. 'til 10 a.m., includes, among other items, buttermilk pancakes – small order \$3, large \$5; two country biscuits and gravy (no meat) \$3.50, and three eggs, bacon and biscuits for \$3. I did not notice any ham or sausage on the menu. Lunch and dinner are served from 10 a.m. 'til 3 a.m. Happy hour at the beer bar is observed from 10 a.m. 'til 7 p.m. Appetizers, at around five bucks, are the typical pub-grub fare, and cure your "munchies." Despite the manager's braggadocio, burgers – \$5; cheese 50 cents extra; with fries, \$6.25 – provide no competition for Huey's thick, hand-pattied-daily ones. Some other items on the menu include, soup and salad, chicken breasts, pasta dishes, fajitas, pizza and a 10-ounce ribeye steak dinner for \$11. Many items are not listed here. You'll have to visit X, Y & Z to try them yourself.

The bar and separate dining room, complete with pool table, can easily accommodate you and your friends of any persuasion. All are welcome! This is a pleasant alternative for coffee and eats after a night of bar-hopping. Unbelievably, Matthew's penchant for joker-poker machines is not evidenced here; there is only one on the premises ... so far. One caution – beware of the kinky-tiled restrooms; you may experience dizziness while using them.

This establishment is still experiencing growing pains. Menu selections and prices are changing in response to supply and demand. As management learns the ABCs of operating a 24/7 restaurant/bar (it already has a degree in 24/7 bar operations), X, Y & Z will become a refreshing addition to the community.

Improve your GLBT I.Q.

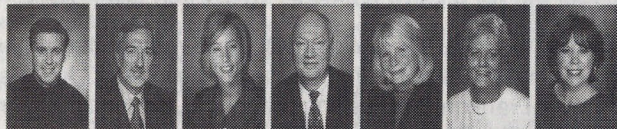
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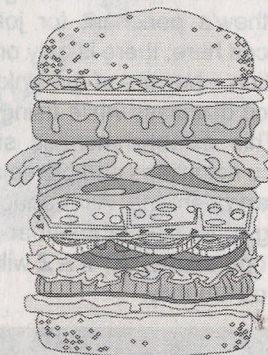
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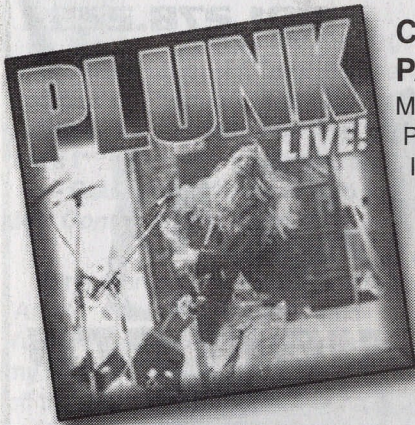
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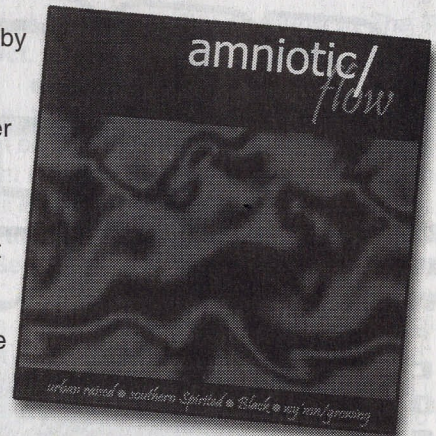


CD RELEASE PARTY

Memphian rocker Carol Plunk will release her latest CD, *Plunk Live*, at a party on Sunday, Dec. 7, from 5 to 7 p.m. at ONE MORE Bar & Grill, 2117 Peabody, Memphis.

FREE CDS

Copies of this CD by African-American musician Sharon Bridgeforth and her daughter, Sonja Perryman, will be given away during "The Gathering" at ALLUSIONS on Wednesday, Dec. 3. (see ad on page 79 of this issue)



SNOOTY WOMEN SERIES

The fun, the fabulous ... The Snooty Women Series is "art with an attitude." The images are hand-signed by the artist, Renee Steger Simpson, and individually numbered as part of an exclusive edition of 95 and 15 artist proofs, available on both paper and canvas. Pictured is "That Little Black Dress." Works are available at 1910 FRAMEWORKS, 2029 Union Avenue, Memphis.

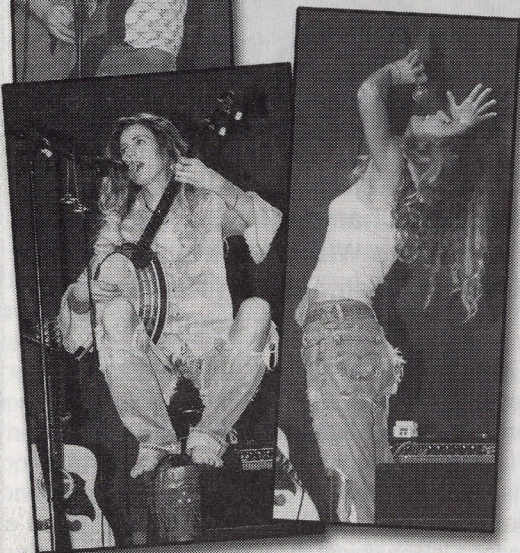


LEZBO PUNK ROCK, GENITALIA-STYLE

Get ready for a night of lezbo punk rock, genitalia style, at "The Warehouse," 656 Madison Ave. in Memphis, across from Sam Phillips Recording Studio. Performing on Nov. 19 will be Crypt Orchid, Wet Labia and Discharge Information System (pictured above). Portland, Ore.-based DIS is comprised of Melissa Collins, cellist, and Andy Gehrz, drums. As they put it, "Melissa likes to run her cello through heavy distortion, while the complexity of Andy's drumbeats add a math rock twist. The show starts "around 10 p.m. for a few bucks admission."

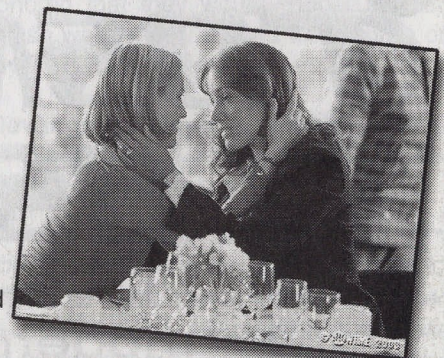
SOPHIE B. HAWKINS

She put on one heck of a show Nov. 8 at the Germantown Performing Arts Centre. Pictured top left is Barrett Baber of Marion, Ark., who opened for Hawkins.



"THE L WORD"

Finally, a full season of lesbian drama. Coming in January, this Showtime original series is about a group of young women in Los Angeles, their lives, careers and romantic relationships – both gay and straight! Another Showtime original series, "Queer As Folk," released its third season on DVD Oct. 21.



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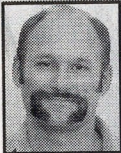


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- Mini Cocktail Shaker, \$7
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- Blooming Champagne Boquet, \$109
- Retro Wired Ashtray, \$14-\$21
- Cosmic Cosmopolitan Napkins, \$6
- Neon Guitar Sculpture, \$49
- Bullet Cocktail Shaker, \$27/\$39
- Woman Table Sculpture, \$149
- "Confusion" Lamp, \$112
- Vodka Egg Set, \$159
- Cordial Set, \$96
- "Uptown" Bar, \$1,999

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QUOTE / UNQUOTE BY REX WOCKNER

"To say that marriage is sacred is a ludicrous idea. F***ing Carmen Electra and Dennis Rodman got married, and Lisa Marie Presley and Michael Jackson got married. Now that is not sacred, I don't care, that's f***ing stupid, you know, and I'm not buying it."

— **Comedian Margaret Cho to the Florida gay publication *Contax Guide*, Sept. 25.**

"One woman's grope is another woman's caress. ... He (Arnold Schwarzenegger) said to me in that wonderful Yugoslavian accent of his, he saw there was a bit of lint on my bodice and he lightly brushed it off — one bodice and then off the other bodice. And then he was interested in my snugly fitting Donna Karan jeans, so he just slid his hand down there and had a look at the label. That's all."

— **Dame Edna on "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno," Oct. 2.**

"Homosexuality, as we understand it as an orientation, is not mentioned in the Bible. I think the confirmation of the (openly gay and sexually active) bishop of New Hampshire is acknowledging what is already a reality in the life of the church and the larger society of which we are a part."

— **Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop Frank Griswold to the Associated Press, Sept. 29.**

"Simply put, there is no evidence to support a ban on gays in the military. If you can serve as a police officer, an FBI agent, or a Member of Congress, there is no reason why you cannot serve as a soldier, sailor, airman or marine."

— **Former President Bill Clinton in a letter to the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network that was made public Oct. 6.**

"It's tempting to think there are two gay Americas, one frightened and one fabulous, a merely gay America and a fully Queer America. An America where the gay bars darken their windows to hide ashamed patrons, and an America where straight people stand in line to get into gay clubs. An America where the June 26 Supreme Court decision legalizing sodomy had more than symbolic consequences, since gay sex was still a crime in 13 states. And an America where, instead of arresting gays, the police help clear the streets every June for pride parades, which of course include contingents of gay cops."

— ***Time* magazine, Oct. 5.**

"The majority of social conservatives oppose gay marriage; they oppose gay citizens serving their country in the military; they oppose gay citizens raising children; they oppose protecting gay citizens from workplace discrimination; they oppose including gays in hate-crime legislation, while including every other victimized group; they oppose civil unions; they oppose domestic partnerships; they oppose ... well, they oppose, for the most part, every single practical measure that brings gay citizens into the mainstream of American life. This is simply bizarre. Can you think of any other legal, noncriminal minority in society toward which social conservatives have nothing but a negative social policy?"

— **Gay journalist Andrew Sullivan writing in *The Wall Street Journal*, Oct. 8.**

"It is no big deal to me. I have always been attracted to women, and I went on dates with women if they asked me. ... It did not seem that different to me. But then I met my (husband), and now he is the apple of my eye."

— **"Will & Grace's" Megan Mullally (Karen) to the *Houston Voice*, Sept. 26.**

"The word was coined by a major closet case, William Henry III, a critic at *Time* magazine who is now deceased. He claimed that some gay journalists — yes, including yours truly — were doing this terrible new thing, revealing gay public figures's homosexuality, and he claimed that some gay activists had dubbed it 'outing.' The word stuck, though some of us hated its violent and special connotation — we preferred simply calling it reporting."

— **Journalist Michelangelo Signorile writing in *New York City's Gay City News*, Oct. 16.**

"I do think he's (George W. Bush) beatable. Because the public is finally waking up to what's been going on since day one, since he issued his first executive-privilege gag order. This is a government that is not operating openly and honestly and truthfully. And as Martin Luther King said, 'Truth crushed to the earth will rise again.'"

— **Barbra Streisand to *The Advocate*, Oct. 18.**

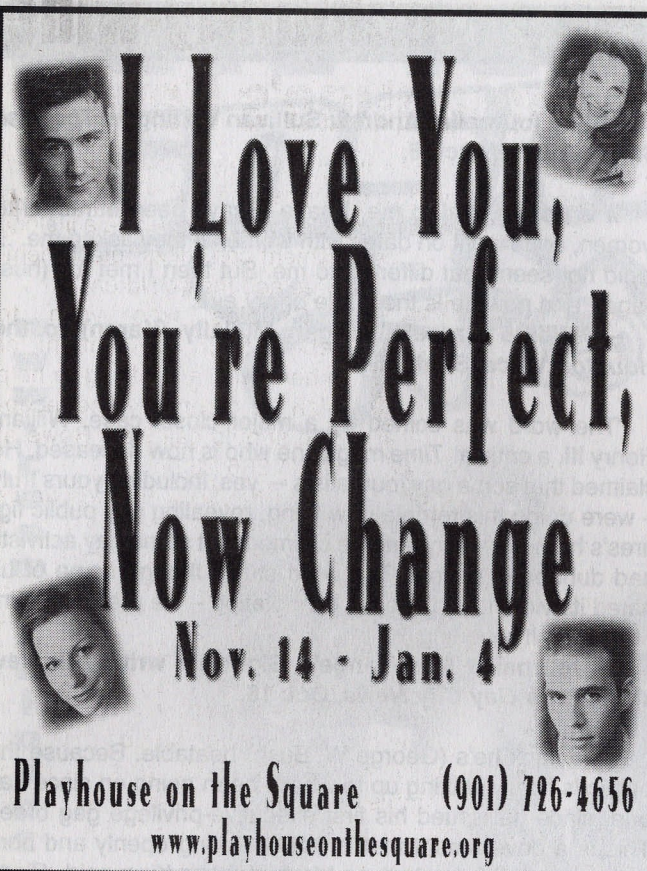
"The current Pope ... will send emissaries to terrorists, he will meet with a man who tried to assassinate him. But he has not and will not meet with openly gay Catholics. They are, to him, beneath dialogue. His message is unmistakable. Gay people are the last of the untouchables. We can exist in the church only by silence, by bearing false witness to who we are."

— **Gay Catholic journalist Andrew Sullivan writing in *The New York Times*, Oct. 19.**

"I can't hardly believe it (my status as a gay icon). I've always loved the gay community. I think they're the most talented people that have ever lived. I think they're some of the kindest people that I've ever met, and I care about them deeply. I'm very honored that they would choose to care about me, too, because we've really agreed to disagree on the gay issue. They know my feelings on the gay issue (homosexual sex)."

— **Former televangelist Tammy Faye Messner (Bakker) to the *San Diego Gay & Lesbian Times*, Oct. 23. Her new memoir is called *I Will Survive*.**

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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Annual Gay & Gray conference was held

On Oct. 25, the 2nd Annual Gay and Gray in the West Conference was held in Denver.

This one-day event, which focused on graying gay issues, attracted some 500 participants, 30 speakers and 35 exhibitors. The theme of the conference was "Moving From The Sidelines."

The keynote speaker for the conference was Rev. Elder Troy Perry, human rights activist and founder of the Metropolitan Community Churches. The Hazel Miller Band was the featured entertainment for the evening gala.

After the keynote address by Rev. Perry, there were a number of breakout sessions, including "Volunteering Your Gifts," "Moving Out of Loss and Loneliness," "Qui Gung and Simple Stretches-Movements to Stay Healthy," "Legal Options and Housing Options for GLBTs," "Financial Planning for People on Fixed Incomes," "Financial Planning and Investing for Those Who Already Have a Nest Egg," "Staying Healthy Longer - Preventative Health," "Community of Color Dialogue," "When the Time Comes (Having a True Say in End-of-Life Issues)," "Travel Options for GLBTs," "Bisexual Issues," "Eldercare," "Transgendered Concerns" and "Understanding Medicare, Medicaid and Long-Term Care."

Gay and Gray in the West got its start at an intergenerational party held at a private home in a remote town in Colorado a few years ago. Gay & Gray in the West was formed to help gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people in Colorado define the range of issues and concerns that face everyone as they grow older but which can have unique consequences for aging GLBT people.

For more information, go online to www.gayandgrayinthewest.org or call (303) 380-2342.

Women attracted to women needed for study

Sharon Clayman, a doctoral student at the Virginia Consortium Program in Clinical Psychology, is seeking women who are attracted to other women, ages 18 and older, to complete an anonymous, online survey. The information learned from the study will be used to further the understanding of the diversity of experiences of women who are attracted to other women.

According to Clayman, the survey takes approximately 20 to 30 minutes to complete and the names of those taking the survey are in no way connected to the responses. The website uses technology that encrypts information, maintaining a high level of security and confidentiality. Those taking the survey can, at their option, discontinue the survey at any time and for any reason.

The survey is located online at www.psychdata.net/surveys/asp?SID=5701.

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Folks are asked to help plan a community-wide renewal of vows service on Valentine's Day

Individuals and organizations that support civil marriage for gay and lesbian couples are invited to help plan and participate in a community-wide service that will include the renewal of vows by both heterosexual and homosexual couples Valentine's Day 2004, at Neshoba Unitarian Universalist Church, located at 7350 Raleigh-LaGrange Road, in Cordova, Tenn.

The pro-marriage equality event is being planned for Feb. 14, 2004, in response to Senator Bill Frist and other elected official's efforts to back a constitutional amendment to forever deny civil marriage to gay couples.

"The citizens and our legislators in Memphis, Nashville and Washington, D.C., need to know that there are religious people who support the right to marry for same-sex couples," said Rev. Jean Rowe, pastor of Neshoba Unitarian Universalist Church. "Unitarian Universalists know from experience the many blessings that gay and lesbian families bring to our congregations, and we are committed to supporting these families in every way possible." She views marriage as a paradigm for the ideals of cooperation, trust, mutual responsibility, continuity and affection.

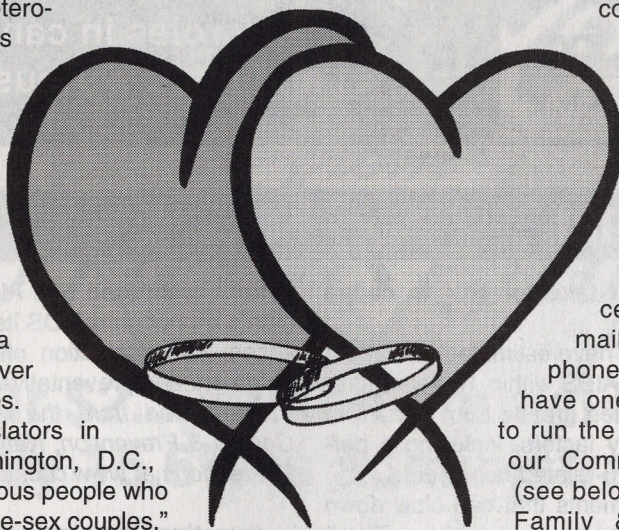
"Gay and lesbian singles and couples need and want full

recognition and inclusion in civil society," Rev. Rowe said. "Civil marriage rights are a civil right. And civil marriage rights are the only way that couples who have made a lifelong commitment can fully protect themselves and their children."

Couples who wish to renew their commitment or others who are willing to help plan the ceremony and reception should call Rev. Rowe at (901) 266-2626.

And *Family & Friends* wants to know about your wedding or ceremony to exchange vows. Just mail or email your name and telephone number, and a picture if you have one, and we'll be more than happy to run the announcement of your union in our Community Announcements section (see below). Information can be mailed to Family & Friends, P.O. Box 771948, Memphis, TN 38177-1948, emailed to

FamilyMag@aol.com or faxed to (901) 685-2234.



**Weddings, Births, Deaths
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COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS WEDDINGS/COMMITMENTS

Tracie Johnson and Cindy Mitchell

Tracie Johnson and Cindy Mitchell, both of Memphis, exchanged vows at 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 11, 2003, at the Memphis Botanic Gardens. John Denton officiated.

Johnson wore a long white dress with long sleeves and a formal, cathedral-length train, while Mitchell was dressed in a black tuxedo, which featured tails and a white vest.

Johnson was given in marriage by her mother, Mary Jane Johnson of Colorado. Johnson carried a cascading bouquet of Starfighters and Astromerias.

Bridesmaids were Elizabeth Waterman and Jessica Sisco, both wearing black gowns, and Selena Haynes, who wore a black tuxedo, all of Memphis.

Groomsmen were Bev Hart, Ginger Leonard, Kim Measels and Mitchell's son, William Mitchell, all of Memphis.

Following the ceremony, which included the exchanging of simple rings, the couple and their 40 to 50 guests enjoyed a catered reception at MBG's pavilion by the lake.

The entire wedding event was planned and coordinated by Ernie Ashby. Music and entertainment for both the wedding ceremony and the reception were provided by Kim Richardson. The photographer was Carrie Chavous.



Cindy Mitchell and Tracie Johnson



Agouron Pharmaceuticals, the makers of Viracept, is committed to the discovery, development, manufacturing and marketing of innovative therapeutic products engineered to inactivate proteins that play key roles in cancer, AIDS and other serious diseases.

HIV/AIDS EDUCATION 101



Question: How long does it take for HIV to cause AIDS?

Answer: Since 1992, scientists have estimated that about half the people with HIV develop AIDS within 10 years after becoming infected. This time varies greatly from person to person and can depend on many factors, including a person's health status and their health-related behaviors.

Today there are medical treatments that can slow down the rate at which HIV weakens the immune system. There are other treatments that can prevent or cure some of the ill-

nesses associated with AIDS, though the treatments do not cure AIDS itself. As with other diseases, early detection offers more options for treatment and preventative health care.

(Reprinted from the website of Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, National Center for HIV, STD and TB Preventions at www.cdc.gov/hiv/pubs/faq.)

...

Question: How long after a possible exposure should I wait to get tested for HIV?

Answer: The tests commonly used to detect HIV infection actually look for antibodies produced by your body to fight HIV. Most people will develop detectable antibodies within three months after infection, the average being 25 days. In rare cases, it can take up to six months.

(Reprinted from the website of Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, National Center for HIV, STD and TB Preventions at www.cdc.gov/hiv/pubs/faq.)

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

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Friends For Life & The Positive Living Center

1384 Madison Avenue / 1000 South Cooper

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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.

One Man Can

from page 18

...cine in the prevention of HIV infection. The study lasts for three years. This vaccine cannot give you HIV or cause AIDS. It is not known if these experimental vaccines will prevent HIV or AIDS. Eligibility: Must be HIV-negative; must be in good general health, and must be 18 years or older.

Howlett said they wanted African Americans, Latinos, minorities and women in the study.

"The most infected and newly-infected are, young gay black men," Howlett said. "We ask that African-Americans roll up their sleeves for their own. The Tuskegee Trials did a lot of damage. We want to get rid of those myths. We believe the name "St. Jude" would let people know the studies are safe and we would never do anything to harm anyone and the vaccine has been thoroughly investigated.

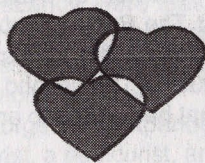
"Again, Wes nor any other volunteer is at risk of HIV," she concluded. "There is no HIV, only the DNA of it. They have to use safe sex (to prevent being infected elsewhere). We cannot tell anyone it (the vaccine) will prevent HIV."

For more information, call Nanna Howlett, RN, CNP at (901) 495-2846 or email her at nanna.howlett@stjude.org.

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AIDS News in Brief

• According to SAPA/AllAfrica.com, British musician Phil Collins has donated approximately \$54,000 to the Topsy Foundation, a South African HIV/AIDS agency which cares for children affected by HIV/AIDS. The donation represents his royalties earned in South Africa from January 2002 through June 2003.

• On Oct. 18, The Sexual Health IN Entertainment (SHINE) awards, were presented to honor "outstanding television portrayals of sexual and reproductive health issues." Awards were given in 10 categories, including Daytime Drama: CBS's "Guiding Light" episode entitled "Marina Plans Ahead," where a woman prepares to have sex, and Entertainment Special: HBO's "Normal" where a man tells his wife and family that he wants to undergo a sex-change operation.

In addition, Dr. Neal Baer, executive producer of "Law and Order: SVU," was awarded a special individual achievement award for his commitment to sexual health issues.

• On Oct. 15, the *Los Angeles Times* reported that the Supreme Court agreed to hear a challenge to the Child Online Protection Act (COPA). According to *The Washington Post*, also on Oct. 15, COPA makes it a crime for a commercial website to post material that is "harmful to minors" in a place where people under age 17 can gain access to it, unless the site makes a "good faith effort" to screen out all but adult users. The American Civil Liberties Union, the online magazine Salon and OBGYN.net, a women's health site, are challenging COPA, saying it

could prevent teenagers and adults from accessing sexual health information.

• According to a Nov. 1 *Orlando Sentinel* story, Lanessa Riobe, a 16-year-old Osceola High School (Kissimmee, Fla.) student was suspended for wearing a T-shirt to school, which she had covered with packaged condoms, and for distributing the condoms to students. Principal Chuck Paradiso was quoted as saying her actions were "a class disruption" and she had "an insolent attitude" and that her actions violated the school's abstinence-based sex education position.

• *The Boston Globe* reported on Nov. 4 that, even with "years of warnings" about unprotected sex, men who have sex with men, between the ages of 18 and 24, do "not seem to be getting the message." "The reasons are very complicated," Larry Kessler, founding director of AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts, told *The Boston Globe*. "It's a new generation, and they didn't witness the devastation of the '80s and the first half of the '90s. ... The second thing is, there are drugs now, and I think that has added to an illusion that this is not a serious disease."

Brothers United plan Winter Retreat at Montgomery Bell State Park December 4-7

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 by calling (615) 259-4866, ext. 269 or (800) 845-4266, ext. 269; emailing brosunited@aol.com, or checking out the Brothers United website at www.brothersunited.com.




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For location and information, call (901) 272-0855

Funded in part by the Mid-South AIDS Fund

Hair's not only thing growing at Hi Gorgeous hair salon

Hi Gorgeous Inc.: Innovative Hair Design, which opened its doors in May, 2002, is doubling its existing space at 1475 Madison Avenue at McNeil. Hi Gorgeous was voted by the readers of the *Memphis Flyer* as the 3rd Best Hair Salon in Memphis for 2002 and the 2nd Best Hair Salon in Memphis in 2003.

"Customer demand," co-owner Rick Caccamisi answered, when asked why he and his partner, Larry DeLancy, were leasing the remaining 1,500 square feet of the building they are presently in. "So many of our customers say they have to go to so many different places to get the services they need."

Hi Gorgeous's expanded services will include those of a manicurist, a pedicurist, an aesthetician (skin care) and massage therapist.

"We are also adding two aromatherapy/oxygen stations," Caccamisi said. "It is something new to Midtown. You lay on a massage chair and breath fresh oxygen while listening to soft music."

Delancy, besides being a hair stylist, is a well-known make-up artist, especially in the beauty pageant circles.

"He does (makeup) for beauty queens from all over," Caccamisi said, "including Miss USA and Miss America con-



testants. We are expanding his area where he teaches makeup techniques, as well."

Caccamisi said he expects to be up and running and taking appointments for the extended services by the end of November.

Hi Gorgeous will retain its existing hours of Monday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information, call (901) 726-5151.

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*"I'm not gay ...
but I'll wear a tight T-shirt!"*

References Available



PASSIONATE ABOUT PETS BY KATIE HIESTAND

Greetings fellow pet lovers! This month it was suggested that I address an issue that we are all familiar with – spaying and neutering – but to approach it from a little different perspective than the usual.

We are probably all familiar with the campaigns that urge us to do our part in controlling pet overpopulation by spaying or neutering our pets. While I certainly do not intend to downplay the importance of this argument, I do want to point out that there are other equally strong incentives for getting those animals fixed.

First, I want to give you a brief description of what a spay or neuter procedure entails. Female animals are spayed. This procedure is very similar to a woman having a complete hysterectomy. A single incision is made on the lower abdomen (belly) through muscle layers and the abdominal wall, and the ovaries and uterus removed. Generally two layers of internal sutures are placed, and the skin closed with external sutures or staples; occasionally, skin glue may be used on cats.

The male animals are neutered, and the process is much less invasive than that for spaying. For dogs, a single incision is made on the lower abdomen at the base of the scrotum, and each testicle is removed via that incision, which is then closed with skin suture. In cats, a small incision is made on each scrotal sac through which the testicle is removed, and there is generally no closure required.

These surgical procedures remove organs that are responsible for some hormone production, as well as the manufacture of eggs or sperm. Due to the resulting change in hormonal levels, animals that are spayed or neutered have much reduced risk of several cancers associated with the reproductive organs, including mammary glands. The earlier in life the animal is fixed, the lower their subsequent risk.

Veterinary medicine used to recommend that animals be spayed or neutered no sooner than six months of age; this is no longer the case. We routinely perform this surgery on animals at around four months old, and sometimes earlier if needed. The key is to try to have it done BEFORE the animal goes through a heat cycle (this is true for the females only). One myth that is still circulated is that it is better to let the animal go through their first heat before they are spayed; in fact, there is no medical benefit to doing that and it may increase their risk slightly for cancer.

In addition to reducing the risk of cancer, there also are other benefits to spaying and neutering. An intact (not neutered) male can detect a female in heat from several miles away, and his hormones switch him into “find that female” mode. A sterile (neutered) male won’t be able to detect the female, or at least won’t care, and so will not be driven to try to get to her. It may significantly decrease how

See Pets, page 49

It's a DOG's world And he knows what he wants!

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Pets

from page 48

much the animal wanders if they are not trying to find females and may avoid some of the hazards of being loose (cars, other dogs, antifreeze and other poisons). In the same manner, intact females that are in heat will be driven to find males to mate with, and so will be much more likely to attempt an escape, thus putting her in the same dangers as the wandering male. Sterile animals are quite simply much more content to stay home, as their need to reproduce is gone.

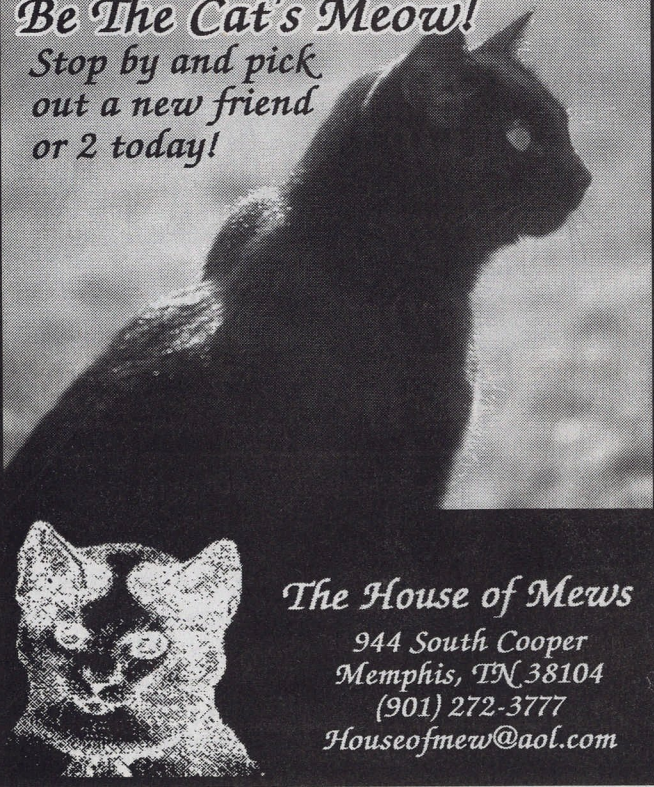
I am presently training to be a therapist, and this final point comes from a more psychological angle. To be blunt, intact animals will get horny, and if they are properly restrained in their house or yard so that they cannot have access to animals to mate with, then they will be frustrated – the last thing I want is to have to deal with is a horny dog or cat. And let's face it: they will be much happier not having to deal with "unrequited love" on a regular basis.

The bottom line when considering whether or not to spay or neuter your pet is simple. The only reason not to is that you are going to breed them (or show them, although that is changing). There are no other benefits to keeping them intact, and several health benefits to having them fixed. Thus, assuming you are not going to breed them, there is no reason not to have them spayed or neutered; in the long run they will be both healthier and happier.

The opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the magazine. For serious problems, seek professional help. Send questions to Family & Friends, P.O. Box 771948, Memphis, TN 38177-1948, or email them to FamilyMag@aol.com.

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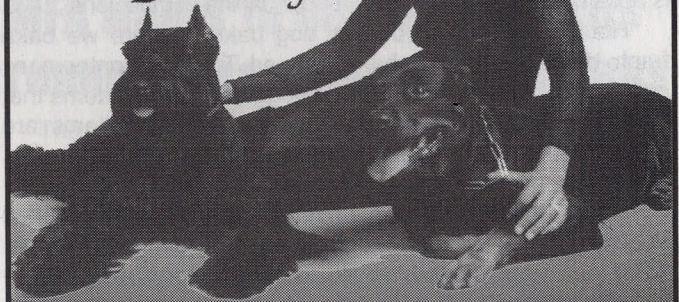


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The Hound Cake, truly every dog's best friend

By ANITA MOYT, managing editor

Sorry, Hound Cake, located at 247 South Cooper at Peabody, is not a bakery for people; it is for our canine companions.

"Hound Cake is a gourmet dog bakery where we bake fresh treats from scratch," explained Tammy Montgomery, co-owner of this dream store for doggies. "We sell items that you can't find anywhere else in Memphis. The items are mostly for dogs, but some things are cat-themed."

Montgomery owns the business with Hallie Bloom.

"We had wanted to open a small business and had looked at different possibilities," Montgomery told *Family & Friends*. "Why not open something like a dog bakery because we knew we weren't the only ones who spoiled their dogs. We wanted a business to guarantee everyone who came in would be in a good mood."

Paw prints lead to the front of the corner store, and the sign on the door reads, "Pets welcome, humans allowed." The fire hydrant waterfall will bring a grin to your face as you enter Hound Cake.

"The treats are our best sellers," Montgomery said. "That is something you can't get anywhere else. Everything is made from scratch. ... We also do 'barkdaycakes' and special occasion cakes for the dogs, not the owners. And we do custom decorate them."

"The gift baskets have been huge (sellers)," Montgomery continued, "as well as our beds and feeders. The beds are

custom made, and come in six different sizes and an assortment of colors and styles; all bed covers are machine washable. The prices (for the beds) range from \$55 to \$200 and average about \$100 each. They hold up very well; it keeps its shape but is really soft." When Montgomery says assortment, she is referring to two fabric swatch books, with close to 100 samples to choose from.

Hound Cake also is a community-minded business.

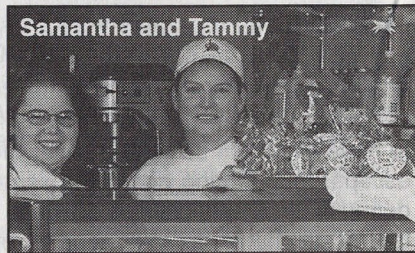
"We have 'yappy hour' parties designed for the owner and their dogs to come out and have a good time," Montgomery explained. "We cater refreshments for the owners and prepare a puppy buffet. We have different events, such as an art show. Our next event is a bow-wow brunch on Sunday, Dec. 14, from noon to 5 p.m. at the store. There is no cost to get in. Just have a fun time."

"We try and work with the local resources to do adoption days," Montgomery said, "and we donate items to their auctions and their events to help find homes for animals and provide care for animals that do not have homes."

So, obviously Montgomery and Bloom are doing something they love: dog-loving-people taking care of dogs and their owners. Stop buy and let them pamper you and your pooch.

The Hound Cake is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information, call (901) 276-4041.



Samantha and Tammy

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HRC condemns remarks made by Congressman

The Human Rights Campaign condemned remarks made by U.S. Rep. Zach Wamp (D-Tenn.), who called homosexuality a "sickness," an "aberration" and a "sin" that needs to be "controlled."

Published in an Associated Press article Oct. 20, Wamp also announced his support for an anti-gay constitutional amendment which would deny same-sex couples any of the more than 1,000 federal benefits and protections that come with a civil marriage license and wipe out the limited protections that presently exist for some same-sex couples and their families in the United States.

"Representative Wamp's comments are deeply hurtful, inaccurate and should be retracted," said HRC Political Director Winnie Stachelberg. "He owes an apology to all Americans who believe in fairness and equal rights for everyone in this country. Not only has Representative Wamp vilified and marginalized millions of Americans, he is advocating amending our nation's most cherished document – the U.S. Constitution – to permanently deny rights to gay and lesbian families."

According to the AP, fellow Tennessee Republican Sen. Lamar Alexander said in a statement that he finds a constitutional amendment "unnecessary."

"We are pleased that Senator Alexander has distanced himself from the views of representative Wamp and we call on all members of Congress to denounce the congressman's comments," Stachelberg said. "It's time for our nation's leaders to send a message that such hateful rhetoric has no place in our public dialogue."

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, there are more than 10,000 G&L coupled households in the state of Tennessee.

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

MFA wants 10 Commandments removed from county buildings

The Memphis Freethought Alliance (MFA), an association of atheists, agnostics and secular humanists, issued a letter to Marilyn Loeffel, chair of the Shelby County Commission on Oct. 24, calling upon the commissioners to "cease violating the constitutionally-mandated separation of church and state," according to MFA President Jim Maynard.

"Specifically, we formally requested of Marilyn Loeffel and the Shelby County Commission to (a) remove the Judeo-Christian 'Ten Commandments' from county buildings and (b) not consider a resolution recognizing 'God as the foundation of our national heritage,'" Maynard wrote in a press release. "Both of these actions are violations of the Constitution of the United States and the rights of atheists, agnostics and secular humanists to be free from government-endorsed or mandated religious beliefs. We will take whatever legal action necessary," Maynard concluded, "to defend the constitution and the rights of the citizens of Shelby County to live free from government-endorsed religious beliefs."

For more information, email Maynard at jmaynard2@earthlink.net.

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Gays, lesbians begin planning for GOP convention

Editorial by Rex Wockner, contributing writer

The so-called "backlash" to the so-called "Summer of Gay" may not reach its zenith until next August at the Republican National Convention in New York City.

"The Summer of Gay," of course, refers to the stunning sequence of gay issues that burst to the forefront of media and public attention in June, July and August of this year — Ontario's legalization of same-sex marriage; British Columbia's legalization of same-sex marriage; the U.S. Supreme Court's legalization of gay sex; George W. Bush's denunciation of same-sex marriage; the proposed constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage; the Vatican's denunciation of all gay relationships; the Democratic presidential candidates's near-unanimous support for gay civil unions and gays in the military; Wal-Mart's embrace of gay employees; the Episcopal Church's election of an openly gay bishop; Michael Savage's firing; the smash success of TV's "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy;" the controversy of TV's "Boy Meets Boy," and Madonna, Britney and Christina's French-kissing at the MTV Video Music Awards.

Did we forget anything? Liza's breakup? Maybe. Then, of course, there is this looming earthquake: Massachusetts's Supreme Judicial Court may legalize same-sex marriage any day now! If that happens, religious right leaders may suffer the nation's first mass heart attack.

Given that conservative reaction to this year's huge gay successes may come to a head at the GOP conclave, how are activists preparing for the possible homophobic hurricane?

"There are direct actions being formulated locally by various lefty groups, peace groups, environmental groups ... and certainly there are gay people involved in that stuff," said longtime New York City lesbian activist Ann Northrop.

"If the constitutional amendment against same-sex mar-

riages is hot, that will increase the participation of gay groups," she said. "I would like to see gay groups heavily involved whether the constitutional amendment is hot or not because I think Bush and the Republicans are such evil monsters that we have to go after them no matter what."

Northrop, however, is worried that demonstrators will be tightly controlled.

"My fear is that ... we will see what we've seen here for a long time now — very, very, very heavy police protection of the convention and a pushing of dissent to very far-away margins," she said. "They will shut down dissent no matter what it takes, they will violate everyone's civil rights to do so."

FOREMAN: BEST APPROACH UNCLEAR

The head of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, Matt Foreman, said it's not clear what approach to the convention would best serve the gay cause. Historically, NGLTF has helped execute direct-action protests at the Democratic and Republican conventions.

"We've discussed this for hours on end," Foreman said. "Part of the goal is to make the investment of the resources worthwhile in terms of a message that you get out via the media. ... The point is to think creatively in a way that will get some attention."

Foreman, who is based in New York, shares Northrop's concerns about a police clampdown.

"The police here during the '90s have become progressively more repressive around marches and demonstrations," he said. "They have become experts at preventing people from exercising their First Amendment rights. The anti-war demo in front of the U.N. earlier this year is a classic example of that. They kept people from getting to the demo, they made arbitrary arrests, they used horses inappropriately, they made it so you couldn't hear or see the speakers. It will require incredible planning because the

police here have just become extremely difficult."

But marching and chanting just for its own sake may not accomplish much these days, Foreman said.

"Demonstrations are effective only when you can make a point to a broader audience," he said. "If all we're doing is providing an outlet for people to vent, to show their rage and anger, that is not what is going to produce a good election result."

"The real work," Foreman said, "is going to be getting people out to vote, and voting those bastards (the Bush administration) out of office."

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See GOP, page 54

Take advantage of right-wing freak-out over gay marriage

Editorial by John Aravosis, contributing writer

I was reading all the latest news about how militant, evangelical bigots are trying to pass an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would likely take away all of our civil rights, and I started thinking of a very unique way to screw with them. Here's the plan ...

The far-right, especially the anti-gay "family values" hate groups, are dedicating most all of their resources to getting this constitutional amendment passed. They're spending tons of money, activating their grassroots, using all of their anti-gay national staff, etc. That means they don't have a lot of time or money to be focusing on other gay-rights issues around the country. And that's where you step in.

It's time to make this upcoming year the religious right's worse nightmare. Let's of course fight the gay marriage issue because we have to – if this amendment passes it will likely repeal all gay rights laws everywhere in the country. But I propose you folks out there in the land – outside D.C. – start causing trouble on pro-gay issues that strike fear in the hearts of the religious right – issues they won't have time to fight you on because they're busy devoting all their resources to gay marriage. That means take the battle to the schools, to your religious institutions, to your local libraries and to your local governments.

I'm quite serious about this – this is a golden opportunity to push for local improvements in gay rights that you've been

wanting, because the national groups are simply over-tasked right now by focusing on gay marriage. Here are some suggestions for what you can do that will really help the community and really freak out the religious right:

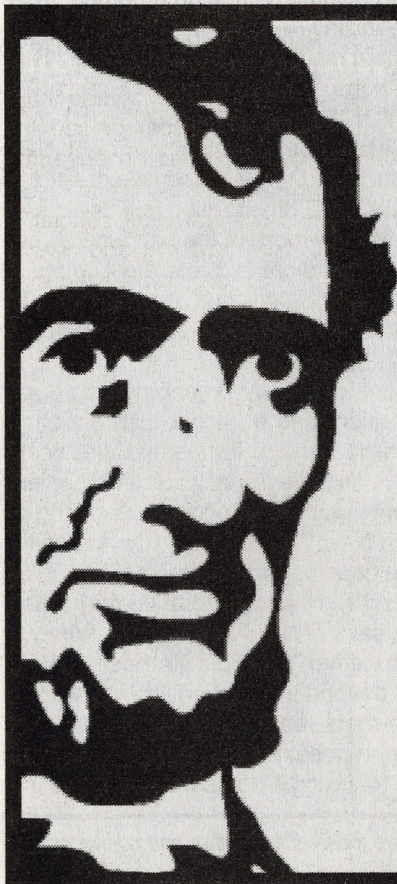
1. Contact your local newspaper and make sure they print gay union, domestic partner and marriage announcements. If they don't, check GLAAD.org and get the latest info on how many papers around the country are already doing it.

2. Check with your local grade school, high school, college and workplace to make sure they have a written non-discrimination policy that includes sexual orientation and gender identity or expression. If they don't, ask them to create one.

3. Does your town have non-discrimination laws that cover sexual orientation and gender identity or expression? If not, call your local mayor and your local city council and ask them to pass one.

4. Check your local public library, and your local public school libraries (grade school and high school) to make sure they have age-appropriate pro-gay books on their book shelves. For grade schools, they could use *Heather Has Two Mommies* or *Daddy's Roommate*. If they don't have such books, ask them if you can donate some and whether they would then make those books available. If so, then have a bake sale and buy those books. If they say "no," ask them if they accept donated books from others, and if they do, ask

See Take Advantage, page 55



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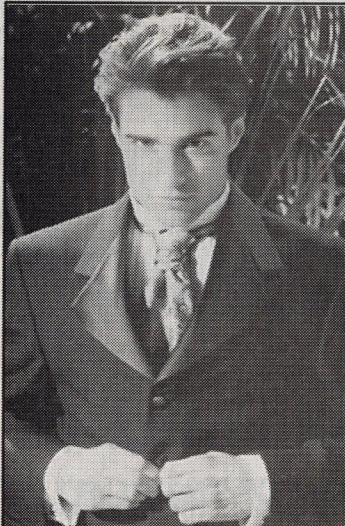
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GOP

from page 52

"The vast majority of Americans do not support what this administration is doing," he said. "The reason the President is in power and the reason we keep losing so many battles is because our side – the people who believe in equal rights, choice, affirmative action – we don't get together. We don't focus and we don't get people out to vote. We need to set aside petty issues, focus on issues we agree on and get people to vote. Fundamentally, the people of America support the core values that all of us on the center-to-the-left believe in."

HRC: RIGHT WING IS FIRED-UP

The Human Rights Campaign also has been involved in organizing convention protests, in addition to press conferences, receptions and other events.

"We've been talking internally about both conventions and how they will play out in terms of media and focus and what the issues will be," said Communications Director David Smith. "In 1996, we rented an old theater near the convention site, and various gay organizations came and scheduled events and engaged in activities that were consistent with their message.

"In 2003, it's largely going to depend on how this issue unfolds," Smith said. "The Right Wing is organizing like never before. I've never seen them behave like they're behaving right now. Many of them are openly saying the issue of gay marriage is better than abortion. It's galvanizing their grass roots. ... If a vicious, mean-spirited campaign emerges, there will be increased gay organizing.

"Conventions are all about media coverage," he said. "They are for communicating with the country through the media."

QUEERS WON'T BE SILENCED

ACT-UP-type groups were active during the 2000 GOP Convention in Philadelphia. Julie Davids, executive director of New York's Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization for Power, said "queers" and AIDS activists plan more of the same next year.

"It's important that people recognize that protest is important and possible in New York City, and it's going to be extremely prevalent at the Republican National Convention," Davids said.

"We believe it's important to link HIV organizing with queer organizing and with other social and economic-justice areas – housing, prison issues, criminal-justice issues, welfare, health care, Medicaid, Medicare, immigration, attacks on civil liberties."

A preliminary RNC planning meeting of groups working on these issues took place in New York Sept. 18, Davids said.

"The conventions are a good opportunity to show the interrelation of these issues and allow people to bring their whole selves to the efforts," she said. "This is also an opportunity to bring our communities together to forge stronger working relationships that will last beyond the convention. We want to rebuild a strong, grass-roots base in this country that includes people who support queer rights and understand the importance of continuing to struggle against HIV/AIDS."

The opinions expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of Family & Friends.

Take Advantage

from page 53

why they have a double standard.

5. Boycott the anti-gay Salvation Army. They discriminate against gay people, and have been doing so for years, including lobbying the Bush Administration to help overrule local city ordinances protecting gay workers. Their national office is as anti-gay as you get. Do NOT give them money or clothes this holiday season – rather, give to another charity that's good on gays.

6. Does your local high school have a Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA)? If not, find some gay-friendly teachers, check GLSEN.org and see if you can help set one up. And if your school has a gay-friendly club, then see about raising some money in your local community, perhaps at a gay bar, to benefit the club.

7. Does your college Alma Mater have a gay group that you can help raise money for, or do other pro-bono assistance for?

8. Is there a local PFLAG in your town? If there is, join it. If there isn't, contact PFLAG.org and see about setting one up.

9. Talk to others at your place of worship about what you can do to make your congregation more welcoming to gay people of faith? If you haven't come out to your priest, minister, rabbi or mullah, do so.

10. Tell you nieces and nephews that you're gay (assuming you are gay). It's about time they knew, and they're the

ones who will really change things in the coming decades.

I'm open to more suggestions. The point is, take this opportunity to come up with your gay rights wish list and take action on it now. I promise you, the anti-gay hate groups will freak. It's about time we put them on the offensive.

John Aravosis is the author of "The List," a free email newsletter, available online at gayadvocacy.com.

The opinions expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of Family & Friends.

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Annual holiday laser show set

The Sharpe Planetarium, located inside the Memphis Pink Palace Museum, 3050 Central Avenue, presents its annual Holiday Laser Spectacular, Nov. 26 through Jan. 4, 2004. The songs of the season delight the ears while images and patterns produced by the Planetarium's multi-color laser system will dazzle the eyes. Unique lighting effects and photographic images enhance the production. Admission is \$4.25 for adults and \$3.75 for seniors and children (ages 3-12). For showtimes or other information, call (901) 320-6362.

Raise funds for Hope House

The Hope House 5K Run is set for Saturday, Nov. 29, at Shelby Farms. Registration is from 8 to 9 a.m. and the race starts at 9 a.m. Both walkers and runners are welcome. However, no pets or in-line skates are allowed. Registration before Nov. 21 is \$15 per person and \$20 per person the day of the race. Hope House provides day care and support services for children whose families have been touched by HIV/AIDS. For a pre-race application, call (901) 272-2702 or go online to www.hopehouseday-care.org.

Visit Victorian Village December 7

The sixth annual Holiday Walk in Victorian Village is set for Sunday, Dec. 7, from 12:30 to 5 p.m. The Mallory-Neely, Magevney and Woodruff-Fontaine Historic Houses will offer special holiday exhibits. There will be festive refreshments; carolers strolling along Adams Avenue; performances by musicians and entertainers; appearances by St. Nicholas and Santa Clause; tours of St. Mary's Cathedral; horse-drawn carriage rides (\$5 per person), and more. Event tickets are \$13 for adults and \$6.50 for youth. For more information, call (901) 523-1484.

AMUM offers free exhibit

The Art Museum at The University of Memphis, located in the communication-fine arts building on campus, presents "A Social Affair" now through Jan. 17. "A Social Affair" is a vehicle intended to function as a dynamic catalyst for the devel-

opment of a broad community of artists and the art-informed. The museum is open to the public, free of charge, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Saturday. For more information, call (901) 678-2224 or go online to www.amum.org.

Metal Museum to host exhibit

"Collection Squared Plus One" is on exhibit at the National Ornamental Metal Museum, located at 374 Metal Museum Drive, Nov. 23 through Feb. 1, 2004. Five collectors share their collections of American arts and crafts silver; contemporary art jewelry; historic European ironwork for hearth and kitchen; 18th century British silver, and early American craft tools. Museum hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. Admission is \$4 for adults; \$3 for seniors (62+), \$2 for students and free for children. For more information, call (901) 774-6380 or go online to www.metalmuseum.org.

MSO to present seasonal concert

The Memphis Symphony Orchestra and the Memphis Symphony Chorus will present "Home for the Holidays" on Saturday, Dec. 6, at 8 p.m., at the Cannon Center for the Performing Arts, 255 North Main Street. WHBQ-TV Fox 13's Weatherman Leon Griffin will narrate "A Visit from St. Nicholas." Tickets range from \$10 to \$75 each and are available at the MSO box office at 3100 Walnut Grove Road, Suite 501 or by calling the box office at (901) 324-3627. Tickets are also available at all TicketMaster locations, by calling TicketMaster at (901) 525-1515 or going online to TicketMaster.com.

Vocal artists to present concert

The Memphis Vocal Ensemble will present "A Candlelight Holiday Concert (Silent Night, Holy Night): Celebrating the Season and the Cultural Diversity of Our Community" on Friday, Dec. 5, at 7:30 p.m. and on Sunday, Dec. 7, at 3 p.m. at the Buckman Performing and Fine Arts Center at St. Mary's Episcopal School, 60 Perkins Road at Walnut Grove Road. Tickets, which are \$20 for adults; \$15 for seniors and \$10 for students, are available by calling (901) 458-9766.

'US Design, 1975-2000' to open

"US Design, 1975-2000" opens at the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, located in Overton Park, on Dec. 7. From ski boots to toys, posters to blueprints, garbage cans to web sites, "US Design, 1975-2000" celebrates – and critically accesses – some of the most exciting work produced by American-based designers during the past 25 years. Museum hours are Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$6 for adults, \$5 for seniors (65+) and \$2 for students with ID. For more information, call (901) 544-6200 or go online to www.brooksmuseum.org.

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See About Town, page 64

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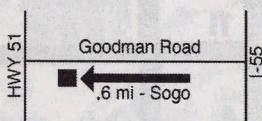
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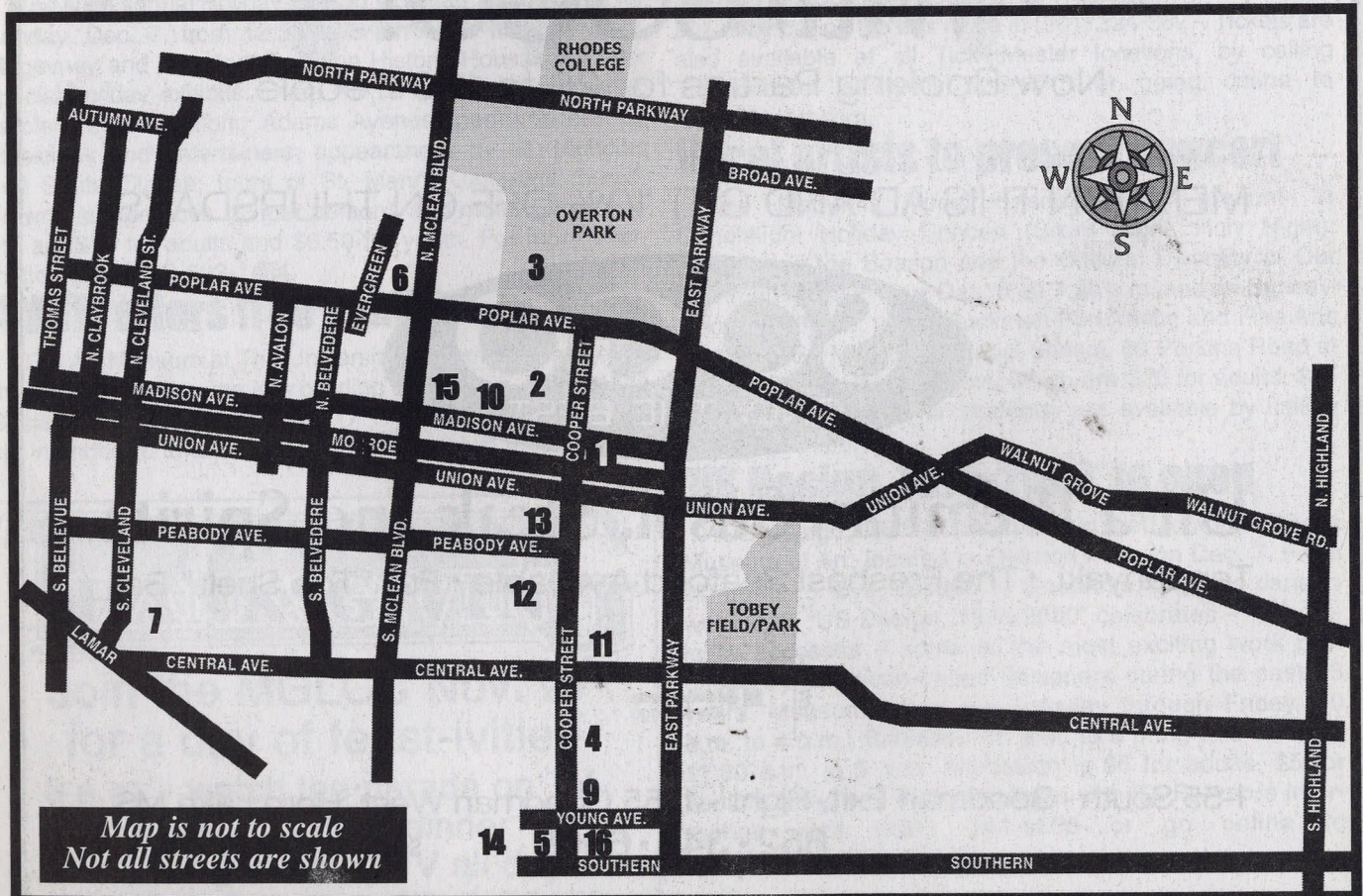
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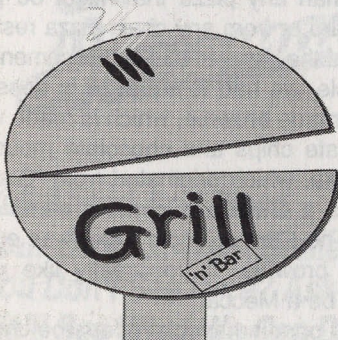
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Printer's Alley has always been one of those late-night, last-stop bars that the real party-goers patronize prior to watching the sun rise. To say the least, prior to this review, the thought of a good restaurant or grill sharing and operating out of the same kitchen as the Alley would have been something like looking forward to a fine Sunday brunch at ... well, let's just say we were cautiously optimistic. And were we pleasantly surprised. Astonishingly enough, the menu was diverse and the food was good.

A reminder, this is a bar and grill, not fine dining. However, I would recommend it to anyone who is looking for a casual dining experience and who appreciates good food at very reasonable prices in a comfortable and definitely gay-friendly atmosphere.

The owners are Mark Cedron; his sister, Anna, and her husband, Ray Webb. Mark and Anna are originally from London (for you queens, that's as in the place where Madonna lives, not Kentucky). They bought Printer's Alley, the bar, about five years ago and sometime

See, Dining Out, page 60



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Dining Out

from page 59

before 9/11, they hired the infamous Scotty James, formerly the longest-ever employee of the now-deceased Friday's (18 years wearing stripes). After 9/11, the group brainstormed to find a way to improve their business and they decided to open the "grill" next door to the bar.

The owners have decorated the grill in a comfortable orange and blue decor which could possibly offend a Tennessee Volunteer fan as the colors certainly give the appearance that a gator fan had a hand in choosing the colors. One can only assume the color combination is not Gator-based since in London they prefer football (that's soccer for you Americans who are less traveled). The establishment is decorated with a variety of framed art that is for sale for those who are interested. The entire establishment is available for private parties and there is presently no additional fee for the use of the establishment so long as you pay for the food and drinks.

Visiting The Grill 'n' Bar one Tuesday night, James proved to be a most hospitable bartender, doubling as a waiter/waitress as needed. The establishment only serves beer but offers a variety of around 40 different beers for the true beer connoisseur. You may bring your own spirits or wine, which helps you avoid the always predatory pricing of restaurant-bought wine and, best of all, there is no opportunist corkage fee.

The appetizer menu consists of seven or eight appetizers ranging from mozzarella sticks, chicken wings and spinach dip to breaded shrimp. The main sandwich menu includes po boys, cod, hamburgers, deli-style sandwiches, chicken tenders and grilled chicken sandwiches, which come with chips or you may opt for a variety of platters that include fries. There also is a stir-fry menu, "Destiny Dining," which consists of six dishes created with your choice of six marinades, made from fruits, herbs and spices to

which you can add chicken, pork or a vegetable medley. Finally, the menu is completed with a notable pizza menu and an unpublished variety of desserts, including a brownie, made on the premises, and cakes from "Simply for Me."

Our dining experience was excellent for a casual grill, such as this one. We started the meal with two appetizers consisting of "Bubba's Bites," which are beer-battered, fried mushrooms served with the owners' special "Southern Sassy Sauce," for dipping, and the "Dizzy Dip," which is the establishment's spinach and artichoke dip with tomatoes, black olives and three cheeses. The "Dizzy Dip" was an only-average appetizer and would probably have been better if not served with the type of chip only appropriate for being smothered in lots of cheese at a Red Bird's game. A different type chip, perhaps a white corn chip, or Polynesian bread, would greatly improve and set off the dip in this appetizer. As for the "Bubba's Bites," let's just say the beer-battered shrimp were great and the "Southern Sassy Sauce" was fantastic; there's probably no room for improvement here. Mark, Anna and Ray, please never remove it from the menu and guard your recipe for the sauce.

For the main course, we opted for a pizza. There are 11 pizzas to choose from and, upon request, they will make a half-and-half pizza. The pizzas come in a 10-inch small pizza for \$11 or a 14-inch pizza for \$15. Or, you can piece together your own ingredients on an ala carte pricing scale starting at \$8 for a small and \$12 for a large. They also offer a thick or thin crust for the same price. We ordered a large and thick "The Colonel" on one half of the pizza, and a large and thick "Monster Meat" on the other half. "The Colonel" consists of breaded chicken, mushrooms and crushed red pepper with an Alfredo sauce base; the "Monster Meat" consists of beef, pepperoni, ham, sausage, bacon and mozzarella with a tomato sauce base. There is no shortage of toppings on this pizza and the crust is incredible and crispy. They use a real pizza oven, not one of those automated pizza cooking machines that works like a conveyor belt. Both halves of the pizza rank high on the pizza scale and were heartier than any pizza that might be purchased near Overton Square or from any chain pizza restaurant. We highly recommend the pizza at this establishment.

Of course, for this article, we had to squeeze in dessert, literally. We had the homemade brownie, which is made with pecans, amaretto, chocolate chips and chocolate mousse, and the Carmel Apple Cake, which originated from "Simply for Me." The brownie was a chocolate lovers dream, very moist and simply divine. The Carmel Apple Cake was every bit as incredible as the brownie. If you really like your desserts, this place could be a Mecca.

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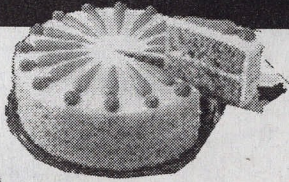
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PIES

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

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Chocolate

Chocolate Chip

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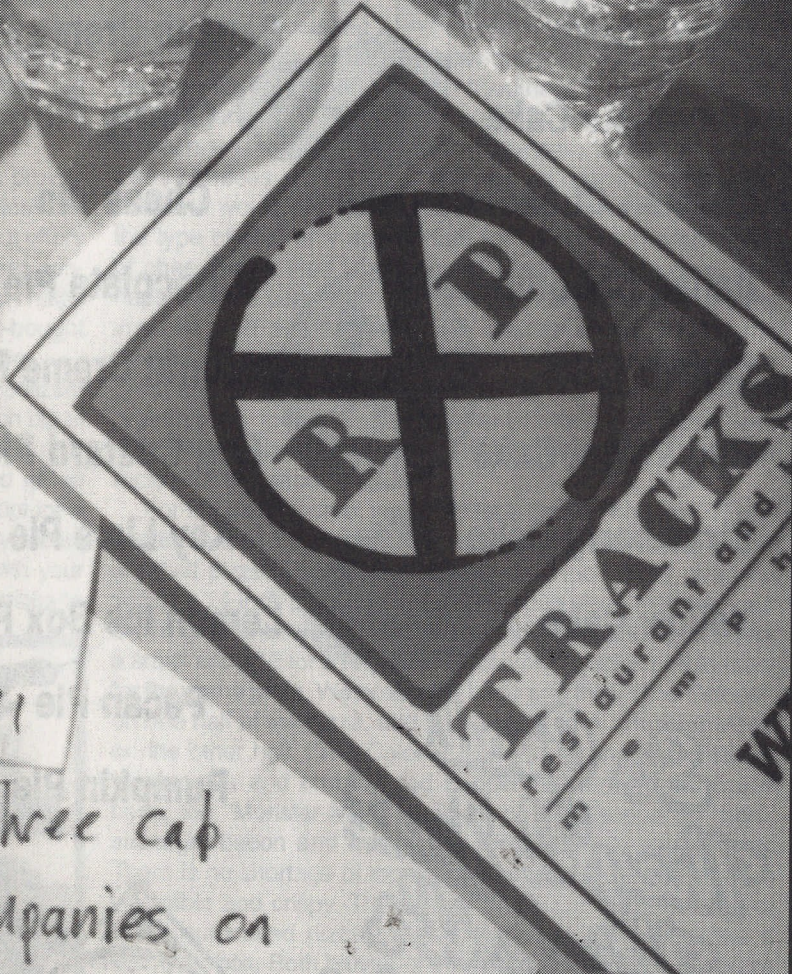
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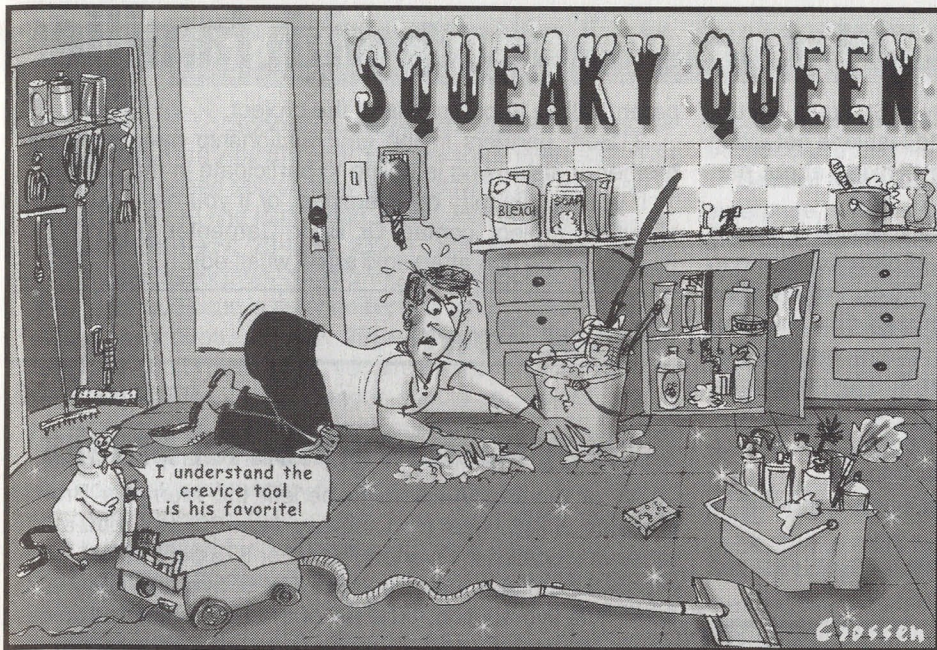
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Study looks at how gays get along with families

Researchers at Washington University in St. Louis are trying to learn more about how gay men and lesbians get along with their families and how families are thinking about parents' aging.

The researchers are seeking families (gay/lesbian adult children, their straight siblings and straight parents) willing to complete a confidential survey by mail. The survey contains questions about how family members spend time together and how they communicate (or don't communicate) with each other. Each family member receives \$10 for completing the survey.

Your family may be eligible if your family includes the following people who would be willing to participate:

1. A gay/lesbian adult child who has been living with a partner for at least one year.
2. Both partners in the gay relationship have at least one

parent willing to participate in the project.

3. Both partners in the gay relationship have a straight brother or sister who is willing to participate in the project.

If your family may be interested, or if you have questions about the project, contact Dr. Brian Carpenter at (314) 935-6173 or email him at aging@artsci.wustl.edu.

About Town

from page 56

Charity auction slated for Brooks

Art of the Box Auction, to benefit the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, is set for Thursday, Nov. 20, at 7 p.m. at the museum, located in Overton Park. For \$75 per person, enjoy a cocktail buffet, music by Joyce Cobb, live and silent auctions. The live auction, "The Art of the Box," includes unique art pieces designed by 25 of the most talented artists of the region. For tickets, call (901) 274-7529.

Church to give annual concert

"Celebration '03," an annual Christmas concert featuring the Lindenwood chancel choir, orchestra and soloists, will be held at Lindenwood Christian Church, 2400 Union Avenue at East Parkway, on Sunday, Dec. 7, at 4 and 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12 each and are available by calling (901) 458-1652.

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Proceeds will be used for the Krewe's 4th Annual Mardi Gras Ball February 7, 2004 which will benefit FLYING COLORS



HOROSCOPES

SCORPIO

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

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

Libra (Sept. 24-Oct. 23) — The possibility of romantic endeavors and/or social popularity increases now. If you're focused, now may turn out to be a time of fame and fortune.

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



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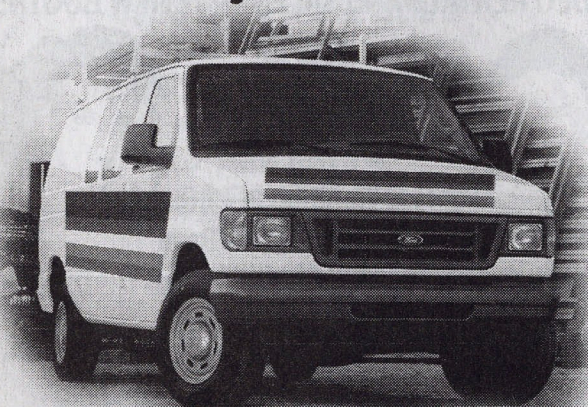
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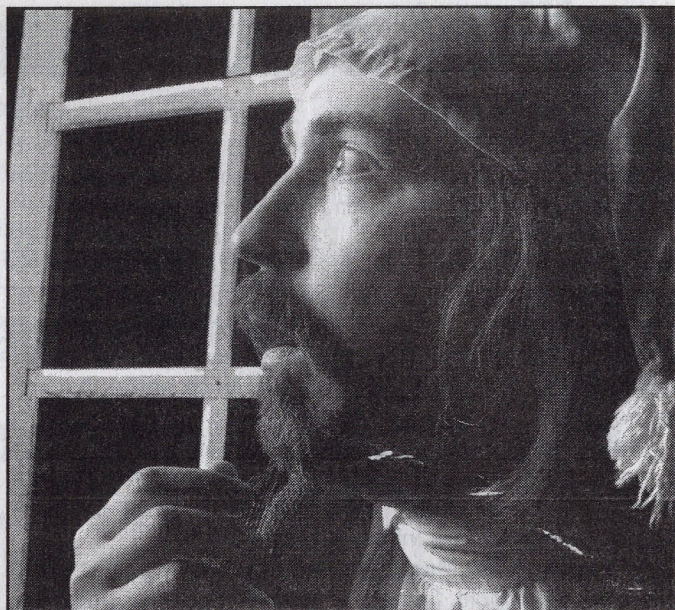
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**Look in next month's ad for
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A haunted Mr. Scrooge awaits the next ghostly apparition in the 26th annual production of the Charles Dickens family classic, *A Christmas Carol*, on Theatre Memphis's Lohrey Stage Dec. 5-21. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$12 for students ages 12-18 and with valid college ID, and \$8 for children under 12. Bring in a ticket for *The Lion King*, playing at The Orpheum, and get a FREE child's ticket to *A Christmas Carol* with purchase of an adult ticket. Call the box office at (901) 682-8323 for reservations and information.

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Documentary on name-calling just released

A groundbreaking documentary on name-calling and bullying – solely in the voices of youth – was released Oct. 21 to kick off a national campaign to prevent violence in junior high schools. *Let's Get Real* is the latest production in the highly-acclaimed series of films about diversity from The Respect for All Project.

"*Let's Get Real* lets students speak for themselves about the dangers they face in the classroom," said Jerry Newberry, executive director, National Education Association Health Information Network. This film should be required viewing for anyone interested in providing safe schools for young people."

The film, directed by Academy Award-winning documentary filmmaker Debra Chasnoff and produced by Chasnoff, Helen S. Cohen and Kate Stilley, is designed to support students speaking up both to their peers and the adults in their lives, and to encourage empathy in order to prevent acts of aggression and violence.

The National Education Association estimates 160,000 children miss school every day due to fear of attack or intimidation by other students. And according to the U.S. Secret Service in a 2002 report, "Safe School Initiative," many of the youth involved in school shootings cited bullying as a contributing factor to their violent behavior.

"Ask most junior high school students or teachers about name-calling and bullying, and they'll tell you the problem is raging out of control," Chasnoff said. "While schools respond

by trying to implement zero-tolerance policies, they're often at a loss for how to address the problem. It is hoped that *Let's Get Real* will help youth and adults talk much more openly about what's really going on in the hallways."

Unlike other resources on the topic of bullying, *Let's Get Real* does not shy away from the sensitive social issues that often fuel conflicts at school. The students in the film speak directly, for example, about racial tension, anti-gay taunting and sexual harassment.

As Tina, a sixth-grader featured in the film, says, "When they call me 'Bruce Lee's daughter' or 'Ching, Chang, Chong,' I just get this fire inside of me that I can't put out and I just get really angry. But, at school, nothing really happens. I can't get anything to happen."

"Bullying should not be accepted as a rite of passage," Cohen said. "*Let's Get Real* can help fuel the movement of educators, youth-service providers, parents and caregivers who realize that in order to address this complex problem, we must listen to youth – and allow them to speak honestly for themselves – about its root causes."

The Respect for All Project's national campaign will offer the film, curriculum guides and teacher-training programs to junior high schools, higher education and youth-advocacy programs.

For more information, go online to www.respectforall.org or call (415) 641-4616.

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Tickled by minister

After reading the Oct. 10-11 ads placed (in *The Commercial Appeal*) by the minister of World Overcomers Church, I was just a little tickled by his comments. It is one of the most laughable things that some ministers continue to do in Memphis's black churches — harangue the gay community and point them out as being “damned to hell.” What was the point of the advertisement anyway? Is this part of his membership drive? Or is he cleaning house?

I believe that most of us who grew up in church have heard the “hell-fire and damnation sermons” about homo-this and that. Frankly, the last thing I want to do is sit in a church and listen to some self-righteous minister talk about what ails our community and society and know that neither he nor his congregation is really doing anything about the real problems (which are many as opposed to a few).

It is such a crock when you have nothing better to do as a “minister” but to chastise anyone for doing what they want to do with their lives. Who appoints a minister to be the final word on “who goes to heaven?” Please allow us to read your letter, designating you as a moral authority of the community. Ordained? Saved? Yeah, but what is that noise we hear coming from YOUR closet?

Black ministers who lack a social consciousness know who they are. They also lack credibility. Their “shallowness” is apparent to most of us and we understand where they stand in the community. Why don't they run for some political office? Because they have not a leg to stand on (biblical or otherwise). Their influence starts and stops in the pews of their churches, where they rule as charismatic leaders who are as “human” as the next when they make a mistake, like sleeping with a deacon's wife, or using church funds for personal adventures, committing the very sins that he admonishes his congregation about every Sunday.

(Did he) (s)imply having nothing better to do than spend the tithes of individuals, who should know that no one has “bought” their way into heaven, on an ad that will only produce ridicule and heated repartee between the enlightened/educated and the self-righteous. Here's a case of another black minister trying to be “outspoken.”

When a black minister in Memphis

takes out a full page ad to stress the need to address the emergency of HIV/AIDS in the African-American community, that is when you might see me sitting in his church the very next Sunday saying, “Amen.” But that ain't gonna happen. I do not understand the continued silence from most black churches in Memphis about the AIDS epidemic in our community. I certainly hope they are not blaming it on the gays and crackheads! Well, (I wonder if they) feel that AIDS does not affect them? HmMMMMM! Oh, well!

**A Concerned Black Man
name on file**

MGLCC sound off

I would like to put my “two cents” in, concerning problems with MGLCC.

In April, I attended a training session to become a volunteer. At the time, I didn't sign up for a shift. I was unemployed and looking for work. Between April and July, I attended numerous events at the center. I donated every time I attended an event. At no time was I approached to become a member of MGLCC. In fact, I was given the impression that I was already a member.

After the board elections, I was contacted, by email, to volunteer. I made plans to contact the individual in charge of volunteers. A week later, I was contacted by Len Piechowski. He informed me that my services would not be needed. He thought I was unsuited to be a volunteer. His opinion was, I was reclusive and a loner. This is based on his observations on Movie Nights.

I was very hurt by this. He never gave me the impression that I was unsuited, before this date. I have not returned to the center since then! I feel unwanted and used! I now believe that the center is for a “certain group,” of which I don't belong. It's bad enough to be gay, (but) to not feel welcome by the established gay community is terrible! I continue to receive emails from the (MGLCC) for various functions. They want my money, not me! I guess this is how it works.

Thanks for listening to me.

Michael Riley

To Angela Lamb,

I was on the founding board of the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center (what's more, I went to all those

boring bylaws meetings); I am a former president and vice-president, and I was giving my United Way contributions for years when there were no benefactors nor even a location for MGLCC. I resent, in the strongest manner possible, you dragging the MGLCC through the muck, courtesy of *Family & Friends Magazine* and your letter to the benefactors, for what is obviously a lot of personal issues. This puts you, in my estimation, in the same crock with Darren Burns who did his meddling out of pure meanness.

I had to resign from the MGLCC board early on because of over-commitment. Ken Horton, the center's first president, did the same because of stress. Bill Huckabee, the center's second president, also resigned for personal reasons and later president Mike “Aeyn” Ricks resigned due to a relationship issue.

The MGLCC has survived departing board members, almost on a yearly basis; several years with no location; presidents who didn't show up to meetings; one year with a board of two and four people attending the Annual Meeting, and the late John Prowett. By comparison, this current board has a lot in its favor and the center's programming has never been better.

I myself was a president with a strong personality and leadership style who turned to the leather community for support and got it. Many at the time thought it was inappropriate for a drag queen to be in such a position to accept strong support from the leather community. MGLCC survived me, too. I also was given the grace to step down and back and let others work toward their vision for the MGLCC, and I did not always agree. I learned from the late Dennis Kijowski, whose broad vision remade Memphis Pride Inc., not to hold back people of large vision. I learned that a large vision can become a large fact.

Your publication of an individual's problems with alcohol, and an intervention which took place for this reason, puts your respect of confidentiality into question. I find this to be a serious matter. As for the two fund raisers you mention, I happily participated in both of them and would do so again for the MGLCC. I will also be delighted to participate in a benefit to raise the \$500 you so desperately wish to recover and perhaps to purchase a bus ticket to wherever Darren Burns has got himself to. You can try to wreck some other people's years of work there.

Your efforts on behalf of MGLCC and

your leadership during the non-presidency of Ben Mendoza have been zealous and admirable. I don't see why you had to throw all that away because of an obvious personal vendetta. You are not doing the center any good anymore and I hope that you will take my advice and get out of the way of those who want to see the center thrive, as I do.

With utmost sincerity,
Vincent Astor
A fellow benefactor

P.S. to *Family and Friends Magazine*

It bothers me that so much space was allotted to one woman's ranting and raving (leaving her and the accused to take any and all responsibility) yet the original accusers were, by virtue of anonymity, let off scot free. Are they to take no responsibility for these accusations? Are they never to be called to account? Guerilla tactics such as anonymous faxes seem to be given more weight than they perhaps deserve. And you have denied me and others the pleasure of verbally dissecting them is a way they wouldn't soon forget. I am afraid they have lost a valuable lesson thereby, that one must take responsibility for what one says and does.

Vincent

Editor's Note: The "anonymous fax" mentioned in this letter to the editor was more than thoroughly investigated by *Family & Friends Magazine*, including meeting with its author(s) on several occasions. As stated in the first page of the story of which this letter to the editor makes mention, the names of the "anonymous fax" author(s) were withheld at our discretion because they were minors. The writers of that fax were only concerned that their voice be heard, and we listened. Mr. Astor, I am sorry we have denied you "the pleasure of verbally dissecting them."

Kudos to *Family and Friends* for bringing the matter of possible felony criminal activity by a (former) member of the MGLCC Board of Directors and youth group facilitator to public attention and shame on them at the same time for publishing details of MGLCC and President Len Piechowski's verbal contract concerning his personal life issues. The latter being nobody's business but the Board of Directors at MGLCC and Len Piechowski himself.

Len Piechowski failed in MGLCC's behalf by failing to notify legal authorities of this proposed criminal activity. This, in itself, could bring charges against him, as well as lawsuits against MGLCC. Mr. Piechowski repeated in his interview to *Family and Friends* (with lawyers present) that he sought "containment" of this incident. Jesus, Len, is the MGLCC now taking the position of Cardinal Law and the Catholic Church on such matters as pedophilia?

Your failure to report this matter to the parents or local authorities, whether this kid requested no further actions, show considerable lack of good judgment. And the entire board of MGLCC should be held accountable for not having a procedural plan in place in case an event of this nature occurring. The law is straight forward on these matters. I don't care if the victim is six feet tall and the perpetrator is five feet tall and "fragile." You cannot allow a teenager to decide to be the defining legal authority on something of this matter. Even though the kid said the parents were informed, (that) should have not been enough. Would you have allowed this leverage if the victim had been 14, 12, 10 or eight years of age? You, Mr. Piechowski, have opened a Pandora's Box for all well-meaning members of the Community Center as well as gay people everywhere. ... And you are our "Gay Liaison" to the Mayor of this city.

I commend you for all your hard work with the Community Center, but you failed miserably on this matter. And to those who choose to circle the wagons blindly around you makes me question their leadership roles in this community. Your actions, Mr. Piechowski, have helped bring this matter into a worse situation than when it occurred. MGLCC needs to remedy this situation as soon as possible or it will suffer the consequences and sadly so. We now have a purported sexual predator allowed to come within the grounds of the community center. Not only did the purported little pervert (allegedly) have sexual activity with the child with alcohol, he (allegedly) did not inform the kid of his HIV-positive status which is also a crime within Tennessee state laws.

I enjoy the use of the community center and I have marveled at all Mr. Piechowski had done for the community. You may very well be the fall guy, unfortunately, after this is all said and done and I am sorry for that. As a community searching for acceptance

within the straight world, we need to see that situations like this never occur again.

Mark Lee Benton

While your publication should be commended for attempting balanced reporting of the recent accusations against MGLCC, you have failed dismally in your editorial duties to discern "news" from "gossip." There is much more to fair journalism than just printing both sides of a story. The "we report, you decide" approach that you chose to take is on par with the worst *National Enquirer*-style yellow journalism.

Disagreements happen all the time in our community. You must decide what is truly newsworthy and what is simply "sour grapes" on the part of a few disgruntled people. Our sad state of affairs is that there isn't one person or organization in our community that doesn't have someone out there trying to stab them in the back. These back-stabbers would love nothing more than to have their gripes put in print. Is your publication going to give voice to every one of these accusers, or are you going to exercise wise editorial judgment that factors in, among other things, the background and motives of the accusers?

It should have been obvious to you (it certainly was to everyone I showed your article) that Angela Lamb's problems with MGLCC were rooted in a personal hatred of Len Piechowski and her resentment that she wasn't made president of the organization. There was no merit to her accusation. So why was this "news?"

Regarding the accusations against "Raymond," this was a very sensitive situation requiring a delicate balancing of confidentiality and many other factors. Your changing "Raymond's" name to protect his identity but also publishing every bit of information needed to identify who he is, was, again, yellow journalism at its lowest. This incident was a no-win situation that Len handled as best he could under the circumstances. Again your publication printed accusations without examining the motives of the accusers. And you withheld the identities of the accusers without giving the reader your justification for doing so. Yet again, I find this a serious lapse in editorial judgment.

In each instance above you printed "news" that was salacious, but not truly newsworthy for our community. *Family and Friends* does a great job of keeping our community informed on entertain-

ment events in our community. Please stop fooling yourselves in thinking that you are true "hard news" journalists and stick to entertainment.

John Heizer

P.S. I also find it interesting that in that very same issue that you printed "alleged" accusations against others you failed to print the name of the person who, by your own "eyewitness reporting," broke the law by parking in a handicapped space at Starbuck's. This is yet another serious lapse in editorial judgment.

...

Editor's Note: As noted in the original story, the names of the accusers mentioned in the story you've written to us about were withheld at our discretion. They are minors.

Also, in regard to the person in the Starbuck's story, the ticket was given to Angela Lamb. Patricia Pair's vehicle, properly marked with a handicapped hang tag, and properly parked in the only handicapped parking space on the lot, was not ticketed. Long story short, after investigation by the Shelby County Code Enforcement and a hearing before a judge, Lamb's ticket was "dismissed without cost." No broken law there, sorry.

And, thanks for the nod about "entertainment reporting," since it is your duty on the MGLCC Board of Directors to issue press releases, which we might add we haven't seen in a number of months. Remember, we interviewed Len for the story on the gay games and you, too, for the story on OutFlix 2003, or there wouldn't have been even a mention (same goes for the Thanksgiving event you have planned). Who's really doing their job?

After reading your latest article on the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center (MGLCC), I would like to commend you on presenting both sides of the controversy. This balanced reporting is a great improvement over the last time you reported on controversies regarding the MGLCC. I would have preferred, of course, in both cases, had you not reported the controversies at all, since in both cases the charges leveled against the MGLCC were completely bogus. However, it is an important step forward that this time you allowed members of the Board of Directors of the MGLCC to answer the charges. I feel that their answers made it

clear to your readers that the charges were bogus. I have only one additional request. When you report negative comments made about me, as an individual, that you give me a chance to respond. ...

In Angela's list of charges were two charges against me, namely: 1) that I took money from the MGLCC to buy the building at 892 S. Cooper and then didn't give the MGLCC any ownership rights to the building, and 2) that during my short tenure as president of the MGLCC I was a poor leader.

The first charge is false and was answered by the present treasurer of the MGLCC. The money that was used for the down payment on 892 S. Cooper was my donation of \$26,000.00 to the Building Fund of the MGLCC. When the 15-year term of the lease-purchase agreement is up, the MGLCC gets the building without ever having to pay me back for the down payment (i.e. the \$26,000.00 is returned to the MGLCC in the form of ownership of the building). The lease-purchase agreement gives the MGLCC ownership rights to the building, as long as the MGLCC makes all the required payments.

The second charge wasn't answered at all in your article by anyone. Hence, I feel obliged to answer it here in a little more detail. I volunteered to run for president of the MGLCC after the charges made by Darren Burns of financial impropriety by officers of the MGLCC were published in *Family and Friends Magazine*. These charges were completely false, but they gave the appearance at the time that some of the board members might have been misappropriating MGLCC funds. Since I was the largest donor to the Building Fund and a member of the Board of Directors, I proposed myself as a candidate for president, because nobody could accuse me of taking money from the MGLCC when I'd already given so much money to the same organization. I was the acting Vice President at that time. However, my positions either as board member or Vice President had never given me any opportunity to misappropriate money. Everybody on the board who was present at the meeting where I proposed myself as a candidate for president agreed with my justification of my candidacy, and I was nominated unanimously both by the board and the Nominating Committee. I was also elected by the membership unanimously.

However, once I was elected president,

Angela Lamb, who had been openly supportive of my candidacy, and her allies on the board started treating me very badly. Because of this extremely negative behavior on Angela's part, I sent her three heartfelt emails asking her why she was treating me so badly after I had been so supportive of her efforts as treasurer and major events chairperson. After all, it was my challenge grant at the fund raiser for Pride, a grant that cost me \$1,200.00, that put the balance collected over \$5,000.00 and allowed the hair cutting to be carried out.

As a result of these emails, Angela resigned from the board. I assumed at the time that she had felt some guilt over her behavior. In fact, she did send me a letter some months later in which she admitted that she'd treated me badly because she herself wanted to be president instead of me. How silly! If she wanted to be president, why didn't she run against me? She might have won. I feel her latest list of accusations also make it clear that her main complaint against Len Piechowski as president of the MGLCC is that he's not Angela Lamb.

Well, let's look at my tenure as president in terms of what I accomplished in that short time, rather than at my popularity with some of the members of the board. In spite of my being shut out of much of what was going on with the rest of the board, I was able to arrange for the purchase of the 892 S. Cooper building. Fortunately, I had the complete cooperation of Len Piechowski, Jason Crockett and Alan Gore, and together we made all the financial arrangements that were necessary to procure this wonderful building. Once I became landlord of the MGLCC, I had to resign as president and member of the board, to avoid any conflict of interest. We are enormously fortunate that Len Piechowski, an excellent leader, was willing to take over from me as president. He has done a wonderful job.

Now back to Angela's charge that I was a bad leader. How good a leader was she? Her great leadership led to her outburst in the office of a bank executive that led to our losing a potential major donation to the building fund. Her great leadership led to her pressing charges against Darren Burns that led to his taking revenge on the MGLCC.

My greatest regret was that I didn't get involved in this fiasco early enough. I would never have permitted such bogus charges to be leveled at our then Vice

President if I'd known about them earlier. When I found out about the charges, Darren had already been informed, and all I could do was try to negotiate a compromise between the parties. I got Darren to agree to serve out his term as Vice President and not run for re-election. His only request was that he have a chance to meet with his accusers. At that time, he didn't know whom they were. I was able to get Angela and her allies to agree to the compromise, allowing Darren Burns to serve out his term as Vice President, but they simply weren't willing to meet with Darren face to face. Since Darren's request for a meeting was denied, he reneged on the agreement and attacked us in the press using your magazine. At that point he was removed from office and from the board.

Now it's true that Angela is a powerful leader and has a lot of friends. However, her judgment and her abilities to work successfully with others are definitely lacking. The MGLCC is very fortunate that she didn't become president at the time. Now after her attack on the MGLCC in your magazine, it's clear she will never be an officer or board member of the MGLCC again.

Sincerely yours,
Herbert D. Zeman, Ph.D.

...

Editor's Note: When we're wrong, we say we're wrong. You are correct, we should have attempted to get your comments regarding allegations in which you were named. We apologize for the error and regret any inconvenience it may have caused to you personally.

As founder and chair of the Memphis Lesbian & Gay Coalition for Justice, I have worked with many great people, one of which is Len Piechowski, president of the Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center. I have been privileged to work with Len over four years. He has been a supportive friend and comrade in the struggle for social justice and equality.

I have also been privileged to serve

on the board of the Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center as secretary with Len this year. I have seen an amazing transformation the MGLCC has made the past year thanks to the leadership of Len and the other benefactors and volunteers who are helping to fulfill the mission of the MGLCC. We should all be proud of Len for the work he has done to raise \$72,000 to purchase a community center. Len did something I could never do – go directly to people and ask them for lots of money, and he gave a lot of his own. Many benefactors responded to his requests and helped provide the initial money to purchase a building. I am proud to be part of a great organization and one of the best (and few) gay community centers in this county.

It saddens me to see the vindictive and personal attacks on Len Piechowski by Angela Lamb. Even more, I am angry that someone would actually put forth the effort to destroy the Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center. I will not address all of the specifics of her false and misleading accusations, other representatives of the MGLCC board have done so already, but I feel compelled to make a personal statement in response to Angela and others who work to destroy what so many others have worked and sacrificed to build. These views are my own and do not represent the position of the MGLCC board.

I chose to ignore Angela's personal attacks on Len Piechowski. They are not worthy of any response except shame. As to her other accusations against MGLCC and the current board, I can assure everyone that her charges are false or based on misinformation. None justify her request that MGLCC return her donation to the building fund or her campaign to get all other benefactors to do the same.

I am on the board of two organizations and I have worked with many other officers and board members. All of us try to do the right things to improve our community. I know of few individuals who intentionally work to harm our organizations. Some of us make mistakes. Sometimes we need constructive criticism. I, and the

board of MGLCC, are open to ideas and suggestions to improve as board members and as an organization. We respond to constructive criticism.

If Angela or anyone else thinks that the board and I are blindly following Len Piechowski without question, you are wrong. I have disagreements with Len and I have felt completely free to question and challenge anything he says or does. He is not perfect, neither am I. We have both made mistakes, personal and public. We are all human. It is OK to make mistakes, and it is human to err. It is NOT acceptable to maliciously make false accusations, spread misleading information and try to bring down (a) whole organization for personal vindication and gratification. There are constructive ways to address issues and concerns without maliciously attacking individuals and organizations one disagrees with.

I am too busy fighting religious and political enemies of the gay community to fight against people in my own community. We must unite and stand together to defend our civil rights and create a bright future for gays and lesbians. I ask others to join me in supporting the mission of MGLCC to help build a stronger community center, and ignore those with personal agendas at odds with that mission.

Jim Maynard

"People's reactions to your writing will almost always be narcissistic projections. They'll tell you you're a genius when you write something that affirms their prejudices, and they'll tell you you're a hack when you write something that doesn't."

Norah Vincent

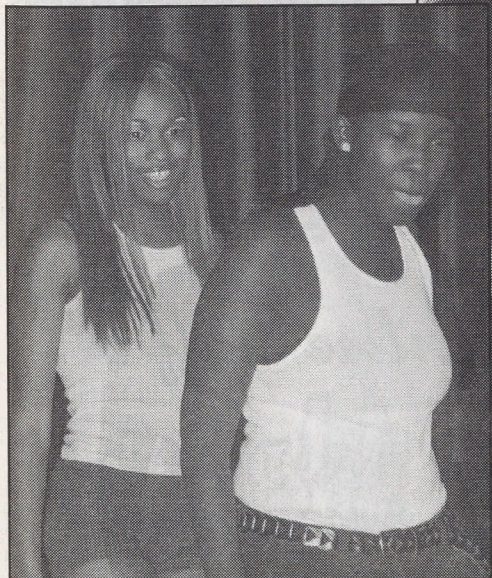
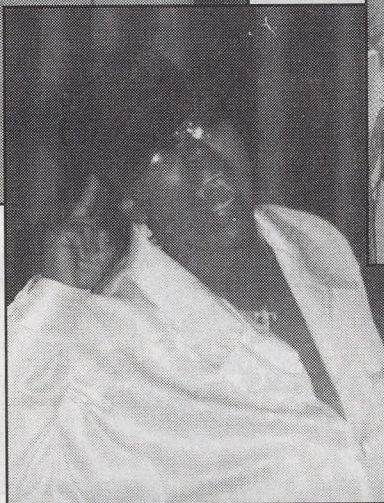
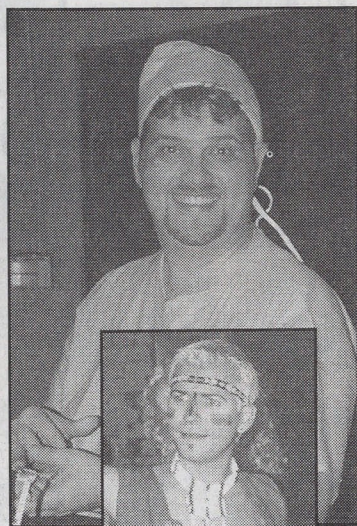
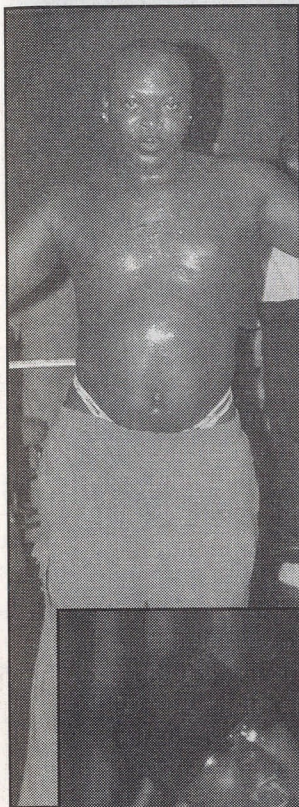
Correction

Family & Friends incorrectly ran an advertisement in our October 2003 issue for The Other Side Club in Jackson, Tenn., which included the appearances of two female impersonators. The entertainers will not be appearing at the club. We wish to apologize for this error to both The Other Side and its owners, as well as to our readers, and regret any inconvenience it may have caused.

Please keep letters brief and to the point; we reserve the right to edit all letters as deemed necessary. Letters must include the home address and phone number of the writer and should be sent to Letters To The Editor, *Family & Friends Magazine*, P.O. Box 771948, Memphis, TN 38177-1948; faxed to (901) 685-2234; or emailed to FamilyMag@aol.com. No anonymous letters will be printed, however, should the writer request that his or her name be withheld, and be able to provide good reason for such request, we will consider listing the author's name as "withheld, but on file." We will not print letters that are vicious, hate-filled, threatening or libelous in manner. The opinions expressed by the authors of these letters are not the opinions of *Family & Friends Magazine* and do not represent the publication in any way, shape or form.



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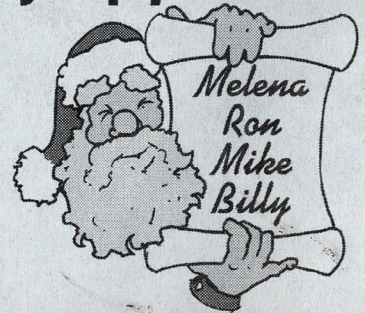
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E. Lynn Harris talks about his latest book

Family & Friends talked to noted African-American gay author E. Lynn Harris as he traveled from Chicago to Flint, Mich., on a cross-country tour promoting his newest release, *What Becomes of the Brokenhearted*. Harris has made the New York Times best-seller list eight times with his novels.

"I write about my world, which is both gay and straight people," Harris told *Family & Friends*.

In July 2002, Harris signed his national bestseller, *A Love of My Own*, at Davis-Kidd Booksellers in Memphis. His audience: besides a strong representation of gay men, the majority of those seeking his signature were straight women of color. This gay man has built a world that many women find more than interesting, perhaps hopeful, perhaps empowering. *A Love of My Own* gave them an example of a high-level executive, a black woman, and her relationships in her world.

But, *What Becomes of the Brokenhearted*, breaks Harris's mold; it is his memoir. The world can now finally see in this autobiography who Harris, the author, truly is; who Harris, a black, gay, man is, who Harris, the one with feelings and troubles, is.

"I felt it was time to write it," Harris said, explaining his decision to put his own story in print this time. Often, penning your own story can be quite draining, emotionally, to produce. Harris was no different.

"It was very difficult, the most difficult book I've written," he said. However, Harris soon learned the anguish was worth it.

"I have been validated by the emails that I have gotten from people who say they have been helped by this book." Harris said, "This book has helped a lot of people."

Unfortunately, Harris's booksigning tour for *What Becomes of the Brokenhearted* bypassed Memphis this year.

"I appreciate the support I get there (in Memphis)," Harris said. "My tour this year is shorter because I've got to get back to The University of Arkansas to teach in the Fall. But I'll definitely be back in the summer (of 2004)." Harris teaches classes in creative writing and African American literature at The University of Arkansas.

We asked Harris his views on this year's landmark decisions for the good of gays and lesbians:

"I think it was a positive step," Harris said in regard to Canada's high courts approving gay marriage for gay and lesbian couples. In regard to the U.S. Supreme Court's finding all state laws banning sodomy unconstitutional, he said, "I think the courts are right."

Harris offered this advice to those seeking to enter the world of literature: "Be passionate about it and know why you are doing it."

Although Harris feels parents should be the ones to advise their children when they are dealing with their sexual identity, especially a same-sex attraction, he did offer this advice:

"Truth is a powerful tool against anything," he said. "When I started telling the truth, my life became a lot simpler and a lot sweeter"

And it is truth you will find in the pages of *What Becomes of the Brokenhearted*.

 *Friends For Life &* ☆ Goldsmith's-macy's
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THE GATHERING

Educating the Community about HIV Prevention

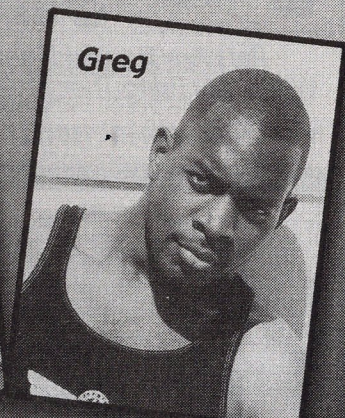
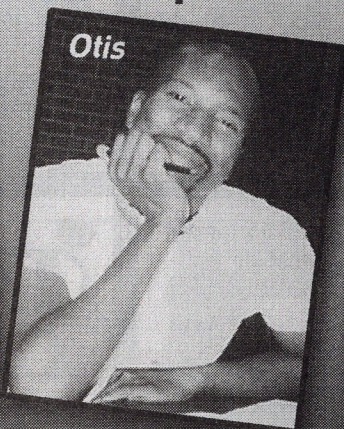
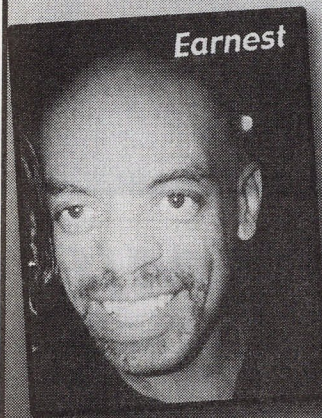
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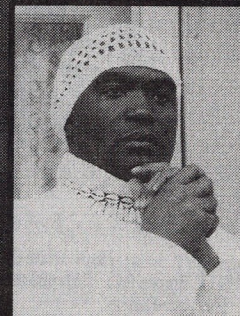


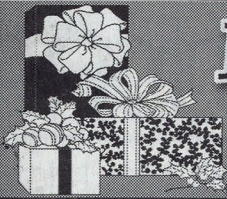
One Man Show by Chicago's Hall of Famer Earnest E. Hite
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Leon M. Thomas Jr. and Shon Gales

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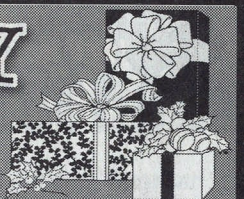
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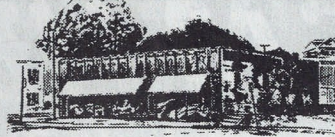


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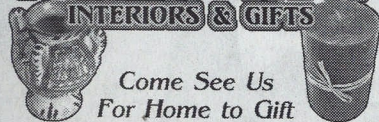
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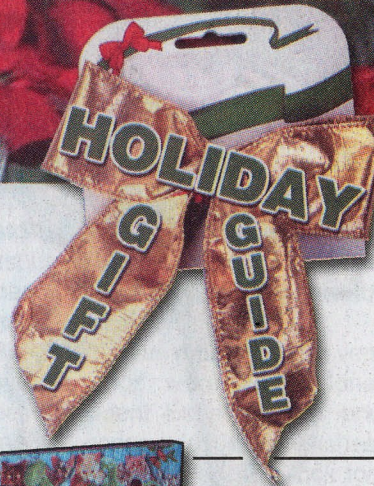
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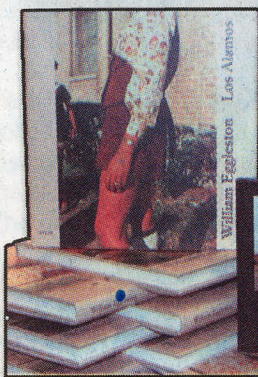
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Cat-opoly (\$25); hand-painted items by Milson & Louis: frame (\$20), chest of drawers (\$20) and box (\$20.75), and ceramic bowls (\$15.75-\$20).
(House of Mews, 944 S. Cooper)



SIGNED BOOKS

For that art lover on your list ... signed copies of William Eggleston's *Los Alamos* and *Guide*.

**(Burke's Bookstore,
1719 Poplar,
\$65 and \$34.95)**



SHEBA STATUE

Sheba is the goddess of the cosmos, imported from India.
(Cairo, 2151 Courtland St., \$55)

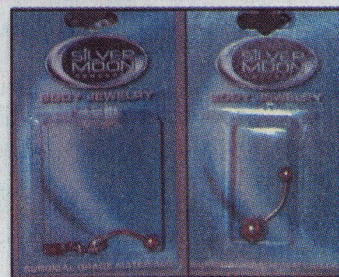
DOGGIE GIFT BASKETS

These personally-designed baskets can feature handmade dog treats, Greenies, beef chew sticks and toys. The baskets are designed around the size of the dog and the amount of money you want to spend.
(Hound Cake, 247 S. Cooper, start at \$15, pictured is \$30-\$35)



BODY JEWELRY

Whether it's your tongue or ear, eyebrow or navel, Silver Moon Concept Body Jewelry will thrill anyone.
**(Fantasy Warehouse,
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\$9.95-\$40)**



CHARM BRACELETS

These 18 karat gold Italian charm bracelets are "as personal as you are."

(The White Gardenia, 820 S. Cooper, \$30-\$200)

FOR ANIMAL LOVERS

Animal lovers know this is no joke. Doggie Fart Extinguisher (\$6.99) and metal-sculptured night lights, available in dog and cat varieties (\$12.99) make great gifts for those folks who have just about everything.
(Pete's Treats, 2256 Central Ave.)





**HOLIDAY
GIFT**



ADULT XXX ACTION FIGURES

These action figures are perfect for that special lesbian on your gift list. Posable and undressable, these are sure to be a hit with "Secret Santas" everywhere. (Fantasy Warehouse, 791 N. White Station, \$21.95)



HANDMADE JEWELRY

This is some of the most unique jewelry available in Memphis. Handmade, the selection includes one-of-a-kind pieces imported from Egypt, Turkey, Nepal, India, also includes pieces created by Native Americans. (Cairo, 2151 Courtland Street, \$3-\$500)

"BLOOMING" CHAMPAGNE BOUQUET

What a great gift and just in time to ring in the New Year. With 12 stems, these glasses measure 17 inches tall, mouth-blown and crafted by hand, and features a combination of jewel tones and pastel tones. Also available in Romance with two red stems and small vase. (Cosmic Closet, 2093 Madison, \$109)



CAT-THEMED GIFTS

For that cat lover on your list, select from a variety of hand-made kitty paperweights (\$2.50) and puzzles (\$25). (House of Mews, 944 S. Cooper)



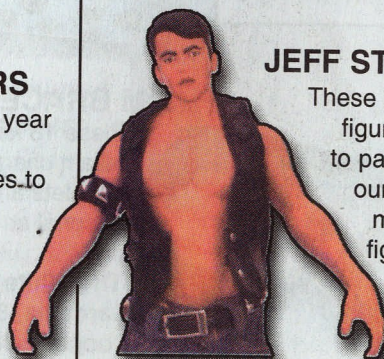
STOCKINGS

Whether that special someone has a canine best friend or a feline buddy, there's quite an assortment to choose from. (Hound Cake, 247 S. Cooper, prices vary)



2004 CALENDARS

Keep track of the new year with a gay or lesbian calendar. Many themes to choose from. (INZ & OUTZ, 553 S. Cooper, average \$15)



JEFF STRYKER FIGURE

These limited-edition 12-inch figures were way too cute to pass up when compiling our list. Perfect for every man on your list, these figures feature realistic, lifelike skin and are fully posable. (800-542-2131 www.jeff-stryker.com)



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

I'm proud to announce that brothers of Expressions of AGAPE and Friends For Life's Memphis Black Same-Gender-Loving Alliance went through three days of sessions and are now African-American Red Cross certified to educate the community on basic HIV/AIDS 101 facts concerning the epidemic. We would like to thank Nupsius Benjamin of Jackson, Miss., for coming up to do the sessions. The brothers are Mark Stevens, Shon Gales, Terrance Wilkins, Anthony Blackwell, Edgar Gaines and yours truly. Everyone said they learned so much in those three days.

Halloween is not a celebration day for me in particular, but this year it fell on Nashville, Tenn.'s, first Black Pride event. When I attended the first scheduled event, I knew the weekend was going to be a success.

D.J. Robbie Rob is one of the baddest spinners I know. We have got to get him to Memphis one good time. James Earl Hardy read us a poem that he wrote that has not been published yet – but I can tell you – get ready chil-ren, it's hot!

Saturday night at The Onyx Room, "It's Your Birthday Party" was at capacity level at 11:45 p.m. (the party was not scheduled to end until 3 a.m.). Founder Dwayne Jenkins and his committee HAD to turn people away. The good part about that was now we know Nashville will support a pride of color. The unfortunate part was the "saints" were not happy about being turned around. When will the FUFU (the "grand" chil-ren) learn that on certain nights of events (whatever city you go to) if you plan on getting in, you better come early. So, for the girls (pun intended) that take from 11 p.m. until 1 a.m. to get ready, we will see you next year. Catch it! By the way, it was good to see Mac Productions in the house.

I was proud of everyone for respecting authority the entire weekend. Allow me to suggest some things we all might want to be attentive to when attending pride events, big or small: (1) Speak or smile at individuals when you are at an event. Remember, each of us there have certain things in common. It costs nothing to say something or be nice. (2) Be mindful of your or your associate's alcohol intake. It's cool to party but don't overdo it. (3) If you're going to have sex, please use

protection ALWAYS! (4) And if you go to more than two prides a year, try taking one of those \$50 bills and DONATE or give it to an organization, charity or agency of your choice. With the money some of us spend at the malls, outlets, liquor stores, hotels, adult bookstores, etc., we could help an entire family in need. Preach, First Lady/Ladybug! (Now let the chil-ren/church say AMEN!) These places are already well established businesswide, what about your community?

Jackson, Miss.'s, first Black Pride was reported to be very well organized. Celebrity sightings were International Federation of Black Prides President Earle Fowlkes and Bobby Blake. So, we send out congratulations to Michael Robinson and his staff for a job well done and we look forward to next year's event.

Kevin's Room 2, chil-ren great ready! I loved the diverse casting and, trust me, it is full of education, energy, and entertainment. Yours truly was there in Chicago at the premiere, along with almost 400 other people, packing out the facilities to full capacity. I truly felt like I had just stepped into Hollywood. It was good to see old friends (Antonio King). We, as the South, look forward to hosting *Kevin's Room 2* in the very near future.

Next major event is Wednesday, Dec. 3, at Club Allusions at 7 p.m., sponsored by Friends for Life and Goldsmiths. You owe it to yourself to be there. Everything is FREE that evening. Next stop will be Brother's United International Retreat/Convention Dec. 4-7.

And, as always, as we near the end of the year, "happy pride, chil-ren, happy pride!"

**Affect CHANGE!
Be the change you want
to see in others!**



(901) 274-0163

Creating a village/haven for & about us.

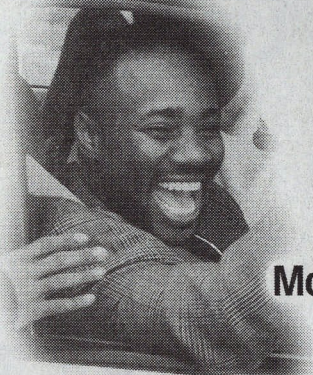
FAMILY ALBUM PREMIERE OF *KEVIN'S ROOM 2*, CHICAGO



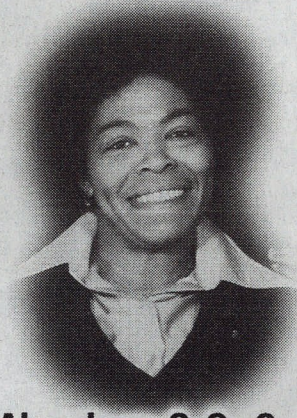


In Memory

The Village Transitional Angels of 2003



Mother Aberdean S.G. Crawford, 58
Tennessee • January



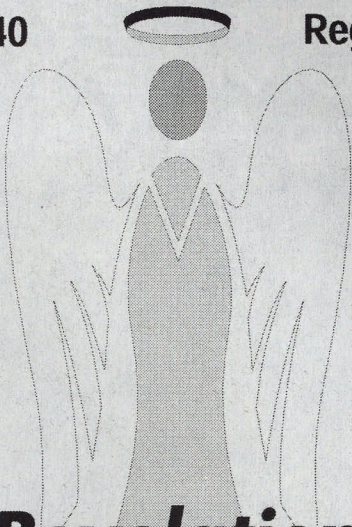
Anthony O'Neal Dilworth, 40
Mississippi • April



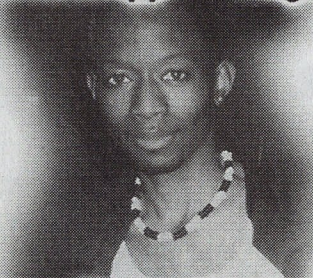
Reginald DeWayne Sanford, 24
Mississippi • August



Terry Bernard Rayford, 35
Mississippi • August

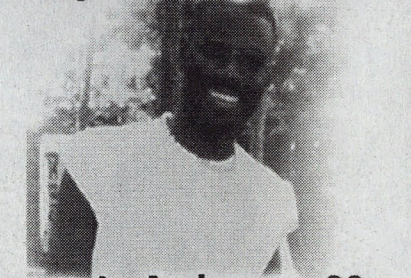


Ray Neeley, 40
Michigan • September



James Henry Martin Jr., 35
Tennessee • September

Revelations 14:13



Gregory L. Anderson, 30
Florida • December 2002

Paid For By: **A² Triple T Productions**



CLUB ALLUSIONS
Entertainment Complex

THE PARAGON

THANKS

FOR GIVING US ONE YEAR OF PATRONAGE,
WE'D LIKE TO SHOW OUR APPRECIATION

THURSDAY THANKSGIVING NITE

FREE ADMISSION TILL 1 AM

Friday nite black out!

special guest to appear

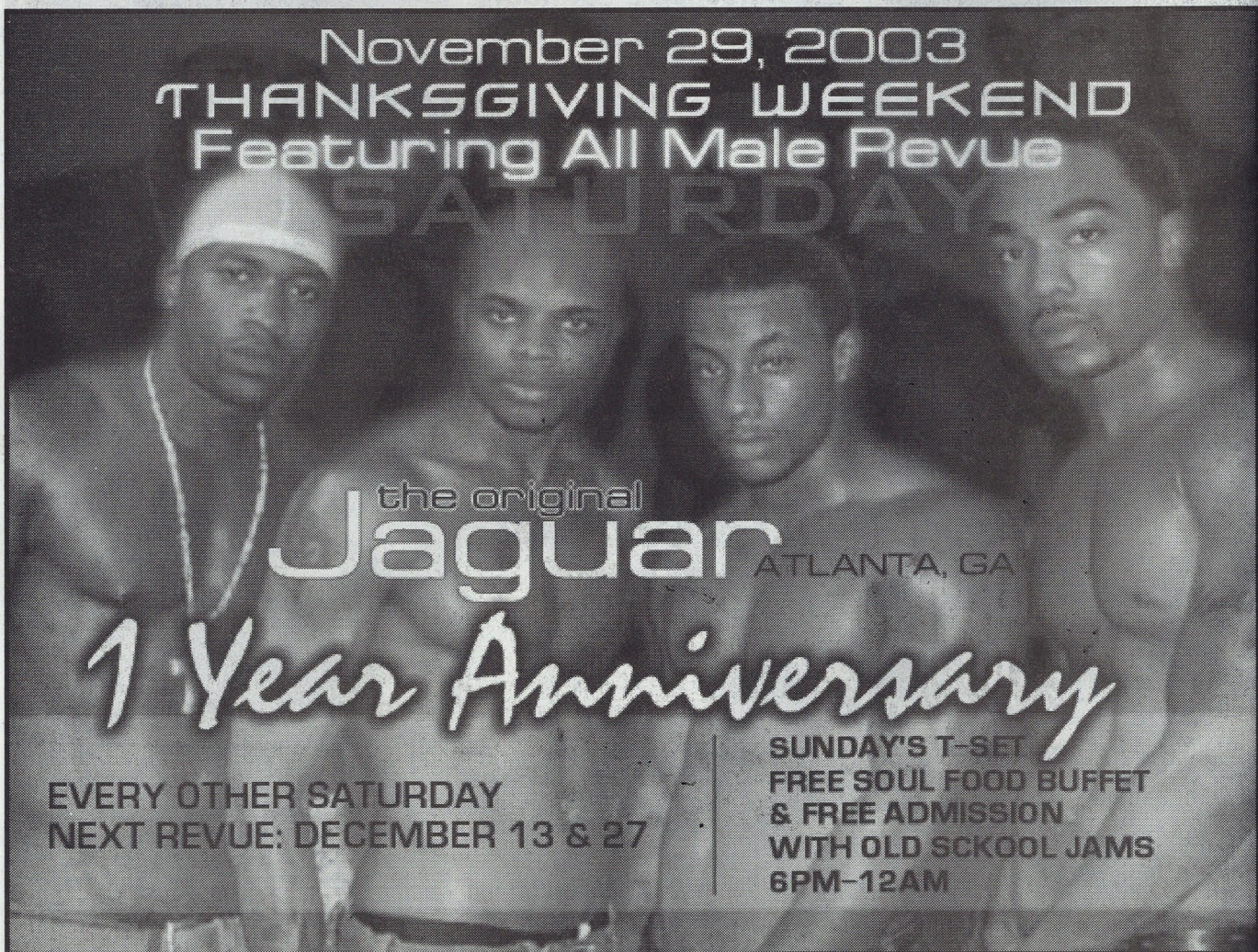
2865 WALNUT GROVE
MEMPHIS, TN 38119
(901) 320-0026

November 29, 2003

THANKSGIVING WEEKEND

Featuring All Male Revue

SATURDAY



the original
Jaguar

ATLANTA, GA

1 Year Anniversary

EVERY OTHER SATURDAY
NEXT REVUE: DECEMBER 13 & 27

SUNDAY'S T-SET
FREE SOUL FOOD BUFFET
& FREE ADMISSION
WITH OLD SCKOOL JAMS
6PM-12AM

RIVER PALACE ENTERTAINMENT CENTER PRESENTS

Ronnie Milsap with the
Memphis Symphony Orchestra
Nov 14 • \$35/\$25 • 8PM



Chris Rock
Nov 15 • \$40 • 8PM & 10PM

Morris Day
& The Time
Nov 21 • \$35/\$25 • 8PM

benefits
Ronald
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Must be at least 21
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CLUB ALLUSIONS

Entertainment Complex

3204 North Thomas
Northgate Shopping Center
901-357-8383

Celebrates The Holidays

THANKSGIVING NIGHT, Nov. 27, Allusions will be open for one great "AFTER THE TURKEY" party. Enjoy Karaoke, a variety show, one fantastic dance party and Allusions' Show Cast entertaining one and all!

Allusions' CHRISTMAS BASH begins Christmas Night, Dec. 25, with one great PARTY and Christmas Show, featuring the Allusions Show Cast!

Friday, Dec. 26, the LADIES OF MEMPHIS will host one sensational show just for the ladies!

Saturday, Dec. 27, the AFTER-CHRISTMAS BASH will feature the Allusions show cast, guest entertainers, male and female dancers and special guest emcee!

And, coming Dec. 31, Allusion's NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY!
Doors open at 9 p.m. Complimentary champagne, party favors and hors d'ouvers catered by All Star Hot Wings.
And, of course, our FABULOUS "count-down" show to WELCOME IN 2004!

RAINBOW DIRECTORY AREA GLBT RESOURCE GUIDE

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

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, Email: 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

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

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

BARS/NIGHTCLUBS Tupelo, Mississippi

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

DISCOVERY, 1021 Jessie Road, (501) 664-4784, Sat. only, 9 p.m.-5 a.m., website: 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, www.people.memphis.edu/~bgala

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

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

MEMPHIS AREA GAY YOUTH (MAGY), P.O. Box 241852, Memphis, TN 38124, (901) 335-6249, Peer support group for

13- to 21-year olds dealing with gay, lesbian, bisexual & gender issues, www.gaymemphis.com/magy

MEMPHIS BEARS, 1066 Wrenwood, Memphis, TN 38122, (901) 323-4773, Meets the 2nd Saturday of every month at The Pumping Station, 1382 Poplar Ave., at 10 p.m. • MEN ONLY, Email: info@memphis-bears.com, 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, Monthly open meetings have been suspended indefinitely

MIRROR IMAGE, P.O. Box 11052, Memphis, TN 38111-0052, A support group for trans individuals meets the 3rd Saturday of every month at 7 p.m., For more information and locations of meetings, write or email at memphisgroup@usa.com

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

NOBLE KREWE OF HATHOR, a social organization of men and women who support and promote local Memphis area charitable programs, P.O. Box 820901, Memphis, TN 38182-0901, www.krewe-of-hathor.com

P.F.L.A.G., (Parents, Family & Friends of Lesbians & Gays), (901) 754-3136, Support meetings for parents, family and friends of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons, email: amdrake@mem.po.com

TENNESSEE LEATHER TRIBE, (901) 357-1921, Club nights and meetings vary; contact for info - men and women welcome, www.tnleathertribe.org, email: info@tnleathertribe.org

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

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

**SOCIAL
Knoxville, Tennessee**

LAMBDA STUDENT UNION, a social and educational organization for GLBT, questioning and straight students at The University of Tennessee-Knoxville, 315 University Center, Box 315, 1502 West Cumberland Ave., Knoxville, TN 37996-4800, lambda@utk.edu, website: web.utk.edu/~lambda/

**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/glbf

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.safeharbor-nea.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.

QUEER DHARMA, (901) 327-2677, meets the second Sunday at 2 p.m. at the MGLCC, 892 S. Cooper, email: jmaynard2@earthlink.net, www.dhamaramemphis.com

**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**

MEMPHIS FREETHOUGHT ALLIANCE, an association of atheists, agnostics and secular humanists, meets the third Sunday at the Memphis Public Library, 3030 Poplar Ave., Room C, call Jim Maynard at (901) 327-2677, email: memphisfreethought@yahoo.com, www.geocities.com/memphisfreethought.

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.

MEMPHIS LOG CABIN REPUBLICANS, meets the third Sunday at 2 p.m. at the MGLCC, 892 S. Cooper and meets the first Wednesday at 7 p.m. at area restaurants, groups.yahoo.com/group/MemphisLCR.

MEMPHIS STONEWALL DEMOCRATS, meets the fourth Saturday at 2 p.m. at the MGLCC, 892 S. Cooper, www.geocities.com/mphsstonewallem, (901) 327-2677.

**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.

FRONT RUNNERS MEMPHIS, Memphis's first gay and lesbian running club, meets twice a week, Info@FronrunnersMemphis.org, www.FronrunnersMemphis.org.

PINK PISTOLS MEMPHIS, GLBT and gay-friendly men and women who are dedicated to the legal, safe and responsible use of firearms for self-defense of the sexual-minority community. Meets the fourth Sunday from 2 to 4 p.m. at Range USA, 2770 (old) Whitten Road, Memphis, TN. (901) 383-9110, email: memphis@pinkpistols.org, www.pinkpistols.org/local/memphis.

Unity in Community!

WELLNESS
Memphis, Tennessee

DOCTORS

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

OPTOMETRISTS

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

DENTISTS

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

Atlanta Women's Holiday Ball is set

The Atlanta Women's Holiday Ball will be held on Friday, Dec. 5, from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Sheraton Hotel at Buckhead, 3405 Lenox Road, in Atlanta.

The event will benefit non-profit organizations Atlanta Lesbian Cancer Initiative (ALCI) and Charis Circle. ALCI is the only nonprofit agency in Georgia that provides education, advocacy and services in support of lesbians with cancer, their partners and their families. Charis Circle works to foster feminist community and spur social change, offering educational and cultural events and programs that empower women, men and children to honor themselves and work for justice in the world.

Dance music will be presented by the Laigh Langley Band. During breaks, DJ's Unlimited will spin a wide selection of tunes. Hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar will be offered.

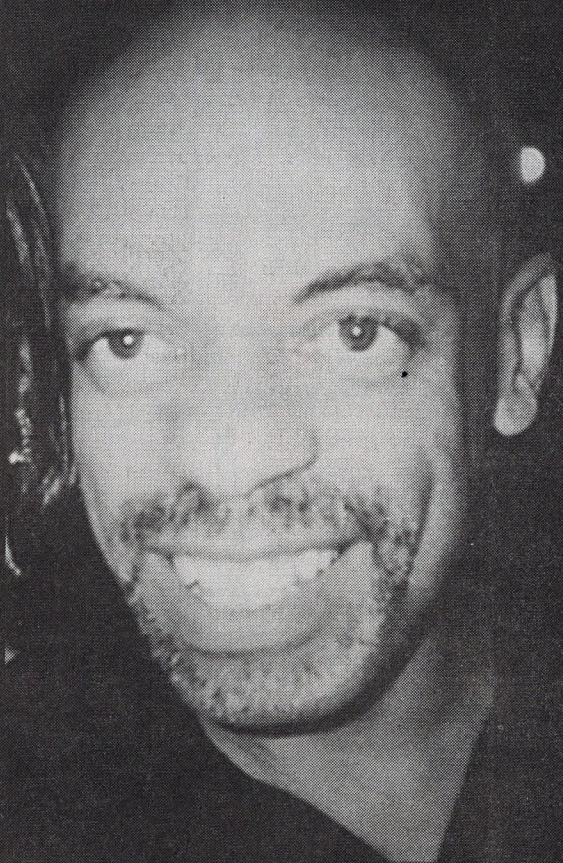
Tickets to the event are \$50 per person or \$30 for students with ID and are available by calling the ALCI at (404) 688-2524, or going online to alci.org or chariscircle.org.



BROTHER 2 BROTHER
presents
SOUL IN THE WOODS

**A One Man
Performance**

**Performed by
Earnest Edward Hite**



Dec. 3 • 7 p.m. • Club Allusions

*This Show is ...
Chilling ... Refreshing ... Provocative
... and Stirs the Soul ... AMEN!*

*A Black Gay Man ... Doing
Time for the Cause of FREEDOM!*

**ONE NIGHT ONLY!
DON'T MISS IT!**

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

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

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

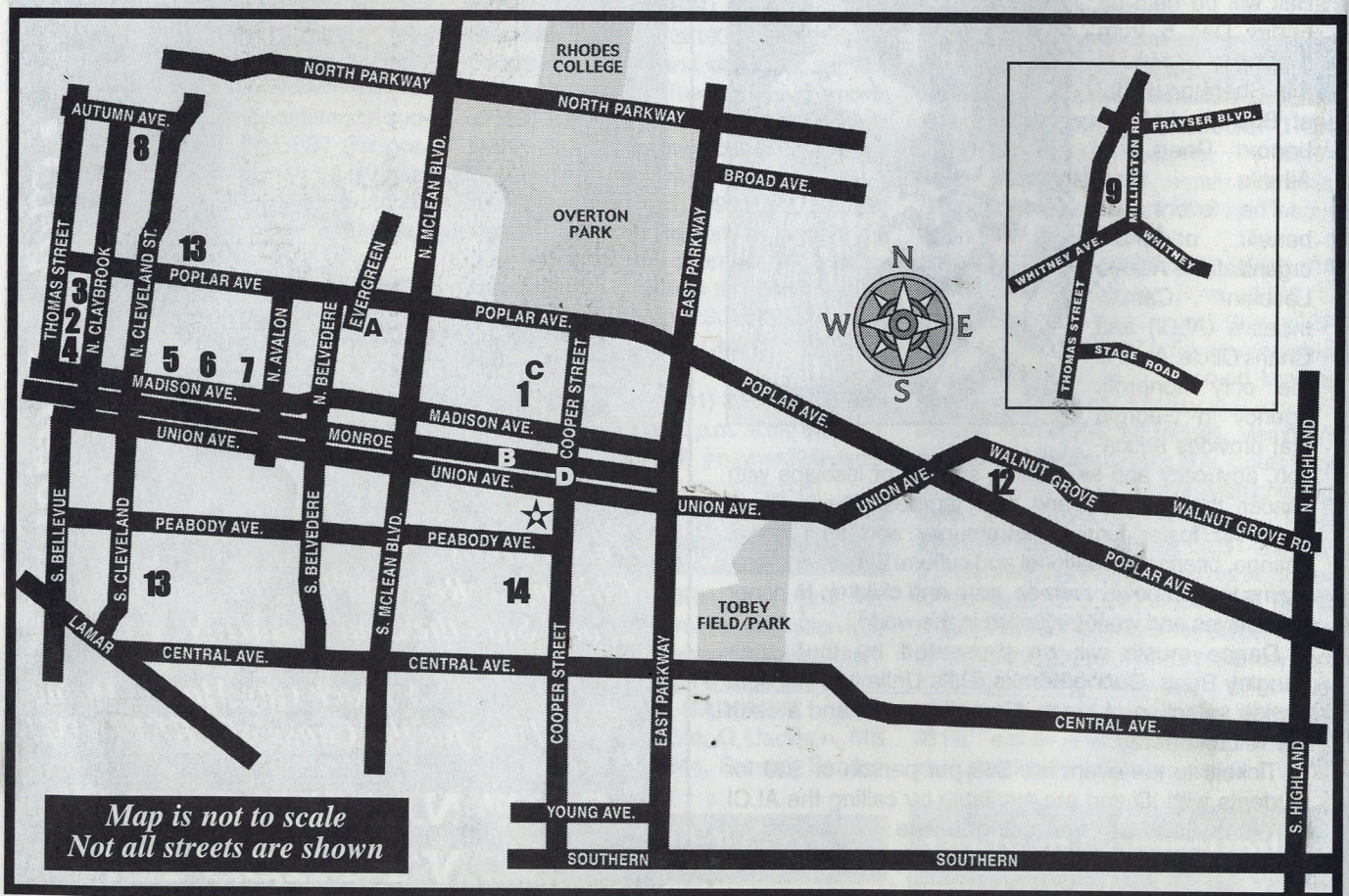
NOT ON MAP

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



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

T
E
R
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Y
L

It's an appreciation party and you're invited to Terry's BIG BIRTHDAY BASH on Tuesday, Dec. 23, doors open at 10 p.m.

FREE ADMISSION ALL NIGHT!

BY CLUB ALLUSIONS
Entertainment Complex

Enjoy Terry's SUPERSHOW with special guests and entertainers, male and female dancers HOSTED by the legendary talents of ALICIA KELLY and OTIS MAC.

FREE FOOD catered by Blessed Hands Catering

DRESS TO IMPRESS!

3204 North Thomas
Northgate Shopping Center
901-357-8383



THE NEW 2004 FOCUS



Focus ZTS in Infra-Red shown with optional Sport Group

SPECIAL OFFER
 Bring in this ad to receive a \$500 discount (in addition to any manufacturer's rebate) off the purchase of any new or used vehicle at LEWIS FORD!*

Focus SVT interior, shown with white-faced gauges, cool leather-trimmed seats and the available Audiophile sound system



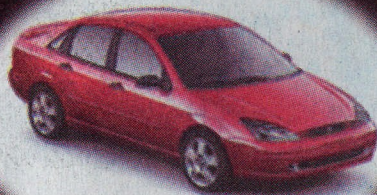
"...Focus ... delivers ... driving fun ..."

- Car and Driver

focus

The 2004 Focus Features:

- Lots of models to choose from: ZX3, ZX5, LX, SE Sedan ZTS Sedan, SE Wagon and the ZTW Wagon
- 5-speed manual or 4-speed automatic transmission
- SecuriLock Passive Anti-Theft Security System standard
- EPA estimated mpg: 26 city/33 highway
- 100,000 mile/5-year warranty



"10Best, 4 years in a row"

- Car and Driver Magazine

2004 FOCUS

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* Lewis Ford employees and AX&Z plan employees are ineligible