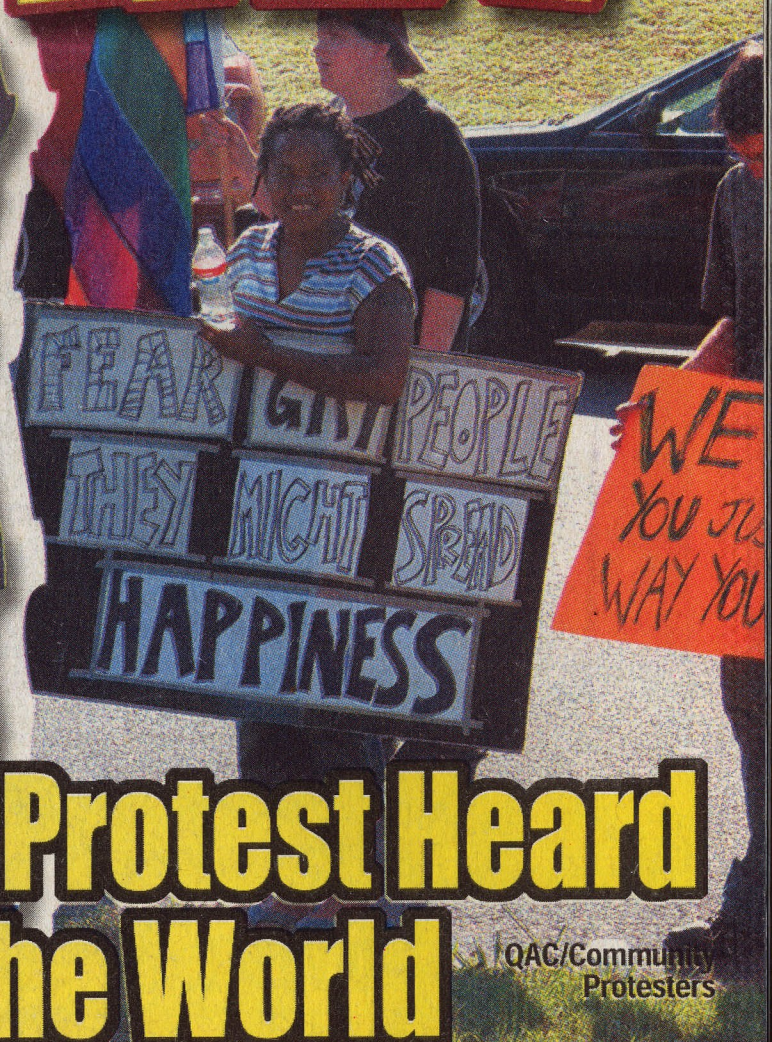
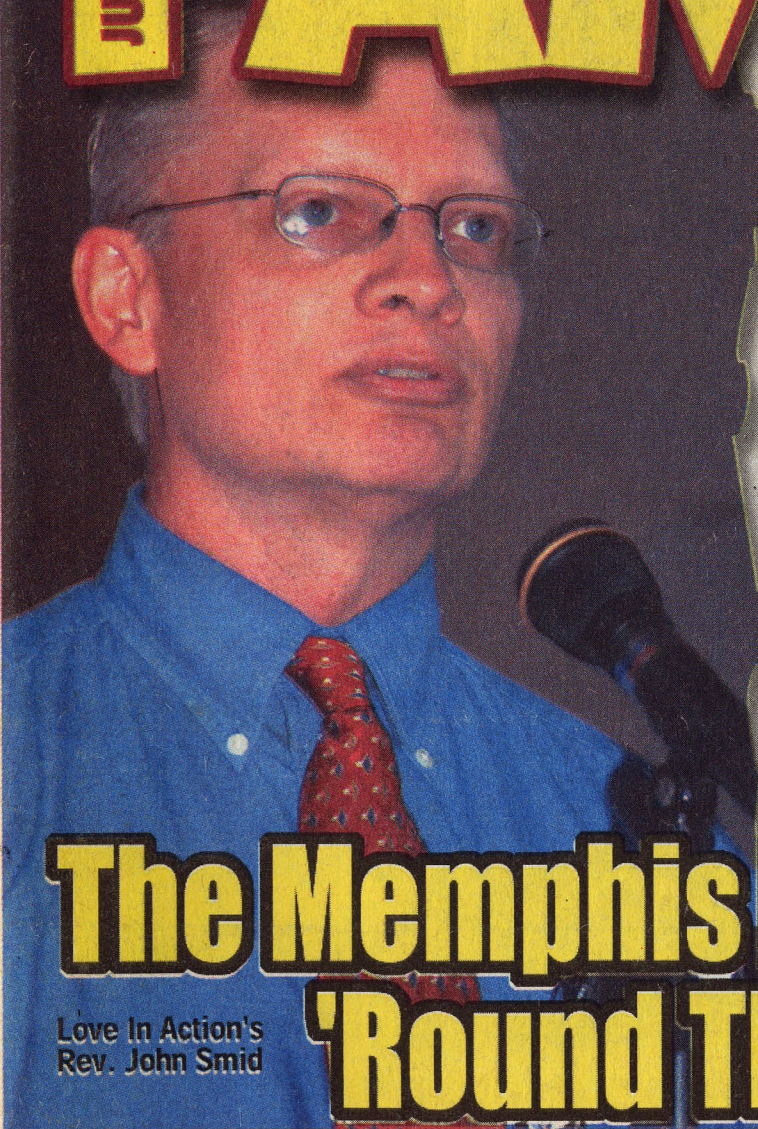


JULY 2005

FAMILY

& friends



The Memphis Protest Heard 'Round The World

Love In Action's
Rev. John Smid

QAC/Community
Protesters



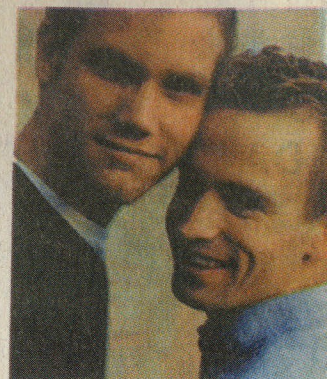
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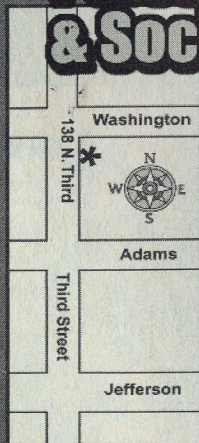
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Contributors

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Memphis Office:

P.O. Box 771948

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(901) 685-2234 FAX

Email: FamilyMag@aol.com

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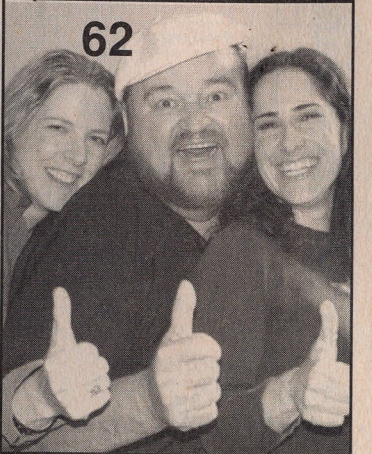
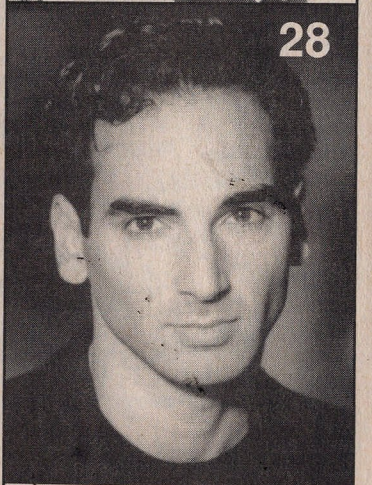
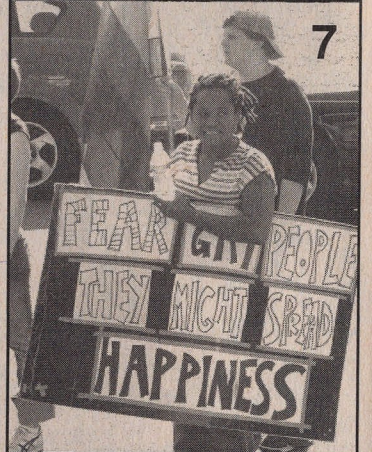
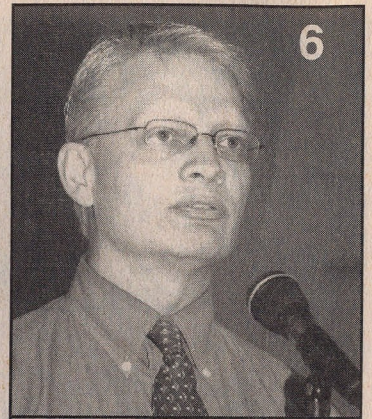
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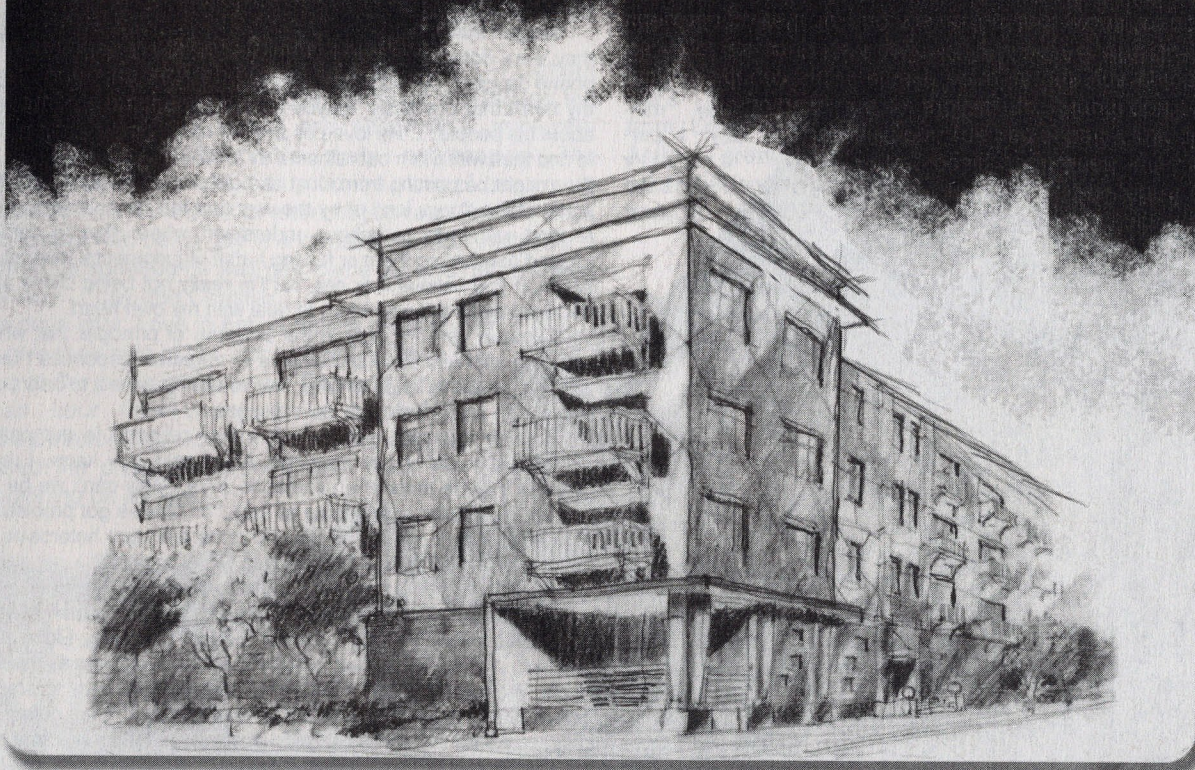
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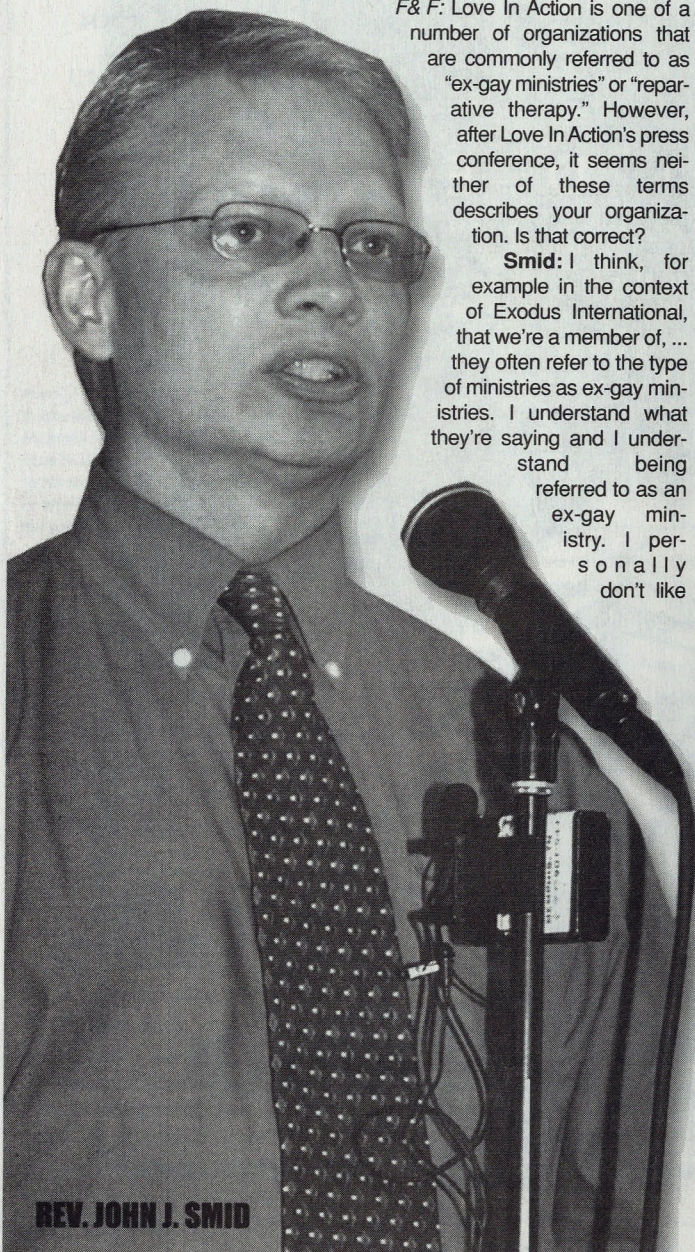


Love In Action's Rev. John J. Smid talks openly

by Patricia Pair, publisher, with Anita Moyt, managing editor

In a recent interview, Love In Action International's Executive Director Rev. John J. Smid spoke openly, honestly and at length with the publisher and managing editor of *Family & Friends* following a press conference Love In Action held in the wake of a two-week protest outside the organization's headquarters in Bartlett.

Married at age 19 to a woman, Smid admits he knew very little about his own sexuality, much less homosexuality at the time. Six years and two children later, he discovered homosexuality. In 1980, Smid and his first wife were divorced. Four years and several homosexual relationships later, Smid began "moving away from a three-year relationship with another man," eventually finding a new life through some church friends. In 1986, Smid was offered a position to work with their live-in program and he married his present wife in 1988. Today, he is Love In Action's executive director and is commissioned and licensed through Germantown Baptist Church in Germantown.



REV. JOHN J. SMID

...
F&F: Love In Action is one of a number of organizations that are commonly referred to as "ex-gay ministries" or "reparative therapy." However, after Love In Action's press conference, it seems neither of these terms describes your organization. Is that correct?

Smid: I think, for example in the context of Exodus International, that we're a member of, ... they often refer to the type of ministries as ex-gay ministries. I understand what they're saying and I understand being referred to as an ex-gay ministry. I personally don't like

the term ex-gay. I don't really think it really is a truthful statement. I don't really think it clearly describes the way that we think here about homosexuality.

The reparative therapy concept – we also don't refer to what we do as reparative therapy – largely because reparative therapy is a term that was coined by Dr. Joseph Nicolosi as it refers to his specific model of therapy. And we don't use Joe Nicolosi's model of therapy. We use a lot of different things and so I would not refer to us as reparative therapy either.

F&F: What do you refer to yourselves as then?

Smid: I think in the truest sense of the word when I speak with our clients or when I think about myself, we're a Christian discipleship program and that means that what we focus on here primarily in all the things that we do, is we help people to understand their faith and the foundation of their belief in God, in Christ, in the fellowship of believers more fully and richly.

We believe that people who come to us and people whose families come to us for their families are primarily struggling with what does it mean to have these struggles, to have these issues: how do I respond best as a Christian, how do I respond to these issues in my life as a Christian, how can I raise my family as a Christian family when we're having some issues that we're really struggling with.

... At the bottom level of what we do, is we filter these issues through what we believe is solid Christian belief and doctrine. And the hope is that people will build a stronger, better relationship with Christ out of it and that through that they will learn more how to handle life's circumstances appropriately. That's why we don't really spend as much time talking about homosexuality as we do a lot of other peripheral issues. We also bring in to the mix understanding about child development (and) what kinds of issues do we deal with when we're growing up, what kinds of things impact us, why do we think the way we do sometimes, what do we base our philosophies on, sometimes based on past experiences and families issues, so we bring a lot of things into it that help to really flesh out who we are in a holistic sense; who we are as people.

F&F: For two weeks, the protesters shouted a number of messages to the staff of Love In Action. What would your message be for the protesters?

Smid: I think in the simplest sense, because I didn't hear a lot of what they were doing, I think I did hear my name one time through a megaphone (laughs), but I don't want to be cliché about this. I really believe in my heart that obviously, maybe not obviously, I think God really cares about his people. ... He loves us and my response to them was not to try to find fault with them but rather to try to have an understanding of where they might be coming from. Just as I observed the signs, and I did hear some of the things kind of by the way that they were saying, and I really tried rather to somehow understand where they're coming from instead of rejecting them or feeling harsh or judgmental towards them. ... Again, if you believe it or not, but I'm really not being cliché about that because that's the way I had to deal with my own heart.

I believe very strongly in the scripture of principal that when we're dealing with reactions and attacks or negative responses I really challenge people to listen to what they're saying, take it to heart, sort it out for truth and check your own response.

...For example, people ask me to respond to the political and national issue of gay marriage. And I said, you know, I really think there's some truth when someone says, "Why can't we be married? Your marriages aren't doing so well," or "You've got problems in your families," or "Look at the divorce rates amongst heterosexuals, why are you attacking us?" They're true. They're right ...

I think we would do a lot better to try to shore up our own house before trying to figure out everybody else's. And, I think we would have a more believable voice if we did. So that's the way I look at the protesters, ... I just really tried to not allow that distraction as much as possible. We're here to do what we're doing. If you want to stand on the street that's really up to you. It's a free country. I'm not going to let that distract me from what I have to do everyday. I don't have time to do that.

F&F: According to Love In Action's website, the press conference last week was held "to call for open-mindedness and tolerance." From whom

See Love In Action, page 17

The Memphis protest heard 'round the world

by Anita Moyt, managing editor

On May 29, 2005, a set of words appeared on a blogsite that began, "The World Coming To An Abrupt – Stop. Current Mood: depressed." What followed were the cries of a 16-year-old young man, from Bartlett, who identified himself as "Zach."

"Somewhat recently, as many of you know, I told my parents I was gay," Zach wrote. "This didn't go over very well, and it ended with my dad crying, my mom tearing and me not knowing what I'd done – or what to do. It kind of .. (sic) went away for about a week or two I think. ... Well today, my mother, father and I had a very long 'talk' in my room where they let me know I am to apply for a fundamentalist christian program for gays. They tell me that there is something psychologically wrong with me, and they 'raised me wrong.' I'm a big screw up to them, who isn't on the path God wants me to be on. ..."

Zach's blog was read by Morgan Fox, 25, a filmmaker from Memphis. Fox's response was to protest the place where the young man was to spend Monday to Friday, for the next two weeks: Love in Action, 4780 Yale Road.

So, Fox and a group of about eight friends met that first Monday, June 6, and came with their signs and their flags to show Zach that they supported him and, more than that, to let the city know that such a place existed, a place where parents could send their queer kids to "get straight." They met from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. and later from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. to correspond to the beginning and ending times of the 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. schedule Zach was on.

The protest grew to about 50 or so men and women, of all sexual orientations. The police parked nearby the protesters to be sure there were no problems. And there weren't. The Queer Action Coalition (see story page 13) even handed out flyers giving people suggestions for a peaceful demonstration so there would be no questions.

The TV crews came and reported – often. Radio talk shows, both pro and con, continue to discuss the issue. Newspapers wrote stories and editorialists, especially Wendy Thomas, of Memphis's daily newspaper, *The Commercial Appeal*, even picked up on the story of one young man, Brandon Tidwell, who, after attending Love in Action's adult program to deal with being gay in a Christian world, finally found peace when he admitted he was gay, came out and realized who he really was ... gay and Christian.

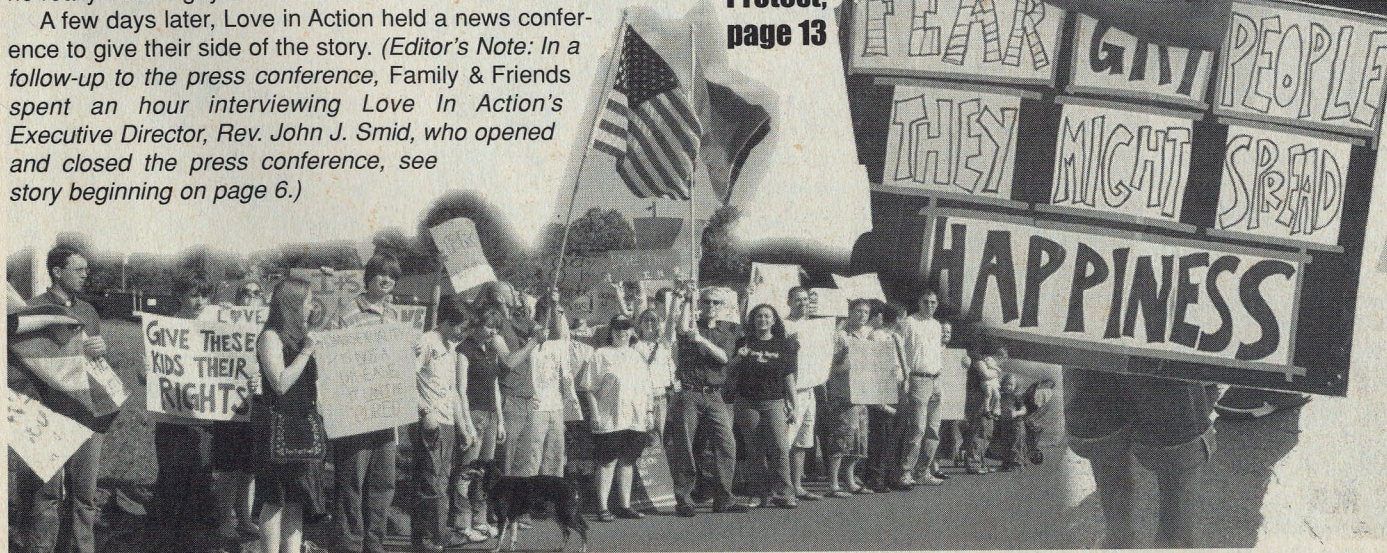
A few days later, Love in Action held a news conference to give their side of the story. (*Editor's Note: In a follow-up to the press conference, Family & Friends spent an hour interviewing Love In Action's Executive Director, Rev. John J. Smid, who opened and closed the press conference, see story beginning on page 6.*)

After a mountain of complaints against Love in Action, the Child Services at the Tennessee Department of Health began an investigation into child abuse allegations against Love in Action. However, on June 27, the department concluded that there was no evidence of child abuse. (For late-breaking updates on this, see page 27)

In a June 23 story in *Southern Voice*, Pamela Dickey, director of the advocacy center for Childhelp USA in Knoxville said, "Emotional abuse is difficult to prove in the state of Tennessee. You have to document that the child is undergoing depression or suicidal ideation, that he can't sleep or can't eat."

Zach hasn't been on the web lately, and hasn't posted to his blog in several weeks. No one really knows what happened. Did he get through the two-week program or quit? What were the results of his "therapy?" One of his last messages, which included his posting of all "The Rules" of the Refuge program (the adolescent Love in Action program) on his blog site, something he cut and pasted from his parent's email from Love in Action, drew a lot of attention, to say

See
Protest,
page 13



3 individuals offer advice to protesters, teen, parents

by Anita Moyt, managing editor

Family & Friends asked two individuals knowledgeable about Love in Action what they would say to the protesters, to Zach and to Zach's parents given the situation at hand.

Arnold Drake, M.D., of Memphis, the former national Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) president and the presiding president of the Memphis chapter of PFLAG, offered this advice:

To the protesters:

"Right on! You are doing the right thing. Do not get discouraged. Only by speaking the truth, repeatedly, will we win. It may take several lifetimes, but we will win.

To Zach:

Do not be angry with your parents. They love you and want what they see as best for you. But they are ill-informed by society and probably their clergy, and they feel a lot of pressure. They think you will have an unhappy life as a gay person. And probably they think that their religion forbids loving same-gender relationships. They, or people advising them, do not want you to know that GLBT people may have long-standing happy relationships, and lead productive lives. My son is a doctor. His partner is a PhD in public health, and teaches in a medical school. They have been together 16 years, longer than most heterosexual marriages. They are both accepted and loved in both of our families.

Your parents do not know that so-called conversion therapy is a sham. They do not know, or do not care, that all respectable medical and scientific organizations, including the American Psychological Association, the American Psychiatric Association, The American Psychoanalytic Association, The American Medical Association, all the Pediatric societies, the counseling organizations and many, many more have stated that so-called conversion therapy does not work, and may well be harmful. Many psychologists have horror stories of trying to treat the victims of these shameful procedures. Many of these organizations feel that any medical person participating in these things is performing in an unethical manner. The names they will throw at you (Nickolosi, Spitzer, etc) are not respected or accepted in the broad scientific community. They have no scientific basis for what they tell you.

They will say a lot to you about faith and religion. Many of these people may honestly believe what they say. But they are only one side of the argument. Many religious people disagree with them.

Please remember that there is nothing wrong with you. You do not have a disease. You do not need to be 'fixed.' These people who try to 'convert' you, if they are honest, may tell you that they cannot change your sexual orientation. They will tell you that this is a lifelong process to try to live in a manner that is pleasing to your parents and society, but your basic feelings and sexual orientation will not change. There is no such thing as an 'ex-gay.' These people may trot some out for you, but those people did not change. They are just more or less successful, for a while, at living a lie.

Courts have held that parents may do something harmful to themselves, in the name of religion (refuse blood transfusions, refuse life-saving surgery, etc.) but they may not martyr their children. You should try to get a lawyer to help you. But our legal system in Tennessee may not be much help.

To the parents:

You really and truly do not understand the harm you are doing to your child. Please read Mel White's excellent book Stranger at

the Gate about his struggle for years to convert his sexual orientation. He is a minister, and he had a wonderful supportive wife. Or read Anything but Straight by Wayne Besen, which details his experiences when he infiltrated these groups, including Love in Action. Or go to the website of the ex-ex-gays to hear about some of their experiences. Or go to the PFLAG website (www.pflag.org) and read about conversion therapy.

Ask these people for proof that their methods work. Do not take their word for it. Ask for the peer-reviewed, objectively accepted data. There is none. They will tell you "thousands of people have been converted, but they want to put this behind them."

That is a lie. There has never, NEVER EVER been one person who changed their sexual orientation. NOT ONE !! The only people who CLAIM to have changed are the professional conversion therapy workers. Their claims have never, never been proven. They will only try to persuade your child he should live an unhappy life, as a lie, because "that is G-d's will."

These people do not know what His will is. None of us do. Many of us are trying to do what is right, and what G-d expects of us. But there are many conflicts and uncertainties.

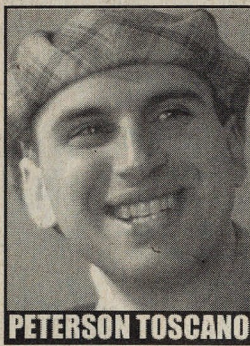
Jesus never said anything about being gay. No where in the Bible does it say to take your gay child to have conversion therapy.

I really feel sympathy for you. But you have been given a lot of wrong messages by certain fringe elements in our society. I know you love your child, just as I love my gay son. And I am sure you are religious, and you are trying to do what you think G-d wants you to do. But there are many honest ministers and scholars who disagree with these radical versions of the Bible. They believe, and I believe, that G-d made all of us in his image, and we are to accept and love the children that He sent to us.

Please re-consider your decision to do this to your child. If you wish to speak to me, please call me. I will have a lot more to tell you.

Dr. Drake can be reached via email at gidrdrake@aol.com.

...



PETERSON TOSCANO

The second person Family & Friends addressed these three questions to was former Memphian, writer, performer, and Love in Action graduate, Peterson Toscano. Toscano has performed his one-man show, *Doin' Time in The Homo No Mo Halfway House: How I Survived the Ex-Gay Movement*, based on his experiences as a client of Love in Action, several times in Memphis with his most recent performance at the Media Co-op June 25. He said:

To the protesters:

Know that the people who run these programs and the parents who force their children to attend, are blinded by society and the conservative church to believe they are doing the best thing for young people. If they truly understood the damage they caused, they would repent. They are trapped by a structure of beliefs and fears that routinely oppresses women, same-gender-loving people and non-Christians.

To Zach:

Trust your heart; you possess wisdom and courage inside

See Advice, page 15

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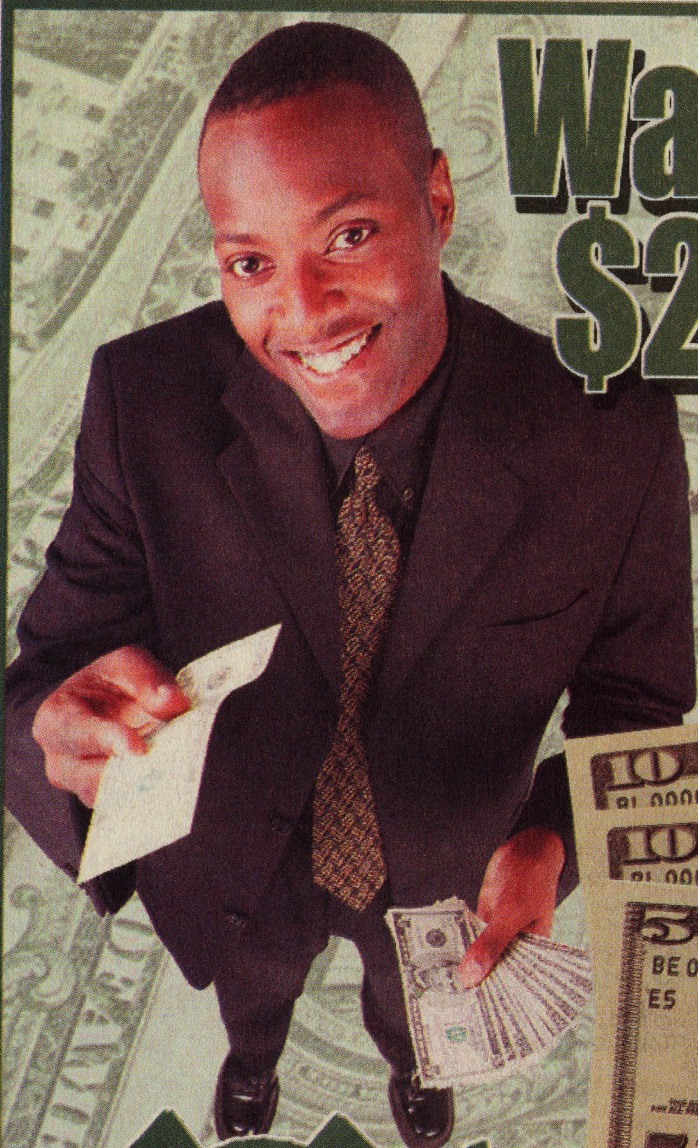
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Search for Byron Barker continues

by Michael Wilhoit
East Tennessee Associate
Editor

*Out and About Newspaper
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Police continue the search for Byron Barker, a 47-year-old gay hair stylist missing since May 3. His Nissan Altima was found in a Williamsburg, Ky., Super 8 Motel parking lot. Initial forensic examination revealed the presence of blood in the car's trunk.

Preliminary DNA test results were positive for human blood, and, according to the investigators, further DNA testing performed by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation crime lab indicated the blood did indeed test positive as a male offspring of Byron Barker's mother. Barker has one male sibling who has been ruled out as the source of the blood.

The test, called Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR), makes use of small amounts of DNA by making copies, resulting in a "Xerox" of small samples collected at crime scenes. By using this technique, crime labs are able to get significant forensic findings even though the specimen collected is small.

Detective Steven Still of the Knoxville Police Department indicated that the amount of blood in the trunk was substantial, but did not meet standards set for a definitive cause of death.

If you or anyone you know has any information about Barker, and particularly if you have had contact with him after May 3, you are asked to call Detective Still at (865) 215-7014. Callers may remain anonymous.

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see pages 40-45**

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Protest spawns much-needed Queer Action Coalition

by Anita Moyt, managing editor

As the protest against Love in Action came to life, it spawned a new group in Memphis: The Queer Action Coalition (QAC).

Two of its founding members Cale LeFevre and Jenessa Williams, met with *Family & Friends* magazine to talk about the new organization.

Morgan Fox, a filmmaker, was the first to gain awareness of the plight of a 16-year old male, Zach, who had posted to a blog (an online journal) that said he was put in Love in Action's adolescent program (Refuge) by his parents, against his will. (See story page 7.) Morgan made Zach's plight known in his own blog.

"Morgan Fox told me about this program (Love in Action)," LeFevre told *Family & Friends*. "We drove out to the facility. We then had a meeting with interested kids, about eight people.

"We decided to protest for two weeks (June 6 to 17), the length of the program (that Zach was involved in)," LeFevre continued. "It got kinda crazy," LeFevre said, referring to the constant mainstream media coverage; the deluge of emails; phone calls from across the country, and the speed at which Zach's plight moved across the Internet via various websites and blogs. "We were getting so much support from the gay and lesbian community, strangers, churches, etc.

"Because Morgan was getting stressed out with all the contacts and his journal blog being overloaded," LeFevre, who identifies as queer, said, "we created a new email, fighting.homophobia@gmail.com, to divert from Morgan.

Alex Polotsky got involved the second day," LeFevre continued. "(Polotsky) then created a formal blog for the protest at fightinghomophobia.blogspot.com. That website then began receiving as many, if not more, emails, from all over the country, offering support.



CALE LEFEVRE and JENESSA WILLIAMS

"We went to Little Rock and tried to talk to some churches there," LeFevre said of a trip she made back to her hometown. "One was a Presbyterian church and another was Unitarian. Their reaction was, 'We would not support Love in Action but we are not explicitly open, even though we have gay and lesbian church members.' However, people did want us to come back and speak.

"Morgan and Alex decided to form the actual group on Thursday or Friday; it was named Queer Action Coalition," LeFevre continued. "Janelle Treibitz, myself (LeFevre,) Morgan Fox, Alex Polotsky, Jenessa Williams and Carly Crawford were at the first meeting. We decided we would try to get as much media as possible to get information out."

The group's members also made good use of the 2005 Mid-South Pride Parade and Reception, June 11, to pass out flyers about QAC and tell the Memphis and Mid-South gay, lesbian,

bisexual and transgender community about the protests.

In spreading the word about Love in Action's programs, LeFevre said that many people they had talked to were totally unaware of the existence of Love in Action or any other program offering a way to alter homosexual behaviors.

QAC, wisely, has contemplated each step it has taken, day by day. They are using education and knowledge as key elements in fighting discrimination.

"We didn't want to get the Love in Action clients in trouble or shut LIA down," Lefevre said. "But we couldn't really just stop them. They had the right to believe what they believed. The reason why it can happen for teenagers is parents can send them there. They (parents) have a right to believe what they believe, that homosexuality is a choice not a right, but not to force it on their child. Telling teenagers, 'You can't be like you are, stop being gay,' doesn't stop at sex. It is referred to as a 'romantic sexual attraction' by the American Psychological Association. So you will never be able to act on it. Not just no sex, but no relationships."

According to QAC's press kit, it is comprised of people of all ages and sexual orientations. Its goal is to educate the public about queer rights and to show that they are civil rights that are applicable to any person regardless of sexual orientation. It hopes to better inform people about programs that promote anti-queer agendas and provide better resources for queer people and their family and friends. The QAC would like to see a shift in the public's view of homophobia, which is now considered by some an acceptable form of discrimination. QAC plans to actively work alongside religious, governmental and educational institutions in order to meet its goal.

QAC is open to anyone willing to offer support and assistance in whatever way they can. QAC receives no financial aid from any organization and all work is done by volunteers.

For more information, email fighting.homophobia@gmail.com or go online to its blog at fightinghomophobia.blogspot.com or its website at www.qaconline.org.

Protest

from page 7

the least, especially since the rules were only meant for the parents of adolescent clients of LIA. Some worry about how much trouble he got into over that little trick.

In his interview with *Family & Friends* magazine (see page 6), John Smid, executive director of Love in Action, made reference to the list of rules Zach posted that made its way across the Internet. Smid also made reference to the many emails he had received from concerned individuals and protesters.

The protest is not over yet, and is spinning off into other events, meetings, groups, etc. The main goal of the organizers was and is being met – to let the city of Memphis know that such "ex-gay" organizations as Love in Action do, in fact, exist. For sure they have met that goal far above and beyond anything they could think. Not just Memphis, but our whole nation has heard their cries.

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



Within the pages of this issue of *Family & Friends* you will find an one-hour interview we conducted with Love In Action International Executive Director, Rev. John J. Smid. This interview is published verbatim to maintain as much objectivity as possible on the part of this magazine. We attempted to ask Smid as many questions as we could, that we were aware of, that the protesters of Love In Action had raised, in essence taking a lot of the questions from the street inside Smid's office.

It should be noted that *Family & Friends* does not agree with everything Smid said. But we had to let him tell his side of the story and let his voice be heard. It is up to the reader to come to their own conclusion.

In all honesty, there is a place for Love in Action, if what Smid told us about the program is true and accurate. But that place is for those homosexuals, and more often than not, bisexuals, ingrained in the church culture and wanting to comply with cultural norms, set forth by this group, in order to be accepted by them. They can try to learn ways to remain celibate and find diversions when their homosexual attractions and thoughts are evident. These people are not yet open to find homosexuality acceptable, despite the conflicts they continue to feel but won't, more times than not, acknowledge.

This leads us to a second group of "gay Christians," those who constantly deal with dissonance (Webster: inconsistency between the beliefs one holds or between one's actions and one's beliefs). They have one foot in the church world, attempting to be accepted by their fellowship, which is unaccepting of gays and lesbians, and one foot in the gay world, wanting to be part of a group of people who understand what it is like to be gay. With the constant warring between the two belief systems, the body, the mind and the soul are what suffer.

And, in that dissonance, lies the problems. In the gay world, some may use drugs and alcohol until they no longer hear the voices condemning them for where they are and for the joy they feel. Some cases are extreme, such as serial murderer Jeffrey Dahmer, who had homosexual attractions but denied himself

peace with them, so he took other avenues to find a way to manifest his feelings.

On the other end of the spectrum, are those who go down for prayer, quite often, asking for the elders to lay hands on him/her so they may be delivered from their homosexual desires, or even homosexual demons. Unfortunately, in the words of his/her teachers and preachers, the dissonance may manifest as condemnation and homophobic remarks.

Hypocrisy raises its head, though, when those elders, teachers and preachers are the ones with one foot in the church and one foot in the gay world themselves...on the down low.

We found that when we came out and accepted our homosexuality, the warring ended and peace, at least from within, was found. Granted, the warring from the world continues, but it is the peace we found with who we are, a gay Christian, that allows us the strength to fight the battles.

We would suggest that there is a place for a program that is based on the Bible, yet based on acceptance of your homosexuality. In that way, guidance could be given to those trying to understand being gay and Christian.

We do not feel that Jesus Christ ever, ever condemned people. Nor did he ever tell us to do that. Christ viewed all as first-class citizens.

All the way back to the beginning of time, people have enjoyed lording themselves, both consciously and unconsciously, over other people, in order to make themselves feel better or superior. Christ never did that. The teaching of Love in Action, on which they base their program or "therapy," are again placing people in groups of various degrees of acceptability. There is a lot of lost energy trying to fulfill a list of rules that Paul wrote in order to work one's way up from second-class acceptance. Smid at least, at the news conference and in our interview, acknowledged that the organized church today needs to be careful of judging and "shore up your own house."

In this issue you also will find stories and commentary from several other people, each giving their viewpoint and voice on the "Gay and Christian" issue. Again, we are providing these for our readers to make their own interpretation on the issue.

...

The publisher of this magazine is the great-granddaughter of the late Rev. and Mrs. Roy Pair. Rev. Pair was one of the seven founding fathers of the United Pentecostal Church. To the best of our knowledge, Rev. and Mrs. Pair, both ordained ministers, had two gay/lesbian offspring, one a grandson who is now deceased (Michael Pair of California) and a great-granddaughter (Patricia Pair of Memphis.)

To our knowledge, neither of these two offspring were ever condemned or unloved by their grandparents for being who they are.



Advice

from page 8

that will carry you far. It may hurt to have the people who are supposed to care for you the most to hurt you the most, but time can change this, too. Know that there is nothing **WRONG** with you for being (gay).

To Zach's parents:

I spent seven years and \$30,000 trying to "straighten" myself out. I sought God with all my heart, and after all that, and after seeing people literally kill themselves over their inability to change their sexual identity, I finally stopped the madness. The greatest gift my parents ever gave me was accepting me for who I am, not who they felt I should become.

Peterson Toscano studied theater and English literature at City College of New York. In 1995, he moved to England then Zambia to work in radio production for a Christian mission. Because of the conflict between his Christian faith and his homosexual desires, Peterson left the mission field and moved to the Love in Action ex-gay program in Memphis. He graduated successfully from the program nearly two years later, but in January of 1999, he finally came OUT and fully accepted himself as a gay man. Toscano can be contacted through his website at www.p2son.com or his blog at www.a_musing.blogspot.com.

...

Although *Family & Friends* didn't contact comedian Margaret Cho ourselves, several concerned individuals did so via her website. She posted the following response to Zach, in part:

... Jesus doesn't have a problem with homosexuality. It is just that some of the people who claim to represent him do. I grew up in the church. My grandfather was a Methodist minister and we had church right in our living room seven days a week, so I understand a little about where you might be coming from.

... And when you get out of there and get into the real world you will see how great it is, how gay it is, and all that pain and suffering will be a distant memory, which will only serve to remind you that you survived. Your reward for surviving is living life without lies as God made you. You are going to live through this and tell us all about it.

Hang in there for us. -m

— Margaret Cho wrote to Zach on her website at www.margaretcho.com/blog/hangintherezach.htm.

(The views expressed in this story are those of the writers and are not necessarily those of *Family & Friends Magazine* or its staff.)



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or email
wb12eos@yahoo.com

NATIONAL TIDBITS:

ST. AUGUSTINE, FLA., saw 49 gay-pride rainbow flags fly on the Bridge of Lions June 8 to 14. This was after U.S. District Judge Henry Lee Adams Jr. ruled against the city of St. Augustine, which had previously rejected a request by the St. Augustine Pride Committee to fly the flags during pride week.

On the other hand, the Hillsborough County (TAMPA, FLA.) Commissioners voted to ban any and all public displays that promote Gay Pride month from its libraries and even banned simply acknowledging any and all pride events in the county. Fighting back, a PRIDE IS BACK MARCH was held June 24 to let the commissioners know that not every one of their constituents agreed with their decision.

President Bush nominated ISRAEL HERNANDEZ, a long-time aide and openly gay man, to the position of Director General of the United States and Foreign Commercial Service. Hernandez, who has attended White House functions with his partner, didn't out himself to the president until Bush's second term.

BEWARE YOUR HOOKUPS! *Nashville Scene's* Matt Pulle reports the Hermitage Police Precinct has been running an ONLINE STING OPERATION to catch gay men. Setting up hook-ups in gay chatrooms, when the unsuspecting would-be date arrives, he is handcuffed and taken to the station for booking, usually on some drug charge. The sting operators have a profile, a great pic, and know the language, including "pnp," and asks about drugs, including "420" and "blow." Check out the full story at [www.nashvillescene.com/cgi-](http://www.nashvillescene.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?story=This_Week:News:Cover_Story)

[bin/article.cgi?story=This_Week:News:Cover_Story](http://www.nashvillescene.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?story=This_Week:News:Cover_Story).

Speaking of chatrooms, BEWARE THE PICTURE YOU POST ON THE WEB. Big brother is really watching. Major websites have been affected. See page 69 for Rex Wockner's report.

The BOYS SCOUTS apparently aren't always as honest as they lead us to believe, especially when it comes to membership numbers. The Atlanta Boy Scouts Council was found by audit to have overstated its number of black scouts in a program designed for inner city youth, submitting a figure of 20,000 black scouts when the actual figure was only 500. The FBI is looking into a similar accounting problem with the Alabama Boy Scout Council.

SPAIN has now legalized same-sex marriages. This transpired on June 30.

LOCAL TIDBITS:

Congratulations to DARRELL CLARK for being named Tsaurus 2005 Man of the Year. Clark works in the Food Pantry at Friends For Life.

The female motorcycle club we featured in a previous issue of *Family & Friends*, THE HIGHLY DEFINED LADY MOTORCYCLE CLUB OF MEMPHIS, has changed its name to ViciousVixxenZ. "I changed the name to get more attention," founder Wendy Curtis told *Family & Friends*, "but the female rider response is weak. I think all the ladies need is encouragement. I've met a lot who are interested but either they were scared to get a bike, ride a bike or unable financially to get one, or so they think. Getting a bike is soooooo much easier than one thinks. I love my bike and I'll continue to ride. Pleeeeease tell the ladies, 'Don't be scared!'" For more information, call (901) 643-1222 or email her at BikerBroad901@yahoo.com.

The winners in the 2005 Mid-South Pride Parade were: MYSTIC KREWE OF PEGASUS for Best Walking Group; BACKSTREET MEMPHIS for Best Rolling Group, and JUST FOR US MEMPHIS tied with MAGY for Best Representation of Theme. The winner of the traveling trophy for Best in Show was HUNTER JOHNSTON - his Statue of Liberty and Lady Justice represented the year's theme of "Liberty and Justice for All." By the way, Johnston requested that the trophy be put on display at the Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center, 892 South Cooper, for all to see.

Just a note on the judging of the Pride Parade, according to Mid-South Pride Chair GARY WILKERSON, the MID-SOUTH PEACE AND JUSTICE CENTER chose the judges from their organization. Also, to avoid any conflict of interest, Wilkerson said if anyone serving on the Mid-South Pride Board of Directors chose to walk with an organization they belonged to, that organization would not be eligible for the Best in Show category.

OUTFLIX 2005, MGLCC's Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, is set for AUG. 11-14, at the Media Co-op Theatre in First Congregational Church, 1000 South Cooper. Tickets are \$5 per night and \$15 for a festival pass. For more information, go online to www.outflixfestival.org or email wb12eos@yahoo.com.

COSMIC CLOSET, the place to go for the modern look for a room or your whole house, has moved from Overton Square. They are now located around the corner from Starbucks in the former Odett's location on McLean.

GOOD LUCK WISHES go out to DEMONICA SANTANGILO, who will be competing July 28-31 in Louisville, Ky. for the title of Ms. Entertainer of the Year International.

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Love In Action

from page 6

were you seeking open-mindedness and tolerance?

Smid: From anyone or everyone that was there, as well as those who would read the press response because, I think, since you were there, you noticed I was speaking to Christians and non-Christians, alike. And I was speaking to those that agreed or disagreed with where we were standing. I just wanted an opportunity to make a statement from our perspective. This is what our beliefs are. This is where we're coming from. You can do with that what you want.

F&F: Do you consider yourself openminded and tolerant when it comes to homosexuals?

Smid: ... My personal response to that, and I publicly believe this, people have the freedom in God and in this world to make their own choices, as far as how they want to live; how they chose to live. ... God says clearly right after He says do not be involved in sexual immorality, He says all things are permissible but not all things are beneficial.

I strive to respond as God, I believe, responds to us and that is to appeal to our reasoning to say think it through and be honest, is it really beneficial? And it's at that point I think when we have to make our own choices and so people who chose to live in homosexuality, homosexual relationships, people who chose to act out upon their sexuality and same-sex behaviors, that is everyone's freedom to do that.

But I would appeal to that and say I just want you to really be honest with yourself. And, at some point, you may think differently. Are you open to that? In other words, are you open to the possibility that God may speak and He may appeal to you and say, "Think about it again?"

But I think so many times, I know I can do this, we can invest so much in our opinion that it's difficult to change it once we are challenged to change it because, it'll take too much work, or what will people think or, you know, whatever. I think we always have to be postured to think and to review what we believe.

And so when I see protesters, when I experience what we have in the last few weeks, I don't just deflect it. I always go through and re-evaluate it; you know, what are they saying, what's happening, what are we doing, is there something we can learn from this, what are my perspectives, what do I believe truth is. Every time I've done that I've come to the same conclusion, ultimately, that there (is) oftentimes a shift in my approach or the way I address it. ... I can say that the way I address it today is not the way I would have addressed it 15 years ago because I really do try to listen. I really do try to understand people.

And, like I coined a phrase one time when I was on a TV show, there was a man that was very antagonistic and he was standing for a very strong, antagonistic gay organization and I really tried to hear his heart because I noticed the audience was not hearing his heart. They (the audience) were reactionary, they were abusive towards him. They were inappropriate, many of them, and as I experienced that scenario, my heart shifted and I recognize in that that we have to respect one another,

er, even if we don't agree. And I learned ... we don't have to agree to respect ... I can disagree but I can still respect; I can still respect our God-given right to do as we want. Our right to do as we want, however, doesn't mean it's beneficial.

F&F: How many adults identifying as homosexual have gone through Love In Action's program?

Smid: Oh, man, (laughs) that's a really hard number to come up with. I know up through the year 2001, we had about 190 people who completed the program, that is when we had a one-year program. Since that time when we started the Source program, which was December 2001, I believe, I'd have to check that because I keep forgetting which year it was, since that time we've had, I believe it's now about 300.

F&F: How many of those adults have returned to a homosexual lifestyle?

Smid: People ask me about success a lot. And I think everyone gauges success differently in terms of what is successful. For example, you might go to a drug and alcohol program and you might (remain sober for) a one-year period of time, well one year to me doesn't really speak much. A lot of people might achieve a one-year sobriety and go back to their habits.

The way I gauge success, Patty, is how many people who complete our program, first of all, have a better relationship with God when they're through than when they started. I would say very easily 90 percent ... because I hear it in the groups. I hear it in their hearts. So many times they respond and say, "I am so much closer to the Lord now than I was. I understand him so much more now than I used to. I really have a relationship with Christ and I don't know that I really did before." So, that's part of it.

The other part is do they pursue an ongoing relationship with God? Where before they came here they felt very distant, very distracted, very unconnected, very disconnected from God. I would say probably, at least 60 to 80 percent continue pursuing Christ after they leave here. I think that's a pretty easy statement.

Even those that are negative towards the program, I've heard so many of their stories, will say, "I'm still connected to Christ, I still feel God in my heart, I'm still pursuing God." And so, I think, "Man, as long as you're pursuing God I trust He's the one who's going to work in your heart." It's not about Love In Action, it's about Him.

As far as those that stay away from homosexuality, I think since I've been here I would say it's very close to somewhere between 40 and 50 percent (who) remain solidly away from homosexual behavior after completing the program.

F&F: How many adolescents identifying as homosexual have gone through Love in Action's Refuge program? How many of those youths have returned to a homosexual lifestyle?

Smid: The adolescent program we've had, because it's new I remember the numbers a little better, we've had about 23 kids who have gone through it.

Out of 23, one of them left after two days, who was not a fit for the program; two of them remained through the two-week period and at the end stated that they were going to pursue homosexuality after they left the program. The other 19, or 20, at the point where they graduated, said that they were clearly not going to pursue homosexuality and they felt so much clarity about it. I think as a result of that since that time in two and a half years I would say I think, from what I can see and know, about three or four of them returned to homosexual behavior, but I clearly see their age bracket as a very fluid time and I don't know where they're going to be 10 years from now or 20 years from now.

I think when they're 18, in college with the influences around and the stuff that's going on, I think it's pretty reasonable that they would return to some form of inappropriate sexual behavior. I just think that may or may not be the reality for them, but I don't really count that as the end result because there's so much to sort out at that age. I think we gave them the tools.

F&F: During the press conference last week, you said that once a person accepts Jesus Christ as his or her personal savior, they begin a journey toward becoming more Christ-like. Let's say that while on their journey they slip, ie. give in to homosexual temptations, isn't that okay since every man falls short of the glory of God and we're all sinners?

APA notes difference

According to the American Psychological Association's (APA) website at www.apa.org, there is a difference between 'reparative therapy' and 'transformational ministries,' which may more closely describe Love in Action's methods.

"Transformational ministry' is a term used to describe the use of religion to eliminate homosexual desires," the APA said. "While 'reparative therapy' relies on secular approaches, 'transformational ministry' takes the approach that 'freedom from homosexuality is possible through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.' While there is some diversity within the movement, most 'transformational ministries' adhere to a belief that 'upholds heterosexuality as God's creative intent for humanity, and subsequently views homosexual expression as outside God's will.'"

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Love In Action

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Smid: (slight chuckle) I wouldn't say it's okay because I don't think God winks at it. God doesn't wink at sin. He's not an enabling God. He has very clear standards and He has very clear expectations of his people. Therefore, I believe, if we engage in inappropriate behavior there are consequences that we may or may not experience as a result. And sometimes God's grace, meaning his cover on our lives, may allow us smaller consequences just because, for whatever reason He decides to be benevolent to some extent and yet there are other times He doesn't and that's the mystery of God.

I don't believe He just ignores it. I don't believe that at all. And I believe there are always consequences, some big and some small. My personal belief is that every single time someone engages in a sexual encounter with another person they are not married to, heterosexually married to, this is my conviction, there is always a consequence to that. A consequence on the soul, but that doesn't mean it's not forgivable. It doesn't mean God can't restore. I'll put it in the positive – it means God will forgive and He will restore if we seek Him for that. And so, while every sin bares a consequence, every sin is also a sin that God's willing to work with us on.

He is a very forgiving God, but He's also a God of discipline and so He's not permissive, in that sense. He says all things are permissible, but not beneficial and so, if I frame it in that, that means the beneficial part is where we have to really focus our choices. Is this really best for me?

I use an example of let's say someone drove up here in a beautiful bright red convertible, which I like, and the keys were in it. Could I go out there, start that car and drive it away? Absolutely. I could if I wanted to, but I'd pay the price cause it's not mine. I didn't gain that permission. If I did it without permission.

I hate to minimize sexuality to that level but I think it's a good analogy. Can I go and have sex with another man? Yes, I can, but when I do, I have to be willing to accept the consequences of my choices. That's how God is with us. He's not standing there with a sledge hammer waiting to squash us like a bug, that's just not who God is. But He also does not remove the consequences and they're there and they're present and we have to deal with them. We have to face them.

F&F: Is homosexuality the greatest of all sins? Is it an unforgivable sin?

Smid: The perception that homosexuality is somehow worse than every other sin ... that's false doctrine. That's wrong doctrine.

Yes, God says that certain behaviors are an abomination, but abomination is a word that our culture isn't very familiar with. I believe what that really means is that there are serious sins, and I believe that they are. There are sins outside the body the scripture says, and there are sins inside the body that impact the body and He's speaking there of sexual sin.

I believe it's not that God is more angry about sexual sin. I believe the concept there is to think about it because the consequences are greater. In other words, I can go out here and I can have a bad thought or I can gossip or I can do something that's wrong, but the consequences certainly aren't going to be legal nor are they necessarily going to have such a strong reaction from someone, but there are other behaviors that do.

And I believe ... the consequences of homosexuality can be greater than heterosexual sin because of the way it impacts us as a person, because of the further distance away from God's created plan. He created us with heterosexual bodies. He created a plan for man and woman to be suitable helpmates. He created a family with a mother and a father, and that's the created model all the way through scripture. Well, someone can stray from that model and act out in adultery and that has very severe consequences. It's very severe trust-breaking and very severe issues. That's one thing to handle, but then when we're moved to homosexuality, I believe that impacts us internally, at a deeper level.

I think that when people act upon homosexuality, there's room in that for someone to have more deeply-rooted issues because I've worked in this a long time and I've dealt with it myself and I know for me, I would say that's true. The way that it impacted me and the issues that brought me to the place where I was acting out in same-sex encounters I think there were issues that I really had to grapple with that I think some other people don't have to.

So, I think again, on that level, that it's certainly not less forgivable,

it's certainly not less redeemable, my goodness. Like I said the other day, as I was sorting through my reaction to the press conference and my reaction to all the emails and the responses I'm getting, the negative ones that I'm getting, is, it's like I want to shout out, "Don't tell me it's not possible to leave homosexuality. My life counts. I have a story and my life counts and I'm telling the truth so don't tell me it's not possible." And I'm not the only person. I'm not that unique and I know hundreds and hundreds personally, I mean personally, I'm not over-exaggerating and I'm not spreading big numbers, I know personally hundreds of people that are living free of homosexuality where at one time they thought it could never work or could never be possible.

Part of my motive for doing what I do everyday is to offer people the opportunity. That's all I can do. If they want it then they can take it. People've left here, they've made other decisions, that's their choice. But, don't come back at me, it's like a journalist will say, "Don't murder the messenger."

F&F: Are you familiar with the World Overcomers ad in the *Commercial Appeal*?

Smid: Oh yeah, I knew about it.

F&F: Apparently they (World Overcomers) believe the consequence of homosexuality is a one-way ticket to hell. Is that Love In Action's belief?

Smid: No, that's not my perspective. My perspective is that we lose the gift of eternal life because we are broken, sinful human beings in need of a savior. Everyone of us. I believe that God offers salvation to all, equally.

It merely is a collaborative relationship with Jesus Christ that in some theologies Jesus initiates and in other theologies we respond to, and I'm not going to get into that because that goes all over the road map. But I believe salvation is offered to all equally. And I believe salvation covers all sin. And I believe that the sin that some people refer to as the "unforgivable sin" I don't believe is a behavior on our part, I believe it is a lack of asking for forgiveness. We grieve the Holy Spirit by not allowing Him to come in and show us the way to eternal life. And so I don't think homosexuality even enters into that discussion.

F&F: During the press conference, I understood you to say that people cannot be happy, well-adjusted Christians and be homosexual. Is that correct and if so, why?

Smid: My message to that would be, from my conviction and from my Biblical understanding, that is inappropriate for the Christian life. I stand on that. That's a prophetic message that I believe is absolutely true, however, I can't tell you how to live. And so, It's not my job to tell you what you have to do, but it is my job to challenge you with what I believe is the truth. In other words, that's a free challenge, you know, I'm very convicted and it's not just about homosexuality. I'm very convicted that any sexual behavior with another person outside of heterosexual marriage transcends God's word. That's my conviction. I'm not here to manipulate or to control or to relate inappropriately with anyone who believes otherwise.

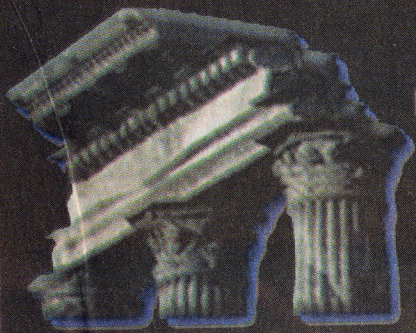
F&F: I'm less concerned about the adults going through the Love In Action program because they are adults and chose to enter into the program. My true concern is for the young people whose parents put them in your Refuge program. To clarify, my concern for these young people stems from some of the things the protesters had to say about the program.

First, that males and females are forced to dress and act in accordance with their gender, ie, boys cutting their hair, girls having to wear dresses. If this is true, what purpose does it serve?

Smid: "The rules" are primarily therapeutic rules. One of the things we understand about people is that there are times when they can develop behaviors for affects or clothing styles that are rooted in a false image of themselves. ... So, we neutralize the externals for the purpose of raising awareness.

For example, we know that sometimes women can struggle. The people we deal with are dealing with gender issues, sexual issues that sometimes these women can struggle with, "I don't want to shave my legs because that's what women do and I feel reactionary to that." Okay, let's talk about that. Maybe a man's hair is extremely long, so much so that it kind of hangs over his eyes and kind of covers him up. Are you afraid to show your face? Are you ashamed? Cut your hair. How do you feel? "I feel vulnerable." Good, that's what we want to know. We want to

See Love In Action, page 26



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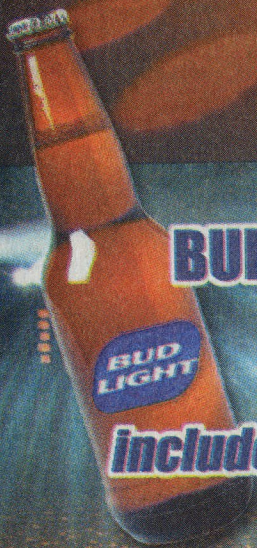
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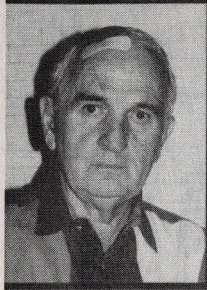
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REUNIONS & REALIZATIONS



an unpublished novel
by Jim Norcross
(chapter by chapter)

FRANKIE AND JOHNNY

The telephone rang. Helen Sherman reached out from the covers, picked it up and snarled, "I don't know who in the hell you are, calling this early in the morning, but unless my bar's on fire, I'm not talkin'."

She slammed the receiver down and nestled deeper in her bed. Her elaborate hairdo was wrapped in several layers of toilet paper to preserve it from becoming disarrayed and, to further protect it, she didn't lie flat in the bed, but slept in a half-reclining and half-sitting position, propped up with several satin pillows behind her.

The telephone rang again. Helen cursed, but finally picked it up. "Who the hell is this?"

"Helen. It's Frank."

"Leave it to a drag queen to call at this ungodly hour. I don't get home until 4:00 a.m. I need my rest. What do you want?"

"Helen, this is important. I need to talk. I met the most wonderful man yesterday. I'm in love."

"You met him yesterday and you're in love? Girl, let me tell you, you're just in heat," Helen said, yawning.

"His name is Johnny and he's a policeman."

"So? I've known a lot of queer cops in my time."

"Well, this one is different —," Frank stammered.

"He's straight and doesn't suspect that I'm not real."

"Oh, my?" said Helen. "He's blind. Now, you are pretty good but I don't think you are that good."

Her eyes, at the moment devoid of the green mascara that she always wore, snapped completely open. She pondered for a moment. "In that case maybe you had better come over. It's against my rules. You are the only one from the bar who even knows my telephone number."

Helen got out of bed, turned on the radio, pulled on a leopard printed kimono, pushed her feet into heeled slippers with marabou trim and started unwinding the toilet paper from around her mercurchrome-colored hair. Going to the kitchen, she put two cups of water in the microwave to make instant coffee.

Frank was there momentarily. "I want you to know you're the only person I've let come here," Helen said. "I don't mix my home life with bar life."

Frank, dressed in a Donna Karan pants suit with a pink silk blouse and carrying a small lizard bag, was bubbling with excitement. Upon entering the room, however, he drew silent, over-

whelmed by Helen's many arts and crafts projects scattered about the room.

On tables and on the floor was a veritable menagerie of ceramic animals, dogs, cats, monkeys, bunnies, as well as a large lavender hippo with rolling eyes. There were crochet doilies on chairs and large macrame' plant hangings in every corner. Cross-stitched pillows, depicting portraits of the entire Fred Flintstone family, were strewn about, and shell-encrusted, hand-painted ash trays sat on tables by lava lamps. There was a chorus line of Teddy bears bedecked in various-colored lace dresses with hats to match and on one wall hung a hand-hooked rug of several dogs playing poker. There were numerous flower arrangements of all kinds, all made from various recycled material, like Pepsi bottle caps, old egg cartons, pipe cleaners and shredded plastic soap bottles. Down the hallway leading to the bathroom was a ponderous swaying bead and driftwood curtain in neon colors.

However, it was the large publicity type picture of a youthful Helen hanging over the sofa that caught and held Frank's attention. In the photograph, Helen was smiling seductively into the camera, wearing only high heels, pasties and a G-string, plus a sting of pearls around her waist. Under the picture was the caption, HELLEN BEDD STRIPPER EXTRAORDINAIRE.

Helen saw him staring. "Do you like the name? Thought of it myself. I did mention I used to shake the beads — you know, travel the strip circuit — didn't I? Made good money but had to give it up when my tits started dropping to my waist. When I started tripping over 'em on stage I knew it was time to get out of the business — so I bought a bar."

"You never told anyone that," Frank said, noticing a smaller framed photo on an end table by a lamp made from an old Jim Beam bottle. It was of a still younger Helen, in a white dress and veil. Standing beside her with his arm around her waist was a skinny, cow-licked, different looking young man wearing an ill fitting dark suit with too short sleeves and a gaudy necktie. Helen followed his gaze and reached over and

turned the picture face down on the table.

"Some things I never talk about," she said. "Now, sit down and tell me about this wonderful straight policeman who doesn't know about you. Is he blind?"

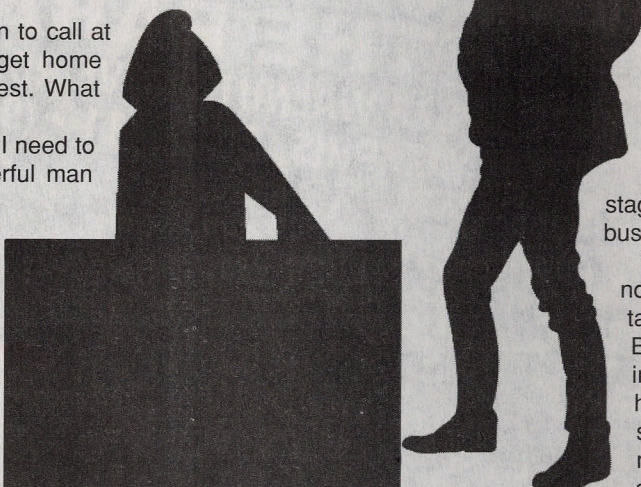
"No," Frank said, indigent. "You know I can pass for real. Anyway, yesterday, I was at my office doing paper work."

Frank took a sip of coffee and gagged and made a face. "Helen, this stuff is terrible."

"Hell, I never claimed to be a cook. That's why God made restaurants — for me to eat in. Go on with your story."

"It's all too wonderful. It's a sign — our names, that is. You know, like the song 'Frankie and Johnny.'"

"You've never been called Frankie and have always been adamant that you've never used a feminine name," Helen said, sitting down across from him. She pushed aside her latest creative project that was spread out over one end of the table — a large black velvet paint-by-number picture of Elvis, which she



was embellishing with stones of various colors.

"My grandmother calls me Frankie," Frank said, trying a second sip of the coffee, made a face and pushed the cup aside. "I was at my desk when Johnny walked in. Thank goodness it was a good hair day and I was looking good – had on the new pink Lillie Rubin I got in Tupelo when I went home to visit my grandmother at Christmas. She's the only family member who accepts me, you know."

Helen motioned with her hands for him to speed up the story.

"Well, I was working and in walks this gorgeous man. Got my name out of the phone book. He is something in his uniform – so handsome. He's trying to get custody of his 10-year old son, who's with his ex-wife in Humboldt, Tennessee, where he's from originally. The ex-wife is terrible – as bad as Paul's last wife and she's carrying on with this used car salesman, has the boy with her and won't let Johnny see him. He's devastated." Frank looked out into space for a minute. "You know I always wanted children."

Helen frowned. "Go on." She turned her attention to the placement of some of the stones on Elvis's cape.

"Well, anyway Johnny – his full name is John Steven Deberry. Did I mention he is a Sagittarius? Born December sixth, and you know how compatible I am with a Sagittarius. It's another omen. Well, we talked and finally went out for dinner. When he had come in originally, he had asked for Franklin Langworthy, which is on the door of my office. I guess he thought I was the secretary and, just out of the blue I said, 'Mr. Langworthy is recovering from by-pass surgery. I'm his daughter Frankie. I'm an attorney. Could I help?'"

"By-pass surgery?" Helen raised on eyebrow, shook her head as she glued a large red stone on Elvis's belt buckle.

"Well, that just came to me. I had to think of something. Anyway, we went out to eat, and talked almost the whole night. We just hit it off." Frank leaned over closer to Helen. "Something else, and you won't believe this, but when he walked in, do you know what song was playing on the radio?"

"I haven't the foggiest," Helen replied.

"'Wind Beneath My Wings' by Bette Midler. You know it's my favorite song in the whole world. It's also my best number when I perform for benefits, too. It's all too much!"

Helen was silent, studying intensely the different beads before her. "Well, obviously, you didn't do the big nasty last night or he would have noticed a little something extra in your No-

Nonsense pantyhose. How are you going to explain that? He may be from Humboldt and not too bright, but I think even in Humboldt they'd notice that."

"We didn't do anything. He's a gentleman and so romantic. He kissed me on the cheek and said he would call me next week when he got off the graveyard shift. What am I going to do, Helen?"

Suddenly, from the radio in the bedroom came the beginning strains of "Wind Beneath My Wings." "Oh listen, Helen. Listen to the song. It's a sign. I know it is."

Helen shook her head, giving rapt attention to the colored gems before her. Then she selected a blue one and placed it in Elvis's cape and she said, "I'm getting too old for this crap. Maybe I had better go back to stripping. Life's too weird in the bar business."



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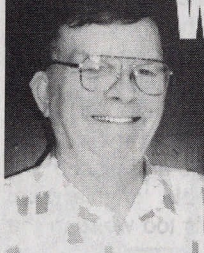
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HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED ...



editorial by Jim Easter



- How Michael Jackson "Beat It?" Dyer's Cafe on Summer Avenue claims "Nobody Beats Their Meat Like We Do." Blues City Cafe boasts it has "Music and Meat That Can't Be Beat." so who are you gonna believe?

- Does the MGLCC really think it is "the center of our community" as advertised in the Cooper-Young neighborhood newspaper, *The Lamplighter*? The ad welcomed folks to celebrate the pride parade. Attendance was sparse; not many people from within or outside of the C-Y community showed up. Perhaps attendance would have been greater if the MGLCC ads had been placed in our two gay publications, *F&F* and *TJN*. If the MGLCC was intentionally trying to insulate itself from the non-gentrified gay community, it certainly succeeded.

- Why the turnout for the parade was disappointing? Mid-South Pride had placed ads in both gay periodicals, but fewer people participated or watched from the sidewalks and porches. Noticeably absent were some bars, a couple of krewes and Holy Trinity Community Church. Was apathy the reason? The heat and humidity? Perhaps it is time for the rainbow parade to qui-

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etly fade into oblivion as the infamous St. Patrick's Day Parade and Pub Crawl did.

- How the city and county school boards reached an equitable compromise on capital funding for the next four years? Shelby County Mayor A.C. Wharton expressed his gratitude at the joint meeting of the minds. Where was Willie? His absence was an embarrassment.

- Will the high school situation in Los Angeles, where more students drop out than graduate, occur in Memphis? So far Dr. Carol Johnson, superintendent of MCS, has made a credible effort to prevent that from happening here. City councilmen and county commissioners must adequately fund our public school operations.

- Is the U.S. Latino population growing? It is now 41 million, one seventh of the total population. The U.S. Census Bureau reports that one in every five school children are Hispanic. Isn't it time we started requiring Spanish as a second language for the non-Hispanic kids?

- Has the Catholic church finally realized that priests are not the only ones who may be gay? Bishop Terry Steib of the West Tennessee Diocese now says the church must welcome and minister to gays. WOW!!!

- What was June 6th? It was not only the 61st anniversary of D-Day, but it also was D-Day for 323,000 TennCare enrollees, for that was the day this year that state officials began mailing letters notifying enrollees of their potential termination from the expanded Medicaid programs. Governor Bredesen hopes, but gives no guarantees, that 97,000 of the sickest patients can continue to receive services. Are HIV/AIDS patients considered to be among the sickest?

- Why did the U.S. Supreme Court rule in a 6-3 vote that the FBI can ignore state laws allowing the use of medical marijuana and arrest and prosecute doctors and patients? The ruling surely means that Sen. Steve Cohen's gutsy efforts to make Tennessee the 11th state to legalize medical marijuana have gone up in smoke.

- If prescribing, using or advising on birth control or its methods was against the law? It was until the June 7, 1965, U.S. Supreme Court decision which struck down a state statute prohibiting such actions (*Griswold v. Connecticut*). The 7-2 ruling led to others, which overthrew family planning and abortion (*Roe v. Wade*) prohibitions.

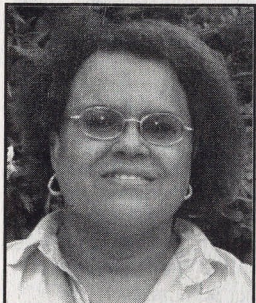
- Was Secretary of State Condolezza Rice flexing the administration's moral muscles when she warned four Persian Gulf allies that they would be sanctioned if efforts to prevent prostitution and unfair labor practices were not increased. Hmm... prostitution is legal in Nevada. In many states migrant farm workers, including children, labor under very poor conditions. Do the hardliners expect Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates to listen and heed a world power whose credibility has been severely undermined by its own abuses of human rights?

- Why did Brazil, a model in Central and South America for its HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment programs, recently refuse a \$40 million U.S. grant to fight HIV? Too many restrictions. The Portuguese-speaking democracy guarantees universal access to free drugs necessary to treat its HIV-positive citizens and also provide free condoms. Over a year ago, Brazil negotiated drug prices with Merck, Abbott Labs, Roche, et al, to achieve a 68 percent reduction in price. Apparently our government is so susceptible to the claims of Big Pharma's \$300 billion a year industry that it won't make antiretroviral drugs available free to those in need.

- How good are estimates? The Center for Disease Control (CDC) now estimates, based on 2003 data, that more than one

See Have Your Ever, page 25

TTPAC is represented



MARISA RICHMOND

The Tennessee Transgender Political Action Committee (TTPAC) participated at the annual convention of the National Organization for Women (NOW), which was held at the Loews Vanderbilt Plaza Hotel in Nashville, July 1-3.

TTPAC had an information table in the vendor room.

Also, on July 2, TTPAC President Marisa Richmond moderated a panel discussion entitled, "The Transgender & Feminist Communities: Fostering

Understanding and Building Bridges." Co-presenters were Mandy Carter, executive director of Southerners On New Ground (SONG), and Lisa Weiner-Mahfuz, NOW senior field organizer.

Have You Ever

from page 24

million Americans are infected with HIV/AIDS. It further guesstimates that at least 250,000 individuals don't know it. Some prevention methods are not effective. Those infected are living longer thanks to medical science. A disproportionate number of Blacks, nearly 50 percent, are living with HIV. Although HIV/AIDS is not just a gay white male disease anymore, many Blacks still perceive it that way in spite of all the available educational information. Regardless of race, don't be a fool. Cover your tool. Use a condom!



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Love In Action

from page 18

hear your feelings. We want to know how you feel about showing your face.

You can grow your hair however you want after you're done. That's not the point. The point is we want to try and draw some awareness.

The clothing, for example, I have said that sometimes women, especially sometimes women who have been sexually abused, can feel very vulnerable wearing a dress because it means, "I'm a girl and because I'm a girl means I'm potentially vulnerable to someone's inappropriate treatment." Okay. Now here, we have safety. We have safe guards ... We're watching behaviors. We're watching relationships. This is a safer place than the world so we're not asking you to go out in the world and do something that feels very vulnerable or threatening. What we're saying is, "Here, wear a dress. Now tell us how you feel." Let's deal with that. Let's talk about safety. Let's talk about boundaries. Let's talk about how you can protect yourself appropriately without reacting to defensive detachment and putting up walls. Let's explore that.

That's why it's been disheartening for me to (have others) read the rules and have such strong reactions because there is a truly loving reason behind these rules. They're not just blanket rules ... Now, I don't know if you understand that, if that makes sense to you, but that's what they're rooted in so we do a lot of talking about the spirit behind the rule, why it's there. That's why people that are here don't really mind the rules, once they're here; once they understand what we're doing. And so, it's like the rules have been thrown out to people who don't know how to use them and they don't understand the spirit of it, and I feel sad that that was done because they're not really designed for public use because I understand that people don't get it. They don't know why we use them. ...

I never played sports when I was a kid. And sports for me, especially football, has been particularly threatening to me. If someone had come to me and I'd been in a program like this, and they'd said, "Okay, we're going to go play football." I would have had very strong reactions to that because I have a real deep wound in there (points to his chest). A real deep wound in my heart about football. That doesn't mean it wouldn't be good for me. It just means it would have to be done delicately, and I would have to be given an opportunity to express my feelings and be valued in those feelings. That's what we do here.

We take them out and play football because it brings those kinds of things up for some people. Now, for other people, it's merely giving them a safe place to explore football where they're not going to be ridiculed or feel unequal around men who already know football.

That's the spirit of so many of these rules. I can relate. That has happened to me. I've felt cornered by sports at times in a situation, it's like, I'm really uncomfortable. You know, this is really hard for me. And I struggle with self-pity in that, that's not healthy.

We have a baseball field out here. I am looking forward to the times when men will experience tremendous feeling by playing baseball. One guy that played baseball recently, and again it's not that they have to play baseball to be men, that's not the point. I remember him coming out and playing baseball in another situation and (he) hit a homerun. He will never forget that homerun because he was in a group of people that supported him and loved him and encouraged him. And he saw a talent that he was never given the opportunity to pursue.

... We're not here to try and mold you into a mold that's not you. We're here to explore who you are and help you to figure that out. And I see that as Christian discipleship.

F&F: Secondly, that the young people are forced to become "on level" during the first two days, meaning they cannot talk to anyone, including their parents. If this is true, what purpose does it serve?

Smid: The on-level status ... was primarily initiated because we recognized, it's done through the adult program, too, and the same reasons are there at the beginning.

You bring in two young people who maybe as recently as yesterday engaged in a sexual encounter with a friend or they were living in a world where they used a lot of extreme language, or whatever. Okay, that was yesterday, now they're in a program today.

We don't want these kids to come together without accountability and start talking about things that happened yesterday that could stumble one or the other into inappropriate thoughts or inappropriate reactions.

We also know that sometimes emotional bonds can be developed over a common pain and can be built very quickly. And so we restrict their communication while they get settled.

They can talk in groups. They can talk with their staff workers; they are allowed opportunities to communicate. And with the adult program, we give them an older brother, we call them a big brother, and they have time each night where they can process the day. So, we're not shoving them into silence, but we're providing safety.

And the on-level with their parents is so that they don't go home and start reacting and getting their parents wrapped into something before they have some instruction about healthy communication. And so it's a safe time. It's also a time where they can reflect and think and have some quietness because that's really important, that time to just think, especially when they're going through a real shift in their schedule and what's happening with the program. Very distinct purposes.

And later, of course, if they obey, if they follow that structure and get out of it what we intend them to, we release that and they start communicating like everybody else. And most of them, many of them, have put themselves back on it (on-level) at times when they realize the value of it. And they'll say, "I'm feeling unsettled right now, I want to go back on safe-keeping," it's called safe-keeping. But if we have two people that look like they're having or developing a negative relationship, we put them on-level and that means they cannot speak to one another outside of an accountable situation. It's again designed as a safe guard.

F&F: And third, that the young people are subjected to "shaming sessions," ie, they are forced to report to their peers, their parents and the parents of fellow attendees all their sexual fantasies, desires and experiences, including wet dreams, and in return their parents are told to confront their children in a harsh manner regarding the information they disclose. If this is true, what purpose does it serve?

Smid: That has to be a misrepresentation. I know for a fact that that verbiage is not used in any of our communication. What we do is we have a structure called a Moral Inventory, which is written. One of the other things people have said is that they're not allowed to keep journals. We use a journaling format that keeps it healthy because we know that people can negative-bond with their journals. They can spiral into negative places, which are unproductive, so we have a journaling process called the Moral Inventory where they inventory past sexual relationships or circumstances.

They're not allowed to speak in the moral inventory about specific sexual behaviors or specific sexual practices or particular sexual fetishes. They're not allowed to speak about that because we know that can stumble people, give people ideas that they don't need to be knowing about. What this does is it explores their feelings that surround a particular sexual event.

"I felt this before." "I felt this during." "I felt this after."

Those moral inventories are read in groups called MI groups where they're given feedback and what we're looking for in those particular sessions are, "Are you seductive in this MI?" "Are you reading it in such a way, are you writing it in such a way that's seducing?" That's inappropriate: We don't do that here.

"Are you minimizing, are you making light of a situation that's serious?" "Are you really in touch with your feelings?" "Are there feelings there? How can we help you find those feelings?"

We have another format called an Introduction, which is a verbal MI, and that's where they describe a situation or circumstance verbally in front of the group. We've found tremendous value in them expressing it verbally. Actually, the purpose of this is the opposite of shaming, the purpose of it is to release shame because many of them have had feelings and situations that they've hidden for so long that the shame builds up. "I must be an abomination." "I must be worse than everybody else." "I must have done the unforgivable thing." "Certainly no one else has ever experienced this."

Oh no, we have. And we raise our hands to relate. I've been there. I've done that, if we can honestly relate to where they've been. So it's really quite the opposite.

So, there's no explicit sexual content. No explicit sexual behaviors and ... shaming's not allowed because we attempt so strongly here to say, instead of shaming someone or criticizing them, that would be what

See Love In Action, page 52

Late Breaking News

Probe reportedly continues into Love In Action

In late breaking news regarding the state's investigation of Love In Action, it appears there could be trouble for the facility.

According to a July 1 story by Eartha Melzer posted on *Southern Voice's* website (www.sovo.com) the Tennessee Department of Health has begun investigations of Love in Action to determine if it is properly licensed as a drug and alcohol treatment facility.

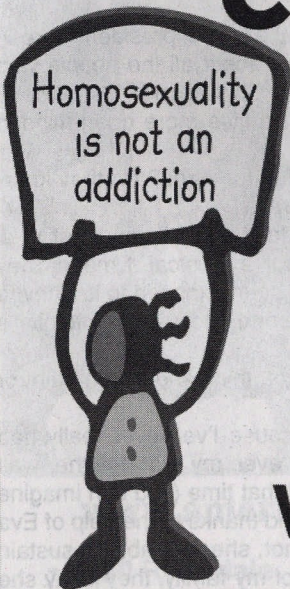
According to the story, Tennessee Department of Health Communications Director Andrea Turner said "that if the program is strictly faith-based it would not require licensing by the state, but that according to the group's website, Love In Action has licensed counselors and provides services related to alcohol and drug addiction on site."

The story further noted that Turner added, "If employees there are providing counseling on homosexuality, it is possible they are operating outside their area of expertise."

Legislation giving the health department the authority to issue cease-and-desist orders to unlicensed alcohol and drug treatment facilities went into effect July 1. As of presstime, Love In Action had not been issued such an order.

In addition, according to the story, the Tennessee Department of Health & Developmental Disabilities has begun steps to determine if Love in Action is using unlicensed individuals to provide mental health care.

Queer Action Coalition



For more information on:

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Orpheum to stage *Evita*, cast members talks

by Kevin Shaw, staff writer

Evita is 26 years old this year. Originally conceived as a record project, it was turned into a powerhouse stage musical by famed director Hal Prince, who had his hands on every aspect of the project, constantly shaping and tightening until he felt it was ready for a late September 1979 Broadway debut.

Critics were not particularly impressed; many dismissed the show as political propaganda, unfit for the stage. But audiences loved it and the box office surged. It ran for 1,567 performances.

Evita really is an opera. There are snippets of dialogue, but for the most part composer Andrew Lloyd Webber and his partner, lyricist Tim Rice, followed the pattern of their earlier success, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, — a few musical motifs blended cleverly to give the impression of a lot of songs (in this case, 28 of them).

The show chronicles the rise of lowly Eva Duarte to the “queen” of her homeland, Argentina. “How” she got to the top of her political world was, and continues to be, hotly debated. Did she sleep her way to the top, or was she a shrewd political mastermind?

Fast forward to a new millennium and Hal Prince is back in charge with this latest tour headed for the Orpheum Theatre. Playing the famous singer, Migaldi, one of the men *Evita* (meaning “Little Eva”) met/used to advance her career is Argentinean-born actor Gabriel Burrafato. *Family & Friends* spoke with Burrafato by phone in Norfolk, Va., as he continued his North American tour.

F&F: So, you were actually born in Buenos Aires, Argentina. That must help give authenticity to this current production.

Burrafato: Oh yeah, it's been a real source of interest for the other people in the show and the people I meet on tour.

F&F: Are you the only one in the cast from Argentina?

Burrafato: Yes.

F&F: Were you also raised in Buenos Aires?

Burrafato: I was raised there until I was six years old, then my family moved to Canada. I still go back every five years or so.

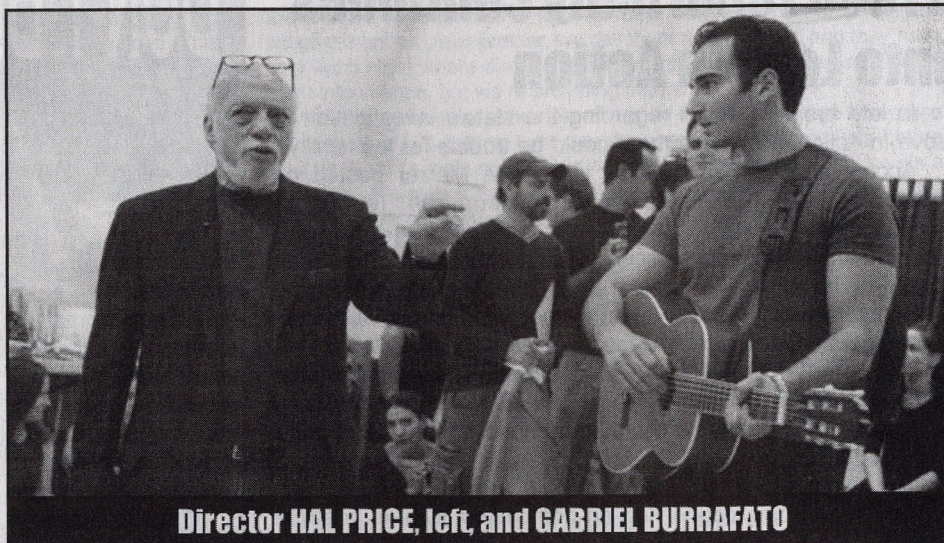
F&F: Is this your first time performing in *Evita*?

Burrafato: I've been offered this show before in other venues, but I had scheduling conflicts and I was depressed because I didn't think I'd ever get to do it. Finally, this comes along and it's being directed by Hal Prince (*The Phantom of the Opera*, *Sweeney Todd*, *A Little Night Magic*, etc.) and I thought this was just destiny, you know?

F&F: It's been such a long time since this show originally premiered. Why is this show getting so much attention again?

Burrafato: I do think it's one of Hal Prince's favorite shows and it's been a while since they've revived it. He supervised the casting and we also have the original choreographer. I guess after awhile, you get that itch to do something again. Plus, *Evita* was a character that so many people were so fascinated by, you know?

F&F: Has this been altered in any way from the original 1979 version?



Director HAL PRICE, left, and GABRIEL BURRAFATO

Burrafato: Oh no, that's the beauty of it. It's pretty much the original — choreography is the same, concept is the same. Overall, everything is the same. That's what audiences will be getting, the exact original concept of Hal Prince, Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice.

F&F: Is *Evita* a popular show in Argentina?

Burrafato: It's a touchy subject over there. So many people either view her as a saint or not. It all depends on who you talk to. In regard to this show, some people view it as a mockery of Eva Peron, while others perceive it to be a beautiful tribute to her life.

F&F: Has the show ever been performed there?

Burrafato: Oh God, no! It's like in Bangkok. You wouldn't see any productions of *The King and I* over there either because you are talking about their King and that's a touchy subject. It's the same idea.

F&F: Well we would do a musical about a president here in America. Heck, we even had a show about all the people who relished assassinating them (Stephen Sondheim's *Assassins*).

Burrafato: Yeah, I guess we are a little more open-minded over here.

F&F: Do you still have family in Buenos Aires? Do they know you are doing this controversial show?

Burrafato: Oh yeah. But, they don't even know what it is. They don't even know if it's a play or a musical. I mean, they have no idea because they've never been exposed to it. They're not going to see the movie with Madonna because they think it's all trash.

F&F: So, for you personally, do you think she was a saint or a whore?

Burrafato: Oh, I don't know, because I've never really had any personal connection to her. However, my grandmother was a widowed mother of five children at that time (you can imagine how difficult that was for a woman) and thanks to the help of Eva Peron through donations and what not, she was able to sustain a family. So, if you talk to that side of my family, they'll say she was a saint. If you talk to people who were personally involved with *Evita*, you'd get a better take on who she was as a person and a leader.



GABRIEL BURRAFATO, center, surrounded by cast

F&F: You have to admit that the concept of this show (a political operetta about a woman who climbs her way to the top of a South American country) is somewhat of a hard sell to people who haven't seen or heard it. Why should people come and see this show?

Burrafato: Well, if you take away the whole political aspect of the show and just look at Evita as an individual, she was a woman in the 1940s who had no options or choices other than to stay home, raise children and clean the dishes. Women couldn't go to a university or even vote. They were written off. And now here is a girl who said, "I'm not accepting that. I have a goal and I will do whatever it takes to get there." She had balls, she had chutzpa. It's all about her struggle. She was a glamorous woman that had a hunger stronger than anyone else. That's the

story that fascinates people.

Showtimes for *Evita* are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, July 26-28, at 7:30 p.m.; Friday, July 29, at 8 p.m.; Saturday, July 30, at 2 and 8 p.m., and Sunday, July 31 at 1:30 and 7 p.m.

Tickets are \$15 to \$70 each, plus applicable service charges, and can be ordered by calling (901) 525-3000; online at www.ticketmaster.com, or at the Orpheum Box Office, any Ticketmaster location or Davis-Kidd Booksellers, 387 Perkins Road in Laurelwood Shopping Center.

On Wednesday, July 27, there is a special Student Rush where tickets go on sale at 7:15 p.m. The computers select the best available remaining seats for only \$20, cash only. Individuals must present valid proof of student or teaching status (i.e. ID card, report card, note on letterhead). Limit two tickets per ID. Based on availability. Dates subject to change.

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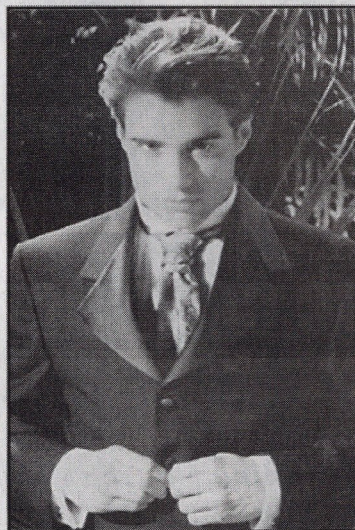
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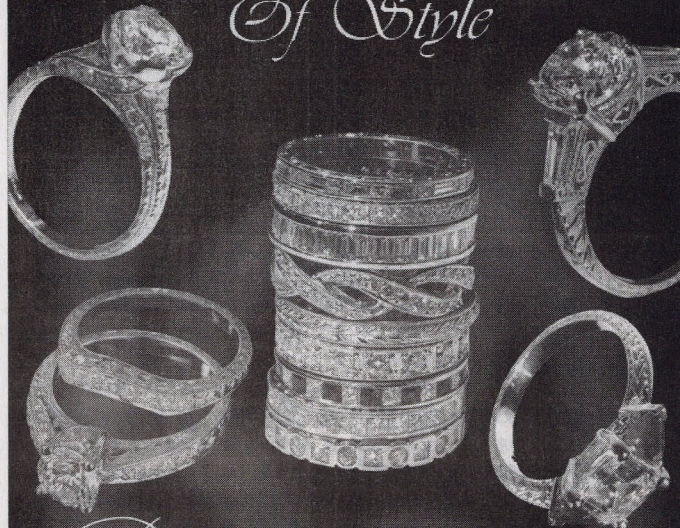
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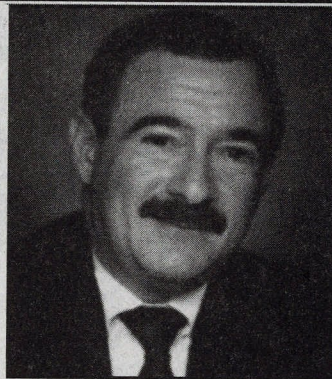
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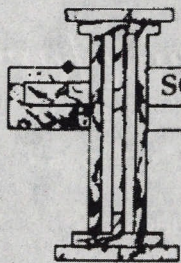
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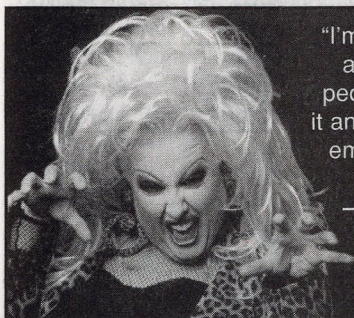


QUOTE / UNQUOTE

by Rex Wockner

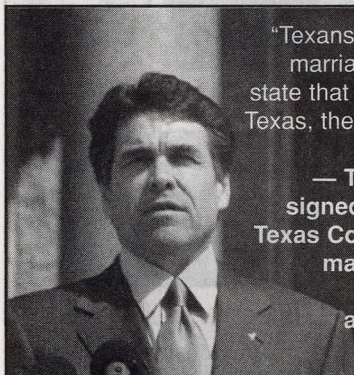
“There is, of course, a very simple solution for overcoming opposition to gay marriage. The only reason no one has figured it out before is that there is a minuscule crossover audience between C-Span and the Style Network, and you need information from both these vital news sources to realize the obvious: 1) All weddings in the United States are already gay; and 2) If you remove gays from marriage, all weddings will come to an immediate halt, with devastating results to the American economy and happy traditional families. ... (H)ell hath no fury like a fiancée with a color scheme thwarted.”

— M.M. Acosta writing in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, June 12.



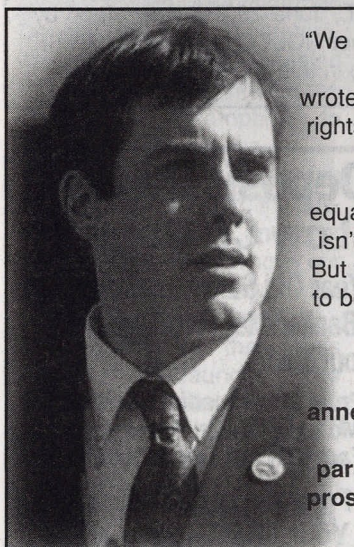
“I’m out there as you can be. I’m a big fat gay neon sign for gay people. I love it and I’m proud of it and everyone who’s gay should embrace it and love themselves no matter what.”

— Gay porn director Chi Chi La Rue to the D.C. gay publication *Metro Weekly*, June 9.



“Texans have made a decision about marriage and if there is some other state that has a more lenient view than Texas, then maybe that’s a better place for them (gays) to live.”

— Texas Gov. Rick Perry as he signed a resolution to amend the Texas Constitution to ban same-sex marriages, at a church school gymnasium, June 5. Voters are expected to approve the amendment in November.

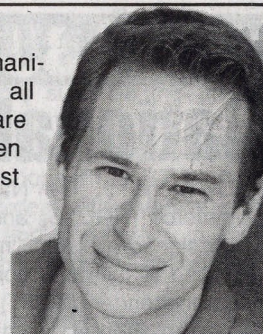


“We can’t ever back down on this issue. Martin Luther King Jr. wrote a book on the battle for civil rights equality and entitled it *Why We Can’t Wait*. It’s the same thing for same-sex marriage equality. Some people tell us this isn’t the time to push the matter. But for them, there’s never going to be a right time. So we have to just fight like hell.”

— New Paltz, N.Y., Mayor Jason West on June 7 announcing that he would lead the town’s first gay-pride parade June 12. West is being prosecuted for marrying same-sex couples last year.

“I was not one of those buffed, manicured, pomaded homos that are all over the airwaves. Homosexuals are not put on this earth to tell women what blouses to wear. We’re not just pets for women.”

— “Kids in the Hall’s” Scott Thompson to the *Canadian Press* wire service, May 27.



“We are the kind of gay people who are often held up as the kind of gay people who should get married. We’ve been together for 10 years, our kid is seven. ... We’re Ward and June Cleaver with sodomy.”

— Syndicated sex-advice columnist Dan Savage on his relationship with his partner, Terry, to the *Tucson Citizen*, June 9.

“Stonewall Wasn’t Sponsored by Budweiser.”

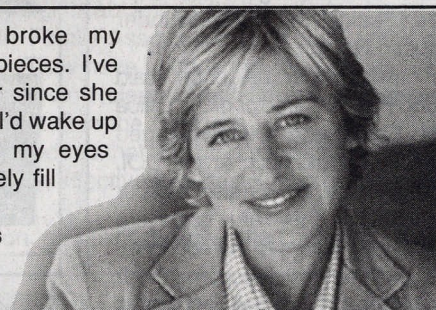
— Sign carried by a Queer Revolution protester at the Portland, Ore., gay pride parade June 19. According to the Portland Independent Media Center, “Queer Revolution and the Dyke March crashed the corporate-sponsored Gay Pride Parade.”

“Today it’s very popular to be a part of the status quo. We’ve seen that with the resurgence of the bimbo. People like Jessica Simpson and Britney Spears, who have no opinion whatsoever — no opinion about women’s rights or gay rights or whatever. We’re living in a very, very dangerous time.”

— RuPaul to the Baltimore newspaper *GAYLIFE*, June 10.

“Anne (Heche) broke my heart into a million pieces. I’ve never spoken to her since she left. When Anne left, I’d wake up in the morning and my eyes would just immediately fill up with tears.”

— Ellen DeGeneres to *Allure* magazine, June issue.



“If a case was to come before the current Supreme Court, I think the chances are very high the state amendments (banning same-sex marriage) would be struck down under the Equal Protection Clause. By the time a case gets there, however, it’s likely there will be two or three resignations. This is what makes the next appointments to the Supreme Court so critical — not only for us, but for so many other human-justice issues.”

— National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Executive Director Matt Foreman to this column, June 1.

“Becoming wealthy enough to pick up checks has been good for my sex life.”

— Gay actor/comedian/comedy writer Bruce Vilanch, asked by this column if becoming a Broadway star (*Hairspray*) has been good for his sex life, June 1.

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.

GLBT BUSINESS-RELATED NEWS

National GLBT CofC signs historic contract

On June 9, the National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (NGLCC) and the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) signed a historic memorandum of understanding (MOU), designed to increase opportunities for lesbian-, gay-, bisexual- and transgender- (LGBT) owned businesses. While the NGLCC has established an initiative for LGBT suppliers to contract with some of America's top corporations, the DOI is the first federal agency to sign such a MOU expressly aimed at increasing opportunities for LGBT businesses within the federal government.

The partnership will allow the NGLCC to provide more opportunities to certified LGBT-owned businesses looking to secure vendor contracts with the DOI and its eight bureaus: National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Minerals Management Service, Bureau of Reclamation and the Office of Surface Mining.

"Through this partnership, the NGLCC will ensure that LGBT businesses have access to bid on the more than \$4 billion dollars in contacts the DOI awards every year, over \$2 billion of which is spent with small and disadvantaged businesses," said NGLCC co-founder Justin Nelson.

"Know your neighbor," said Bob Faithful, director of the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization at the DOI. "LGBT businesses also are our neighbors; they are taxpayers and contributors to the economy, as well as our customers. Their participation as small businesses make the country's economic base stronger."

As a result of the agreement, the NGLCC will help the DOI enhance their outreach

efforts to small businesses owned and operated by members of the LGBT community. In doing so, the NGLCC will assist in promoting cooperation and collaborative action on issues involving contract and procurement opportunities with the DOI.

"We look forward to working with the DOI, while increasing opportunities for the LGBT community and adding quality supplies to the department's network," commented NGLCC co-founder Chance Mitchell. "We know the document we signed today is the first of many with federal agencies. LGBT business women and men need to know there is a difference between the politics in Washington and business opportunities with the federal government. This is a good start."

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

Historic event takes place on Wall Street



On behalf of the National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce and gay business leaders across America, New York Stock Exchange Member and NGLCC Board Member Walter Schubert rang the NYSE Closing Bell precisely at 4 p.m. E.T., June 20. He was joined by NGLCC founders Justin Nelson and Chance Mitchell, and other NGLCC leaders and NYSE officials. This was the first gay organization to ever participate in this NYSE tradition.



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PFLAG doesn't take boycotts lightly, seeks to educate

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) has not taken the boycotts of America's corporations who support gay rights lightly. They have been on the offensive and have served in several capacities to educate our country's businesses about GLBT individuals in the workplace.

"The recent boycotts against Ford and Kraft spearheaded by the American Family Association is part of a pattern by the right wing targeting select high-profile companies for punishment if they dare support GLBT people, families and issues," said Taylor Thompson, PFLAG communications coordinator, "but more broadly, to try to make an example of the companies and send a threatening message to the rest of Corporate America. In reality, these efforts are mostly a strategy to keep their grass roots stirred up, to gain media attention, and to distract our attentions from other critical work. As for any genuine effectiveness of the boycott efforts, they consistently fall flat. Their campaign against Disney is such an example, as were their recent threats against Microsoft. But expect more of them for a time.

"The fact of the matter is that the corporate world is moving along swiftly to embrace GLBT diversity because it is good for their employees," Thompson continued. "It is good for the communities they work in and it is, in the end, also good for business. What the right wing is attempting to do is to stem a tide that is already past their ability to stop. They know this, so they

AFA suspends its boycott of Ford until December 1

According to a press release posted on the American Family Association's (AFA) website at www.afa.net, after meeting with a group of Ford dealers, AFA has suspended its boycott of Ford Motor Company until Dec. 1, 2005.

In the meeting, the dealers requested time to see if the concerns raised by AFA in their boycott announcement could be addressed by the dealers in cooperation with officials from Ford Motor Company.

"We believe the dealers were making a good faith effort and agreed to accept their request," said AFA chairman Donald Wildmon. "Therefore, we accepted the suspension request and will work with the dealers in attempting to resolve our differences.

"We urge those supporting the boycott to disregard the boycott until Dec. 1, 2005, and on or about that date, we will notify our supporters as to the status of the boycott," Wildmon concluded.

According to the press release, AFA launched the Ford boycott Tuesday, May 31, 2005. In less than a week, more than 110,000 people signed the pledge to boycott Ford for the company's support of same-sex marriage.

throw grand-standing temper tantrums such as the present efforts with Ford and Kraft foods."

This year, for the first time, PFLAG's deputy executive director, Ron Schlittler, co-presented workshops on GLBT issues at two major Diversity Conferences that deal with diversity in the workplace. The list of participants and presenters in those Diversity Conferences is a who's who of major national and international companies.

The first was held in May, 2005, in New York City where Schlittler was joined by two local PFLAGers, and the second was in June in Chicago. Part of PFLAG's message is that PFLAGers all around the country are wonderful resources as these companies educate their top CEOs, managers and rank and file employees. This has already played out in an example with the Ford Lion corporate offices in North Carolina where the PFLAG regional director, Jerry Miller, helped line up local members to participate in educational forums for top managers. Miller worked with Eric Watson, a PFLAG national board member, who is the top diversity officer for Ford Lion.

Also, PFLAG Executive Director Jody Huckaby was joined by PFLAGers Alice Wong and her daughter in June, 2005, as featured speakers at an event for executives, managers and other employees at the Pfizer Corporation in their New York City offices.

Finally, PFLAG national recently served in a consultant capacity for a CD on coming out in the workplace for IBM, Texas Instruments and PricewaterhouseCoopers. The CD is narrated by Ellen DeGeneres and features stories of six employees.

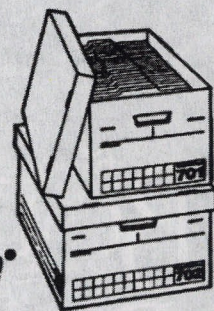
"While we all know there is still a long way to go in the public and private sectors, these corporations and their efforts are already far beyond any significant impact by the efforts of groups such as the American Family Association, and they know it," Thompson concluded. "They have already lost this fight as principles of fairness, equality and tolerance of differences becomes increasingly institutionalized in the business world, but we can expect they will not concede to that any time soon. And we must do our part as smartly and effectively as possible to build on this very encouraging trend."

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

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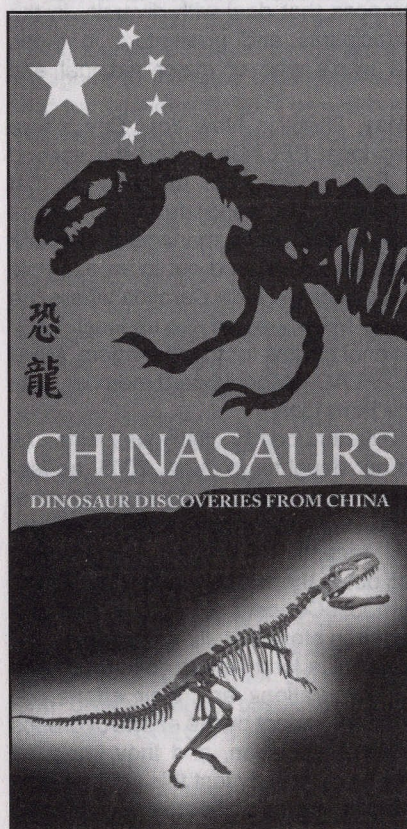
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China, more than any country, represents the broadest array of dinosaurs across dinosaur time, yet China's dinosaurs are not widely known in the United States. The exhibit is rich with both science and cultural traditions, exploring not only paleontology, but myth and legend, as well. For at least 3,500 years, many Chinese believed that dinosaur fossil bones were the bones of dragons.

Hands-on activities

in "Chinasaurus" include, a dig pit where visitors can don goggles and use Plexiglas scraper tools to explore a dinosaur skeleton in a paleontological excavation; dinosaur stamping; painting stations and activity carts.

"Chinasaurus: Dinosaur Discoveries from China" is exhibited in tandem with "Finding Dragons in Chinese Art" (see page 73 for more). Tickets are \$8.25 for adults; \$7.75 for seniors, and \$5.75 for children. Museum hours are Tuesday to Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.

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

MBG offers new experience in 'Children's Tool Shed'

A new experience awaits children at Memphis Botanic Garden (MBG), 750 Cherry Road in Audubon Park. The MBG's education department has developed a "Children's Tool Shed" that will greatly enhance their visit to the MBG.

Instead of garden tools, this wooden structure, located in the visitor's center, contains "tools" for learning about the natural world. Activity boxes are packed with books, puppets, games, puzzles and other activities that center around a given theme.

Children, along with their adult caregiver, will be able to check out a quilt and an activity box that they can take outside in the garden to enjoy. Play Butterfly Bingo; touch a T-Rex tooth; listen to bird calls, or try on a kimono. Fifteen different themes are available, including butterflies, bugs, spiders, birds, flowers, trees, fruits and veggies, the jungle, dinosaurs, animal homes, reptiles, frogs and ponds, the five senses, Japanese gardens and life in the forest.

MBG members may use the boxes for free, non-members may check them out for \$3.

The MBG hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$5 for adults; \$4 for seniors (62+); \$3 for children, and free for children ages two and under.

For more information, call (901) 685-1566.

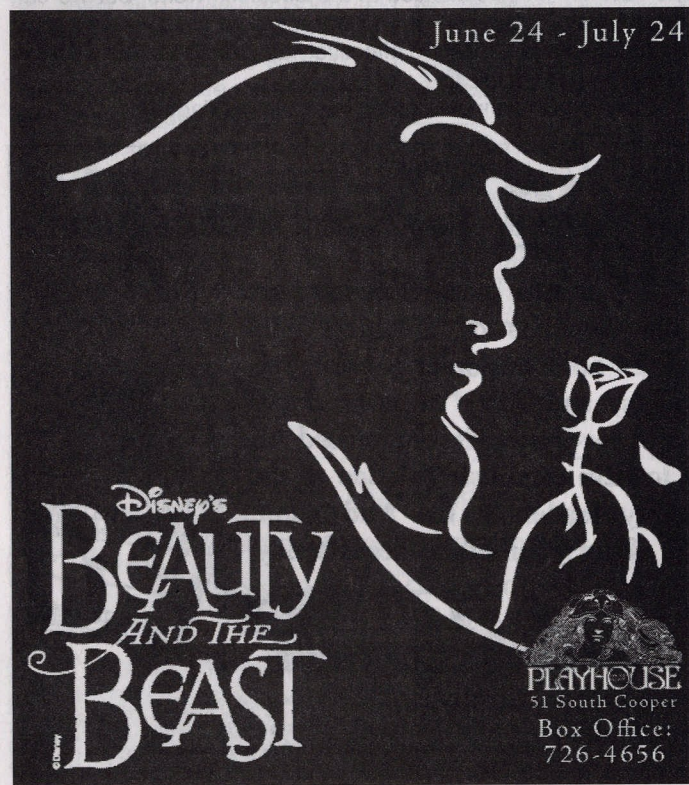
POTS to hold auditions for kids

Playhouse on the Square, 51 South Cooper, will hold auditions on Saturday, July 23, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., for children, ages seven to 13, all races, for the roles of the Munchkins in the upcoming production of *The Wizard of Oz*.

Those auditioning need to prepare to sing and do a basic dance audition to the song "Ding Dong the Witch is Dead." A headshot and resume are requested.

All actors cast in this production MUST be available to do up to 25 weekday morning matinees (Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m. to noon, Nov. 11 through Jan. 8, 2006). School principals must sign a release excusing them at these times. Actors will be paid professionally for their performances. The roles of the Munchkins will be double-cast with 10 children in each cast. Those casts will alternate performance dates.

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



GLBT YOUTH

High school will no longer censor student's T-shirt

One June 23, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) secured assurances from a Missouri high school that it will no longer censor a student from wearing T-shirts expressing her support for gay rights. In return, the ACLU has agreed to end a censorship lawsuit that began in April.

"All I ever wanted was to get my school to stop silencing me and allow all students to express their opinions, so I'm really happy that's finally going to happen," said LaStaysha Myers, a heterosexual 15-year-old student who was punished twice for wearing T-shirts expressing her support for gay rights.

"We're very pleased that the school has agreed that it will no longer censor LaStaysha for her support for gay people," said

Former students awarded thousands in damages

On June 8, A San Diego Superior Court jury awarded Joseph Ramelli and Megan Donovan, two former Poway High School students, now both 19 and attending college, \$175,000 and \$125,000, respectively, in damages.

In their lawsuit, both students alleged that the school district and several school personnel failed to provide a safe environment on campus nor do little, if anything, to address their concerns. Both were home-schooled during their senior year of high-school because of the harassment they received at school.

According to a June 9 story in the *San Diego Union-Tribune*, "Ramelli testified that students repeatedly called him names, shoved him in the hallways, threw food at him and spit on him. He testified that he heard other students make disparaging remarks about gays and lesbians on a nearly daily basis." In regard to Donovan, the story said, "Donovan testified that the other girls on the (junior varsity softball) team refused to talk to her. According to court documents, one teammate said she would no longer play if there was a lesbian on the team. Donovan said she complained to the coach, who talked to the players, but nothing changed."

However, the Poway school district is considering appealing the judgement on advice of counsel, noting that the jury did not find any discrimination on the part of the school district or its employees.

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IN THE WORLD!**

Rose Saxe, a staff attorney with the ACLU's national Lesbian & Gay Rights Project. "As we've been explaining to Webb City High School all along, schools can't censor a student solely because his or her point of view may cause others to act disruptively."

In its landmark 1969 *Tinker v. Des Moines* decision, the U.S. Supreme Court held that students in public schools don't "shed their constitutional rights to freedom of speech or expression at the schoolhouse gate," and ruled that schools can only censor student speech when the speech itself and not other people's reaction to it is disruptive to the educational process. The ACLU noted that many schools have misinterpreted this notion, arbitrarily calling student speech disruptive in an attempt to illegally censor free speech. The ACLU cautioned schools against censoring students merely because disruption is feared or because other students are causing disruption in reaction to that speech.

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

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SPORTS & RECREATION

German cyclists are latest Gay Games Ambassadors

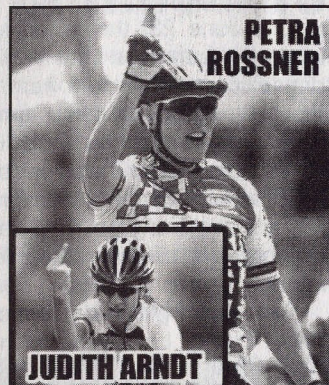
Germans Petra Rossner and Judith Arndt, are the latest athletes to join the Gay Games Ambassadors Program.

Rossner, 38, recently ended a stunning 20-year professional cycling career, including 25 German national titles, 10 World Cup victories, an Olympic gold medal in the pursuit at Barcelona in 1992, and a world championship win in the pursuit at Stuttgart in 1991. She was the World Cup Series Champion in 2002. Perhaps her most outstanding achievement was winning seven of the last eight editions of the Liberty Classic in Philadelphia. Recognized as a brilliant tactician, she is now the team director for Nuemberger Versicherung.

Arndt, 28, capped an outstanding 2004 season by winning the gold medal in the elite women's road race and the silver time trial medal at the UCI world championships. Arndt's gold was the first win by a German woman in the world championships road

race in more than 20 years.

At the Athens Summer Olympic Games two months earlier, Arndt won a silver medal in the women's road race and made headlines around the world for giving a one-finger salute as she crossed the finish line to the German cycling federation for leaving Rossner off the 2004 Olympic team. It was a gesture of solidarity for a teammate who Arndt believed could have helped propel one of the German cyclists to gold.



That Arndt and Rossner were in a committed relationship at the time also was reported, but Rossner's achievements made Arndt's protest compelling. Much of the international press printed the fact of their being live-in girlfriends almost as a sidelight to the incident itself, perhaps a sign that merely being gay or lesbian isn't enough in certain sport circles to generate headlines these days.

Arndt and her Nuemberger teammates are in the beginning stages of a season that will culminate in her attempt to defend her 2004 world championship road race title in Madrid this September. She and Rossner continue to work together professionally if not both still racing on the bike.

"Petra is our team director now," Arndt said, "which seems to be even more work than only pedaling in my eyes."

Both Rossner and Arndt have competed in Chicago and say the city's terrain and experience hosting cycling events will prove favorable for competitors of all skill levels at Gay Games 2006.

"Cycling is our first love, of course, but there is a sport for almost everyone at the Gay Games," Rossner said. "We can't think of a better goal to set than to get fit and take part in an event that does so much on behalf of the gay and lesbian community around the world."

"We're honored that Petra and Judith are becoming ambassadors in the middle of their ongoing professional careers," said Federation of Gay Games Co-President Kathleen Webster. "Their openness and enthusiasm about the goals of the Gay Games are an inspiration and I'm sure will earn them many new fans."

For information about the Federation of Gay Games, go online to www.gaygames.org. For information about Gay Games VII in Chicago in 2006, including details on how to register, go to www.GayGamesChicago.org.

Bluff City Sports Softball Schedule & Standings

Sunday, July 10

Tobey 3

- 1 pm D. Dawgs v. Outfielders
- 2 pm Dog Pound v. Neons
- 3 pm Flamingos v. BOC
- 4 pm Crushers v. D. Dawgs

Tobey 4

- Hobos v. Heat
- Cloud OD v. Crushers
- Outfielders v. Hobos
- Dog Pound v. Cloud OD

Sunday, July 17

- 1 pm Heat v. Hobos
- 2 pm Flamingos v. BOC
- 3 pm Dog Pound v. D. Dawgs
- Crushers v. Dog Pound
- Neons v. D. Dawgs
- Cloud OD v. Hobos

Sunday, July 24

11 am LEAGUE TOURNAMENT

League Standings as of June 27

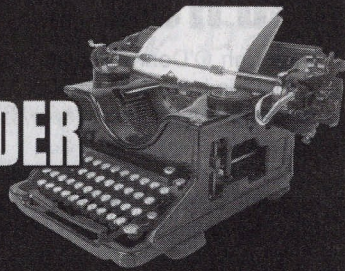
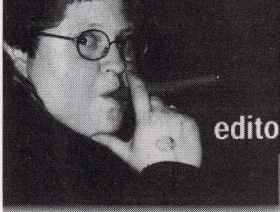
Heat, 13/1	Diamond Dawgs, 5/7
Hobos, 10/2	Blue Oyster Cult, 5/7
Neons, 7/4	MGLCC Crushers, 5/8
Dog Pound, 7/5	Cloud of Dust, 3/6
Outfielders, 6/7	Flamingos, 1/13

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BLUFF CITY SOFTBALL PICTURES



OVER MY SHOULDER



editorial by Patricia Pair, publisher

During our interview with Love In Action's Rev. John J. Smid I was professional. I held my tongue. Even when I didn't want to. It wasn't about me or my feelings, but rather a chance to allow Smid to tell our readers about Love In Action.

However, now it is about me and I'm going to say what I wanted to say during the hour we spent "behind enemy lines," so to speak.

At one point during the interview Smid said, "Don't tell me it's not possible to leave homosexuality. My life counts. I have a story and my life counts and I'm telling the truth so don't tell me it's not possible." That's when I wanted to shout to Smid, "Don't tell me it's not possible to be a homosexual AND a Christian. My life counts. I have a story and my life counts, too!"

I know God's grace, that "cover on our lives" Smid talked about during the interview. I'm covered. No, you can't see it or touch it. It's like an invisible shield around me, but that hasn't always been the case. Years ago, when I went through my first "coming out," I drank way too much way too often. I thought I was okay with being gay but, in using Smid's/Love In Action's concept of "exploring truths and feelings regarding past sexual experiences," I have realized that perhaps that was not the case.

I realized a "truth" about myself. Prior to the fall of 1998, I realized I had never had sex with a woman while sober (not intoxicated). Why? I'm not sure I can answer that, at least not here in this column. But, what I do know is that since I met my present partner a lot has changed in my life.

I'm out to practically everyone in my life. I'm happy. I finally accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. I always try to do the right thing and be a fair and decent person. I have been 100 percent faithful to my partner. Our love-making is void of any drugs or alcohol. And, while I will occasionally have a drink, I haven't been drunk since I met my partner, Anita.

So, Rev. Smid, don't tell me it's not possible to be a homosexual and a good Christian. I have a story. My life counts, too!

And this to Zach's parents: If you can't love him for who he is unconditionally, we (the GLBT community) will!

Protest this!

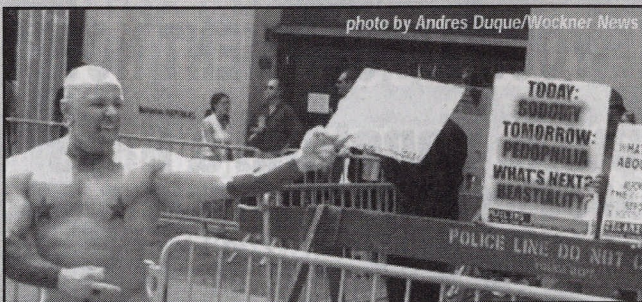


photo by Andres Duque/Wockner News

This 2005 New York Pride Parade marcher isn't shy when it comes to expressing his feelings, especially when he has a "special" message for protesters.

Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center News

Building purchase finally a reality

The board of directors of the MGLCC will purchase its building, located at 892 South Cooper, from Herb Zeman, with whom it has been in a lease-purchase agreement for the past two years.

"In what has become a steady stream of great news for the MGLCC, the board of directors has just been successful in doing what we were not able to do two years ago – get a mortgage," said Len Piechowski, president of the MGLCC. "We were a different organization then: no credit history, no equity, no collateral. In the last two years the Memphis GLBT community has proven that it is capable of sustaining supportive services for ourselves! As we did that ... together ... we established a track record that even impressed SunTrust Bank! We should be proud of ourselves!"

The community center expects to save between \$2,000 and \$4,000 per year as a result of the transaction. The savings will come from two major sources – property tax savings and reduced liability insurance premiums. As an IRS recognized 501(c)(3) organization, MGLCC is eligible to apply for exemption from local property taxes.

In honor of the transaction, Zeman has vowed to donate the final rent payment from the MGLCC to Outflix, the gay and lesbian film festival sponsored by MGLCC. (The 2005 Outflix is scheduled for Aug. 11 to 14; for more information go online to www.outflixfestival.org.)

"We'll always remain grateful to Herb Zeman who put his own credit on the line for us ... by (temporarily) becoming our landlord," Piechowski said in closing.

Initiative:Fairness is created

The board of directors of the MGLCC passed a resolution creating Initiative:Fairness (I:F), a political committee and subset of MGLCC.

"I:F aspires to be a non-partisan voice of solidarity that supports fairness and equality in legislation affecting the Memphis LGBT community," said Tommy Simmons, co-chair of I:F. I:F is the result of community-wide meetings held after the 2004 presidential election.

As an Internal Revenue Service (IRS) recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, I:F will operate under very strict guidelines as set forth by the IRS. The MGLCC is allowed to work for the passage or defeat of a particular piece of legislation; however, it is prohibited from endorsing or protesting the election of a particular candidate. In addition, the MGLCC must adhere to regulations governing the amount of time and money devoted to political activities.

Community members can choose three levels of participation with I:F – voting membership, non-voting membership and passive involvement via I:F's email distribution list.

For more information about I:F, go online to www.mglcc.org/if or email either Katie Messmer or Tommy Simmons at if@mglcc.org.

Annual Meeting set for July 10

The MGLCC Annual Meeting is set for Sunday, July 10, beginning at 6 p.m. at the center, 892 South Cooper. President Len Piechowski will present a "State of the Center" address with additional financial reporting by Treasurer Marty Katz.

The annual election of officers will also be held. The MGLCC Nominating Committee has presented the following slate of people for consideration: Jeff Curbo (vice president); Marty Katz (treasurer); Brandon Cole, Sonia Garner, Tommy Simmons, Daniel Slover and Janet Watson (members-at-large), and James Williams and Robin Yow.

Bicycle Club being formed

Anyone interested in cycling is encouraged to join in the fun. At presstime, the group was planning to meet on Saturdays at 3 p.m. at the center. For more information, contact Sonia Garner at sgarner349@yahoo.com or (901) 489-2182.

Man wants his picture removed from 'ex-gay' website

Exodus International, a worldwide umbrella group for ex-gay ministries, was accused on June 21 by former member Shawn O'Donnell of misrepresentation for continuing to post his picture on the front page of its website, even though he is now an out and proud gay man.

O'Donnell is included in a group photo at the top of their website at www.exodus-international.org — a photo that also has been used in the group's ads to show that homosexuality can be cured. Exodus Executive Director Alan Chambers was recently contacted by O'Donnell, who politely asked him to remove or air-brush his likeness from the website photo. Chambers refused the request and continues to have O'Donnell's picture falsely representing the possibility of sexual orientation conversion.

"I am outraged and appalled that Exodus would mislead and deceive potential clients into believing that I have been healed," O'Donnell, who was part of Exodus for five years, leaving the group in 2002, said. "Exodus's arrogant refusal to remove my likeness has been a source of great anguish and pain, because I know it has surely led to further suffering by vulnerable people. I call on Exodus's sense of decency and fairness to restore my dignity by immediately removing my picture from the front page of their website."

Although O'Donnell is just one person in a group picture, he said that his inclusion still has an impact, because it gives people the impression that people can go from gay to straight, which is not what he experienced.

"I can honestly say that in five years, I did not meet one person that I believe had truly changed," O'Donnell said. "What Exodus is doing is damaging lives. They give false hope and when people fail to change they consider killing themselves, as I once did. The harmful work of Exodus almost killed me and I don't want others to suffer."

Wayne Besen, author of *Anything But Straight: Unmasking the Scandals and Lies Behind the Ex-Gay Myth*, said Exodus has a moral responsibility to replace their group pictures each year.

"As a result of the astronomical number of defections in Exodus, any group picture representing those supposedly cured is outdated within a year," Besen said. "I am willing to bet that a high number of the people in that 1998 photo are now out of the closet and live openly gay lives. O'Donnell's experience speaks to the desperation of Exodus to find success stories where there are none to be found."

O'Donnell, who lives in Chicago, said he will dedicate himself to helping people escape the dead-end of ex-gay therapy. This month, he appeared in a documentary, *Fish Can't Fly*, which focuses on the stories of people who suffered through the ex-gay experience.

"I am committed to educating people about the destructiveness and depravity of these groups that lie to people susceptible to their false message. From my experience, Exodus is a sham and I wish they would stop representing me as a success story."

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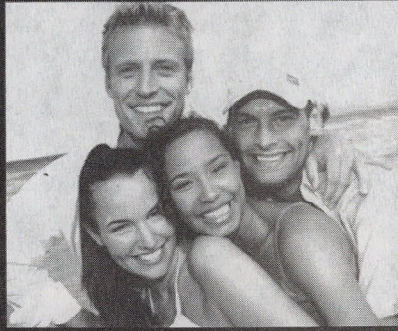
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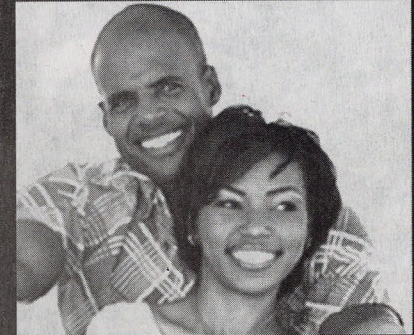
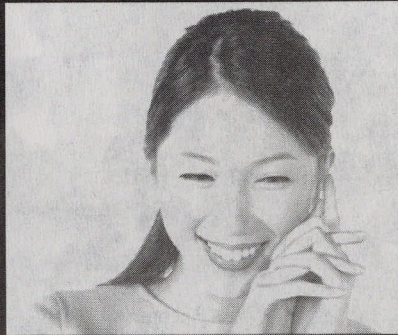
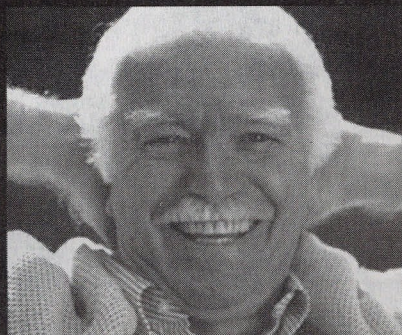
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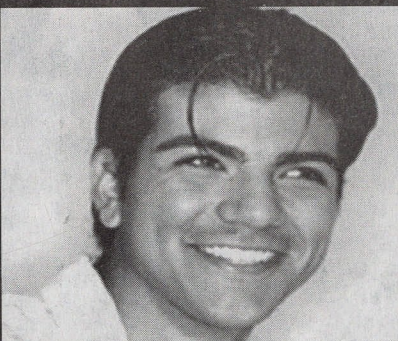
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MID-SOUTH PRIDE PARADE & RECEPTION 2005 FAMILY ALBUM

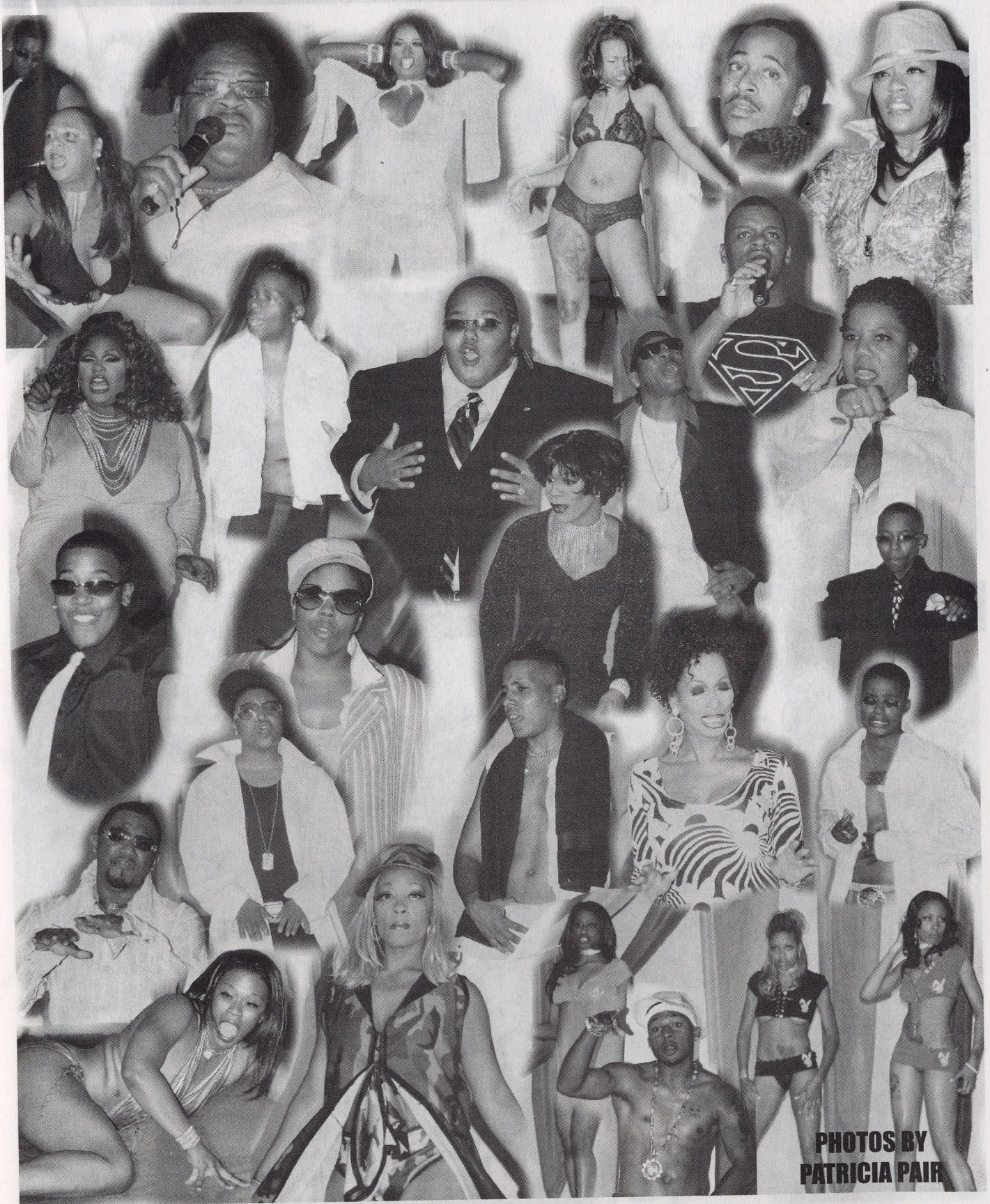


FAMILY ALBUM MID-SOUTH PRIDE PICNIC 2005



**PHOTOS BY
PATRICIA PAIR**

MEMPHIS BLACK PRIDE 2005 SHOW AT ALLUSIONS **FAMILY ALBUM**



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FAMILY ALBUM MEMPHIS BLACK PRIDE 2005 PICNIC



**PHOTOS BY
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MEMPHIS BLACK PRIDE 2005 J-SETTERS COMPETITION **FAMILY ALBUM**

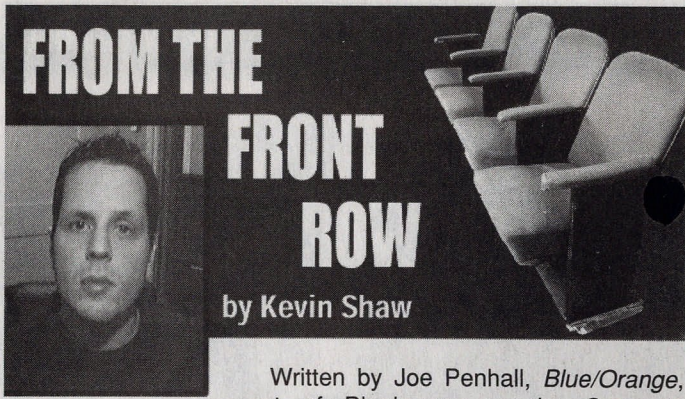


PHOTOS BY PATRICIA PAIR

2005 PRIDE CELEBRATION AT PARAGON **FAMILY ALBUM**



PHOTOS BY PATRICIA PAIR



Written by Joe Penhall, *Blue/Orange*, part of Playhouse on the Square's POTS@TheWorks series to be staged July 8 to 31, tells the tale of a power struggle between two psychiatrists over the release of an enigmatic patient in a London mental institution, which grows into a philosophical debate between doing what's best for society and respecting an individual's rights.

When Bruce's idealism and Robert's pragmatism clash over "what's right" for Christopher, questions of ethnicity, poverty, racism and subordination unfold between two former colleagues. Soon the discussion grows into a full-scale battle of minds, wills and positions of power. Winner of the Olivier Award for Best New Play, *Blue/Orange* possesses, according to *The Guardian*, the "rare gift of engaging both emotion and intellect and making you care desperately about the outcome."

Directed by the chairman of the theater department at The University of Memphis, Bob Hetherington (*Spinning Into Butter*), *Blue/Orange* stars local Memphis talents Jeff Godsey (*Book of Days, Love! Valour! Compassion!*) as Bruce and Bill Baker as Robert, and introduces Playhouse on the Square's newest performance intern, Keith McCoy, in the role of Christopher. *Family & Friends* spoke with Hetherington just as he completed a rehearsal for the upcoming show.

F&F: I'm dying to know the significance of the title, *Blue/Orange*, and what it means.

Hetherington: Yes. Well, the play is a bit of a puzzle, actually. It takes a little while to unlock it, both from the audience's point of view, and our point of view. The title has significance in several different ways.

Literally, the patient in the play, Christopher, believes that the bowl of oranges on the table in front of him are blue and that the inside of the oranges also are blue. This is a revelation of the extent of his delusion. One of the questions in the play is whether this Black man (and I have to say "Black man" because he is British and there is an issue in the play about what to call a black-skinned man in Britain. You can't say African-American and in the play he calls himself African, but he's never been to Africa) who has been hospitalized for 28 days for observation should be released or committed.

In the play, each of his psychiatrists take opposing views on what to do with him. The title demonstrates that he is delusion-

al. He is tricked into confessing to one of the doctors that he believes oranges are blue. He also believes he is the illegitimate son of Idi Amin Dada. When Christopher says that the oranges are blue, the other doctor hears this and says, "This is not delusional. There is a French surrealist poem called 'The World is Blue Like an Orange.'" The doctor realizes that Christopher knows this poem and is making a literary metaphor. Therefore, that is what the title literally means and becomes an emblem for whether or not this guy is crazy.

F&F: Being the chairman of The University of Memphis Theater Department, I know you have a limited amount of time to direct outside projects. What drew you to this show?

Hetherington: When I read the play, I thought this was a really interesting argument. The play most reminds me of David Mamet's *Oleanna*. It's structured the same way – three scenes and an audience member's identification or empathy keeps shifting from one character to another, *Oleanna* only has two characters and this one has three. But, the ground is always being pulled out from under you. I thought that was something I'd real-

ly like to direct. This is a play about talk. The set is a conference room in an English hospital with a glass coffee table (with a bowl of oranges on it) and four chairs and that's it. It's all in the playing. It's sort of like a tennis game. There are a lot of words in this play. A lot of it is very funny in a sort of a dark way. It really is an exciting argument.

F&F: TheatreWorks showcases what is considered to be Memphis' more "exper-

imental" type theatre. This show won the Olivier Award for Best New Play in England. Does it have a limited appeal?

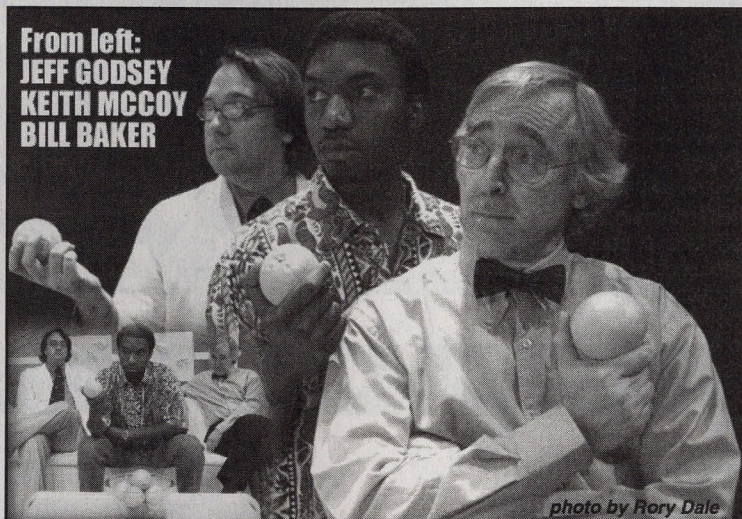
Hetherington: Yes, I expect that it does. What's sort of edgy about it is that it's a play about race. You have three people involved in a political argument. But, I also think the reason it's at TheatreWords has MORE to do with the fact that *Beauty and the Beast* is at Playhouse on the Square right now. I've been describing this play as the *Anti-Beauty and the Beast*. There is no singing, no dancing, no costume changes, no set changes, etc. I think it was chosen to be opposing that show intentionally.

F&F: It's counter programming.

Hetherington: There are some very interesting questions in this play – in England or the United States. African-Americans are five or six times more likely to be diagnosed schizophrenic than white people. If we assume that African-Americans are not innately "crazier" than white people, then what this speaks to is a cultural prejudice against black people, or the tendency by some to dismiss cultural differences as "crazy." This is one of the topics of the play.

F&F: So, what experience do you hope your audiences take with them?

Hetherington: It's a really good debate. Audiences, I think,



See Front Row, page 47

Children's Fav on stage at POTS



Playhouse on the Square, 51 South Cooper, is staging *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* now through 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

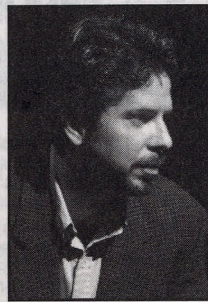
Saturdays, and 2 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$29 for adults; \$20 for seniors; \$16 for students and military personnel, and \$12 for children. For more information or reservations, call (901) 726-4656. This is an Arts Access Event

TM to stage new children's show

Theatre Memphis, 630 Perkins Extended, and Voices of the South will present *Sid and the Magic Box* July 8 to 17. This new fairytale for children is about a lonely little boy who finds a mysterious box on his doorstep and opens it to find not just a gift, but a promise, a portal, a pathway and a ticket to adventure. Showtimes are Fridays, July 8 and 15, at 7 p.m.; Saturdays, July 9 and 16 at 2 and 7 p.m.; Sundays, July 10 and 17, at 2 p.m., and Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, July 12-14 at 10 a.m. Tickets are \$6 for adults and students for matinee performances, and \$10 for adults and \$7 for children for evening performances. For more information or to make reservations, call (901) 682-8323. This is an Arts Access Event.

Circuit stages provocative play

Edward Albee's *The Goat, or Who is Sylvia?* takes the stage at The Circuit Playhouse, 1705 Poplar Avenue, now through July 10. Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Albee provides a provoca-

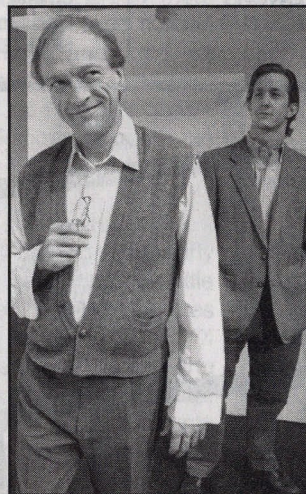


tive, daring and controversial look at love and marriage in this play. The revelation of the exact depth of his spiritual love for Sylvia brings Martin to the edge of society's tolerance and face-to-face with his own loneliness. Showtimes are Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$22 for adults; \$20 for seniors, and \$16 for students and military personnel. For more information or reservations, call (901) 726-4656. **Note: This play includes an advisory for explicit theatre.** This is an Arts Access Event.

Gershwin celebrated at TM

Theatre Memphis, 630 Perkins Extended, will present *The Glory of Gershwin by George Cabaret* on the Next Stage, July 14 to 24. Devised by Bennett Wood with musical direction by Gary Beard, this show includes eight performances, featuring the extraordinary melodies of one of America's greatest composers. Showtimes are July 14, 15, 16, 22 and 23 at 8:30 p.m.; July 17 at 7 p.m., and July 24 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for adults; \$12 for students with valid ID, and \$8 for children under 12. For more information or to make reservations, call (901) 682-8323.

Two-man show set at Circuit



The Circuit Playhouse, 1705 Poplar Avenue, will present *Tuesdays with Morrie* July 29 through Aug. 28. Based on the four-year bestseller of the same name, Mitch Albom's *Tuesdays with Morrie* is the heart-warming true story that recalls the life lessons Mitch learned from a dying mentor, Morrie, on his Tuesday visits to Morrie's Massachusetts home. Directed by Michael Detroit, this production stars Dave Landis and Andrew Weir. Showtimes are Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for adults; \$20 for seniors;

\$20 for students and military personnel, and \$10 for children, ages 18 and under. The Pay-What-You-Can performance is set for Thursday, Aug. 4, at 8 p.m. For more information or to make reservations, call (901) 726-4656.

Audition Notice

Playwright's Forum is holding auditions for parts in *Casting Lydia*, by Don Monaco, on Sunday, July 17, at 7 p.m., and Monday, July 18, at 7 p.m. at TheatreWorks, 2085 Monroe Avenue.

Director Kevin Shaw is casting four men (ages late 20s through mid-40s) and one female (age mid-30s).

Casting Lydia is a sophisticated comedy. In many ways it is a "play within a play" involving the casting of a role for which there is no stage time or dialog.

For more information, contact Kevin Shaw at kevshaw@hotmail.com or Fred Harpell at fharpell@aol.com.

Front Row

from page 46

are going to start arguing with each other in the lobby and argue on the drive home about who's right. The question will be whether or not the medical profession is serving the delusional patient by institutionalizing them or dismissing them. Is it better for them to live in the community or is it better to lock them up and drug them?

F&F: Have you decided which side of this debate you agree with more?

Hetherington: No. The really interesting thing about this play is how it keeps changing sides. And our job (as director and cast) is to be sure we don't impose an answer.

Showtimes for *Blue/Orange*, which is being staged at TheatreWorks, 2085 Monroe Avenue, are Thursday through Saturday at 8 p.m., and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$19 each and are available by calling (901) 726-4656. The Pay-What-You-can performance is set for Thursday, July 14, at 8 p.m.

Family & Friends magazine is a proud media sponsor of *Blue/Orange*.

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1588 Madison Avenue
(901) 278-0569
8. **Metro Memphis**
1349 Autumn Street
(901) 274-8010
- ☆ **INZ & OUTZ Cards & Gifts**
553 South Cooper
(901) 728-6535
- ☆ **FAMILY FLAVORS**
18 North McLean @ Madison
(901) 725-0313

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2098 LaSalle Place
(901) 272-0022
- The Brushmark**
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(901) 544-6225
- Buns On The Run**
2150 Elzey Avenue
(901) 278-BUNS
- Cafe Ole**
2127 Young Avenue
(901) 274-1504
- Cafe Society**
212 N. Evergreen
(901) 722-2177
- Dish**
948 S. Cooper
(901) 276-0002
- Grill 'n' Bar**
326 S. Cleveland
(901) 725-9809
- Molly's La Casita**
2006 Madison Avenue
(901) 726-1873
- One More Bar & Grill**
2117 Peabody
(901) 278-MORE
- Barksdale Restaurant**
237 South Cooper
(901) 722-2193
- Young Avenue Deli**
2119 Young Avenue
(901) 278-0034
- Zinnie's East**
1255 Goodman Road
(901) 274-7101

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

Audrey Rose Cafe
2670 Union Extended
Suite 100
(901) 323-1196

NOT VIEWABLE ON MAP
Miss Cordelia's
737 Harbor Bend Road
(901) 526-4772

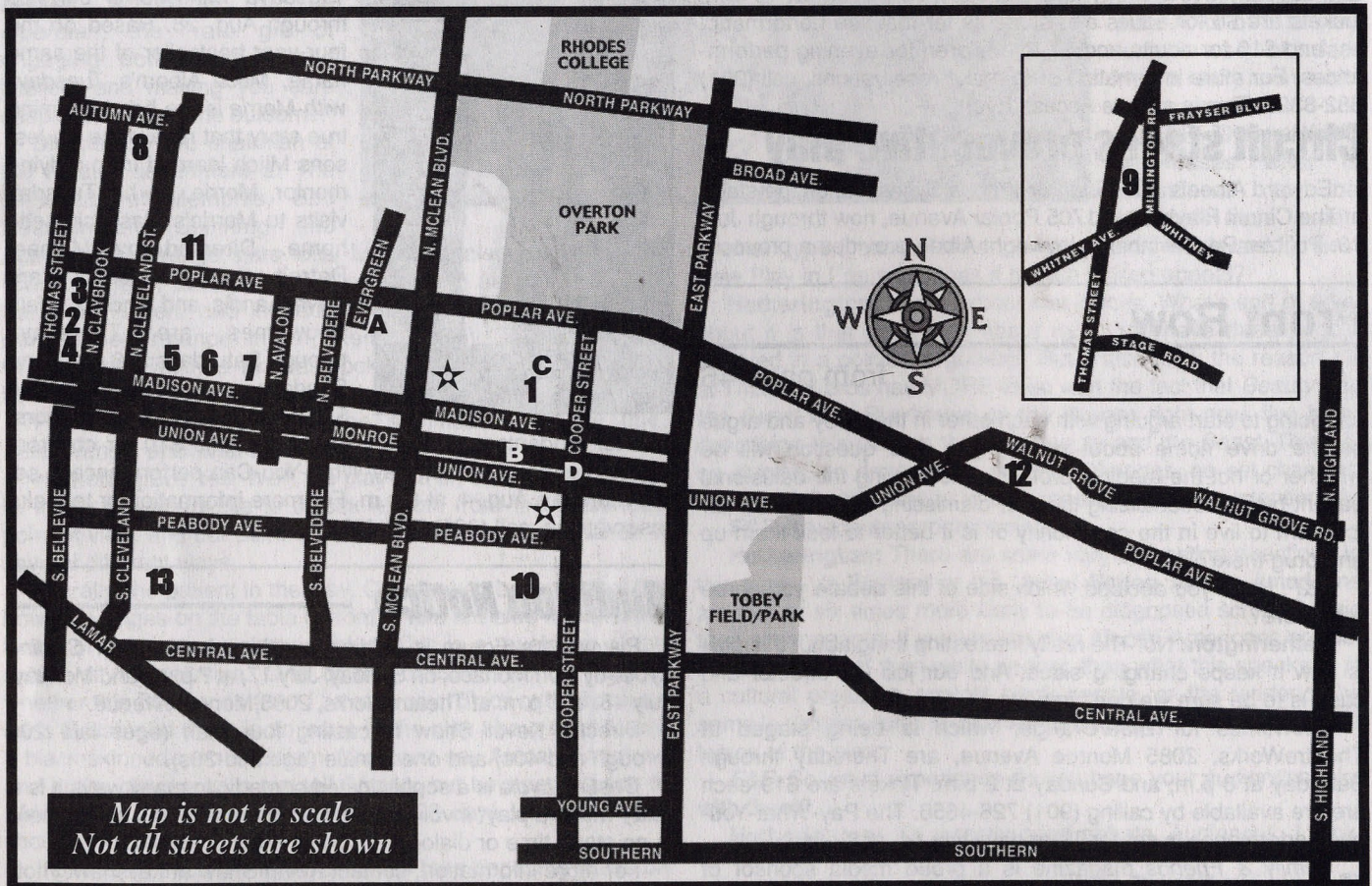
Pancho's
• 717 N. Whitestation
(901) 685-5404
• 87 S. Second Street
(901) 522-0011

RP Tracks
3547 Walker Street
(901) 327-1471

SOGO
1255 Goodman Road
Hom Lake, MS

THEATERS

- A Circuit Playhouse**
1705 Poplar Avenue
(901) 726-4656
- B Emerald Theatre Company**
2085 Monroe Avenue
(901) 722-9302
- C Malco's Studio on the Square**
2105 Court Avenue
Movie Hotline: (901) 681-2020
- D Playhouse on the Square**
51 South Cooper
(901) 726-4656
- NOT ON MAP**
The Orpheum
203 South Main Street
(901) 525-3000
- Theatre Memphis**
630 Perkins Extended
(901) 682-8323



Map is not to scale
Not all streets are shown



DINING OUT

by Laer Gib Retae

CORDELIA'S TABLE

When contemplating this column it came to mind that most food reviews deal with restaurants. But, then again, it really is about the food not the restaurant and therefore eat-in groceries are fair game. After all, what has more food but a grocery store. So here we go ... this month's review is of Cordelia's Table, which is happily nestled within Miss Cordelia's Grocery.

Miss Cordelia's was opened in 1998, by Henry Turley (essentially the father of renewed downtown residential living in Memphis). The grocery was named for his mother and, since its opening, Miss Cordelia's has been the neighborhood grocery in Harbor Town. It also has remained the only full-service grocery downtown, although several failed or inadequate attempts have been made. It

being the only game in town, short of coasting up Poplar or Union Avenue, one would think everyone downtown would know of its existence, but for the most part it has been a closely guarded little secret that one of the finest gourmet or boutique groceries in the city of Memphis is in the heart of the Harbor Town residential area. It's amazing that so many people who live in other areas of downtown have, until now, remained oblivious as to its quaint existence. That quaintness and the little secret of Miss Cordelia's has probably forever ended as a result of a new addition and a very well-run publicity campaign recently carried out by the grocery's management.

Miss Cordelia's Grocery has recently expanded from around 4,000 square feet to approximately 7,000 square feet.

While excellent produce, fresh meat and seafood, gourmet food items, freshly prepared foods and excellent deli sandwiches have been a well-kept secret and staple of Miss Cordelia's for years, the addition includes the newest deli on the downtown block, Cordelia's Table.

Cordelia's Table is more than a deli. It is an eat-in kitchen that brings back early childhood memories of eating in a little country store where the sandwiches were made fresh and to order. Of course, those memories were long before the days of corporate-owned, run-of-the-mill, fast food restaurants existing on every corner throughout the known universe. Refreshingly, Cordelia's Table doesn't produce the typical corporate deli atmosphere that

the multiple chain delis around town offer. It is quaint and personal, which is what is missing from most of the other delis around town.

It would be so easy to write about what I have eaten at Cordelia's Table on a particular visit and to tell you of the various degrees of satisfaction with each sandwich or salad. But to write about one visit wouldn't do this place justice. It's much better to place it all in perspective and state that there has never been any dissatisfaction with a visit. Since Cordelia's expansion this has become a regular stop for me and it is best to recommend that if you are looking for a great deli sandwich or salad you must eat here.

While ordering a sandwich made to order is always the preference, if you are short on time, Cordelia's has a sufficient selection of pre-made fresh sandwiches available, as well as fresh prepackaged sushi. Cordelia's salads also are an excellent choice. For the sweet tooth, you will find homemade cookies and an ever-changing variety of freshly made desserts,

See Dining Out, page 50

Cordelia's Table
737 Harbor Bend Road
(901) 526-4772

Price/Cost: \$7-\$10 per person with a non-alcoholic beverage

Dining Style: Very casual

Cuisine: Deli/Grocery

Service: Good

Quality of Food: Excellent +

Hours: 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., 7 days a week

Liquor: Beer and wine, from the grocery section

Take Out: Available

Other: Eat inside or on the patio

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restaurant and bar
m e m p h i s

3547
Walker

(901)
327
1471



2150 Elzey Ave. east of Cooper

Dining Out

from page 49

all of which are made on the premises.

Aside from a great deli, in the mornings Cordelia's Table also has a variety of breakfast pastries, an assortment of freshly made muffins, as well as bacon, sausage and egg biscuits. Match that up with some of Cordelia's selection of freshly brewed gourmet coffee and you have a wonderful place for a quick breakfast on the way to work.

The best thing about Cordelia's Table is that if they have the ingredients in the store and you don't see it on the menu, they will probably make it for you, if you ask! Cordelia's also does catering for luncheons, private parties and dinner parties. If the catered foods are as good as the on premise foods, I'm sure divine satisfaction is the only thing that will be delivered. Once again, Henry Turley did it right.

(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.)



MISS CORDELIA'S

Miss Cordelia's proudly announces the opening of Cordelia's Table, an eat-in kitchen with fresh, healthy, tasty foods along with an on-site butcher and baker. Stop by, have a glass of wine, or cup of joe. Grab a bite to eat - or take it to go. You can do all that - at Miss Cordelia's.

DAILY 7AM - 10PM (KITCHEN OPEN UNTIL 9PM)
737 HARBOR BEND ROAD IN HARBOR TOWN
901-526-4772

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John F. Kennedy Center, Vanderbilt University

Phone: (615) 322-8529 (Voice) • (800) 640-INFO (4636)

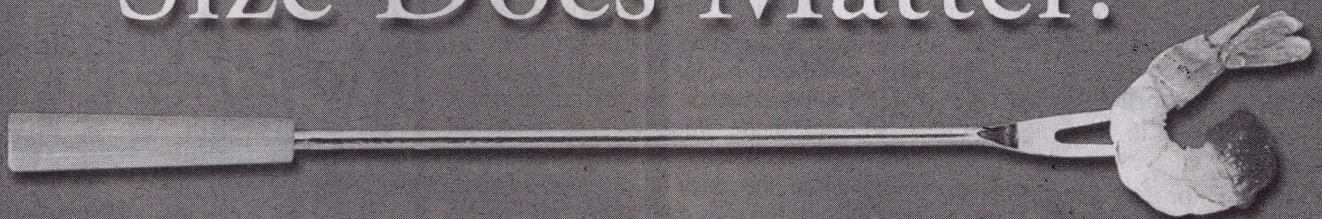
(615) 343-2958 (TDD) • (800) 273-9595 (TDD)

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.

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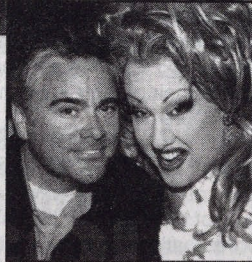
(901) 380-9500

www.meltingpot.com

Annual Boys to Men Charity Event

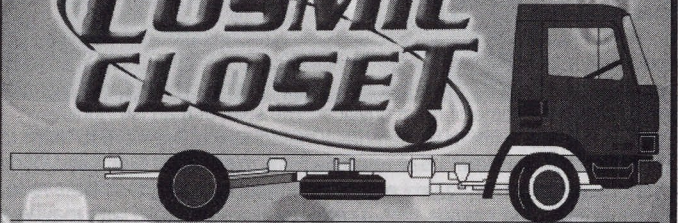


CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP:
 1) Chris Wide, Tommy Hansen, Carlo Masi, Gage Weston, Pavel Mitas and Luke Garrett at 2nd annual event. 2) The Nakedword Tim and Roma Show Cast with the Crew and Cast from "BuckleRoos" and "eXposed" for Frameline's HO-Down Party on Pink Saturday Night. 3) Directors John Rutherford and Chi Chi Larue.
 photos courtesy of COLTstudio.com



WE'VE MOVED

COSMIC CLOSET



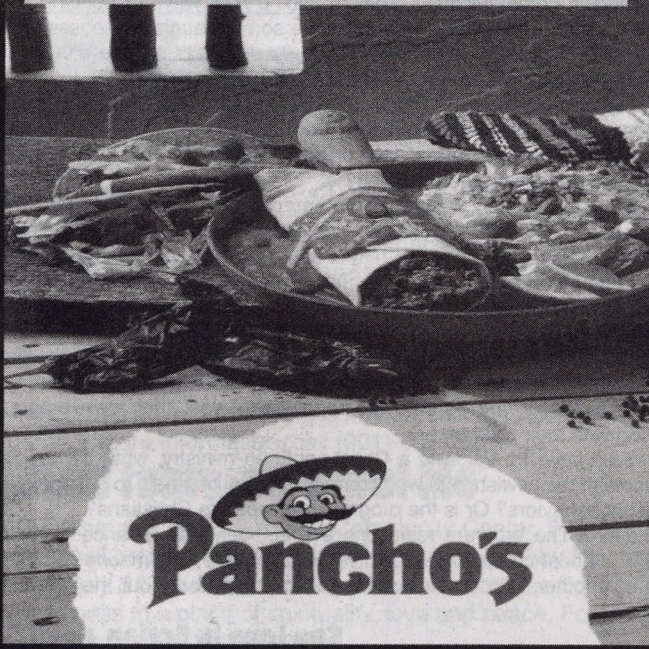
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Quick-Serve Restaurant

East • 2841 S. Perkins Road (901) 363-8118



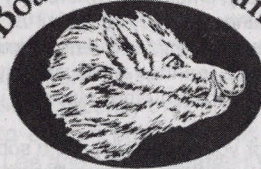
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 Memphis Magazine
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 8 am to 3 pm Saturday

Love In Action

from page 26

we call defensiveness. We don't allow that, that's a group norm.

There's no defensiveness. There's no preaching or teaching. We're not here to try and preach at you. Now, the staff will teach but as a peer group. They're not allowed to respond in preachy or teachy ways. We challenge that straight up. It's designed to be very clear, very safe, very productive, very respectful. And so, that is a really, deeply, inappropriate description. ...

We'd be opening a sexual brothel if we allowed people to talk about their sexual experiences, especially men. I have seen that in emails so I don't where that started.

F&F: How do you feel about the theory that God made each of us, homosexual and heterosexual alike, and God doesn't make junk?

Smid: That's a very cliché statement that I've heard about, the God doesn't make junk thing.

What I know is that God created each one of us destined, I believe, to find a love relationship with Jesus Christ. At the same time, each of us were born into an imperfect world, therefore, each one of us have flaws, some of them emotional, some of them physical. The spirit of man isn't junk.

But I believe each of us can have maladies that we have to learn to deal with. So, therefore, I don't believe for a minute that God says, "And by the way, I'm throwing you out there without a leg." I don't believe for a minute that God intends that. Therefore, if we are born with maybe a psychological malady or we experience something in our life that emotionally wounds us, God absolutely does not intend that to happen.

But God gives us answers and He gives us His grace and He gives us His spirit to learn how to respond to the imperfections of this world. I believe that homosexuality is, in part, one of those imperfections that impacts us as people. And I'm not going to say where it comes from exactly because I don't think there's a definitive answer on that.

I think every person's experience is different. I think there's different reasons, there's different factors. Some people may, just as a result of sexual debauchery, get involved in orgies and it's not an orientation issue, it's just sexual games. I believe that can be the case. But I believe there are other people who really may never really know where their homosexuality came from or why it's there.

But I believe that God gives us the ability, if I follow my own theology, that homosexual behavior is inappropriate in Christianity. I believe God can give us, and does give us, His grace and His ability to live joyfully in His name. I read an email the other day, it was like, "Some people are born gay and what do you think should happen? Should they just have to live sexless lives?"

Well, that's another cultural issue where people, I think, fall into entitlement to sex, and God never told us we were entitled to sex. He basically said quite the contrary. If you're not married as heterosexuals you live sober lives.

While someone may struggle with homosexual attractions or temptations, I believe that God can give them the grace to live single and have a tremendously valuable, worthwhile life as a single adult, regardless of those temptations. And I always mention to people who struggle with homosexuality to think about how many men and women in this world who don't struggle with homosexuality live single lives without sex and it's a struggle for them but they find a way to live a single life without sex. What about married couples who may have something that impacts their marriage either physiologically, medically, emotionally where they do not engage in sexual behavior with each other and they struggle?

You know, that's life and some people have those kinds of circumstances, and if they do, I don't believe that God then winks and gives them permission to find sexual play or gratification other places. I just don't believe in that.

So, you're either married and faithful or you're unmarried and sober. That's what I believe God calls us to and I don't think that's really so bad. I know, too well, that sexual promiscuity can lead to a lot of really difficult emotional issues and I think a whole lot of people would do well to learn how to live with self-control. I think they would be really happier, in the end, more satisfied, more confident.

So, in answer to your question, I'm trying to summarize, I don't believe that God made anybody homosexual. I don't believe for a minute that that's true. If He did, then I believe His word would instruct us and it

doesn't. There is absolutely not one positive reference in the scripture. If we believe God's word is the inspired word of God, and it's not in error, which I do believe, there is not one positive statement anywhere about homosexuality and there are lots of instructional messages about how to have a heterosexual marriage. There is no instruction anywhere for homosexual marriage and its distinctively different because same-sex relationships are totally different; they're different dynamics. And God doesn't give any instruction for it and so I would say then how would a loving God give you homosexuality and not give you any instruction? I'd be pretty angry about that. I think I would be really frustrated with that.

F&F: But some things have changed. Some men in the Bible had several wives.

Smid: Yes.

F&F: And we don't condone that now.

Smid: It wasn't condoned then, either. ... The Old Testament reveals how fallen and broken mankind is. It reveals how far off the mark we can go. And it's a real story about real lives. There's a real story about David engaging in immoral behavior with Bathsheba. It does not say that God condones it. But rather quite to the contrary. It shows the consequences of it. So the Old Testament shows how far off the mark we can get and it shows the consequences of going off the mark.

The New Testament gives us instruction and guidelines and it shows us God's awesome grace and mercy and forgiveness when we do go off the mark.

F&F: During the press conference there was a lot of talk about teens being "confused" and "depressed." It seems that telling them that what they are feeling is wrong and that to continue to feel this way will result in a loss of their parents love and God's love would lead to more confusion and depression.

Smid: I agree with that. That's not what we're telling them. (laughs) Once again, I believe it's a misrepresentation. A lot of the kids that come here are confused and many of them struggle with feeling depressed.

Many of them do fear the loss of God's love and the loss of their parents' love, that's true. And so, what we try to do is help them understand what love really is. It's not a feeling. It's a commitment.

We also help them to understand maybe where the depression is coming from. We help them to look for why they feel ashamed of themselves. We try to build stronger relationships with their parents and it's been very interesting because of the restrictions, "the rules," and because of the nature of the program, across the board, the parents will come and they'll say things like, "Because we're not watching TV, and we're not hiding under music headphones and we're not using computers to distract us, I sat down with my son last night and had a three-hour conversation with him and it was the first time in five years."

And so the product of the program I think bares out that they really are finding communication. They're finding new ways of bonding with one another. And regardless of what the son or daughter chooses to do after that, it builds a better relationship to deal with it more effectively. And I believe a lot of the shame and depression begins to lift.

F&F: It's assumed that the young people in the Refuge program undergo intensive therapy on their path to "change." Are their parents also expected to "change," too, or do you consider the parents completely right in what they're doing?

Smid: Absolutely we exhort the parents to continue to change. We understand that children that are struggling with the things that these kids are struggling with often reflect an unhealthy balance in the home. And they often reflect parental imbalances and it often reflects parents who are not skilled or don't have the understanding about how to deal with things that come up in the family.

We work very much with the parents and, for the most part, the parents leave saying they got more out of the program than the kids did. So, yes, absolutely, the parents are required to work their own program along with their children.

F&F: Love In Action is a Christ-centered ministry, what do you tell people of the Jewish faith who come to you seeking help to change their sexual behaviors? Or is the program only open to Christians?

Smid: The program maintains a Christ-centered balance. It maintains a Christ-centered perspective and therefore, if someone comes to us of another faith we are willing to work with them but they have to

See Love In Action, page 54

ART ON EXHIBIT

You'll find dragons in art at Pink Palace Museum

Discover marvelous Chinese dragons in "Finding Dragons in Chinese Art," now through Sept. 25, in the Bodine Exhibit Hall at the Memphis Pink Palace Museum, 3050 Central Avenue. The exhibit features selected works of Chinese art from the Peabody Place Museum and the Belz Collection.

Art Briefs

Amy Hutcheson's works on exhibit

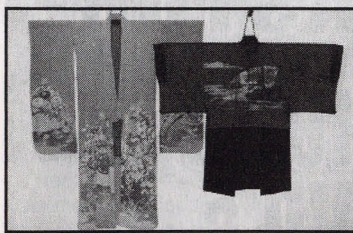


Memphis artist Amy Hutcheson's works will be on display at the Eclectic Eye showroom, 242 South Cooper, now through Aug. 2. Hutcheson's works are journeys and reflections on the peace (and sometimes turmoil) that creativity can bring. Hutcheson's work has been exhibited at Durden Gallery and the Art House in Memphis, and published in *Number-No. Magazine* and *Mid-South Living*. For more information, call (901) 276-3937 or go online to www.eclectic-eye.com.

Orpheum hangs Edelstein art

The Orpheum Theatre, 203 South Main, will present the art work of Paul Edelstein during the month of July. Edelstein, born in Louisville, Ky., and raised in Memphis, began painting during his early teens. He received a bachelor of arts in painting and Russian from The University of Memphis. Edelstein's "abstract figurative style" paintings, which he calls his "day-long obsession" feature vibrant colors depicting everyday life. His paintings are in a number of public and private collections. He runs the Paul Edelstein Gallery and Studio in Memphis.

Kimonos are subject of exhibit



"Shibui" represents the Japanese esthetic of quiet and understated elegance. These one-of-a-kind pieces also are available for purchase, with prices ranging from \$150 to \$250.

The MBG is open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$5 for adults; \$4 for seniors (62+); \$3 for children, and free for children ages two and under. For more information, call (901) 685-1566.

MGLCC features 'Art of Mo'

The Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center, 892 South Cooper, will present "The Art of Mo Inside and Out" by Mo now through July 31. The exhibit expresses Mo's progress from pain and darkness to a place of spirituality, love and peace. For more information, call (901) 278-4297.



Finding Dragons In Chinese Art

As an emblem of the Emperor and the Imperial command, the legend of the dragon permeates ancient Chinese civilizations. Its benevolence signifies greatness, goodness and blessings. By capturing its image in art, the Chinese hoped to capture the dragon's power in their lives.

Among the pieces featured in the exhibit are a hand-embroidered Imperial robe and a red cinnabar lacquer throne chair. Included is a pair of large, boldly colored vases, encircled with the imperial dragon, and a giant porcelain teapot that was created for the export market. The pieces on exhibit were selected to represent a few of the many decorative art forms that were popular during the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), as well as to show the prolific use of the dragon as a symbol in Chinese art of all kinds.

Admission to the museum is \$8.25 for adults; \$7.75 for seniors, and \$5.75 for children. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.

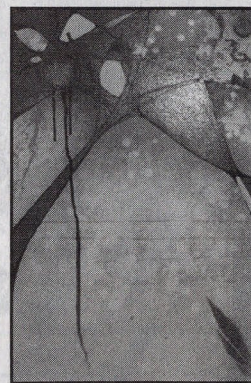
For more information, call (901) 320-6362 or go online to www.memphismuseums.org.

Works of graffiti artists Jon Lee, Adam Smith on display

The Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, located at 1934 Poplar Avenue in Overton Park, is presenting the works of Graffiti Artists Jon Lee and Adam Smith now through Aug. 14.

From pre-historic cave painters to modern-day street artists, the practice of decorating, communicating and recording one's presence through writing and painting on walls hasn't changed much. While graffiti artists traditionally have illegally defaced property, recently they have been invited to enliven public spaces with their art. Lee and Smith created this installation specifically for "Brooks Introduces," a program designed to showcase the work of young artists who are either presently in art school or recently graduated. Both artists combine the spontaneity of "street" art done on public walls and signs, with the permanence of "high" art found in the setting of a museum or gallery.

For more information, call (901) 544-6200 or go online to www.brooksmuseum.org.



Love In Action

from page 52

understand that we are not going to change our perspectives in order to minister to them.

If I had a Jewish person, for example, I'd probably refer him to a ministry I know of called J.O.N.A.H. (Jews Offering New Alternatives to Homosexuality), which is a Jewish ministry that helps people with their sexuality.

I probably would let them know there are other places. For example, there's an organization in Salt Lake City, or in Utah, called the Evergreen Foundation, which is a (Latter-day Saints) organization that helps Mormons who are struggling with their sexuality.

If I knew of a referral I'd certainly let them know about it and help them find a place more appropriate to their own beliefs.

F&F: There's a lot of homosexuality and people being on the down-low in both black and white churches. But I didn't see too many African-Americans on your staff. What's their involvement in Love In Action?

Smid: We really do try and pursue the African-American community, and we do have a relationship with World Overcomers; they have referred people to us. We have spoken at their church on a couple different occasions.

There are other churches in the Memphis area that we've worked with. I've spoken at Mississippi Boulevard. We're working with several Black congregations right now.

It is my deep desire to work with the Black community. And we actually find quite a lot of acceptance there because I think there are a number of Black churches in Memphis that are willing to admit that there are sexual issues that they have to face. But it's not any worse than white churches. White churches don't want to admit it either. And so, yeah, I have a deep heart to work with the Black churches. There is a distinct problem.

F&F: Have you ever had any African-Americans go through the program?

Smid: Yes, we do, and we've had African-Americans on staff. And we have a Black lady on our board.

F&F: On the Love In Action website you wrote a paper on a statement called the "homosexual myth." Is that a basis of the program?

Smid: That article is one that I feel very convicted about in that I don't believe people should adopt an identity of homosexuality, because it's my belief that homosexuality involves feelings, it involves attractions, it involves behaviors and I believe to take on an identification as a homosexual is one of those things that I think can block someone from remaining open to having a true identity.

While I believe people can engage in behaviors, because, you know, that article came out of a challenge that came to me numerous times, that's why I say I listen when people challenge things, I really do. I had numerous people that would come to me and say, "You said that you used to be a homosexual." We had a billboard in Memphis one time where I made that statement on the billboard, you know, "I used to be a homosexual," which today I would never say that. I learned from that, that that's not really true.

People will say, "Well, maybe you were never gay to begin with." "Oh, you were married before, well maybe you're bisexual." And I really reacted to those statements negatively. It's like, wait a minute, I don't like that. I don't like what you're saying because I wanted to defend myself. And as I defended myself I wanted to say, "Well, you should have been with me those four years that I lived in homosexuality, you know, I pursued it with gusto." And then I thought, "Well that's not very good. I don't want to be prideful about that." (laughs)

You know, I kept trying to find a way to answer their questions. And I finally realized, I thought, "You know, I was never gay and I'm not heterosexual, either." And neither are you.

We're men and we're women. And in our maleness and our femaleness we may chose to live out our lives in heterosexual relationships. We may have one homosexual relationship. We may have some homosexual, some heterosexual relationships. I don't like the identity names. I don't like the nouns.

I didn't used to be gay. I'm not heterosexual. I'm not an ex-gay. I'm John, and in my identity, I can act upon that in various different ways or I can struggle with attractions, but that doesn't make me a homosexual. I just think that that narrows my life too much, and other people's, as well.

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F&F: In March 1994, you were quoted as saying something in regard to Tom Ottosen. It was in *We The People*. You are quoted as saying, "I would rather you commit suicide than to leave Love In Action and return to a homosexual lifestyle, wanting to return to the gay lifestyle. In a physical death you could still have a spiritual resurrection; whereas, returning to homosexuality you are yielding yourself to a spiritual death, from which there is no recovery." At the press conference you said it was taken out of context. Can you give it to me in context.

Smid: That was a misrepresentation and it was taken out of context, that's true.

That is a quote of a quote of someone reporting what I said. Okay, so we're playing telephone. I remember that meeting and I remember the context of what I said was, "It would almost be better if you weren't alive than to return back to the life you that you have struggled so much to leave."

Now, the spirit of what I said, I have to be honest about, was manipulative. I know that I was really trying to rescue him. And in my trying to rescue him, in my heart, I was doing more work to save him than he was doing to save himself. And, that was an error on my part. That was error of judgement. I should have been less manipulative and less co-dependent. And, I learned from that scenario. I learned ... not to do that.

I'm not here to rescue people from something that they're choosing. I'm here merely to share my heart with them. And so, that was taken out of context because I know that the suicide word is a buzz word and I truly believe the author of that article embellished and was trying to get a reaction by using that statement. I believe that's what I saw in the article. And, I feel very grieved that that is still on the Internet because it is a misrepresentation.

F&F: If you were not a minister involved with Love In Action, would you still be involved in a homosexual lifestyle? I guess what I'm trying to say is here you have a wall of protection and this subculture. If you did not have this subculture, could you be where you are today?

Smid: I have to say that being where I am is certainly an accountability for me. It provides an accountability and I know that it does, in that I could stand to lose too much if I went back to homosexuality. But it's so many wonderful and encouraging things.

But also, my marriage is an accountability. I don't want to lose my marriage. I don't want to lose my wife. I don't want to lose all the tremendous blessings that I've gained over the last 20 years. Nonetheless, the clean heart. Everything is open. I have nothing to hide. I have a clean heart and I would not trade that clean heart for anything.

F&F: Would you be willing to participate in a forum to discuss the mental health issue representing Love In Action's views as such, and I'm thinking more on the level of possibly having the university set up something?

Smid: I would certainly be willing to discuss my personal life experiences. Absolutely. That's an open book. I have no reason not to. If I had the time and the opportunity I might be willing to do that, that's why I stay open. Like Dr. (Robert L.) Spitzer, for example, called me and interviewed me on his study. It's like, "Absolutely. You can talk to me all day long, I'll tell you whatever you want to know."

F&F: Would you be willing for Love In Action to participate in a valid survey to determine the actual success rate of your program.

Smid: Yeah, I would say yes as long as it didn't interrupt or distract us from the work we have to do. Because, sometimes those things can become so pronounced that all of a sudden everybody's more worried about the study than they are getting the work done. And, it can be very distracting for clients.

F&F: One last question. If indeed you are doing God's work, why charge for it

Smid: That isn't a simple answer. First of all, I believe that people should be invested in their own recovery. I believe that people should be invested and we have found over the years when we give it away for free, people aren't serious about being here. And, it really produces less outcome, to be honest, and more reactions.

The other side of it is, somebody has to pay for the air conditioning. You know, it's just responsible. And, we actually ... charge very much less than most programs that do what we do at the caliber that we do it. It really is ... a bargain. And we're told many, many times by many professionals that we should charge more. And we may have to eventually, just because ... we've got to pay quality people to be here. You've got quality counselors. They're not going to work for free. ...

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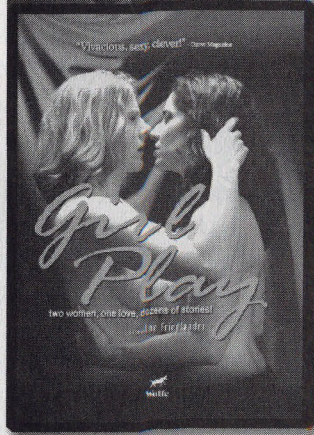
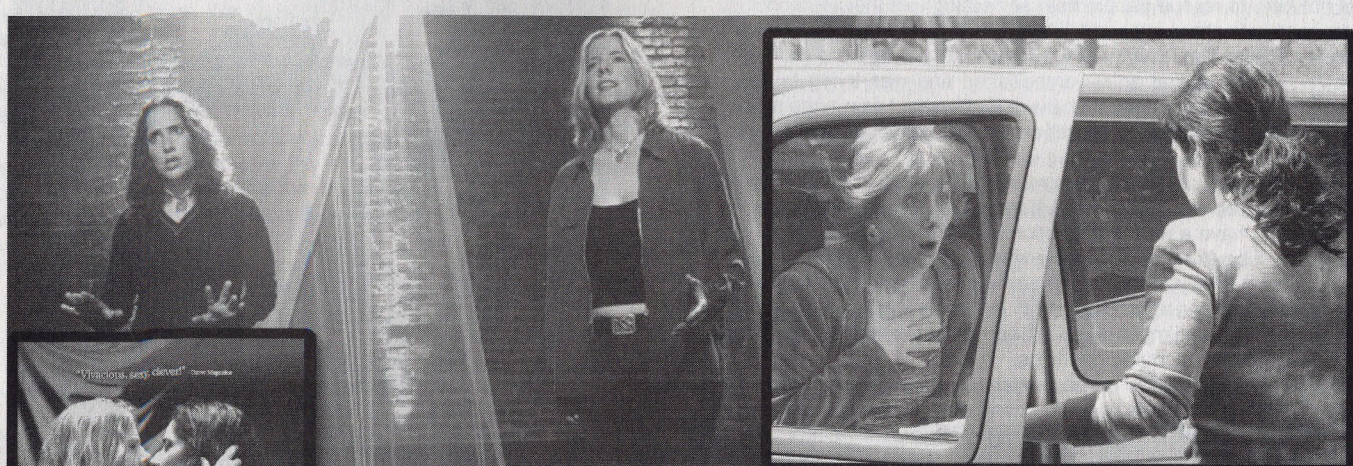
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REEL TWISTED film reviews 



REVIEWED BY
Patricia Pair publisher

There is just something about this film. From the intriguing cover that grabs your attention and won't let go to the two lead actresses, both of whom you know you've seen somewhere before. *Girl Play* is an 80-minute

humorous romp through the lives of two lesbians who fall in love with each other, but not without a heaping helping of dyke drama.

I found the storyline interesting, mainly because those who know me know I'm working on a novel about the fine line that exists between friends and lovers and what, if anything, it takes to cross that line. *Girl Play's* writers (and lead actresses) Robin Greenspan and Lacie Harmon share their real-life ideas about that "line" in the film. The result of their experiences was first a stage play entitled *Real Girls*, but on Aug. 16, the screenplay adaptation, *Girl Play*, will be released for rent nationwide.

Perhaps two of its most appealing features are its commonality and its realism.

First, the commonality. After viewing this film I walked around for two days trying to figure out where I knew Harmon and Greenspan from. But, after our telephone interview (which you can read on page 62) it became obvious I had never met either of them before. And, too, the commonality also means that everyone who sees the film is sure to see themselves in bits and pieces of

almost all the characters. And, I think we would all agree that we've had a girlfriend like Audrey at least once in our lives.

But for me, the real clincher to being a good film is its realism. It's two lesbians, playing two lesbians who fall in love with each other. There's no seducing of the proverbial straight woman here. No applications for toaster ovens being filled out. It's good, old-fashioned undeniable lesbian lust and love that fuels this film's fire.

For those who are used to the usual, standard movie told in the same old way, you'll feel a bit disconnected at first until you get into the feel of how Harmon, Greenspan and director Lee Friedlander chose to unfold this story. At first, one actress will talk directly to the camera while standing on stage with the other actress a safe distance away. Then the second actress will speak to the camera. At times when other actors (Dom Deluise and Mink Stole) are in the scenes, the cameras cut away to shots away from the main stage setting. I promise, it doesn't take long to get used to and even adds a more believable feel to the film.

I absolutely loved this movie! In fact, *Girl Play* struck such a chord with us (myself and my partner, Anita) that *Family & Friends Magazine*, along with Family Flavors Movie Rentals and Pride Essentials, in conjunction with Wolfe Video, will host a free preview screening of the film Friday, July 22, at The MeDia Coop at First Congo, 1000 South Cooper. For more info, see the ad on page 63.

It's no wonder *Girl Play* won seven awards combined at OUTfest 2004 and the Tampa and Santa Barbara Lesbian & Gay Film Festivals.

Will be available for rent at Family Flavors Aug. 16

ALSO AVAILABLE OR COMING SOON

ROUND TRIP

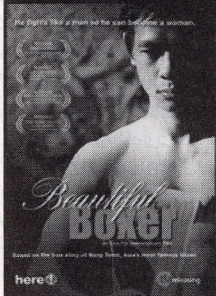


Coming Sept. 20 from Wolfe Video is a moving film about the redemptive power of love. When a single mom (Anat Waxman) struggling to make ends meet in Tel Aviv hires an undocumented immigrant (Nathati Moshesh) to help with the kids, she finds unexpected love.

Hebrew and English, with subtitles
Not rated. 95 minutes

Will be available at Family Flavors

BEAUTIFUL BOXER



Coming Aug. 2 from TLA Releasing is the story of a determined young man from a village who rises to the top ranks of the kickboxing world despite his equally strong determination to become a woman. Wonderful story, impressive action and a fascinating twist on transgenderism. Based on a true story.

Thai w/subtitles. Not rated. 118 minutes

Will be available at Family Flavors

HIT & RUNWAY

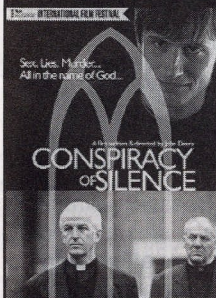


From Ariztical Entertainment comes a film focusing on the friendship between a straight Catholic and a gay Jew. Billed as *Kiss Me Guido* meets *Annie Hall*.

Unrated. 101 minutes

Available for rent at Family Flavors

CONSPIRACY OF SILENCE

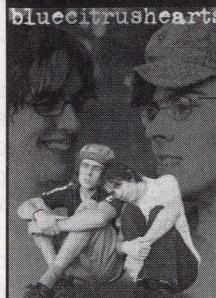


Coming July 19 from TLA Releasing is a film ripped from today's headlines. It's a controversial thriller that dares to ask the question, "How far will the Catholic Church go to cover-up its own corruption?"

Not rated. 90 minutes

Will be available at Family Flavors

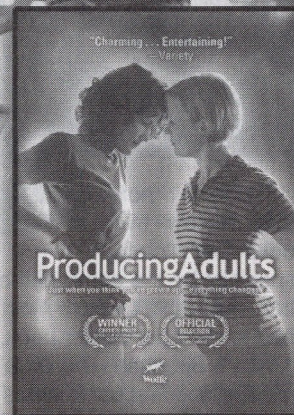
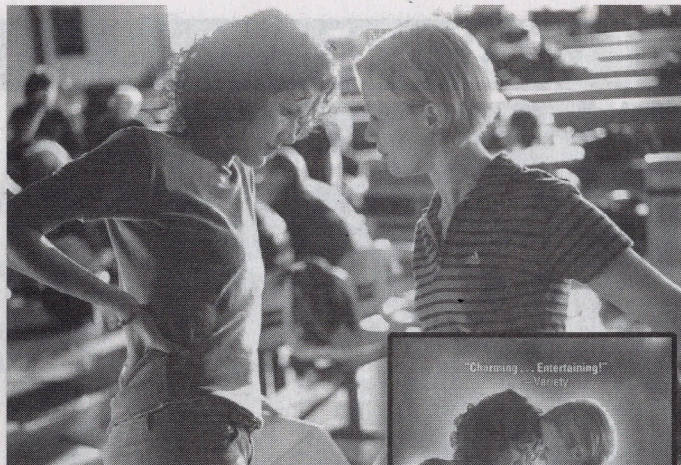
BLUE CITRUS HEARTS



From Ariztical Entertainment comes a story of a boy who loves a boy. Sam and Julian are high school best friends full of vibrant teen angst. This is their bittersweet tale of moving poetry and the unique experience of boy love in Memphis. Sam's struggle against an abusive father, his oblivious girlfriend, and thoughts of suicide clash while his affection deepens for Julian.

This is a local, independent film.

Available for rent at Family Flavors



Antero and Venia are a modern, longtime unmarried couple in Finland. But their relationship is in crisis: Venia wants them to finally marry and have a family.

Antero proposes and secretly gets a vasectomy. But, determined to have a child, Venia plans to be inseminated at the fertility clinic where she works. But to her surprise, Venia develops feelings for Satu, the clinic's female doctor.

Finnish. Not rated. 100 minutes Available July 19 from Wolfe Video.

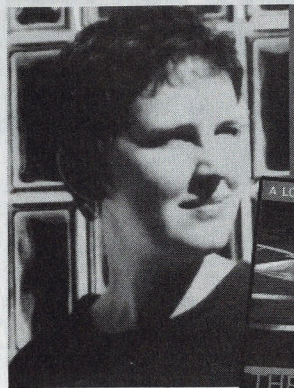
Will be available for rent at Family Flavors

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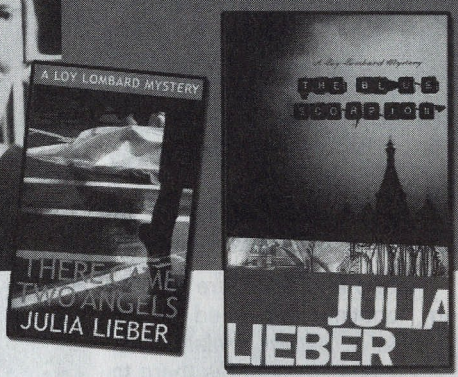
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reviewed by
PATRICIA PAIR, publisher



I wouldn't normally review two books at once, especially by the same author, but after I read Julia Lieber's most current release, *The Blue Scorpion*, I had to read her earlier book, *There Came Two Angels*.

Why? Because *The Blue Scorpion* was so good. Why am I including the first book in this review? Because I don't want anyone to make the same mistake I did and read them out of order.

As you turn the 247 pages of *Scorpion*, Lieber has a way of letting her readers really get inside her characters, especially main character Loy Lombard, a former homicide detective turned private eye. But even so, I felt something was missing, some piece of the puzzle that make up her characters, which includes her partner, Sam McLean; Mike Church, Sig Mashburn, Chris Campbell and Tyler Rhodes.

Without a doubt, Lieber's yarn is spun so well in *Scorpion* that you don't necessarily have to read *Angels* first to get into the characters and the story. But, Lieber manages to make you really care about these characters, so much so that you want to know more about them and how they met and fit together.

For example, in the beginning of *Scorpion* we know Campbell is the girlfriend of Lombard. We know Campbell is a park ranger. But we don't know exactly how these two people, who seem so opposite, met. For that story you have to read *Angels*.

I'm not much of a detective, mystery reader, but I can't wait for Lieber to produce her third Loy Lombard mystery. Yes, both books are just that good.

Angels is the story of a right-wing, conservative senator who is found by police naked, except for a towel; covered in blood, and sitting next to the body of a murdered gay street hustler.

Scorpion finds Lombard thrust once again into a high-profile criminal case as she and her partner search for the connection between a missing Russian bride and a shadowy, seductive "ice queen," all the while searching for a woman worth fighting for.



by **Zsa Zsa Gershick**
with forward by
Col. Margarethe Cammermeyer



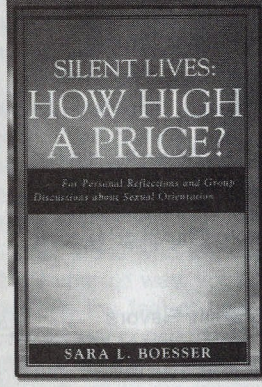
Although 79 percent of Americans support allowing gay and lesbian troops to serve openly, the military continues to hunt down and discharge qualified service members.

Secret Service: Untold Stories of Lesbians in the Military, a 305-page book by Zsa Zsa Gershick, with a foreword by Col. Margarethe Cammermeyer, tells the stories of the can-do troops who do battle with discrimination. These women – nurses, clerks, commanders and artillerymen – are part of an extraordinary community of dedicated professionals whose commitment extends above and beyond.

An Alyson Book, *Secret Service* includes Interviews with active duty, reserve and retired soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines underscore what people in uniform already know: Lesbians (and gay men) serve and have served proudly and well in all branches of the American armed forces. They are smart. They are skilled. They are lesbian. And that fact alone – 10 years after the passage of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" – still means discharge.

Award-winning author Gershick served in the U.S. Army Reserve from 1978 to 1983.

reviewed by
ANITA MOYT,
managing editor



Author Sara Boesser examines the consequences a sexual minority person suffers when attempting to pass as heterosexual and/or as of a traditional gender expression. Boesser also looks at how society as a whole is affected when an individual is pressured to hide his/her sexual identity.

This book contains autobiographical sources, personal interviews and questions for reflection to explore issues relevant to everyone's sexual orientation and gender status, be that heterosexual, or gay, lesbian, bisexual transgender or intersexual.

Silent lives is helpful for personal journaling, as a college text, a therapy supplement or as a catalyst for group discussions.

Boesser grew up and still lives in Juneau, Alaska, and is a graduate of the University of Washington with a degree in anthropology. She is a human rights advocate who has received numerous awards for her work for equal rights for all, regardless of sexual orientation, and for equal access for people who experience disabilities.

5 minutes with new novelist Loren Stone

Family & Friends Magazine: What or who inspired you to write this book?

Loren Stone: I was inspired to write *Bait* by current events and my frustration with the popular media portrayals of "Christians vs. Queers." There is a lot of contention between the two groups in the news these days, but I find the popular portrayal of these two "camps" to be over-simplified by the mainstream media, which doesn't seem to understand either of them very well. With all the controversy surrounding gay rights issues, with Christians and GLBT politics facing off in the public eye, I really wanted to add another voice to the discussion – to explore how these two very different types of people can relate to one another personally, as individuals and as members of the same family, not as political rivals.

I grew up in a conservative Christian household, in a very right-wing part of rural Pennsylvania, and I've always had a different view of conservative "right wing" folks than the Moral Majority stereotype. They were my classmates, my next-door-neighbors, my friends, my relatives, my Grandma and Grandpa, not these religious ogres that are stereotyped today.

The same holds true of the GLBT world – living that life (in hiding, as a youth, then openly after I came out in my early 20s), I found that a lot of the queer folks around me were living quietly and secretly in the midst of people who didn't realize just how different they were. GLBT folks were very misunderstood as a result, and for no good reason, other than that we were all hiding out, in fear of being beaten up and ostracized and threatened with hellfire-and-damnation sermons and slashed car tires.

The storyline of *Bait* grew out of me wanting to see how people in a family, who love each other very much and know exactly where each other stands on controversial personal issues, would interact when thrown together in demanding, contradictory circumstances.

I guess, ultimately, I was inspired to write *Bait* by my need for fairness and balance.

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

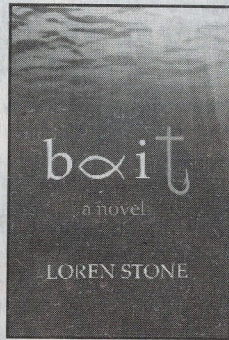
Stone: How a family, made up of very different people, deals with the conflicts and contradictions that stem from their ideological differences – and their personal similarities. It's a tale of sibling rivalry, of struggle for salvation, and a deep "hunger and thirst after righteousness" on many different levels.

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

Stone: The main character, JD (or "Jax") Madigan, is an out lesbian living in Center City Philadelphia, in a neighborhood patterned after the one I moved to, just after coming out. She moved to Philly to escape the limitations of the conservative Christian world she grew up in.

Her brother, Danny, is a fundamentalist evangelical, almost-confirmed bachelor, who desperately wants to save Jax from the eternal fires of hell he's certain she's going to, when she dies, because she's a lesbian. Danny and Jax were very close, when growing up, and they still are, despite their ideological and theological differences.

Jenn, Danny's fiancée, is a woman with a hidden past, whom both Danny and Jax are attracted to. And she soon becomes equally attracted to both brother and sister. All three of them



Bait

by Loren Stone

Lulu Enterprises Inc.

357 pages

softcover

lesbian fiction

have different ideas about what the best way to live is, and the three of them use each other as bait, to lure one another into the life they want them to live.

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

Stone: Yes and no. I've had a lot of the same kinds of experiences as Jax and Jenn, but I've "amped up" the descriptions and details a good deal – there's more interesting drama that way. I've mixed and

matched experiences I've had and watched other people have, to add to the plot and make it more interesting and believable. I've had a pretty interesting and varied life, but *Bait* is much more exciting and dynamic than my own life has been. I've also modified the finer details, "to protect the guilty."

F&F: Which of your characters are you most like and how/why?

Stone: I'm most like Jax nowadays. Her outlook and philosophy are most like mine, politically and personally and spiritually, at this time. Her sense of honor, justice and propriety mirror mine, too. In some places, I really disagreed with her decisions and I knew she was bound for trouble when she did certain things. But I had to respect her character and not impose my own wishes on her as the story unfolded. I had to let her just be Jax.

At an earlier point in my life, I was very much like Jenn, when a lot of things didn't make sense to me, and I was struggling with difficult inner issues around my faith and my sexuality. And I was just like Danny, when I was very young and very passionate about sharing my Christian faith – and urging others to accept Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior. (I've since mellowed, much to the relief of my non-Christian friends and neighbors.)

There is a little of me in all the characters, but Jax is most like me, at this point in time.

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

Stone: Oh, yes! I'm always reading. Mostly European news, these days, for relief from American mainstream media, but lots of online blogs, too. I'm trying to finish *Life of Pi*, which was given to me for Christmas two years ago, but I'm finding it slow going (needless to say). When I was growing up, I was a big fan of Mary Renault and Mary Stewart, and the Edgar Rice Burroughs *Tarzan* novels. *A Moveable Feast* by Ernest Hemingway is my favorite book of all-time. It takes me to Paris whenever I like, in that almost-innocent time before World War II, when it was still dangerous and subversive to be a writer, but it also was aristocratic and cool. I grew up reading voraciously; I was perpetually discontent with the world around me, and reading took me away from all that. In book form, I'm reading a fair amount of non-fiction these days – quantum physics, biophysics, self-improvement and health reference books.

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

Stone: I've always wanted to write. Storytelling was very important in my family when I was growing up, and my parents encouraged me to write, from the start (I wrote me first collection of short stories when I was in third grade). My grandfather is a

See Loren Stone, page 60

Novel intertwines homosexuality, religion

reviewed by Anita Moyt, managing editor

Bait is the story of Jax, a musician by night and a temp legal secretary by day, and a lesbian, for sure. She is a lover and a "sometimes" girlfriend to Lil. She also is a sister, a daughter, a niece, and, in the not to distant future, a sister-in-law.

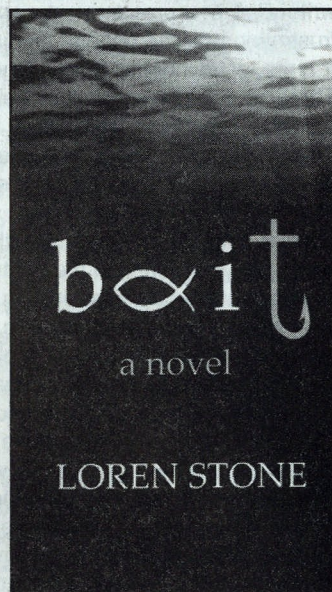
Where the major conflict occurs, and continues throughout her life, is between her life as a lesbian, and her life within her family – fundamentalist, evangelical and consumed by the fact that they all have to repent their way into heaven every day.

And here is where *Bait* is different from other lesbian stories. Jax is a lesbian and a Christian, from an early age. She is secure in her salvation and her relationship with her Maker. And she is secure in her life and content with being gay, oh so gay. But her family isn't and have a quest to bring her back into the heterosexual fold, complete with a husband and family. Yet Jax, raised in this churchy family, can battle Scripture with the best of them.

She loves her family, especially her "near-twin" younger brother, who is now almost 40 and still waiting on God's perfect match. So how does she balance the two worlds? More than that, how does she deal with the fact that her brother has met that perfect someone and the angels sang but Jax realizes all is not right. Jax knows that familiar feeling and those

familiar looks, but why from Jenn, this wonderful, near-perfect-in-her-brother's-eyes, Christian woman?

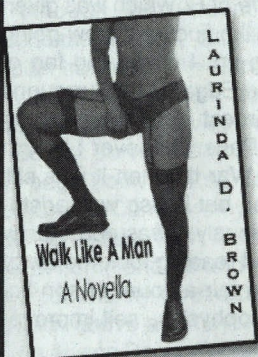
The author, Loren Stone, has weaved a wonderful tapestry in *Bait*. The scripture, which easily could have been offensive or dry, was well worked into the color scheme. Stone goes way beyond telling you a story, and brings you into the dining room, into the park, into Jax's world, where you, too, can see, hear, smell, touch and even taste what is going on. And, more than that, the needlework, the plot twists, are exceptional. You just don't see it coming, even to the last page.



Loren Stone

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great storyteller and I grew up hearing a constant stream of stories from my family's history, Bible stories and news of friends and neighbors. I really love the English language – the feel of it, the cadence of it, the dance of it, the rhythms you can create with it. Writing also has helped me make sense of a sometimes senseless world – at times, the only way I can understand something, is to write about it.

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

Stone: Yes, indeed. I'm laying the foundation for the sequel to *Bait* – doing characters sketches, outlines, trying different scenes (in my mind) to see if they work and sound like something the characters I know would do/say. I'm also working on another writing project, but I'm not sure if I'm going to develop it as a novel or a collection of essays.

F&F: Is there any other information you're willing to share with your future read-

ers/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.?

Stone: Well, I grew up primarily in southeastern Pennsylvania, with a brief stint in a trailer park in the Midwest, and I've spent a considerable amount of time in the places I describe in *Bait*. I've lived all over the place, in cities and small towns on the east and west coasts of the U.S.A., and I've lived and traveled a great deal in Europe. Most of all, I love the land of this North American continent, and I'm happiest when I'm out in the woods, stopped in my tracks, trying to figure out what that sound was, and if what made the sound is hungry enough to have me for lunch.

I'm a homebody, and my beloved partner and I have been together nearly 15 years. We were legally married in Massachusetts a year ago, and I'm celebrating my one-

from page 59

year (legal) anniversary this week! You could say we had a long engagement. Despite the controversial nature of *Bait*, I really am just a regular gal who tends to be more independent than allied with one particular political party. My partner is ultra-political, so she keeps me up to date on what foolishness is being perpetrated in the world at any given moment, and whom I should e-mail to protest.

I tend to have a lot of "close brushes" with famous people – Steve Jobs of Apple Computer was in line in front of me at a convenience store in Philly ... I've stood in the vicinity of Guenivere Turner (of *Go Fish* and "L Word" fame) ... and the most racy highlight of my single lesbian life was when I was cruised by Lea Delaria at a club one night after one of her performances. Nothing came of it, but she did say, "Hello, there!" and gave me "the look." It's not much when it comes to wild, uninhibited thrills, but it's something.

exodus

JULY EVENTS

July 7 • Welcome Aboard & Birthday Bash

6 p.m. at the Drop-In Center

July 13 • Movie Night • 3 p.m. until ?

July 14 • Entertainer of the Year Pageant

10 p.m. at Paragon

July 16 • Empowerment Fest

1 p.m. until ? at the Drop-In Center

July 17 • Exodus Idol • 6 p.m. at the Drop-In Center

July 20 • Clean-Up Day • 2 p.m. at the Drop-In Center

July 21 • Talent Night • 8 p.m. at the Drop-In Center

July 23 • LibertyLand • 3 p.m.

July 28 • E-Group • 6 p.m.

July 31 • Exodus Writer's Guild

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With *Girl Play's* DVD release near, meet actors

by Patricia Pair, publisher

When the DVD *Girl Play* arrived by mail it was placed in my "to be reviewed" bin along with a few others. But, every time I glanced up from my computer I found myself staring at the cover for obvious reasons, (who said women aren't visual). When it came time to review a couple films for this month's issue, naturally *Girl Play* was the first one I grabbed. (For the actual review, see page 56 in this issue.)

Then, the morning after I viewed the film the phone rang with an opportunity to interview three of actors from the film, Lacie Harmon, Robin Greenspan and Dom Deluise. I jumped at it.

Based on the original play *Real Girls*, *Girl Play* is the painfully funny true story from director Lee

Friedlander of how principal characters Lacie (Harmon) and Robin (Greenspan) met and fell in love. And, while each woman tells her story, they also offer a look into their lives and relationships, for example Robin's coming out to her mother and Lacie's attempt to save one of her love affairs.

Born in a tiny suburb in New Jersey, Harmon started her career by attending the National Academy of Dramatic Arts "back east."

"I went and learned about voice and movement and all those things that I never think about now when I'm acting," Harmon told *Family & Friends* during a telephone interview from her's and Greenspan's home in Los Angeles. "Then (I) came out here right after I graduated high school and, because my step-mom and dad were sort of kind enough to indulge my dreams, they let me come out right after high school and once I got here I started working as a production assistant in television."

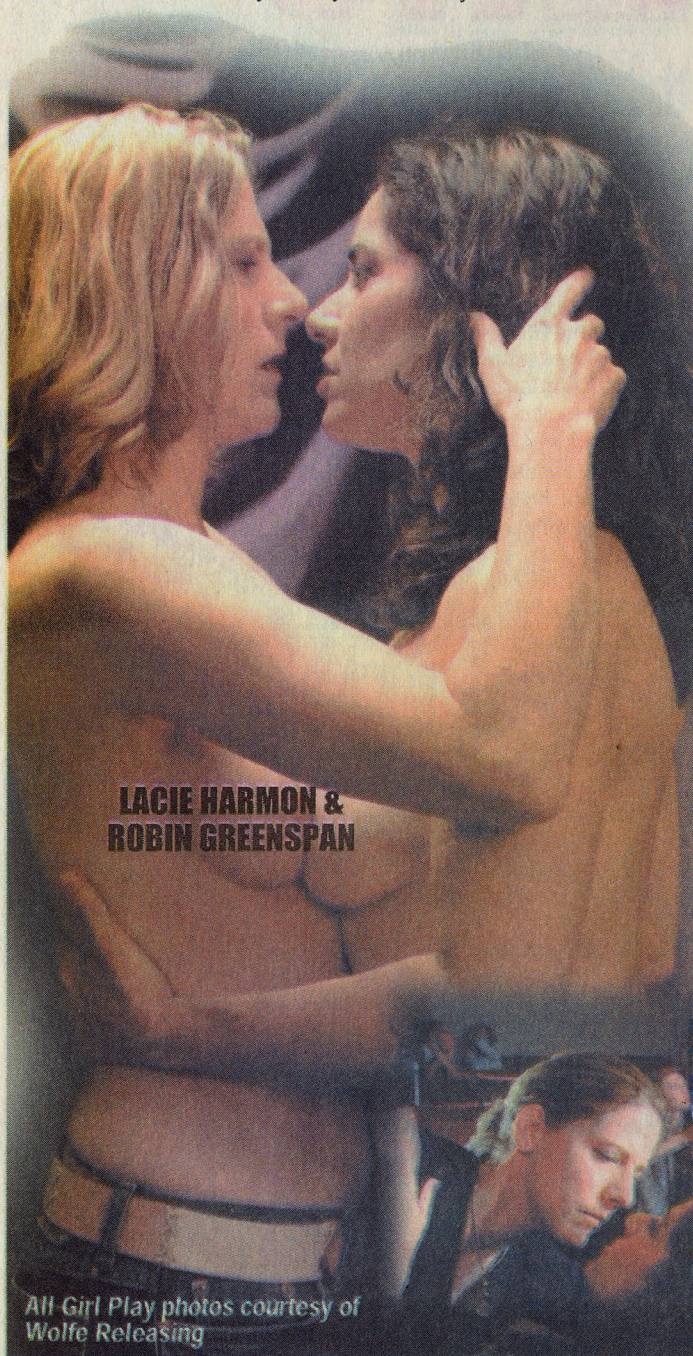
Greenspan is a California native who has been performing for almost as long as she can remember.

"I was born in the San Fernando Valley, California," she told us during the telephone interview. "I wasn't exactly born in the valley, but I was always, you know, living in the valley and still am, so hence the whole valley girl thing."

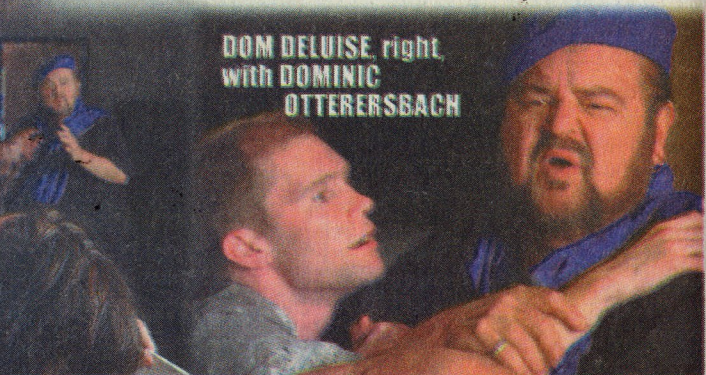
"I think it (performing) was like an attention-grabbing kind of thing starting out, you know, always singing at family gatherings kind of thing," Greenspan continued. "And then discovering drama in the sixth grade and getting involved in a teenage drama workshop, and then just always taking drama classes in high school and then in college. I kinda went that route and then decided I didn't want to have to do all that stuff, you know, pursuing of auditioning and all that kind of stuff, so I got involved in stand-up comedy and then started writing my own kind of stuff. Doing a one-woman show and hooking up with Lacie and writing two-woman shows together and things like that, and that's, you know, how it all led to *Girl Play*."

Which, of course, is how the two women met and fell in love, as we said before, but Harmon explains further.

"Yeah, that is actually the story of how we met and fell in love," she said. "Robin had been in a six-year relationship when we fell in love and we were doing a play (*Sexual Sushi*) playing lovers in the play and when it started happening it was this wonderful, horrible thing and in order to make some sense of it all, and hopefully laugh at it a little bit, and find some redemption in all of it,



LACIE HARMON & ROBIN GREENSPAN



DOM DELUISE right, with DOMINIC OTTERERSBACH

All *Girl Play* photos courtesy of Wolfe Releasing

we wrote the play (*Real Girls*).

Most won't recall the play *Sexual Sushi* because it was an experimental play that ran for two performances. However, as Greenspan put it with laughter, "(it) is now reverberating forever in our lives."

Because things can get changed when a play is adapted to the silver screen, we asked how the play and the film differ.

"You want to take a run at that Rob?" Harmon asked Greenspan.

"In terms of the script it's practically the same," she answered. "But, in the play it was just Lacie and I standing on stage so if another character spoke we were speaking for them. In other words, we'd say, 'My mother said blah, blah, blah,' and we'd say it. There were no other characters so the difference is that we actually cut away to location shots and have other actors playing those characters."

"It is an unusual film," Greenspan added. "There's not a lot to compare it with. We originally had planned to just shoot the stage play as it was and just do a kind of artistic filming of the play with different camera angles and stuff like that. But, then the more we started talking about with it Lee Friedlander, the director, the more creative we wanted to get with it."

Two of those "other actors" Greenspan mentioned are Mink Stole, who portrays Robin's Mother, and Dom Deluise, who plays Gabriel, the director of the play.

"That was Gina G. Goff and Laura A. Kellam, the producers," Harmon said explaining who was responsible for casting these two well-known actors. "They had an acquaintance with Dom Deluise and they had worked with Mink Stole on a few different films that they had done prior to *Girl Play*. We had been working with Lee for probably six months to a year prior to bringing them on and we'd been raising funds and all kinds of things to put together a sort of Kamikaze best-we-could-do version, bare bones version. And, when they (Stole and Deluise) came on the whole thing jumped to a new level."

"Robin and I looked at each other, like, 'Do you believe Dom Deluise is in this movie? This is ridiculous.' And Mink, as well. (It was) just like fantasy time."

"They're both so great," Greenspan added.

During an phone interview with Deluise from his Los Angeles home, I asked about how he got involved with *Girl Play* he replied, "Well, I know somebody named Kristi, you don't know Kristi, but Kristi knows the people that are producing this movie called *Girl Play* and she said, 'Dom, would you like to be in a movie?' And I said, 'Sure. (laughs) What is it?' She said, 'Well, it's called *Girl Play* and it's about this relationship between two women.' So, I went down there and they said, 'We don't have a script. But, we do have an idea.'

"And that really appealed to me," Deluise continued. "So, then the scenes were formed and there were, physically, two actresses and then me and I was supposed to play a director. And I had a terrific time. My name is Dominic and then there was a guy who they said he'll be my assistant (Dominic Ottersbach, *Girl Play* production assistant). He won't be very verbal, but you can use him as your foil, you know. So, there were two Dominics and we just did all my scenes in one day, but we had a very good time. We would ad-lib them. I literally ad-libbed them and it was a great deal of fun. That's a nice challenge. I'm funny and also I think I'm the comic relief in the picture so it was a lotta, lotta, lotta fun."

When I mentioned to Harmon and Greenspan that I had grown up watching Dom Deluise movies, Harmon said, "Oh my God, so did we."

"So did we," Greenspan added. "I mean I still cannot believe."

I don't know if it will ever really register in our minds that Dom Deluise was in this movie with us because to me, and I think to both of us, he's just a legend."

"I did get that sense working with him; that constant sense of shock looking at him," Harmon interjected. "He's so burned into every image with me on a cellular level."

I couldn't help but relay Harmon's, Greenspan's and also my own respect of him to Deluise during the interview.

"That's neat," the soon to be 72-year old actor said laughing. "That's great to hear. I hang out with legends all the time. Listen, I went to the races one time with Cary Grant and we were sitting together and betting and going and having a wonderful time. It was wonderful to be around him. Then, the next day, my wife and I were sitting at breakfast and we just couldn't talk about anybody else but Mr. Grant."

"You just called me a legend, which is very sweet, but I've been with Charlie Chaplin and Mae West and it just takes your breath away sometimes because when you are little you see them on the screen. You know, I used to pay 11 cents to see Cary Grant at a movie and suddenly I was at the races with him. So, you know, you have to shake yourself, pinch yourself, and say, 'That's him.'"

Apparently a lot of folks who see the film identify with both Harmon and Greenspan on a myriad of levels.

"That's sort of been our experience when we're lucky enough to be able to get to some of the screenings," Greenspan recalled. "It's always great to meet people and have them express that recognition. I think that's really why we do this. Why we're so big on divulging the truth is because we do think that it heals and it really helps us all to see how much we are alike."

Girl Play, without giving away too much of the plot, is a "real" film, meaning it's about two lesbians who fall in love with each other as opposed to so many films that depict lesbians seducing straight women.

When I mentioned this to Harmon and Greenspan and added

See *Girl Play*, page 73

FAMILY & friends ADVANCE SCREENING
MAGAZINE

in conjunction with **Wolfe**

Family Flavors Movie Rentals & Pride Essentials

PROUDLY PRESENT A FREE NIGHT OF
Girl Play
FRIDAY, JULY 22
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DOOR PRIZES • FREE REFRESHMENTS

Doors open at 7:30 pm • Movie starts at 8 pm

BE ONE OF THE FIRST IN MEMPHIS TO SEE IT!

Network aimed at GLBT, LOGO, is finally launched

LOGO, the new digital television network targeting lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) viewers, launched on June 30. Marshaling the creative resources of Viacom and MTV Networks, LOGO has amassed a premier library of more than 150 movie and documentary acquisitions and is presently in active development with more than 20 projects with marquee names attached like Cher and Chastity Bono, Alan Cumming and Margaret Cho, among others.

"Because of the variety of perspectives and experiences in the gay community, the programming ideas and opportunities for LOGO are boundless," said Brian Graden, president MTV/VH1 Entertainment. "Perhaps most thrilling has been the outpouring of support and enthusiasm from the creative community, both gay and straight, since we first announced LOGO."

"In addition to a phenomenal library of acquired films and specials, the programming we're developing will speak in an authentic voice to this audience," said Matt Farber, executive consultant who brought the concept to MTV Networks and is spearheading the launch of LOGO. "We're building this brand to reflect their diversity and tastes through an array of genres, all informed by a gay point of view."

LOGO's programming slate includes:

SERIES:

- "Family Outing" (working title): Inspired by Chastity Bono's best-selling book of the same name, this show tells the coming out stories of celebrities and newsmakers, and their journeys with their family and friends.

- "The Alan Cumming Experience" (working title): A downtown cabaret hosted by Alan Cumming, featuring

unusual acts like performance artist Jonny McGovern, musical-comedy trio Betty and stand-up comedian Karen Williams.

- "The Margaret Cho Series" (working title): In negotiation with Margaret Cho for an original series, starring Cho and produced by her production company.

- "My Fabulous Gay Wedding" (working title): Hosted by actor/comedian Scott Thompson ("Kids in the Hall"), this series challenges about-to-be-married gay couples to fulfill a long-held wish to have the wedding of their dreams.

- "Fantastic Voyage" (working title): Reality series where each episode features a real LGBT story that plays out during the arc of a seven-day gay ocean-liner cruise.

- "Twist" (working title): A group of colorful, opinionated panelists discuss and debate issues – both the serious and the frivolous – with an authentic gay twist all their own.

- A newsmagazine produced in conjunction with CBS News and MTV News, with contributions from *The Advocate*.

- A travel show produced with *Out Traveler* magazine.

- "LOGO Lens:" Produced by MTV News, the umbrella title for LOGO's first-person documentaries – both original and acquired – that focus on some of the less-visible, less well-known LGBT lives and communities. Original productions include:

- "Going for the Gold," which follows the lives of athletes training for the 2006 Gay Games.

- "Rodeo Circuit," focusing on gays and lesbians who are part of the Gay Rodeo phenomenon.

Acquisitions include:

- "Gay Cops," which follows the lives of gay cops in New York post 9/11.

- "A Boy Named Sue," which documents the pre-operative and post-operative process of a transgendered man.

- "Do I?" (working title): A series following gay and lesbian couples considering marriage as they spend time with a relationship expert to determine whether they're ready to take on the responsibility of marriage.

- "Deep Dish with Dennis Hensley" (working title): Writer and celebrity interviewer Dennis Hensley chats with both well-known gay performers and media professionals, as well as adored non-gay icons.

- "Chelsea Boys:" An animated series based on the popular,

LOGO in Memphis

At press time, LOGO is available in the Memphis area only on DirectTV. It airs on channel 263 as part of the Total Choice Plus Package.

For DISH and Timer Warner Cable subscribers, you can make your desire for LOGO known quite simply by going online to LOGOonline.com, click on "Get LOGO," click on "Find LOGO," type in your zip code and submit, select your provider and submit. LOGO will send an email on your behalf to your provider expressing your desire to receive the LOGO network.

See LOGO, page 66

FREE Streaming Videos

Out of the Closet® (a free video website @ www.00TC.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!

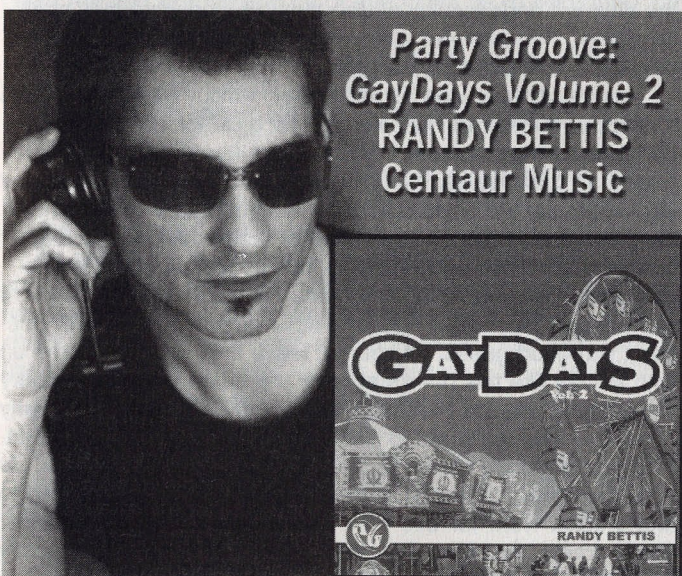
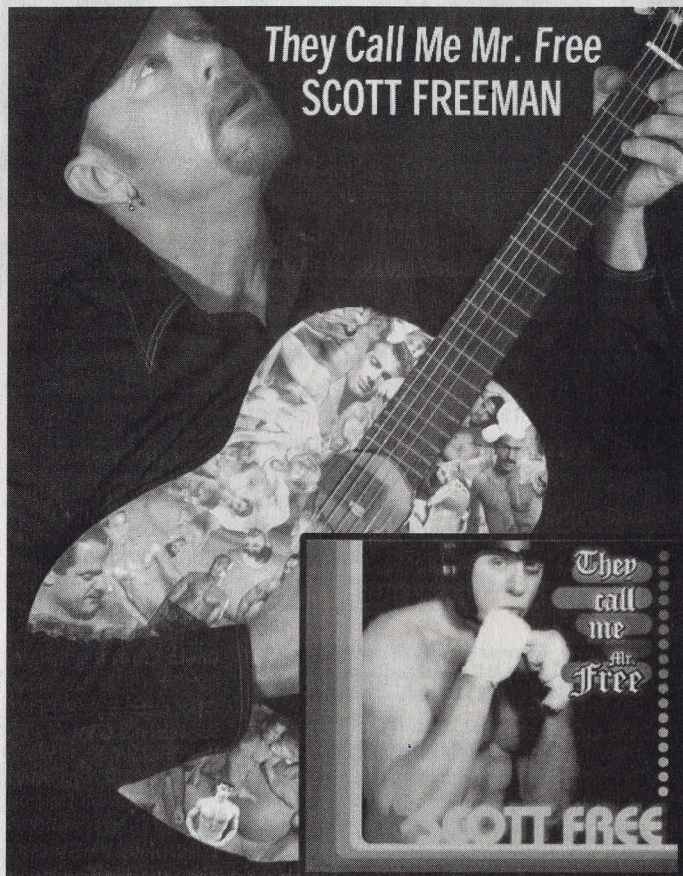
www.OutoftheCloset.tv

Chicago-based queer-rock singer/songwriter Scott Free took top honors at the 2005 Outmusic Awards, winning Out Musician of the Year, for his CD, *They Call Me Mr. Free*, and Outsong of the Year for his rap song "Another Day of Cruelty." Free also was inducted into the Stonewall Society's GLBT Hall of Fame in 2005.

Free got his start in gospel music, singing falsetto soprano for the Lavender Light Gospel Choir of New York City. His early forays into rap produced his first single, "Beat The Rap," its video making it to rotation on Black Entertainment Television. Shortly after, Free graced the European dance charts with a house music record called "Higher" under the moniker Transient.

Free's first full-length release was a complete shift of gears — an anthemic, queercore CD called *Getting Off*. This debut was hailed as a breakthrough in gay recordings. His second release, *The Living Dead*, received four Gay/Lesbian American Music Award nominations. *They Call Me Mr. Free* is his first full-length release in five years.

"Favoring hard-edged growls and rough new wave settings," wrote Mark Davis in *The Advocate*, Feb. 2005, "Free targets music icons ("When Queers Become Rock Stars," "Disco Divas"), warmongers ("Never Again and Again"), and cops ("Fair Trade"). Aping Eminem's style, Free offers empowerment to bullied queer kids ("Another Day of Cruelty"). But when he switch-



Party Groove: GayDays Volume 2, the official CD for the internationally-acclaimed week of celebration in Orlando, known as GayDays, is mixed by DJ Randy Bettis. It is loaded with a high-spirited mix of songs from Grammy Award-winning artists and Billboard No. 1 artists such as Tom Jones ("She's A Lady"), Ultra Nate ("Free"), Kevin Aviance ("You've Got the Groove") and Jason Walker ("Set It Free"). Dance mixes of "Amazing," "Naughty Girl" and "Could It Be Magic" also are part of this energy-filled dance compilation.

Party Groove: GayDays Volume 2 is available at stores nationwide, as well as online at www.centaurmusic.com, where you can listen to sample tracks.

es to a sweet, jazzy love song ("Who Do I Thank?"), you believe he means it."

Free's CDs can be purchased online at CDBaby.com or Amazon.com or downloaded at iTunes. To listen to sound bytes or for more information, go online to www.scottfree.net.

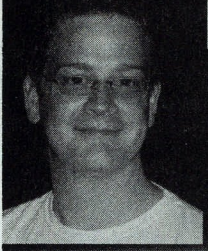
Mama Mia •
Abbacadabra
 Almighty's Records
 Abbacadabra, the ultimate Abba tribute act, has put out its definitive collection and Abba Dance CD.

This 3-CD release includes Abba classics, such as "Dancing Queen," "Fernando," "Take a Chance on Me," "Waterloo" and "Knowing Me, Knowing You," on the first CD. The second CD is a 20-track party megamix, including the best versions of Abbacadabra's club hits and several brand new mixes.

CD No. 3 adds nine previously unreleased (or new) Abbacadabra full-length mixes.

The CD is available for purchase at Inz & Outz, 553 South Cooper.

FUTURISTIC FAG



by Charlie Green

Look Ma, no wires!

So there I was strolling through the Homo Depot on one of my many trips lately to pick up something for my present phase of spring improvements and I see this strange person seemingly having a conversation with himself. This has got to be one of the strangest phenomena of our age, people walking around having entire conversations in the middle of a store, restaurant, park and, of course, restroom (Really, what is so important that I can't have a little peace and quiet while doing my business???)

Of course, it used to be fairly easy to tell that a person was talking on the phone, either they had their cell phone on their ear or at least a wire coming out of their ear. But I have noticed lately that now a lot of folks have these wireless headsets so you



can't tell that they really aren't crazy (I'm sure walking around talking to yourself is a sign of insanity, right?).

We can thank an emerging wireless technology, called Bluetooth, for this latest round of technological insanity. If you have bought a cell phone lately you have probably noticed that many of the higher end models are coming with Bluetooth support. At lot of folks don't have a clue as to what that means. Well, what it means is that a Bluetooth phone can not only make wireless connections to the closest cell tower, it also can make short range wireless connections to these new wireless headsets.

Even less understood is that Bluetooth also allows your phone to sync up with your computer or even a friend's phone (without wires, of course). Which, of course, I think is very cool. I keep my numbers backed up on my computer which ensures I won't lose my latest Mr. Right's phone number the next time I leave my phone in a hotel, airplane or toilet. I can see this conversation now, "Well, yeah, I was really into you but I flushed your number down the toilet. *I didn't mean to.*"

Wireless headsets are probably going to turn out to be the Killer App for Bluetooth. The technology itself has been around for several years but hadn't really taken off. I'm sure you will be seeing a lot more devices coming your way.

Bluetooth is really all about freeing us and our devices from the wires that have bound us for so long. This short range wireless connection can be used to link your printer to your computer, it will allow your PDA to sync with your computer, mobile phone or mp3 player. Anywhere you have wires connecting devices today can be replaced by using Bluetooth. Imagine a world where you get a new DVD player and instead of having to connect wires to your TV and stereo, you just turn it on and all the different parts just know who they are and what they should be doing. This last part isn't reality yet, but I wouldn't be surprised if it is in the next few years.

Technically speaking, Bluetooth technology generally quotes a range of 30 feet, but just like my last trick, things are not quite as large as they appear. I typically get about 10 feet with my phone. In this wireless world it takes two to tango so the real world range of the devices is dependent upon the quality of both devices. Also remember that most of these devices are battery powered and need powerful hook ups almost as often as I do.

So what the hell does the name Bluetooth have to do with technology? No, it really doesn't have anything to do with dentistry, but good guess. Of course, leave it to geeks to come up with a story like this but it's actually the name of a 10th century Danish king, Harold Bluetooth. Apparently, Harold was a pretty good king who managed to link the warring factions of the countries that today are known as Norway, Sweden and Denmark. So when this group of technical wizards was sitting around trying to find a code word for this new technology, one of the smarter geeks knew this King Bluetooth guy. The group apparently thought the way King Bluetooth brought all the different groups together (who weren't really interested in coming together) was very similar to what they were trying to do. Okay, so now you know everything I know about Danish history.

Just one more thing, now that you know a little more about Bluetooth, please remember nobody really wants to hear you talking to your tax accountant in the middle of Homo Depot. If you must have a conversation in public, do us all a favor and have something entertaining to say. Some of us just can't help but listen.

(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.)

LOGO

from page 64

internationally-syndicated gay comic strip, by Glen Hanson and Allan Neuirth, about three very different gay friends and their trails and tribulations in the big city.

SPECIALS: • "The Road to LOGO:" An original, 90-minute documentary tracing the emerging visibility of gay Americans through the prism of civil rights, pop culture, landmark events and individual achievements. Hosted by, and featuring interviews with, Melissa Etheridge, B.D. Wong, Judith Light, Billy Bean and Moises Kaufman. Produced by Catherine Linton.

• "In Search of ... The Invisible Lesbian:" Acclaimed lesbian comic Kate Clinton wonders aloud in this humorous special why lesbians are under-represented in our culture as she searches across the country for the "Invisible Lesbian."

• "The Big Gay 100:" A countdown of the 100 greatest people, places and things in gay pop culture, produced in conjunction with VH1.

• A TV Land co-production special about the gay influence and presence in television.

FILMS: LOGO already has amassed the quintessential gay film library for its audience, bringing together many well-known gay titles from major studios, as well as a collection of the most critically-acclaimed gay independent films. Titles include:

• The first black gay film on television, *The Ski Trip*, a feature-length dramatic comedy, written and directed by filmmaker Maurice Jamal ("Chappelle's Show"), about five friends in New York City who venture on a weekend getaway to the Catskills to celebrate the lead character's 30th birthday.

• Blockbusters like *The Birdcage* and *Philadelphia*

• Successful gay theatricals from the past decade like *Gods and Monsters*; *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*; *Kissing Jessica Stein*; *Broken Hearts Club*; *My Own Private Idaho*; *Go Fish*, and *Jeffrey*

• Popular made-for-television movies such as *Serving in Silence*; *The Margareth Cammermeyer Story*, *An Early Frost* and *Breaking the Surface: The Greg Louganis Story*

• Early, gay-themed titles like *Making Love* and *Personal Best*



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Viracept 625, is proud to
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Family and Friends**

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HIV/AIDS EDUCATION 101

Friends For Life to host Wellness Conference



Friends For Life's Wellness University and Positive Living Center will hold its 4th Annual Wellness Retreat on Friday, July 15, from 2 to 8 p.m. and Saturday, July 16, from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m., at First Congregational Church, 1000 South Cooper.

Honoring the spiritual, mental and physical self, this retreat for HIV-positive men and women, as well as their family mem-

bers, will offer Trance Dance, massage, acupuncture, Tai Chi, workshops, food, fun and entertainment. Overnight accommodations are available for adults only.

Children, ages five to 15, will have their own retreat day on Saturday, July 16, from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the same location. There will be workshops, games, art and other activities just for them. Children must have a parent or guardian with them to be admitted.

For more information, to make reservations or to arrange transportation, call Sheron Booker at (901) 726-0666.

This event is sponsored by Chronimed's Statscript Pharmacy and Abbott Laboratories.

When you suspect a friend might be HIV-positive

by Sandra K. Trisdale, Ph.D.

Do you have a friend who has had unsafe sex or shared needles? Are you worried that he or she might be HIV-positive? Do you wonder what to do or say?

The following tips will help you deal with the two main situations where a friend might have HIV:

1. Your friend knows his or her status but has not shared it with you.

If you are concerned that a friend has tested positive but has not told you, your main issue may be hurt feelings. You may feel left out, especially if you suspect your friend has told other people.

It's important to remember that many people are cautious about disclosing their HIV status, even to close friends. Folks who have just found out in the past year may still be in a state of shock. Individuals who have been burned by those who reacted badly or blabbed to others may be reluctant to trust again.

Tips to encourage trust and disclosure:

- Don't force the issue! Give it time.

- Casually discuss HIV in conversation. Bring up HIV-positive people you know, including yourself if you are positive. Discuss movies and books with HIV-positive characters. Make it clear that you are not prejudiced.

- Actions speak loud. Demonstrate that you can be there for friends or family who are dealing with illness.

2. Your friend may be HIV-positive, but has not been tested.

Tips to encourage HIV testing:

- Your best bet – get tested yourself! Ask your friend to come with you and get tested together. If he or she declines, use your own results later to explain why you got tested. Emphasize the medical benefits of knowing your status.

- If you are HIV-positive, you can be more blunt. After a visit to the doctor, mention that no matter what you have to deal with, you'd rather be living with HIV than dying from lack of knowl-

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 Suspect A Friend, page 68

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"

Staying Alive 2005 is set for August in Hollywood

Staying Alive 2005: Positive Leadership Summit, a conference hosted by the National Association of People with AIDS, is set for Aug. 19-21, at the Renaissance Hollywood Hotel in Hollywood, Calif.


This is the only national conference created by and for HIV-positive people. The conference offers the latest information about living with HIV/AIDS, as well as a place to network and share experiences with a diverse gathering of HIV-positive people and allies.

Conference registration is \$290 by July 31 and \$400 after. Register online at www.acteva.com/go/napwa or request a packet at stayingalive@napwa.org or by calling (240) 247-1017. The hotel rate is \$142.57 per night by July 25. To make reservations call (800) 228-9290.

The scholarship application deadline is July 15. For more information regarding scholarships, contact Torrance Hucks by email at thucks@napwa.org or call him at (240) 247-1030.

For more information, go online to napwa.org

**Be The Change You
Want To See In The World!**

 Friends For Life's
COFFEE SHOP

The first
cup's
on us!

Those who are HIV-Positive (and their partners)
can attend July 11 & 25 from 6 to 8 p.m.
For location and information, call (901) 272-0855

Funded in part by the Mid-South AIDS Fund

Suspect A Friend

from page 67

edge. Even if you have already tested HIV-positive, you can still offer to go with your friend when he or she gets tested and be there for support through the whole process.

But what if it's gone further than this? You may have a friend who is showing symptoms that scare you. You may even think that he/she is aware of being HIV-positive, but is in denial and not getting the necessary medical care.

Possible urgent warning signs:

- Coughing with difficulty breathing and lack of energy, tightness in the chest, fever
- Sudden or drastic weight loss
- "Cottage cheese" patches inside the mouth
- Radical changes in memory, attention or personality
- Night sweats

It's time to speak out and express your concern. Consider a statement like, "Look, I'm worried about you. I really think you need to see a doctor now." Offer to take your friend to an urgent care medical facility, call his or her family members with your concerns or do whatever it takes. At this point, your friend's life is more important than anything – even your friendship.

Sandra K. Trisdale, Ph.D., an expert in HIV and mental health, writes frequently for HIV-related publications. She lives in San Diego, Calif.

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(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.)

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

Federal regs crackdown on cruisy websites

by Rex Wockner, staff writer

There are no nude pics of me on the Web. Partially because I'm some sort of a public figure and I figured editors and some of you might take a dim view of such adventures.

And now there never may be, thanks to ridiculous new federal regulations Congress added to the Child Protection and Obscenity Enforcement act of 1988 (18 U.S.C. 2257). They took effect June 23.

The U.S. Department of Justice is expected to use the laws to smack down websites that contain lascivious photos for which webmasters do not have "the legal name and date of birth of each performer, obtained by the producer's examination of a picture identification card. For any performer portrayed in such a depiction made after July 3, 1995, the records shall also include a legible copy of the identification document examined and, if that document does not contain a recent and recognizable picture of the performer, a legible copy of a picture identification card."

This applies to mainstream gay cruising sites such as Gay.com, BigMuscleBears.com, Manhunt.net and the like – and even to pictures of yourself that you put on the sites.

The laws apply to any "visual depiction of an actual human being engaged in actual sexually explicit conduct."

The United States Code defines sexually explicit conduct as "sexual intercourse, including genital-genital, oral-genital, anal-genital, or oral-anal, whether between persons of the same or opposite sex; bestiality; masturbation; sadistic or masochistic abuse; or lascivious exhibition of the genitals or pubic area of any person.

What does this mean in the real world? That if you have a lascivious pic of yourself on a website, then the site has to have in its possession a copy of your driver's license. Say adios to anonymity. And say hello to a massive new burden on website owners.

More realistically, say hello to massive new restrictions by web-

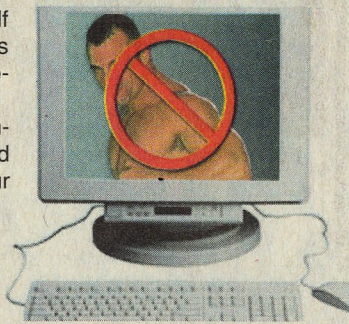
sites on what pictures of yourself you can post. Indeed, numerous sites modified their photo guidelines on June 23.

Gay.com, for example, temporarily removed all user-posted adult photos, and declared, "Your civil liberties are under attack by the U.S. government!"

The site issued new guidelines which read, in part: "An image of a hand holding or touching genitals, or appearing to grip or stimulate genitals, is considered masturbation and is prohibited. ... An image of a hand inside pants is prohibited as it implies masturbation. ... pictures with more than one person that include nudity are prohibited. ... While images of a nude person on all fours is allowable, an image showing the buttocks being held apart by hands is considered explicit and is prohibited. ... A clothed person posing with a pet is allowed, but a nude person with an animal is prohibited. ... An image of a person in a bondage or fetish outfit is allowed (but please, no polyester!). Images that depict bondage or S&M 'abuse' are prohibited. (Shockingly, images from Abu Ghraib prison would be censored under the new regulations.)

Gay.com and other members of the Free Speech Coalition are fighting U.S.C. 2257 in court. Gay.com urged its users to complain to the U.S. House of Representatives, the U.S. Senate and the U.S. Department of Justice (www.usdoj.gov/contact-us.html).

Meanwhile, on June 24, a day after the laws took effect, the Free



See Federal Regs, page 73

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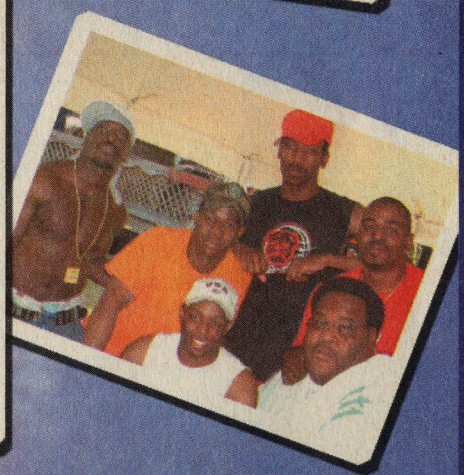
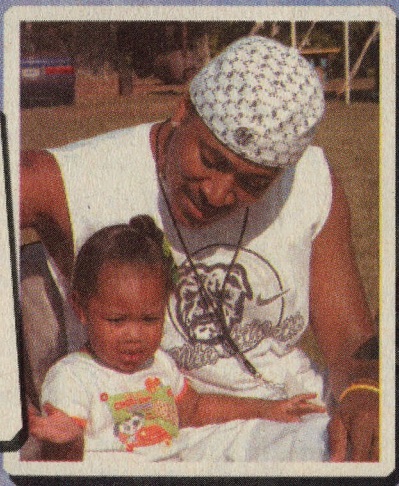
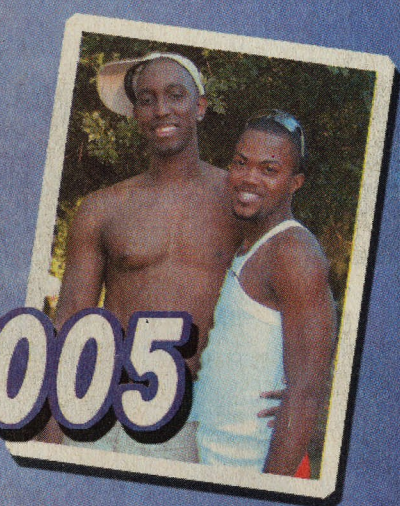
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Girl Play

from page 63

that most of the lesbians I know would rather not deal with straight women, Harmon said, "Yeah, that's been our experience, too."

"We have enough drama without that," Greenspan added.

Harmon then noted that the films that do depict the seduction of the proverbial straight woman don't depict all the baggage that scenario brings with it.

"*Girl Play* has actual lesbians playing the roles. What a stretch," Harmon added sarcastically.

But, there's something Greenspan wants to make sure people understand about the film.

"I keep wanting to make sure people understand that it's a comedy," she said. "I think it comes across. It's a comedy, which we also kind of think is refreshing in terms of telling stories that are painful, but we like to find the humor in everything and so we're happy that there is a lot of humor in this film, even though it does deal with issues that are painful. I think that's something we'd want people to know."

"Yeah, that's a good point. I agree," Harmon added.

"I guess there's a tendency, a lot of the time, in our stories (because) they're so much about pain and drama and agony," Greenspan said, "that we do like to find the humor in that kind of stuff."

What's so painful about *Girl Play*?

"The idea, for me, and the actual experience of it, which is pretty much depicted exactly in the movie," Greenspan answered. "That struggle with, 'I think this person is the person that I should be with, but I've already made a commitment to this other person and how do I reconcile that?' So, here you are being presented with something that seems to you to be potentially the love of your life, your road to happiness, but you don't know whether you can take it or not because you've already committed to someone else."

"And, I would say for me," Harmon answered, "it's the pain of reconciling, 'I can't believe that I fell in love with someone who's in a relationship. It's just frankly unacceptable and whether or not I love her is just not even a factor. This is a no-brainer. I can't do this,' all the while I'm moving more and more towards it."

"And, I think that's where the humor comes in is," Greenspan added, "when your brain is saying, 'No, you cannot do this. This is not right,' and your emotions, and your body, are just moving you in to that every single time, further and further, deeper and deeper into the situation."

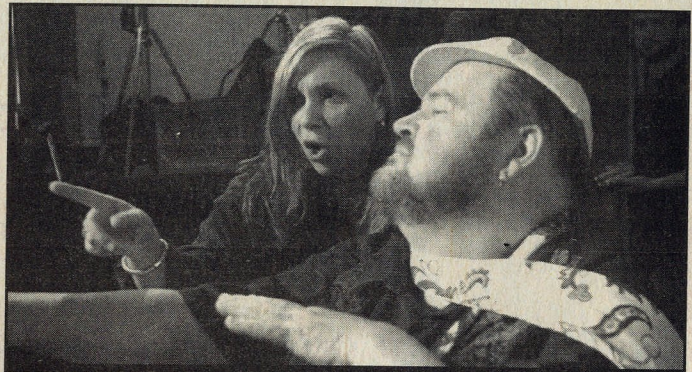
Girl Play, as we've said, is the true story of how Harmon and Greenspan met and fell in love, which includes how Greenspan deals with the six-year relationship she's already in when she meets Harmon. That being said, the natural question is, then, are they still together and in love?

"We just celebrated our nine-year anniversary," Greenspan said proudly.

"Nine years and four days," Harmon added.

"We do like people to know that," Greenspan said.

"I think people are concerned about it because people sometimes



DOM DELUISE on the set of *Girl Play* with director LEE FRIEDLANDER

have an awareness and sometimes a lot of concern that someone was hurt in all of this," Harmon pointed out. "And, they want to make sure that we handle the (our) relationship responsibly."

"We definitely take our responsibility very seriously in terms of our relationship," Greenspan said. "And now, because of what it took for us to get together, and now that we've got this movie, we really feel a sense of responsibility."

"It (Greenspan's former six-year relationship) really was not (happy)," she said. "It wasn't good and we both pretty much knew it, like very early on; it was volatile. There was a constant breaking up and getting back together and fighting and there was just built-in drama. But, for whatever reason, we just kept clinging to each other for amazingly, remarkably, six years. I still can't believe. But, I think a lot of people can relate to that. That even when you know something is wrong and painful and horrible it's familiar and you really don't want to go venturing out into the world of the unknown."

All this said, I wanted to have a bit of fun, too, so I asked Harmon and Greenspan if, because of how they met, they don't encourage each other to act in other plays with other lesbians. Before answering, they both broke into fits of laughter.

"We hope that we would be okay with that," Greenspan finally managed. "And, of course, Lacie had her, we both had our little love-dovie scenes, her's was much more extreme, with other women in *Girl Play*. Which was kind of ironic and interesting, but we got through it. All is well and we're still going strong."

...

"Absolutely not," Deluise said when asked if it bothered him to be in this movie with two lesbians. "If you check the career of Billy Crystal, he played in one television series a homosexual. His choice was to play a homosexual."

"So, when you are in the business now, we're talking about now, and you see different sexual preferences displayed, we are enriched by the people, the stories," he continued. "She (Hilary Swank) won the Academy Award about trying to pass as a man and was a woman (*Boys Don't Cry*). ... I mean Burt Reynolds did a movie all about the porno business (*Boogie Nights*) and was nominated for an Academy Award. So, I didn't run from this picture at all. I ran from one picture when they said, 'You go to the top of the stairs, somebody cuts your head off and your head bounces down the whole flight of stairs.' I said, 'Don't count me in. I'm outta this picture.' That I objected to, but not this movie, especially since I can be funny. So, the answer is no."

With Deluise's love of food being no secret, he's written two cookbooks, we asked him this question: If *Girl Play* were a food, what food would it be?

"Two and a half grapefruits," he answered laughing. "I would say a peach; two half peaches. Oh dear, what have you made me do? (laughs again). It was a great experience and a lot of fun."

Federal Regs

from page 69

Speech Coalition extracted a promise from the Justice Department not to prosecute websites that are members of the coalition until Sept. 7. (This led Gay.com to temporarily unblock the photos it had temporarily blocked the day before.) Websites that are not members of the coalition remain at immediate risk.

ABOUT TOWN things to do 'round town

Jazz, martinis to be served at MBG

On Tuesday, July 26, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., the Memphis Botanic Garden, located at 750 Cherry Road in Audubon Park, will present its monthly "Terrace Wine Tasting at Fratelli's in the Garden." Come and relax at this month's event, "Shake-N-Stir Martini Party," where you can sip on a variety of gin and vodka martinis and listen to some quiet jazz music. Cost is \$30 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, July 20, at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call (901) 278-4297.

Drummers 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 shows classics

The Bank of America Summer Movie Series continues at The Orpheum Theatre, 205 South Main, in July. The schedule includes, *The Poor and Hungry*, on Thursday, July 7, at 7:15 p.m.; *Casablanca* on Friday, July 8, at 7:15 p.m.; *Singin' in the Rain* on Sunday, July 17, at 2 p.m.; *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* on Friday, July 22, at 7:15 p.m., and *E.T. the*

Extra-Terrestrial on Saturday, Aug. 6, 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.

FFL director to speak at Integrity

Kim Moss, executive director of Friends For Life, will be the featured speaker at Integrity-Memphis's monthly meeting on Tuesday, July 19, at 7:30 p.m. Integrity Memphis, which meets at Calvary Episcopal Church, 102 North Second Street in downtown Memphis, will hold its worship service at 6:30 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. For more information, go online to www.geocities.com/integrity_memphis/main.html; call (901) 525-6602, or email Scotdancer@earthlink.net.

Sierra Club to meet

The Chickasaw Group Sierra Club will hold its monthly "Third Tuesday" meeting on Tuesday, July 19, 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.

Blues on the Bluff slated

Summer's here and that means it's time for WEVL's annual parties on the Mississippi river with cold drinks, hot food and even hotter music July 23 and Aug. 20. For more information and a list of entertainers scheduled to perform, go online to wevl.org or listen to WEVL FM 90.

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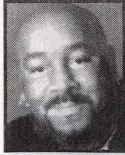
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EDITORIAL BY K. GODFREY EASTER, GUEST WRITER

Gay, ex-gay discuss Christianity, homosexuality

After publishing my article entitled, "Gay Christians Must Now Make Ready For War," I received an anonymous response via email. I elected to go ahead, read it and respond to it. The following commentary represents excerpts from emailed comments by both parties:

Anonymous: I pray you read this and understand my intent is not to offend or harm, just to share my observations. I believe if you were honest with yourself, you would admit and agree to the utter confusion, anger and despair that the majority of homosexuals (esp. men) live with. An anger that is not caused by "homophobia," but masked in gay cultural sarcasm. I have asked many out and self-identified gay men, "If you were not born gay, would you want to be straight?" All of them have answered yes. They don't (or didn't) want to be gay. They believe this is their lot in life, so they are going to love themselves and make the best of it. And I don't blame them one bit. The only problem is they were not born gay and they don't have to accept it.

Easter: If you had the opportunity to pose to African-Americans born 100 years ago a similar question as the one you asked "out and self-identified gay men," "Would you want to be Negro if you could have been born white?" you would find that you would have received similar responses from even my straight ancestry. Anyone feeling oppressed or made to feel socially marginalized would at times wish they were like those who oppress them. My son dates white girls. Because of the prejudiced actions of society I would desire at times that he only dated within his own ethnicity. But, I love him and I want him to be happy with the person that makes him happy, regardless of my doubts and fears.

Anonymous: There is not one valid scientific study that confirms a biological or genetic cause for homosexuality. Personalities, attractions, dispositions are all developed. Now, there definitely is a strong opinion surrounding the cause of homosexuality and sadly, that is what society believes.

Easter: I haven't too intensely researched the scientific data pertaining to homosexuality. Myself, I don't need the expertise of scientists to determine who I am. I am concretely confident, both spiritually and psychologically, that I was born gay, probably even more than you are confident that you were not. I'm not swayed by scientist or legalistic propaganda from well-intentioned brothers and sisters in Christ who attempt to tell me otherwise. God, through Christ, has solidified my Christian faith and validity of human origin. Even if I am wrong in stating that I was born this way ... being gay today is still who I am ... bottom line.

Anonymous: Godfrey, you and anyone else are free to live your lives how you see fit. Gay or otherwise. What you are not free to do is claim to be an active Christian and an active homosexual. The Bible does not validate the lifestyle. There is no such thing as Gay Christianity. There are Christians who are struggling against the gay attractions, associations and behaviors. But a person must make a choice between the two. And it is not easy going against what feels totally natural to you. But that is what God requires. "Deny yourself and take up your cross." What could that mean other than giving up what seems natural and rightfully yours and to suffer and die to it? If the Bible validated that heterosexuality was wrong, heterosexuals would have to do the same thing. Actually those who are not married do. It feels natural and right to have heterosexual sex,

but if you are not in a Godly committed marriage then it is wrong and you have to suffer through and die to the feelings until you are married.

Easter: As to your judgment that I am out of bounds in claiming my right, as a same-gender-attracted Christian man, to the same bloodstained banner of Christ, that immeasurable gift that reconnects both you and me to our Heavenly Father, I beg to differ with you. As the old gospel song goes, "You don't know what the Lord has done for me. You don't know ... you wasn't there ... you don't know when, and you don't know where." Christ did this for Godfrey, not you ... not religion, not the world. And since the world didn't give me this "gift of God, lest ANY MAN should boast," then the world surely can't take it away. Therefore, since through the grace of God I am justified in my Christianity by my faith (like I trust you are), who is the uncircumcised Philistine that can negate the blessed assurance that God has provided me or you through Christ? Those are shoes that I don't even desire to be around, let alone wear.

Anonymous: God loves you. YES! But Jesus's main purpose for coming to earth (other than die for our sins), is to change man's nature from a sinful, fleshly one to one that is born out of His spirit. Homosexual feelings and attractions are a part of our sinful nature. It feels natural to some of us.

Easter: I beg to differ with you, my Christian brother. From the standpoint of the gospels, the primary purpose for Christ's existence in the earth was to show humanity the immeasurable extent to which God loves the world He created. The Creator loved His imperfect human creation SO MUCH, that He sacrificed His perfection, His holiness, even His law, and His only-begotten Son, in payment of the FULL PENALTY for any known or unknown sin that would attempt to keep you or me separated from God's goodness. Therefore, neither your actions nor mine, neither height, nor depth, nor any other creature - are (able) to separate us from God's love shown toward us. By faith are we saved, through grace ... and not by any additional external efforts performed by you or me, or anyone else. These are elementary Christian truths.

Easter: Finally, let me just comfort you with this. If during my intimate and alone time with God, or through the Holy Spirit's direction, I ever become spiritually convicted that my public declaration in being Christian and same-gender-attracted were in deed actions on my part deemed "out of bounds" by God ... I would immediately cease and desist. You see, my aim, goal and earnest desires are to be always acting on behalf of God's best interest in the ministry God has entrusted to me. But until that day arrives, and I'm fully persuaded that it never will, I will not hold even one ounce of my peace until every same-gender-attracted individual is free to serve and enjoy God's goodness, absent of the Pharisaic rigidity imperfect humanity has intricately interwoven into the fabric of organized American Christianity.

Atlanta-based K. Godfrey Easter is a social and Christian activist, public speaker and the author of Love Lifted Me: In Spite of the Church. His thought-provoking commentary and opinions appear in print media throughout the country. For more information, go online to www.loveliftedmenetwork.com.

(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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SOCIAL Memphis, Tennessee

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@bluesuedebeers.com, www.bluesuedebeers.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

VICIOUSVIZZENV, for more information, join the following Yahoo group: autos.groups.yahoo.com/group/HDLMCMEMPHIS; email Wendy Curtis at Bikerbroad901@yahoo.com or call (901) 643-1222

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

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.

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

QUEER ACTION COALITION, a group that works towards educating society about the existence of "ex-gay" ministries, email: fightinghomophobia@gmail.com, blog: fightinghomophobia.blogspot.com, website: www.qaconline.org.

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

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

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.

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

RAINBOW DIRECTORY

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 First Congregational Church, 1000 South Cooper, through September, 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 STONEWALL DEMOCRATS, P.O. Box 241363, Memphis, TN 38124, (901) 327-2677. Email: mlgcj@yahoo.com, website: www.memphisstonewalldemocrats.org, meets second Sunday of each month at 2 p.m. at the MGLCC, 892 South Cooper..

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.yahogroups.com/group/MidSouthGLR.
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RAINBOW DIRECTORY

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: ttgpac@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.

OUT SPOKIN', a group to support bicycling in the Memphis GLBT community, email: marty@outspokin-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

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OPTOMETRISTS

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

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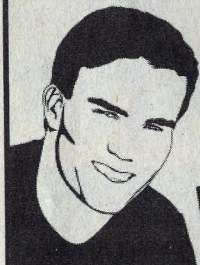
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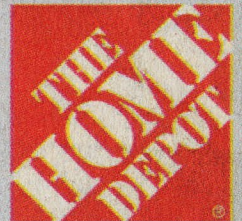
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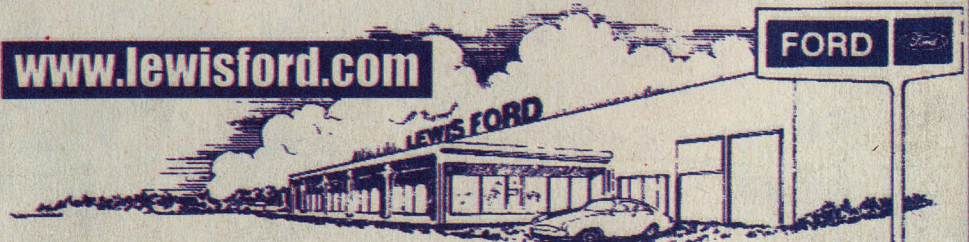


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