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PRIDE

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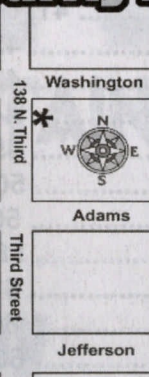
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& friends

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National Advertising

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RIVENDELL MEDIA

(212) 242-6863

Proud Member of

National Lesbian & Gay Journalists Association



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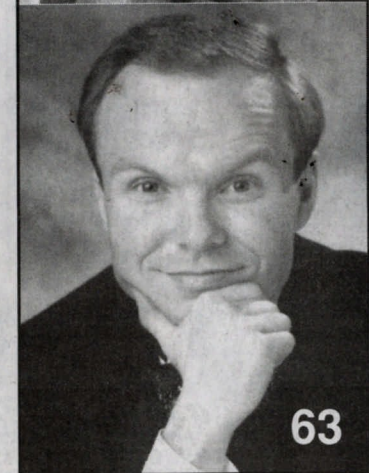
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AND OUR POINT IS ... an editorial by the editor & publisher



Bullies are everywhere and come in all shapes, sizes, genders, races and ages.

Case in point:

For those who read our editorial a few months ago, you'll remember the piece about our experiences with the Memphis Police Department during episodes of neighborhood kids terrorizing our soon-to-be teenage son.

This past month, we took a family trip northward to Indiana, Ohio and Michigan, respectively. The first destination on the trip was to a tiny town, Connersville, Ind., where our publisher spent four years during elementary and junior high school. She had not been back there since 1983. Just driving around her old neighborhood, and catching up with an old friend, brought back some painful memories. As we drove past Frazee Elementary School she pointed out the exact spot on the playground where she was bullied for being a new kid, for not having Converse All-Stars tennis shoes and for being from the South.

The second destination was Toledo, Ohio, to spend a couple of days with extended family members who also have a son about the same age, even though his parents are in their late 50s. The boys got along well, but just before bed that first night, our son came to us and told us that when the two boys walked to a nearby park earlier that afternoon they encountered another boy who picks on the Ohio teen. He is bullied not because he's short or thin, but because "he has old parents."

But, of course, we realize that bullies are usually of the youthful kind and it did our son good to know and realize that he is not the only kid getting picked on by someone who enjoys inflicting fear on others. Kids will be kids, after all, and are said to be quite cruel to one another.

Some will dismiss bullying by kids and teens saying it's just a phase. We, as a society, even expect it among young children like those who take all the toys during playtime, throw sand on the playground or even bite one another at daycare. Remember Butch from "Little Rascals?"

While childish teasing and name calling might not seem like

that big of a deal, especially if you don't have kids, what about those bullies who grow up but don't outgrow that "phase?"

Two such examples are Donald E. Wildmon and Dr. James Dobson.

Wildmon serves as chairman of the American Family Association, an organization that issued an "action alert" on May 10, according to its website (www.afa.net) urging people to "tell Kraft to drop their (sic) corporate sponsorship of the 2006 Gay Games in Chicago ... (by) make(ing) a personal phone call ... and tell them to pull their financial support." The alert goes on to provide all kinds of ways to contact the mega food corporation.

Not only is Wildmon, hence the AFA, bullying other people and asking them to join in the threatening behavior, but they are bullying a major corporation, along with its CEO, Roger K. Deromedi.

If hindsight is indeed 20/20, Wildmon should have learned two important lessons: one) the Southern Baptists' failed attempt to boycott Disney less than a decade ago, and two) "Play fair. ... remember the Dick-and-Jane books ... everything you need to know is in there somewhere. The Golden Rule ... politics and equality ... Take any of those items and extrapolate it into sophisticated adult terms and apply it to your family life or your work or your government or your world and it holds true and clear and firm." taken from Robert Fulghum's "All I Really Need To Know I Learned In Kindergarten." Apparently President Bush didn't learn the latter lesson, either.

We wonder what the AFA and its supporters will do if they opt to show their "muscle" by leaving Kraft's products on the grocery store shelves? That would mean choosing the store brand over Kraft's products. Among Kraft's U.S. brands are beverages: Maxwell House coffee, Seattle's Best Coffee, Starbucks, Country Time lemonade, Crystal Light, Tang and Kool-Aid; Oscar Mayer and Louis Rich meats; Taco Bell dinner kits; DiGiorno and Tombstone frozen pizza; Velveeta and Cracker Barrel cheese; Easy Mac and Macaroni & Cheese; Boca meat alternatives; Breakstone's and Light n' Lively cottage cheese;

Philadelphia cream cheese; Cheez Whiz; Baker's chocolate and coconut; Calumet baking powder; Bull's-Eye barbecue sauce; Shake 'n Bake; Grey Poupon mustard; Milk-Bone dog biscuits; Jell-O; Balance energy bars; Cool Whip and Dream Whip; Claussen pickles; more varieties of cookies than we care to list, including Newtons, Chips Ahoy and Oreo; 23 Post brand cereals, including Grape-Nuts and Raisin Bran; Minute Rice; a ton of salad dressings, including Good Seasons and Seven Seas brands, as well as mayo and Miracle Whip; more than 20 kinds of crackers, including Honey Maid, Cheese Nips,

See Point, page 74



Mid-Southerners show your PRIDE!

'Liberty & Justice For All' 2005 parade picnic set June 11, 12

Mid-South Pride 2005, under the theme of "Liberty and Justice for All," was the recipient of a total of \$636 raised on Sunday, May 1, at Backstreet Memphis at a show hosted by the Divas of Divinity.

At that event, the three Mid-South Pride 2005, Grand Marshals were announced. They are Alan Cook and John Stilwell, publishers of *The Triangle Journal News*, and Rev. Jean Rowe, pastor, Neshoba Unitarian Universalist Church in Cordova.

The Mid-South Pride Parade 2005, is set for Saturday, June 11. Line up is at 3 p.m. at the corner of South Cooper and Higby. The parade steps off at 4 p.m. and proceeds south down Cooper to First Congregational Church. Parade registration will be held during lineup. Volunteers are still needed to carry the 100-foot gay pride flag.

The Mid-South Pride Awards Reception 2005, begins at 3 p.m. at the Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center, 892 South Cooper. The awards presentation will be held after the parade. MGLCC will be presenting entertainment by Skinny White Chick, as well as fun, food and a great time for everyone.

The Mid-South Pride Picnic 2005, is set for Sunday, June 12, beginning at 3 p.m., at Neshoba UU Church, 7350 Raleigh Lagrange Road in Cordova. Entertainment will be provided by singer, song-

writer and dancer Shawn Thomas (www.shawn-thomas.com).

For more information on Mid-South Pride, go online to www.midsouthpride.org.

WorldPride is postponed

by Rex Wockner, staff writer

The Jerusalem WorldPride 2005 march and festivities scheduled for mid-August have been postponed.

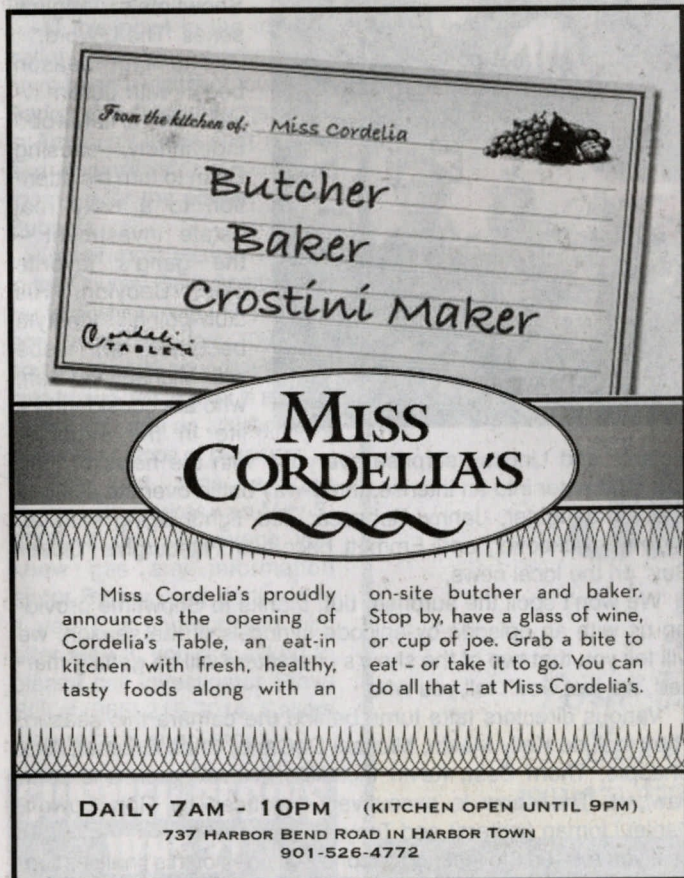
Organizers said police would have been unable to provide security for the events because the festivities were set to take place just after the planned evacuation of Jews from Gaza.

"The homo-lesbian community in Israel is not oblivious to what is going on in the country and to the major public event that the Gaza pullout will be," said activist Hagai El-Ad.

In late March, a dozen Muslim, Jewish and Christian leaders held a press conference in Jerusalem to denounce WorldPride as a "severe affront to the hearts and souls of adherents of all religions." They demanded that the government and police "prohibit any march of this kind."

There was no immediate word on a new date for the events at presstime.

The last WorldPride was in Rome in 2000. The celebration is licensed by InterPride, the International Association of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Coordinators.



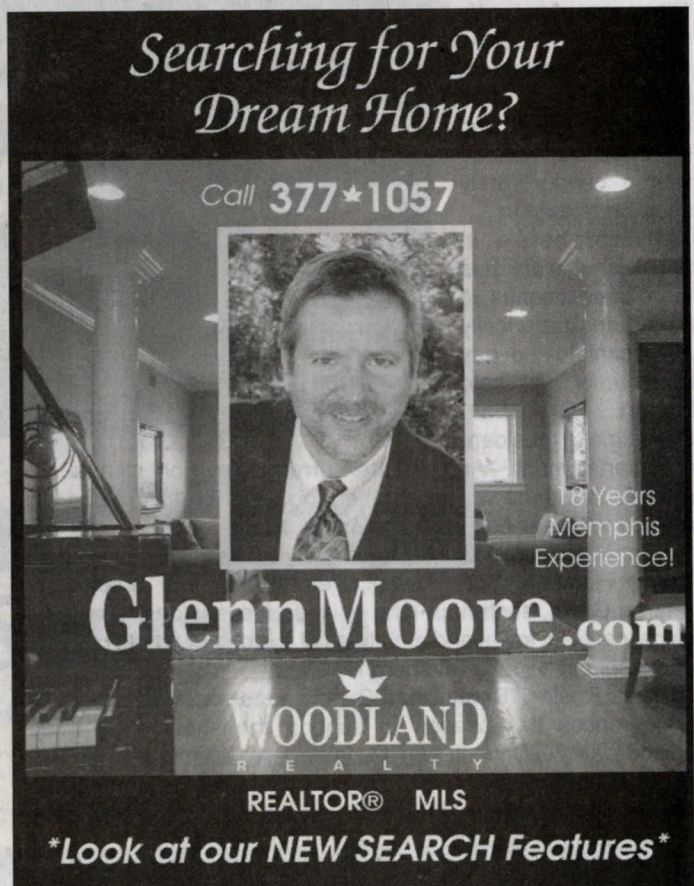
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'Queer As Folk'

May 22 marks beginning of end for TV show

For a lot of us, May 22 marked the beginning of the end of an era, an era of gay and lesbian lifestyles broadcast throughout the country for all to see.

At 9 p.m., 10 p.m. Eastern/Pacific, on May 22, Showtime's landmark, signature dramatic series "Queer As Folk" returned for its fifth and final season with a special two-hour season premiere.

Featuring 13 new episodes, the award-winning series continues to explore cutting-edge social and political issues that have affected the gay and lesbian community since its premiere five years ago.

As provocative as ever, "Queer As Folk" is without question the no-holds-barred show that made television history as the first hour-long weekly drama to portray the gay and lesbian community with honesty and relevance. The fifth season not only showcases "Queer As Folk's" trademark sexuality, but also important, timely and controversial issues with a candor rarely seen on television.

"Never before in television history has there been a series so daring and historically significant to the gay community," said Robert Greenbalt, Showtime's president

of entertainment. "And, in the current television climate, it's unlikely that there will be another show that breaks the boundaries like 'Queer As Folk' has done."

Starring Michelle Clunie, Robert Gant, Thea Gill, Gale Harold, Randy Harrison, Scott Lowell, Peter Paige, Hal Sparks and Sharon Gless, each hour-long episode focuses on the relationships, careers, loves and ambitions of a group of young gay men and lesbians living in Pittsburgh, Penn.

Stars Rosie O'Donnell and Cyndi Lauper make special guest appearances this season to support the show. In a three-episode arc, O'Donnell plays Loretta Pye, a timid woman who escapes her abusive husband by taking a job at the Liberty Diner where, under Debbie Novotny's (Gless) guidance, Loretta discovers an inner strength and a crush on her mentor.

Lauper appears in the 10th episode of the season in which the characters hold a benefit to raise funds against "Prop 14," an

anti-gay legislation proposition that would prohibit gays from adopting children or sharing health benefits. Lauper also will perform a new club mix of "Shine," recorded specifically for "Queer As Folk."

"Queer As Folk" invites viewers to enter the world of Brian (Harold), Michael (Sparks), Justin (Harrison), Ben (Gant), Emmett

(Paige), Ted (Lowell), Lindsay (Gill), Melanie (Clunie) and Michael's eccentric mother, Debbie (Gless). It's not West Hollywood, it's not the Castro and it's not Chelsea. It may be a small gay Main Street with a couple of bars, a club, a few shops and a diner — but its reverberations are universal. In its unapologetic celebration of life in varied forms, "Queer As Folk" has paved the way for modern gay-themed television shows like Showtime's original series "The L Word."

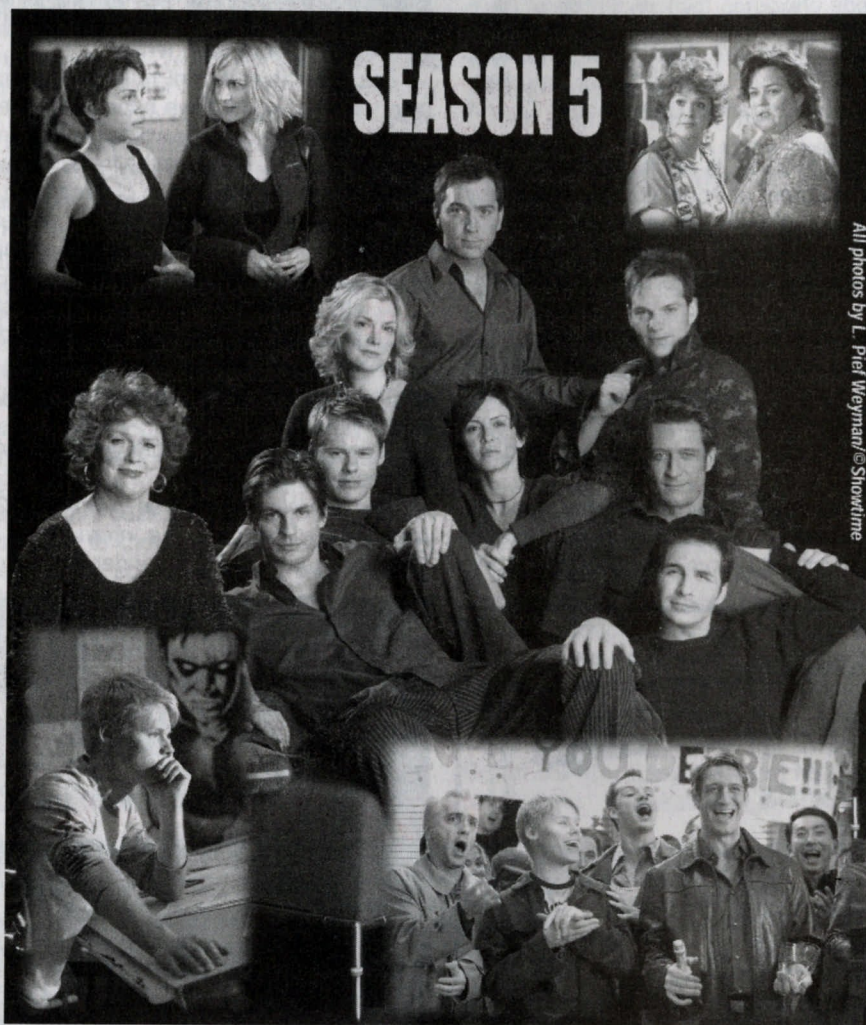
The fifth season began with Justin living in Hollywood indefinitely, causing Brian to turn his attention to a risky real estate investment — the gang's favorite club, Babylon. His club-going lifestyle becomes an issue with Michael and Ben, who are considering a life in the suburbs.

Melanie and Lindsay surprise everyone with the news of their split, and enter into an intense, three-way battle over the custody of their daughter, Jenny Rebecca. Ted fights aging with an extreme makeover, and Emmett becomes Pittsburgh's "Queer Guy" on the local news.

We won't spoil the surprise, but, thanks to Showtime providing us with an episode-by-episode synopsis of the season, we will tell you that two of the show's characters will be getting married, we just won't tell you who.

Various directors take turns behind the camera this season. They include Kelly Makin, Michael DeCarlo, Chris Grismer, Alex Chapple, Thorn Best, Kevin Inch, David Wellington and John Fawcett. The show is executive produced by Ron Cowen, Daniel Lipman (writers) and Tony Jonas.

If you missed the first and second episodes of this final season, they are available for viewing through Showtime On Demand.



All photos by L. Prief Weyman/Showtime

Knoxville hair stylist listed as missing

by Michael Wilhoit, East Tennessee associate editor, Out & About Newspaper



BYRON BARKER

Knoxville hair stylist Byron Barker is officially a missing person. He has been out of contact with the people close to him

since May 3, 2005.

In a statement released by the Knoxville Police Department on May 27, Barker's family indicated they had not heard from him in more than two weeks. They also indicated his 2004 Nissan Altima was missing, as well. Barker's Altima was later found in a motel parking lot in Williamsburg, Ky., sometime two weeks ago.

At this point in the investigation, it appears Barker may have been a victim of foul play. Barker is a frequent chat user in America Online chat rooms and Knoxville's Gay.com chat room under the screen name, Bubsola.

Barker most recently resided in the Country Oaks Apartments. He is a white male, 47 years of age. He stands 5-foot, 10-inches and weighs 180 pounds with thinning brown hair. Barker is an avid weight lifter with an athletic build, having no tattoos or piercings.

The last time anyone spoke with Barker was May 3, 2005. If you or anyone you know has any information about Barker, and particularly if you had contact with him after May 3, you are asked to please call investigator Steve Still at (865) 215-7014. Callers may remain anonymous.

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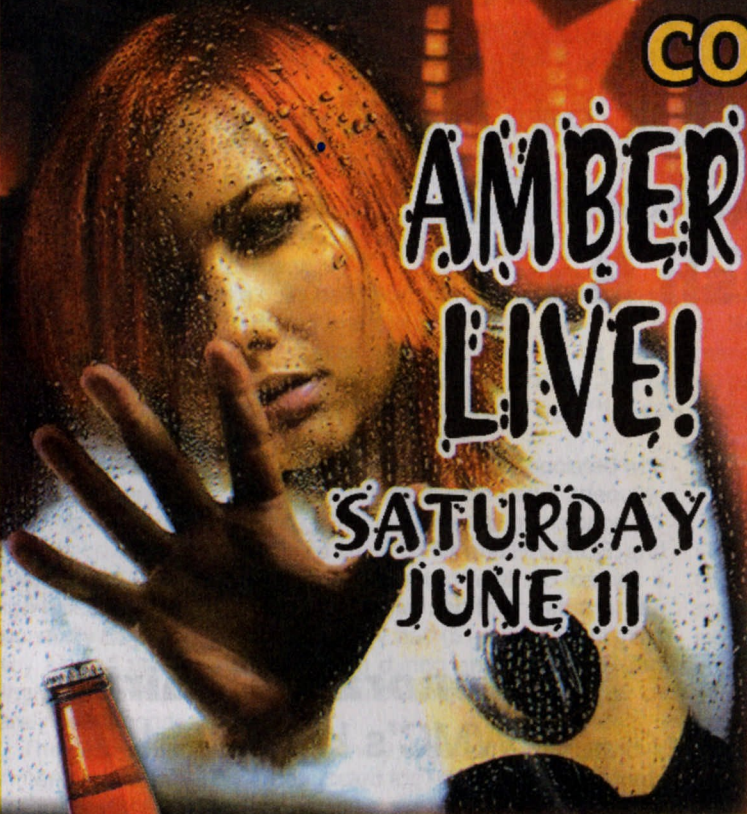
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Trojan intros flavored condom for use with oral sex

A report from Trojan condoms, released in May 2005, found that gay men show concern about sexually-transmitted diseases (STDs), but a casual attitude toward protection prevails.

Despite research showing that STDs and HIV/AIDS can be transmitted through unprotected oral sex, 18-24 year-old gay men see it as far less dangerous than women and straight men. According to the 2005 Trojan Sexual Health Monitor, while most women (82 percent) and six in 10 straight men (60 percent) believe unprotected oral sex carries a high risk, an alarmingly low number (45 percent) of gay men believe it is a risky behavior, and only seven percent said they use a condom during oral sex.

(Realizing that the main reason why condoms are not used during oral sex is the undesirable taste of the condom, Trojan has developed a new mint flavored condom, Mint Tingle™. See below for more and how to get a free sample.)

While gay men say they understand the risks associated with unprotected anal sex, this group admits to doing an inadequate job of protecting themselves. The overwhelming majority (81 percent) say they are concerned about STDs and HIV/AIDS, and almost all (97 percent) believe unprotected anal sex carries a high risk of transmission. But their belief and their behavior are two vastly different things, with barely half (51 percent) claiming they always or often use a condom during anal sex. And startlingly, one in five (22 percent) respondents say they never or rarely use a condom.

The second annual national survey of sexual health attitudes of men and women 18-24, conducted for Trojan brand Condoms by StrategyOne, shows that gay men are more likely to say they believe that HIV can be easily treated with medication (51 percent) – a stark contrast to women (24 percent) and straight men (27 percent).

"What's clear from these findings is that some gay men continue to be complacent when it comes to safe sex," said Dr. Drew Pinsky, sex educator and author. "That some understand the risks but aren't doing much about it should sound some significant alarm bells for the gay community. There needs to be a renewed commitment to drastically change behavior to ensure consistent use of condoms for each act of sex, including oral sex."

The majority of those surveyed (71 percent) said that – of all STDs – they are most concerned about HIV/AIDS, and most believe the risks of contracting HIV/AIDS has increased greatly during the past few years (58 percent). They believe this is due in large part to people not using condoms enough (80 percent), having more sexual partners (66 percent) and that there is greater ignorance about how HIV/AIDS is spread (45 percent).

More messages needed

The safer sex message does not seem to be reinforced



through the media and may not be strong enough to spur action. More than six in 10 said that network television offers an overly sanitized image of sex (65 percent), with just 29 percent saying that TV portrays the way people their age actually have sex.

"There should be more effective and direct safer sex messages – not fewer – in the media," Pinsky said. "While young gay men are seeking information on the Internet, they are not getting it through other forms of traditional media. and if safer sex isn't being portrayed accurately on TV, many younger gay men are going to miss the impor-

tance of such a message, and may not fully appreciate the risk."

Sex education is another way young people receive safer sex messages, and gay men believe it is a vital resource. While only 60 percent said they received useful information about safer sex and STDs in school, almost all believe there should be some sex education in schools. The majority (75 percent) said it would be helpful to have a comprehensive program in schools that includes both information about safer sex and abstinence.

"This study proved very enlightening and concerning," said Jim Daniels, vice president of marketing for Trojan. "We learned that gay men understand the risks involved with both anal and oral sex. But the truly alarming finding is that, despite this understanding, gay men are not doing enough to protect themselves. It's our goal to help them move from intent to action. As a company, we strive to help educate people about the risks involved with unprotected sex in a way that connects with them, personalizes their risk and provides a pleasurable and trusted means of protection."

One of the top reasons why gay men said they don't use condoms for oral sex is that they don't want to taste the condom – 62 percent, as compared to 41 percent for women. To counter this and increase condom usage during oral sex, Trojan recently introduced Mint Tingle™, the brand's first flavored condom, which features a food-grade mint flavor (that actually tastes good), minty aroma, bright green color and a non-oily-feeling, water-based lubricant.

Consumers can log onto www.trojancondoms.com for more information and to request free samples of Trojan Mint Tingle™.

StrategyOne conducted a quantitative online study among 2,506 young adults aged 18 to 24. The sample is weighted to be representative of 18 to 24 year olds nationwide. The margin of error is +/- 2.0 at the 95 percent confidence level, which means that in 95 out of 100 times when a sample of this size is drawn, the results would not vary by more than 2.0 percentage points in either direction. Of the total respondents, 74 percent are currently or have been sexual active in the past; 26 percent have never been; 51 percent are male and 49 percent are female; 54 percent are aged 18 to 21 and 46 percent are aged 22 to 24.

THURSDAY TORNADO

JUNE 16

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for Memphis
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**Registration
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Meet & Greet Party**

FRIDAY EARTHQUAKE

JUNE 17

**CLUB ALLUSIONS
2 Stages • Main Stage
featuring Oohzee
11:30 pm**

**Earthquake Blackout
Party • dancers
guest DJ • 1:30 am**

SATURDAY TSUNAMI

JUNE 18

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SEMINAR AT HOTEL
11 am to 1 pm**

**POOL PARTY
AT HOST HOTEL
4 to 8 pm**

NATURAL DISASTER

MEMPHIS BLACK PRIDE 2005

SATURDAY HURRICANE

JUNE 18

**HURRICANE PARTY
CLUB ALLUSIONS
11:30 pm prompt
featuring**

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Casadine, Alicia Kelly,
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11 pm until ? @ The Club Paragon

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Archbishop's ban denies sash wearers communion



Archbishop Francis Cardinal George

On Pentecost Sunday, May 15, a Roman Catholic nun, a Catholic couple married 44 years, and a long time gay civil rights activist defied the Archbishop of Chicago's ban on giving Communion to members of the Catholic gay group, the Rainbow Sash Movement.

Members of the Rainbow Sash Movement wear a rainbow-colored sash during Mass signifying support for equal treatment of gay and lesbian people in church and society.

Some American Catholic bishops, including Chicago's Francis Cardinal George, have ordered that those who wear the sash be denied Communion. Other bishops, including Los Angeles' Cardinal Roger Mahoney, have not forbidden Communion to the sash wearers.

At Chicago's Holy Name Cathedral, the sash wearers approached the altar for Communion and were denied by associate pastor Rev. Ron Kunkel. The sash wearers then returned to their pew.

Dominican Sister Donna Quinn, director of the National Coalition of American Nuns; Joseph and Barbara Parot of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), and long time Catholic gay rights activist Rick Garcia, also attended the Mass. After the sash wearers were denied, Sister Donna, the Parots and Garcia approached the altar and received Communion. To the surprise of some, including the sash wear-

ers, the four then approached the sash wearers and gave them a portion of their consecrated (communion wafers).

"It is a scandal that (Communion, a symbolism of the Body of Christ) would be denied to a baptized Catholic who approached the altar simply because of what he or she was wearing," Sister Quinn said. "I am still shocked and in disbelief that the priest would deny these people. The Eucharist should not be used as a political tool and that is exactly what Cardinal George has made it."

Sister Quinn and the Parots approached the priest after Mass and expressed their displeasure and sadness at his action.

"Some priests and bishops throughout the country have denied Communion to sash wearers today. How many of these same priests have ever denied anyone else Communion?" Garcia asked. "This has nothing to do with upholding (Catholic Church) teaching and it has everything to do with rank anti-gay sentiment."

"There is something seriously wrong when people wearing a sash, signifying fairness and equality, are denied Communion, while pedophile-protecting prelates are given honors and basilicas in Rome," Garcia noted, referring to the honors bestowed on Cardinal Bernard Law, who protected pedophile priests in the Boston diocese. "The bishops who have ordered this should be ashamed, but unfortunately, experience has shown most of them are shameless."



Rick Garcia

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Women in Harmony



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The camp is held in the mountains southwest of Asheville, N.C., at The Mountain (www.mountaincenters.org). There will be lots of workshops, song circles and an open mic.

Jamie Anderson, Phyllis Free, Mary Hocks and Elaine Townsend will be teaching guitar, harmony singing, songwriting, mandolin, drumming and more for beginning through intermediate players/singers.

Cost is \$300 per person (\$325 after July 22), check or charge, and includes housing, food and all programming. Some scholarships are available.

For more information or to register, go online to www.mountaincenters.org/WomeninHarmony_RegForm.pdf or call (828) 526-5838.

WIMfest



The second annual WIMfest, a women-only retreat to promote women in music and art, will be held at the Pine Valley Lake Park and Campgrounds in North Canton, Ohio, Friday, June 24, through Sunday, June 26.

WIMFest will feature performances by nationally and internationally acclaimed female singer/songwriters and female-fronted bands including, Tret Fure, Ferron, Ember Swift, Robin Stone, Alexis Antes, Lucie Blue

Tremblay, Anne E. Dechant and more. Comedian Karen Williams also will perform.

For ticket prices, reservations and weekend passes, go online to www.WIMfest.com; email WIMFest@hotmail.com or call Donna at (330) 219-0409.

Mississippi Pagan Pride Day Project

The Mississippi Pagan Pride Day Project is hosting a fundraiser weekend retreat, "Frolicking with the Woodland Fairies," June 10-12, at Camp Sister Spirit in Overt, Miss.

This will be a weekend of celebration, of sharing, of honoring each other's unique paths and rituals. There also will be lots of family-friendly activities and a Midsummer Night's Dance on Saturday night.

Admission is \$35 per adult for the weekend, including all meals and tent space. For additional costs and more information on the event, contact Carol at winterfire38804@yahoo.com or Eugene at tramanor@yahoo.com.

For more information on Camp Sister Spirit and the tent/dorm accommodations, contact Andie at (601) 344-1411 or go online to www.campsisterspirit.com.

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NATIONAL TIDBITS:

The small town of Espertantina in northeast Brazil, celebrated **ORGASM DAY** in May. This is the first year for this promised-to-be-annual holiday, which included panel discussions on the subject, as well as a presentation of Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues*.

MASSACHUSETTS celebrated its first year of same-sex marriages on May 10. Out of 6,100 weddings for the year, there were only three divorces filed.

THIS IS REALLY QUEER (meaning "odd"): According to a report published in the May issue of *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research*, researchers have accumulated more evidence that KUDZU can decrease a person's desire to drink alcohol. Scott Lukas, a researcher with a Harvard-affiliated hospital, studied 14 different individuals who enjoyed drinking beer. Each spent four, 90-minute sessions in a makeshift room with a recliner, a TV and a refrigerator filled with beer. After the first session, each individual received either capsules of kudzu or a placebo. Those taking the kudzu drank an average of 1.8 beers per session versus 3.5 beers for those on the placebo.

When you're in search of the lowest price for a gallon of gas keep this in mind: EXXON/MOBIL shareholders, for the seventh year in a row, have voted to ignore the rights of its employees, gay, lesbian and straight, who have domestic partners. Exxon's CEO believes denying domestic partner benefits, same-sex or otherwise, to the company's employees is "the right thing to do." Do we feel a picket line coming on to let other motorists know

about Exxon's decision? Stay tuned...

LOCAL TIDBITS:

THIS JUST IN ... according to one of our more credible sources, word on the street is that, as of this past Wednesday, June 1, **CROSSROADS** is under new ownership. While details were not available at presstime, we'll have more next month.

Congratulations to the **MEMPHIS GAY & LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTER** on the \$1,000.00 it received May 3 from Boyd Gaming, d/b/a Sam's Town Tunica. When you're trying to decide where to go when you get that gaming "itch," remember which casino has openly supported our GLBT community for the past 7-plus years.

The annual **TSAURUS "MAN" OF THE YEAR AWARDS** will be held Tuesday, June 7, at 7:30 p.m., at First Congregational Church, 1000 South Cooper. For more information, call (901) 276-4132 or (901) 315-1619.

Good luck to Darren and Ron, the new proprietors of **INZ & OUTZ Cards & Gifts**. They purchased the store from Ray Casteel, who reportedly has retired. Be sure to stop in Inz & Outz - it's the place to go for your pride gear, T-shirts and hats.

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to **MELENA** who suffered a subdural hematoma. Melena is recuperating from surgery at a local hospital and, according to sources close to the "legend," will return home soon.

If you are looking for a **Alcoholics Anonymous** meeting that caters to the GLBT community, check out the **PHOENIX AA** meetings held each Tuesday at 8 p.m. at Grace St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 1720 Peabody. For more information, call (901) 454-1414.

THE PILGRIM CENTER will celebrate Gay Pride Month each Sunday in June with a series of discussions on "Understanding Severe & Persistent Mental Disorders." All sessions are from 9 to 10 a.m. at First Congregational Church, 1000 South Cooper. For more information, call Dr. Joel Chapman at (901) 844-4357.

BI-POLAR DISORDER seems to have affected a number of persons in the Memphis GLBT community. Once called "manic depression," it can be a scary, debilitating and often mis-portrayed illness. Persons suffering from the disorder who are interested in forming a monthly support group, including a supportive and educational network, please call us at *Family & Friends*, 901-682-2669.

Happy belated birthday to **BILLY BUCHANAN**, a true Southern gentleman who recently turned 29, again!

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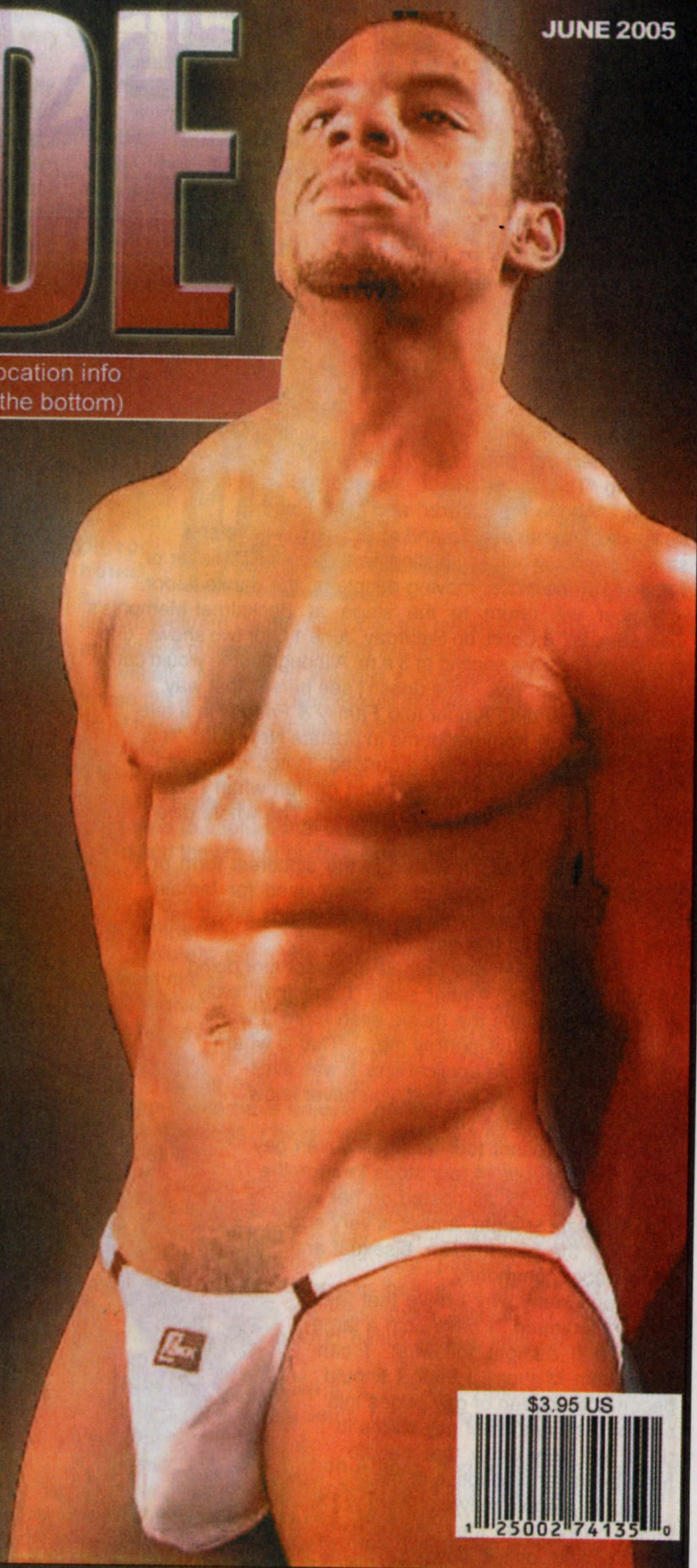
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AMBER LIVE!

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW EXCLUSIVE SHOW AT BACKSTREET

No, her last name isn't "Live!" but that's exactly what Amber will be when she visits Memphis this month to help celebrate Pride.

With her signature smash hits, including "This is the Night," "Sexual (Li Da Di)," "Above the Clouds" and "The Need to be Naked," Amber's voice and music moves gays and straights alike, whether blasting on the car's CD player or remixed for the clubs, moving people on the dance floors.

Amber will return to the stage at Backstreet-Memphis's Coliseum, 2018 Court, on Saturday, June 11, for two shows, one at midnight and the second at 3 a.m. Although some would categorize her as a "diva," she doesn't see herself that way.

"No, I never did," Amber told *Family & Friends* in a telephone interview from her home in upstate New York. "It is a strange word. I am very grounded, Dutch European, from a family of five, not rich. I had my fun when I was very young. I have known the hard life. The whole diva thing is strange to me."

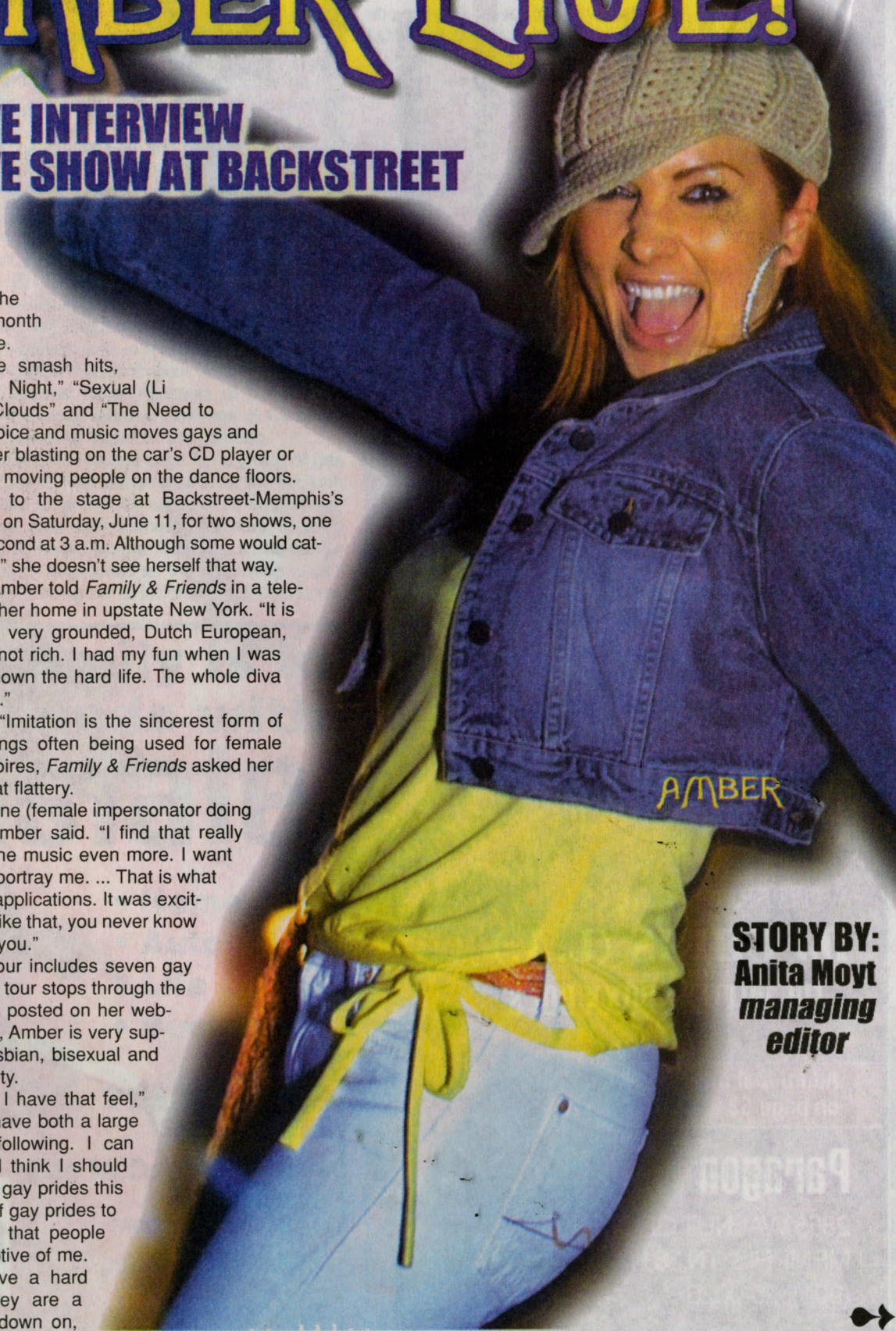
The saying goes, "Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery." With her songs often being used for female impersonators' repertoires, *Family & Friends* asked her how she felt about that flattery.

"I have only seen one (female impersonator doing my songs) so far," Amber said. "I find that really great. That spreads the music even more. I want to see how you guys portray me. ... That is what music is for, multiple applications. It was exciting to see something like that, you never know how people perceive you."

Amber's present tour includes seven gay pride events out of 14 tour stops through the end of June 2005, as posted on her website. Although straight, Amber is very supportive of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community.

"I don't know why I have that feel," Amber continued. "I have both a large GLBT and straight following. I can enjoy both of them. I think I should become the queen of gay prides this season; I have tons of gay prides to do. I feel very lucky that people have been very receptive of me."

"Some people have a hard time coming out, they are a minority and looked down on,



STORY BY:
Anita Moyt
managing
editor

(so I guess that's why) they gravitate toward more happy, dance music," she added. "When they go out, it is about having a good time. They have had enough of bad, negative times. I feel a very loving supportive time in a gay club."

Amber continued to offer her support of the GLBT community.

"Be yourself," she said. "Don't be ashamed of who you are. It's not about if you should choose or pick to be gay, it is genetic to be gay. It's not (always) fun to be gay. I knew people (who) from the start were gay. What is the big deal? We have so much going on. Is it such a big deal when two same-sex people want to love each other. I agree for same-sex marriage. You have to understand (gay and lesbian couples) are living worldwide and are living and adopting children from straight couples. They submit to society."

"Know what you are wishing for," Amber warned. "A wish for marriage is quite a commitment. You may have to commit to someone for 50 years in a row. Can you imagine two queens going at it for divorce? One hundred years ago the woman stayed home and gave birth and raised children, many often died in childbirth. Her life was surrounding children. Today we have more options. Your brain can open and and learn and grow."

"Sometimes it works and sometimes it doesn't," she said referring to her own recent divorce. "You will marry one person and divorce another person."

Not only is she a divorced diva, she is a mom, too.

"I am happily divorced," Amber said. "I finally understand I am not marriage material. I have a 14-year old son. Being a teen's mother has its challenges. Up to now I've been doing good as possible. ... I am a very strict mom, with rules and consequences. (My son) knows what I am doing and travels with me. He listens to rock and metal and says my music is not cool music. He just sees mom...all his friends are like, 'Are you crazy, your mom is Amber.'"

Amber enjoys her music and takes it a day at a time. We asked her what some of her goals were as an artist.

"Having fun with what I am doing and making the music that I like to do," she replied. "Write for other artists. That is going in the right direction. Just be realistic, I like what I do and am happy doing it. I am a very ambitious woman. I have a lot of ideas and am very creative. I am always up to something."

Amber's songs have been covered by an array of artists, including Cher, whose rendition of "Love One Another" earned Amber a Grammy nomination in 2004. Amber also co-wrote "Bless You Child" with Bette Midler, released in 2000, by Midler. In addition, you can hear several of Amber's songs in the score on such television shows as "Sex and the City."

Amber's latest CD, *My Kind of World*, as well as two singles from that CD, "Voodoo" and "You Move Me," were released under Amber's newly-formed JMCA Enterprises.

"It's a big responsibility. opening up my own record label," Amber said. "It costs a lot to produce and promote a record. However, having my own label has allowed me creative freedom and I am more comfortable writing. The music business is about more than music. It is an extremely competitive and plastic business. I am still working on promoting my music. I own my own music and masters. Tons of artists get lied to. I worked hard in this industry and I didn't get what I deserved and I have moved on. I am an artist in the first place. That is what I wanted to show in this new album (*My Kind of World*).

"This time, there were no limits to what I was allowed to do," Amber said about her fourth studio set's creation. "This is a reflection of my world and the different emotions that cannot be described or captured with only one genre or sound. All of the

styles that have influenced me flowed into each other and created a new sound that I can really call my own."

As a result, *My Kind of World*, shows Amber building upon her rich dance music history, while also effectively exploring stylistic avenues that include rock, funk and jazz.

"I t goes against my natural grain to be pigeon-holed," she

added. Wolfram Denttki produced the melange of urban rhythms, aggressive guitars and intricate keyboard.

Lyrically, *My Kind of World* is a confessional storyboard that traces the emotional rollercoaster of a woman ending one chapter of her life and beginning another.

"While writing these songs, I was going through a divorce," Amber explained. "Instead of going to a psychiatrist, I wrote about the experience. As a woman, I felt betrayed in many ways, and I tried to capture that in these songs. People have relationships, and they're not perfect. They have dark colors. This is the reality of life."

Is Amber afraid of startling fans with an album with such a stark contrast?

"Absolutely not," she replied. "The music industry often underestimates fans. As an artist and as a human being, I want to give the fans credit to move forward as their lives change. I've learned that they relate most to honesty. It's when you treat them like they're not smart or like they'll keep buying the same thing over and over that you alienate them. I trust the people who have enjoyed my music in the past to appreciate these songs. I have faith that they'll be touched by what they hear."

"How can you now connect with your fans that you couldn't before?" *Family & Friends* asked Amber in closing.

"My repertoire and the way I am is just more honest," she answered. "The record industry pushes you so many ways...what to perform, how to look, etc. I am not that kind of person. The fans are the most important thing. I really enjoy giving autographs, shaking hands, and taking pictures ... to touch people."

"Come over and have a good time," Amber said, inviting her Memphis and Mid-South fans to her show. "Thanks for your support."

For more information on Amber, and to sample her new CD, *My Kind of World*, check out her website at www.amber-mcc.com. For more information on Backstreet Memphis and her appearance there, go online to backstreetmemphis.com.



FDA's guidelines limiting sperm donation by gays criticized

The Gay and Lesbian Medical Association (GLMA) strongly criticized the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for new guidelines on anonymous sperm donation that include recommendations limiting donation by gay men. The guidelines, released May 25, might be construed as barring men who have had sex with men in the past five years from making anonymous sperm donations, that is, those without a specifically-named recipient.

Sperm donation clinics already have rules in place to assure that anonymous, or non-directed, donations will not result in transmission of HIV or hepatitis. Among these rules is the requirement that the sperm donor is tested for infectious diseases at the time of donation. The sperm is then frozen for six months, and the donor is tested again at that time before the sperm is used.

"The FDA's published opinion in last year's Draft Guidance Document that clinics should not allow men who have sex with men, even those in monogamous relationships, to make non-directed sperm donations ignores good science and good sense," said Joel Ginsberg, GLMA executive director. "And the fact that the FDA recommends no such barriers for men who exclusively have sex with women – regardless of their number of partners, use of condoms or knowledge of their partners' HIV status – makes no sense."

"It is imperative that gay men, as well as sperm donation clinics, understand that these guidelines are recommendations only," said GLMA Policy Chair Jason Schneider, M.D. "There is nothing in the FDA rules that were finalized last year that prohibit

gay men from being anonymous sperm donors. 'Rules' have the force of law; 'guidelines' do not. The (May 25) update does not change that. Unfortunately, the way this is being presented by the FDA and in the (media), it would be easy to misinterpret this as an absolute ban."

"We are not happy that the FDA continues to make these biased recommendations," said Tri Do, M.D., GLMA president. "Along with the Human Rights Campaign, the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, the National Center for Lesbian Rights, the American Civil Liberties Union and the Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders, GLMA urges the FDA to use sound science and testing technology, rather than discriminatory criteria based on sexual orientation, as the primary condition for determining eligibility to be a sperm donor. We take some comfort in the fact that these guidelines are not part of the FDA's hard and fast rules. And yet many banks will undoubtedly interpret them as law."

"GLMA reminds sperm donation clinics that they have a choice in following these guidelines, but if they do so, they are ignoring science and following a discriminatory policy," Ginsberg concluded.

Founded in 1981, GLMA works to ensure equality in health care for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals and health care professionals. GLMA achieves its goals by using medical expertise in professional education, public policy work, patient education and referrals, and the promotion of research.

For more information, go online to www.glma.org or call (415) 255-4547.

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Kraft Foods attacked for its support of 2006 Gay Games in Chicago

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The American Family Association (AFA) recently attacked Kraft Foods in an effort to force the company to pull its financial support from Gay Games Chicago 2006. The AFA is calling on pro-family supporters to boycott Kraft Foods until the company pulls its financial support from Gay Games Chicago. The AFA recently boycotted Proctor & Gamble because the company advertised during television shows that featured gay characters.

Millions of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Americans purchase Kraft products on an annual basis. The "Support Kraft Foods" blog was launched May 12, 2005, to show the power of the gay dollar and to demand that religious extremists cease their continuous bullying tactics. It also was set up to show Kraft Foods and other corporations that the LGBT community will stand behind them when they choose to offer their financial support for such unique events like the Gay Games.

The "Support Kraft Foods" blog will be a central point for news and updates on the AFA's continued efforts to bully Kraft Foods and other corporations into submission. The first goal is to launch a massive phone-in and letter writing campaign to show the LGBT community's support for Kraft Foods. Additional activities will be planned as the situation develops.

For more information, go online to supportkraftfoods.blogspot.com.



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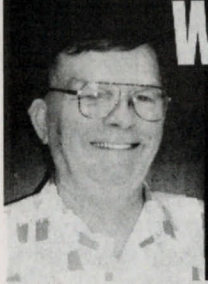
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HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED ...



editorial by Jim Easter



• Where to go on your summer vacation? Don't go to New Orleans. It is too damn hot and humid. I recently spent 10 days there as a houseguest of Leonard and Shirley. I visited the fabulous Aquarium of the Americas and the D-Day Museum – both are much better than "must see TV." The temperature was in the 90s with 85 to 90 percent humidity, but the many 24-hour gay bars provided cold refreshment. A special seafood gumbo by Ronnie also nourished me. By all means visit New Orleans but go in the spring or fall when you won't slip on the cobblestone condensation.

• Did Ruth Ann follow the suggestions outlined in the 1950s high school home-ec text, "How To Be A Good Wife," when she married Jim Norcross?

• Is Piggly Wiggly slowly going out of business? Many of its advertised meats are now graded USDA select, not the higher grades of choice or prime. Shelf space is dominated by private labels, such as "Best Choice," "Always Sure" or "Market Made." Who has heard of these? Brand name products are slowly being phased out.

• How will the Shelby County Commission live up to its unanimous resolution to fund the city and county schools? The real estate transfer tax proposal died in the Tennessee legislature. Any payroll tax proposal will probably meet the same fate. Taxes are going up. It is just a matter of how much.

• What do you call older women who sleep with young men? Lucky, horny cougars. I guess they like plenty of chicken in their diet. That makes Paula Abdul a cougar. At least she has good taste in choosing Corey Clark as the chicken. I'm jealous!

• How can we ever thank Senator John Ford enough for being the unwitting driving force behind the legislature's passing of the far-reaching, restrictive ethics reform bill? City, county and state officials are now prohibited from receiving certain consulting fees. Officials must also disclose the source of any income in excess of \$200.

• Does John Ford now have a better understanding of the difference between "under the covers" and "undercover?" Seems he was not only "Waltzing Matilda" with at least three women, but also was doing a two-year "Tennessee Waltz" with an FBI sting operation. It looks like he'll be doing the "Jailhouse Rock" if convicted of the various charges of public corruption. Other local pols indicted by a federal grand jury are Roscoe Dixon, former state senator and, until the indictment, assistant chief administrative officer to Mayor A.C. Wharton, and Sen. Kathryn Bowers, successor to Dixon and present head of the Shelby County Democratic Party. It appears that Ford may have a legitimate claim for a reduction in child support payments after all.

• What will John Ford's nephew, Harold Ford Jr., do now that his uncle was indicted just one day after Junior's formal announcement of his candidacy for the U.S. Senate? There is little doubt that his chances of winning the election next year are lessened.

• Will Sociable Security be paying out more than it takes in by 2017, as President Bush claims? Why doesn't he propose a fix for medicare, which is already paying out more than it takes in? As part of his privatization plan, the Crawford Cowboy now offers the option of investing in very low interest paying treasury bonds, which are backed by the "full faith and credit" of the U.S. government. Would you invest in a corporation that is more than \$7 trillion in debit, with no sign of relief in sight?

• Does "gay Republican" meet the definition of oxymoron?

• Are Iraqi civilians and new police recruits just pawns on a geopolitical chessboard?

• Why was Brig. Gen. Janis Karpinski, U.S. Army Reserve, the commander of the military police at Abu Ghraib prison demoted to colonel? The military court concluded that no action or lack of action on her part contributed to the abuses, which occurred only after regular Army Maj. Gen. Miller was imported from his Guantanamo Bay command to obtain more "actionable intelligence" from prisoners. Gen. Karpinski was made the scapegoat of the much photographed torture. Her demotion exemplifies the schism between the Pentagon with its regular armed forces and the reservists and national guard soldiers. Obviously, some regular army goats, both low- and high-ranking, escaped.

• Why gay men's brains may be more like those of women? In a new study involving a "smell" test, researchers found that the brains of gay men responded to pheromones chemically produced by testosterone, as straight women's brains do. Straight men responded to estrogen-produced pheromones. The study appears to be further indication that homosexuality is biological in nature, not learned. More research is being conducted on this

See Have you ever, page 25

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New Arrivals Daily -- New Arrivals Daily

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MAGY needs your monetary, in-kind donations

Memphis Area Gay Youth (MAGY) is an affirming, youth-run, adult-advised, multicultural support group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning (GLBTQ) youth ages 13-20 in the Greater Memphis area.

For the past nine years, MAGY's mission has been to be a constantly evolving center for GLBTQ youth. MAGY strives to make Memphis a better place for self-identified GLBTQ youth by providing confidential peer support, education and a safe social gathering.

MAGY strives to give its kids all the resources they need to be productive members of a not always welcoming society. This is done through weekly meetings, community activities, and educational and cultural events. MAGY also provides fun social events that culminate with its annual prom.

MAGY is an important part of the lives of its members and

with the help of its adult advisors, they put in the hours that make MAGY a reality. However, MAGY is in great need of help in order to keep providing a safe and supportive environment. There are several ways in which individuals and businesses can contribute.

It can cost as little as \$10 to make a difference and keep MAGY thriving. Consider becoming a sponsor with a cash donation or with an in-kind donation. Presently, MAGY is in need of the following services and items: electrical work; furniture (couches, chairs, bookshelves); sodas, bottled water and snacks; arts and crafts supplies; formal wear, and GLBT books and magazine subscriptions.

MAGY is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt non-profit organization. For more information, call (901) 335-6249 or write MAGY, P.O. Box 241852, Memphis TN 38104.

Have you ever

from page 24

biological phenomenon to ascertain if the theory is correct and how it relates to the arguments of whether homosexuality is innate or acquired.

• What does Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the National Institute of Health, think about abstinence to prevent HIV infection? He said it simply is not effective in many situations, therefore he and his colleagues are researching topical microbicides for use by women so men will not have to wear condoms. It is anticipated that a woman

may be able to use a vaginal salve that will prevent HIV. (Does the President know about this? Will he defend the Institute?) Dr. Fauci estimates that more than one half of the roughly 900,000 people in the U.S. infected with HIV have not been tested or told they have HIV. He further states that needle exchange programs don't promote the use of illegal drugs, but such programs do reduce the chances of getting HIV. Meanwhile, until such a microbicide is developed for both women and men, wear your condom with pride.

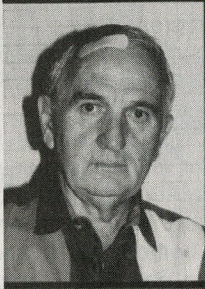
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REUNIONS & REALIZATIONS



an unpublished novel
by Jim Norcross
(chapter by chapter)

Sunday Morning

Paul and Bobby, still woozy from a night of little sleep, and much drinking, sat at the table in their boxer shorts as the sun appeared over the river. A carton of Krispy Kremes was open between them. Bobby was drinking coffee. Paul was having a beer and eating a donut.

During the past three weeks (other than a couple of fast trips down to the Circle K for beer) they had not left the condo and had lived on send-in-pizza and whatever else they could get delivered. They hadn't shaved or showered in that time and drank heavily, spoke little and sat and watched inane TV shows. Both of them lost in their own deep depression. They slept wherever they fell asleep or passed out, on the floor or on the couch, but seldom in the bed. The television and the lights stayed on all the time.

Bobby had lost his football coaching job because Paul's ex-wife and her nephew had concocted this story of him making passes at the kid. The school believed them and Bobby was fired. Then when Paul told his father, Dr. Brady, he was gay and that he and Bobby were lovers, Paul's father had disowned him and ordered he and Bobby off the premises of his hospital.

Finally, Bobby stood and folded his arms across his chest, looked at Paul and proclaimed, "This has got to stop and I do mean right now. We are not the first gay couple who have suffered a set back in their relationship. Look at Gordon and David. Gordon was married and an officer in the army when he fell in love with David, an enlisted man. Then David lost his leg but still they endured and are still together.

Claudia and Mike have had their problems. They moved back here from San Francisco when Claudia's father died and her mother became ill. It was hard but they adjusted and are doing well. We can overcome our problems but both of us have to get off this poor-pitiful-me syndrome. If you will help me, we can overcome this. But we won't if we sit around all day eating donuts and watching inane game shows. We're going to start answering the telephone instead of waiting for the answering machine to get it. And by damn, we are going to start having sex again. It's been over three weeks now. I miss it and I think you do, too."

Paul nodded in agreement and then stuck his hand out and snatched another donut and ate it whole with a what-the-hell attitude. Bobby glared at him and took the box and placed it across the room out of reach.

"I meant it when I said we have to make some changes starting now."

Paul drew up in a huffy mood and then, after a while, said,

"You're right. I'll make more of an effort." He got up and poured the rest of his beer out and poured a cup of coffee. He blew it to cool it and then took a big gulp of it and asked, "Are you going to use Frank to file suit against the kid who made the allegations that got you fired?"

"I've been thinking about that. Gays have no job protection. It would be a long drawn-out process and no doubt be all over the 10 o'clock news for weeks. There is no way to tell if we can win even if Frank is as good an attorney as he says he is. He would have to cut his hair and that would be such a big deal for him. I question that even if he did wear a coat and tie into court if he could pull off the butch professional image to win. The kids would all be snickering for months. I don't know if I could ever get their respect back. It would also be harder for you to make amends with your father, if you ever could. No, I think it would be better for both of us if we gave it some time."

Bobby got up to pour more coffee. "Remember how we discussed one time about me going to work for you in your insurance business? I think I will take you up on that offer if it still stands. I know I would be a good salesman and I could use a hiatus from coaching. The job can be pretty stressful, though I do love it. Maybe it's time for me to take a break. I can always return later on after this all blows over. Together we'll get through this. I swear we will."

"Now get off your duff and help me get this place cleaned up."



He swung his arm around the room, indicating all the Domino Pizza boxes scattered around, and the Big Mac wrappers on the floor along with the beer cans and the empty Jack Daniels bottles in the overflowing trashcan.

In two hours the place was

respectable if not in top shape. "Now to the showers," Bobby said. "Let's save on the water bill and do it together." He stripped out of his boxer shorts and pulled at Paul and they entered the shower holding hands.

Noon

Frank sat on the balcony of his apartment located high on the east bluff that over looked the Mississippi River. He sat and watched a large barge making its way down river going toward New Orleans. He had just washed his long blonde hair and had removed the big pink towel that had been wound around his head. He was now letting it dry in the light spring breeze. He had such mixed emotions about Bobby's decision to not pursue the lawsuit against the kid who had accused Bobby of making the advances. He was sad because he thought he had a chance of winning against the kid, but then there was no guarantee in cases like that. He was glad, though, that he did not have to cut his hair, which he treasured.

He had decided that what the group needed now was a party

See Reunions & Realizations, page 38

18th Annual Auction Against AIDS set June 26

Friends For Life Corporation (FFL) will hold its 18th Auction Against AIDS on Sunday, June 26, at the Memphis Botanic Garden, located at 750 Cherry Road in Audubon Park. The silent auction begins at 3 p.m. and the live auction begins at 4:30 p.m.

Kym Clark of WMC-TV returns as honorary chair and FM 100's Tom Prestigiacommo will once again serve as auctioneer.

"This is one of the largest and longest running auctions in Memphis," Clark said. "I am proud of what the Friends For Life auction accomplishes - raising money to help meet the needs of the men, women and children who are living with or affected by HIV/AIDS."

"Each year the auction has grown in terms of the number of donations, attendees and the money raised," said Kim Moss, FFL's executive director. "The auction has helped broaden the support of the agency and increase AIDS awareness. The support from the community for the auction has been incredible. And the funds raised at the auction are used for program expenses not covered by grants."

According to the Friends For Life website at www.friendsforlifecorp.org, only 75 percent of the agency's programs are covered by grants. The other 25 percent comes from fundraisers and events such as the Annual Auction Against AIDS.

Friends For Life is the oldest and most comprehensive HIV/AIDS service organization in the Mid-South area and has a client base of 1,500 persons infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. Eighty-five percent of their clients are African-American and 40 percent are women, many single mothers with children.

Friends For Life

"You can expect to see a fantastic travel package from Carlson Wagonlit-Garner Travel; home decor items; dining offerings; pet items, and just about anything else you can imagine," said event planner, John Folding.

"In the past, this event has raised more than \$60,000 and with our guests' help, we expect to exceed that again this year," said FFL's new Director of Development Sandra Palazolo. "With so many exciting and unique items, you never know what you'll find. Be sure to drive to the auction in the biggest vehicle possible so you have room to carry your sizzling items home!"

Admission is \$25 per person; there will be a cash bar available.

Volunteers are still needed for this event. If you are interested, contact either Kevin Dugan or Sandra Palazolo at (901) 272-0855.

Donations of items for the auction and cash donations to help cover expenses are still being accepted from companies and individuals. Donors will receive tickets or vouchers to the bar. Anyone wishing to donate should contact Palazolo at (901) 272-0855.

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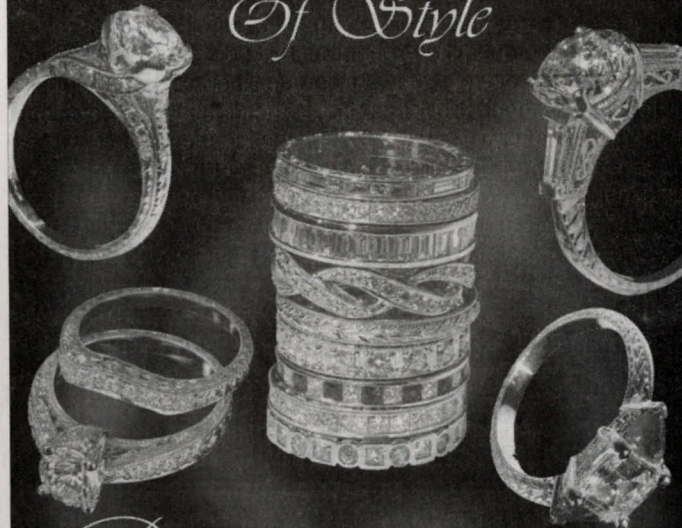
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HIV World News

Brazil refuses \$40 million U.S. grant to fight AIDS

On May 2, in an unprecedented move, the Government of Brazil refused a \$40 million grant from the United States to fight AIDS, saying its ideological conditions were too severe.

Nearly 700,000 individuals are inflicted with HIV/AIDS in Brazil, many of whom are living in poverty. The Bush Administration's grant would have imposed scientifically unverifiable, ideological clauses, such as one that asks the country to officially condemn prostitution. Signing such a clause would have impeded AIDS intervention within Brazil, which orchestrates open relationships with prostitutes, homosexual men, intravenous-drug users and other high-risk groups in order to fight the pandemic.

"It is a simple fact that in order to fight AIDS, it's crucial to work with the populations that face the greatest risk," said Atila Roque, executive director of ActionAid USA, and himself a Brazilian. "It would be a gross human rights violation to deny them life-saving assistance based on moral grounds. That's why we should praise the Brazilian government's decision, which will help to raise the stakes of international debate concerning the Bush Administration's ideological influence over foreign aid policies."

"HIV/AIDS needs to be battled through a public health approach, which requires close working relationships with the most vulnerable communities," said ActionAid International USA Policy Analyst Rick Rowden. "You can't have a cooperative working relationship with, say, prostitutes' associations that starts off with a blanket moral condemnation of them. You might think you've taken the moral high ground, but that is not the same thing as an effective anti-HIV/AIDS strategy. From this point on, the U.S. is going to need to decide if it is going to be moralistic or effective."

"In turning down the U.S. grant, the Government of Brazil is actually protecting people at risk by ensuring science-based preventions are implemented rather than ideologically-based preventions that have no basis in scientific reality," said Dr. Paul Zeitz, DO, MPH, director of the Global AIDS Alliance. "This is a phenomenal development by Brazil, a sovereign government, which is finally standing up against policies that are doing more harm than good."

Interestingly, there are no federal laws within the United States banning prostitution. As a result, prostitution is legally condoned within some Nevada counties. According to a 10-year UCLA study, the occurrence of AIDS within condoned rather than condemned brothels is significantly lower than that of the general population.

"More than the refusal of accepting the U.S. grant, the Brazilian government's attitude represents its commitment towards maintaining a democratic and progressive AIDS program, as opposed to the conservative vision of the United States," said Almir Pereira Jr, program coordinator for HIV/AIDS at ActionAid International Brazil. "Unfortunately, it seems that the U.S. policy is taking advantage of the great poverty and high vulnerability of developing nations to impose its conservative agenda as a condition for the countries to receive the financial aid they desperately require."

Legislation introduced to protect victims of hate crimes

Representatives Barney Frank (D-MA), Christopher Shays (R-CT), John Conyers (D-MI) and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) introduced legislation on May 26 to give federal protection to the victims of hate crimes.

The Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2005 will make it easier for federal authorities to prosecute bias crimes, in the same way that the Church Arson Prevention Act of 1996 helped federal prosecutors combat church arson: by loosening the unduly rigid jurisdictional requirements under federal law. Similar legislation filed last year had almost 200 bipartisan cosponsors.

"We realized that we needed to make a small change to last year's bill by explicitly including transgender persons for protection under this bill," said Congressman Barney Frank. "It is important to carefully identify those people who are most likely to be singled out for pernicious acts.

For the year 2003, the most recently available data, the FBI compiled reports from law enforcement agencies across the country identifying 7,489 criminal incidents that were motivated by an offender's irrational antagonism toward some personal attribute associated with the victim. Law enforcement identified 9,100 victims arising from 8,715 separate criminal offenses. Religious bias and sexual orientation bias each accounted for 16.4 percent of reported single-bias hate crimes, followed by ethnicity/national origin bias with 14.2 percent and disability bias with 0.5 percent of single bias-motivated offenses. It is widely believed that hate crimes are seriously under-reported.

Under federal hate crimes legislation, the primary responsibility in prosecuting these crimes lies with the state. The proposed legislation operates to give assistance to the states.

Extending the federal law would allow state and local authorities to take advantage of federal investigative resources and personnel in bringing cases based on state law.

Violence against GLBTs on rise

On April 26, the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP) and 15 of its members across the country released its annual report on violence against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender individuals.

The 90-page report examines data compiled from almost 2,000 hate-related incidents in 11 cities, states and regions across the U.S. The report is the most complete examination of such violence against GLBT people. Each year, the FBI publishes its own report on hate crimes, which includes anti-GLBT incidents, but it consistently contains information on far fewer cases than the NCAVP publication because it relies on law enforcement reports of such crimes rather than victim service organization data.

Overall, NCAVP's report noted a four percent increase in reported incidents of anti-GLBT violence. Such incidents rose from 1,720 in 2003, to 1,792 in 2004. Included in the rise in incidents for the year, was an 11 percent increase in anti-GLBT murders, which rose from 19 in 2003, to 20 in 2004. During 2004, the total number of victims rose four percent, from 2,042 in 2003, to 2,131 in 2004. According to the report, the number of anti-GLBT violence offenders also rose, by seven percent, from 2,467 to 2,637.

See Violence, page 33

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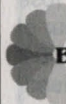
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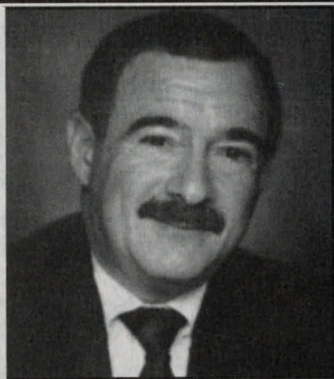


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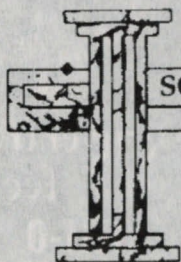
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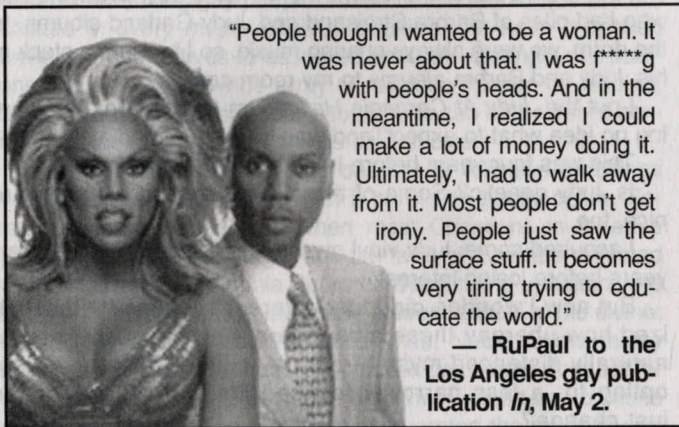


QUOTE / UNQUOTE

by Rex Wockner

"Somebody who is possibly in the closet and uses their bully pulpit or their position to bash gay people or to make gay people's lives difficult ... and are in essence leading a double life — people like that need to be exposed for the hypocrite that they are. And I sometimes find that ... the people that you find who are hollering the loudest and who are putting people down the most are the ones that have the most to hide. They're so uncomfortable in their own skin that they have to tear everybody else down to make themselves feel good."

— **Minnesota Republican state Sen. Paul Koering, who came out April 13, to RawStory.com, April 14.**

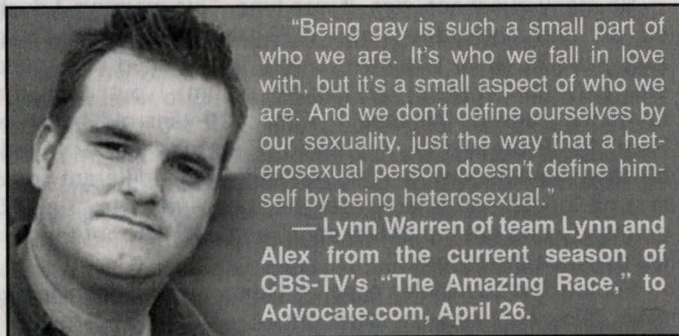


"People thought I wanted to be a woman. It was never about that. I was f*****g with people's heads. And in the meantime, I realized I could make a lot of money doing it. Ultimately, I had to walk away from it. Most people don't get irony. People just saw the surface stuff. It becomes very tiring trying to educate the world."

— **RuPaul to the Los Angeles gay publication *In*, May 2.**

"A right-wing gay man is like a vegetarian butcher."

— **Singer Boy George as quoted in London's *Gay Times*, April issue.**



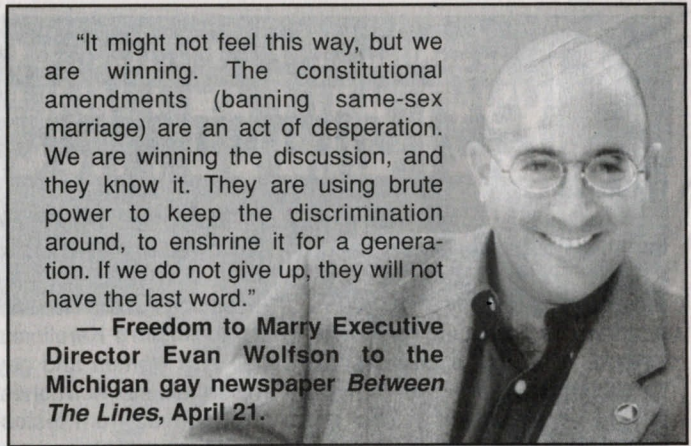
"Being gay is such a small part of who we are. It's who we fall in love with, but it's a small aspect of who we are. And we don't define ourselves by our sexuality, just the way that a heterosexual person doesn't define himself by being heterosexual."

— **Lynn Warren of team Lynn and Alex from the current season of CBS-TV's "The Amazing Race," to Advocate.com, April 26.**



"One night, after George went to bed, Lynne Cheney, Condi Rice, Karen Hughes and I went to Chippendales. I wouldn't even mention it except Ruth Ginsburg and Sandra Day O'Connor saw us there. I won't tell you what happened, but Lynne's Secret Service code name is now 'Dollar Bill.'"

— **First Lady Laura Bush at the White House Correspondents' Association dinner, April 30.**



"It might not feel this way, but we are winning. The constitutional amendments (banning same-sex marriage) are an act of desperation. We are winning the discussion, and they know it. They are using brute power to keep the discrimination around, to enshrine it for a generation. If we do not give up, they will not have the last word."

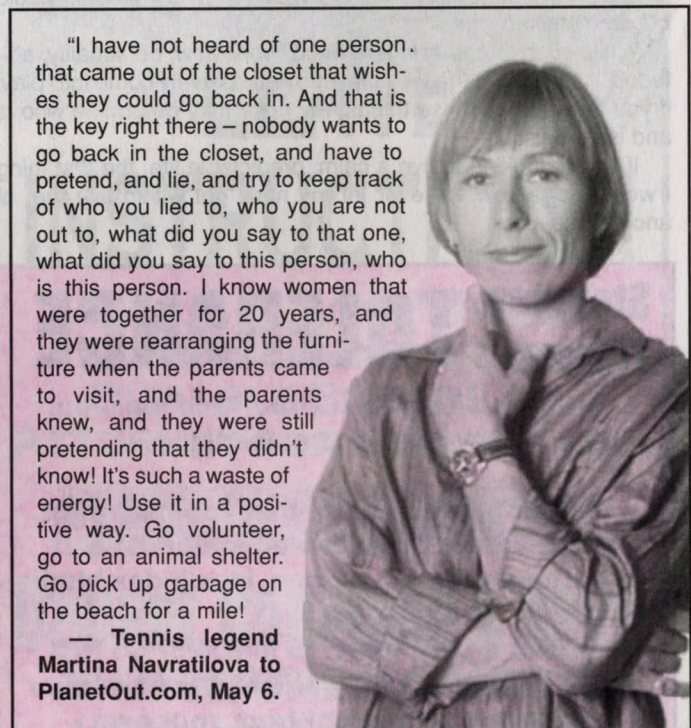
— **Freedom to Marry Executive Director Evan Wolfson to the Michigan gay newspaper *Between The Lines*, April 21.**

"I thought it was going to be a little bit bigger deal, but I wasn't doing it because I wanted it to be a big deal. It was something I tried to do for my parents and for the gay community."

— **Cincinnati Reds player Joe Valentine on his recent announcement that he was raised by a lesbian couple, to the Fort Lauderdale *Sun-Sentinel*, May 2.**

"(Antigay crusader) Fred (Phelps) has issues. I just don't give the man power over anything that I do, say or think. Basically, he is a man lost in a world of hate. I think if he understood how much good he does for us, he would stay at home. We raise money around his appearances now. He's just so lost."

— **Judy Shepard, Matt's mother, to the gay magazine *QVegas*, May issue.**



"I have not heard of one person that came out of the closet that wishes they could go back in. And that is the key right there — nobody wants to go back in the closet, and have to pretend, and lie, and try to keep track of who you lied to, who you are not out to, what did you say to that one, what did you say to this person, who is this person. I know women that were together for 20 years, and they were rearranging the furniture when the parents came to visit, and the parents knew, and they were still pretending that they didn't know! It's such a waste of energy! Use it in a positive way. Go volunteer, go to an animal shelter. Go pick up garbage on the beach for a mile!

— **Tennis legend Martina Navratilova to PlanetOut.com, May 6.**

Quotes compiled by Rex Wockner, who has reported news for the gay press since 1985. His work has appeared in more than 200 gay publications. He has a B.A. in journalism from Drake University, started his career as a radio reporter and has written extensively for the mainstream media, as well.



Gay determination factors: scent and Judy?

Pheromones

A new study from Sweden may confirm something I knew from plain old experience – my nose is involved in who I do and do not become smitten with.

According to (May 9-13, 2005's) "Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences," researchers at Stockholm's Karolinska Institute olfactorily exposed straight men and women and gay men to chemicals derived from male and female sex hormones.

When the subjects sniffed a chemical derived from testosterone, the sexual-activity areas of the straight women's and gay men's brains got excited while the same areas of the straight men's brains did not.

To further test their theories, the scientists also made the subjects sniff lavender and cedar, which resulted in no changes in their brains' sexual-activity areas.

This seems right, for as far as it goes, but I believe there's more for scientists to discover.

I believe love and lust may interface significantly with my nose.

My nose may have led me to fall for men who were not right for me. It may have made me highly attracted to men I was otherwise only mildly attracted to.

The smell between Jack's furry peccs. The smell when John took off his shirt and lifted his arm. (Names changed to protect the odiferous.)

There's an infinite number of men my eyes find attractive. But from among that group, there's a vastly smaller number I could become smitten with.

While such things as intelligence, worldview, personality, attitudes, lifestyle and the way they move massively come into play, if you level out all these things, my nose may determine who is and isn't resistible.

If I were looking to live a calm, predictable life, the first thing I would do is vow to never let my nose get within five feet of another male.

Judy

"Judy Garland is the North Star of my constellation," singer Rufus Wainwright told London's *Gay Times* in April.

"I'm a massive fanatic and unashamedly so," he said. "I feel that she is, perhaps, one of the greatest examples of the well-rounded megastar. She had it all in terms of singing, acting, personality and tragic lifestyle. She was the real deal."

In light of recent columns in which I professed to be "post-gay" and even suggested people perceive me as straight, it only seems fair to share my Judy Garland story now.

Until I got to college, all I knew of Judy was *The Wizard of Oz*, which my straight brother and I watched on NBC every year as kids.

Freshman year in the dorm, there was a guy down the hall who had piles of Barbra Streisand and Judy Garland albums. In the dorm, we were always sharing music, so I brought a stack of his Judy and Barbra albums to my room one day.

I put the *Judy At Carnegie Hall* album on my turntable, having no idea what to expect, and was hooked immediately.

This was four years before I had any clue I was gay.

Is Judy genetic? Some of the older Streisand albums were nice, too.

I acquired some Judy vinyl myself and listened to it for a few years before losing interest.

But now I wonder, did I lose interest because I later realized how ubergay these albums are, and because I sort of naturally distanced myself from gay culture over the years, opting for a less narrowly focused life? Or did my tastes just change?

Why did I abandon Judy? Simple embarrassment? I mean, my boyfriends and gay friends always have fallen into the "straight-acting" camp and either had no apparent interest in Judy, or probably wouldn't have admitted it if they did.

So many questions. Yes, it was time. This morning, I dusted off and hooked up my 1979 Technics Direct Drive Automatic SL-3200 turntable. I went to the shed and found the *Judy At Carnegie Hall* double album. I put it on the turntable, carefully cleaned it with a 20-year old bottle of Realistic Professional Antistatic Record Cleaner Fluid, cleaned the needle with some red stuff from a different bottle that no longer has a label, set the tone arm to tract at 1.5 grams, zeroed out the anti-skating, and carefully set the stylus down on the record.

For the next 90 minutes or so, as I answered the morning's e-mails, Judy went through her repertoire.

Can I be post-gay and still admit that *Judy At Carnegie Hall* kicks ass? Maybe it is genetic, like those sex smells. You'd have to take a bunch of 20-something fags who've never heard of Garland and do a lab experiment to figure out if there's something in gay brains that naturally responds to her.

As far as I can tell, Judy is my only recognizable gay component. I mean, I'm not into shopping, hookup sex, drag, camp, leather, pride parades, circuit parties, bars, baths, rainbows, opera, bear contests, girl talk, and on and on and on.

And yet, Judy ... and some newer Cher CDs, as well.

So sue me.

(This is an opinion/editorial piece. The views expressed in this column are those of the writer and are not necessarily those of Family & Friends Magazine or its staff.)

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NGLTF offers response from religious roundtable

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force received the following question on religion and homophobia by e-mail. A frequently asked question, the NGLTF offers a response from the National Religious Leadership Roundtable.

Question: In my efforts to understand the political and religious issues, I want to ask: How do you differentiate between homophobia and religious beliefs that say that homosexuality is a sin?

Answer: In the case of most people who claim religion as a motivation for their anti-gay beliefs, their opinion is not based on a nuanced understanding of their scripture and tradition, but on teachings perpetuated by churches, families and religious leaders. Although their religious instruction may have portrayed beliefs condemning gay people as immutable theology, there are scholars in every major religious tradition that have proposed convincing alternatives to assumed anti-gay readings and traditions. Faced with the wide array of religious opinion on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, one can only refer to continued belief in anti-gay teachings as a choice.

The implications of choosing one set of religious teachings over another are important when it comes to public policy. For instance, there was a time when most Christians in America opposed interracial marriage, and the laws of the state reflected this belief. The 1964 Virginia Supreme Court ruling upholding the state's anti-miscegenation law made a direct appeal to the divine:

"Almighty God created the races white, black, yellow, malay and red, and he placed them on separate continents. And but for the interference with his arrangements there would be no cause for such marriages. The fact that he separated the races shows that he did not intend for the races to mix."

In 1967, the Supreme Court overturned all of the racist marriage laws in the states. Most Christian organizations that had resisted interracial marriage in the name of God eventually changed along with society and the state, and many have instituted racial justice programs in their denominations.

Faced with the long history of societal, legal and religious change in favor of greater freedom and equality, the burden of proof rests on those who oppose equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people: Why is this belief so important?

As weak answers of "protecting traditional marriage" or "encouraging moral values" fall away, they reveal the face of homophobia. This is not to suggest that all those who oppose equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people for religious reasons are hateful people.

But all homophobia sprouts from the same twisted root of hatred and fear of the differences that underlies all racial, ethnic, religious, sexual and social discrimination. When religion is used not to challenge prejudice, but to uphold it, it becomes a tool of hate.

Violence

from page 29

The data in the report is submitted to NCAVP for analysis and derived from a common intake tool NCAVP's members utilize when directly serving victims of violence at their agencies, which are primarily local LGBT victim service organizations.

The report is available online at www.ncavp.org/media/MediaReleaseDetail.aspx?p=1420&d=1492.

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GLBT parents, childrens' experiences are sought

Tina Fakhrid-Deen grew up with a lesbian mother and heterosexual father. She is now putting together a book tentatively entitled, "Speaking So You Can Hear Me: Black Children with Gay Parents Share Their Word."

Fakhrid-Deen would like to interview Black and multi-racial individuals, ages 11 and up, with one or more gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or same-gender-loving parent; individuals under the age of 18 will need parental permission. Also, she would like to interview GLBT parents, school teachers/administrators, politicians, religious leaders, academics, activists, and other important stakeholders within the Black GLBT community that would like to dialogue about how to advocate on behalf of Black sexual minority families and shed a light on some of the challenges within the Black community.

Those interested should contact Fakhrid-Deen at (773) 398-2086 or by email at tinatfakhrid@aol.com. There is a June 30 deadline for interviews, which will be conducted by phone or email. Interviewees can opt to be anonymous.

...

In collaboration with COLAGE and the Family Pride Coalition, GLSEN is conducting a research study on the school-related experiences of GLBT parents and their children. This project will provide valuable information to help lobby and advocate for the rights of all students and their families to be treated with respect in their schools.

In you are interested in participating in this research project and are either a GLBT parent with at least one school-age child presently attending school (K through 12th grade) OR a student in middle school or high school (13 years of age or older) who

has a GLBT parent or parents, go online to www.glsen.org/cgi-bin/lowa/all/news/record/1787.html to complete the survey. If you would prefer a paper copy of the survey or have further questions, email GLSEN'S Research Associate Elizabeth Diaz at ediaz@glsen.org or call her at (212) 727-0135, ext. 8051.

Be a fighter pilot at IMAX

You're at the controls of an F-15 jet fighter, swooping, diving, trying to avoid an "enemy" plane in hot pursuit. You roll and nail the throttle, fighting G-forces as you careen in a tight loop, maneuvering your plane until you're on his tail ready to pounce. Your thumb touches the button as he fights to get off your radar.

Feel the adrenaline as you fly with a young F-15 Air Force pilot in *Fighter Pilot: Operation Red Flag*, slated for the Union Planters IMAX Theatre, located in the Pink Palace Museum, 3050 Central Avenue, June 25 through Nov. 11.


Red Flag is the final training phase before pilots are sent into actual combat, and this giant screen film is the closest you'll ever get to riding in the world's greatest fighter jet. *Fighter Pilot* provides a rare insider's view into exhilarating aerial combat training, illustrating the teamwork and dangers inherent in military flight training.

"So many films on fighter aircraft essentially fake the interaction between the planes using a lot of quick cutting, simulated cockpit photography and special effects," said director/producer Stephen Low (*Titanica*, *Super Speedway*). "Working with the Air Force made it possible for us to shoot actual dog-fighting for the first time between a dozen aircraft at once."

Tickets for *Fighter Pilot* are \$8 for adults; \$7.25 for seniors, and \$6.25 for children.

For showtimes, reservations or more information, call (901) 320-6362 or go online to www.memphismuseums.org. For more information on *Fighter Pilot*, go online to www.fighterpilotfilm.com.

June 24 - July 24



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CMOM to celebrate 15 years

The Children's Museum of Memphis, 2525 Central Avenue, will celebrate its 15th anniversary with a carnival birthday party on Thursday, June 16, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The museum will have fun activities out on its front lawn, including a kid karaoke contest, train rides, carnival games, moon bounce tents, musical performances, balloons, sidewalk chalk art, Brik building, giveaways, birthday cake, face painting, clowns, coloring pages, prizes and more. Concessions will be available for purchase, including hot dogs, snow cones, popcorn and drinks.

The museum opened its doors on June 16, 1990. Since that time more than two million visitors have experienced the unique hands-on learning opportunities the institution offers.

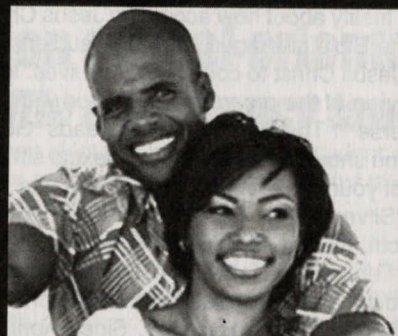
There is no admission charged to attend the anniversary celebration. Carnival games and concessions will require the purchase of tickets at the event. Museum admission is NOT included.

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

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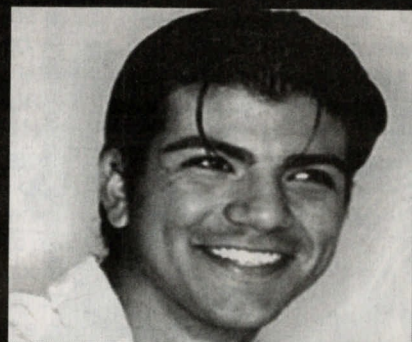
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GLBT YOUTH

ACLU files suit regarding funding of 'Silver Ring Thing'

On May 16, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and Jenner & Block LLP filed a lawsuit, *ACLU of Massachusetts v. Leavitt*, challenging the federal government's misuse of taxpayer dollars to fund religious activities in the "Silver Ring Thing," a nationwide ministry program that uses abstinence-only sex education as a means to bring "unchurched" students to Jesus Christ.

"Using public funds, the 'Silver Ring Thing' urges students to commit themselves to Christ," said Julie Sternberg, senior staff attorney at the ACLU Reproductive Freedom Project. "The courts have repeatedly said that taxpayer dollars cannot be used to promote religion. The 'Silver Ring Thing' blatantly violates this principle."

During the past three years, the federal government has awarded more than one million dollars to the "Silver Ring Thing." According to legal papers filed by the ACLU, the "Silver Ring Thing" describes its mission as "offering a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as the best way to live a sexually pure life." During the "Silver Ring Thing's" flagship three-hour program, members testify about how accepting Jesus Christ improved their lives, quote Bible passages, and urge audience members to ask the Lord Jesus Christ to come into their lives. In addition, the official silver ring of the program is inscribed with a reference to the Biblical verse "1 Thess. 4:3-4," which reads "God wants you to be holy, so you should keep clear of all sexual sin. Then each of you will control your body and live in holiness and honor."

The "Silver Ring Thing" has held events in Alabama, Connecticut, Florida, Michigan, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, West Virginia and Wisconsin and is scheduled to visit Georgia, Ohio and North Carolina, among other states, in the coming year. Since April 2003, it has held three events in the Boston area and is scheduled to hold a fourth in October of this year.

"The federal government should not underwrite the religious indoctrination of Massachusetts students," said Carol Rose, executive director of the ACLU of Massachusetts. "The 'Silver

Ring Thing' is nothing more than a vehicle for converting young people to Christianity. Our taxpayer dollars should play no part in such a program."

Since 1997, the federal government has spent more than \$700 million taxpayer dollars on abstinence-only-until-marriage programs. This year an additional \$39 million was proposed for fiscal year 2006, which would bring the total federal dollars spent on these programs per year to \$206 million.

There is no conclusive evidence that abstinence-only-until-marriage education reduces the rate of unintended pregnancy or sexually-transmitted diseases. Moreover, research indicates that in addition to proselytizing, many of these programs do not help teens delay having sex, and some studies show evidence that these programs actually deter teens from protecting themselves from unintended pregnancy or disease when they become sexually active.

"It is alarming that the federal government pours so much money into ineffective and dangerous abstinence-only-until-marriage programs that promote religion," said Daniel Mach, a partner at Jenner & Block LLP. "This misuse of public funds not only harms young people but impermissibly constitutes government-funded religion."

In a related case, earlier this year, the ACLU asked a U.S. District Court in Louisiana to hold the Governor's Program on Abstinence in contempt of a 2002 order requiring it to keep religion out of the taxpayer-funded sex education program. A decision is pending in that case.

...

In response to the lawsuit, *ACLU of Massachusetts v. Leavitt*, on May 19, the "Silver Ring Thing" substantially altered or removed religious content from its website.

"The 'Silver Ring Thing' is clearly worried about the content of its website," Sternberg said. "They are going to great lengths to paint a picture of an organization that does not use taxpayer dollars to promote religion. Unfortunately, altering their website will

not be enough to hide the overtly religious message that they have been promoting for years on the public's dime."

Among the items removed from the "Silver Ring Thing's" website at www.silverringthing.com are the organization's newsletters, which contained a clear statement of the "Silver Ring Thing's" religious purpose: "The mission is to saturate the United States with a generation of young people who have taken a vow of sexual abstinence until marriage and put on the silver ring. This mission can only be achieved by offering a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as the best way to live a sexually pure life."

Additionally, the "Silver

Lambda Legal Youth PSA

www.lambdalegal.org



You have the right to be different.

You have the right to be who you are. You have the right to be out, safe & respected at school.

See ACLU, page 48

Youth, band raise money to remember a friend

Friends For Life Corporation (FFL) was the proud recipient of a donation of \$1,140 from the band Fallen Affair. The check was presented by band member, 15-year old Aubrey DePew.

A student at Bolton High School, DePew told the *Bartlett Express* she wanted to do something for family Friend Ron Young who had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS.

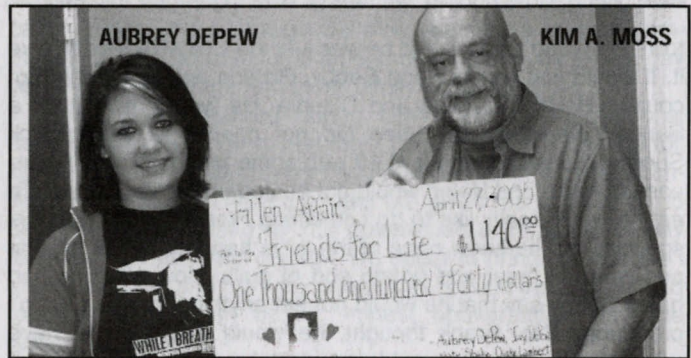
"Ron was my best friend, and he was like a brother, uncle and friend all rolled into one for Aubrey," said DePew's mother, Debbie.

DePew began planning the concert a year ago. While the show was being planned, Young's health began to deteriorate and he eventually lost his battle with AIDS in March.

Deciding to go on with the show, DePew wanted the show to honor the memory of her friend. With help from her friends and fellow bandmates, DePew and her band, Fallen Affair, put on an April 1 benefit concert to raise money for Friends For Life and awareness of the deadly disease.

Using the slogan, "AIDS - it's not just a gay thing," pamphlets and literature about HIV/AIDS were available to concertgoers.

"HIV doesn't discriminate," DePew said. "When we passed out



the (300) condoms, we were not promoting sex. We just got the message out there that if you have sex, then you got to be safe."

DePew's mother added, "Aubrey and the other kids just wanted people in the community to know about Friends For Life and to let people know how many people in the community are affected by the disease."

Students forbidden to publish articles on sexual orientation



High schoolers, parents file emergency lawsuit

Five students and their parents filed an emergency lawsuit on May 19 in Superior Court in Kern County (Calif.) seeking publication in the following two weeks of a series of articles

about sexual orientation that was censored by school officials.

Student editors, their sources and their parents said they were shocked at the high school administration's decision to silence them and stop publication of five articles from varying perspectives about gender identity, sexual orientation and students' personal stories. The East Bakersfield High School students are asking that the articles be published in the final edition of the paper, which was slated for print at the end of May.

"I am really surprised and disappointed by our principal's decision to censor us," said Joel Paramo, a senior and editor-in-chief of *The Kernal*. "I wish we didn't need to file a lawsuit against the school to publish these stories. We chose to focus on sexual orientation in the paper so that the issues could be talked about in the open, not stuffed back into the closet."

The Kernal editors and the students interviewed for the articles first learned they would not be allowed to publish that portion of the newspaper April 29. The East High paper has been selected for several top awards from the local press club and has been allowed to print articles about sexuality in the past. Additionally, the student editors went to great lengths to ensure their sources and even their sources' parents knew about the articles.

"The East High students took an important step in promoting tolerance and understanding," said Christine P. Sun, staff attorney for the ACLU of Southern California. "They picked up where the school did not venture to go. These students are taking a very courageous step and we take the safety of all students very seriously. The principal's censorship has the exact opposite effect. The censorship falsely and illegally tells the school community that it is inappropriate for gay and lesbian students, and not heterosexual students, to express themselves at school and that

they must hide their identities for the sake of student safety."

Jane Rangel, a senior who was interviewed for the story with her mother, is a plaintiff in the lawsuit.

"When our principal said the articles on sexual orientation could not be published in *The Kernal* it made me feel like I'm back where I was - in the closet again, hiding," Rangel said. "I don't want that. It's not okay. I want to be out. I'm out for a reason. I want people to learn from me and not treat me differently just because I'm gay. I went two steps ahead when I came out and now the school is pushing me back. And now maybe other students who were thinking about coming out won't."

The Gay-Straight Alliance Network (GSAN), which supports 38 school clubs in central California also is named as a plaintiff in the case.

"The school should provide a safe campus for all students, and protect them from harassment and discrimination, not force them into silence," said Carolyn Laub, the executive director of GSAN. "If the principal has direct evidence that there are safety concerns at school, then his first priorities should not be to curtail free speech rights of students but to take appropriate steps to identify and discipline those students who are making threats and to make clear that harassment will not be tolerated."

BGALA

**University of Memphis Students
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Reunions & Realizations

from page 26

to lift everyone's spirits and he was just the logical person to give it. It would just be Paul and Bobby, Gordon and David, and, of course, Helen and Mike and Claudia. He would have it on a Sunday afternoon as Helen did not open until five o'clock Sunday. He would start it at 10 with some Mimosas. They were easy to make and Helen would not be tied up behind the bar. To eat he would really like to do something French as that was his specialty but he knew none of the guys had any palate for that and were all meat and potato sort of guys. How often he had heard Bobby say that he would not eat anything that he couldn't pronounce. No, Frank thought, he would just have to have something plainer. He would do some nice hot bread and have a fruit tray and bake a ham and make some of Aunt Millie's famous Jezebel sauce to go with the ham. That always went over well.

It was going to be a fine party, he could just feel it.

Evening

Mike (Michelle) and Claudia stood on the deck of their New Moon Lodge looking out over the lake as the sun sank in the west; it was twilight and turning dark. Fireflies were blinking in the night air. The two women both were bare-footed and wearing cut-off jeans and sleeveless T-shirts. It was early in the season but both were already tan from working outside around the dock and the grounds.

"Look at that sunset, Claudia," Mike said, pointing. "Isn't that the prettiest thing you ever saw. Pretty as anything in San Francisco. I do miss the sea lions though."

"But we have catfish and egrets," Claudia said.

"And I have you here," Mike said slipping her arm around Claudia and, as always, surprised at just how small she was. "I'm happy anyplace you are." She ran her hand down Claudia's back. "Why in the hell are you still wearing a bra? You don't really need one, you know."

"Remember, I'm a small town girl. My mother would be scandalized if I didn't."

"Well, I'm here to break down those small town morals with my wicked San Francisco ways."

Mike reached up, unhooked the bra and pulled it from under the T-shirt. "Now that's better. That's the way I like you - natural." She kissed Claudia on the lips. "Now, lets go skinny dipping.

It's warm. And none of the cabins are rented tonight. No one is around to see us. What do you say?"

"I've never done that. Gordon and David are right across the lake. What if they saw us?"

"It's almost dark, for goodness sakes, and I will assure you, Gordon and David could care less. I used to go skinny dipping all the time in the ocean out in California. Come on, let's do it."

"I don't know," Claudia demurred.

"Well, I dare you. I double-dare you," Mike said.

Claudia stood silent for a moment and then, with a sudden move that surprised and shocked Mike, she stood and pulled off her T-shirt and, for a moment, stood there topless. Mike was speechless and said, "You are so damn beautiful." She made a move to kiss Claudia but Claudia side-stepped her and with a single move pulled her shorts and blue bikini panties down and threw them at Mike. She then ran laughing and dove into the water yelling over her shoulder, "Last one in the water is a big old diesel dyke." Mike was dumbstruck, but for only a minute, and then she too dropped her shorts, T-shirt and underwear and dove in behind Claudia.

"Oh, it's colder than I thought," Claudia said. The two dog-paddled in the water for a while. Then Claudia asked, "Why haven't we done this before? It's wonderful." They splashed and played in the water like children, attempting to dunk each other. Finally, Mike said, "It is indeed cold. Let's go over there under the deck. It's probably warmer there."

"Now you have to promise me that you won't tell my mama," Claudia laughed and then put her arms around Mike and hung on as Mike towed her towards a sandy spot under the deck where they lay in the shallow water. They kissed again, slower and then with more passion as their tongues found their way into each other's mouth. After that they made love lying half in and half out of the water. Afterward they lay holding each other as the waves lapped over their entwined legs and thighs.

Finally Mike spoke. "Claudia, have you given any more thought to what we talked about the other day? You know, about us having a baby together."

"Oh yes. I want to very much."

"Who do you think we should ask to be the sperm donor? Bobby? Gordon? David?"

"I don't know. I've thought about it and wondered who you thought we should ask."

"What about Paul? You've known him all your life. You are close with him and, in fact, grew up together and your families were always trying to get you two together."

"I thought of that but figured that you would be opposed to it."

"Why would I be against it? You know I like Paul. You two were high school sweethearts but never lovers, not really. I would be fine with that - it might also help the relationship with Paul and his father. I understand he's always wanted grandchildren."

"Oh, yes, that is what I'd like to do if you are sure you are alright with it. I love you so very much. I really do. Thank you. That is what I really wanted you to say."

Mike held Claudia close and kissed her again but a worried look crossed her face. "What have I just agreed to?" she thought.

...

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ACLU launches national marriage campaign

The American Civil Liberties Union launched a national Marriage Campaign to persuade Americans that it is unfair to deny legal protections to the families of same-sex couples. The campaign is led by Michael Mitchell, who comes to the ACLU after serving as the executive director of Equality Utah, that state's lesbian and gay advocacy organization.

"Our Constitution guarantees basic fairness to all people, yet lesbian and gay couples who make lasting commitments to each other just like married couples, are denied protections for their families," said Anthony D. Romero, executive director of the ACLU. "With states racing to enact amendments that will forever ban same-sex couples from getting legal protections, it is critical to show why it's wrong to keep people from visiting their partners in the hospital or from making emergency medical decisions, and how it hurts children to be legal strangers to their parents."

The goal of the Marriage Campaign is to step up the dialogue with the American people and show through firsthand accounts how lesbian and gay couples and their children suffer when their

families are not recognized by the law. Among other public education efforts, the campaign will offer assistance to local campaigns fighting constitutional amendments that seek to ban gay people from marriage and other family protections.

"One thing I learned during Utah's recent constitutional amendment challenge is that most people don't realize the toll these measures take on very real Americans with very real families," Mitchell said. "When people are given the opportunity to see the chaos caused by our government's treatment of gay families, their attitudes change. I'm eager to bring the lessons I learned in Utah and from my colleagues around the country and focus them into an active, honest conversation with the American public."

"We're at a defining moment in the civil rights struggle for gay people," said Matt Coles, director of the ACLU's Lesbian and Gay Rights Project. "While we have recently made several important breakthroughs, our opponents are motivated like never before. It's time to fight back, and with Michael's enthusiasm and leadership we hope to show America that this is simply a matter of basic fairness for all families."

For more information, go online to www.aclu.org/getequal/frm/index.html.

HRC releases stories

The Human Rights Campaign Foundation released "To Have and to Hold? Maybe Not" — a compilation of the true stories of same-sex couples being denied the protections of marriage.

"The difference the right to marry makes in the lives of real Americans is shown here," said HRC President Joe Solmonese. "These stories shed light on why marriage is so important, not only because of the honor it bestows but also because of the rights and responsibilities that only come with it. As we celebrate the anniversary of marriages in Massachusetts, it's important for every one of us to hear these stories."

From the story of George Bieniek in St. Louis, who, upon the loss of his partner, had to wait for his partner's sister to arrive from Germany to release his body to the story of 75-year old Susan, who wants the practical, legal rights that come with marriage but also the peace of mind, this publication offers up the stories of the big and small challenges couples face without the right to marry.

"For those of us in the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community, today also is an important time to tell our stories," Solmonese added. "Americans are living without protections that leave families vulnerable in times of sickness and health. Many who argue against marriage equality claim that it will harm heterosexual marriages. But clearly the families at risk are the GLBT families without the protections and recognition that marriage bestows. This publication compels us all to tell our own stories and dispel the myths about marriage equality."

To download the report, go online to www.hrc.org/family.

— MESSAGE —
BY

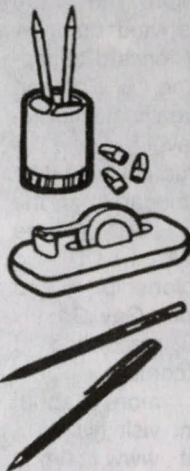
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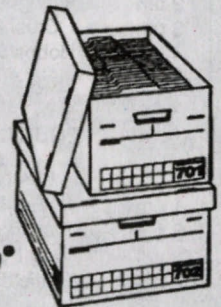
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SPORTS & RECREATION

Bluff City Softball Standings

The nine teams of the Bluff City Sports Association (BCSA) took to the diamonds at Tobey Fields on April 24, for their first games of the season. This is the 10th anniversary for Memphis's gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and gay-friendly sports association.

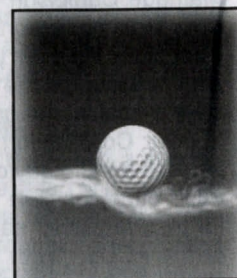
BCSA Commissioner Chris Balton and Assistant Commissioner Will Batts threw out the first pitch of the season.

The league standings, as of May 31, (no games were played on May 28 in observance of Memorial Day) are as follows:

Heat, 7/1
 Hobos, 6/2
 Dog Pound, 4/2
 Neons, 3/2
 MGLCC Crushers, 3/3
 Diamond Dawgs, 3/4
 Outfielders, 3/4
 Cloud of Dust, 2/1
 Blue Oyster Cult, 1/5
 Flamingos, 0/6

Gay Golf Association launched

Organizers have launched the Gay Golf Association (GGA), a nationwide network of local golf leagues for the GLBT community and their friends and families. Its focal point is its website, www.gaygolfassociation.com. The expert, novice or "golf-curious" are invited to join.



"We've seen individual gay golf leagues here and there across the country," explained GGA Co-Founder Richard Ray Harris, "but, mostly, they seem to cater to people who already know the game – people in the same social clique who happen to get together. And often, those we've seen are expensive to join. Golf can be a little intimidating – it's had an unfair reputation as being stodgy. So, we wanted to create something that's really accessible, fun and inviting to everyone."

To that end, membership in the GGA is free, and one can learn the game in the privacy of his/her own home through the GGA website and newsletters. Members also receive regular updates on new leagues opening in their area, and national contests and events are in the works. League Captains pay nominal fees to organize their leagues using the GGA's considerable resources.

Bluff City Sports Softball Season Schedule

Sunday, June 5

Tobey 3

1 pm Crushers v. Outfielders
 2 pm Flamingos v. Diamond Dawgs
 3 pm Dog Pound v. Crushers
 4 pm Diamond Dawgs v. Neons

Tobey 4

Heat v. Dog Pound
 Hobos v. Neons
 Outfielders v. BOC
 Hobos v. Flamingos

Sunday, June 12

1 pm Neons v. Heat
 2 pm Crushers v. Hobos
 3 pm Diamond Dawgs v. Flamingos
 4 pm Hobos v. Dog Pound

BOC v. Flamingos
 Outfielders v. Dog Pound
 BOC v. Neons
 Outfielders v. Crushers

Sunday, June 19

1 pm Diamond Dawgs v. Crushers
 2 pm Dog Pound v. Hobos
 3 pm BOC v. Crushers
 4 pm Neons v. Dog Pound

Heat v. BOC
 Neons v. Flamingos
 Diamond Dawgs v. Heat
 Outfielders v. Hobos

Sunday, June 26

1 pm Neons v. BOC
 2 pm Flamingos v. Outfielders
 3 pm Crushers v. BOC
 4 pm Hobos v. Outfielders

Crushers v. Heat
 Dog Pound v. Diamond Dawgs
 Heat v. Neons
 Flamingos v. Dog Pound

Sunday, July 3

FOURTH OF JULY WEEKEND – NO GAMES

Sunday, July 10

1 pm Hobos v. Heat
 2 pm Flamingos v. Neons
 3 pm Dog Pound v. Heat
 4 pm Outfielders v. Neons

Dog Pound v. BOC
 Outfielders v. Diamond Dawgs
 Hobos v. BOC
 Crushers v. Diamond Dogs

Sunday, July 17

10 am

TOURNAMENT

* Blue Oyster Cult

Gay man wins powerlifting championship

by Rex Wockner, staff writer

Out gay man Chris Morgan won the British Championship Final in powerlifting May 8, lifting 533.5 pounds (242.5 kilograms).

He moves on to the European and world championships.

"My aim going into the British Final was solely to qualify for the European and world championships," Morgan told OutSports.com. "I'm delighted to have become



British Champion in the process, and am now looking forward to representing England once again at international level."

Morgan also holds a silver medal from the World Drug-Free Powerlifting Championship and numerous Gay Games medals, according to uk.gay.com.

For more about Morgan, visit his website at www.chunky-muscle.com.

GLBT basketball players needed

Basketball players are needed for the 2006 Gay Games in Chicago, set for July 15-22, 2006. Basketball players of all skill levels are needed.

Each registered team will play a minimum of five games during the competition, with pool play seeding into a single elimination tournament bracket.

For more information, contact Herschel at (901) 336-8454.



Photos courtesy of
Greg Hadsall
Bluff City Sports

RECEPTION AT R.P. TRACKS



FROM THE FRONT ROW

by Kevin Shaw



Theatre Memphis, 630 Perkins Extended, will close its 2004-2005 Lohrey Stage season with Neil Simon's Tony Award-winning hit comedy, *Rumors*, June 10 to 26.

In celebration of their 10th wedding anniversary, a wealthy "who's who" couple decides to throw a party for themselves and invite four couples, all of whom are close friends. The guests arrive only to discover the husband bleeding, the wife missing, the maid gone and nothing prepared for the evening. The explanations will keep you guessing and laughing until the end as Neil Simon works his comedic magic on an impossible situation.

Director Bennett Wood, seen earlier this season in the Next Stage production of *Art*, has put together a stellar cast. Jerry Chipman, who most recently directed the Lohrey Stage production of *Master Class*, will take on the role of Lenny Ganz. Playing his wife, Claire Ganz, is Ann Marie Hall, who directed *Cinderella* on the Lohrey Stage in December 2004. After playing Stanley in last year's production of *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Gregory Boller returns to the Lohrey Stage as Ken Gorman. Ann Sharp, who starred in *A Little Night Music* earlier this season, returns as Chris Gorman. Steve McManus, who was last seen at TM in *The Waverly Gallery*, will play Glenn Cooper. Christina Wellford Scott, who was most recently seen as Maria Callas in *Master Class*, returns to the Lohrey stage as Cassie Cooper. Mary Buchignani, from last season's *You Can't Take it With You*, will play Cookie. Greg Fletcher, who was last seen in TM's production of *A View from the Bridge*, returns as Ernie Cusack. Cookie Hatchett-Walsh (TM's *A Streetcar Named Desire*) will take on the roles of Officer Pudney and Myra. Danny Armitage makes his first Lohrey Stage appearance as Officer Welch.

Bennett Wood directed the most recent of TM's Cabaret series: "The Sweetest Sounds." Wood first began his association with Theatre Memphis in 1953, at a Memphis Little Theatre summer workshop program at the Pink Palace. In the past 50 years, he has appeared in numerous roles on TM's stage and also has directed numerous productions for TM. Bennett is a recipient of the Memphis Arts Council's Eugart Yerian award for lifetime achievement and was recently named one of the five most important people in Memphis theater over the past 20 years by *Memphis Magazine*.

Family & Friends was honored to talk to Wood about *Rumors*.

F&F: Is *Rumors* Neil Simons' most recent play?

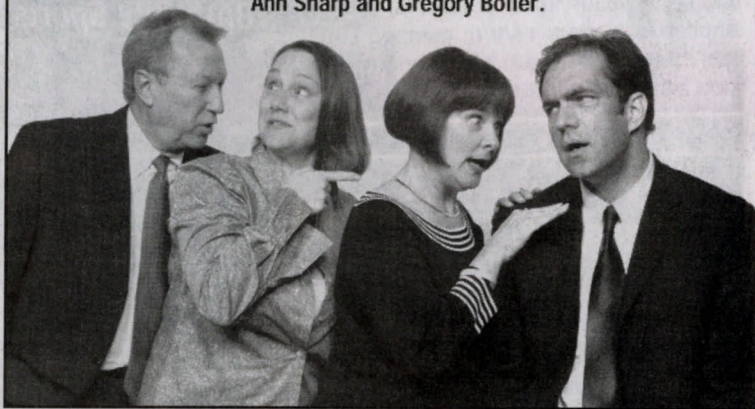
Wood: No, no. Actually, he has one in the works right now. God, the man must be nearly 80 years old by now. He has been the most prolific author of any American playwright. This play dates around 1990, I think. Theatre Memphis did this show before. We did it when it was new around 1991 or 1992. I directed the production then. It was very successful and everybody was real happy with it.

They've asked me to revive it a couple of times since but it's never been convenient until now. This was kind of a last minute substitution on the season because something else had been planned but the rights to the show got pulled. I was free this time and glad to do it because I had a great time working on it before. I had a wonderful group of actors and it got wonderful audience response. People just ate it up. It's probably the least substantial Neil Simon play. It has absolutely no deep meaning at all. This play is simply about the dangers of not telling the truth. It's about people who start making up stuff and it just escalates. This is one of the few plays of his that he actually calls a farce. It's as light as air and as funny as it can be.

F&F: As a director, how do you know when something is funny?

Wood: You never really know. A director can think it's funny and it falls flat and vice versa. That's one thing I've learned. You can try your best and something you thought was funny will just die. There have been other times when there was a line that I thought meant nothing and I thought to cut it, but I'd leave it in and it would get a huge laugh. What do I know? Audiences

The *Rumors* cast includes, from left, Jerry Chipman, Ann Marie Hall, Ann Sharp and Gregory Boller.



always surprise you and they also teach you things.

F&F: Can you teach actors comic timing?

Wood: I don't know how to teach them that. I think you just have to hire actors with a sense of comedy. You can't always give them a sure-fire comic bit if it doesn't come from them. I'd much rather have a comic idea come from an actor than from me because if it comes from them it's because they can see the humor in it. They're going to put it over. I can tell them something is funny, but if they don't really see it that way it's not going to work. That's why comedy is such a delicate thing. Any little thing can throw it off. You just have to hope that you can find actors who have the comic skills to pull it off.

F&F: Why has Neil Simon lasted so long?

Wood: Because he's funny! He has a funny way with words and he has funny insight into people. Of course, he's famous for the one-liner or smart-ass remark. In this show, the situations and the characters are funny. Farce, of course, is noted for the situation-extreme situations that people get into and how they dig themselves in deeper or how they get out of it. I recently read a wonderful definition of farce: "It's like f*****g in a house on fire." It has that kind of urgency. You know, you really increase your stroke if your house is burning. Farce is people living at the edge or at the extreme. They care so much about something that they

See Front Row, page 43

ETC to celebrate Pride

Emerald Theatre Company, in residence at TheatreWorks, 2085 Monroe, will present "Out Tonight 4: A Cabaret" Pride Weekend, June 10-12. Enjoy an evening of your favorite Broadway songs. Showtimes are 8 p.m. each night. Tickets are \$10 each. Reservations are recommended to this historically sold-out show by calling (901) 722-9302.

Tony Horne to direct PF July 2

Playwrights Forum will present the Mid-South premiere of the award-winning *Question of Color*, written by Michael Bettencourt and directed by Tony Horne, June 16 to July 2, at TheatreWorks, 2085 Monroe Avenue. *Question of Color* is the story of a white man and a black woman who defy an early 20th century North Carolina prohibition against miscegenation and get married. Showtimes are Thursdays through Saturdays, at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10 each and reservations can be made by calling (901) 725-2040.

Provocative play set for Circuit



Edward Albee's *The Goat, or Who is Sylvia?* takes the stage at The Circuit Playhouse, 1705 Poplar Avenue, June 10 through July 10. Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Albee provides a provocative, daring and controversial look at love and marriage in this play. The revelation of the exact depth of his spiritual love for Sylvia brings Martin to the

edge of society's tolerance and face-to-face with his own loneliness. Showtimes are Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$22 for adults; \$20 for seniors, and \$16 for students and military personnel. The Pay-What-You-Can performance is set for Thursday, June 16, at 8 p.m. For more information or reservations, call (901) 726-4656. *Note: This play includes an advisory for explicit theater.* This is an Arts Access Event

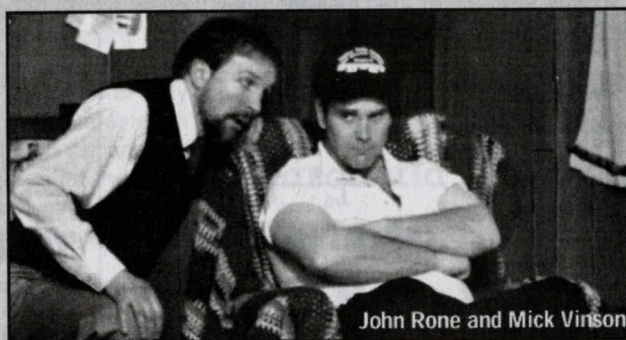
POTS to stage Disney's 'Beauty'



Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* will be staged at Playhouse on the Square, 51 South Cooper, June 24 to July 24. Based on Disney's animated classic, *Beauty and the Beast* combines never-before-heard tunes with all the show-stopping favorites of the Academy Award-winning film to reimagine the

story of Belle, a strong-willed young woman, who finds herself in an enchanted castle where a prince hides from the past, turned into a beast by an evil enchantress. Showtimes are 8 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays, and 2 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$29 for adults; \$20 for seniors; \$16 for students and military personnel, and \$12 for children. The Pay-What-You-Can performance is set for Wednesday, June 29, at 8 p.m. For more information or reservations, call (901) 726-4656. This is an Arts Access Event.

Held Over



Germantown Community Theatre's run of *The Foreigner* has been extended. The show will be on stage Saturday and Sunday, June 11 and 12. For times and ticket information, call (901) 754-2680.

Former Memphian Peterson Toscano to appear in film

Former Memphis resident and queer performance activist Peterson Toscano will be featured in the upcoming "ex-gay" documentary, *Fish Can't Fly*, which will premiere June 12 at Newfest, New York City's GLBT film festival.

Filmed in locations throughout Memphis, Toscano plays a central role in the film; the title of the film comes from a line in Toscano's one-man show, *Doin' Time in the Homo No Mo Halfway House*.

Last fall while touring the Mid-South, Toscano shared his experience in the Love in Action ex-gay program through an interview with gay filmmaker Tom Murray and on stage as he performed his show at Neshoba Unitarian Universalist church. Once the film premieres in NYC, it is slated to tour the circuit of GLBT film festivals nationally and internationally.

Fish Can't Fly is a timely documentary that takes a secular point of view to explore the lives of gay men and women of faith as they recall their journeys to put their sexuality and spirituality in harmony. While the whole concept of changing one's sexual orientation may be viewed with a high level of skepticism, ridicule and even humor by the larger GLBT community, these are the stories of those who have tried.

This is the second feature length documentary by Murray. His previous work, *Farm Family: In Search of Gay Life in Rural America*, was premiered in 2004 at NYC's Newfest.

For more information on the film, go online to www.fishcantfly.com. For more information on Toscano, go online to www.homonomo.com.

Front Row

from page 42

throw themselves into it in ways they normally wouldn't. It's about desperation. Farce takes a lot of energy.

F&F: Well, here's to hoping neither one of us finds ourselves in a house on fire. If so, let's hope that fireman brings a big hose.

Showtimes for *Rumors* are 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays; 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and 2 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$20 for adults; \$12 for students with valid ID, and \$8 for children under 12. A special \$5 discount is available on any adult ticket purchased for performances on June 10, 11, 12, 15 and 16.

For more information or reservations, call (901) 682-8323.

MEMPHIS BAR, RESTAURANT & THEATER GUIDE

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2018 Court Street
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(901) 276-8078
3. **Crossroads 2**
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4. **J-Wags**
1268 Madison Avenue
(901) 725-1909
5. **The Jungle**
1474 Madison Avenue
(901) 278-0521
6. **Lorenz/Aftershock**
1528 Madison Avenue
(901) 274-8272
7. **Madison Flame**
1588 Madison Avenue
(901) 278-0569
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**
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(901) 320-0026
13. **Printer's Alley**
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GLBT RETAILERS

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- Cafe Ole**
2127 Young Avenue
(901) 274-1504
- Cafe Society**
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(901) 722-2177
- Dish**
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(901) 276-0002
- Grill 'n' Bar**
326 S. Cleveland
(901) 725-9809
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(901) 278-MORE
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(901) 323-1196

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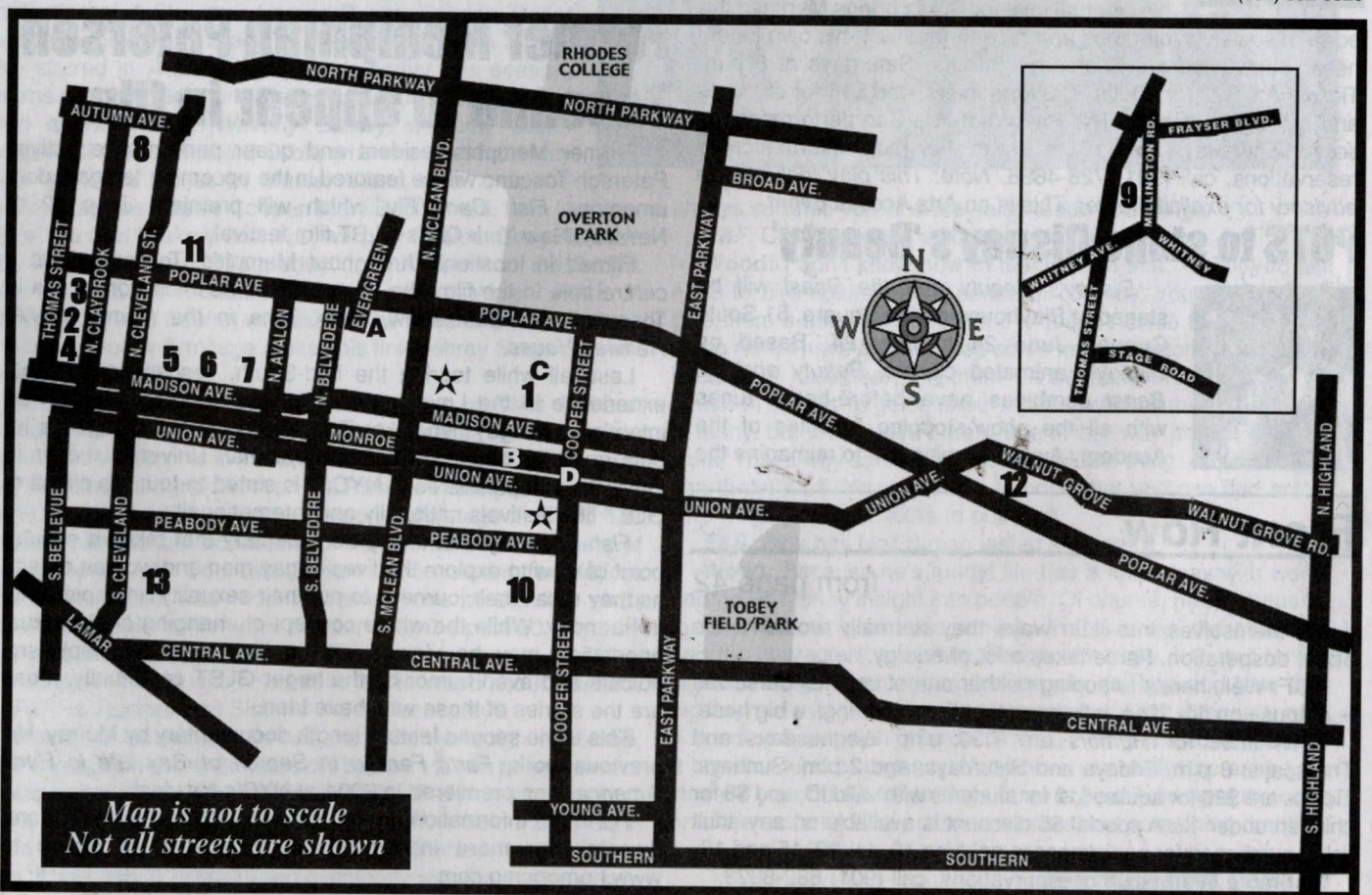
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(901) 726-4656
- B Emerald Theatre Company**
2085 Monroe Avenue
(901) 722-9302
- C Malco's Studio on the Square**
2105 Court Avenue
Movie Hotline: (901) 681-2020
- D Playhouse on the Square**
51 South Cooper
(901) 726-4656
- NOT ON MAP**
The Orpheum
203 South Main Street
(901) 525-3000
- Theatre Memphis**
630 Perkins Extended
(901) 682-8323





DINING OUT

by Laer Gib Retae

BLUEFISH

Prior to going to Bluefish I had been told that the interior was "cool" and that it would be a nice, social setting for a late dinner. And it's true that the interior is a stark contrast to that of one of the previous tenants of that space – a hemp shop. The first things one notices upon entry, unless they are blind, are the light up blue palm trees. One of my dinner companions pointed them out and thought that they were "fab." I felt certain that they were, if fact, from the same supplier and even the same production batch as those outside of Hooters, just in a different color.

However, that, my friend, is where the similarities to Hooters end. For, you see, the quality and freshness of food and the timeliness of service are better, even at Hooters. And though the servers at Hooters are hardly to my taste (!), at least they dress uniformly and seem to give a darn as to whether or not your food is recognizable when compared to its corresponding description on the menu. And at least it usually turns up in

the same calendar day upon which it was ordered. And – if my memory serves me correctly – it is usually of a temperature consistent with that of just cooked food. Not so at Bluefish.

There were four of us in our party and between us we ordered three starters and four entrees. Two of the starters were okay, if not quite good (those being the crab cakes and the eggplant with crab meat). However, one of our party ordered the gumbo as their starter only to find that it was cold. I was interested in the verdict on the gumbo as another friend had already warned that they had chunky, luke-warm and over-buttered gumbo on a previous visit. This seemed just as bad.

After waiting what seemed like an eternity, but what was actually not long enough for what we had ordered, our entrees arrived. I ordered the one token chicken dish on the menu. My three companions had ordered fish cooked in various ways with various sauces (one of them ordered the fresh, seasonal option

and the other two salmon). However, upon first glance you could not tell any of our four dishes apart. They all seemed to have been charred to death by a sadistic chef with a fetish for blackening. In stark contrast, though, the food was actually barely warm at all. One of my companions had to send his back entirely as it was clearly warmed-over by a refrigerator that wished it was a microwave; my chicken was as

See Bluefish, page 46

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Bluefish

from page 45

hard as and looked like charcoal; another friend's fish was also barely warm; and our fourth companion's was so hot that it couldn't be consumed for 10 minutes after it arrived. To say that the

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E-mail: carole.moore-slater@vanderbilt.edu

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

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

entire experience was inconsistent would be heaping praise in comparison to the truth of the situation.

I would feel bad saying these things except that I had been warned by one set of friends prior to ever going, so I'm hardly alone in my estimation. In addition, two of my companions had been told by totally different friends about their respective dire experiences. And yet we soldiered on hoping for a redeeming shred to share from our night there.

The menu is largely fish, but there are steak and chicken offerings for those who do not eat fish. The average entree is \$19. On a scale of 1 to 10, I'd give it a 3.5.

(This is an opinion/editorial piece. The views expressed in this column are those of the writer and are not necessarily those of Family & Friends Magazine or its staff.)

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Price/Cost: average \$19

Dining Style: Fine dining in a casual atmosphere

Cuisine: Fresh seafood/oyster bar

Service: Fair

Quality of Food: Very Poor

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(first seating at 5:30); Friday &

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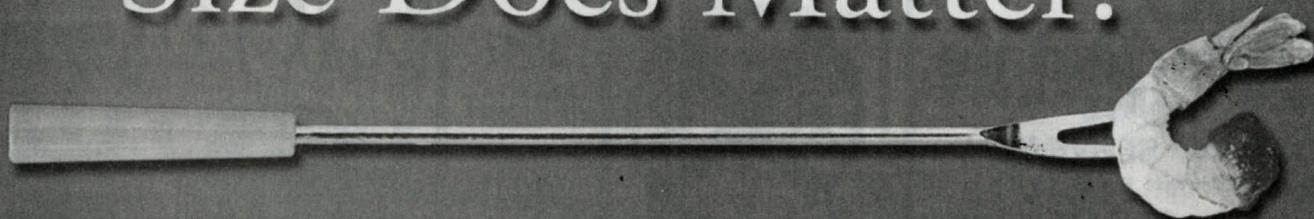
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Liquor: Full-service bar

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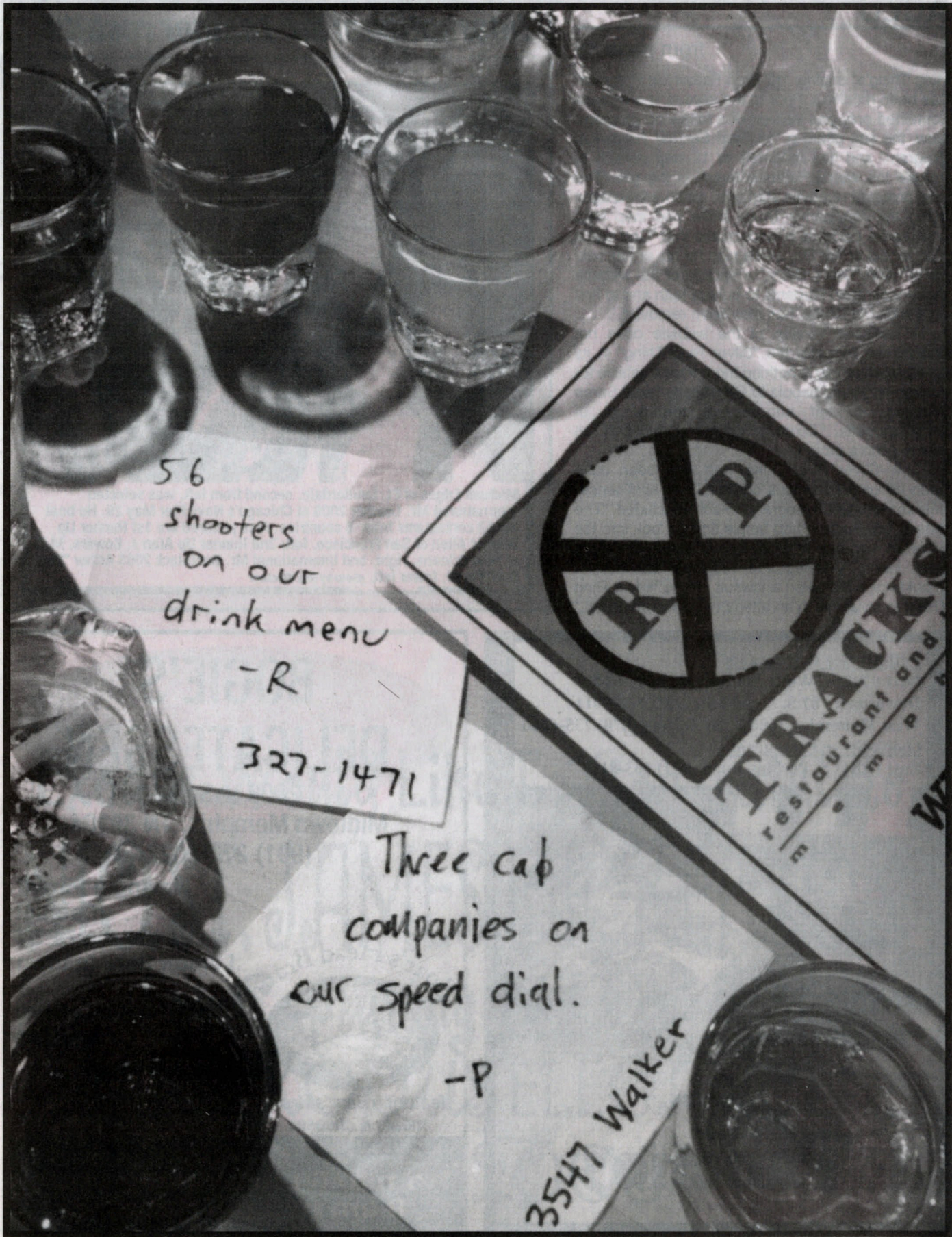


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ACLU

from page 36

Ring Thing's" original "12 Step Follow-Up Program" has been modified. Prior to the lawsuit, the website contained only one version of a follow-up program. Now, the site offers a "10 Step Secular Follow-Up Program" and has renamed its 12-step version to include the words "faith-centered" in the title. The new program removes step two, which encourages using the Abstinence Study Bible and step four, which asks students to understand that "God has a plan for his or her life, and a plan for his or her sexuality." And "Deb's Diary," a section of the website that encouraged students to pursue faith and to find completion in Christ, has also been removed.

"A sanitized version of the website does not change the fact that the "Silver Ring Thing" in its core programming is nothing more than a vehicle for converting young people to Christianity," said Sarah Wunsch, a staff attorney at the ACLU of Massachusetts. "Taxpayer dollars should play no part in such a program."

"The 'Silver Ring Thing' has long been quite open about the religious content in its abstinence-only sex education program," Mach concluded. "The federal government had ample time to look into the program and see whether or not taxpayer dollars were being funneled into religious activities. It should not have taken a lawsuit for the 'Silver Ring Thing' to scramble in an attempt to clean up its act."

International Mr. Leather results



Michael Edges of Ft. Lauderdale, second from left, was selected International Mr. Leather 2005 at Chicago's Navy Pier May 29. He beat out 52 contestants from 6 countries. Also pictured are 1st Runner Up Dodger Allen of San Francisco, left; 2nd Runner Up Alan J. Bowers, M.D. of New Orleans, right, and International Mr. Bootblack 2005 Arthur "Boo Boo" Funni, lower left. photo by Rex Wockner

Full-Service Restaurants

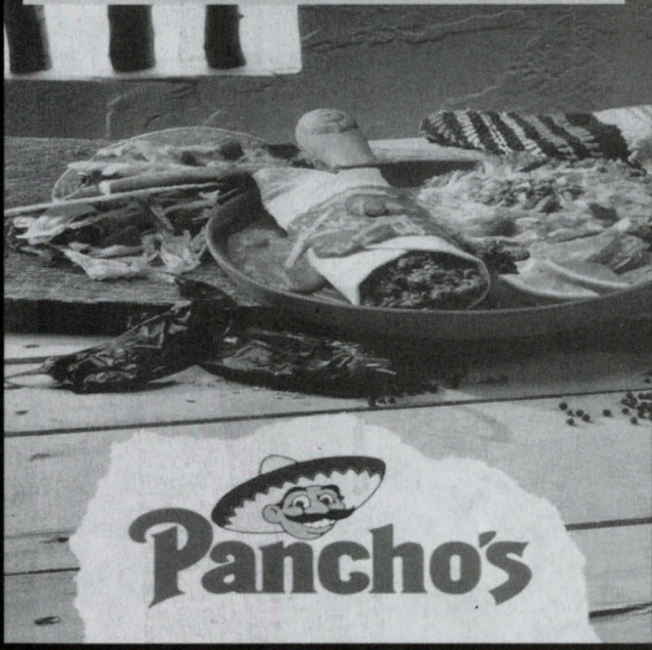
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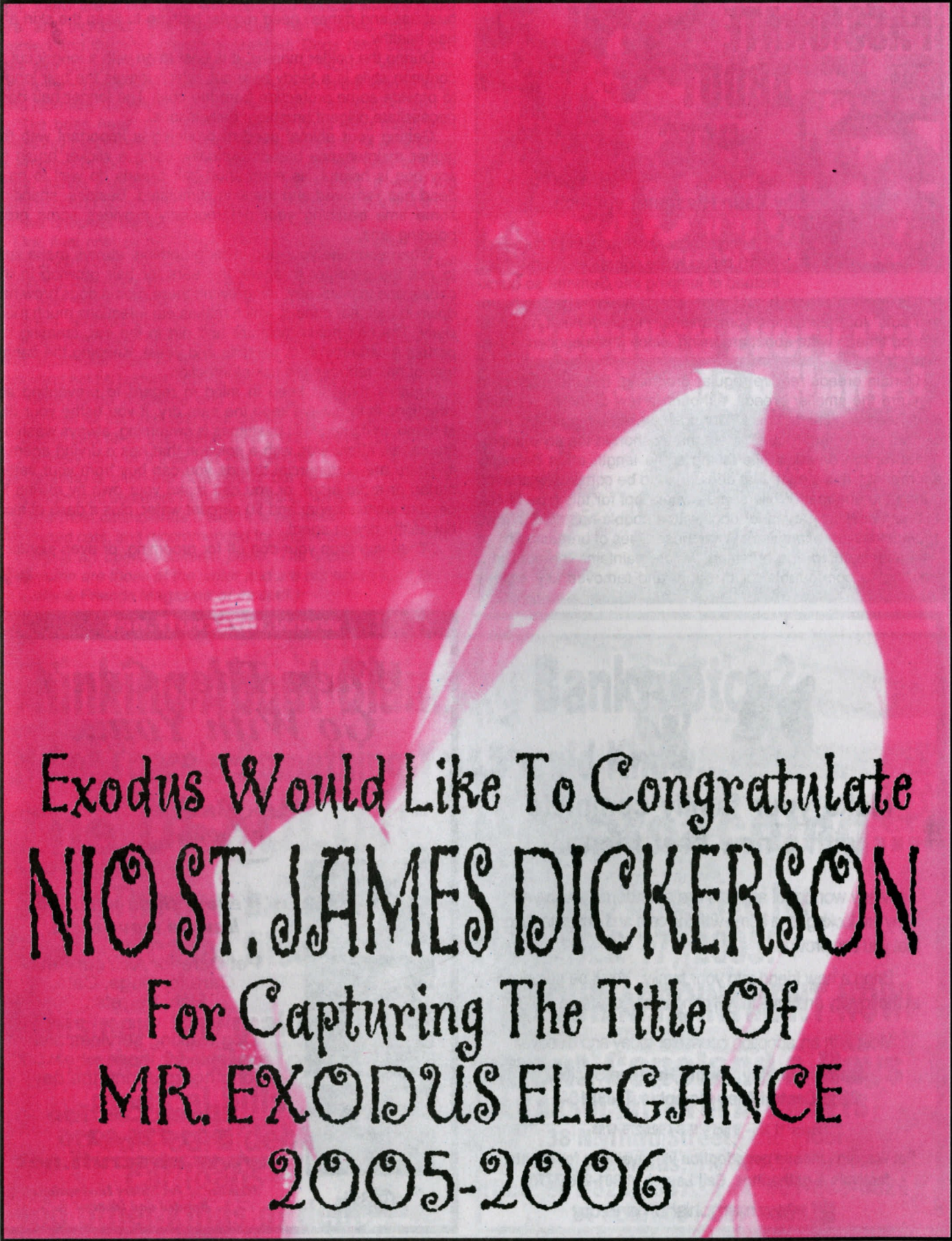


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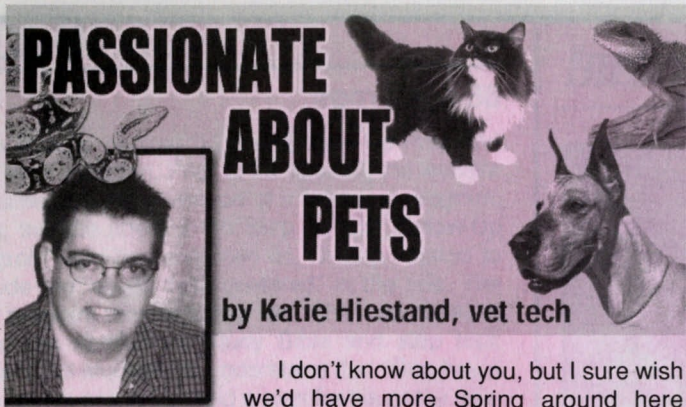
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by Katie Hiestand, vet tech

I don't know about you, but I sure wish we'd have more Spring around here instead of jumping into Summer so quickly. It is inevitable though, and many clients are now getting "summer cuts" for their canine companions. I figured that it might be a good time to write about grooming, since it is a concern for so many folks.

Certain breeds require regular grooming. For the most part, they are the smaller breeds, although a few of the larger ones also need regular haircuts. During the warmer months, most owners get "summer cuts," a cut that is short in the style appropriate for the breed. While taking some length off is definitely appropriate, it is a myth that dogs need to be completely shaved during the summer. While some owners opt for this type of cut, it is not necessary, even for dogs with a double-hair coat (chows and huskies are examples). What these types of breeds do need is regular bathing and brushing, which maintains the coat in a way that is comfortable for the dog, and removes any excess

hair from the coats. Also, even dogs with short coats (labs, chihuahuas and danes) need regular bathing to keep the skin and hair healthy.

During the colder months, it is best to go with a longer cut. A common style is a teddy bear cut, which leaves the hair longer to provide some protection from the cold. The longer hair does necessitate diligent brushing; daily is ideal.

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

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

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

When you drop your dog off for grooming, or even just for a



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bath, there are a few other services you should always make sure are included. The ears should be cleaned, the nails trimmed and the anal glands expressed. Dogs (and cats, too) have two glands, one on either side of the rectum, which produce a very smelly fluid used for identification in the animal kingdom. Normally the glands are emptied during defecation, sort of an "I've been here" type of thing. Some dogs (and much less commonly cats) have a tendency for the glands to fill up and not be emptied properly. During a bath is the perfect time to have those glands expressed. Speaking of the glands, if your dog starts scooting across the floor dragging its bottom, the first thing to have checked are the anal glands.

One final note on grooming: At the clinic we are often asked about bathing cats. The only time I ever recommend bathing a cat is if he's gotten really dirty, especially by something like tar or anything else really difficult to get off. Cats are very fastidious groomers, and will keep themselves clean as far as daily grime. Most cats hate water, and bathing them becomes very stressful for them; often cats must be sedated to do it safely. Even cats with fleas need not be bathed; several flea preventatives available from your veterinarian (Frontline and Advantage being two excellent choices) will kill the fleas and your cat will clean herself/himself.

Having said all of this, sometimes a bath is in order for a cat who is really dirty, or if their hair has become matted. For matted cats, shaving is often the best option, but generally needs to be done under light sedation. Regular brushing can help prevent matting, and most cats tolerate it well. It is necessary for medium- to long-haired cats, and recommended for short-haired cats, as well.

(This is an opinion/editorial piece. The views expressed in this column are those of the writer and are not necessarily those of Family & Friends Magazine or its staff.)

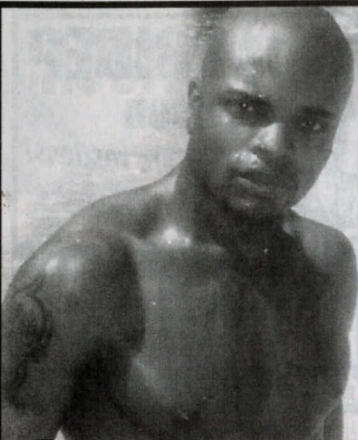
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This new law makes it harder to wipe out medical bills, credit card debt, car loans and other kinds of debt.



PRIDE

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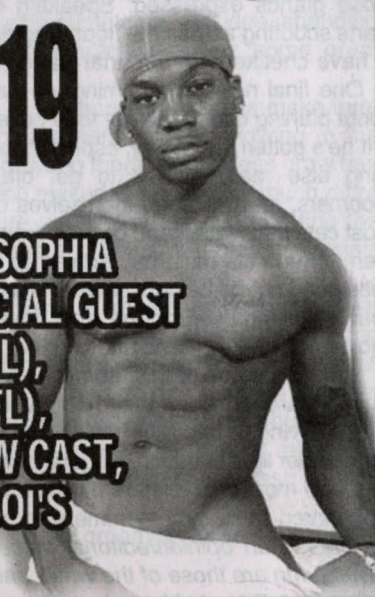
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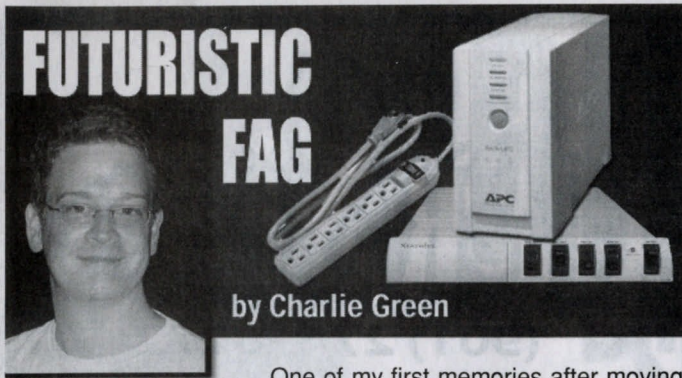
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FUTURISTIC FAG

by Charlie Green

One of my first memories after moving to Memphis was of the very powerful electrical storms we have. I can honestly remember one night being so frightened that I literally lay in bed thinking that I really needed to go unplug my computer but what would be the fastest route to the desk and back, a distance of about five feet. The problem was that I knew that lightning has a nasty habit of frying electronics, and I really couldn't let that happen to my computer (what would happen to my love life?). Thankfully, I did get the courage up to run across the room and yank the plug out of the wall. (Note: There really are better ways to shut down your computer.)

One of the problems I had that night is that I knew I was using a cheap power strip and it probably wasn't going to be much help if lightning got too close. I, like a lot of other people, had bought a cheap gadget that would allow me to plug up almost all my devices and the box did say it offered power surge protection. I, of course, knew this really wasn't the optimal solution, but hey, it was cheap. Thankfully, in the time since

then, as my investment in all things electronic has grown, I also have invested in the protection of all my toys. While I understand that most folks really don't have a need for a battery backup-up, surge suppressing, power line conditioner at every outlet, this is me. In a world of danger at every turn could I really be called obsessive?

So what is the big deal? Electricity flows kinda like water. In American homes electricity is designed to flow at the same rate, which in turn allows electronics manufacturers to design stuff to be compatible. The problem is sometimes the electricity can suddenly start flowing at a much higher rate; if this were water it would cause a pipe to burst. When this happens it is called a "surge" (imagine a tidal wave). Well, your electronics are not designed to handle most of these, that's where the protection comes in. These surges can be caused by lightning or other shorts in the system, either outside or inside your home.

So what can you do?

The simplest option is a cheapo power strip with surge protection. You can find these for less than 10 bucks and they usually have five or six outlets. The primary function here is expanding your outlets. These devices generally offer a very basic protection from minor surges. Basic surge protectors like these are capable of handling some of the smaller possible surges. Think of that little overflow hole in your bathroom sink; yes it will offer some protection, but if you were to dump 10 gallons of water in the sink all at once you will still have wet feet.

The next option, and probably the most common, is an upgraded power strip with surge protection. These will generally start around \$20 and up from there. With these you also will start to find protection for your telephone and cable lines. While not quite as common, surges in the current over your cable and telephone lines can be just as problematic. I have known a few Tivo owners who have had to buy a new Tivo because spikes over their phone lines took out the internal modems (which, of course, weren't replaceable).

One of the key things you want to look for in these middle-of-the-road options is how many Joules they protect against. You don't have to understand what a Joule is; this is one of those "the more the better" things. You also will find some of these devices will come with a guarantee where the manufacturer will pay for any device that is destroyed while connected to it (up to a dollar amount limit, of course). The higher the limit of what they will pay for, the better here, too.

The next level of protection is the UPS (no, not the cute guy in the brown shorts). A UPS is an "uninterruptible power supply." This bad boy will not only protect your equipment against power spikes and surges, it also will power your equipment for a few minutes (or longer) if the power goes out. The idea here is that you will have enough time to power down your equipment properly for extended outages or, if it is just a brief outage, you won't have to turn everything back on or lose any data. UPS units can be very expensive but if you keep your eyes peeled you can get some good deals that really aren't much more than some of the expensive, upgraded power strips.

Finally, keep in mind if you do lose power or aren't comfortable with the thought of losing your electronics, you can always unplug; after all, abstinence is the only sure method of protection. And one more thing, if you do lose power for any length of time, be sure to unplug everything you don't want to lose because when the power does come back on, it can be very dangerous.

(This is an opinion/editorial piece. The views expressed in this column are those of the writer and are not necessarily those of Family & Friends Magazine or its staff.)

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Reservations Suggested @ 901.722.9302**

THE GAY GOURMET

by Trey Bienville

SHRIMP QUEEN COLLEEN from Grandma Colleen!

2 tbsps green onions
sliced
3 tbsps butter
1 1/2 pounds medium
shrimp, shelled &
deveined



1 8 oz. package
cream cheese, cubed
3 tbsps milk
1/2 c. Swiss cheese,
shredded
2 tbsps dry white wine
dash of red pepper
1/4 c. dry bread crumbs,
fine
2 tbsps butter, melted

COOKING METHOD:

Saute onions in butter in a large skillet until tender.

Add shrimp. Cook over medium heat, stirring occasionally, until pink.

Remove shrimp with slotted spoon and set aside.

Add cream cheese and milk to skillet, stirring constantly until cheese melts. Stir in Swiss cheese and wine. Add shrimp and pepper.

Cook just until heated. Pour into lightly greased casserole.

Combine bread crumbs and remaining butter. Sprinkle over casserole.

Broil 1 to 2 minutes, until golden.

Serve over hot cooked rice or pasta.

...

Trey says ...

"The only difference between butch and bitch is U & I!"

(Reprinted with permission from *Gay Gourmet: The Queer Cuisine of New Orleans*, ©2003 by Trey Bienville. For more information, go online to www.gaygourmet.org.)

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RUMORS

by Neil Simon



JUNE 10-26

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You've all been invited to a dinner party in honor of the happy couple's 10th anniversary. But when you arrive you find the husband bleeding, the wife missing, the maid gone and nothing prepared for the evening. The explanations will keep you guessing until the very end as Neil Simon works his comedy magic on an impossible situation.

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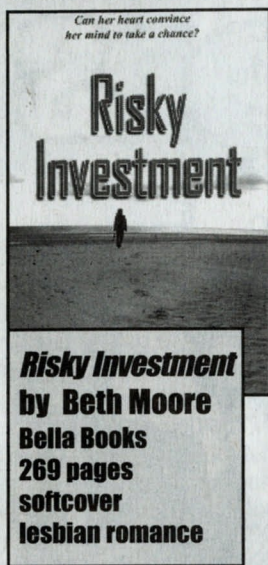
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2 books that don't depict lesbians as straight women seducers

books reviewed by Patricia Pair, publisher



Risky Investment
by Beth Moore
Bella Books
269 pages
softcover
lesbian romance

Finally, Bella Books has given us not one, but two fictional lesbian romance stories that don't depict lesbians as seducers of straight women. Our thanks not only to Bella, but its authors Beth Moore (*Risky Investment*) and Gerri Hill (*Hunter's Way*).

Through very different situations, both books' main lesbian characters, Lynn Gregory and Tori Hunter, respectively, find themselves thrust into the lives of two straight women, Chris Newman and Samantha Kennedy. Each of the lesbians discovers an attraction to their straight counterpart, but instead of just "going for it" per the usual stereotype, Lynn and Tori refuse to get romantically involved with the heterosexual women. An example is Lynn's constant

reminder to herself, "she's straight, she's straight, she's straight."

Definitely two of my most recent favorite books, both are true page-turners, the reading of each accomplished in one day.

Risky Investment is Moore's debut novel for Bella, and we hope it's not her last. Full of messages, like finding simple pleasures, don't live in the closet and we can't help who we fall in love

with, it also features a gay man as Lynn's roommate, Matt.

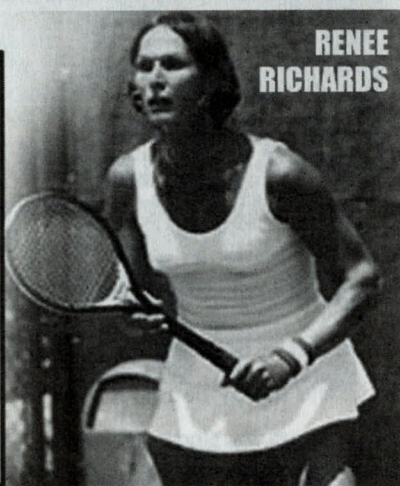
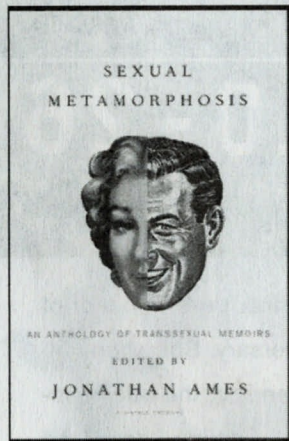
Being a true "Law and Order" fan, Hill's latest effort for Bella, *Hunter's Way*, (there are at least four previous titles) took us inside a police department's homicide investigation with Tori being the department's "rogue" cop. When Tori, against her will, has to break-in a new partner, her seventh in as many years, "Sam" Kennedy, the sparks really fly for a myriad of reasons.

But these books aren't just stories about lesbians who find themselves attracted to straight women. They're also the stories of two heterosexual women who find themselves attracted to lesbians and try to deal with their new-found feelings in a host of ways. One fights the attraction and what it might mean to the rest of her life while it takes a crisis for the other to realize her true self.

Perfect for summer reading, just be careful not to get sunburned by the pool because once you start reading, it'll be hard to stop. And the chemistry between these characters was enough to make us lower the thermostat on the AC.



Hunter's Way
by Gerri Hill
Bella Books
366 pages
softcover
lesbian romance



Sexual Metamorphosis:
An Anthology of Transsexual Memoirs
Edited by Jonathan Ames
©2005, A Vintage Books Original

This 319-page paperback is not only fascinating but quite a page-turner. Editor Jonathan Ames presents high-profile examples of male-to-female (MTF) and female-to-male (FTM) transsexuals beginning with a MTF's story dating back to 1886. *Sexual Metamorphosis* puts both a face and a voice to these individuals living in their wrong gendered body and making a choice to correct it.

Presented in chronological order, Ames first presents a reprint of a chapter from *Psychopathia Sexualis* by Richard von

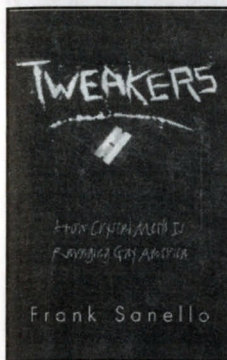
Krafft-Ebing (1886), the German physician and neurologist who pioneered work in "sexual pathology" and coined the terms "sadism, masochism and fetishism." (By the way, one of his more notable students was Sigmund Freud.) Ames reprints Case 129, the autobiography of a patient who "feels like a woman in a man's form."

The next installment is a chapter from *Man Into Woman*, written by Grete Wegener, a woman whose marriage was dissolved by the King of Denmark after her husband, Einar Wegener first underwent what we would consider today the first attempt at sexual reassignment surgery, back in 1930.

"Some time afterward he (Professor Wener Kreutz) will operate on me himself. He wants to remove the dead (and formerly imperfect) male organs, and to restore the female organs with new and fresh material. Then it will be Lili (Elbe) who will survive!" — From a letter written by Einar Wegener/Lili Elbe, Jan. 29, 1930.

Ames's next chapter is about "Joe" a female-to-male transsexual, presented in a reprint of a chapter from Harry Benjamin, M.D.'s *The Transsexual Phenomenon*, first published in 1966. Benjamin coined the term "transsexual." Joe, although always attracted to women, reveals his feelings of being male in a female body and how he fits more into the straight world, as opposed to the gay world, especially post-surgically.

The remaining chapters present reprints about other transsexual individuals of note, including MTFs Christine Jorgensen (1967), Jan Morris (1974), Renee Richards, M.D. (1983), Caroline Cossey, a.k.a. Tula (1991), Diedre McCloskey (1999), Aleshia Brevard (2001), Calpernia Sarah Addams (2003), Donna Rose (2003) and Jennifer Finney Boylan (2003), and FTMs Mario Martino (1978), Loren Cameron (1996) and Mark Rees (1996).



Tweakers:
How Crystal Meth
Is Ravaging Gay
America
by Frank Sanello
Alyson Publications
248 pages
softcover

Journalist Frank Sanello uncovers shocking facts and hard-to-face realities in *Tweakers*, his in depth study of too many gay American's deadly addiction to crystal meth.

Having previously authored *Opium Wars: The Addiction of One Empire and the Corruption of Another*, Sanello is well-qualified to examine how crystal abuse is reaching epidemic levels among gay men. *Tweakers* get a quick cheap high, an exhilarating loss of inhibition and increased stamina at the price of permanent behavioral changes, brain damage and death due, not only to the dangers associated with routine methamphetamine use, but also the horrifying side-effects brought on by the reagenting ingredients used in the processing of crystal.

Sanello's book draws upon conversations with addicts, as well as experts in the gay community and at drug treatment centers.

"I used to be a surgeon," he whispers despairingly as he injects himself with crystal." This excerpt, taken from one of the eight case studies Sanello uses to launch his uncompromising exploration of crystal addiction, vividly illustrates the inevitable downward spiral associated with habitual use of methamphetamine.



While this 279-page hardcover book, published by HarperCollins, is subtitled "two girls, two worlds – one love affair," it's a hard read as the book is set in England and the author, Julie Burchill, British. The difference in American English and that of overseas makes reading more work than fictional reading should be. The tale of 16-year old Kim, Saint and Sugar, *Sugar Rush* is suitable for teens and up.

COMING
NEXT
MONTH



5 minutes with the author Craig Hickman



F&F: What or who inspired you to write this book?

Hickman: I felt compelled to write this book. Inspiration came primarily from true Spirit and Love, which I consider Divinity. The ancestral spirits of Madree Penn White, James Baldwin and Essex Hemphill motivated me and my husband, Job, and best friend, Gail, gave me day-to-day inspiration.

F&F: How do you, personally, describe this book?

Hickman: It is a book of modern scripture.

F&F: Tell us a little about your main characters.

Hickman: I'm the protagonist as the book is about my life. To know more about the characters, all of whom are compelling, I'd suggest you buy and read the book.

F&F: Is the book autobiographical in any way?

Hickman: The book is a memoir: the events are real, the characters, lived.

F&F: Do you like to read, if so who are some of your favorite authors and/or books?

Hickman: James Baldwin is my favorite author, followed by Toni Morrison. *Beloved* is my favorite book.

F&F: What made you want to be a writer?

Hickman: I had no choice. I was compelled to write.

F&F: Can we expect to see more work from you in the future?

Hickman: Of course.

F&F: Is there any other information you're willing to share with your future readers/fans? Such as, where did you go to school, where did you grow up, how long have you and your partner been together, what is your profession, etc.?

Hickman: It's all in the book!

Fumbling Toward Divinity:
The Adoption Scriptures
©2005, Craig Hickman
Annabessacook Farm

reviewed by Anita Moyt,
managing editor

Craig Hickman's autobiography goes into extreme detail about his search for his biological mother and what happens when he finds her and his subsequent biological family. Having been adopted, his search becomes one of mystery as he has to decipher black marker, sanitized adoption reports to do it. His book further goes into more detail about other relationships in his life.

It took two times to start Hickman's book, mainly due to his unique writing style, one with a sing-song rhythm to his words, suggestive of "scripture," as his title references. Once we got use to the style (much like getting in the zone to read

Shakespeare), the reading speeds up and the details of his life kept the pages turning

Here is an example:

Hickman wrote, "The next day, Craig met again Jacobus called Job on the Internet while he was looking for colleges in Huntsville, Alabama (the striker of record slipped up and left that location uncovered), the place where the Documents said she had attended college. A photograph, which he had found that very morning of Seldon called Roy sat atop the computer looking down on him, bearing witness to his Internet reunion."





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HIV/AIDS EDUCATION 101



Updates and news from Friends For Life

FFL testing program subject of article

Friends For Life Corporation (FFL) was recently contacted by the federal Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA), which is seeking to write an article about the agency's HIV testing program. The HRSA explained their reasoning to pick FFL for the article to be published in a future issue of the HRSA's monthly "The CARE Action Newsletter."

"The HIV/AIDS Bureau of the HRSA has indicated that Friends For Life Corporation has a particularly good track record for counseling and testing (for HIV), particularly with people returning for results."

Presently, FFL offers free, confidential HIV testing at its offices, located at 1384 Madison Avenue, each Tuesday, from 1 to 4 p.m., and each Thursday, from 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. The agency plans to expand its HIV testing services to daily when the new FFL headquarters, located at 43 North Cleveland, are opened later this year.

"The importance of knowing one's HIV status is life-saving information," said FFL Executive Director Kim Moss. "Knowing one's status as early as possible in the disease process can significantly extend life expectancy."

City bestows honor on FFL

In April, the City of Memphis awarded FFL's Wellness University program its Award of Excellence. Nominated by the City of Memphis's Housing and Community Development division, the Wellness University is a comprehensive wellness program made possible by a collaboration of 20 community organizations and coordinated by FFL.

FFL plans move

According to projections from the architectural firm Askew Nixon and Ferguson Architects, FFL plans to move into its newly renovated building, located at 43 North Cleveland, late this summer.

The three-story, 16,000-square foot building will consolidate all of FFL's comprehensive services, with the exception of housing and The Haven, under one roof. This consolidation will eventually save the agency, and the community, up to \$36,000 a year, which is the amount presently being paid for leasing the office building at 1384 Madison. That office presently houses the main administrative offices, the case management program, HIV testing, the transportation program and the food pantry.

"The need for the services provided by Friends For Life continues to grow at a dramatic rate and we are literally bursting at the seams at both of the buildings we are now using," Moss said. "No longer will clients who use the food pantry have to stand outside in line regardless of the weather because there was no room for them in the building. No longer will there be a parking problem. There are only five parking spaces in front of the office on Madison and 10 spaces in the back of the building. A large parking lot just across the street from the new building also was part of the gift and this lot will hold 40 to 45 vehicles."

Prior to the building at 43 North Cleveland being donated to FFL, the building was used by a company that made prosthetic devices.

"The building has a large parking lot as the basement floor and this 6,000-square foot space is being renovated to be used for the food pantry," Moss explained. "The ground floor will house the client services areas, including the food pantry pro-

HIV/AIDS TESTING SITES & INFORMATION

Friends For Life & The Positive Living Center

1384 Madison Avenue / 28 North Claybrook
Call Friends For Life for dates and times
FREE OraSure • appointments may be required
For more information, call (901) 272-0855

Memphis & Shelby County Health Department

814 Jefferson Avenue, Room 221 • 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Monday-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 to Thursday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fridays • FREE OraSure testing for ages 13-24, over age 24: \$35 blood test, \$40 OraSure • For more information, call (901) 725-1717

New Directions Inc.

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

The Shot Nurse

4646 Poplar/So. Perkins • 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesdays • There is a charge for an HIV test • For more information, call (901) 685-9999

Medical Testing Resources Inc.

4322 American Way • 9 am to 4:30 pm Monday-Friday
OraQuick 20-minute HIV test • Confidential
Cost: \$70 to \$90 • ages 13 and up
For more information, call (901) 795-5905

The Exodus Empowerment Project

2600 Poplar Avenue • Suite 200
For more information, call (901) 458-4717

See FFL, page 59

HIV Oral Swab Test

20-MINUTE IMMEDIATE RESULT



FDA approved, confidential HIV testing in a private setting with counseling and support at your fingertips.

901-795-5905

Office open M-F, 9 am to 4:30 pm. Evening appointments available.

Medical Testing Resources
4322 American Way, Memphis

Five all-time dumbest lines:

"I absolutely know my partner's sexual history"

"Condoms are foolproof"

"For the last couple of years I've been careful"

"I can't have HIV, I feel fine"

"Testing is too much hassle. I'd rather not know"

Travel tips for people with HIV/AIDS given for summer

by Nancy Wongvipat

1. Pack your pills first. Your pills are not replaceable if you forget them, so put them first on your list of things to pack. It is also a good idea to take a two-day backup supply of your meds just in case your travel schedule changes unexpectedly.

2. Pack your pills in a carry-on bag. Make sure you have your pills with you in case of a flight delay or in the event that your luggage gets lost.

3. Never travel without your own supply of food and water. Food: Always travel with a supply of appropriate snacks in case you need to eat before you take your pills or when you get hungry. You also can call ahead and ask the airline to provide you with a special meal. Water: Dehydration can occur during long flights, which is especially to be avoided for people with HIV and those on Crixivan. Keep drinking fluids (e.g., water or juice) during your flight, not simply when you feel thirsty!

4. Adjust your dosing schedule according to the number of time zones you cross. As you travel from west to east (e.g., L.A. to New York), take each successive dose of your meds one hour earlier than you usually do. When you travel from east to west, you reverse this process by adding an hour between dosing cycles.

5. Remember that you are not at home. To avoid missing any of your doses or leaving your meds behind, it helps to travel with bright Post-Its. Use them to help you remember your schedule and to take them when you leave by sticking them on places you must visit often throughout the day (e.g. suitcase, hotel room key, dresser top).

(Adapted from June 1998 AIDS Care)

For traveling outside the country:

1. See your doctor about medicines to prevent infections com-

mon in other countries. A helpful website is the Centers for Disease Control (CDC)'s site at www.cdc.gov/travel.

2. Drink filtered or boiled water. If you travel to developing nations, you may be at a greater risk of getting cryptosporidiosis. Foods and drinks, in particular, raw fruits and vegetables, tap water or ice made from tap water, unpasteurized milk or dairy products, and items purchased from street vendors, may be contaminated.

3. Talk with your health care provider about other precautions you may want to take when you travel abroad, especially in developing countries.

Nancy Wongvipat, M.P.H. is a health education specialist at AIDS Project Los Angeles. Reprinted courtesy of www.PositiveWords.com. ©2000 by Dallabrida & Associates


(This is an opinion/editorial piece. The views expressed in this column are those of the writer and are not necessarily those of Family & Friends Magazine or its staff.)

FFL

from page 58

cessing area, case management, HIV testing, Positive Living Center and the Wellness University. The 'second floor' will be used for administrative offices. This floor has a huge room that will be used for agency meetings, board of director meetings and also will be made available to other community organizations."


FFL is the Mid-South's largest and oldest AIDS service organization. To read about the dramatic course of events that led to the building being donated to FFL, go to the agency's website at www.friendsforlifecorp.org/building.htm.



Friends For Life's

COFFEE SHOP

The first cup's on us!



Those who are HIV-Positive (and their partners) can attend June 13 & 27 from 6 to 8 p.m.
For location and information, call (901) 272-0855

Funded in part by the Mid-South AIDS Fund

Friends For Life's

FEAST FOR FRIENDS

temporarily served at

FIRST CONGO

1000 S. Cooper
June 6, 20 • July 18
Aug. 1, 15 • Sept. 19
at 6 pm



The change is temporary while St. John United Methodist Church undergoes renovation

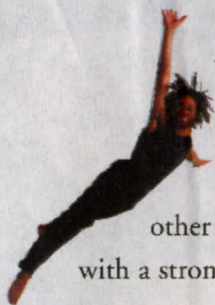
FAMILY ALBUM DIVAS OF DIVINITY BENEFIT FOR MID-SOUTH PRIDE

PHOTOS by Samuel Tickle

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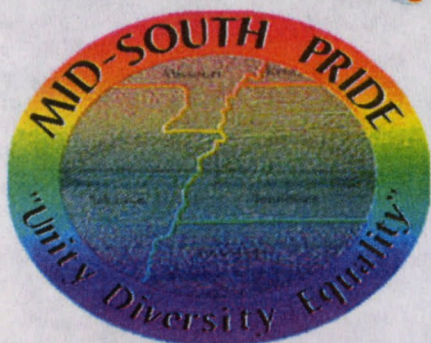
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Parade Saturday June 11th

Line at 3:00 PM
 Step off at 4:00 PM
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After Parade Reception

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Music by **Skinny White Chick**



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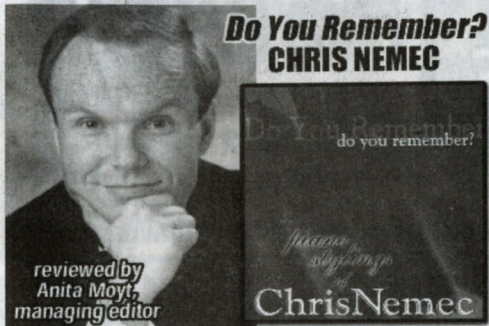
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by Joe Penhall

Questions of ethnicity, poverty, racism and power unfold as two psychiatrists consider the release of an enigmatic patient from a London mental hospital. What begins as a debate over one man becomes a full-scale battle of minds and wills, an intense struggle between protecting society and preserving an individual's rights. Winner of the Olivier and *Evening Standard* Awards for Best New Play.

MUSIC

IN THE MIX for the musically inclined



Do You Remember?
CHRIS NEMEC

reviewed by
Anita Moyt,
managing editor

As we were working at our computer, we picked up a CD and loaded it in the player. The CD was one by local Memphian and professional musician Chris NemeC, entitled *Do You Remember?*

The first thing to come to our mind was a dinner party and this music playing in the background – beautiful, soft, relaxing piano accompaniment to an enjoyable evening. And even though we weren't at a dinner party but working at our computer, we kept on listening all the way through because it was so soothing and good, very good.

To our surprise, NemeC was one step

ahead of us.

"Since junior high school, I have been playing cocktail-style piano for all types of events," NemeC said, according to his website at www.chrisnemeC.com.

Do You Remember? includes standards such as "Misty," "I Left My Heart in San Francisco," "Can't Help Loving That Man of Mine," "Summertime" and 11 other selections.

NemeC's website offers two other CDs of piano serenades – *The Very Best Time of Year*, a holiday CD, and *Simply Delicious: Music for Dinner*.

NemeC made his professional debut at age 13, and has appeared as organist, accompanist or tenor soloist with Opera Memphis, The Memphis Symphony and Chorus and The University of Memphis Opera Theatre, among others. He has orchestrated more than 200 titles, usually for performance by The Gary Beard Chorale, where he serves as the associate conductor-accompanist, or The Lindenwood Chancel Choir.

Whether you are entertaining friends or just want to set a romantic mood, this is the CD to do it with. NemeC's CDs are available online at www.chrisnemeC.com.



Revival
DANIEL CARTIER

daniel
cartier
REVIVAL

reviewed by
Anita Moyt,
managing editor

Growing up in a small conservative New Hampshire town, Daniel Cartier stuck out.

"I was this scrawny little artsy gay kid who just kind of hid in my room absorbing any music I could get my hands on," Cartier said, according to his website at www.danielcartier.com.

Cartier's eclectic tastes in music shine through on *Revival*. Not only his eclectic tastes, but his uniqueness stands out. For one thing, Cartier stands out in a crowd if for no other reason than his tattoo, on top of his shaved head. And as ink goes, his is a well done one, centered on the sun.

Cartier's roots in music go into goth as well as punkabilly bands. Not willing to be forced into status quo, he became a true celebrity of New York's underground. He was well known for his performances on subway platforms and even recorded his first disc, *Live From New York – The Subway Session*, a cult favorite, on the Canal Street subway platform.

However, Cartier did come above ground where he has shared the stage with many entertainers, including Ani Defranco, Lisa Loeb, X, Jill Sobule, The Indigo Girls and Deborah Harry.



SUPERSTARS
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With songs available to the public for the first time, *Superstars Remixed* stands alone as a compilation comprised exclusively of hit mixes by multi-platinum artists and world class DJs.

The 19-track listing includes "Since U Been Gone," by Kelly Clarkson, Hani remix; "Diary," by Alicia Keys, Hani remix; "It's Not Right, But It's OK," by Whitney Houston, Thunderpuss remix, and "Get the Party Started," by Pink, Pink Noise Disco remix.

JUNE RELEASES

June
7



SEAL
Live In Paris



KELLY OSBOURNE
Sleeping In The Nothing

June
7



BACKSTREET BOYS
Never Gone

June
14



BILLY CORGAN
The Future Embrace

June
21



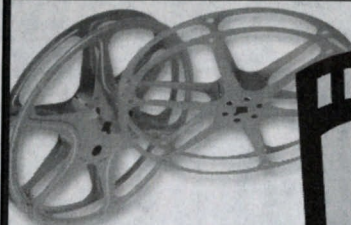
BABYFACE
sorry for the stupid things

June
26



GEORGE STRAIT
Somewhere Down In Texas

June
28



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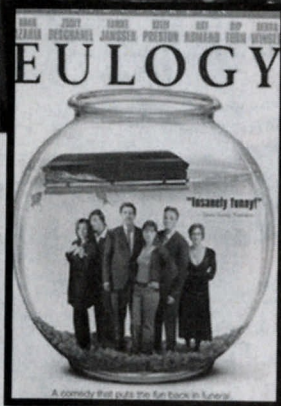
REEL TWISTED film reviews



REVIEWED BY
Patricia Pair
publisher

ples of the dysfunctional relationship between family members, which carry into present day.

Kate juggles her writing of the eulogy with an internal debate over her feelings for her childhood friend-turned-suitor Ryan. Charlotte, who becomes justifiably distraught at the insanity of her children, attempts suicide. And, the fact that Lucy shows up at a "family function" with her lesbian lover outrages her aggressively neurotic sister, Alice, whose hysterical overreaction to the



Life is full of those little unexpected surprises that make you smile. Watching *Eulogy* was one of those surprises. We happened to pickup the DVD box from the video shelf because it looked interesting. We rented it because a) Hank Azaria is in it and b) because it looked like the movie also featured a lesbian couple.

couple's marriage plans ought to tell everyone something.

One of the reasons we're giving this review so much ink is because of the subplot involving Lucy and Judy. While the movie is about Kate's attempt to write her grandfather's eulogy through the family's memories of the man, what appears to be central to almost every scene is the lesbian couple, that is once they arrive. The twins (Curtis and Keith Garcia) are just entering puberty and are rudely interested and awed by the fact that their aunt is a lesbian. Brother Skip, the twins' father, is equally awed by the lesbian pair, even to the extreme that he questions them on what they do in bed, which seems even a bit incestual in itself. Then, much to the absolute horror of uptight Alice, the lesbians announce their plans to wed. We've seen "lesbian" films that didn't have this much girl-to-girl plot.

We were right. But the surprise came at the end of the film when we realized who portrayed the eldest sister in the Collins family.

Eulogy is the story of what happens when a dysfunctional family gathers in Rhode Island for the funeral of the family patriarch (Rip Torn). Making up the Collins clan are matriarchal widow Charlotte (Piper Laurie); son Daniel (Azaria), a secret porn actor; his daughter, Kate (Zoey Deschanel), a college student; son Skip (Ray Romano) and his rude twin boys, Fred and Ted; daughter Alice (Debra Winger) who totes along her husband and three kids, and daughter Lucy (Kelly Preston) who brings her lover, Judy (Famke Janssen). Rounding out the cast are Jesse Bradford as Ryan and Glenn Headly as Samantha. The star-studded cast alone is worth the cost of rental as each turns in a masterful performance.

This film has more twists than a roller coaster ride. But perhaps our favorite of them is what happens when Alice runs into an old high school chum, Samantha. While predictable to some, it is what caused our "little surprise" mentioned in the first paragraph. The surprise is not what transpires, but who portrays Alice. Looking nothing like she did during her *Officer & A Gentleman* and *Urban Cowboy* days, Winger looks so totally different (mature) that we didn't even know it was her. Surprise!

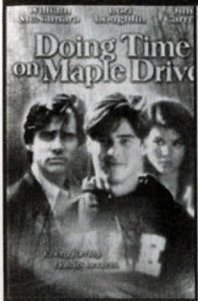
The central plot surrounds Kate's challenge of writing her grandfather's eulogy as she searches for something positive to say about the father her dad, uncle and aunts grew up with. Each child's memory of their late father brings with it more exam-

But, just when you think the film is winding down and the funeral begins, think again, because the last plot twist comes as perhaps the biggest surprise in this laugh-inducing black comedy. It's a definite must-see.

91 minutes. Rated R for language, sexual content and drugs.
Will be available for rent at Family Flavors this month

ALSO AVAILABLE OR COMING SOON

DOING TIME ON MAPLE DRIVE



In this 1992 family drama, Phil and Lisa Carter live what seems to be a perfect life, but behind the scenes, two of their grown kids have been a disappointment. When son, Matt's fiance finds out Matt's gay, she breaks up with him and all the family secrets come out. Stars include Jim Carrey and William McNamara.

100 minutes

Available for rent at Family Flavors

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN



In this riveting mystery romance from 1992, a small town forest ranger rescues and falls in love with an injured hiker suffering from amnesia. Their time together is cut short when the hiker's old life comes back to reclaim him.

94 minutes. Not rated.

Will be available for rent at Family Flavors this month

PRODUCING ADULTS

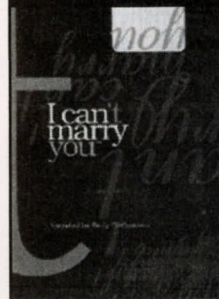


Coming July 19 is Finland's submission for the 2004 Academy Awards for Best Foreign Film. A couple finds themselves at odds overing a baby; the wife falls for a woman.

100 minutes. Not rated. Finnish with English.

Will be available for rent at Family Flavors

I CAN'T MARRY YOU

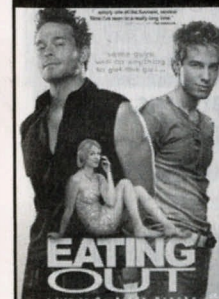


A film about same-sex marriage, narrated by Betty DeGeneres, mother of comedian Ellen DeGeneres. This educational film explores the real life stories of 20 long-term (10-55 years) gay and lesbian couples, and reveals the obstacles they encounter due to not being able to marry in the U.S. Included are facts from experts like Evan Wolfson. This is an important expose covering a historical event.

57 minutes. Not rated.

Available for rent at Family Flavors

EATING OUT

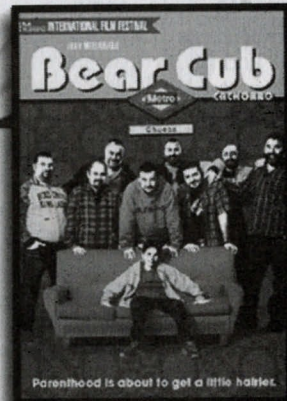
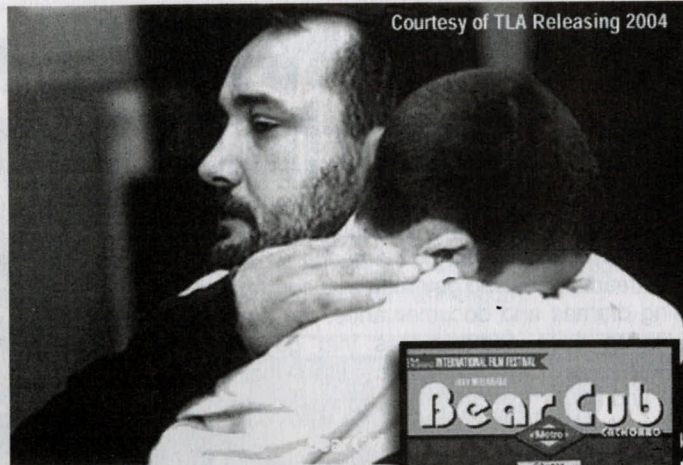


Set in Arizona, the film stars Scott Lunsford as Caleb, a straight college student, who falls for Gwen (Emily Stiles). Caleb's gay roommate, Kyle (Jim Verraros) convinces him to pretend to be gay to get Gwen's attention. But, Gwen hooks Caleb up with her gay best friend, Marc (Ryan Carnes). Meanwhile, Gwen's boyfriend confesses that he's actually gay.

Pre-book June 20. Available July 26.

Will be available for rent at Family Flavors

Courtesy of TLA Releasing 2004



This winner of seven film festival awards is the story of Pedro, a gay dentist who lives a sexually-active lifestyle. He offers to take care of his nine-year old nephew for two weeks while the child's mother goes to India with her boyfriend. Pedro modifies his sexual behavior. When Pedro's sister is detained in India, Pedro finds himself the boy's caretaker and must face the challenges of raising a child. Pedro's mother believes the upbringing of a child should not be done by a homosexual.

100 minutes. Rated R. Spanish with English subtitles.

Available for rent at Family Flavors

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Showtime to honor Gay Pride Month with films

In June, Showtime Networks will honor Gay Pride Month with provocative programming featuring the network's celebrated new documentary *Same Sex America*, which takes a hard look at the headline-making gay marriage controversy. A mix of compelling dramas and documentaries, the network's original programming slate demonstrates that gay Americans, despite decades of civil rights advances, are still struggling for acceptance and equal rights.

The June lineup also will include four new episodes of "Queer as Folk," which began its fifth and final season on May 21. The show ends July 31 with a two-hour season finale. This groundbreaking series, which airs Sundays at 9 p.m. CT, was the first television drama series to fully explore the lives and issues of a gay community.

The Gay Pride Month programming also furthers the network's commitment to Viacom's KNOW HIV/AIDS initiative, an unprecedented, global media campaign that combats HIV/AIDS through education.

The lineup includes the following films:

Same Sex America (June 28, 8 p.m.) follows several gay and lesbian couples as they try to navigate the civil rights clash over same-sex marriage. Beginning in Massachusetts, where the move to legalize gay marriage created a conservative backlash that reached all the way to the White House, *Same Sex America* examines both sides of the political debate and a family's right to define itself without interference from the state or federal government.

We Are Dad (June 19, 7 p.m.) is a gut-wrenching documentary centered around partners Steve Lofton and Roger Croteau.

The two have been deemed "unfit" by the state of Florida to adopt the five children they have raised since birth – even though they were viewed as capable foster parents for the "unwanted" children born HIV-positive. When one of the children – now a teenager – is found to be HIV-free and thus "adoptable," the state decides to remove him from the only home he has known.



ABOVE: Paul McGillion, Ron Silver and Anton Yelchin in *Jack*. LEFT: Jon & Paul in *Same Sex America*. photo courtesy of Showtime

Jack (June 19, 5:05 p.m.), the Emmy and GLAAD award-winning original movie which aired on Showtime in 2004, stars Anton Yelchin in the title role. Jack is a 15-year old boy who must come to terms with his parents' divorce and the revelation that his father is gay. Stockard Channing and Ron Silver play his parents. Jack, already struggling with the usual adolescent demons, must fight the gay-bashing he encounters at school and come to terms with his family.

Damaged Goods (June 14, 10 p.m.) is a one-hour documentary which explores the lives of five people living with a stigmatized disease in a judgmental society. It follows them from the moment they are diagnosed with HIV/AIDS through treatment and acceptance. The film features interviews with some of today's prominent medical authorities and activists in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Shook (June 28, 10:40 p.m.) is a dramatic short film about a woman who discovers her husband is bisexual and that she is pregnant. With concerns for the child, she gets tested for HIV and attempts to understand her husband's relationship with a male friend and its impact on their marriage.

For more information, check local listings or go online to www.sho.com.

FREE Streaming Videos

Out of the Closet® (a free video website @ www.OOTC.tv) PROGRAM GUIDE

Meet James from *Boy Meets Boy*, Ted from *Queer Eye*, Josh & Nichol from *Big Brother*, HERE! Pay-Per-View Direct TV 170 Trailers, Need help starting your business?, Jason and deMarco Exclusive Music Video Garmento, the movie trailer, Vicki Wagner, comedian kicked out of military, Addicted to the Internet, drugs, sex? Take the test!! Coming Out Documentary: Meet an Out Senator, Public Domain films and cartoons, Meet Jim Varros from *American Idol*, Meet a Baptist mom who tells all about her gay son, Lily Tomlin talks about being an actress in Hollywood, Elton John's Safe Sex Campaign, Are You Immune to HIV/AIDS?

There is so much video here, you'll have to see it to BELIEVE IT!

www.OutoftheCloset.tv

Sundance Channel to celebrate gay pride

The Sundance Channel will again celebrate gay pride during the month of June with "Pride Party Weekend," Friday, Saturday & Sunday, June 10-12.

Their lineup is as follows:

Friday, June 10

7 p.m. *Our House: A Very Real Documentary About Kids of Gay and Lesbian Parents* (2000, 57 minutes) – the film takes the viewer into five different homes, illustrating the many faces of gay and lesbian families. (see box this page for local family.)

8 p.m. *Die Mommie Die!* (2003, 90 minutes) – Written by and starring Charles Busch, this hilarious comic melodrama/thriller, set in 1967, follows a fallen pop diva and all her drama.

9:30 p.m. *The Tasty Bust Reunion* (2004, 52 minutes) – documents the 1994 police raid on the popular queer dance club Tasty in Melbourne, Australia.

Saturday, June 11

7 p.m. *The Opposite of Sex* (1998, 101 minutes) – Christina Ricci plays a nasty piece of work who sets in motion an avalanche of trouble when she finds herself 16 and pregnant.

8:45 p.m. *Party Monster* (2003, 99 minutes) – fame, fortune and murder in the 1980s New York Club scene.

10:30 p.m. *Prey for Rock and Roll* (2003, 104 minutes) – Starring Gina Gershon, follows a girl punk band and their less than desirable success.

Sunday, June 12

7 p.m. *AKA* (2002, 107 minutes) – a working-class teen infiltrates the decadent world of the European aristocracy, circa 1979.

9 p.m. *Wigstock: The Movie* (1995, 82 minutes) – New York's annual outdoor drag fest on tape; a classic.

10:30 p.m. *Go Fish* (1994, 83 minutes) – lesbians,



OUR HOUSE



DIE MOMMIE DIE!



THE OPPOSITE OF SEX



PARTY MONSTER

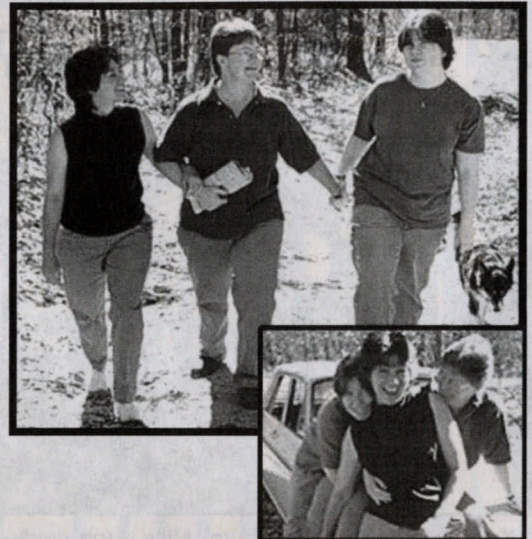


PREY FOR ROCK AND ROLL

friends, relationships, drama; a breakthrough movie back in '94.

In addition Sundance will continue its celebration of Gay Pride Month by airing other gay-themed documentaries or films every Monday night in June.

For more information, check local listings or go online to www.sundancechannel.com.



Arkansas GLBT family included in *Our House*

One of the five families' stories included in the 2002 documentary *Our House: A Very Real Documentary About Kids of Gay and Lesbian Parents* comes from a lesbian couple in rural Arkansas.

Daughter Ryan (15) and son Cary (23) live with their mothers, Sophia and Vickie, who were married in a commitment ceremony five years ago. In their small Bible Belt town, there was a backlash against Ryan when she told classmates about the wedding.

After two years of teasing and physical abuse, Ryan's mothers decided to home school her. Says Cary, "It's just another thing for kids to pick on each other about. You know they do it. Give them another reason, it's just gonna make it that much worse."

"We can create an entire world that affirms our being and then we turn on the television set and see a commercial that condemns us to hell," Vickie said. "...I mean, you can't hide who you are."

"Ryan told me one time," Sophia (the biological mother) said, "I don't want Vickie for you, I want her for me. ...Vickie and her go shopping and they put on makeup together ... I'm definitely the mom in one way, but Vickie is in the other."

For broadcast date and time, see story above.

'Out & About Today' to air in middle TN

taken from a story by Griffin Davis, *Out & About Newspaper*

In a first-of-its-kind development for the GLBT community, *Out & About Newspaper* has formed an alliance with the NewsChannel 5 Network, Nashville's CBS affiliate, to produce a new GLBT program, "Out & About Today."

Each show will air four times a month and feature a format of news, business and entertainment segments geared especially toward the GLBT audience. The inaugural broadcast, slated for June 11, will feature an interview with Joe Solomonese, president of the national Human Rights Campaign.

"This is the first time that we know of that a network affiliate has ever done anything like this," said Jerry Jones, publisher of *Out & About Newspaper*. "We think this is a major step in opening another media forum for the gay and lesbian community of Nashville. The program (on WTVF) will be locally produced and promoted, and we'd be delighted if 'Out & About Today' helped to break similar media ground in other cities."

The show will be hosted by three members of the Nashville GLBT community,



Hosts, from left, Brent Meredith, Pam Wheeler and Jeremy Ryan.

ART ON EXHIBIT

Brooks to host 'Patrick Kelly, A Retrospective'

The Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, located at 1934 Poplar Avenue in Overton Park, will present "Patrick Kelly; A Retrospective" June 19 to Aug. 28.

This exhibit includes more than 50 complete ensembles from the Patrick Kelly estate. Archival material and numerous objects from Kelly's personal collection of Black memorabilia of dolls, posters and advertisements, also will be featured.



Kelly was born in Vicksburg, Miss., and studied art history and black history at Jackson State University. He moved to New York in 1979, to study at Parsons School of Design. An anonymous gift enabled him to buy a plane ticket to Paris, fulfilling a long-time dream. He began his career in the fashion business by designing and selling cotton tube dresses on the street corners of the city. He quickly enlisted celebrity clients, such as Bette Davis and Grace Jones. Kelly showed his first collection in Paris in 1985, and in 1988, signed a \$5 million contract with Warnaco, a powerful American fashion conglomerate.

Kelly made history, becoming the first American admitted to the Le Chambre Syndicale du Pret-a-Porter (the governing body of the prestigious french ready-to-wear industry). Sadly, Kelly died of complications from AIDS on New Years Day 1990, at the age of 35, before he, or the fashion world, could fully enjoy his enormous talents.

Although Kelly produced collections for only a few short years, his whimsical, witty garments proved to be potent and original contributions to the field of fashion. He took his inspiration from the American South. His clothes have been described as, "funny, funky tributes to high-strutting hot Sundays in southern Baptist churches." Kelly's trademark was oversized, colorful buttons and ribbons, inspired by his grandmother's use of mismatched buttons to repair his own clothes during his childhood.

"Patrick Kelly: A Retrospective" originated at the Brooklyn Museum of Art in April 2004. According to David Noh in a story published in the *New York Blade*, April 16, 2004, "It was Kelly's partner, Bjorn Amelan, who showed (curator Thelma) Golden his archive, which convinced her to do the show."

"The pieces on display from Kelly's vast collection of black memorabilia are as important as his garments," wrote Robin Givhan in the *Washington Post*, May 31, 2004. "Kelly accumulated more than 8,000 examples of advertising, dolls, knick-knacks and household products that employed racial stereo-

types, caricatures and slurs. His collection includes mummies, pickaninnies, Topsy and golliwogs. Kelly enthusiastically embraced all of the cliches, both good and bad."

"Kelly's own influence remains as a major inspiration to every young designer, particularly African-Americans, who've been told "No" too many times," Noh said. "But it's his brilliant sense of frivolity, that true chic so germane to the allure of fashion, that makes him immortal."

The Brooks Museum of Art is open Tuesday through Friday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets are \$6 for adults; \$5 for seniors (65+); and \$2 for students with valid ID, and free for children age six and under. For more information, go online to www.brooksmuseum.org. This is an Arts Access Event.

Art Briefs

'Fanfare' hangs at Brooks

The Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, located at 1934 Poplar Avenue in Overton Park, is presenting "Fanfare" now through Aug. 21, a collection of 19 beautifully hand-crafted fans from the mid- to late-19th century.

Fans were practical objects before the advent of electricity. Yet, they were often superbly crafted, reflecting the wealth and taste of their owners. Made of silk, paper, tortoise shell and mother-of-pearl, these fans are embellished with gilding, lace, feathers, sequins and mirrors.

For more information, call (901) 544-6200 or go online to www.brooksmuseum.org. Thanks to a grant from First Tennessee Bank Corporation, Wednesdays are free at The Brooks.



Works of Jon Lee hang at Eclectic Eye

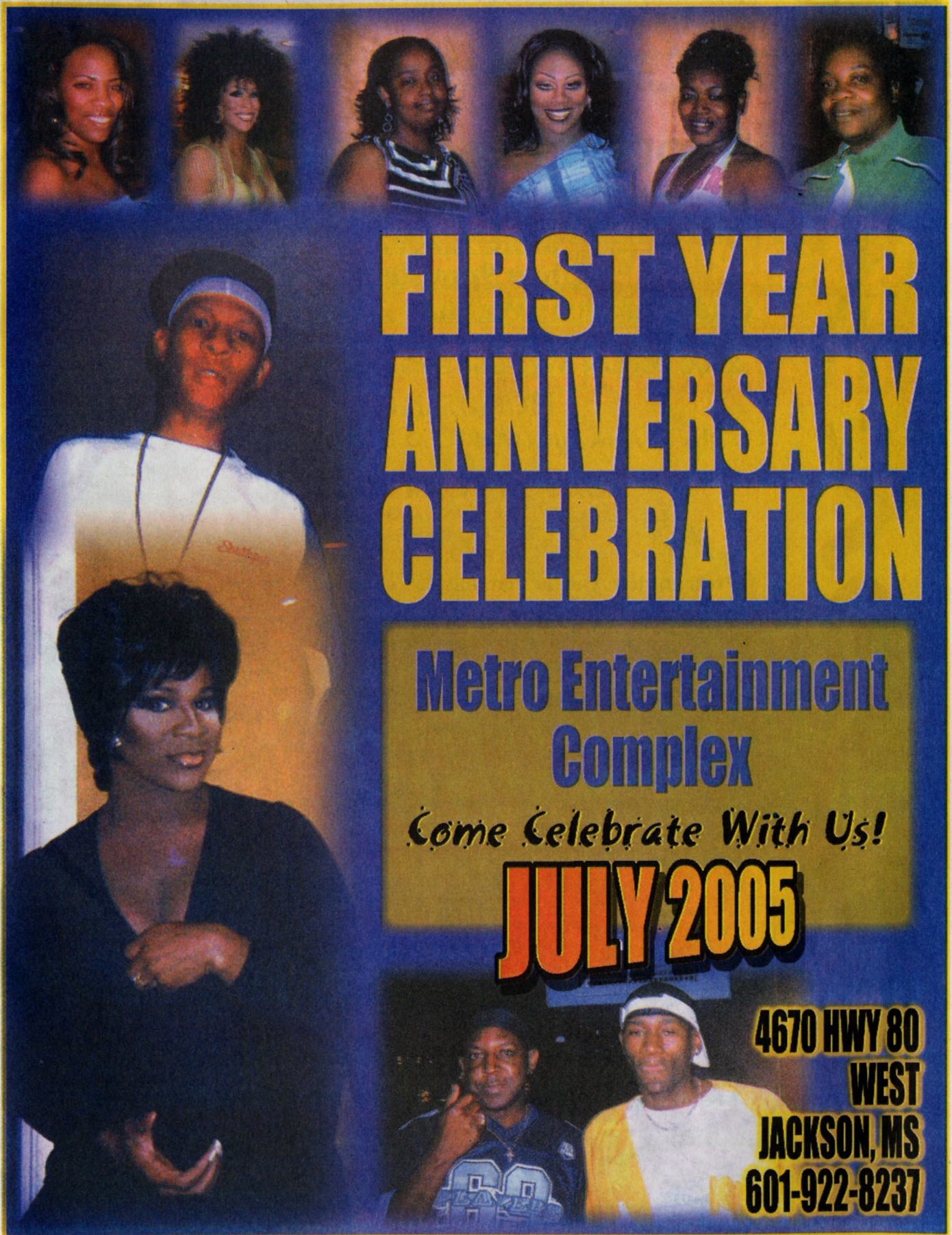
Now through June 21, the works of Jon Lee will be on exhibit at The Eclectic Eye showroom, 242 South Cooper. Lee's works incorporate his past as a graffiti writer with his printmaking background. He blends urban elements, such as decayed and rustic colors, and abstracted letterforms and Asian elements. Backgrounds are a mixture of paint dripping, splashing and dropping, creating a reality that is random. Lee studied printmaking and graphic design at the Memphis College of Art and later received his BFA in printmaking. His works have been displayed at the Memphis College of Art, Art Farm, Zanizibar Art Village and the Memphis Public Library.



MGLOC to host art show

The Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center, 892 South Cooper, presents "Ars Spiritas: 2005 Art of Pride" on Sunday June 5, from 6 to 9 p.m.





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Question & Response: Safer Sex

Note: To make sure our audience and contestants leave with correct information, correct answers will be given after each answer

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Mr. Exodus Elegance: Nio St. James Dickerson

Miss Exodus Elegance Plus: Kyana Cassadine

Miss Exodus Elegance New-Comer: Celebriti Dickerson

Mr. Exodus Elegance New-Comer: Nikobi Janvier Dickerson

Miss Exodus Elegance Turnabout: Tre'joir Ashton St. Jon

Miss Exodus Elegance Independence: Jamelia Cassadine

Mr. Exodus Elegance Independence: Donte' St. James Pene'y

Special Guests:

Krayola Andrews Cassadine

Monica Santangelo Dupree

Karon Cassadine

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Skyy's the limit at 1st ever Miss Diva Pageant

by Tiona Kourvoisier, guest writer

Sunday, April 24, was the day that was set aside for the Diva Plus Pageant sponsored by "Diva" Nikita Suave. The pageant was held at the Allusion Entertainment Complex.

The pageant consisted of four beautiful plus-size women all fighting to be the first Miss. Diva Plus. Competing for the title were Chance Giovanni, Skyy Kourvoisier, Amani Kourvoisier and Jasmine Giovanni.

Skyy Kourvoisier proudly took the winner's trophy to add to her

SHEcircle.org is launched



The Mautner Project, the national lesbian health organization, has launched SHEcircle.org, a website dedicated to Black lesbians, featuring an online "village" that will encourage and support them on their personal journey to healthy living and disease prevention.

Based on the principle of Ujima – "collective work and responsibility to build and maintain our community together," www.SHEcircle.org is a "virtual" community for Black lesbians and bisexual women that aims to energize and engage them.

"We get hit on all sides," said Amani Sokoya Pearson-Fields, MPH, deputy director of the Mautner Project and director of S.H.E. (Spirit Health Education) Circle. "For Black lesbians, the confluence of race, gender, and sexual orientation can create powerful barriers to accessing quality healthcare and attaining a healthy lifestyle. This website is a place for us, that was created by us. By coming together we will be able to share information, resources and hopefully create the kind of mutual support necessary to break down these barriers that so negatively impact our health."

The shecircle.org website provides a forum for Black lesbians and bisexual women to meet in "Talk Circles." The "Talk Circles" will provide a safe space for lesbians of color to share, learn and ask questions about health issues on every topic from cancer, depression, smoking, to nutrition and fitness. More culturally specific topics, such as coming out and living a spiritually grounded and healthy life, also are included on the website.

The online community is part of a larger program aimed at improving the health status of African-American lesbians across the country.

S.H.E. Circle and www.SHEcircle.org are based on data collected from the Black Women 2 Women Spirit Health Study. The program is the first ever national health education program focused on African-American women who partner with women.

SGL women to visit Atlanta

A group of Memphis SGL women will be heading to Atlanta June 10 to perform at the grand opening of the new club Mirage.

The group, led by Skyy Kourvoisier, includes Keylon Kourvoisier, Zakurion Kourvoisier, Dega Dupree, keni, Fyness Dupree and Icye.



The Memphis performers were requested to perform by Girls In The Night, a lesbian production company that also books Memphis favorite Oohzee, The Brat, Lisa Raye, Trina, Tweet and White Chocolate, among others.

family collection for 2005. Doing her rendition of "Congratulations," by Vesta, with a much, well-prepared wedding scene being reenacted in the background, gave her the opportunity to win the talent competition. She also brought home a third trophy for presentation in black.

Taking 2nd runner up was the beautiful Chance Giovanni. Chance stepped out on stage in business wear and overwhelmed the judges and the audience to take home a trophy for her original design of a plaid poncho with matching skirt.

Armani Kourvoisier picked up 1st runner up and, not to be out done by her little sister, picked up a trophy for evening wear and Miss Congeniality 2005!

To talk about the pageant is not to know about the pageant. You would have had to be there to understand the level of competition that was displayed. Little girls step aside 'cause Plus size is taking over for 2005.

Congratulations to "Diva" Nikita for a well put together pageant. Also keep your eyes and ears open for the upcoming Diva's In Pink Pageant.



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Antiques event set

On Saturday, June 25, WKNO will present "Treasures in Your Attic," from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the DeSoto Civic Center. Admission to this antiques appraisal event is free; appraisals are \$5 per item. For more information, call (901) 325-6584 or go online to wkno.org.

Enjoy evening tour

Enjoy the tranquility of a summer evening while touring the Memphis Botanic Gardens's Japanese Garden of Tranquility and hear stories of Japanese folklore and garden symbolism with the MBG's Candlelight Garden Tour, set for Thursday, July 7, 6 to 8 p.m.. Cost is \$5 per person. For more information, call MBG, located at 750 Cherry Road in Audubon Park, at (901) 685-1566, ext. 110.

Sierra Club to meet

The Chickasaw Group Sierra Club will hold its monthly "Third Tuesday" meeting on Tuesday, June 21, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Cafe Francisco, 400 North Main, in downtown Memphis. Members, activists and friends are invited to meet in a casual setting to talk about issues and interests. For more information, call Jill at (901) 278-2713.

Walk at sunset planned

On Saturday, June 18, at sunset, the Sierra Club will meet for a "Summer Solstice Sunset River Bluff Walk." Meet at Butler Park next to the Tennessee Brewery. For more information, call Sue at (901) 274-0524.

Wine tasting set at MBG

On Tuesday, June 28, The Memphis Botanic Gardens, located at 750 Cherry Road in Audubon Park, will present its monthly "Terrace Wine Tasting at Fratelli's in the Garden," where you can enjoy wine and hors d'oeuvres with a botanical twist. This month's event will feature mixed drinks using wine, featuring spritzers, wine coolers and sangria. Cost is \$20 per person. Reservations are recommended by calling (901) 685-1566, ext. 130.

Women invited to potluck

Women are invited to this month's Women's Potluck Social held at the Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center, 892 South Cooper, on Wednesday, June 15, at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call (901) 278-4297.

Drummers are welcome

The Drum Circle meets every Tuesday from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center, 892 South Cooper. For more information, call (901) 278-4297.

Orpheum to show classic films

The Bank of America Summer Movie Series returns to The Orpheum Theatre, 205 South Main, in June. The schedule includes, *Breakfast at Tiffany's* on Friday, June 17; *The Godfather* on Friday, June 24; *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* on Friday, July 1, and *Casablanca* on Friday, July 8. All movies begin at 7:15 p.m. Tickets are \$6.00 each, cash only, and are available at the Orpheum Box Office two hours prior to the start of the movie. For more information, call (901) 525-3000.

African artist market slated

On Saturday, July 9, the grounds of Slave Haven Underground Railroad Museum and Burkle Estate, 826 North Second Street, will be filled with African music, art and crafts. Open from 10 am. to 4 p.m., the Artist Market is free.

The 1849 home of German immigrant Jacob Burkle, now called Slave Haven, is filled with artifacts of the slave life. In the cellar are entrances to the tunnels where slaves hid before making their escape to freedom through a tunnel leading to awaiting boats on the Mississippi River that would take them up the Ohio River and eventually into the free state of Illinois at Cairo.

Open June to August, Monday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., tickets to the Slave Haven are \$6 for adults and \$4 for students, ages five to 17.

For more information, call (901) 527-3427 or go online to www.heritagetoursmemphis.com.

Family Flavors to sponsor films

Enjoy a GLBT-themed movie every Thursday night at The Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center, 892 South Cooper, beginning at 7 p.m. "Thursday Night at the Gaiety" is sponsored by Family Flavors Movie Rentals and Pride Essentials, Memphis's only video rental store with titles exclusively for the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and gay-friendly viewer.

Point

from page 6

Ritz, Triscuit and Wheat Thins, and candy and mints such as Life Savers and Altoids.

Kraft must be doing something right, though, because its first quarter revenue results for 2005, were up 6.4 percent. Just in case you want to make a personal phone call and let Kraft know you appreciate their support of the 2006 Gay Games, the toll-free phone number, thanks to the AFA, is 1-800-323-0768.

We mentioned Dobson earlier because of this tidbit we discovered while surfing the AFA's website listed under "Homosexual Agenda," which, when clicked on, links to the Focus on the Family website under the heading "Family News:" "For the seventh year in a row, Exxon/Mobil shareholders have resoundingly defeated a proposal to add sexual orientation language to the company's non-discrimination policy."

Our point is this: Bullies are everywhere, but that doesn't make it right. Their behavior should not be tolerated. It's time for each and everyone of us to stand up for ourselves because as long as we allow them to bully us, they continue to have control over us and our lives. And, to those grown-up bullies: GROW THE F*** UP!

A couple of parting quotes:

• "If you let a bully come in your front yard, he'll be on your porch the next day and the day after that he'll rape your wife (husband) in your own bed," Lyndon Baines Johnson, 36th U.S. President, Democrat.

• "Each of you, for himself, by himself and on his own responsibility, must speak. And it is a solemn and weighty responsibility, and not lightly to be flung aside at the bullying of pulpit, press, government, or the empty catchphrases of politicians. ...," Mark Twain.



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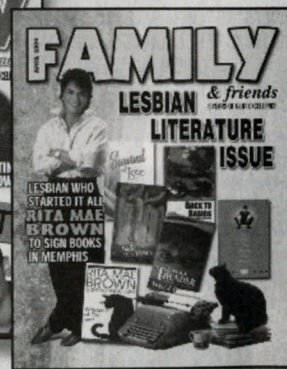
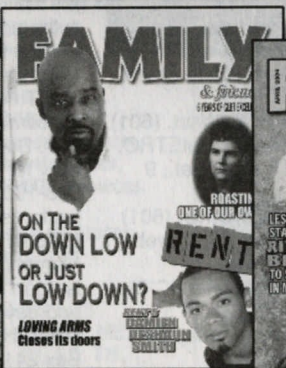
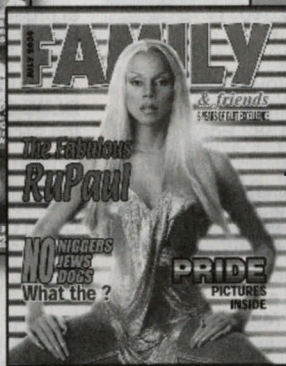
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BACKSTREET MEMPHIS, 2018 Court Street, (901) 276-5522, Fri. & Sat. 8 p.m.-6 a.m., Sun. 8 p.m. to 3 a.m., www.backstreet-memphis.com

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

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THE JUNGLE, 1474 Madison Avenue, (901) 278-0521, 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) 278-0569, 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

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.

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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, Mississippi

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

CLUB METRO, 4670 Highway 80 West, (601) 922-8227, (601) 922-8237, (888) 43-METRO, Tues., Fri. & Sun., 9 p.m. to 3 a.m., Sat., 9 p.m. to 5 a.m.

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.jack-sonbars.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

THE FACTORY, 412 South Louisiana, (501) 372-3070, Tues.-Fri. 5 p.m. to 2 a.m., Saturday 8 p.m. until ?

SOCIAL Memphis, Tennessee

2xLAMBDA, a social and volunteer program open to both men and women, ages 20 to 29, (901) 223-3331

BETA EPSILON CHAPTER OF BETA PHI OMEGA SORORITY INC., is a social service organization for feminine lesbian, bisexual and heterosexual women of all races, (901) 281-0830, email: betaepsilonchapter@yahoo.com, website: www.betaphiomega.net

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

BLUE SUEDE BEARS OF MEMPHIS, Meets the second Monday of each month at The Jungle, 1474 Madison Ave. (901) 644-2786, email: info@bluesuedebeards.com, www.bluesuedebeards.com

COTTON PICKIN' SQUARES MEMPHIS, (901) 272-2116, Meets Thursday nights at 7:30 p.m. at Holy Trinity Community Church, 515 South Highland Street, Square dancing social group

HIGHLY DEFINED LADY MOTORCYCLE CLUB OF MEMPHIS or HDLadies, for more information, join the following Yahoo group: autos.groups.yahoo.com/group/HDLMEMPHIS; email Wendy Curtis at Bikerbroad901@yahoo.com or call (901) 503-0611

JUST FOR US MEMPHIS, is a social group welcoming single or partnered lesbians ages 18+. Some gatherings are designed specifically for members and their children, (901) 268-1903, email: justforusmemphis@yahoo.com

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 GAY & LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTER, 892 South Cooper Memphis, 38104, (901) 278-4297, townhall meetings every other month; Mon.-Fri., 6 to 9 p.m.; Sat. & Sun., 2 to 6 p.m.

MID-SOUTH PRIDE, 111 S. Highland, Suite 261, Memphis, TN 38111, (901) 328-6349, send an email to: info@MidSouthPride.org, website:

www.MidSouthPride.org. GLBT Pride events for Memphis and the Mid-South.

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

MYSTIC KREWE OF MEMPHIS UNITED, a non-profit charity group. Contact Lezli Droke (901) 409-8646 or ldroke@midsouth.rr.com or Paul Lawrence (901) 278-2775 or pandp38107@yahoo.com

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.kreweofhathor.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

OLE MISS GAY STRAIGHT ALLIANCE, P.O. Box 3541, University, MS 38677, (662) 915-7049, email: gayolemiss@hotmail.com

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

PFLAG-TUPELO, 115A Issac Drive, Tupelo, MS 38801, (662) 566-2282, email: Alliance22Boi@aol.com, groups.yahoo.com/group/PFLAGTupelo.

RAINBOW DIRECTORY

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

PHOENIX AA MEETING, open to all, especially the GLBT community. Meets each Tuesday at 8 p.m. at Grace St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 1720 Peabody, (901) 454-1414

SERIOUSLY SOBER OPEN AA MEETING, (an open men & women's Alcoholics Anonymous meeting), Meets each Friday at 8 p.m. at Holy Trinity Community Church, 515 South Highland Street, (901) 324-9200

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

WHOLENESS Mississippi

BUILDING BRIDGES INC., 2147 Henry Hill Drive, Suite 206, Jackson, MS 39204, (601) 922-0100. Education, prevention, support group.

COMMUNITY SWITCHBOARD OF MS GAY/LESBIAN ALLIANCE, (601) 346-4379, operated seven days a week, 24 hours a day. Information and referral on GLBT issues and HIV/AIDS.

MS GAY/LESBIAN ALLIANCE, 5565 Robinson Road Ext., Suite Q, Jackson, MS 39284, (601) 371-3019.

SOUTHERN AIDS COMMISSION, P.O. Box 293, Greenville, MS 38702, (662) 334-3349, education and prevention.

SOUTHERN AIDS COMMISSION, 5565 Robinson Road Ext., Suite Q, Jackson, MS 39284, (601) 371-3019, direct HIV/AIDS services.

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

OUT-WITH-GRACE, (901) 278-6786, Open to all GLBT persons of faith to join in an affirming time of prayer, Bible study and discussion., Meets Sundays from 4 to 5:30 p.m., September through July, at First Congregational Church, 1000 S. Cooper Street.

SPIRITUAL Other Locales

CAMP SISTER SPIRIT, P.O. Box 12, Overt, MS 39464, Feminist education/cultural/retreat center, www.campsisterspirit.com, email: sisterspir@aol.com

MCC OF THE RAINBOW, 5565 Robinson Rd. Ext., Ste. Q, Jackson, MS 39204, (601) 372-6644, Sunday Service at 11:30 a.m.

POLITICAL Tennessee

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:



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MID-SOUTH GAY & LESBIAN REPUBLICANS, P.O. Box 770505, Memphis, TN 38177, meets the third Sunday at 1 p.m. at the MGLCC, 892 S. Cooper and meets the first Wednesday at 7 p.m. at area restaurants, Email: MGLR_President@yahoo.com, www.yahoogroups.com/group/MidSouthGLR.
MEMPHIS STONEWALL DEMOCRATS, www.geocities.com/mphsstonewallem, (901) 327-2677, email: mphsstonewalldem@yahoo.com

TENNESSEE TRANSGENDER POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE, a statewide political lobbying organization for transgender equality, P.O. Box 92335, Nashville, TN 37209, fax: (615) 353-1834, email: ttgac@aol.com, website: tenntg.com

POLITICAL Mississippi

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

SPORTS Memphis, Tennessee

BLUFF CITY SPORTS ASSOCIATION, P.O. Box 41803, Memphis, TN 38174 1803, (901) 461-0891, email:

memphisgaysoftball@yahoo.com, Softball league open to GLBT individuals, www.bluffcitysports.net

BROTHERS & SISTERS BOWLING LEAGUE, Winchester Bowl, 3703 S. Mendenhall @ Winchester, (901) 722-5236 or (901) 465-4371. Email: memphisgaybowlin@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.

OUT SPOKIN', a group to support bicycling in the Memphis GLBT community, email: marty@outsokin-mem.org, website: www.outspokin-mem.org

WELLNESS Memphis, Tennessee

DOCTORS

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

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

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

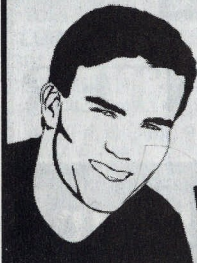
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exodus

June Events

June 9, 2005

9 pm

*Mr. & Miss Elegance
Gay Pride 2005
(@ The Paragon)*

June 15, 2005

6 pm Movie Night

(@ Drop-In Center)

June 16-19, 2005

Pride Weekend @ Pride

*Exodus will provide safer sex
kits & HIV prevention
materials. Also, Exodus
will conduct a workshop*

June 23, 2005

6 pm Bowling Night

June 26, 2005

5 pm Park Outing

June 29, 2005

*6 pm E-Group Meeting
(@ Drop-In Center)*



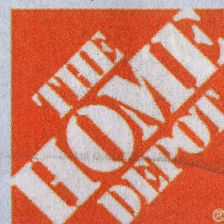
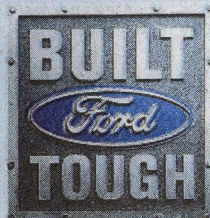
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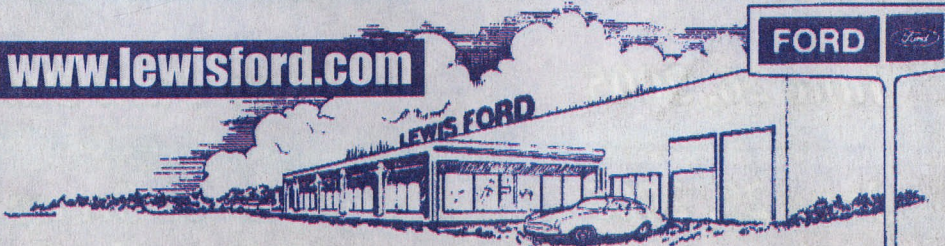


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