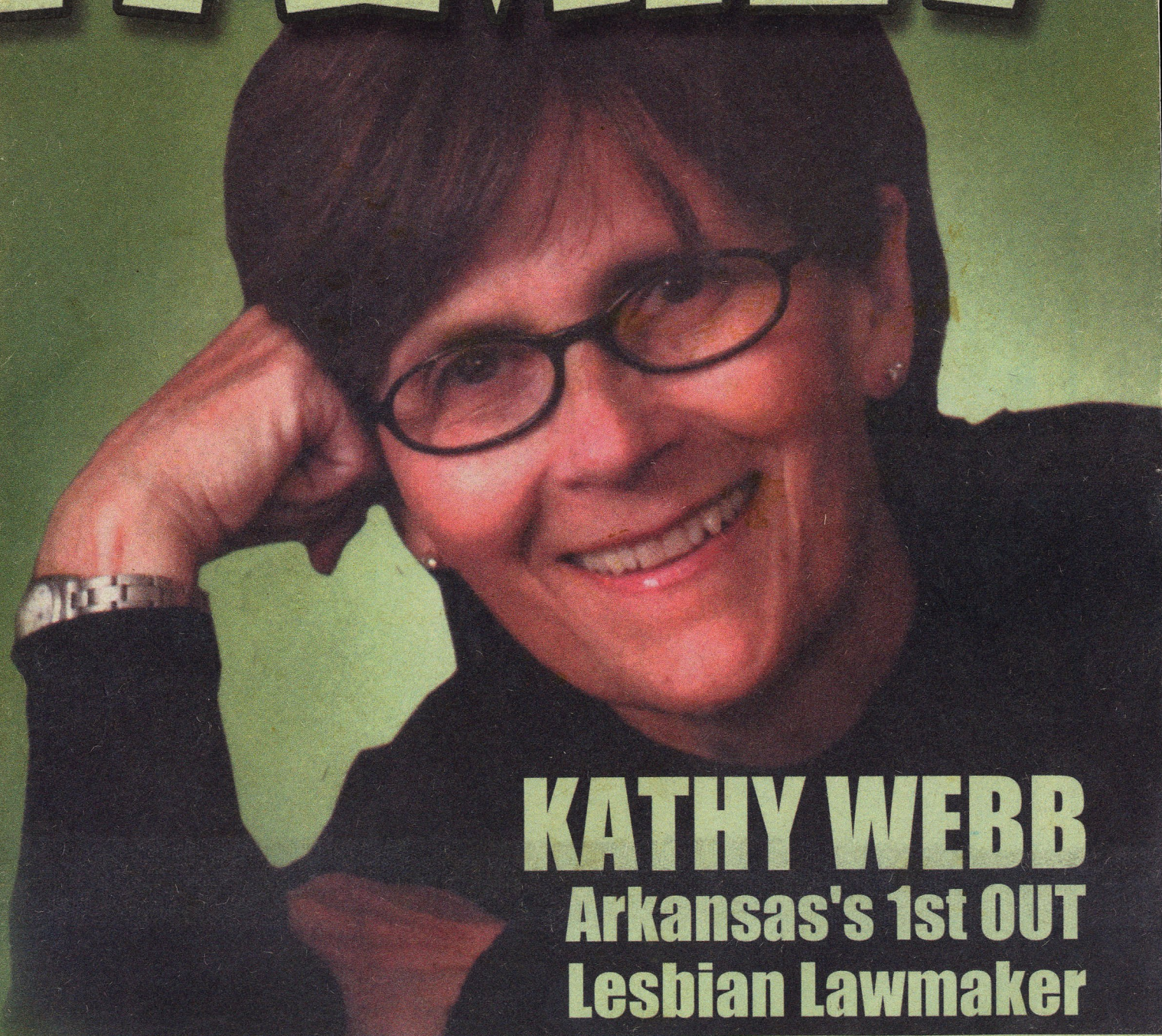


JUNE 2006

FAMILY

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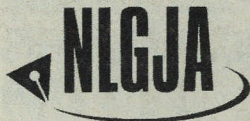
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Lesbian couple experiences discrimination first-hand

by Patricia Pair, publisher

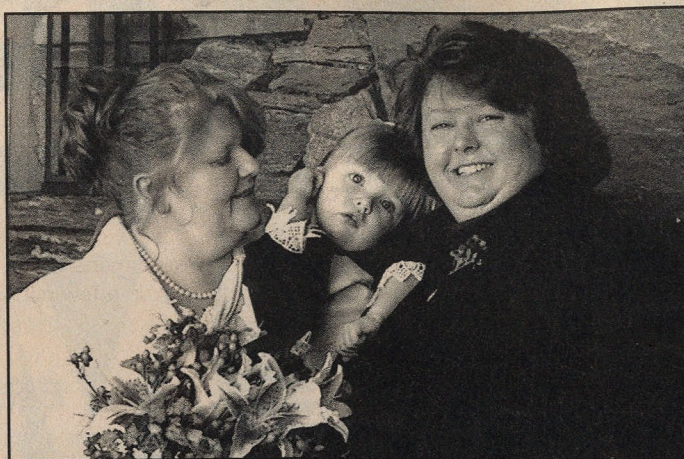
When we first received an email from a man identified as "John" with the subject of the email as "Please Read – Memphis YMCA's Policy of Discrimination," we (myself and my partner, Anita Moyt) weren't exactly surprised.

It had been so many years ago, we had practically forgotten about that fateful summer day when we realized, first-hand, that YMCA didn't stand for "Young Men's Christian Association," but instead for "You May not Count at All." (see inset "Over My Shoulder")

To summarize "John's" email, basically the lesbian parents of an adorable two-year old little girl, Trudy, wanted to enroll their daughter in swimming lessons and choose the YMCA, especially since the two women, T.K. Buchanan and Janine Heiner, had previously held a family membership at the Mason YMCA, located at 3548 Walker Avenue. Unfortunately for the women, the Mason Y doesn't offer swimming lessons so they opted for the Ric Nuber East Memphis YMCA, located at 5885 Quince Road, instead.

When the family showed up at the YMCA to obtain another family membership and enroll Trudy in toddler swimming lessons they got a shock that still doesn't sit well with them.

According to Buchanan, the woman at the YMCA desk took the necessary money for a family membership from Trudy's moms but quickly caught up to them outside in the parking lot to return their money, stating that Buchanan, Heiner and Trudy did not qualify for a family membership at the YMCA because they could not file a joint tax return.



T.K. Buchanan, left, and Janine Heiner with daughter Trudy on their wedding day.

"She (the woman at the desk) said, 'We can't give you a family membership,' and returned our money," Buchanan told *Family & Friends*. "Just like that."

Several phone calls to the Ric Nuber East Memphis YMCA for comment have not been returned, however, Heiner and Buchanan shared Heiner's first email to the Y regarding the inci-



OVER MY SHOULDER
editorial by Patricia Pair, publisher

(Publisher's Note: This is a bit different as we normally don't include this column with a story. However,

we felt it was not only appropriate, but important to also share a little of our story, too. But, to be clear, this is an opinion piece.)

Before my partner, Anita Moyt, and I were residing under the same roof in East Memphis a number of years ago, we chose to enroll our son in the YMCA's Outdoor Summer Day Camp and chose the Ric Nuber YMCA because it was located between our two homes.

He was enrolled in the Y's summer day camp for three consecutive years and not only took swim lessons at Ric Nuber, but also was invited to join their swim team.

One of the things parents have to do when they enroll their children in the summer day camp program is to provide the names, telephone numbers and relationship status to the child of those persons authorized to pick the child up from the camp.

I listed myself, my mother and my partner as those persons authorized to check my son out of camp. I enjoyed a relatively friendly relationship with the camp director and a number of the lifeguards at the time. I never attempted to hide the fact that I am

a lesbian or that I had a lifetime, same-sex partner, but I didn't exactly flaunt the fact either. That is, until one summer day in July.

I was chatting with one of the young lifeguards and my being a lesbian came up in the conversation. He didn't seem to mind and shared that his current girlfriend was bisexual. It was on this same day that I also shared my status as a lesbian out loud with the day camp director, who by the way reminded me of one of my exes.

The next afternoon when I arrived to pick up my son I was told there had been a problem. Because of the nature of the situation, I won't go into details. I thought we had the situation resolved until I received a phone call only minutes after we had pulled out of their parking lot.

I was told that I was not to bring my son back to the YMCA and that I, my partner nor my son were ever to attempt to become members of the YMCA ever again, not only in Memphis, but anywhere across the United States.

I asked for that in writing, which I never got. And, I asked for it on more than one occasion. My inquiries were never even responded to. At the time I decided if the Y didn't want my family, then we didn't want to belong to the Y.

Fast forward four or five years. I visited the Mason YMCA on Walker Avenue to inquire about a family membership. Part of me wanted to be able to provide my son with the facilities and programs the Mason YMCA offered, and part of me wanted to see what would happen when we made application.

I was told that we could receive a family membership. I made sure the man I was talking with knew we were a lesbian-headed family. He said that didn't matter and that the Mason YMCA would be happy to have us as members.

I have yet to make application for a number of reasons, but hopefully within the next couple of months, I'll be able to report back to you with the results of our application. If we're denied, it might be a good time to seek legal counsel.

dent and the Y's reply with *Family & Friends*.

"I am sending you this message in hopes that you will route it to the appropriate person," Heiner's email, dated May 9, began. "Last evening, my partner and I, who are in a legal Vermont civil union, attempted to join the YMCA on Quince under a family membership. We have previously had a family membership at the Mason YMCA.

"The lady behind the counter took our payment and enrolled our two-year old in a swim class. We were going to get our membership cards made, but our child was having a bit of a meltdown, so we took her to the playground for a while so she could blow off some steam. We stated that we'd be back in a few minutes to have our membership cards made.

"While we were at the playground, the lady who initially waited on us came out and told my partner that she had checked with a senior member of staff and was told that she'd be happy to give us a refund. She seemed rather pleased to be able to turn us down, and did not offer us individual memberships. We were made to feel very unwelcome.

"My research discloses that the national YMCA does not dictate policy on what constitutes a 'family,' but does offer guidance, which encourages inclusiveness.

"Apparently, you prefer to discriminate. It appears that is your right, but I wonder if you have ever asked yourself what Jesus would do? I don't believe your policy is very Christian. ..."

Keith G. Johnson, president and CEO of the YMCA of Memphis and the Mid-South, replied, also by email:

"Dear Ms. Heiner, Will Albritton, executive director of the Nuber YMCA forwarded your message to me earlier. I appreciate the opportunity to respond. I'm sorry about the confusion at the Nuber YMCA during your inquiry into a YMCA membership. Let me try to clarify," his email read.

"Any person can take swim lessons at the YMCA, whether they are a member or not. We do offer a discounted rate for YMCA members since we are a membership organization. We also offer fee assistance for those who qualify, based on financial need.

"Any person or persons can become a YMCA member at the rate structure of that particular branch. Also available are city-wide memberships at a higher rate. We have an adult membership category and a single parent family membership category. Either may be appropriate in your situation.

"Our YMCA chooses to define the family according to the IRS Guidelines found in publication 501, which states 'a marriage means a man and a woman as husband and wife.' Eligibility for a family membership is determined on this basis. Therefore, you do not qualify under our family pricing structure.

"Any two people not legally married (be it man and woman or otherwise) are encouraged by our Y to purchase individual memberships so you have not been singled out for different treatment.

"Thank you for your inquiry. I hope you'll reconsider purchasing a membership and signing your child up for a swim class. Please indicate to the staff if you would qualify for fee assistance," Johnson's email concluded.

Since we couldn't get anyone at the Ric Nuber YMCA to return our phone calls, we visited the facility, although we feared we would be asked to leave the property. While in the lobby, we picked up a membership brochure, which listed fees and categories, complete with descriptions.

A family membership is described as "two adults married living in the same home and any legal IRS dependents." We quickly noticed the absence of the word "legally" in their description.

Some would say that the Y's position regarding this incident is purely monetary since a family membership would cost \$816

a year (\$120 joining fee plus \$58 a month for 12 months), while the cost, which Johnson suggested to Heiner and her partner, would cost \$1,332 (that's \$120 joining fee for an adult, a \$120 joining fee for a single-parent family, \$42 a month for 12 months for an individual and \$49 a month for 12 months for a single-parent family). And Johnson mentions "fee assistance." How about waiving the \$516 difference?

While we were at the Ric Number YMCA, we also asked for a membership application, and while the words "homosexual" aren't present on the application, we did notice that it asks for things such as ethnic group and household income, although they are both listed as "optional."

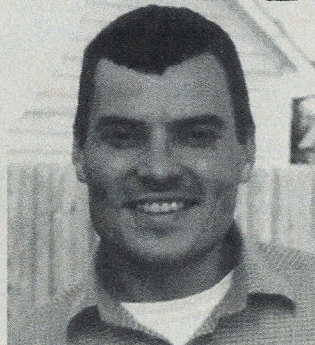
Shortly before sitting down to write this story, we called Buchanan to see if there were any new developments to this story in the wake of the television and print media coverage this situation has received.

"There's been a lot of new stuff," she told us, "like another GLBT-parented family was offered a family membership at the Mason YMCA about the same time we were denied at Ric Nuber. What I would like to see come out of all of this is for the Human Rights Campaign to contact the national YMCA board of directors and have them issue a mandate on this situation."

Of interesting note: The national YMCA's website (www.ymca.net) reads, "Because all communities have different needs, all YMCAs are different; they are autonomous and separate from the YMCA of the USA. They are required by the national constitution to pay annual dues, to refrain from discrimination and to support the YMCA mission. All other decisions are local choices, including programs offered, staffing and style of operation."

The YMCA's mission: "To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build a healthy spirit, mind and body for all."

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If they want your vote, make them work for it!

On Saturday, May 27, *Family & Friends* was invited to the grand opening of Tennessee Senator Steve Cohen's campaign headquarters at Union and McLean in Midtown. He is running for the U.S. House of Representatives for District 9 – the spot being vacated by Harold Ford Jr. (who is running for the U.S. Senate).

(Many in our community are familiar with Senator Cohen and his unmovable support for the Memphis gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community. We remember seeing him and his wife at one of the first pride parades and festivals *Family & Friends* covered, back in the late 1990s. He even spoke to the crowd of GLBT onlookers – at a time when to do so wasn't politically a good move.)

What was interesting at the May 27th grand opening was all of the other political candidates who were present and, most interesting, was their openness and desire to talk with *Family & Friends* so they could have their voices heard by the GLBT community. (That story will be in the July issue of *Family & Friends*.) There are many straight-allies out there who desire to represent the GLBT community with an openmindedness that we haven't seen, ever.

Some of the candidates were there to gain support and votes as judges for various divisions of the courts. Here is a position where prejudice and discrimination is uncalled for. Period. Whether or not the judge, defendant or the lawyers are GLBT should be irrelevant.

We don't know about you, but the last person we want to stand before is a judge who dislikes gays and lesbians and thinks we are "unclean" and shouldn't be touched. There is no way the scales of justice wouldn't be tipped to one side against us. So, the question is, does the candidate for a judgeship harbor any prejudices, whether against GLBT individuals, people

from other countries, or people who are dark skinned? Despite what a person says from their soapbox, if it looks like a duck and walks like a duck, it is a duck.

Also, how qualified is the person for the office they are running for? There are basic requirements that should be met by all candidates, depending on the office. Does the candidate meet all of these requirements?

There is the question of experience, which isn't legally required to run for office. We don't know about you, but it makes us nervous when the doctor tells us he/she has always wanted to operate on a heart just before we are put under the anesthesia. There is a place for the novice and a place for the experienced. This is not about hurting someone's feelings, this is about the most qualified for the job.

There is the question of honesty. Like the commercial for a used car website says, do you put "car for sale with slight water damage" or do you word it "new upholstery?" The placards that the candidates make are impressive, but we assure you that only the things that put a candidate in the best light were printed.

We always thought it interesting how all the campaign brochures are sure to include, such wording as "married, 3 children, member of xyz Christian church." Where does that come from? And how many candidates joined a well-known mega-church, regardless if they believe in that denomination's teachings, to be able to add that to their placard? Despite the matching outfits in the picture, is that their first wife? Is that your only children? If family values are important to you, how much time do you spend with your kids from the previous marriage not pictured?

It also concerns us that some elected positions are held by people who "always wanted to run for public office;" our question is, what would you do if you didn't run for public office? That is part of America, that anyone can hold public office, but it is far more advantageous that someone be there who knows what is going on in the community they represent, as well as the daily operations of the office they wish to hold. Are they there only for their own ego boost and to be able to enjoy their title?

Former Memphian Kathy Webb (see page 11), the first GLBT individual elected to the Arkansas House of Representatives told *Family & Friends* she studied and talked to knowledgeable people about the issues pertinent to her newly-elected position. And she plans to continue to do her homework so she can best represent her constituents. How much work is the candidate who wants your vote willing to put into the office they desire to be elected to? Or do they just want to hang out, vote on a measure based on the lobbying and political influences of others? Do they want to read later, vote now? If something comes up, maybe it can be amended later?

Our point is this, these people want your vote. Make them work for it and then work for you in the position they may get elected to. Ask them questions. If they want your vote, they should never be offended at your asking them anything. However, be knowledgeable about your questions. Know the basics of the office they are running for and what that office can and cannot do. For example, federal laws and offices are different from the state laws and offices, thus the U.S. Senator and Representative can't do anything about the state of Tennessee's TennCare problems.



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June 21, 2006

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June 23, 2006

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June 29, 2006

E-Group @ 6pm

Former Memphian KATHY WEBB elected to Arkansas House

First out lesbian lawmaker in state

by Anita Moyt, managing editor

History was made on May 23, 2006. Arkansas now has its first ever same-gender-loving individual serving in its state legislature; specifically, District 37 of the Arkansas House of Representatives. Her name is Kathy Webb.

Many of our readers will remember a restaurant on South Cooper where Celtic Crossing is located now. The restaurant was called Lily's Dim Sum, Then Some and was owned and operated by Kathy Webb and her partner, Nancy Tesmer. Webb was the chef and creator of wonderful contemporary Asian dishes, including Wasabi Shao Mai, Vegetable Gyoza, and Cold Sesame Noodles. Tesmer's decorating and front-of-the house skills kept the Asian concept at both the former Memphis location and its present location at 1121 North Rodney Parham

Road in Little Rock. Webb and Tesmer closed the Memphis restaurant in 2003, and moved to Webb's hometown of Little Rock to be closer to her parents and other family members.

Webb and Tesmer were always active in the Memphis community, and, as we learned in an interview with the two women when they first opened Lily's in Memphis, Webb is no stranger to activism, volunteerism and public policy.

Her earliest involvement in politics goes back to her junior high years; one of her many major accomplishments was serving as the National Secretary for the National

Organization for Women (NOW).

"Kathy's political activism began in her junior high school years when she was campaign manager for John Kennedy for her class," read an undated "Arkansas NOW Times" published by Arkansas NOW. "Born in Blytheville, Ark., Webb was raised in Little Rock and later attended Randolph-Macon Women's College in Virginia. Webb received her bachelor's degree in political science and attended graduate school at the University of Central Arkansas."

The article, which congratulates Webb's election as the National Secretary of NOW, went on to explain how Webb was elected to the national board of directors of NOW in 1981, and "(Webb) and her staff traveled throughout the country listening to what chapters were doing successfully and sharing information on how they (could) solve their problems. ... Because of her leadership, dedication and experience, Webb has become an inspiration to many, a mentor and a friend to all of us in Arkansas NOW."

For her 2006 run for District 37, Webb promoted her experience and leadership skills, including her NOW position; former chapter president and board member of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation; serving on the Pulaski County Democratic Committee, and serving on the (Little Rock) Mayor's Clean Indoor Air Task Force. As far as leadership, she listed National Rookie Manager of the Year, Domino's Pizza; Administrative Board, 1st United Methodist Church (Little Rock); Volunteer of the Year, Arkansas Rice Depot (Arkansas food bank); Youth Services Volunteer of the Year, Central Arkansas Library System; Humanitarian of the Year, Arkansas Hospitality Association, and 2006 Restaurateur of the Year, Central Arkansas Hospitality Association. Of course, those are only a few of the awards and recognitions she has garnered through the years.

"I am on the (administrative) board of the 1st United Methodist Church," Webb told *Family & Friends* magazine. "This is the church I grew up in and am very involved with the church and staff."

Surprisingly, Little Rock's mainstream, not to mention conservative, newspaper, the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, endorsed Webb as their choice as District 37's state representative in its May 7, 2006, issue.

"Kathy Webb combines public-policy experience with the real-world kind," the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* editorial began. "And, as lefty as she might seem on the surface of her campaign push card, she's been a small-business owner long enough to have gotten a real taste of guvmint (sic) regulation. Not to mention new taxes on services. Perhaps what's most impressive about Kathy Webb is the thoughtful way she approaches any topic. We grilled her for a half-hour on everything from taxes to the lottery to health care to education. While



See Kathy Webb, page 17

Oldest gay bar in Tennessee closes its doors

by Anita Moyt, managing editor

After almost 40 years, Tennessee's oldest gay bar shut its doors for good on Sunday, May 28. A steady stream of patrons visited J-Wags one more time to say their goodbyes and to remember the good times.

"I purchased the bar on November 1, 1966," J-Wags owner Tommy Stewart told *Family & Friends* magazine. Literally thousands of gays and lesbians from Memphis and the Mid-South can tell you about their trip to JWags, whether a one-time experience, or a weekly ritual. There is no doubt that J-Wags will be missed and remembered for decades to come.

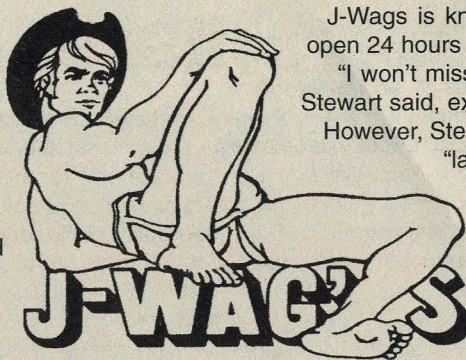
Stewart sold the building to the Southern College of Optometry (SCO), which is located on the other side of Madison Avenue.

The ball started rolling on the sale of JWags's building several years ago.

"Five and a half years ago I came to an agreement with SCO to sell the building to them," Stewart said. "But I was not ready to sign the deal at that time. The agreement has been in my desk since then."

However, the time finally came for Stewart to pull out that contract.

"I've kinda been thinking on it for a couple of years," Stewart said. "A couple of weeks ago I let (SCO) know I was ready. I got to closing on Wednesday, May 31."



J-Wags is known for never closing. It has always been open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"I won't miss the 24 hours a day that the bar required," Stewart said, explaining one benefit of selling the building.

However, Stewart will still be around and will be known as "landlord" instead of "boss."

"I've purchased seven rental properties and that will give me something to do and provide for my finances," he said.

And it is "Tommy time" that Stewart is anticipating for the near future.

"I'd like to take my three babies and maybe travel for a while," Stewart said,

referring to his three miniature dachshunds, which he breeds. "I'd come back home every once in a while. I just want to take some 'Tommy time' now."

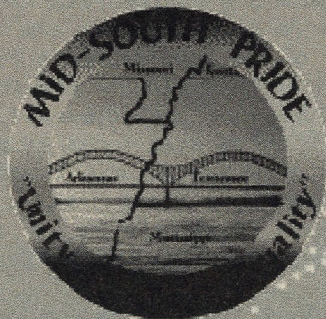
Would Stewart do it all again?

Without hesitation, Stewart replied, "Every bit of it, ATEAC and all." ATEAC (Aide To End AIDS Committee) was the predecessor organization to Friends For Life Corporation, now the Memphis and Mid-South's largest HIV/AIDS agency.

In closing, Stewart wanted to be sure that the Memphis and Mid-South gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender folk knew he cared and appreciated them all.

"I would like to thank the entire gay community for their support, patronage and all the ups and downs through the years," Stewart

See J-Wags, page 13



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For more information and to download Parade and Festival Registration Forms visit our website: www.midsouthpride.org
Call for more information: 901-328-6349

J-Wags

from page 12

said. "It's been wonderful. They are a great bunch of people."

Family & Friends asked several folks at the last night of operation for J-Wags how they felt about its closing and what the place meant to them. Here are their comments:

"Working with Tommy Stewart, there is a lot of ups and downs. He is one of the greatest men I've ever met. Will I miss J-Wags? Yes and no. I won't miss the bad elements. I've worked here 12 years." – longtime J-Wags bartender Matthew G.

"This is an historical moment and a tremendous loss for the gay community." – Chuck K.

"I'll miss the dart tournaments and a great staff." – Drew. P.

"I hate to see it close. It's the oldest gay bar in Memphis. I lost my billfold, my keys and my boyfriend all in one night here at J-Wags." – Joseph B.

"I'm loosing my best friend. I've been coming here 26 years. It's a funeral." – Calvin M.

"I feel sad. But I'm glad for Tommy. He deserves it. It's a lot of memories and part of my routine. I was the door person for 13 years. I've got a lot of friends here. I just want to say thank you, Tommy." – Romeo

"I hate to see it close mainly because it's the one thing, one bar that has remained a constant in the gay community. Since I came out in 1981, none of the bars from that era are around, except J-Wags. Back in the early '80s it's where everybody went when the bars, like Georges and The Pendulum, closed for the night. I can remember bunches of us coming out of The Pendulum and piling into the back of anyone's pickup headed to J-Wags to continue the party. – Patty Pair, publisher, *Family & Friends* magazine.

GLBT research study needs participants

In the wake of the national debate about marriage amendments limiting civil marriage to one woman and one man at the state and federal level, Dr. Sharon Horne, associate professor of counseling psychology at The University of Memphis, UofM doctoral student Michael Bricker and Drs. Ellen Riggle and Sherry Rostosky of The University of Kentucky are conducting a study to investigate how the national debate may be affecting the well-being of gay men, lesbians and same-sex partnered individuals, as well as their heterosexual family members.

The study, partially funded by the American Psychological Foundation, is intended to document the attitudes and experiences of gay men, lesbians and same-sex partnered individuals at several points in time during the national same-sex marriage debate. In addition, they will be following family members of GLB-identified individuals during these debates.

"Our hope is that the findings from this research project will contribute to an understanding of the experiences of gay men, lesbians and same-sex partnered individuals and help us assess the impact of the current controversy on citizens of the United States," Dr. Rostosky said.

To learn more about the research, including participation, go online to www.primresearch.org.

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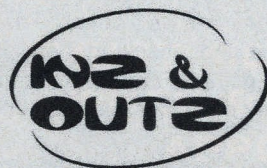
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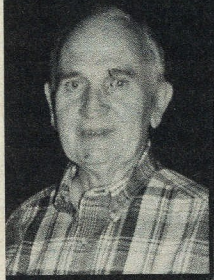
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REUNIONS & REALIZATIONS



an unpublished novel
by Jim Norcross
(chapter by chapter)

Kiss and the letter

"Here Officer DeBerry, take my hand and let me help you up. Let's see if you can do some walking today." Nurse Chet Murdock extended his arm and pulled the policeman to his feet. "Take your walker and see if you can make it to the wall on the other side of the room."

"Chet. I would like to try it without the walker. I think I can do it."

"Fine, I'm going to be right behind you in case you need me."

Patrolman John DeBerry had been confined to the Medical Center for several weeks recovering from a gunshot wound he received when he'd stumbled upon a robbery in progress. He and Chet had developed a friendship during his confinement.

"There! I thought I could do it," Johnny said, completely out of breath but smiling broadly. "Now I want to go back to the bed. I think I can make that, too."

They reversed their steps and come back to the bed. The policeman sat down on the edge and suddenly realized he was wearing only his hospital gown and nothing else and it was completely open down the back.

"Hell, Nurse Murdock, why didn't you tell me I was walking around with my ass hanging out?"

"To tell the truth, I sort of enjoyed the view. It's a very fine ass."

Embarrassed, Johnny swung his legs back in bed and stretched out. He was very tired. "I'm going to Frank's for dinner next week and I want to walk in on my own - just to show I can do it."

Chet looked over at the policeman. "You are so damn lucky to have someone to care for you like Frank does. I wish I had someone like that."

"I know. Sometimes I wish I were gay so I could return his feelings. But I'm not. I want to remarry and to have more children, especially a little girl."

"Well, I would just like to have someone to care for. Did Frank tell you I'm HIV-positive and have been for four years now? Guess I'm lucky in that I can still work." He sat down in one of the chairs by the bed. "You know, I'm getting sick more lately, little things like a cold or the flu, and my strength is going. I don't know how long I can keep working. I'm scared the hospital will let me go if I miss too much work." He rose and walked over to the window and looked out. "I do not know what I will do then. My family completely disowned me when they found out I was gay."

...

Nervously, Frank adjusted the centerpiece of pink roses in the cut glass bowl on the table that was set for two. There was sterling silver dinner wear and the Royal Daulton china that he'd inherited from his mother. He'd agonized over what to serve and considered both Italian and French cuisine. In the end, however, he had settled on steaks as he felt that would be more in keeping with Johnny's tastes.

Frank looked at the big gilt mirror on the wall and checked his

blonde hair done up in curls for the night. Usually he wore it down but he wanted something different for tonight's dinner. He hoped Johnny liked it.

He tuned the radio to the easy listing station, WRVR. He had given much thought to what to wear tonight. He had finally settled on a long pink hostess gown. Frank checked his hair in the mirror again and sprayed on more Obsessions just as the doorbell rang. Frank ran to answer it. Johnny was standing outside leaning on a cane and smiling broadly.

"Patrolman John DeBerry reporting as requested, Ma'am. How may I serve you?" he was wearing a navy blazer, tan trousers and a red figured tie.

"Oh, Johnny, it's good to see you. You look great. I've never seen you in anything but your uniform and a hospital gown. You certainly clean up great."

"Wonderful," Johnny said, surveying the interior as he entered the condo. "How do you afford it? The law business must be good."

"Well, I have a little help from my trust fund. Now sit down and I'll bring out the food." He opened a bottle of champagne and poured two glasses and handed one to Johnny. Then he brought out the salads and accepted Johnny's offer of pulling the chair out for him.

"Is the music all right? I can change it if you want." Frank brought out the steaks. He smiled. Johnny ate the first bites in obvious appreciation.

"This is wonderful Frankie, its been so long since I've had a good steak. But you know something? In a few weeks I'm going to be back in the squad car driving around scarfing Wendy burgers and Fluffy Fresh doughnuts on the run. Maybe, if I get lucky, I can duck into Dino's for a quick bite. Thank you so much Frankie." They ate mostly in silence, straining for small talk. Then, for reasons unknown even to him, Frank started to cry.

"What's the matter?" Johnny asked.

"It's just that I'm so happy." Frank stood up and left the room briefly and came back with a box of tissues. "I am so scared about you going back in the squad car. I'm scared something will happen to you. Though I know that's what you want - to get back in the thick of things. I just love you so."

Johnny came around to the chair where Frank sat and put his arms around Frank. "That's all right, Frankie, I care about you, too. But I'm not gay. I want to remarry and have more children. I've always wanted a little girl."

"Johnny, I've been thinking about having the sex change operation. Then we could adopt. It's been done before." Frank fought the desire to tear up again.

"You'd do that for me? That's a big step and I would think it would be terribly painful." Johnny took his handkerchief and brushed away Frank's tears and then bent over and kissed him on his lips. The kiss went on for several seconds. Surprised by his own actions, Johnny jumped back, picked up his cane and started for the door. "I'm sorry Frankie, that shouldn't have happened." He slowed and looked back but then continued his way to the door.

"Don't go!" Frank pleaded.

Johnny exited. Frank sat quietly, his hand to his lips. Then from the radio came the sounds of Bette Midler singing "Wind Beneath My Wings."

...

"Honey, I'm home," Mike said as she entered the house. "I finally got the motor going on the blue bass boat." She went to



the refrigerator and got a glass of lemonade. "Say, got anything for a sandwich? I'm going to go down to the mailbox. There might be an offer for the lot on the other side of the lake. The people looked at it last week and seemed interested. I'm hoping to hear from them."

Claudia came in from the bedroom where she had been lying down. "Go get the mail and I'll have something for lunch when you get back." The mailbox was at the end of the lane about a mile away on the main road. The two of them had regularly jogged there and back until Claudia's pregnancy prevented it.

"Okay, I'll be back soon," Mike said as she went out the door. Then she stopped and came back to Claudia and gave her a hug and asked, "You all right, honey?"

"Don't worry about me. I'm not the first woman to have a baby."

"I know but it's my job to worry about you."

Mike was disappointed that there was no offer in the mail. There was, however, several reservations for the month. The season was shaping up to be a successful one after all. Shuffling through the mail – through the LL Bean catalogues and the Wal-Mart flyers, as well as her subscription to *Field and Stream* magazine, Mike found on the bottom of the pile a letter from her sister.

"Marynell," she muttered. Sitting down on the gravel road, she started to open it. She never heard from her sister except for a birthday card and the annual Christmas letter. It had to be something serious to have her write for no reason. Mike placed the letter back in the pile and decided that whatever it was it could wait until she was with Claudia. Whatever it was, she and Claudia could handle it together.

4th annual Out at the Park slated July 1-2

The 4th Annual Out at the Park, a Gay Day event, will be held in Pigeon Forge, Tenn., Saturday and Sunday, July 1 and 2.

On Saturday, July 1, the event will be OUT at the Park at Dollywood Theme Park and on Sunday, July 2, the event will be OUT at the Park at Dolly's Water Park.

Event organizers suggest wearing something red to the event.

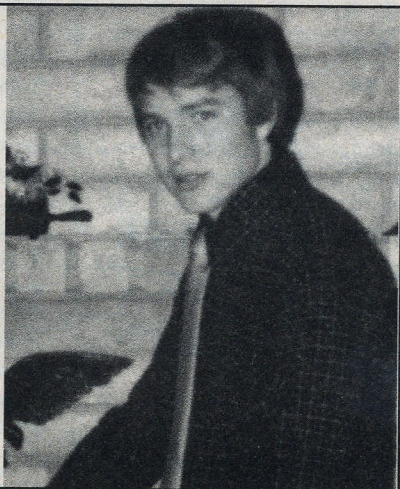
Out at the Park is simply a fun, all-ages, social event for all members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning community, along with all its friends, families and supporters.

For more information, go online to www.outatthepark.com or call (423) 943-3718.

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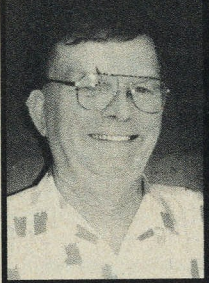
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MISCELLANEOUS MUSINGS



editorial by Jim Easter



- On March 30th, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled that out-of-state same-sex couples could not be issued marriage licenses unless they intended to reside there. Governor Mitt Romney, seeking to become the Republican Party's 2008 presidential nominee, and a staunch opponent of gay and lesbian marriage, praised the decision. You can be sure his anti-gay stance will be part of his platform as he stumps the country. Despite the current and sure to be continuing chaos regarding immigration policies, Romney's rhetoric will keep the Federal Marriage Amendment in the minds of the voters.

How many of the roughly 7,350 gay and lesbian couples who got married in Massachusetts were from out-of-state? What's their marital status now? Null and void? Or are they grandfathered/mothered in? I know two couples in Memphis who want to know.

- The Mississippi Supreme Court recently upheld a law banning the sale of sex toys. Cucumber growers in the Delta must be rejoicing.

- House Resolution 4437 would have made the nation's 11 million illegal immigrants federal felons subject to immediate deportation. Their employers would suffer sever penalties. What would have happened to the children who were born here? They are U.S. citizens.

Harold Ford Jr., U.S. Senator wannabe, voted with the Republicans in favor of the resolution.

President Bush wants a more sensible "guest worker" program. Senate majority leader Bill Frist, seeking to appease his

shaky 2008 presidential supporters and to distance himself from Bush, has offered a resolution similar to that passed by the House. Immigration "reform" is already a hotly debated issue this year.

In a related matter, Senator Lamar Alexander introduced a resolution that "The Star Spangled Banner" could only be sung in English. Who cares if it is sung in Spanish, Canadian, French, Samoan or any other language?

- People who have served out a jail sentence are called ex-cons. If former House majority leader Tom DeLay goes to jail, he'll give a new meaning to the word neocon.

- White House press secretary Scott McClellan resigned following in the footsteps of his predecessor Ari Fleischer. McClellan must have been past his sell-by date and got tired of lying to the American people. Be prepared for a real blizzard of untruths from his successor, Tony Snow, formerly an anchor at Fox News, the bastion of conservative television talking heads.

- Why did Bush violate the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty by agreeing to supply India with nuclear technology and fuels? India has not signed the treaty, nor have China, Iran, North Korea or Pakistan. If India can use its reactors for both civilian and military purposes, why can't Iran?

- The war in Iraq continues unabated. Seventy American soldiers were killed in April, bringing the total to nearly 2,400, not to mention the estimated 140,000 Iraqi civilians killed. During the three years since the costumed Crawford Cowboy told the nation that major combat operations were over, 2,260 American servicemen and women have been killed.

He made his statement from the deck of the U.S.S. Abraham Lincoln under the infamous "Mission Accomplished" banner. At that time his approval rating was 74 percent. Is it any wonder that it has dropped to 32 percent? Of course, the administration's total mishandling of Katrina and high energy prices also have contributed to the decline.

In many parts of Iraq, the infrastructure is worse now than it was before the invasion. There is a lack of potable water, electricity, sewage systems, schools and hospitals. Oil output is far less. Remember we were told that Iraq's oil would pay for the war. Yeah, right! Ninety-six billion dollars has been appropriated this year by Congress. How is this helping Iraq's 50 percent unemployment?

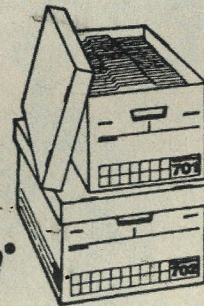
- Nearer to home, the Tennessee Supreme Court upheld term limits for the Shelby County mayor and commissioners. Bye, bye Walter Bailey and Cleo Kirk. Commissioner Julian Bolton decided to compete in the August 3 primary for the U.S. House seat being abdicated by Harold Ford Jr. Any constituent allegiance to Bolton has been abrogated by this unsuccessful lawsuit to overthrow the will of the people.

- The only true Democrat in the senate race to succeed Bill Frist has dropped out. Rosalind Kurita just couldn't raise enough money to continue campaigning. That leaves

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See Musings, page 26

Mid-South Pride plans celebration June 10-11

Mid-South Pride 2006's Pride Parade, Festival and Picnic, organized and operated by Mid South Pride Inc. (MSP), will be held on Saturday, June 10, and Sunday, June 11.

Parade: Saturday, June 10, with line up at 3 p.m. in the parking lot of First Congregational Church, 1000 South Cooper; stepping off at 4 p.m. and proceeding north down Cooper to Peabody Park.

Volunteers are still needed to help carry the 100-foot Gay Pride Flag during the parade.

Festival: Saturday, June 10, from 4:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Peabody Park. Music begins at 3 p.m.

Entertainers scheduled for this year's Festival stage include: Miss Gay America 2006 Nicole Dubois, who will be the hostess for the festival events; singer, songwriter, actor and dancer Shawn Thomas; singer and songwriter Mike Rickard; singer and

songwriter David Brookings; Miss Mid-America 2006 Victoria Parker, as well as speakers from the Tennessee Equality Project.

Picnic: Sunday, June 11, beginning at 2 p.m. at Peabody Park. Bring your blanket, lawn chair and frisbee and enjoy an afternoon of food and music. Vendors will be on site.

Registration forms for participation in the Pride Parade, for booth space or vendor space at the Festival or Picnic, as well as sponsorship opportunities are available online at www.MidSouthPride.org. Forms also are available by calling (901) 328-6349, emailing info@midouthpride.org or writing to Mid-South Pride Inc., 111 S. Highland, Suite 322, Memphis, TN 38111. Deadline for registrations is Monday, June 5. Parade registration also will be available during the parade line up at 3 p.m. For more information, email info@midouthpride.org or call (901) 328-6349.

Kathy Webb

from page 11

not always agreeing with Ms. Webb, we never got the impression her mind was forever closed on any issue. Convictions, she has. Bull-headed, she ain't. In short, Ms. Webb seems like the ideal candidate for the Hillcrest District (37) – and a great rep for all of Arkansas. Which is why, in a field of quality candidates, Kathy Webb stands out. Like the potstickers at Lily's Dim Sum. We'll take it."

She also was endorsed by Stonewall Democrats of Arkansas and The Victory Fund, a national GLBT organization dedicated to helping GLBT candidates be elected to public office.

Webb won 55.84 percent (2,166 out of 3,879 votes) of the votes in the Democratic Primary on May 23. Because there were no Republicans or Independents running in the primary, Webb will have no one to run against in the runoff elections set for June 13.

"A year ago is when I decided to run for this office," Webb said. "I've always worked with women's rights. I've been a very strong advocate for the environment, reproductive rights, public education, economic development and Arkansas (fair taxation). The best way to make a difference is where you can impact public policy." Thus her run to take a seat in the Arkansas House of Representatives.

"I'm the only candidate with a business background and regularly have dealt with taxes and budgets," she said, explaining one of her advantages over her fellow candidates, all men.

Although Webb had to deal with some repercussions because of her being a lesbian, in the end, the voters recognized she was the person for the job.

"The fact is I'll be the first GLBT person (in Arkansas's state legislature)," she said. "My presence will make a difference. Only one of the competitors has tried to gay-bash me. District 37 is a progressive district politically and fairly diverse in ages. It is not a Republican district. It is one of only two districts that voted against Arkansas's state marriage ban.

"If I win, my sights are right here. I've worked hard to win the race and will work hard for my district," she said, explaining that she will remain in Little Rock and isn't considering any federal offices at this time.

The Arkansas State legislature is only one of six states left that meet every other year. She will continue her community participation and operate Lily's Dim Sum in the meantime.

"Realistically, it will be a learning curve," she said about her



Kathy Webb and Nancy Tesmer at Lily's in Little Rock

first days serving in Little Rock's Capital. "I've met with a number of legislators and people involved with the issues for a long time so I would be knowledgeable about issues. I worked hard to learn as much as I can."

Jim Norcross, *Family & Friends* writer and long-time friend of Webb, has many stories about Webb and the gay activism the two shared in the early days in Little Rock.

"Kathy was the first female to be elected to Arkansas Gay Rights," Norcross told *Family & Friends*. "I remember Kathy as a fierce fighter and she was out of the closet long before I was. We were on the air on a talk show using the name of Kathy Jackson (she resembled Kate Jackson) and Jim Norris. The talk show won a national award back in the 1970s.

"My favorite memory of Kathy was when she was employed in sales with Johnson Wax (I think we are still using some of those samples today)," Norcross continued, "but she was supposed to be somewhere with the company but had this big feminist rally scheduled at her house. She told her bosses that she was ill and could not attend the business function and then, as luck would have it, the TV camera covered the feminist rally showing Kathy speaking. Her sales manager saw the TV and she had some tall explaining to do."

Norcross summed up his impression of Webb, whether the woman he first met in the 1970s or the newly elected Arkansas State Representative for District 37.

"Kathy is a fierce fighter for the underdogs whether it is for feminist or gay rights," Norcross said. "You will hear from her and she is not going to just sit there saying nothing."



by Shelia Tankersley

Greetings. I hope you are well into this beautiful Spring and getting ready for the playfulness of Summer. The flowers are beautiful this year and the birds seem to be singing louder than usual. This really is an auspicious time that we live in. Just remember, we choose how we view the events around us. Things are happening quickly and our positive outlook is more important than ever.

In the last column, I started to share with you the many different types of discipline that are beneficial for our journey in spirituality. That article presented a few of the many meditation techniques that are available to assist you in reducing stress and creating relaxation in your life.

This month I will continue to provide a few of the other disciplines that have been a great help for me and many others. My hope is that you will find one or more that will resonate with you and become part of your daily practices.

I ask that you read this article with an open heart and mind. For the next few minutes, let go of judgments of yourself and the article. Discernment (inner guidance) is called for. Take what "feels" right and let what doesn't go.

I will begin with a very powerful tool that many of you are probably already doing. Since the beginning of the written word, people have been writing. People have been getting their feelings onto paper (and now computers) as a therapeutic process. Journaling is a tool for personal growth. It helps one to express feelings and thoughts on paper. It helps you with your journey to higher guidance and consciousness. In other words, journaling helps you to connect with yourself. Some other benefits of journaling are problem solving, relieving stress, healing relationships and old hurts, getting in touch with your own creativity and stimulating the imagination. Oprah Winfrey said, "Keeping a journal will change your life in ways that you'd never imagine."

Journaling does not have to be a difficult practice. The discipline comes about in taking the time each day to journal. I will briefly give you a few guidelines that may be helpful; however, there is no set way to do this. There are many beautiful journals available today that vary in prices. Writing tables, composition books and steno pads will all do just as well. I would suggest getting something with enough pages to keep your daily writing flowing. Select a comfortable time and place where you will not be disturbed. The form of your writing is entirely up to you. Get to a comfortable place with yourself and let the words flow. You can write about anything you want to. The quality of the writing is not as important as the discipline of doing it every day. You can write poetry, draw or scribble, if that is what feels right, but do it every day.

Julia Cameron has written a book called *The Artist's Way*. In this book she teaches a process called "Morning Pages." It is geared toward opening up the creativity within you, the artist in each of us. However, for me it opened up writing in a way that I had never experienced. You might want to give it a try. Let your

feelings out, this is just for you. Let it flow.

Creative Visualization is a tool for using your imagination to create what you want in your life. What we believe in is what we attract into our lives (whether positive or negative). My grandmother use to say, "What goes around comes around." As a child I did not quite understand what she was trying to tell me. Now I know that what we put out there into the Universe comes back to us. What we focus on becomes our reality. If we think about the lack, limitations, etc. in our lives, we will only continue to attract those things.

As children we have all used our imagination. Creative visualization is a creative process that teaches how to focus on what we want. I suggest if you are interested in learning the process that you read *Creative Visualization* by Shakti Gawain. It will provide you the steps in realizing your dreams. You cannot control the behavior or will of others with this process. Remember, what you put out there comes back to you.

Yoga has become a very trendy practice in the past several years but it is not a new discipline. It has been around for approximately 5,000 years. Yoga comes from the Sanskrit word "yuj," which means "to yoke or to bind." Rama of Kashmir stated, "Yoga makes the rough road smooth." It is a powerful tool for self-transformation. It contributes to general health and well-being. It was created for greater awareness, personal freedom, health and self-understanding.

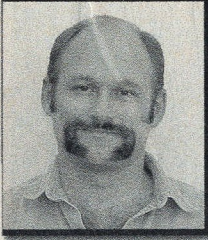
Yoga is an exercise of the mental and physical body. There are three parts: exercise, breathing and meditation. Yoga leads to much deeper levels of meditation. There are numerous types or schools of Yoga. Some of these are Hatha Yoga, Karma Yoga, Raja Yoga and Siddha Yoga, to name a few. It is very important to select the type that serves you. Anyone can practice Yoga. There are special techniques for those with physical limitations. If you want to manage stress better, learn new relaxation techniques or have a better self-awareness, inquire at a local Yoga center.

I guess I did not really consider prayer a discipline because it has always been an important part of my life. There are as many different types of prayers as there are beliefs. Prayer is a very personal thing. Some people pray to God, their creator, some pray to nature, some to the Blessed Mother and some to the Universe. Some pray through neediness or to offer up petitions or requests. Many prayers of thanksgiving are offered while others pray for forgiveness.

When one prays, he/she recognizes that they are not alone. There is a peace in believing your prayers are being received, heard and/or answered. In many lives, prayer is a routine practice. Because there is such a varied degree of belief systems among my readers, I will only say that I resonate with Eric Butterworth when he states, "The most important purpose of prayer is lifting yourselves to a high level of consciousness where we can be conditioned in mind and body with the all-sufficient life, substance and intelligence of God."

The last, yet very important discipline, is practicing daily non-toxic habits. This applies to our bodies and our minds. A healthy lifestyle is a necessity. Be empowered to take control of your health and toxic habits. Dr. Wayne Dyers said, "You are not stuck where you are unless you choose to be." YOU are the only one who can make the needed changes. You can create new ways to eat, think and live your life. Make a list of the unhealthy habits that you are willing to change in order to improve the quality of your life. This will take discipline on your part; physical and men-

See Love & Light, page 33



QUOTE / UNQUOTE

by Rex Wockner

“Oh, you know, a very, an older person, you know, talking about your, you know, your sexual preferences and things like that – it’s, it’s not, it’s very uncomfortable. I realize that, you know, nowadays people do it all the time but, for me, it’s, it’s, you know, it’s not, it’s not the biggest thing in my life. My life is filled with wonderful things and I, you know, I think it’s, it’s kind of, I don’t know, kind of icky to be talking about things like that. ... Something like that would have ruined your career, you know, a few years ago. Um, it’s, uh, I don’t know. It’s very, it’s very unpleasant to even talk about because it’s, it’s such a small part of, of your life, you know. I mean, it’s a big part, but it’s, it isn’t everything, it’s just, you know, one aspect of your life and, and it’s, I don’t know, it’s very strange for, you know, – uh, I don’t know.”

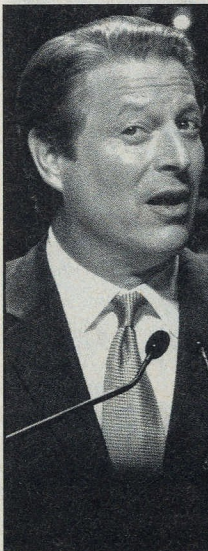
— **Singer Johnny Mathis when asked about his sexual orientation on thetrippodcast.com, April 13. Gay Los Vegas journalists Steve Friess and Miles Smith produce and host the weekly audio show.**

“The goal when I stopped (my TV show) was to pick my kids up from school every day. I go to the soccer games. I go to Target. We have the biggest swing set in the neighborhood.”

— **Rosie O’Donnell to *The New York Times*, April 5.**

“The whole gay liberation movement was really centered on sexual freedom, but I think when AIDS came around, that went out the window, and what remained was the desire to be a couple. Once people became highly invested, almost out of necessity, in the idea of being a couple – and being a faithful couple – then they realized they didn’t have the same rights other couples had, which irritated them, with good reason. ... I thought, ‘Oh, c’mon, this is all these gay guys trying to be straight people – it hasn’t worked for them, why should it work for us.’ But then, rather quickly, I changed my tune, because I realized that if such a large part of straight society so violently opposes the idea of gay marriage and gay adoption, it can’t be all bad.”

— **Gay author Edmund White to the *Houston Voice*, April 22.**



“Love is transcendent and fulfilling and powerful and any force on earth that endeavors to make you feel that you should be ashamed for feeling genuine, deep love for another of your choosing is a form of oppression. Thomas Jefferson said, ‘I have sworn on the altar of God, eternal hostility to every form of tyranny over the mind of man.’ Any force that tries to make you feel shame for being who you are, and loving who you love, is a form of tyranny over your mind. And it must be rejected, resisted and defeated.”

— **Former U.S. Vice President Al Gore addressing a Human Rights Campaign gala in Los Angeles March 25, according to *IN Los Angeles* magazine.**

“I laugh when I see tabloid photographers outside my house taking pictures of me in sweats and no make-up, pushing a stroller down the sidewalk – thinking they have a ‘scoop.’ If they want me to look like (“Sex and the City” character) Carrie (Bradshaw) 24/7, 365 days a year, I would love for them to come into my house and help me get James ready for preschool every morning and shovel the snow for me so I can wear my heels, tight dresses and have time to put on my makeup.”



— **Actress Sarah Jessica Parker to writer Tim Nasson in the Palm Springs gay magazine *The Bottom Line*, March 17.**

“I’m a hypochondriac who’s lived for 20 years among the highest (HIV) risk groups – in NYC, with the largest IV drug-user population, primarily sleeping with black/Hispanic men and being a big ol’ bottom. So I’ve had to be extremely careful.”

— **Drag performer, activist and Wigstock organizer Lady Bunny to the British AIDS magazine *Positive Nation*, March issue.**

“In my own life, I have felt the discrimination that used to separate Japanese-Americans from the rest of the country melt away. I believe that by sharing our stories GLBT Americans can break down the walls that separate us and help build a more understanding and truly diverse nation for us all.”

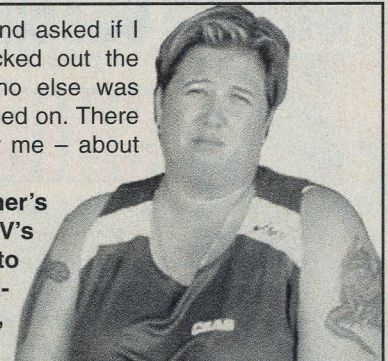
— **George Takei, “Star Trek’s” Mr. Sulu, who is partnering with the Human Rights Campaign for a speaking tour and as a spokesman for HRC’s Coming Out Project, as quoted in a March 28 HRC press release.**

“I consider Truman Capote to be the evil godmother to every bitchy, simpering, mincing pansy on television currently embarrassing all self-respecting gay men by squealing on-camera and prostrating themselves before the gods of Hollywood, hair products and Home Depot. If he wasn’t dead already, he’d have to be taken out and shot for what he started.”

— **Columnist Jeff Epperly in the Boston gay newspaper *Bay Windows*, March 9.**

“They called me up and asked if I wanted to do it. I checked out the show and found out who else was going to be on it and signed on. There was a little hesitation for me – about doing reality TV.”

— **Chastity Bono, Cher’s lesbian daughter, on TV’s “Celebrity Fit Club,” to the Texas gay publication *SHOUT Magazine*, March 2.**



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

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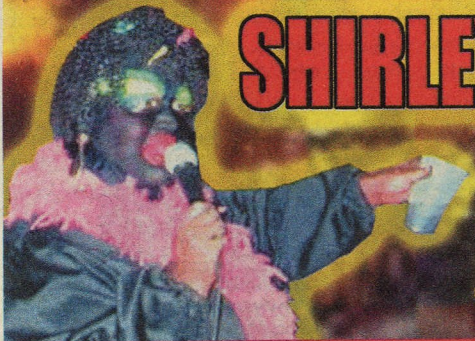
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Reunion Show proves Aphrodite isn't dead

by Patricia Pair, publisher

A few months ago, rumors were circulating within our community, as they always do, that a 27-year old friend to many was on her last leg and was expected to die any day. Some even thought this friend was already gone. But, miracles do still happen.

The friend: The Mystic Krewe of Aphrodite. The miracle: The determination of two women, Debbie Castleberry and Toi Logan, who refused to let the old girl go.

According to Logan, about six months ago the Aphrodite membership had dwindled down to single digits.

"I was going to resign because we only had four members," Logan explained. "But, Debbie (Castleberry) begged me to stay and we got on

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M c A l l i s t e r,
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u n k n o w n)."

That's when the members started talking about doing a Reunion Show, one that would feature any Aphroditian, past or present, on stage doing what Aphroditians have been doing best for years, raising money for organizations in need. But this time, the organization in need was Aphrodite herself.

For those who don't know what Aphrodite is, according to its bylaws, Aphrodite is an organization for women who dedicate themselves to unselfish service to the gay and lesbian community. Part of that "unselfish service" for the past 27 years has been in the form of

producing shows, thereby raising funds for organizations such as Youth Villages and the former Loving Arms. Aphroditians have also participated in other fundraising efforts, such as Jimmy Gray's annual King & Queen of Hearts fundraiser for Friends For Life and a fundraiser for The Maunter Project. Another example of Aphroditians' unselfish service in years past was the donation of time to deliver toys and food to Loving Arms's clients at Christmas time.

The founding members of Aphrodite include Anita Antone, Marge Ellard, Betty "B.J." Hefner, Carole Hyndrich, Linda Lockwood, Grace Perry and Sharon Wray.

"We wanted to do something for the community and wanted to be 'sisters,' you know, closer together," Hefner told *Family & Friends* about how the organization first started.

"At the time I owned B.J.'s (where the Pumping Station is presently located)," Hefner continued. "I had a stage and the boys (who performed drag) made quite a bit of money. We soon found out that we were talented enough so we began having shows, too."

Their first show was at The Psych Out on Cleveland in the '70s. From there, the group of women continued to put on shows at other places.

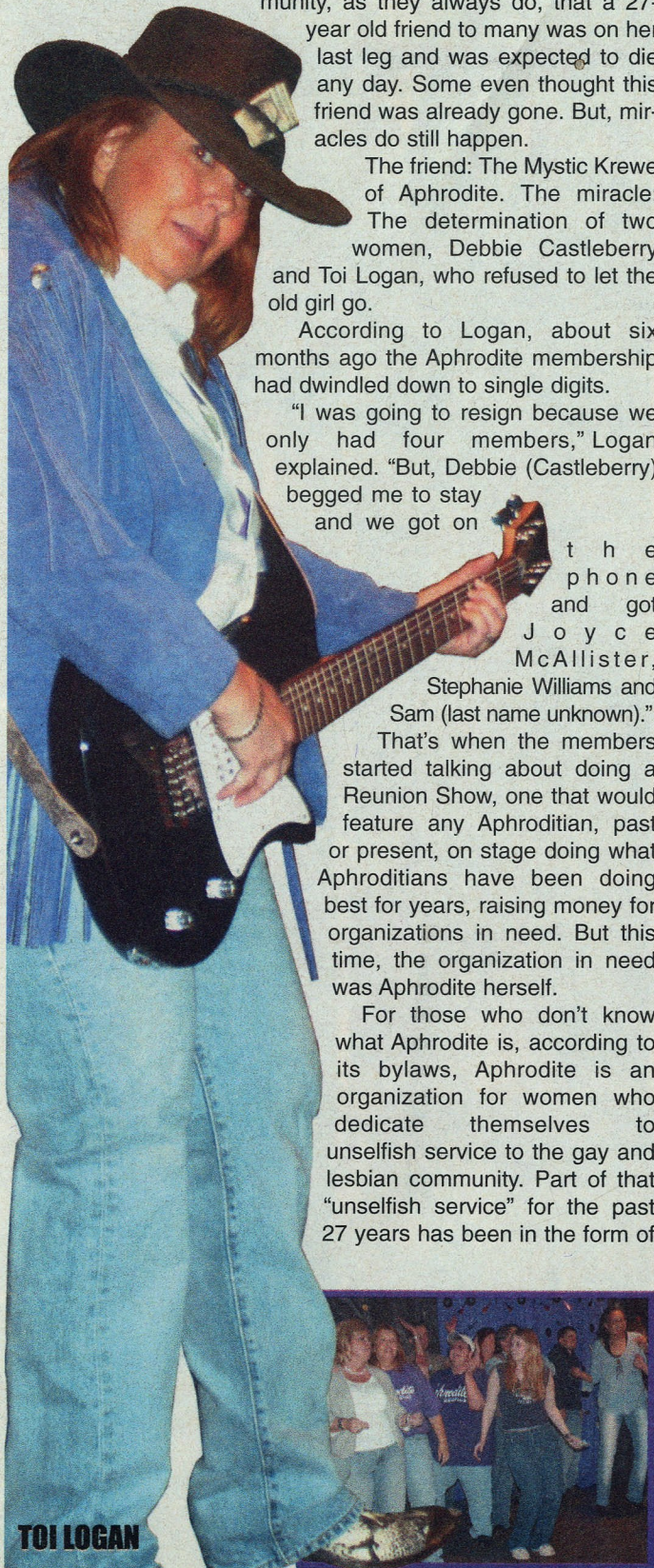
"We even had shows (to raise money) for individuals, but it got mucked up so we decided to do shows only for organizations," Hefner said. "Then, we went to paying people's rent and utilities and that didn't work either. Eventually, the AIDS organizations got most of Aphrodite's money."

Through the years, Hefner remembered, Aphrodite membership has dwindled to eight at one time and has come back strong to 30 members.

"We called the members of the Queen's Men and The Mystic Krewe of Apollo our brothers," Hefner said. "We raised lots of money for lots of different things. One time, we raised \$12,000 for Holy Trinity (Community Church) in just three hours. Eventually, people from out of town found out about us and we started traveling to New Orleans, Biloxi, Pensacola and Jackson, Miss., to perform in their shows and help out. We had a great time and did everything we possibly could do for lots of people."

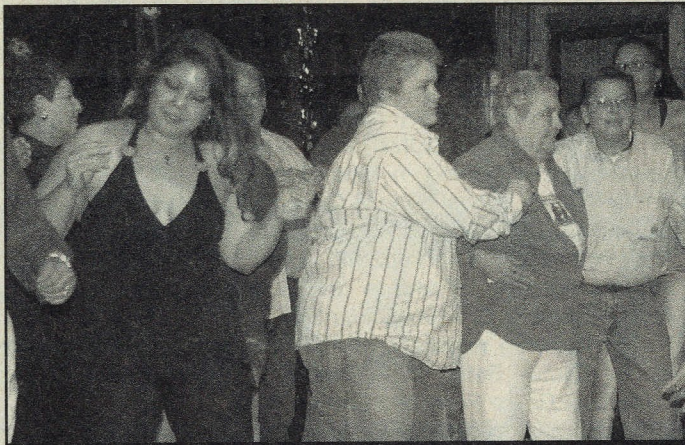
At the present time, there are six members of Aphrodite. The officers are Toi Logan, who serves both as the organization's president and its ball captain; Debbie Castleberry, who serves as vice president, as well as treasurer, and Joyce McAllister, who is the organization's secretary.

Castleberry, who has been a member of Aphrodite since 1987, said she told Logan she wasn't quitting because "we've had so many people who went before us and we can't let them



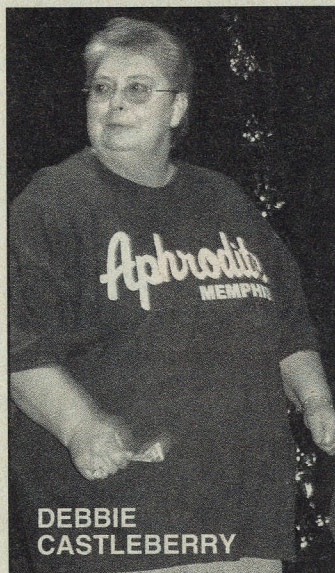
TOI LOGAN





Aphrodite founding member B.J. Hefner, third from right.

down. It would mean 27 years of hard work would be down the drain. It's a good organization and we really wanted to give it one more try."



DEBBIE CASTLEBERRY

Logan has been an Aphroditian three separate times, once in 1982, once in 1999, and now since 2004. When asked why she joined Aphrodite the first time, Logan replied, "Because Linda Lockwood and Melanie Anderson were in it and I wanted to get to know them better. Plus, Aphrodite put on great shows. I had been performing on my own at The Annex on Cleveland and at George's on Marshall."

So why did she join on again in 2004?

"I had been away from it for a few years, even though I never really wanted to be out of it, but that's how circum-

stances made it," Logan said. "It was a good krewé at the time, Rochelle Mann was president at the time and it was a good organization doing good things; working as a team."

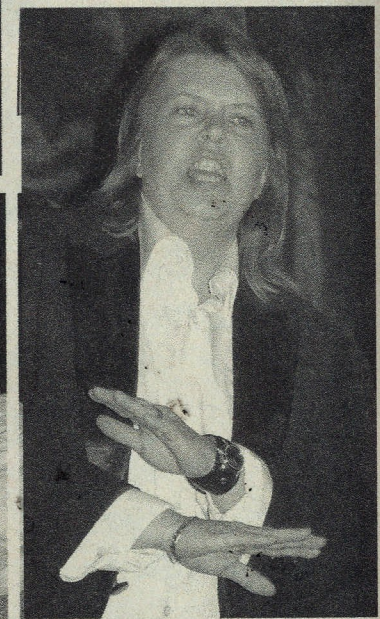
So, what's in Aphrodite's future besides another show on Saturday, July 15, at 9 p.m. at One More?

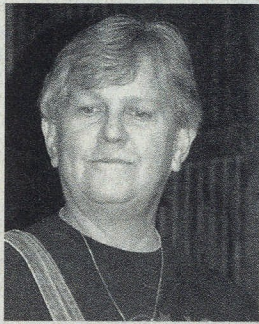
"Right now we're trying to recruit good members," Logan said. "Members do not have to perform on stage because there is plenty else to do. And, we're trying to re-establish our reputation. We want to get it back to what it should be ... a sisterhood that doesn't only do shows and raise money, but one that also enjoys social activities, as well."

"We would rather have a few good members who don't run amuck and aren't involved in drama than 50 members who are just there," the Aphrodite president added.

Want to join Aphrodite? The meetings are held the first Sunday of every month at different locations. Women interested in pledging Aphrodite only need to have \$10, fill out an application and come to a meeting. Applications are available by contacting any Aphroditian or can be filled out at the meeting. Monthly dues are \$60 a year.

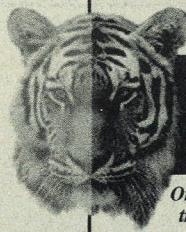
For more information, contact Logan at (901) 870-8110 or Castleberry at (901) 327-3673.





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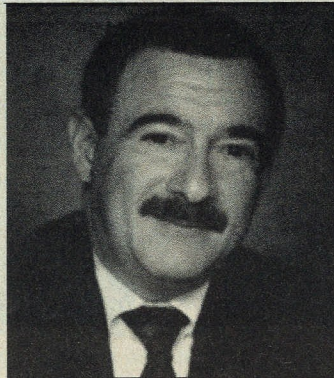
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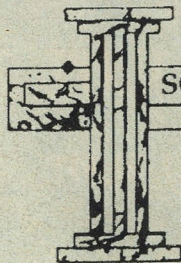
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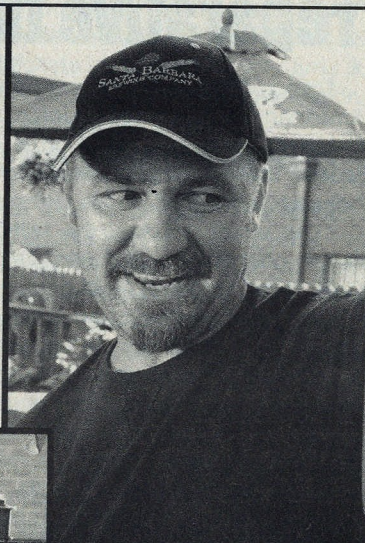
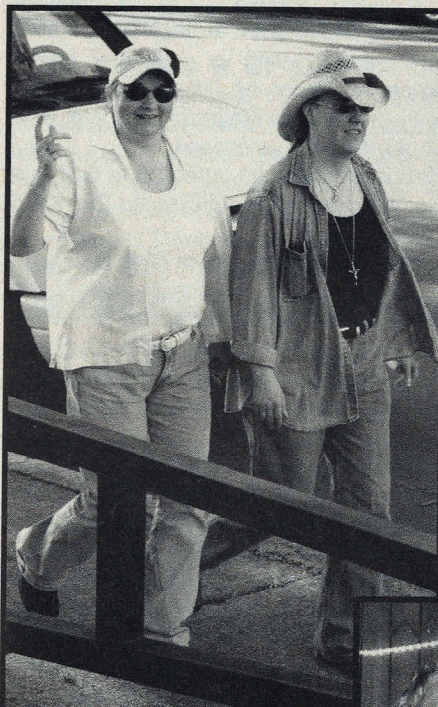
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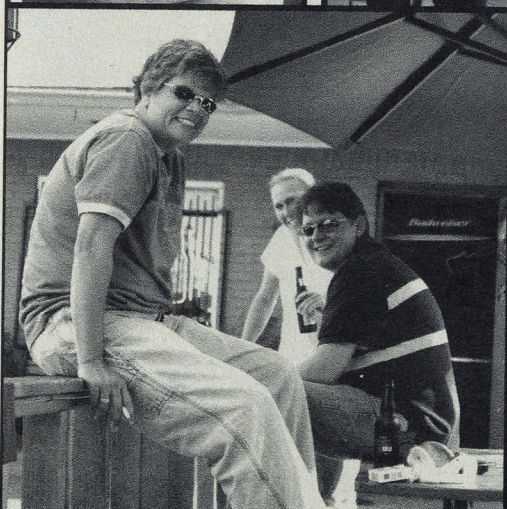
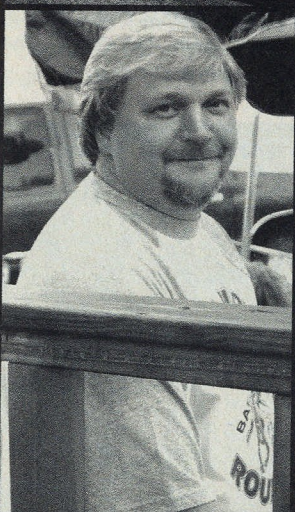
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photos by
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ACLU defends parody of 'reparative therapy' site

Citing First Amendment protection for parodies, the American Civil Liberties Union came to the defense of a California man who received a cease-and-desist letter after posting a parody of a billboard advertisement for so-called "reparative therapy" on his website.

"The moment I saw the billboards last September, I was deeply offended," said Justin Watt, a blogger from Santa Rosa, Calif. "How would straight people feel if their very being, their sense of self was being so overtly disparaged? Their response was to try to intimidate me into taking the image down. It's troubling that an organization as big as Exodus (International) would go to such great lengths to silence its critics."

The billboard, sponsored by "ex-gay" ministry Exodus International, read, "Gay? Unhappy? www.exodus.com." After seeing a photo of the billboards online, Watt posted an altered version reading, "Straight? Unhappy? www.gay.com" on his website, Justinsomnia.org.

Liberty Counsel, an anti-gay legal group representing Exodus, sent Watt a cease-and-desist letter in March claiming the parody violated Exodus's intellectual property rights and threatening legal action if the parodies were not removed. In a response sent March 22 to Liberty Counsel, the ACLU's cooperating attorney, Laurence Pulgram of Fenwick & West, LLP, called

See ACLU, page 33

Musings

from page 16

three elephant party members – Ed Bryant, Bob Corker and Van Hilleary, and an elephant masquerading as a donkey, Harold Ford Jr. A recent write-in candidate for the Democratic nomination is Memphian and gay activist Jim Maynard. You still have time to register to vote in the August 3 elections.

• On March 19, the Tennessee Senate voted 26 to 6 to oust Ophelia Ford. As of this writing the citizens of Senate District 29 have no one to represent them.

Democrat Ophelia Ford defeated Republican Terry Roland by 13 votes in a Sept. 15, 2005, special election to replace her indicted brother John Ford. Non-residents, convicted felons and dead folks voted in precinct 27-1. Twelve of the votes were subsequently disallowed. Ultra conservative talk show host Mike Phlegming wants to make the now-defunct precinct an historical site, no doubt complete with a Brick John.

• President Bush's much ballyhooed HIV/AIDS prevention program is failing in many parts of the world. The Cosmic Cowboy's insistence on abstinence only may in fact be promoting the spread of the pandemic. He and Laura may not use a condom, but then again, they may no longer enjoy sex. Face reality, Mr. Bush, people are going to copulate. Condoms prevent disease and unwanted births.

According to the health department, last year the incidence of HIV in Shelby County was 47.2 per 100,000 population. In Nashville it was 29.9 per 100,000. African-Americans accounted for 85 percent of newly-diagnosed cases here. Nationally, the figure was 49 percent. Don't be a victim, use a condom!

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GCT stages '50s-'60s musical

The Cardigans is on stage now through June 11, at the Germantown Community Theatre, 3037 Forest-Hill Irene Road. This production, first premiered at GCT in 1995, showcases the Cardigan's delightful blend of great 1950s and 1960s music, along with their all-important tips for grooming and dating. Showtimes are Thursday through Saturday at 8 p.m., and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$18 for seniors and students. For more information or tickets, call (901) 754-2680. This is an Arts Access Event.

Celebrate Gay Pride with cabaret

Join Emerald Theatre Company Friday, Saturday and Sunday, June 8 to 10, as it continues its annual tradition of celebrating the best from Broadway with "Out Tonight 5: Harmony & Understanding." This year, ETC is spotlighting the musicals from the 1960s. Songs from great shows, such as *Hair*, *Mame*, *Hello Dolly* and *Funny Girl*, among others, will be performed. All performances are at 8 p.m. at TheatreWorks, 2085 Monroe Ave. Tickets are \$10 general admission and reservations are highly recommended by calling (901) 722-9302. For more information, go online to www.etcmemphistheater.com.

Cats to prowl around TM

Cats is being staged at Theatre Memphis, 630 Perkins Extended, June 9 through July 2. Audiences will enter the captivating and wondrous world of felines as the Lohrey Stage is transformed into a lively and vibrant junkyard whose skyline, as well as other design elements, reflect a distinctly local flavor. In this magical tale, the cats of the Jellicle Clan celebrate their annual ball as they dance and sing to one of Andrew Lloyd Webber's most beloved scores. Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays; 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and

2 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$30 for adults; \$15 for students with valid ID, and \$10 for children under the age of 12. A special \$5 discount is available for adult tickets purchased for the June 9, 10, 11, 14 and/or 15 production. For tickets or more information, call (901) 682-8323. This is an Arts Access Event.

Musical spoof to be staged at POTS

With a title as intriguing as it is impolite, *Urinetown the Musical*, a wacky tuneful satire, comically spoofs the genre of musicals. On stage at Playhouse on the Square, 51 South Cooper, June 23 through July 23, *Urinetown the Musical* takes the audience to a city suffering from drought where a villainous monopoly imposes a fee for the use of public latrines. Showtimes are Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. The Pay-What-You-Can performance is set for Thursday, June 29, at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$35 for adults; \$20 for seniors, students and military personnel, and \$15 for children. For tickets or more information, call (901) 726-4656. This is an Arts Access Event.

Criminal mind is subject of drama

Frozen, directed by Dave Landis (*Take Me Out*, *Corpus Christi*) and featuring the talents of Leah Bray Nichols, Irene Crist and Jonathon Lamer, is set for The Circuit Playhouse, 1705 Poplar Avenue, June 9 through July 9. In *Frozen*, a 10-year old girl's disappearance serves as the catalyst for a riveting, and at times, unnerving exploration into the icy sea of the criminal mind. Showtimes are Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for adults; \$20 for seniors, students and military personnel, and \$10 for children under the age of 18. The Pay-What-You-Can performance is set for Thursday, June 15, at 8 p.m. For tickets or more information, call (901) 726-4656. This is an Arts Access Event.

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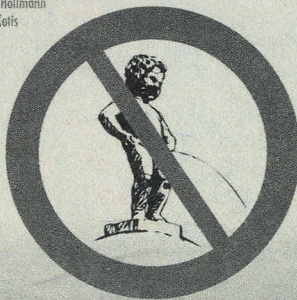
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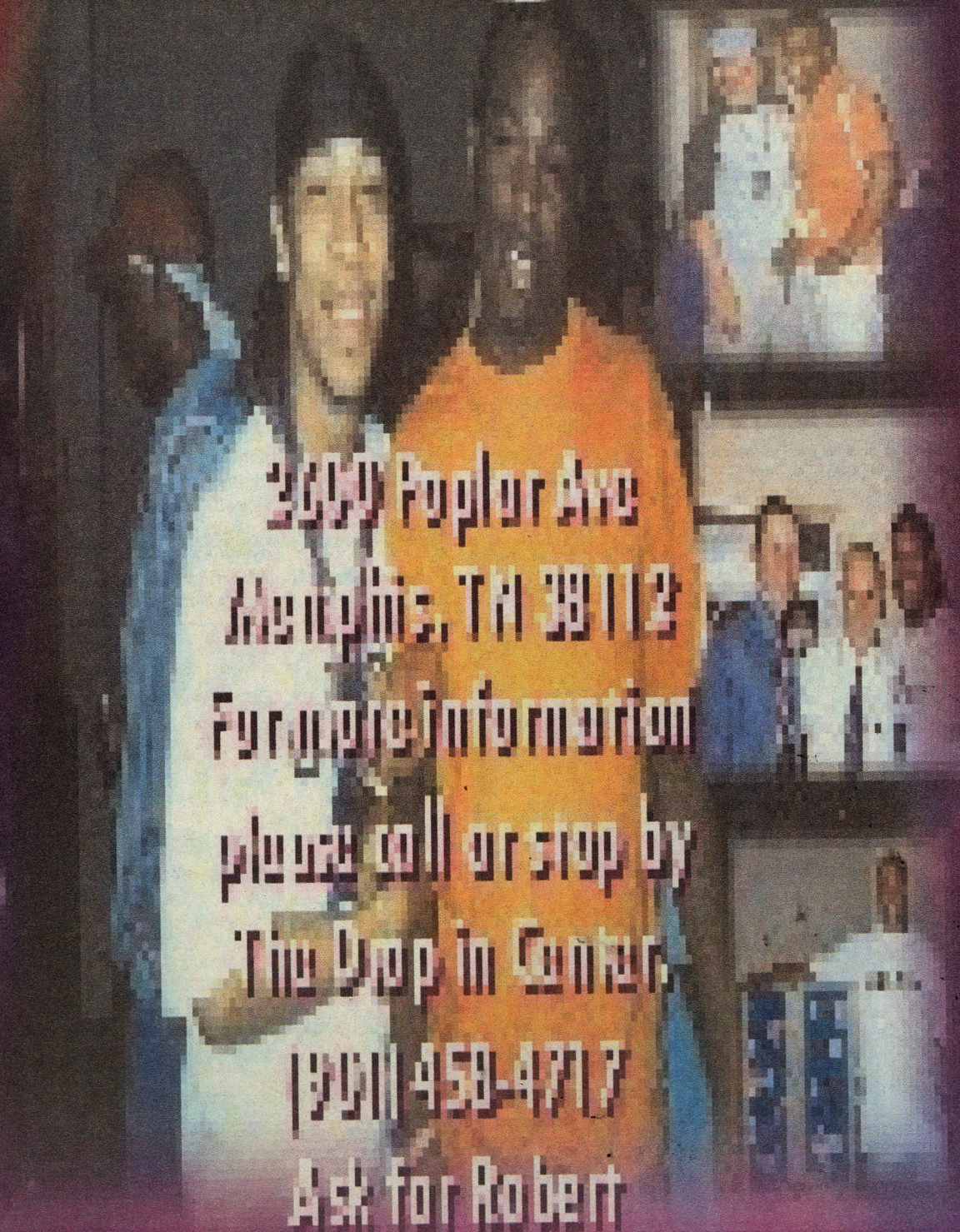
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Brian Brown 'taylors' business to its clients

by Anita Moyt, managing editor

Memphian Brian Brown originally owned a construction company several years ago. Taylor-Maid Cleaning evolved from that company.

"We got started a little more than three years ago," Brown told *Family & Friends* magazine. "It will be four, shortly. It was formed from a construction company I had."

Brown noted that the construction company folded due to some customers failing to pay for work the company had performed.

"(Taylor-Maid Cleaning) is a cleaning company," he said. "We picked up from there and that is where we are now."

Brown noted that his company offers several advantages over franchised cleaning services.

"I've had several franchised cleaning services in my house and they didn't do a very good job," Brown explained. "They did a set list of things and that was all. We actually listen to our customers and take time to do what they want done. We try to work with people individually and it isn't so cut and dry. It is more personalized and that is where the name came from: Taylor-Maid. And Taylor is my mother's maiden name."

Brown noted that there are some limitations on his company's services.

"We don't do carpet cleaning," Brown explained. "We will sometimes clean windows, but not outside windows. There are other companies that do that well. Eventually we will expand into those kind of things."

Despite his business's continued growth, Brown is cautious about letting it get ahead of him.

"For right now we are growing slowly and in the right way," he said. "(Growing too fast) is a problem I see with large companies. They get big bank loans, hire lots of employees but don't take the time to do things right."

Mid-South Lambda Professionals Alliance Spotlight

Business Name: Taylor-Maid Cleaning
Business Contact: Brian Brown
Type of Business: Residential and Commercial Cleaning Services
Years in business: 4 years
Member MLPA
Email: info@taylormaidcleaning.com
Telephone: (901) 274-2148
Fax: (901) 274-6152

Taylor-Maid usually does jobs for residential clients Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"Cleaning should be like magic," Brown said about his residential work. "The client should leave home, go to work, and come back home and it's done. I prefer to work in people's houses when they are not home. Most of my residential customers give me keys and alarm codes, which are all kept safe and secure. We have never had

anyone have reason not to trust us with a key or alarm code. And we are insured."

Taylor-Maid also services commercial clients.

"We do some commercial jobs on the weekends because the businesses are closed and we work around their schedules," Brown said, explaining the adaptability of his company.

"Eighty to 90 percent of our clients are repeat or regular customers," he said. "The rest is occasional cleanings and one-time cleanings. We also do construction clean ups (on new or remodeled homes), and cleanups for rental property owners and real estate agents.

"Our fees are reasonable and comparable to everyone out there," Brown explained. "Every house is a different price, given differences such as size, number of pets, etc."

And Taylor-Maid is looking for employees.

"We are always looking for good people to work with us," Brown said. "We seem to be growing faster by the day. Of course, alternative lifestyle employees are preferable because we are gay-owned."

Inz & Outz has GLBT films for rent

by Anita Moyt, managing editor

Inz & Outz, 553 South Cooper, is now carrying gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender-themed movies for rent.

"We have about 100 titles at present," Darjan Porter, owner of Inz & Outz, told *Family & Friends* magazine. "They are all gay-themed movies that are not available at mainstream movie rental places. However, just because there is an actor in a film who is gay, we won't necessarily be carrying it. We are looking for harder to find films, a mixture of new releases and older movies. We are adding new releases every month."

Inz & Outz also carries adult-only gay videos, all of which are new releases.

In order to rent videos at Inz & Outz, all that is needed is a drivers license and a major credit card. There is no membership fee. The non-adult films rent for \$3.50 for two nights, while adult films rent for \$4.50 for two nights. Multi-disc films, adult and non-adult, rent for \$8 for two nights.

In addition, Inz & Outz is sponsoring movie night at Sessions, 1278 Jefferson at Claybrook, every Tuesday night at 7 p.m.

Inz & Outz is open Monday to Thursday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. For more information, call Inz & Outz at (901) 728-6535.



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7:00 pm Dutch-treat dinner

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Hi Gorgeous owner creates own product line

by Anita Moyt, managing editor

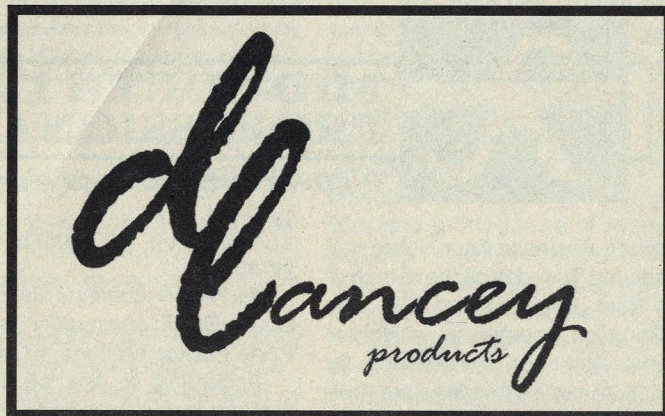
Hi Gorgeous Inc., located at 1475 Madison Avenue at McNeil, is again remodeling for better customer service. The innovative hair salon, owned by Larry DeLancey, started the changes in March.

"I'm remodeling because I was getting so busy, I needed more room, so we are moving things around and getting more organized," DeLancey told *Family & Friends* magazine.

The remodeling includes making the reception area bigger, expanding the sink area and adding more stylist stations.

In addition, DeLancey premiered his own line of hair care products, "DeLancey," in February and has now added a facial line, including cleaners, moisturizers, under-eye cream and mask. A full makeup line of products will be available under the "DeLancey" trademark later this year.

"There are things from one product line we like and some from another line that we like," DeLancey said, explaining the reason he launched "DeLancey" products. "So I decided to make



a product line of my own to have all the things I like into one (product line)."

The hair care products have been well received.

"We are selling the hair care products like crazy," DeLancey said, "and getting good feedback on them."

The facial line consists of products for normal-to-dry and normal-to-oily skin types. Later in the year, products for sensitive skin types and for

acne will be introduced.

DeLancey has even more plans for improving Hi Gorgeous Inc. As the year goes by, he will be installing retractable blow dryers that are installed from the ceiling, something allowing more space for the stylist and less clutter on their stations. Also, customers will be able to go online to www.higorgeous.com and book an appointment through the website.

For more information, call Hi Gorgeous at (901) 726-5151 or email higorgeousinc@aol.com.

PAGE 4B/FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 2006

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GLBT BUSINESS-RELATED NEWS

Local business organization reports growth

The Mid-South Lambda Professionals Alliance, a business and professional organization for gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgender and straight-allies of the gay community, has been coming on strong.

The organization holds its Lambda Business After Hours networking and social event every second Tuesday of the month at Dino's Grill, 645 North McLean Blvd. beginning at 5:30 p.m. Attendees can network while dining on appetizers, which are provided by MLPA. Beverages, including beer, are available for purchase. After a short program at 6:45 p.m., attendees are invited to a dutch treat dinner at Dino's. Should you enjoy wine with your Italian dinner, Dino's does not charge a corkage fee.



MID-SOUTH LAMBDA PROFESSIONALS ALLIANCE

Networking Across the Mid-South

The cost of the Lambda Business After Hours event is \$5 per person.

MLPA will continue its presence in the Memphis and Mid-South GLBT community as MLPA takes part in the Mid-South Pride Parade on June 10 (see page 17).

According to the *MLPA Networking Newsletter*, "We are working to pull together a large marching group of somewhere around 25 people who will walk in our group. We want to have a group that is large enough to assist in bringing positive education of our organization, which will help promote membership recruitment and involvement. We also will need two volunteers to agree to carry the organization's banner."

MLPA is now online with its new official website at www.MidSouthLPA.com. Information concerning events, programs, membership and community-related information is provided on the website.

By the way, one of the benefits of Corporate or Individual Membership in MLPA is a business card size ad on the website.

On April 12, MLPA participated in Nike Tennessee's Diversity Fair with an informational table about the organization. Nike's Diversity Fair covered many areas of diversity represented on its corporate campus, including GLBT, people with disabilities, Latino/a, Native American, Asian, African-American and women.

For more information about MLPA, go online to www.MidSouthLPA.com; write Mid-South Lambda Professional Alliance, P.O. Box 41394, Memphis, TN 38174-1394; email MidSouthLPA@yahoo.com, or join the group's communication group at groups.yahoo.com/group/MidSouthLPA.

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upon Exodus to drop its attempts to censor Watt, pointing to case law holding parodies to be constitutionally protected speech.

"Parodies like Justin's are protected by the Frist Amendment as a form of political commentary," said Ann Brick, staff attorney with the ACLU of Northern California. "His point was to make a

comment on a very important issue he has strongly held beliefs about: That Exodus's tactics are wrong, that there's nothing wrong with being gay and that being gay doesn't make you unhappy. Just as a group like Exodus has a constitutionally protected right to say whatever it wants to about gay people, even when that view has been roundly condemned by every major psychological and medical organization, Justin has a right to use parody to voice his opposition."

Love & Light

tal. Some of the areas that are most abused are diet and nutrition. Become educated about nutrition. Know what you are putting into your body. It is important enough for you to slow down and become well advised.

Rid your life of fast food and junk food that have no nutritional value and do not provide you the energy that healthy food provides. Have regular health checks so you can know what is going on in your body. Reduce stress. Daily stress affects the body internally and externally. Make a list of the stressors in your life and come up with creative ways to change them. Create a sacred space in your home. Participate in meditation, Yoga or any of the many alternative health techniques.

You are not a victim. You are in charge of your life. Make the changes that are needed. You are the only one who can do it. You are worth it.

Be aware of the toxic thoughts, spoken words, television shows, music, newspapers, etc. that you are allowing into your consciousness. Do not give negative thoughts or fear thoughts a door into your mind. Become the best that you can.

Get the proper amount of sleep. More than one half of all Americans do not get enough sleep. The lack of sleep each night affects your immune system the next day. Stop smoking and lessen or cut out time in the presence of second-hand smoke. Smoking is the cause of many diseases; all of which are preventable. It is your choice. Alcohol, caffeine and recreational drugs also are detrimental to a healthy life style and deplete your energy although you may feel really "high."

Set small attainable goals for yourself. Become the wonderful creation that you were made to be. As you make positive changes in your life, you will feel so much better physically and mentally.

Whew!! Now you understand why discipline seems so difficult but it truly is about your highest good. You are not expected to make all these changes and additions to your life at one time. If you can make one adjustment or add one positive to your life then I feel I have done my job.

See you next month. You are most welcome to contact me at Shay46@bellsouth.net.

Shelia Tankersley, founder and executive director of the former Loving Arms, an HIV/AIDS social agency, is a spiritual consultant and workshop facilitator. She is available for personal meditation classes or group classes. She can be contacted at Shay46@bellsouth.net or (901) 481-6886.

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Walgreens program to put pharmacists at FFL

Walgreens is beginning a pilot program to provide pharmacists at Friends For Life (FFL) Corporation, located at 43 N. Cleveland, who will counsel HIV/AIDS patients. FFL is the oldest and largest AIDS service organization in the Mid-South, serving more than 1,600 persons annually with a comprehensive array of supportive services.

Walgreens is providing pharmacists onsite at the agency three days per week to help Friends For Life's clients understand their medication and improve their quality of life by managing side effects and unwanted drug interactions.

"This is an extraordinary service that Walgreens will provide to our clients," said Kim Moss, FFL executive director. "One of the most important issues for persons living with HIV/AIDS is they must be adherent to the medications. Having the pharmacist onsite is a tremendous donation by Walgreens that will help take our services to a higher level and enhance the one-stop-shop model of supportive services offered by Friends For Life."

SAC reports in on statistics, conference

The Southern AIDS Commission's (SAC) Eddie Sandifer reported to *Family & Friends* magazine that the Jackson, Miss.-based HIV/AIDS agency's food pantry had provided food for more than 500 persons each month during the year of 2005, with at least 200 being HIV/AIDS related. The agency also provided help to clients in getting Social Security and SSI started. Information and referrals are provided 24 hours a day, seven days a week by the agency.

A recent press conference by Mississippi Campaign 2 End AIDS (MC2EA) was held at the state capital building in Jackson to announce a lawsuit against Medicaid and Gov. Haley Barber in regard to prescription coverage. Sandifer was present and spoke briefly at the press conference. MC2EA is a part of "AIDS Action in Mississippi."

In response to Hurricane Katrina, Southern AIDS Commission Inc. provided food and a "Quick Reference Directory" to persons displaced by the hurricane. The Katrina relief efforts led to much media coverage, including from *Family & Friends magazine* (Memphis), *Out and About Newspaper* (Nashville), LOGO-TV, *Bay Area Reporter* (San Francisco) and "Q" TV. As a result of the media coverage offers came into the offices of SAC for housing from as far away as New Hope Metropolitan Community Church (St. Albans, W.V.) and the Chrysalis Community (Pownal, Vt.), as well as from Lexington, Ky.; San Diego, Calif.; Memphis, and Newman, Ga. Funds came in from San Francisco and food was donated by a couple from

See SAC stats, page 35

HIV/AIDS TESTING SITES & INFORMATION

Friends For Life & The Positive Living Center

43 North Cleveland, Memphis, TN 38104

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

Nashville CARES honors its volunteers, supporters

Nashville CARES (Community AIDS Resources, Education and Services) honored its volunteers, employees, supporters and community partners during its 20th anniversary dinner on Sunday, June 4, at the Sheraton Music City in Nashville.

The evening paid tribute to the contributions the organization has made to the community and featured a special performance by songwriter and recording artist Beth Nielsen Chapman.

"CARES was founded in 1985, by a dedicated group of volunteers who recognized the need for community education about HIV/AIDS, as well as the need to provide services for those living with the disease," said Joe Interrante, Nashville CARES executive officer. "With the continued support of the community, we have been able to expand and diversify our programs and services over the past two decades to meet the growing challenges of this epidemic."

Today, Nashville CARES provides a full range of services to more than 2,000 men, women and children living with HIV/AIDS, and their families, and educates more than 35,000 adults and youth throughout Middle Tennessee.

For more information, call (615) 259-4866.

SAC stats

from page 34

Jackson, Miss.; Camp Sister Spirit; Jacob's Ladder; MS Food Network; America's Second Harvest, and other friends of SAC. Clothing was donated from Stephanie Griffiths of San Francisco, and from Tommy Horne and Charles Smith of Forest, Miss.


SAC depends on its volunteers as an important part in carrying out its various programs and services. SAC wishes to thank Mary Ann Tacke, Sandra Adams, Chris Ray, Benny Bishop, Mildred Holmes, Boris Hines and Patsy Jacops for the many hours they have provided to the agency.

During 2005, SAC provided food and/or other services to persons/clients from 49 towns in Mississippi, Hawaii and Texas.

Building Bridges Inc., Circle of Care and Community Impact Inc. received food for their HIV/AIDS clients from the SAC Food Pantry. Funding for SAC comes from FEMA (United Way of the Capital Area); City of Jackson, Miss., HeARTS Against AIDS; SAC/State, and other contributions.

For more information on SAC, call (901) 371-3019; fax (901) 371-3156; email eddies2@prodigy.net, or write Southern AIDS Commission Inc., P.O. Box 8457, Jackson, MS 39284-8457.

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HIV+ Me

... AND THIS CLUELESS GUY AT THE GYM ASKS ME IF HE CAN GET HIV FROM MY SWEATY TOWEL!

HOW DO YOU HANDLE SUCH MORONIC QUESTIONS?

C'MON... WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE WITTY AND CLEVER, RIGHT?

WE PLAY THAT OLD GAME FROM MAD MAGAZINE WITH OUR TWIST ON IT... "SMART-ASS ANSWERS TO STUPID QUESTIONS!"

"SO NEXT TIME--"

NO, YOU CAN ONLY GET IT IF YOU ASK ABOUT MY SWEATY TOWEL.

THIS FROM SOMEONE WHO NEARLY LIVES AT THE BATHS?

WHY? WHAT WERE YOU PLANNING TO DO WITH MY SWEATY TOWEL?

"OR IF:"

WHAT'S IT LIKE, TAKING SO MANY PILLS?

HOW ELSE AM I EVER GONNA MAKE IT INTO THE GUINNESS BOOK OF WORLD RECORDS?

THESE?? THEY'RE NOT PILLS, THEY'RE PEANUT M&M'S. WANT SOME?

YOU JUST MIX 'EM WITH HAMSTER EYEBALLS AND RHINO TESTICLES...

Y'SEE, I'M ACTUALLY AUDITIONING FOR FEAR FACTOR.

"OR WHEN:"

YOU'RE REALLY HIV+?

SO YA KNOW GREG LOUGANIS?

YES, AND HE'S VERY PISSED YOU SOLD OFF YOUR COPY OF HIS BOOK ON EBAY!

NO, HE DOESN'T EVER SHOW UP AT OUR NATIONAL MEETINGS OF EVERYONE IN AMERICA WHO'S POSITIVE.

YES... BUT ONLY HORIZONTALLY.

by Chris Companik

chris@hivme.com

TRUVADA contains two medicines:
VIREAD® (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate) and EMTRIVA® (emtricitabine)

Taking VIREAD

If you're currently taking **VIREAD** in combination with **EMTRIVA** or **Epivir**® (lamivudine, 3TC) as part of your HIV regimen, it might be time for **TRUVADA**

- Because TRUVADA combines VIREAD and EMTRIVA in one pill that you take just once a day
- Since EMTRIVA and Epivir (3TC) are similar medicines, studies using VIREAD+Epivir (3TC) support the use of TRUVADA

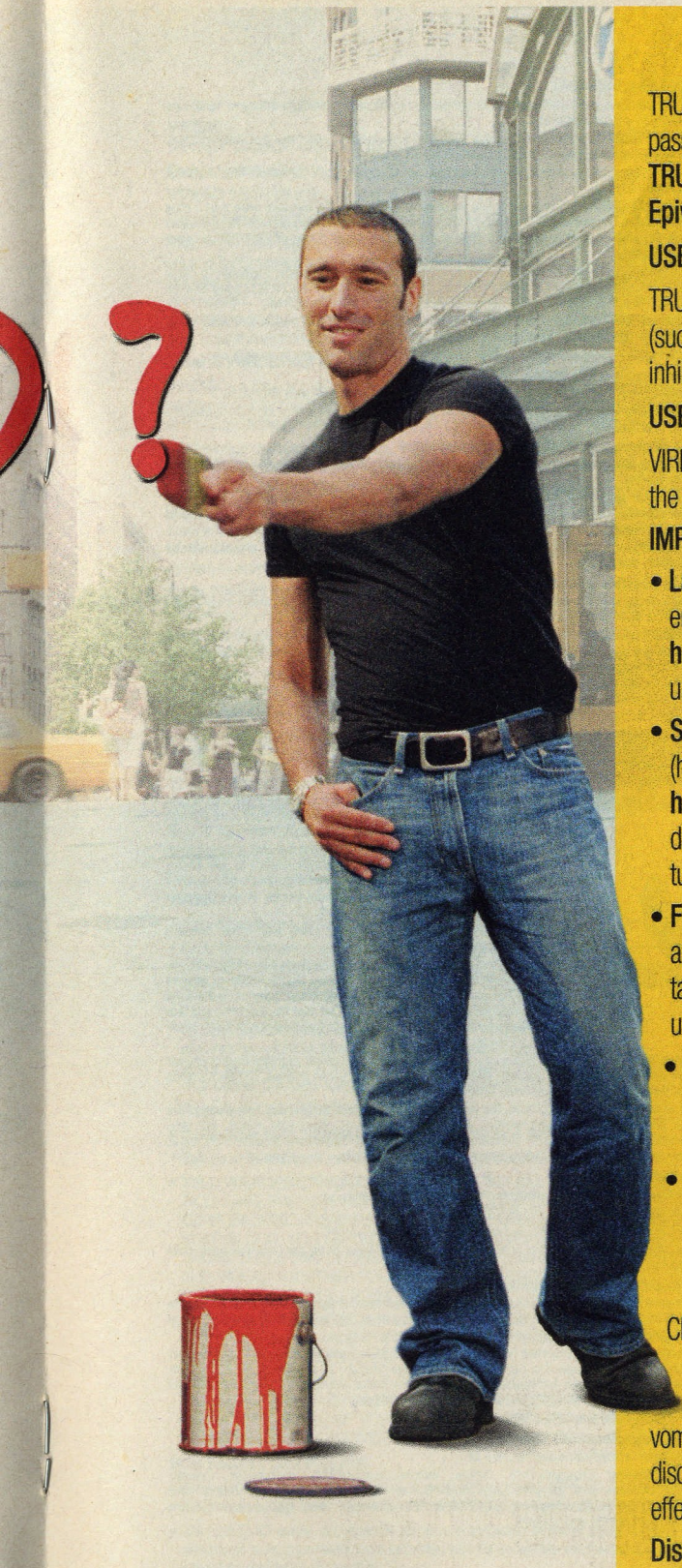
So, if you are currently taking VIREAD and EMTRIVA or VIREAD and Epivir, you should ask your doctor if TRUVADA, as part of combination therapy, may be an appropriate choice to simplify your HIV regimen.


Truvada® 

200 mg emtricitabine · tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 300 mg

Please see important safety information on the following pages.

For more information, please visit www.truvada.com, or call 1-800-GILEAD-5 (1-800-445-3235) and select option 2.



TRUVADA and VIREAD do not cure HIV infection or lower your chance of passing HIV-1 to others and must be used as part of combination therapy. **TRUVADA should not be used with VIREAD, Combivir®, EMTRIVA, Eпивir, Eпивir-HBV®, Epzicom™, or Trizivir®.**

USE OF TRUVADA:

TRUVADA is indicated in combination with other antiretroviral agents (such as non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors or protease inhibitors) for the treatment of HIV-1 infection in adults.

USE OF VIREAD:

VIREAD is indicated in combination with other antiretroviral agents for the treatment of HIV-1 infection.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION:

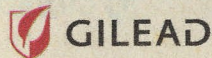
- **Lactic acidosis** (a buildup of acid in the blood) can be a medical emergency and may need to be treated in the hospital. **Call your healthcare provider right away** if you have nausea, vomiting, unusual muscle pain, and/or weakness
- **Serious liver problems** (hepatotoxicity), with liver enlargement (hepatomegaly) and fat in the liver (steatosis), may occur. **Call your healthcare provider right away** if you have light colored stools, dark colored urine, and/or if your skin or the whites of your eyes turn yellow
- **Flare-ups of hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection:** If you have HIV and HBV, your liver disease may suddenly get worse if you stop taking TRUVADA or VIREAD. Do not stop taking TRUVADA or VIREAD unless directed by your healthcare provider
- **Kidney problems:** If you have had kidney problems or take other medicines that can cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider should do regular blood tests to check your kidneys
- **Bone changes:** It is not known whether long-term use of TRUVADA or VIREAD causes damage to your bones. If you have had bone problems in the past, talk to your healthcare provider before taking TRUVADA or VIREAD

Changes in body fat have been seen in some people taking anti-HIV medicines. The most common side effects of TRUVADA when taken with other anti-HIV medicines are dizziness, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, headache, abdominal pain, depression, rash, and gas. Skin discoloration (spots and freckles) may also occur. The most common side effects of VIREAD are diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, and gas.

Discuss all medicines you take with your healthcare provider and be aware:

- Your healthcare provider may need to follow you more closely or adjust your therapy if you are taking Videx®, Videx® EC, Reyataz®, or Kaletra® with TRUVADA or VIREAD

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Patient Information

TRUVADA® (tru-VAH-dah) Tablets

Generic name: emtricitabine and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate
(em tri SIT uh bean and te NOE fo veer dye soe PROX il FYOU-mar-ate)

Read the Patient Information that comes with TRUVADA before you start taking it and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This information does not take the place of talking to your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment. You should stay under a healthcare provider's care when taking TRUVADA. **Do not change or stop your medicine without first talking with your healthcare provider.** Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you have any questions about TRUVADA.

What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA?

• Some people who have taken medicine like TRUVADA (nucleoside analogs) have developed a serious condition called lactic acidosis (buildup of an acid in the blood). Lactic acidosis can be a medical emergency and may need to be treated in the hospital. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get the following signs or symptoms of lactic acidosis.**

- You feel very weak or tired.
- You have unusual (not normal) muscle pain.
- You have trouble breathing.
- You have stomach pain with nausea and vomiting.
- You feel cold, especially in your arms and legs.
- You feel dizzy or lightheaded.
- You have a fast or irregular heartbeat.

• Some people who have taken medicines like TRUVADA have developed serious liver problems called hepatotoxicity, with liver enlargement (hepatomegaly) and fat in the liver (steatosis). **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get the following signs or symptoms of liver problems.**

- Your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice).
- Your urine turns dark.
- Your bowel movements (stools) turn light in color.
- You don't feel like eating food for several days or longer.
- You feel sick to your stomach (nausea).
- You have lower stomach ache (abdominal) pain.

• You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or liver problems if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking nucleoside analog medicines, like TRUVADA, for a long time.

• TRUVADA is not for the treatment of Hepatitis B Virus infection. Patients infected with both HBV and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) who take TRUVADA need close medical follow-up for several months after stopping treatment with TRUVADA. Follow-up includes medical exams and blood tests to check for HBV that could be getting worse. **Patients with Hepatitis B Virus infection, who take TRUVADA and then stop it, may get "flare-ups" of their hepatitis. A "flare-up" is when the disease suddenly returns in a worse way than before.**

What is TRUVADA?

TRUVADA is a type of medicine called an HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) nucleoside analog reverse transcriptase inhibitor (NRTI). TRUVADA contains 2 medicines, EMTRIVA® (emtricitabine) and VIREAD® (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate, or tenofovir DF) combined in one pill. TRUVADA is always used with other anti-HIV medicines to treat people with HIV infection. TRUVADA is for adults age 18 and older. TRUVADA has not been studied in children under age 18 or adults over age 65.

HIV infection destroys CD4 (T) cells, which are important to the immune system. The immune system helps fight infection. After a large number of T cells are destroyed, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) develops.

TRUVADA helps block HIV reverse transcriptase, a chemical in your body (enzyme) that is needed for HIV to multiply. TRUVADA lowers the amount of HIV in the blood (viral load). TRUVADA may also help to increase the number of T cells (CD4 cells). Lowering the amount of HIV in the blood lowers the chance of death or infections that happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

TRUVADA does not cure HIV infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of TRUVADA are not known at this time. People taking TRUVADA may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV infection. Opportunistic infections are infections that develop because the immune system is weak. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, and *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infection. **It is very important that you see your healthcare provider regularly while taking TRUVADA.**

TRUVADA does not lower your chance of passing HIV to other people through sexual contact, sharing needles, or being exposed to your blood. For your health and the health of others, it is important to always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom or other barrier to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood. Never use or share dirty needles.

Who should not take TRUVADA?

Do not take TRUVADA if you are allergic to TRUVADA or any of its ingredients. The active ingredients of TRUVADA are emtricitabine and tenofovir DF. See the end of this leaflet for a complete list of ingredients.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking TRUVADA?

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- are pregnant or planning to become pregnant. We do not know if TRUVADA can harm your unborn child. You and your healthcare provider will need to decide if TRUVADA is right for you. If you use TRUVADA while you are pregnant, talk to your healthcare provider about how you can be on the TRUVADA Antiviral Pregnancy Registry.
- are breast-feeding. You should not breast-feed if you are HIV-positive because of the chance of passing the HIV virus to your baby. Also, it is not known if TRUVADA can pass into your breast milk and if it can harm your baby. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.
- have kidney problems or are undergoing kidney dialysis treatment.
- have bone problems.
- have liver problems including Hepatitis B Virus infection.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Especially tell your healthcare provider if you take:

- COMBIVIR®, EMTRIVA, EPVIR®, EPVIR-HBV®, EPZICOM™, TRIZIVIR®, or VIREAD. **TRUVADA should not be used with those medicines.**
- Drugs that contain didanosine (VIDEX®, VIDEX EC™). Tenofovir DF (a component of TRUVADA) may increase the amount of VIDEX in your blood. **You may need to be followed more carefully if you are taking TRUVADA and VIDEX together.**
- REYATAZ® (atazanavir sulfate) or KALETRA® (lopinavir/ritonavir). These medicines may increase the amount of tenofovir DF (a component of TRUVADA) in your blood, which could result in more side effects. You may need to be followed more carefully if you are taking TRUVADA and REYATAZ or KALETRA together.

Keep a complete list of all the medicines that you take. Make a new list when medicines are added or stopped. Give copies of this list to all of your healthcare providers and pharmacist every time you visit your healthcare provider or fill a prescription.

How should I take TRUVADA?

- Take TRUVADA exactly as your healthcare provider prescribed it. Follow the directions from your healthcare provider, exactly as written on the label.
- The usual dose of TRUVADA is 1 tablet once a day. TRUVADA is always used with other anti-HIV medicines. If you have kidney problems, you may need to take TRUVADA less often.
- TRUVADA may be taken with or without a meal. Food does not affect how TRUVADA works. Take TRUVADA at the same time each day.
- If you forget to take TRUVADA, take it as soon as you remember that day. **Do not take more than 1 dose of TRUVADA in a day. Do not take 2 doses at the same time.** Call your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you are not sure what to do. **It is important that you do not miss any doses of TRUVADA or your anti-HIV medicines.**
- When your TRUVADA supply starts to run low, get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to TRUVADA and become harder to treat.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking TRUVADA without first talking with your healthcare provider. Stay under a healthcare provider's care when taking TRUVADA.
- If you take too much TRUVADA, call your local poison control center or emergency room right away.

What should I avoid while taking TRUVADA?

• **Do not breast-feed.** See "What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking TRUVADA?"

• **Avoid doing things that can spread HIV infection** since TRUVADA doesn't stop you from passing the HIV infection to others.

• **Do not share needles or other injection equipment.**

• **Do not share personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them, like toothbrushes or razor blades.**

• **Do not have any kind of sex without protection.** Always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom or other barrier to reduce the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.

• COMBIVIR, EMTRIVA, EPVIR, EPVIR-HBV, EPZICOM, TRIZIVIR, or VIREAD. **TRUVADA should not be used with these medicines.**

What are the possible side effects of TRUVADA?

TRUVADA may cause the following serious side effects (see "What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA?"):

• **Lactic acidosis** (buildup of an acid in the blood). Lactic acidosis can be a medical emergency and may need to be treated in the hospital. **Call your doctor right away if you get signs of lactic acidosis.** (See "What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA?")

• **Serious liver problems (hepatotoxicity)**, with liver enlargement (hepatomegaly) and fat in the liver (steatosis). Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any signs of liver problems. (See "What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA?")

• **"Flare-ups" of Hepatitis B Virus infection**, in which the disease suddenly returns in a worse way than before, can occur if you stop taking TRUVADA. Your healthcare provider will monitor your condition for several months after stopping TRUVADA if you have both HIV and HBV infection. TRUVADA is not for the treatment of Hepatitis B Virus infection.

• **Kidney problems.** If you have had kidney problems in the past or take other medicines that can cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider should do regular blood tests to check your kidneys.

• **Changes in bone mineral density (thinning bones).** It is not known whether long-term use of TRUVADA will cause damage to your bones. If you have had bone problems in the past, your healthcare provider may need to do tests to check your bone mineral density or may prescribe medicines to help your bone mineral density.

Other side effects with TRUVADA when used with other anti-HIV medicines include:

• Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking TRUVADA and other anti-HIV medicines. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the main part of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

The most common side effects of EMTRIVA or VIREAD when used with other anti-HIV medicines are: dizziness, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, headache, abdominal pain, depression, rash, and gas. Skin discoloration (small spots or freckles) may also happen with TRUVADA.

These are not all the side effects of TRUVADA. This list of side effects with TRUVADA is **not complete** at this time because TRUVADA is still being studied. If you have questions about side effects, ask your healthcare provider. Report any new or continuing symptoms to your healthcare provider right away. Your healthcare provider may be able to help you manage these side effects.

How do I store TRUVADA?

• **Keep TRUVADA and all other medicines out of reach of children.**

• Store at room temperature up to 77 °F (25 °C).

• Keep TRUVADA in its original container and keep the container tightly closed.

• Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. If you throw away medicines away make sure that children will not find them.

General information about TRUVADA:

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets. Do not use TRUVADA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give TRUVADA to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

This leaflet summarizes the most important information about TRUVADA. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider. You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about TRUVADA that is written for health professionals. For more information, you may also call 1-800-GILEAD-5 or access the TRUVADA website at www.TRUVADA.com.

Do not use TRUVADA if seal over bottle opening is broken or missing.

What are the ingredients of TRUVADA?

Active Ingredients: emtricitabine and tenofovir DF

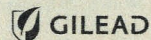
Inactive Ingredients: Croscarmellose sodium, lactose monohydrate, magnesium stearate, microcrystalline cellulose, and pregelatinized starch (gluten free). The tablets are coated with Opadry II Blue Y-30-10701 containing FD&C Blue #2 aluminum lake, hypromellose, lactose monohydrate, titanium dioxide, and triacetin.

Rx Only

January 2005

TRUVADA, EMTRIVA, and VIREAD are registered trademarks of Gilead Sciences, Inc. REYATAZ and VIDEX are trademarks of Bristol-Myers Squibb. KALETRA is a trademark of Abbott Laboratories. COMBIVIR, EPVIR, EPVIR-HBV, EPZICOM, and TRIZIVIR are trademarks of GlaxoSmithKline.

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VIREAD®

(tenofovir disoproxil fumarate) Tablets

Patient Information

VIREAD (VEER ee ad)

Generic Name: tenofovir disoproxil fumarate (te NOE' fo veer dye soe PROX il FYOU-mar-ate)

Read this leaflet carefully before you start taking VIREAD. Also, read it each time you get your VIREAD prescription refilled, in case something has changed. This information does not take the place of talking with your healthcare provider when you start this medicine and at checkups. You should stay under a healthcare provider's care when taking VIREAD. Do not change or stop your medicine without first talking with your healthcare provider. Talk to your healthcare provider if you have any questions about VIREAD.

What is VIREAD and how does it work?

VIREAD is a type of medicine called an HIV-1 (human immunodeficiency virus) nucleotide analog reverse transcriptase inhibitor (NRTI). VIREAD is always used in combination with other anti-HIV medicines to treat people with HIV-1 infection. VIREAD is for adults age 18 and older.

HIV infection destroys CD4 (T) cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of T cells are destroyed, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) develops.

VIREAD helps to block HIV-1 reverse transcriptase, a chemical in your body (enzyme) that is needed for HIV-1 to multiply. VIREAD lowers the amount of HIV-1 in the blood (called viral load) and may help to increase the number of T cells (called CD4 cells). Lowering the amount of HIV-1 in the blood lowers the chance of death or infections that happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

Does VIREAD cure HIV-1 or AIDS?

VIREAD does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of VIREAD are not known at this time. People taking VIREAD may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV-1 infection. Opportunistic infections are infections that develop because the immune system is weak. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, and *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections.

Does VIREAD reduce the risk of passing HIV-1 to others?

VIREAD does not reduce the risk of passing HIV-1 to others through sexual contact or blood contamination. Continue to practice safe sex and do not use or share dirty needles.

Who should not take VIREAD?

Together with your healthcare provider, you need to decide whether VIREAD is right for you.

Do not take VIREAD if

- you are allergic to VIREAD or any of its ingredients

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking VIREAD?

Tell your healthcare provider

- If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant: The effects of VIREAD on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known.
- If you are breast-feeding: Do not breast-feed if you are taking VIREAD. Do not breast-feed if you have HIV. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby. If your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that the baby can get HIV through breast-feeding.

• If you have kidney or bone problems

• If you have liver problems including Hepatitis B Virus infection

• Tell your healthcare provider about all your medical conditions

• TELL YOUR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER ABOUT ALL THE MEDICINES YOU TAKE, INCLUDING PRESCRIPTION AND NON-PRESCRIPTION MEDICINES AND DIETARY SUPPLEMENTS. VIREAD MAY INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF VIDEX® (DIDANOSINE) IN YOUR BLOOD. YOU MAY NEED TO BE FOLLOWED MORE CAREFULLY IF YOU ARE TAKING THESE TWO DRUGS TOGETHER. IF YOU ARE TAKING VIDEX (DIDANOSINE) AND VIREAD TOGETHER YOUR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER MAY NEED TO REDUCE YOUR DOSE OF VIDEX (DIDANOSINE).

VIREAD MAY DECREASE THE AMOUNT OF REYATAZ® (ATAZANAVIR) IN YOUR BLOOD. IF YOU ARE TAKING VIREAD AND REYATAZ (ATAZANAVIR) TOGETHER YOU SHOULD ALSO BE TAKING NORVIR® (RITONAVIR).

IT IS A GOOD IDEA TO KEEP A COMPLETE LIST OF ALL THE MEDICINES THAT YOU TAKE. MAKE A NEW LIST WHEN MEDICINES ARE ADDED OR STOPPED. GIVE COPIES OF THIS LIST TO ALL OF YOUR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS EVERY TIME YOU VISIT YOUR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER OR FILL A PRESCRIPTION.

How should I take VIREAD?

- Stay under a healthcare provider's care when taking VIREAD. Do not change your treatment or stop treatment without first talking with your healthcare provider.
- Take VIREAD every day exactly as your healthcare provider prescribed it. Follow the directions from your healthcare provider, exactly as written on the label. Set up a dosing schedule and follow it carefully.
- The usual dose of VIREAD is 1 tablet once a day, in combination with other anti-HIV medicines. If you have kidney problems, your healthcare provider may recommend that you take VIREAD less frequently.
- VIREAD may be taken with or without a meal.

- When your VIREAD supply starts to run low, get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to VIREAD and become harder to treat.

- Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give VIREAD to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

What should I do if I miss a dose of VIREAD?

It is important that you do not miss any doses. If you miss a dose of VIREAD, take it as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose at its regular time. If it is almost time for your next dose, do not take the missed dose. Wait and take the next dose at the regular time. Do not double the next dose.

What happens if I take too much VIREAD?

If you suspect that you took more than the prescribed dose of VIREAD, contact your local poison control center or emergency room right away.

As with all medicines, VIREAD should be kept out of reach of children.

What should I avoid while taking VIREAD?

- Do not breast-feed. See "What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking VIREAD?"

What are the possible side effects of VIREAD?

- Clinical studies: The most common side effects of VIREAD are: diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, and flatulence (intestinal gas).
- Marketing experience: Other side effects reported since VIREAD has been marketed include: weakness, inflammation of the pancreas, low blood phosphate, dizziness, shortness of breath, and rash.
- Some patients treated with VIREAD have had kidney problems. If you have had kidney problems in the past or need to take another drug that can cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider may need to perform additional blood tests.
- Laboratory tests show changes in the bones of patients treated with VIREAD. It is not known whether long-term use of VIREAD will cause damage to your bones. If you have had bone problems in the past, your healthcare provider may need to perform additional tests or may suggest additional medication.
- Some patients taking antiviral drugs like VIREAD have developed a condition called lactic acidosis (a buildup in the blood of lactic acid, the same substance that causes your muscles to burn during heavy exercise). Symptoms of lactic acidosis include nausea, vomiting, unusual or unexpected stomach discomfort, and weakness. If you notice these symptoms or if your medical condition changes suddenly, call your healthcare provider right away.

- Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking anti-HIV medicine. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the main part of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

- If you have hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection, you may have a "flare-up" of hepatitis B, in which the disease suddenly returns in a worse way than before if you stop taking VIREAD. VIREAD is not for the treatment of hepatitis B virus infection.

- There have been other side effects in patients taking VIREAD. However, these side effects may have been due to other medicines that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Some of these side effects can be serious.

- This list of side effects is **not** complete. If you have questions about side effects, ask your healthcare provider. You should report any new or continuing symptoms to your healthcare provider right away. Your healthcare provider may be able to help you manage these side effects.

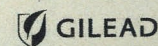
How do I store VIREAD?

- Keep VIREAD and all other medications out of reach of children.
- Store VIREAD at room temperature 77 °F (25 °C). It should remain stable until the expiration date printed on the label.
- Do not keep your medicine in places that are too hot or cold.
- Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. If you throw any medicines away make sure that children will not find them.

General advice about prescription medicines:

TALK TO YOUR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS MEDICINE OR YOUR CONDITION. MEDICINES ARE SOMETIMES PRESCRIBED FOR PURPOSES OTHER THAN THOSE LISTED IN A PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET. IF YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS ABOUT THIS MEDICINE, ASK YOUR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER. YOUR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER OR PHARMACIST CAN GIVE YOU INFORMATION ABOUT THIS MEDICINE THAT WAS WRITTEN FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS. DO NOT USE THIS MEDICINE FOR A CONDITION FOR WHICH IT WAS NOT PRESCRIBED. DO NOT SHARE THIS MEDICINE WITH OTHER PEOPLE. DO NOT USE IF SEAL OVER BOTTLE OPENING IS BROKEN OR MISSING.

May 2005
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Viread 
(tenofovir disoproxil fumarate)

SFDPH launches safer sex program via cell phones

According to a story in the *San Francisco Chronicle* on April 26, The San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH) has launched a program that sends safer sex recommendations to young people who request it via text messages on cell phones.

The automated program is modeled after a similar campaign in London, aimed at youths, ages 12 to 24. If a cell phone user sends the text message "sexinfo" to one of two phone numbers

set up by the SFDPH, the system will send back a reply asking the user to choose one of several categories that matches his or her question. The messages are written in "teen-friendly ... lingo," and options include what to do if a condom breaks and how to deal with "pressures" to have sex. The messages end with a phone number for more information.

Michelle Irving, a peer educator at the SFDPH said that many teens do not visit clinics and are "afraid to ask questions," but with the text messaging service "they don't have to talk to someone if they think they're pregnant or their condom broke."

**YOU CAN BE A
FRIEND FOR LIFE, TOO**
by volunteering your time, 901.272.0855

TENNESSEE DISABILITY INFORMATION & REFERRAL OFFICE



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.

FFL taking calls on its hotline

Friends For Life Corporation, the area's oldest and most comprehensive HIV/AIDS service organization, has begun taking calls on its AIDS Hotline. The hotline began with limited hours and will extend hours to include 8:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days per week as the need arises.

Trained volunteers staff the hotline, which is (901) 333-8239.

The hotline provides basic information about HIV and AIDS, along with local resource information.

Volunteers are needed to help staff the hotline, which is set up so that volunteers are able to remain in their home and take calls with a unique ring that signals a hotline call is coming in.

Those interested in volunteering should contact James Pointer, FFL outreach coordinator, at (901) 272-0855.

It's Time for a Summer Sell-a-Bration!

It's a **STREET CARNIVAL**
and **MASSIVE RUMMAGE SALE**
to benefit

FRIENDS FOR LIFE

Saturday, June 24th
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Outside the FFL office
43 N. Cleveland
between Cleveland & Court

For More Information or to Donate Items for Sale,
contact Rachel at 901-272-0855, ext. 213
or visit www.friendsforlifecorp.org

ART ON EXHIBIT

Brooks hangs quilts by local Hattie Childress

The Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, located at 1934 Poplar Avenue in Overton Park, will present an exhibition of quilts by local quilt-maker Hattie Childress. "Blocks and Pieces: Quilts by Hattie Childress" will be on view at the museum now through Aug. 20.

Hattie Childress, born in 1923, learned her craft from her grandmother and in 1985, she began making quilts to sell. Childress combines plain squares covered in hand written text with patterned fabrics she buys for her projects. Her range of subjects, from music and sports to civil rights, reflects the history of the Delta. Included in the exhibition of 12 quilts is her grandmother's Bear Claw Quilt.

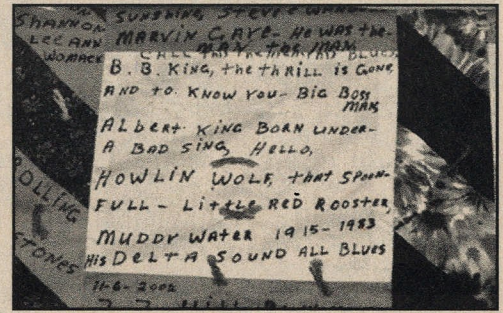
"Mrs. Childress called to tell me that she had seen 'The quilts of Gee's Bend' exhibition at the Brooks and thought I might be interested in exhibiting hers," said Brooks Chief Curator Marina Pacini. "My visit to her home was a revelation and I immediately decided she was right. Her quilts tell not only her life story, but also that of the region. Her wonderful sense of design combined with her story

telling result in unique and compelling quilts."

The museum hours are Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission

is \$6 for adults; \$5 for seniors (65+); \$2 for students with valid ID, and free for children under age 6. On First Tennessee Bank Free Wednesday, the first Wednesday of the month, admission is free and hours are extended to 9 p.m.

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



Dixon shows off teapots

Join the Dixon Gallery and Gardens, 4339 Park Avenue, for a whimsical, evocative exhibition, "The Artful Teapot: 20th Century Expressions from the Kamm Collection," now through Sept. 24.

"The Artful Teapot" examines the teapot as an inventive vehicle for artistic expression in the 20th century.

Organized thematically, the exhibit's 250 objects represent the following themes: Aesthetic Variables, Illusion & Allusion, Rendezvous with Ritual and Tea for Art's Sake.

Tickets are \$5 for adults; \$4 for seniors (60+), and free for children and students with valid ID. Museum hours are Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m.

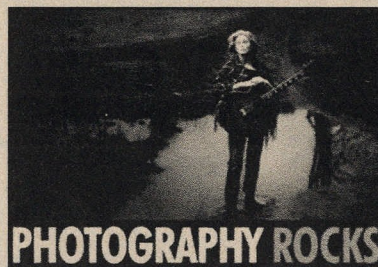
For more information, call (901) 761-5250 or go online to www.dixon.org.

Leibovitz photos on display at Brooks

"Annie Leibovitz: American Music" will be on exhibit at the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, 1934 Poplar Avenue in Overton Park, now through Aug. 27.

"Annie Leibovitz: American Music" is the first exhibition to focus solely on a subject Annie Leibovitz

holds closest to her heart — music. For more than 30 years, Leibovitz has photographed per-



formers, fans and the places where they work and live.

From juke joints to Graceland, Leibovitz traveled through the landscape of blues, gospel, jazz and country to shoot photographs of a wide cross section of musicians. This exhibition features 70 photographs along with an audio tour narrated by Leibovitz, with musical clips.

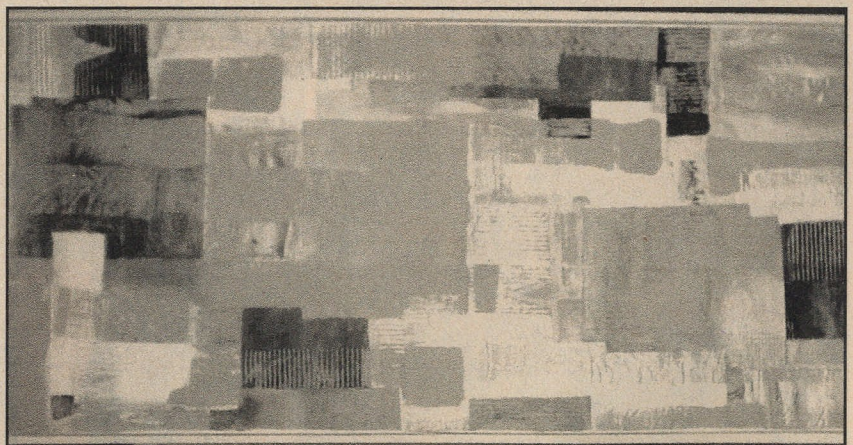
Eclectic Eye to present Wall Hangings

The Eclectic Eye, located at 242 South Cooper, will present "Wall Hangings by Autumn Parkey" June 9 through July 20. An opening reception is set for Friday, June 9, from 6 to 8 p.m.

Although she has declared sculpture as her main passion, Parkey's recent abstract drawings and paintings explore space through line and texture. "Wall Hangings" includes art that was constructed

from paints and fabrics that reminded her of quilts and rugs.

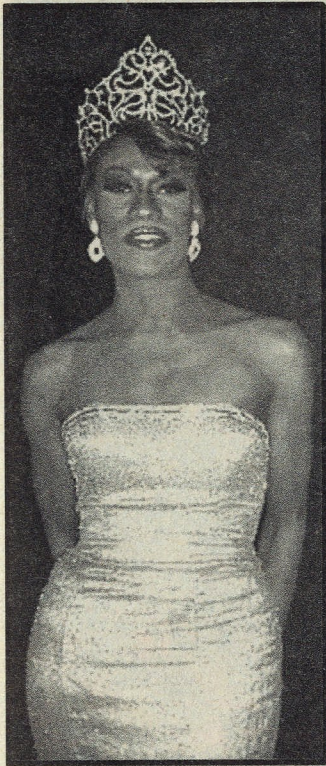
For more information, call (901) 276-3937 or go online to www.eclectic-eye.com.



FAMILY ALBUM MISS RIVER CITY 2006 REVUE SHOW AT BACKSTREET



photos by
Patricia Pair
publisher



**Photos submitted by
Demonica Santangilo**



Join The Experience

60,000 Spectators, 12,000 Athletes, One Community
Be There

GAY GAMES[®] VII

Sports & Cultural Festival 15-22 July

Opening Ceremonies
15 July
Soldier Field

Closing Ceremonies
22 July
Wrigley Field

Photo Credit: Angel Art, Ltd



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Tickets available online at
tickets.GayGamesChicago.org



FEDERATION OF GAY GAMES



Gay Games VII Creative Services: McKNIGHT KURLAND BACCELLI www.mkb363.com

METRO

1349 AUTUMN STREET

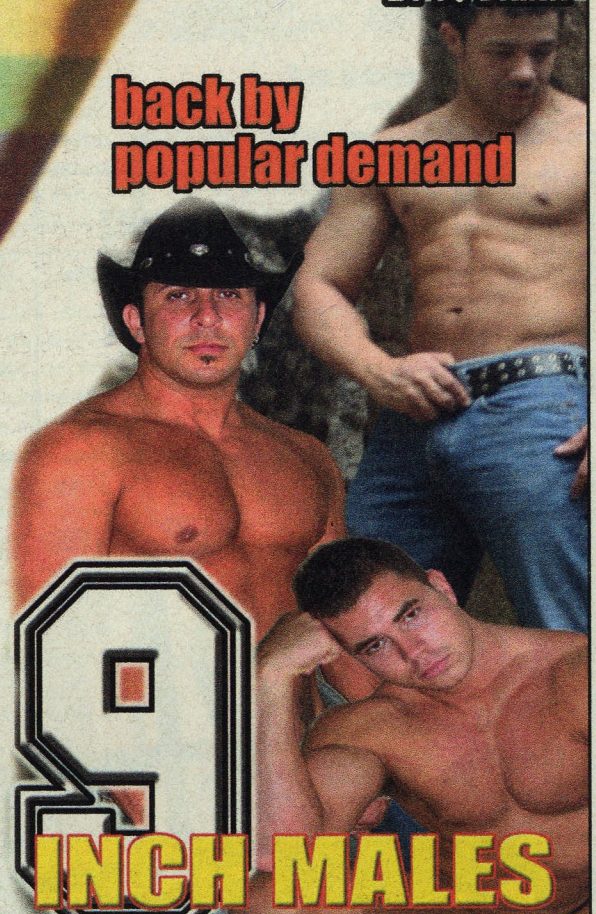
901.274.8010

ALWAYS 18 TO PARTY

21 TO DRINK

MEMPHIS

back by popular demand



9

INCH MALES

RETURN FRIDAY

JUNE 16th

HAPPY HOUR DAILY

6 PM TO 10 PM

HOURS: Monday-Saturday, 6 p.m. to 3 a.m. • Sunday, 4 p.m. to 3 a.m.

MEMPHIS'S FAVORITE PLACE TO PARTY!
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

MEMPHIS BAR, RESTAURANT & THEATER GUIDE

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- Backstreet Memphis**
2018 Court Street
(901) 276-5522
- J-Wags**
1277 Young Avenue
(901) 725-1909
CLOSED
- The Jungle**
1474 Madison Avenue
(901) 278-0521
- Lorenz/Aftershock**
1528 Madison Avenue
(901) 274-8272
- Madison Flame**
1588 Madison Avenue
(901) 278-0569
- Metro Memphis**
1349 Autumn Street
(901) 274-8010
- Allusions (inset)**
3204 North Thomas
(901) 357-8383
- One More**
2117 Peabody
(901) 278-MORE
- The Pumping Station**
1382 Poplar Avenue
(901) 272-7600
- Paragon**
2865 Walnut Grove Rd.
(901) 320-0026
- Printer's Alley**
322 S. Cleveland
(901) 725-9809
- Sessions**
1278 Jefferson
(901) 276-1882

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

AREA RESTAURANTS

- Bogle's Delicatessen**
2098 LaSalle Place
(901) 272-0022
- The Brushmark**
1934 Poplar (in the Brooks)
(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**
1718 Madison Avenue
(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

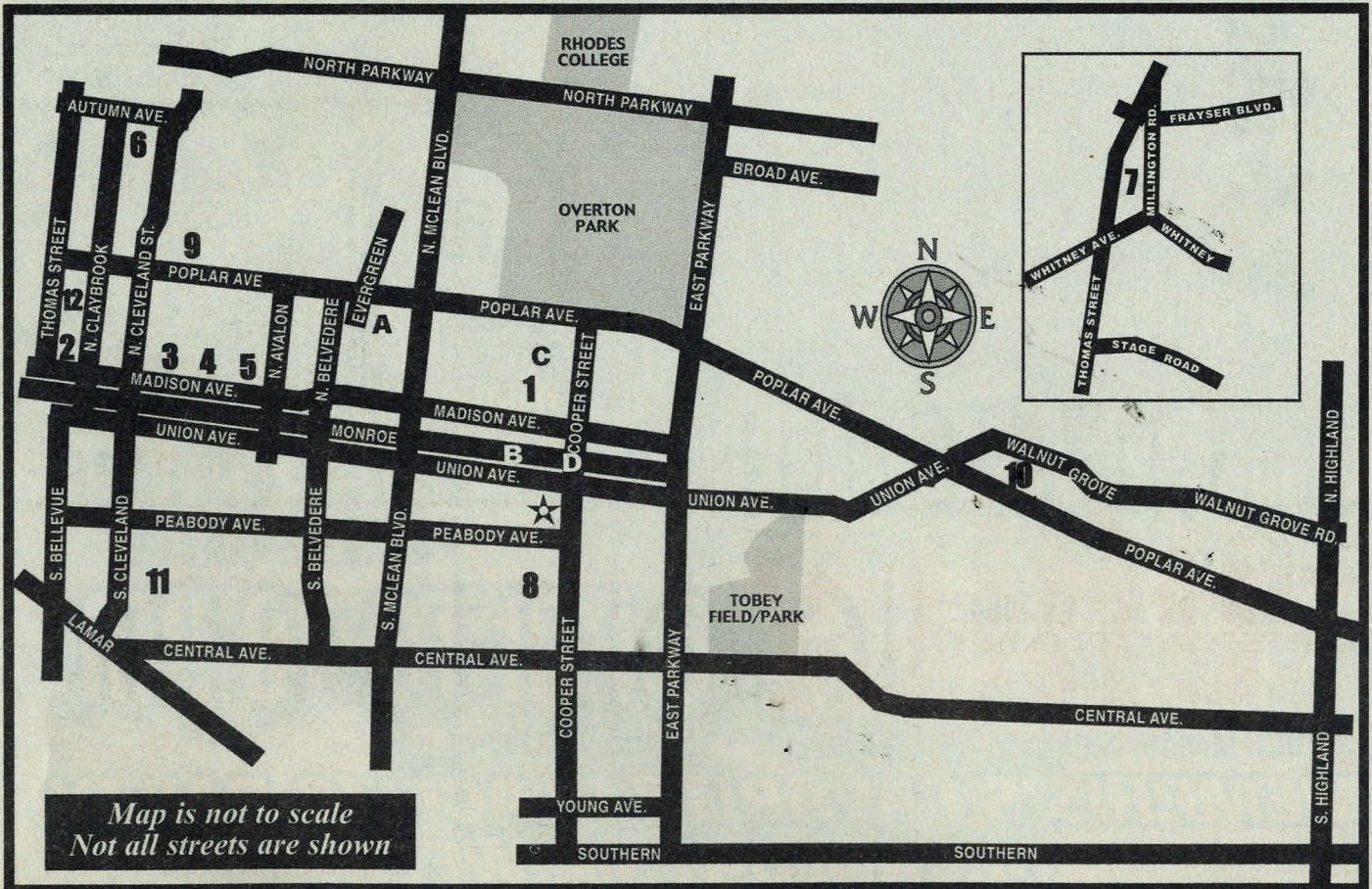
Pancho's
• 717 N. Whitestation (901) 685-5404
• 87 S. Second Street (901) 522-0011

RP Tracks
3547 Walker Street
(901) 327-1471

SOGO
1255 Goodman Road
Horn 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





DINING OUT

by Laer Gib Retae

SOUL FISH CAFE

Sometimes the food at a place that looks deceptively plain is pleasantly surprising. After driving by the little concrete block building located at 862 South Cooper several times over a period of several weeks it was impossible not to notice the full parking lot and constant crowd. The little block building with the glass front was opened as the Soul Fish Cafe a little more than two months ago by one of the owners of Young Avenue Deli and another business partner.

Since my first visit a couple of weeks ago I have frequented this pleasant little cafe on several occasions only to find that so far all of my experiences have been good. While many of the restaurants in the Cooper/Young area have created food establishments with full service bars that attract the after five and weekend crowd, only serving food as the secondary affair, the Soul Fish Cafe has only good food and beer. The advantage, of course, is that if

you still prefer a mixed drink or wine with your meal, you can now bring in your choice of liquor or wine, while enjoying the good food. There is no corkage fee, and although the restaurant is in the process of obtaining a license to serve wine, let's hope they keep it that way.

Not only is the exterior of the building plain and simple but the same terms can be used to describe the interior decor of this establishment. The interior concrete block walls are painted in a beige color. The only thing that even stands out is the word "EATS" painted in huge letters on the southern wall of the room. No fancy artwork, no fancy decoration, just "EATS." If that isn't Southern, I don't know what is. On the northern wall there is nothing more than a vintage Coca Cola sign. There is a counter that crosses the end of the room just before the kitchen; on the northeast wall of the room is a countertop with overhanging cabinets, the kind you would find in a house, not a restaurant.

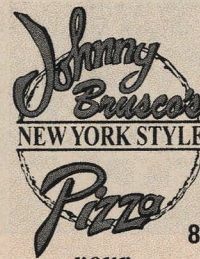
On the southeast corner of the room there is a big chalk board that is used to display the daily fresh vegetables. The tables, booths and chairs use stainless steel to help complete the retro look. The atmosphere at the Soul Fish Cafe reminds you of a little restaurant on a small town square or a restaurant back when Memphis was a small river town.

The Soul Fish Cafe may have a plain and simple appearance, but the food is really why you go to a restaurant, isn't it? Well, the food is simply not plain and simple; it is plain great and plain affordable. The crowd that is

always there is evidence of the good food and affordable prices. On at least two visits, there wasn't a table or booth available when we arrived. However, the wait was less than five minutes on both occasions due to a quick turnaround at each table. That quick turnaround is the obvious result of a restaurant that has great wait and great kitchen staff. Also, hats off to the

See Dining Out, page 48

2 GREAT LOCATIONS



3810 Hacks Cross Rd.
Suite 108
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901-753-3900

www.JohnnyBruscos.com

8230 Camp Creek Blvd.
Suite 104
Olive Branch, MS
662-893-2030

Molly's La Casita MEXICAN RESTAURANT



2006
Madison

(901) 726-1873

Soul Fish Cafe
862 S. Cooper, Memphis, TN
(901) 725-0722

Dining Style: Very casual
Cuisine: Soul food, catfish
Service: Excellent
Quality of Food: Excellent
Hours: 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., seven days a week
Alcohol: Beer only, wine soon
Other: Pick up or eat in
Price: Less than \$10 per person

Bob's Barksdale RESTAURANT

OPEN TO SERVE YOU
Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Saturday-Sunday, 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

237 South Cooper
(901) 722-2193



3547
Walker

(901)
327
1471



2150 Elzey Ave. east of Cooper

Dining Out

from page 47

good management that put it all together. The waiters and waitresses make you feel like family and friends and on each visit our waiter/waitress was prompt taking our order and the food arrived seemingly less than five minutes later, hot and fresh. Now, how about the food ...

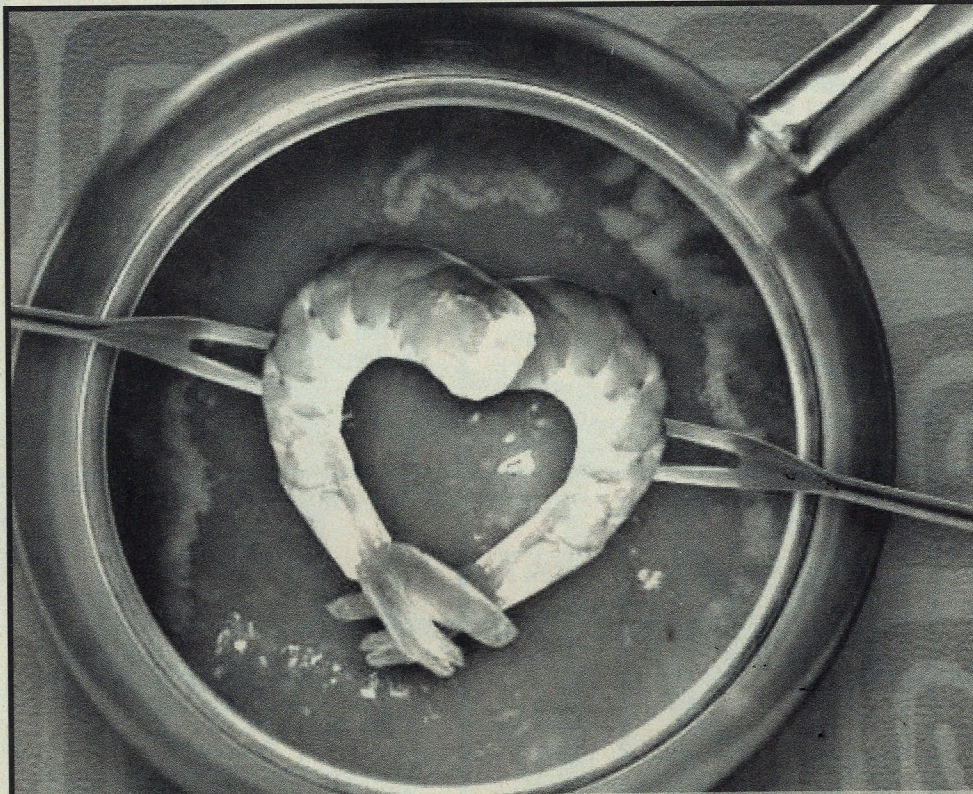
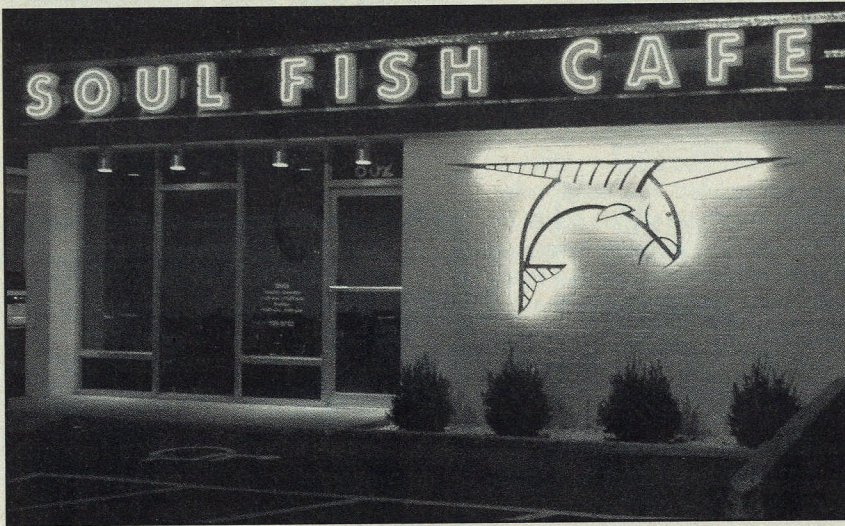
Starting off with the Cat Bites appetizer will only make you crave for more. The fried small bites of catfish disappear from the serving tray rather quickly with a table of two or three. It

could be a small meal for one and, in short, is simply a great appetizer with each bit fried golden brown to perfection.

The fried catfish basket is highly recommended as an entree. Forget your arteries, they will be okay for the night. It's obvious after eating the fried catfish that this is going to be the dish that makes this place famous. The small catfish basket is all that is necessary for an average person to have a full meal. It is accompanied with fries, coleslaw, hush puppies and cornbread. The fried catfish is lightly breaded, seasoned and cooked to perfection, and isn't too greasy, as you find with much fried fish. It is moist and flakey and has been consistently great on each visit. The fries also are perfectly fried, crispy and not too greasy. The same is true for the hushpuppies, which are made with yellow cornmeal and fried to a dark brown. The hushpuppies are small, not gummy, not too dry, and have a perfectly-fried crunchy crust. The coleslaw is average, but the rest of the catfish basket makes up for it.

There also is the option of ordering blackened catfish, which is accompanied by a fresh vegetable of your choice (from the chalk board). We found the dirty mashed potatoes to be wonderful and, based on a previous visit, recommend the broccoli, which was fresh and crisp. The squash is not so special and on one visit they were out of it. Back to the blackened catfish, well it was also perfectly cooked, moist, flakey, etc. But everyone that tasted with me

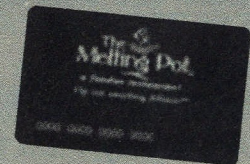
See Dining Out, page 49



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Dining Out

from page 48

came up with the unmistakable fact that there is simply too much seasoning on the blackened catfish, which makes it entirely too salty. We would stick with the fried catfish; however, after squeezing lots of lemon on the blackened catfish, the overpowering seasoning is a bit more palatable.

The Soul Fish Cafe also has Po Boy sandwiches with chicken, catfish and pork tenderloin, including a Cuban. We all tasted the Cuban and agreed that is a sandwich worthy of ordering if you do not want catfish. This Cuban reminds you of a Reuben sandwich, but is wonderful and large enough to make a hungry man full. It also is served with fries. All of the Po Boys, including the Cuban, are served on New Orleans style rolls.

Finally, dessert. No Southern-style restaurant would be complete without pecan pie. In this case the pecan pie is a caramel pecan pie, homemade in-house daily by a lady referred to as Ms. Aretha, originally from Jackson, Miss., per the information provided by our splendid waitress, Rachael. On a previous visit, the pecan pie was mistakenly served unheated, Rachael tells me that it should only be served warm. The difference was apparent as I was not sold on this pecan pie when it was served incorrectly. However, when the kitchen sent it out right, it was more than apparent that Ms. Aretha should start shipping this via FedEx worldwide. You need an agent, Ms. Aretha, this is some of the best pecan pie ever, by unanimous vote of our table. Please keep making those caramel pecan pies!

The wall inside the Soul Fish Cafe says it all: EATS! Go there.

Full-Service Restaurants

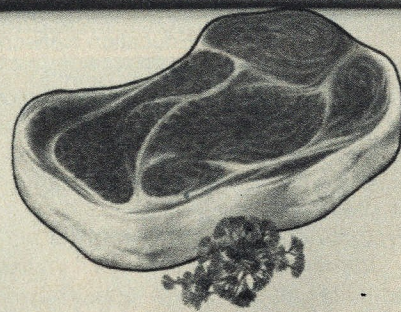
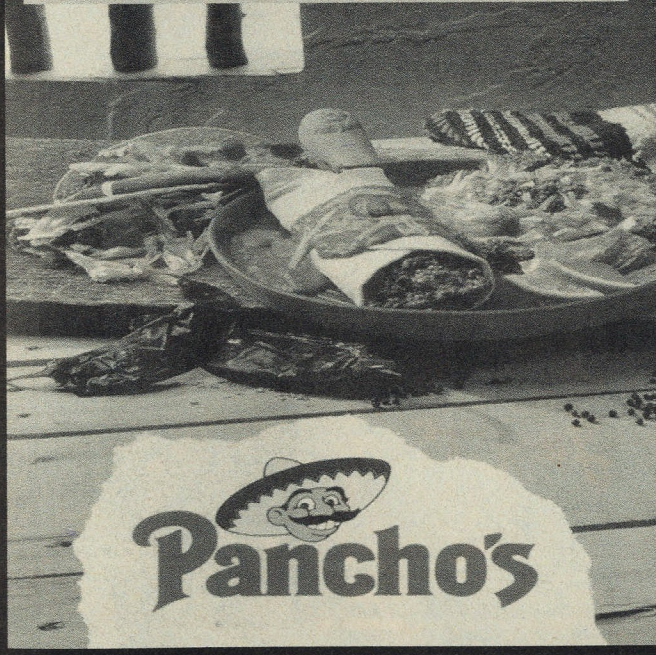
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GLSEN releases results of national student survey

The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN), the leading national education organization focused on ensuring safe schools for all students, announced findings from the 2005 National School Climate Survey (NSCS), the only national survey to document the experiences of students who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) in America's schools. The survey results were released April 26 at the National Press Club in conjunction with GLSEN's 10th National Day of Silence.

"The 2005 National School Climate Survey reveals that anti-LGBT bullying and harassment remain commonplace in America's schools," said GLSEN Founder and Executive Director Kevin Jennings. "On the positive side, it also makes clear that inclusive policies, supportive school staff and student clubs, like gay-straight alliances, all relate to reduced harassment and higher achieving students."

Key findings of the 2005 National School Climate Survey include:

The Scope of the Problem:

- 75.4 percent of students heard derogatory remarks, such as "faggot" or "dyke" frequently or often at school, and nearly nine out of 10 (89.2 percent) reported hearing "that's so gay" or "you're so gay" – meaning stupid or worthless – frequently or often.

- More than a third (37.8 percent) of students experienced physical harassment at school on the basis of sexual orientation and more than a quarter (26.1 percent) on the basis of their gender expression. Nearly one-fifth (17.6 percent) of students had been physically assaulted because of their sexual orientation and more than a 10th (11.8 percent) because of their gender expression.

Academic Engagement, Aspirations and Achievement:

- LGBT students were five times more likely to report having skipped school in the last month because of safety concerns than the general population of students.

- LGBT students who experience more frequent physical harassment were more likely to report they did not plan to go to college. Overall, LGBT students were twice as likely as the general population of students to report they were not planning to pursue any post-secondary education.

- The average GPA for LGBT students who were frequently physically harassed was half a grade lower than that of LGBT students experiencing less harassment (2.6 versus 3.1).

Positive Interventions and Support:

- The presence of supportive staff contributed to a range of positive indicators, including greater sense of safety; fewer reports of missing days of school and a higher incidence of planning to attend college.

- Students in schools with a gay-straight alliance were less likely to feel unsafe, less likely to miss school and more likely to feel like they belonged at their school than students in schools with no such clubs.

- Having a comprehensive policy was related to a lower incidence of hearing homophobic remarks and to lower rates of verbal harassment. Students at schools with inclusive policies also reported higher rates of intervention by school staff when homophobic remarks were made.

Only nine states and the District of Columbia have compre-

See GLSEN, page 65

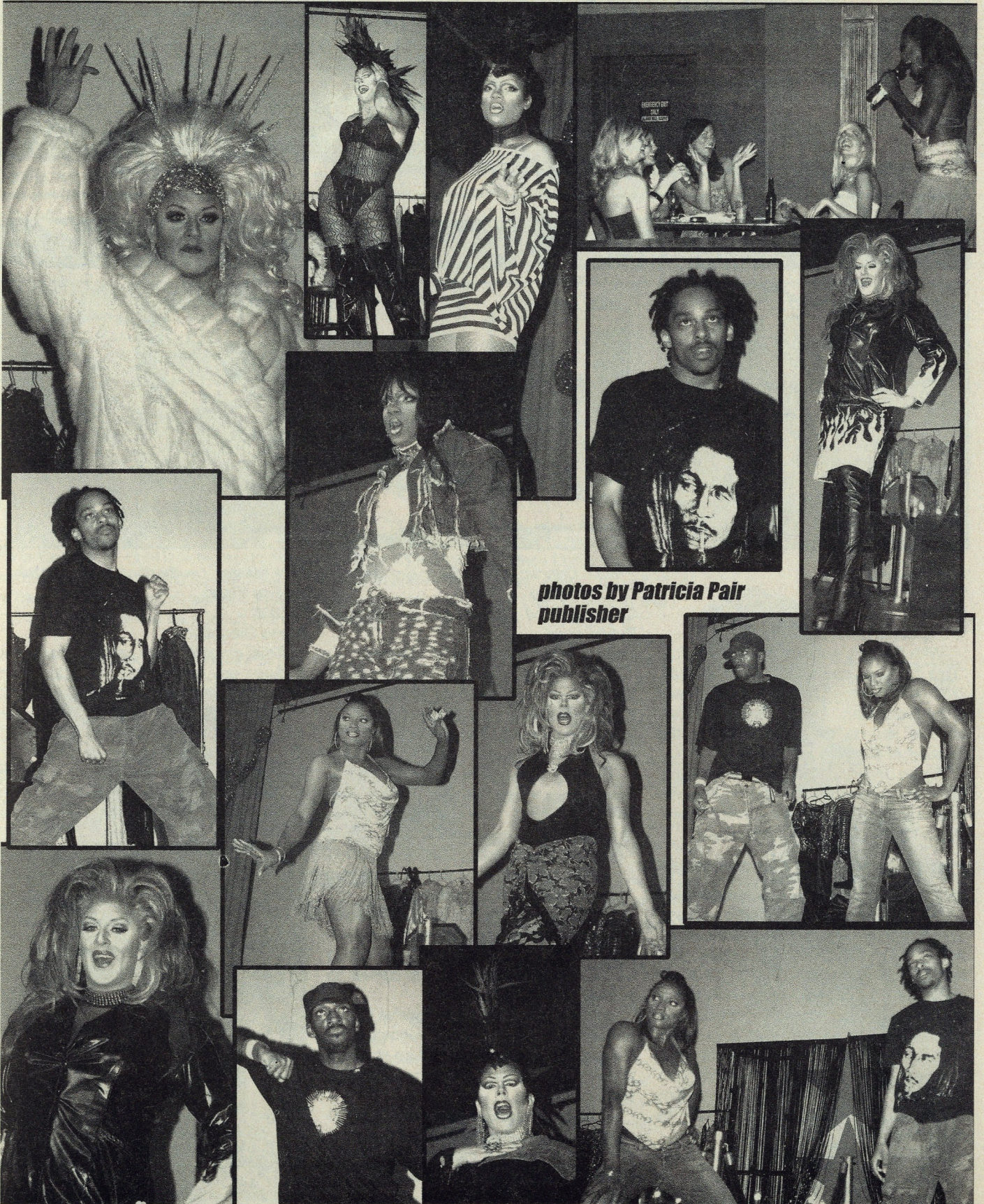
Paragon

MEMPHIS BLACK PRIDE

June 15 - 16, 2006

FLAVALIFE

Hey, Shawty!
Roll thru with ya crew &
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photos by Patricia Pair
publisher

The New Wave In Lesbian Fiction

Available This Month



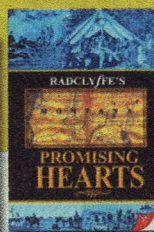
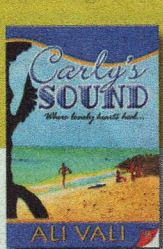
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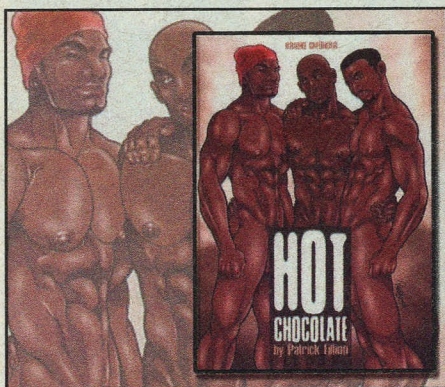
Writing Outside The Box

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LITERATURE

books by, for or about GLBT people



Hot Chocolate
By Patrick Fillion
© 2006
Bruno Gmunder

With the only words in the book being: "This book is dedicated to the Beauty, Dignity, Strength, Intelligence and Power of the Black Man," artist Patrick Fillion has left the rest to the imagination of the "reader" of this wonderful work of art.

These animated drawings are obviously of the world of fantasy and desire. They are delicious, just like a warm cup of hot chocolate, steaming and full of flavor. Enjoy!

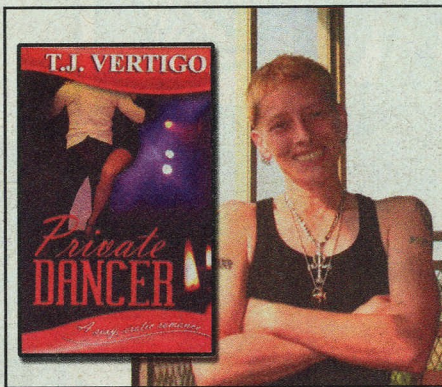
A Call for Submissions

There are a plethora of books addressing the 'social construction of masculinity.' About 90 books deal specifically with transgender identities. Out of all these books there are approximately only four of the 90, which specifically offer more than an obligatory glimpse of what is repeatedly understood as the 'illusive FTM of color.'

Editors are looking to rectify this omission of female-to-males of color by putting together an anthology specifically for the overlooked "T."

All submissions, commentary and visu-

See Submissions, page 54



Private Dancer: A Very Sexy Romance
by T.J. Vertigo
© 2006 and published by Intaglio Publications

reviewed by Patricia Pair, publisher

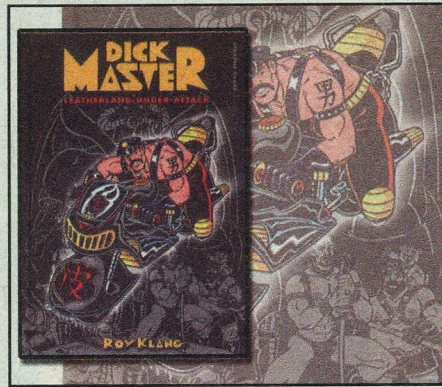
This proved to be an interesting read. Well-written and carefully planned out, the storyline takes the reader on a most fascinating journey into the world of topless dancers and their lesbian boss.

I'll admit that at first I wondered if T.J. Vertigo was a pen name of our featured author this month seeing as how the main character is a stand-off butch named Reece who just happens to own and run an adult nightclub. But, alas, Vertigo and Szymanski are not the same person.

In *Private Dancer*, Vertigo creates characters that are so real you'll find yourself practically screaming at them not to be so hard-headed when it comes to speaking their hearts.

It's been just recently that we've begun receiving books published by Intaglio and we're glad. Intaglio has an entire stable of lesbian authors we haven't read before, such as Vertigo.

I can honestly say that I can't wait to read something else by this author as she can twist and turn a plot with the best of them leaving the reader constantly wondering what will happen next.



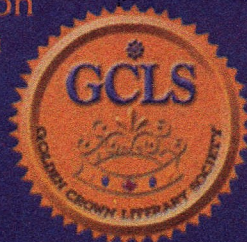
Dick Master: Leatherland Under Attack
By Roy Klang
© 2006
Bruno Gmunder

This graphic black and white comic features gay leatherman and super-hero Dick Master, riding about and defending the universe on his rocket cycle. The comic is held together well with a great storyline, including a funny creature from another planet who can morph into any shape, and we do mean any shape.

The graphics and story are for adults only.

In The Next Issue ...

Pictures from the
Gold Crown
Literary Society
Convention
in Atlanta



PLUS:
Goldie Award Winners

Meet lesbian author Therese Szymanski

by Patricia Pair, publisher

Sometimes life is stranger than fiction. Take, for example, the way in which I became acquainted with lesbian author Therese Szymanski, who prefers to be called Reese.

On more than one occasion in my literary reviews, I have noted that I didn't read any of Szymanski's installments to her Motor City Thriller series because I found them to be tough reads, thanks to the arrogant escapades of main character, Brett Higgins. And, I even let this carry over into the anthologies, too, in which Szymanski either edited or contributed. That is until I received a review copy of *A Perfect Valentine*, edited by Szymanski and Barbara Johnson.

In the review of *Valentine*, I noted that I not only gave Szymanski a "second chance," by reading her installment, "When The Lights Go Down," but found, much to my surprise, that it was indeed a great, well-written story.

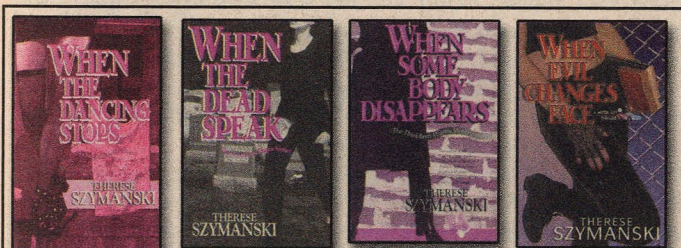
A month later a purple envelope showed up in our post office box addressed only to me. The card inside was from Szymanski and scrawled in pen were the words, "Thanks for giving me another chance. I greatly appreciated your review of *A Perfect Valentine*."

Since I'm only human, I believe I unknowingly assumed Szymanski and her character, Brett Higgins, had a lot in common, namely the arrogance factor, which I must admit caused a disliking for Higgins, and therefore, manifested itself into an undeserving dislike for the author.

Long story short: Szymanski and I talked a few times by telephone and not only did I find a warm, approachable, funny person in Szymanski, but I learned not to judge a book by it's author and never judge an author by her books. I also discovered that we have a lot in common, as well. The following interview with Szymanski came about as a result of the phone calls.

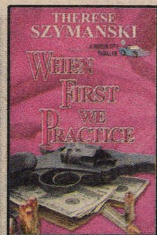
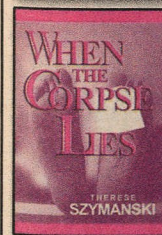
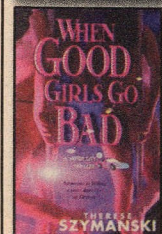
...

Family & Friends: Who is Reese Szymanski?



Therese Szymanski's Motor City Thriller series

1. *When The Dancing Stops*
2. *When The Dead Speak*
3. *When Some Body Disappears*
4. *When Evil Changes Face*
5. *When Good Girls Go Bad*
6. *When The Corpse Lies*
7. *When First We Practice*

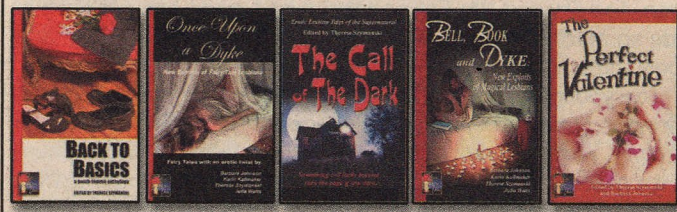


all books are available at Bellabooks.com

Therese Szymanski Anthologies

Back To Basics
Once Upon A Dyke
The Call of the Dark

Bell, Book and Dyke
The Perfect Valentine
Wild Nights (forthcoming)



Szymanski: "I'm just me. I do my thing, wherever that takes me.

Born and raised in suburbs of Detroit, Szymanski relocated to the Washington, D.C., area in 2000.

"I moved here (D.C.) Halloween 2000, but didn't move into my apartment until Jan. 4, 2001," she said.

Szymanski remembers wanting to be several things when she grew up, including an artist, a farmer ("because I loved animals") and a McDonalds employee ("because my sister worked at McDonalds.").

"I have always written," she recalled. "My family was the sort of family that always had books everywhere, like journals, which I scribbled in when I was a kid pretending to write.

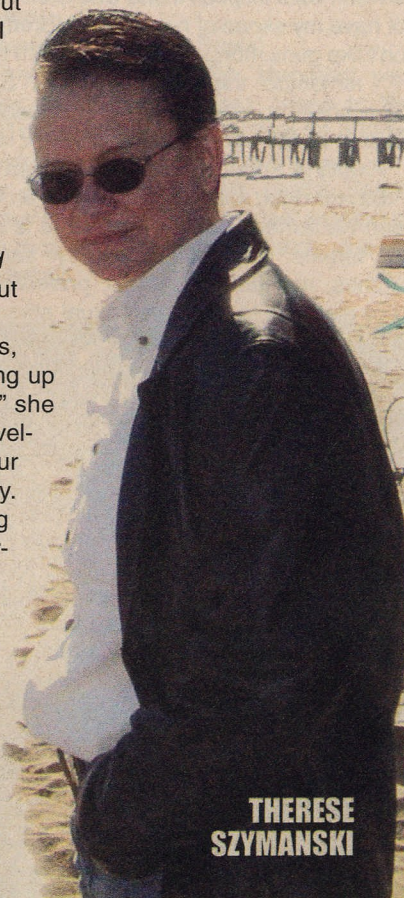
"As a freshman I rewrote *12 Angry Men* as *12 Annoyed People*," Szymanski continued. "I have always been a big reader. Once I hit college I realized

I was joking myself, but then I hit playwriting and I knew I had found 'it.'"

An award-winning playwright, Szymanski has written three full-length plays and four one-acts. Her first play, and her favorite, was a comedy entitled *And Divided We Fall*, about gays in the military.

"With writing plays, you've got people standing up clapping for you," she explained. "But, as a novelist, you don't know if your reader likes your story. Playwriting and writing books have totally different dynamics.

"One of my experiences as a writer occurred when I had just graduated from college," Szymanski continued. "I was in a grocery store and I noticed this dude stalking me in



THERESE SZYMANSKI

See Szymanski, page 54



Szymanski

from page 53

the dairy section. I'm noticing it and finally he walks up and says, 'You're that writer, aren't you?' He went on to tell me that he had seen *And Divided We Fall* and that it had made him not want to hide so much. It's really nice when your writing reaches out and does something good."

The youngest of five children, Szymanski was graduated from Michigan State University with a dual major in English and advertising. In junior and senior high school, she was the "class brain" and a national merit scholar (she admitted to once dating a woman simply because the woman beat her at Trivial Pursuit). And, while she loves history and can't stand the sound of her own voice, Szymanski did finally become a McDonalds employee, working as a weekend manager while in college. At the present time, she is the production manager at a newspaper in the D.C. area.

So, is Szymanski Brett Higgins?

"When I got out of college I was doing a lot of odd jobs," she explained. "I figured I had to do something, even if that something was managing an adult theater and a GLBT book and gift store."

For those who are familiar with Szymanski's Motor City Thriller series, which is published by Bella Books, this should sound familiar as protagonist Higgins owns an adult theater and a GLBT book and gift store.

"Brett is based on me, but I couldn't write her until I found a great divide between Brett and me," she said. "You want to find the story. It is becoming harder and harder to write Brett as time comes between what inspired it and who Brett is and who I am. Brett does not have my sense of humor. She (Brett) is kinda gun happy and I don't like guns. (long pause) She might be a part of me."

"I remember this online interview," Szymanski recalled. "She, the interviewer, was really trying to back me into a corner about whether or not I was really Brett, but it didn't work."

Family & Friends: What is your idea of the perfect woman?

Szymanski: I don't really have an ideal. I don't know if it's been published ... one of my exes is so butch she makes me look femme. I try not to make the same mistakes twice. I like femmes, women with brains, preferably college-educated, but there also has to be some sexual attraction."

Family & Friends: What is your goal?

Szymanski: My goal is to just be happy in the now.

Family & Friends: Where do you see yourself in five to 10 years?

Szymanski: I've never been good with the five- to 10-year mark. When I was 12 I wanted to be an engineer. At 17 I decided I couldn't stand calculus. I plan to keep on with Brett, but not every year so it (the series) doesn't fall apart. It would be nice to own a home at some point because right now I have a weight bench in my living room.

I want to find a job that really works for me. And, I hope to die early. My dad's side of the family dies early with their minds intact.

Family & Friends: Any tattoos?

Szymanski: No. I can't commit to a woman, how can I commit to a tattoo?

Family & Friends: Favorite movie?

Szymanski: I don't have one. There is just too much good stuff out there.

Family & Friends: What kind of car do you drive?

Szymanski: A Nissan Altima.

Family & Friends: Favorite color?

Szymanski: Black or blue.

Family & Friends: Favorite drink?

Szymanski: Miller Lite or Diet Pepsi.

Family & Friends: Favorite food?

Szymanski: Don't really have one, but I have said that one of the things I miss the most about Detroit is Almond Boneless Chicken.

Family & Friends: Favorite place on earth?

Szymanski: I've enjoyed my backpacking ... standing on top of a mountain.

Anyone who has read the "About the Author" section of any of Szymanski's books already knows she is an avid fan of "Buffy: The Vampire Slayer" and that she collects Zippo lighters and swords. But, she also collects teddy bears (now there's something we'd never see Brett Higgins doing!).

When asked about her hobbies, like she actually has time for hobbies of any kind, Szymanski said, "Working out, writing, all forms of skiing, dancing as long as it's not country, backpacking, collecting things and cooking. I can make a mean chicken Kiev. I once introduced one femme to breakfast burritos."

Family & Friends: Any reoccurring dream or dreams?

Szymanski: There was this one where my father was out to get me. When he stopped chasing me with malicious intent I realized things were going to be okay. And, I had this same dream for three years in a row, always around Dec. 20. That was weird.

I will tell you my weirdest ghost story. My dad died in 1990, Memorial Day. There was a lot of familial things going on and I had just come out, but my mom talked me into moving back home briefly.

One night I had just got home from a security gig at 5 a.m. I had half a beer and was lying in my bed in the basement facing the wall. I heard this strange breathing, my dad was asthmatic, and then I heard the tread; heard him walking down the stairs. The sound was coming closer and my door was slightly ajar. Then there was this sound, like he opened the door with his shoulder. I turned over and said, 'What do you want?' and it all disappeared.

In addition to being a Lambda Literary Award finalist for the Motor City Thriller series, Szymanski is presently a Golden Crown Literary Society Literary Award finalist in the category of Sci-Fi/Fantasy/Speculative/Horror for two anthologies, *Bell, Book & Dyke: New Exploits of Magical Lesbians*, which was co-written with Barbara Johnson, Karin Kallmaker and Julia Watts; and for *Call of The Dark*, which she edited. The GCLS Literary Awards will be announced at a special ceremony during the annual GCLS convention, held this year in Atlanta in early June.

Oh yeah, I almost forgot ... I have read almost all the installments in Szymanski's Motor City Thriller series. If you enjoy a good who-done-it with steamy lesbian sex scenes, you'll want to read them, too, because once you really get to know Brett Higgins, she's a really likeable character.

Submissions

from page 52

al history will be fully considered. The deadline for submissions is July 1. For more information or to make submissions, email Spokes@homofactuspress.com. Entries should be sent as .tiff, .jpeg, word or .txt attachments.



18th annual Lammy award winners announced



Recent *Family & Friends Magazine* interview Radclyffe won two awards at the 18th Lambda Literary Foundation awards late last month. Radclyffe's two Lammys were for *Stolen Moments: Erotic Interludes 2* in the Erotica category, which she co-edited with Stacia Seaman, and *Distant Shores, Silent Thunder* in the category of Romance. Congratulations to all the winners, which are as follows:

Anthology

Freedom In This Village: 25 Years of Black, Gay Men's Writing, edited by E. Lynn Harris (Carroll & Graf)

Belles Lettres

The Tricky Part by Martin Moran (Beacon Press)

Biography

February House by Sherill Tippins (Houghton Press)

Children's/Young Adult

Swimming in the Monsoon Sea by Shyam Selvadurai (Tundra Books)

Erotica

Stolen Moments: Erotic Interludes 2 edited by Stacia Seaman and Radclyffe (Bold Strokes Books)

Gay Men's Debut Fiction

You Are Not the One by Vestal McIntyre (Carroll & Graf)

Gay Men's Fiction

The Sluts by Dennis Cooper (Carroll & Graf)

Gay Men's Mystery

One of These Things in Not Like The Other by D. Travers Scott (Suspect Thoughts)

Gay Men's Poetry

Crush by Richard Siken (Yale)

Humor

Don't Get too Comfortable by David Rakoff (Doubleday)

Lesbian Debut Fiction

The Beautifully Worthless by Ali Liebegott (Suspect Thoughts)

Lesbian Fiction

Babyji by Abha Dawesar (Anchor Books) -
Wild Dogs by Helen Humphreys (W.W. Norton)

Lesbian Mystery

Desert Blood: The Juarez Murders by Alicia Gaspar de Alba (Arte Publico)

Lesbian Poetry

Directed by Desire: Collected Poems by June Jordan (Copper Canyon)

LGBT Studies

When Heroes Love: The Ambiguity of Eros in the Stories of Gilgamesh and David by Susan Ackermen (Columbia University Press)

Nonfiction

Words To Our Now by Thomas Glave (Minnesota)

Romance

Distant Shores, Silent Thunder by Radclyffe (Bold Strokes Books)

Sci-Fi/Fantasy/Horror

Daughters of an Emerald Dusk by Katherine V. Forrest (Alyson Books)

Spirituality

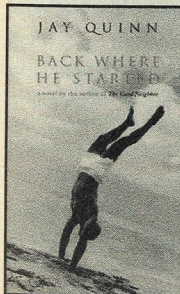
Qu(e)rying Evangelism by Cheri DiNovo (The Pilgrim Press)

Transgender/Gender-Queer

Choir Boy by Charlie Anders (Soft Skull Press)

In addition, Barbara Braden of Boxborough, Maryland, was the winner of a raffle for a two-person Olivia cruise to the Caribbean next January. The raffle raised more than \$4,000 for the Lambda Literary Awards.

Congressman Barney Frank received this year's Bridge Builder Award, and because of voting, during the last session of Congress, he was unable to attend. His legislative aide, Joseph Ralcato, accepted on his behalf.



Back Where He Started

Jay Quinn
Alyson Publications (2005)


Jay Quinn's novel, *Back Where He Started*, is about what happens when families dissolve once the kids are grown – a gay family, that is.

Breaking new ground, this "grown up" gay novel is the story of Chris Thayer. Thayer has spent most of his adult life as a house husband to Zack Ronan, and mother to Zack's children.

When Zack leaves Chris (for his female secretary) Thayer packs up the dog and moves to the beach community of Emerald Isle, N.C., where he discovers that starting life over at 48 is just as complicated, frustrating and thrilling as the first time around.

"Jay Quinn's story – simmering with passion and pain and told with wit and grace – shows us that there are indeed second acts in life and in love. A terrifically textured novel. (And three adults call the man their father jilted after 20 years 'Mom' – now that's a deliciously quirky queer family value!)" — Richard Labonte, "Book Marks," Q Syndicate.

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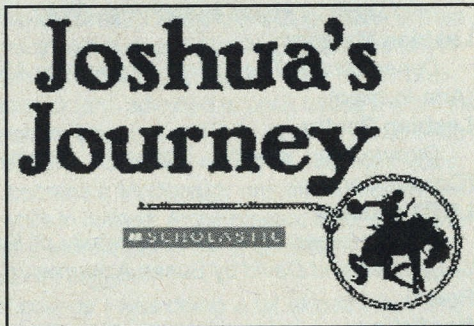


528-CASH

CMOM to host traveling black cowboy exhibit

"Joshua's Journey: A Black Cowboy Rides the Chisholm Trail," a traveling exhibition based on Scholastic's *The Journey of Joshua Loper: A Black Cowboy*, will be on exhibit at the Children's Museum of Memphis, 2525 Central Avenue, now through Sept. 24.

Focusing on a small slice of American history known as the trail drive era, the exhibit introduces guests to life on the Chisholm Trail through the eyes of 16-year-old Joshua Loper.

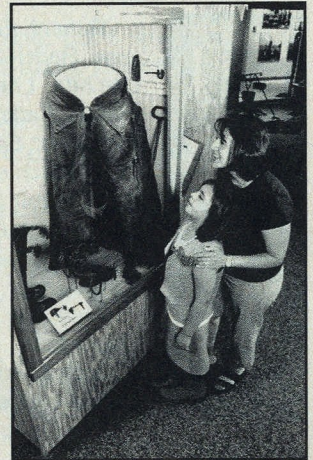


The 1,200-square-foot bilingual exhibit begins with Joshua leav-

ing his home in South Texas to help drive a herd of cattle up the Chisholm Trail. On the way, Joshua writes of his travels in his journal, thus providing a glimpse into the important but little-known role that black cowboys played during the late 19th century. The exhibit consists of interactive activities, artifacts and historical photographs.

Museum admission is \$7 for adults, and \$6 for seniors (62+) and children (1-12). The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.

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



Thanks to grant, seniors can see IMAX film for free

Thanks to a grant from the H.W. Durham Foundation, seniors can see the new IMAX film in the Crew Training International IMAX Theater at the Memphis Pink Palace Museum, 3050 Central Avenue, for FREE!

The film, *Magnificent Desolation: Walking on the Moon*, is an out-of-this-world experience, taking audiences to the lunar surface to walk alongside the 12 extraordinary astronauts who have been there and to experience what they saw, heard, felt, thought and did.

Presented and narrated by Tom Hanks, *Magnificent Desolation: Walking on the Moon* features rarely seen NASA footage, CGI imaging and live-action renditions of the lunar landscape to propel audiences nearly a quarter-million miles above the Earth's surface. These various elements, combined with crystal clear images and state-of-the-art digital surround sound, provide a completely immersive cine-

matic experience.

Seniors, age 55+, can obtain a FREE ticket by calling (901) 320-6362 to make a reservation; mention the free senior ticket courtesy of the H.W. Durham Foundation. The FREE ticket offer for seniors is valid through Nov. 10.

Otherwise, tickets are \$8 for adults and \$6.25 for children.

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

Senior Services has 20 job openings for paid trainees

Senior Services, located at 4700 Poplar, now has about 20 openings for paid-training positions for unemployed, low-income individuals age 55+ who are ready and eager to work, according to Anthony Culver, director of the Senior Community Service Employment Program.

"Qualified workers refresh their skills and retrain at local not-for-profit agencies then put their skills to work," Culver said. Senior Services pays them \$5.15 per hour to train for 20 hours per week while they look for unsubsidized work.

There is no fee for participants receiving this service. The program, which is funded by Maryland-based Senior Service America, Inc. and the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development, offers job training and placement assistance to older individuals who meet federal income guidelines.

"Our purpose is to be a temporary 'stepping stone' back into the workforce," Culver said. Eligible individuals must make \$12,250 or less per year and be a resident of Shelby or Fayette County.

For more information, call (901) 766-0600 and ask for Sylvia or Grace in the Career Center or email CaSondra.Amos@enablinglives.org.

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Vintage Pop and the Jazz Sides

Andrew Suvalsky

LML Music

reviewed by Anita Moyt, managing editor

Out recording artist Andrew Suvalsky released his debut CD, *Vintage Pop and the Jazz Sides* on the LML Music label in April.

Having been called "Superb" by *Applause! Applause!* and "Sexy and soulful" by *HX Magazine*, Suvalsky's musical style artfully meshes the line between the two musical worlds of jazz standards and classic pop. The CD's 13 songs explore love as experienced from all sides. Suvalsky has taken covers of standard classics but re-interpreted them with a modern, gay twist.

Hailing from Milwaukee, Wisc., Suvalsky began his musical career as part of The Jackie Allen Jazz Group in Chicago. Soon after, he joined The Old Town Jazz Finesse at the historic Fairmont Hotel and Chicago's Up & Coming Jazz Revue at the Magnum Supper Club. Upon moving to New York, he performed at such famous venues as Don't Tell Mama, Danny's Skylight Room and the West Village club, Bar D'O, both as a solo act and alongside The Wells Hanley Quartet and the David Easton Trio.

For more information or to purchase *Vintage Pop and the Jazz Sides*, go online to www.AndrewSuvalsky.com.

*Global Groove: DJ David Knapp*

DJ David Knapp

Centaur Entertainment

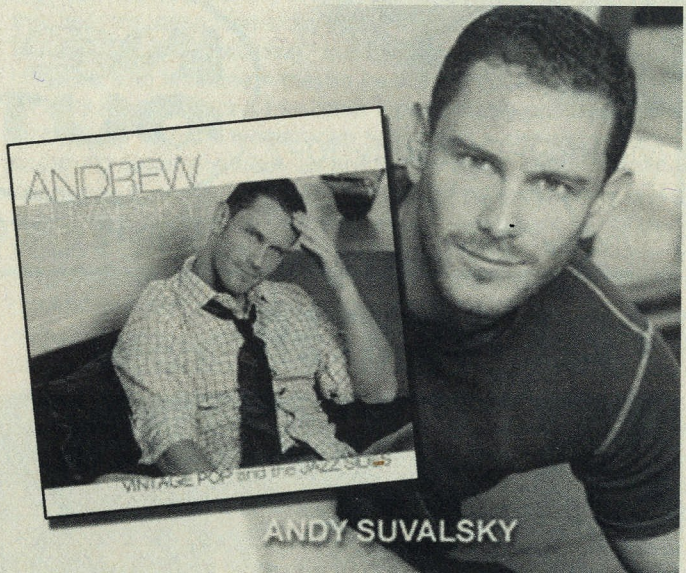
reviewed by Anita Moyt, managing editor

DJ David Knapp steps it up with *Global Groove: DJ David Knapp*, just released April 25. Knapp blends his signature beats and diva-driven vocals in his fourth mix for the Global Groove brands.

"David's upbeat mixes have certainly contributed to the success of the Global Groove brand since it was introduced in 2000," said Centaur Chief Operating Officer Jamie Baxter. "The planning and energy David has put into his latest Global Groove CD is indicative of his talent and desire to always be at his best."

In signature fashion, Knapp has incorporated familiar favorites, including No. 1 hits from international superstars Goldfrapp, Carl Cox and Kings of Tomorrow, as well as the latest No. 1 hit from state-side dance icon Kim English. Additionally, Knapp has uncovered several new gems from Ralphie Rosario, Offer Nissim, Dolce and new pop sensations Jason & deMarco.

Global Groove: DJ David Knapp is available in stores nationwide, including Tower Records, and online at www.centaurmusic.com. Copies also are for sale at Backstreet Memphis/The Coliseum.

*Coming Out Electric*

Atomic Swindlers

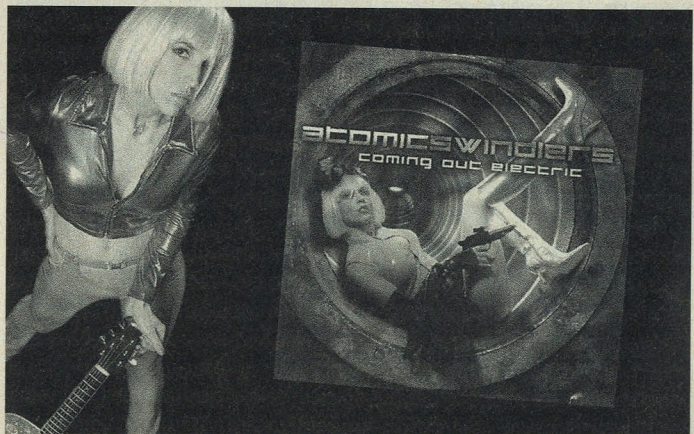
reviewed by Anita Moyt, managing editor

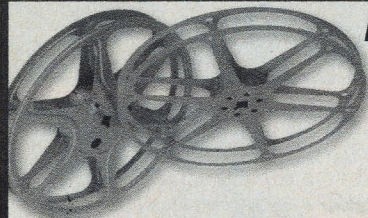
Don't you just love a story where the girl rescues the girl and rides off into the sunset?

The animated video for "Float (my electric stargirl)," available on the Atomic Swindler's debut enhanced CD, *Coming Out Electric*, as well as on its website at www.atomicswindlers.com, is well worth a looksey, girls. By the way, this animated video has been shown in five international film festivals and won at Hollywood's prestigious Hypefest Film Festival. "Float (my electric stargirl)"s music and words were written by Roy "lowly drummer" Stein; the Video by Joel Trussell.

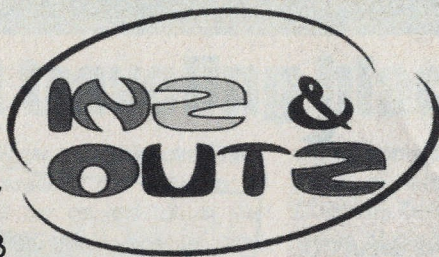
And I love the music just as well. Being a former Bowie fan, the music definitely rings a bell; the music is tight, on target, produced exceptionally well and brings back the days of the futuristic ballad. Although Bowie was androgenous for so many of his albums, lead singer April Laragy is definitely female. And it is her femaleness that she doesn't hide. In fact, *Curve Magazine* called Laragy "the new Gwen Stefani."

For more information and sound bytes, go online to www.cosmicwindlers.com. *Coming Out Electric* is available at Tower Records and online at amazon.com, CDBaby.com; songs also can be purchased for download from iTunes and Napster.





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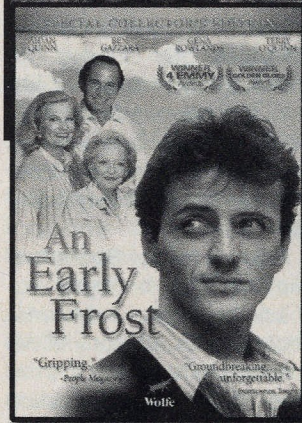
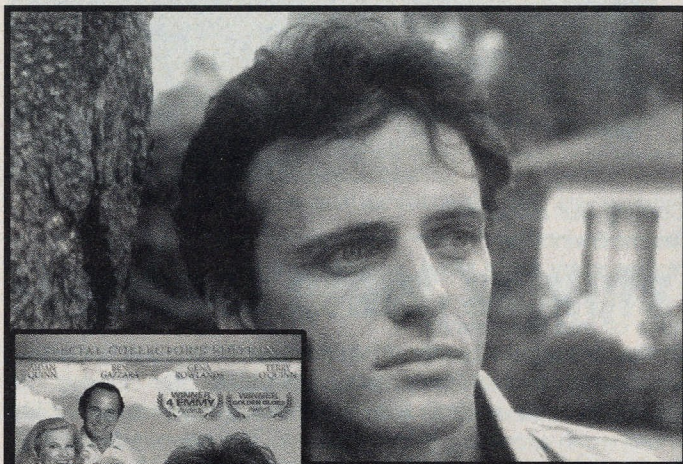
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REEL TWISTED film reviews



On July 18, one of the most powerful films of our time will be re-released on DVD, *An Early Frost*.

Originally a made-for-TV movie, *An Early Frost* first premiered on NBC on Nov. 11, 1985. It was the first major film – on television or in cinemas – to deal with the realities of the AIDS crisis. That night, *An Early Frost* was the top-rated program

(even beating out Monday Night Football in the ratings). The film quickly met with widespread acclaim, landing on several Top 10 lists, and winning four of the 14 Emmys it was nominated for.

In *An Early Frost*, it is 1985, and Michael Pierson (Aidan Quinn) is a successful, young lawyer in Chicago who has just been made a partner at his law firm. But he lives a double life, keeping his boyfriend a secret from both family and co-workers. Everything changes when he gets sick with pneumonia and is diagnosed with AIDS, forcing him to be open about the disease and his homosexuality for the first time. Back home with his family, they learn to adjust to the son they never knew, and realize that they love him just the same. Though the film is 21 years old, it holds up incredibly because it was created from the heart and its loving touch is more effective now than ever before.

The DVD edition will include a commentary track by Quinn and writers Ron Cowen and Dan Lipman, both of whom created Showtime's "Queer As Folk."

The film also stars Gena Rowlands, Bill Paxton and John Glover.
Run Time: 100 minutes.

Check with Inz & Outz for rental availability, or WolfeVideo.com for sale

Memphian Mark Jones set to premiere his new film June 29

Mark Jones will premiere his newest movie, *Fraternity Massacre At Hell Island*, on Thursday, June 29, at Studio on the Square at 7 and 9 p.m.

According to Jones, *Fraternity Massacre At Hell Island* is a fun B-horror movie. Jack Jones, a pledge at Zeta Alpha Rho, must battle both homophobia and a killer clown during Hell Night at the Haunted River Park Island. As Jack and the other pledges start their hell night on the island, the brothers of the fraternity come back to the island with the purpose of scaring the pledges. Unknown to the pledges and the brothers, someone is dressed as an evil clown, and one by one the fraternity members are being killed off.

Several people at Felix University have a grudge against Zeta Alpha Rho, but now someone is taking things a bit too far. As blood flows and the body count gets higher and higher, Jack must find his boyfriend and warn the others that they must escape Hell Island before the clown kills them all.

Fraternity Massacre At Hell Island stars a huge cast, including Tyler Farrell, Billie Worley, Kaleo Quenzer, Jonathan Lewis, Sandy Kozik, Anthony Flessas, Kevin Scroggs, Michael Gravois, Corie Ventura and Jim Eikner. It is written and directed by Mark Jones. Ryan Parker was in charge of filming and editing.

Tickets will go on sale on Wednesday, June 7, at Burke's Bookstore, located at 1719 Poplar Avenue.

...

In addition, Jone's *Eli Parker is Getting Married?* will air on WKNO Channel 10 on Saturday, June 10, at 10 p.m. This is a screwball comedy, set on a farm in Mississippi. The best man of the groom comes out to him while they are both naked and handcuffed together the day of the wedding.

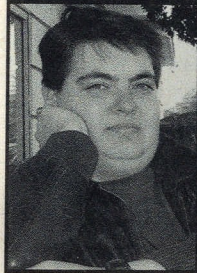
Screenplay contest wants scripts

The One In Ten Screenplay Contest, the world's largest gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender screenplay contest, is now accepting entries for its 2006 contest. Now in its eighth year, it has become Hollywood's No. 1 resource for alternative screenplays.

"With the enormous success of *Brokeback Mountain*, we have been swamped with requests from studios and producers to review winning screenplays," said Executive Director David Jensen.

See Contest, page 64

STRAIGHT UP, BUT NOT STRAIGHT!



by Katie Hiestand

What is gender? Is it the same thing as sex, as the two terms are often used interchangeably, or are they different? One of my research interests is gender theory, so these questions are important to the work that I do. While I think about them frequently, they are concepts that, I imagine, most people spend little time thinking about at all. In fact, there are a number of assumptions about gender and sex that many people hold, without even realizing that they are assumptions. Here are some of the most common ones:

Gender is a naturally occurring phenomenon with no room for personal experience and interpretation, and is described by the sex categories "male" and "female." This myth assumes the two terms are basically analogous, which they aren't. Sex is a biological state defined by chromosomes, genitalia, reproductive organs and secondary sex characteristics. Most commonly, individuals are characterized as either male or female, depending on whether or not they have a penis or a vulva at birth. However, according to sex researcher Anne Fausto-Sterling, approximately one in 100 births results in an infant whose body differs from either standard male or standard female (exactly what constitutes 'standard' is pretty complex, and there is no agreement even among experts about what should be considered 'standard').

This means that even sex is not as simple as just one of two possibilities. I won't devote any more of this column to intersexuality, but plan to do a future column where I will focus on it in order to do it justice. For this discussion, it is enough to know that sex is primarily biological, and refers to male, female or intersexed.

Gender is not biological or naturally occurring. Instead, it is a social construct, which means that gender is defined by a cultural group depending on what is considered "normal" for that population. Masculine and feminine are terms that are frequently associated with gender. To understand why it is not biological, or fixed, consider the society in which we live.

Think about what masculine means to you, and what feminine means to you, as well. Chances are you can come up with some defining characteristics that differentiate the two groups fairly easily. Now look again at your lists, and think about the people you are around every day. Do all of the males have only the masculine characteristics, and all of the females only the feminine ones? What about yourself: are you either completely masculine or entirely feminine? More than likely you see overlap between the two groups in folks who have some masculine and some feminine qualities. Most people like to think that they are a macho man or a natural woman, but the reality is, most people aren't completely honest with themselves. Most people do, however, identify more strongly with one over the other, which is why gender categories are often useful, which leads me to the next myth.

Males (their sex) should be masculine, and females (again, their sex) should be feminine. This myth probably

comes from the fact that most males do identify as masculine and most females identify as feminine (remember: we are thinking about only our culture today). But those individuals for whom this isn't the case frequently experience pressure to "be more like a girl" or "be a real man." It is usually acceptable for a guy to be just a little feminine – maybe he likes to cook – but he'd better also like sports or some other typical manly pastime so that he isn't too "girly." A woman can hold down a career in finance, but she'd better not slack on any of her wifely duties. Whether we realize it or not, we expect certain behaviors from men and others from women, and we also expect individuals not to deviate too much from their socially-assigned roles.

Our society doesn't know what to do with masculine women or feminine men, other than to label them "gay," which somehow makes them acceptable (barely). However, when it comes to heterosexual women who also are masculine, or straight guys who happen to be more feminine, we are in a bit of a quandary, and I think we tend to just not want to deal with them. Here we are addressing gender expression (as opposed to gender identification) which are topics that I will tackle more in-depth in a future column. For now, it is enough to note that sex does not always equal gender.

Sex and gender are both fixed, unchangeable characteristics. This is not true for either one actually, but in different ways. Sex is perhaps harder to change, since it requires medical treatment (therapy, hormones and surgery), as well as legal interventions, such as legally changing one's sex. Gender is more fluid, and doesn't require all of the external effort to shift. Gender is an internal sense of what feels normal, or natural, or most right, to the individual. It can't be named by anyone other than the individual, because it should be based solely on personal experience.

A man can identify as feminine regardless of how he (or she if it is preferred) appears, just as a woman can identify as masculine in spite of how anyone else thinks she (or he) should identify. Some people do identify as the same gender throughout their life; for some they experience a shift from one to the other, and for some, well, they may shift back and forth, or never even accept one or the other as truly defining who they are. As much as we might like gender to be more exact, more fixed and easily identifiable, it isn't. This too, I will explore in a future column.

This has been a rather quick and dirty introduction to sex and gender, and one that I intend to build on over the next few columns. I encourage you to send me any questions or comments that you might have on the subject to FamilyMag@aol.com, and they will be included in future columns.

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ON THE SMALL SCREEN GLBT Television

'In The Life' features Rosie O'Donnell as host

Emmy-award winning talk show host and mother of four, Rosie O'Donnell, hosted May's episode of the monthly gay and lesbian newsmagazine on public television, "In The Life." (Editor's Note: Although "In The Life" is not available in the Memphis and Mid-South area, all programs are available for viewing online at www.inthelifetv.org.)

In this episode, entitled "Family Ties," O'Donnell explored the diverse and complex world of family within the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community.

"Kelly and I are constantly reminded, as we raise our two sons and two daughters, that the joys, challenges and frustrations of family life are universal," O'Donnell said of her own family experience.

May's episode of "In the Life" featured three powerful segments that couldn't be more different from one another, yet show how families, regardless of the sexual orientation of the parents or children, are more alike than they are different.

Child custody fights are commonplace but with two mothers now residing in separate states and fighting for custody of a minor child, this particular case holds significant political and social ramifications for the LGBT community. "A Civil War" follows the legal case of two women (one, a former lesbian and the child's biological parent, the other, the child's non-biological par-



ent), through the turmoil that is caused when parents battle over custody of a child across state lines.

"It never entered my mind that I wouldn't be considered a parent to my daughter," said Janet Miller-Jenkins, the child's non-biological parent. "Lisa and I left the state of Virginia because of all the prejudice ... now Lisa has fled back to use those prejudices to sever my parental rights."

Also in May, revered singer/songwriter Toshi Reagon allows for a rare glimpse into her life in "Passing it On." Reagon opens up about the adoption of her brothers' daughter and shares how the bond of family extends far beyond that of blood relatives.

"(It) is really important to continuously pass down to other generations what you know," Reagon said. "My Mom (legendary Bernice Johnson-Reagon of Sweet Honey from the Rock) passed that down to me."

Finally, in a continuing effort to highlight excellent documentary filmmaking, "In the Life" examines the film *Paternal Instincts* in this month's "Real to Reel" segment. Filmmaker Murray Nossel documents the story of one gay couple's journey to create a family with the help of a surrogate mother. Nossel shares the seven-year process behind the creation of his film.

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

WKNO to air GLBT-related films, shows during June

Among them will be Mark Jones's film *Eli Parker Is Getting Married?*

WKNO-TV Channel 10 will air several films/shows during the month of June of interest to *Family & Friends* magazine's readers. They are:

- **Friday, June 2, at 9 p.m.,** *Ending AIDS: The Search for a Vaccine* – the riveting story of the people and organizations leading the global hunt for the cure for AIDS.

- **Tuesday, June 6, at 9 p.m.** and on **Wednesday, June 7, at 9 p.m.,** "Independent Lens: Pink Scare" – the little known 1960 felony conviction of three homosexual Smith College professors marked the peak of sexual McCarthyism, pitting an individual's

privacy against national security claims.

- **Saturday, June 10, at 10 p.m.,** *Eli Parker is Getting Married?* by Memphis's own Mark Jones – this local film stars many area actors and actresses and features a touching comedy about a groom on his wedding day coming to terms with the fact this his best man is gay.

- **Sunday, June 11, at 9 p.m.** and **Monday, June 12, at 9 p.m.** *The Power of Harmony* – explores the personal experiences of gay men who find inspiration and courage in a gay men's chorale that thrives in the middle of the Bible Belt.



Sundance Channel celebrates Pride with films

The Sundance Channel again celebrates Gay pride with a month of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender themed programming in June. GLBT-themed documentaries will air every Monday night at 8 p.m., and two GLBT films will air every Saturday night. In addition, an encore presentation of the Sundance Channel original series, "TransGeneration," winner of the 2006 GLAAD Media Award for Outstanding Documentary, will air on Friday nights.

All four documentaries are U.S. television premieres; dates indicate the first showing:

Monday, June 5, at 8 p.m., *Venus Boyz*, directed by Gabriel Baur. Baur's award-winning documentary journeys inside the drag king community, profiling a disparate group of Americans and Europeans who are captured in performance at a celebrated New York drag king cabaret.

Monday, June 12, at 8 p.m., *Keep Not Silent*, examines three Orthodox Israeli lesbians, members of a secret support group called "Ortho-Dykes." While director Ilil Alexander provides anonymity to two of her subjects – both wives and mothers of several children apiece – the film boldly explores the everyday realities of their lives, revealing women who have searched long and hard to strike a balance between the faith they love and the



identity they cannot change.

Monday, June 19, at 8 p.m., *The Lady in Question is Charles Busch*. This is a loving, lavishly illustrated look at the life and times of Charles Busch, the award-winning author and star of such plays as *Times Square Angel*, *The Lady in Question* and *Red Scare on Sunset*, as well as the films *Die, Mommie Die!* and *Psycho Beach Party*. Evoking Busch's movie-loving spirit, the filmmakers tell the story of how a stage-struck boy from suburban New York carved his own singular place in show business by creating gender-bending comic melodramas that combine classic Hollywood movies, diva glamour and affectionate camp.

Monday, June 26, at 8 p.m., *Follow My Voice: With the Music of Hedwig*. Directed by Katherine Linton, this documentary is a rousing look at the making of – and the reason behind – the tribute album *Wig in a Box*, featuring covers of composer/lyricist Steven Trask's songs for John Cameron Mitchell's glam-rock musical *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*. As it chronicles the year-long creation of *Wig in a Box*, *Follow My Voice* weaves in the stories of four bright, courageous Harvey Milk High School (New York City) students whose struggles and aspirations are echoed in the album's songs. *Follow My Voice* includes performances by Yoko Ono and Yo La Tengo, Rufus Wainwright, Jonathan Richman and The Breeders, among others.

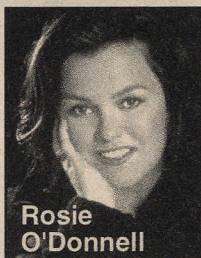
The Saturday Night Out double features include:

- June 3, 9 p.m., *Mysterious Skin*
- June 3, 10:45 p.m., *The Living End*
- June 10, 9 p.m., *Tarnation*
- June 10, 10:35 p.m., *Margaret Cho's Revolution*
- June 17, 9 p.m., *Nowhere*
- June 17, 10:30 p.m., *A.K.A.*
- June 24, 9 p.m., *When Night is Falling*
- June 24, 10:35 p.m., *Caravaggio*

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

GLAAD reportedly pleased with Rosie's return to TV

The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD), the nation's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) media advocacy group, is pleased with the report that Rosie O'Donnell is returning to daytime television this fall as co-host of ABC's "The View," filling the slot opened by the departure of Meredith Vieira.



"Rosie's unique blend of wit, wisdom and passionate family advocacy will be a perfect addition to 'The View,'" said GLAAD President Neil G. Giuliano. "We're thrilled to have Rosie back on daytime television and excited that she'll be able to bring stories about her life and family to millions across America."

As host of the syndicated "The Rosie O'Donnell Show," O'Donnell won six Daytime Emmy Awards as best talk-show host during the show's 1996-2002 run. She left the grind of daily television to raise four children with her partner, Kelli Carpenter O'Donnell. The couple operate the cruise line R. Family Vacations for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender families, which was featured in the recent HBO documentary *All Aboard! Rosie's Family Cruise*.

O'Donnell also made news earlier this month when she announced she would executive-produce "The Big Gay Show," a sketch comedy series to premiere in 2007, on LOGO, the LGBT-themed cable channel from MTV Networks.

"The View" was awarded a GLAAD Media Award in 1999, for Outstanding Television Talk Show. In 2003, O'Donnell was honored with GLAAD's Vito Russo Award, recognizing her outstanding contributions to the fight against homophobia.

WKNO hosts open house to note 50th anniversary at studio June 25

WKNO-TV proudly celebrates 50 years on the air with an Anniversary Open House Event on Sunday, June 25, from 1 to 6 p.m. at the WKNO studios located on the south campus of The University of Memphis, at Park and Getwell.

The event is free and open to the public and will feature Allen Hamilton (Mr. Be of the 1960s WKNO show "All Aboard with Mr. Be"); Rosanna Quinn Kendall (host of the late 1960s music education show "Playground"); Earl Fuller (Professor Shylock Bones from the 1970s science education show "Scientific Investigation"), and Mr. Chuck.

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MALE & FEMALE EXOTIC DANCERS
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When: Friday, June 15
Allusions Entertainment Complex
SHOWTIME 11 pm

Friday "Topaz Afternoon"

The 11th Year Meet & Greet Gala
When: Friday, June 16
Where: Days Inn Hotel
2979 Millbranch in Memphis
Time: 6 pm to 9 pm
COCKTAIL HOUR • OPEN BAR

Friday "Sapphire Night"

LADIES (MAIN STAGE) • MEN (TBA)
When: Friday, June 16
Where: Allusions Entertainment Complex
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OoZhee, Ozone Entertainment, K-Rock
Productions & more ... DJ Randy, DJ 008
of Dallas • SHOWTIME 12:30
SPECIAL GUEST MC, OTIS MACK

Saturday "Torquise Evening"

MEMPHIS BLACK PRIDE POOL PARTY
When: Saturday, June 16
Where: Days Inn Hotel, 2979 Millbranch
Time: 4 pm to 9 pm

Saturday "Diamond Night"

THE JEWELLED SUPER SHOW
When: Saturday, June 17th
Where: Allusions Entertainment Complex
SPECIAL GUEST ENTERTAINMENT
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and Oohzee with Otis Mack, DJ Randy & DJ 008
SHOWTIME 11 pm

Sunday "Emerald Afternoon"

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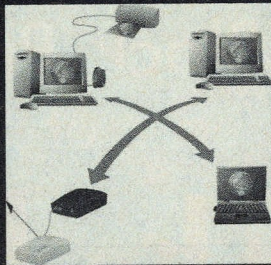
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FUTURISTIC FAG



by Charlie Green



Now I know my A,B,Gs

Ok. So what's up with all these letters?

If you have been looking into adding a wireless computer network, you have probably seen that there are lots of choices in wireless networking equipment. So what's the deal? Isn't wireless just wireless? Well, just like everything else electronic, it is, of course, never that simple. As usual, it's also pretty important to know the differences.

So why isn't there just one kind? Well actually the variety you see out there is based on the same 802.11 Standard. However, as technology has improved they have continued to improve upon the Standard and that's how we get the different versions of

it: 802.11b, 802.11g, 802.11a and pretty soon 802.11n.

802.11g

This version allows for up to 54 Mbps (the speed information is transferred) with a long range (up to 150 feet) and is the most popular variety today. It uses the 2.4 ghz frequency and is susceptible to interference from cordless phones and microwaves. It also is backward compatible with the previous Standard 802.11b.

802.11b

This was the previous Standard and is still available at many hot spots around the world. It, however, is much slower than 802.11g; it offers 11 Mbps with the same 150 foot range as 802.11g. It also will work with most 802.11g sites; however, it will never offer the same fast speeds of g.

802.11a

This version works at the same speeds as 802.11g, however it works on the 5GHz frequency band and is much less susceptible to interference around the house (so the actual speed you experience should be greater than g). It will operate at distances up to 100 feet. The bad news is that this is fairly expensive compared to 802.11g and it also is not compatible with 802.11b or 802.11g.

802.11n

This is the next anticipated Standard variety. It will work on the same 2.4 ghz frequency as g and b, so it should be backward compatible. The big change here is that it will increase speeds by using more than one connection at the same time. It's kind of like the two-seated bicycle version, twice the information can move back and forth in the same time. Because this Standard has not yet been officially sanctioned, different manufacturers are free to do their own thing. Most will offer an upgrade (if necessary) to their equipment once the Standard is ratified. You will see this on the store shelves with the names N, Pre-N, Mimo or RangeMax.

With all these choices the best bet for many people today is 802.11g, as it offers good speed and fairly reliable distances. Remember, when talking about speed and distances promised on the boxes, they are testing in an open field in the middle of nowhere. When you get this in your house, full of walls and electricity, the speed and distances seen in real life are usually a lot less than advertised.

So now that you know the differences between the Standards, what do you need to get your own wireless network setup? Of course that depends. Most people with a high speed internet connection will get wireless to share that connection throughout the house. For that you will need a Wireless Router and a Wireless Adapter for each computer that needs to connect wirelessly. You can buy these separately or in a kit. Wireless adapters are available to install in desktop systems, notebook systems or via USB to work with either type of system.

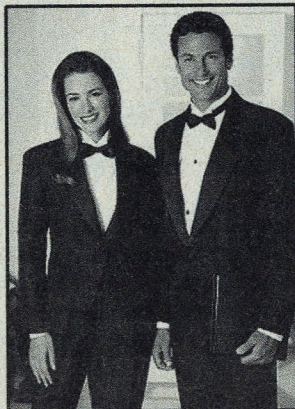
If you have bought a laptop in the past couple of years, it probably came with wireless built in. If that's the case you should be able to connect to Hot Spots around the world. Or your own home, if you don't get out that much.

A brief word on Hot Spots. These are places where you can connect to the internet wirelessly. Several businesses offer them, including Starbucks and Borders Books; most hotel companies offer them in their lobbies and rooms. While you can certainly find free Hot Spots, many of them are not. Check out www.jiwire.com for a good Hot Spot Directory.

A few words of wisdom. If you set up your own wireless network, be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions on changing the security settings. It's pretty easy for folks to get on your network and do bad things if you leave the out-of-the-box defaults on these. If you aren't very comfortable with setting these things up, go for one of the more well-known brands because the documentation will be much more helpful or have it installed for you.

If you want to know more about wireless networking checkout www.cnet.com; for more information on industry Standards, check out www.ieee.org.

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Contest

from page 58

The One In Ten Screenplay Contest is open to all writers and offers cash awards and industry contacts to the winners. A requirement of the competition is that at least one of the primary characters in the screenplay be gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or questioning, and that gay and lesbian characters must be portrayed positively.

The first place winner will receive a \$1,000 cash prize and submission of the screenplay to a major film studio and literary agent; second place will receive \$500 cash prize and submission of the screenplay to a major film studio, and third place will receive a \$100 cash prize and screenplay software.

Deadline for entries is Sept. 1, 2006. Contest rules, information and entry forms are available online at www.screenplaycontests.com.

from page 50

hensive anti-bullying laws that specifically address bullying and harassment based on sexual orientation and only three of these laws mention gender identity. Nine other states have "generic" anti-bullying laws that do not specifically define "bullying" or enumerate categories of protected classes, such as sexual orientation or gender identity. The remaining 32 states have no laws at all.

The NSCS found that both states with "generic" anti-bullying laws and states with no law at all had equally high rates of verbal harassment. States with inclusive policies that specifically enumerate categories, including sexual orientation and gender identity, however, have significantly lower rates of verbal harassment (31.6 percent versus 40.8 percent).

"These reports from LGBT students echo recent reports from the larger population of students in the United States," said Joseph Kosciw, Ph.D., research director for GLSEN. "In a recent national study conducted by GLSEN and Harris Interactive, 62.5 percent of secondary school students reported that other students were called names or harassed at their school on the basis of their actual or perceived sexual orientation, which was very similar to the 64.1 percent of LGBT students in the NSCS who reported experiencing such harassment."

The NSCS was released in coordination with GLSEN's 10th National Day of Silence where nearly 500,000 students from 4,000 secondary schools and colleges took part in activities to address the serious problems of anti-LGBT bullying and harassment, while advocating for solutions – like inclusive policies, GSAs and educator trainings – to ensure safe schools for all students.

GLSEN's NSCS has been conducted biennially since 1999.

Women in Harmony festival slated

The fifth annual Women in Harmony is set for Thursday to Sunday, June 22 to 25, at The Mountain, southwest of Asheville, N.C.

No matter what your level of playing or singing, this camp for women to make music is for you. There will be workshops in guitar, voice, songwriting, mandolin, drum and more. There also will be several song circles and an open mic.

Instructors at Women in Harmony include Jamie Anderson, Phyllis Free, Mary Hocks and Elaine Townsend. Anderson is a touring musician who's taught at Duke, art centers and festivals all over the country.

Percussionist Free has played with a host of musical ensembles. Her credits as a workshop presenter include the National Women's Music Festival, the University of Louisville School of Medicine and the National Music and Health Conference.

Web whiz Hocks is a college professor and a longtime singer-songwriter, while Townsend is an accomplished guitarist and songwriter who has performed in many venues, including the New Orleans Jazz Festival.

Cost is \$397 to register. The fee covers all programming, comfortable lodge housing and delicious food.

For more information, go online to www.jamieanderson.com/harmony.htm, or to register go online to mountaincenters.org/WomeninHarmony_RegForm.pdf or call The Mountain at (828) 526-5838.

This year's survey includes responses from 1,732 LGBT students between the ages of 13 and 20 from all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Data collection was conducted through community-based groups and service organizations, from April to July 2005, and online from April to August 2005.

The complete NSCS and additional information about methodology and demographics are available online at www.glsen.org or by calling GLSEN's communications department at (212) 727-0135.

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Rummage sale set at FFL

On Saturday, June 24, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friends For Life Corporation, located at 43 North Cleveland, will hold its first "Sell-A-Bration." The rummage sale will include items from more than 25 contributors with some larger items, such as furniture and artwork. A street carnival will have games and activities for children of all ages. Refreshments will be available for purchase. For more information or to make a donation for the "Sell-A-Bration," call Rachel at 272-0855, ext. 213, or go online to www.friendsforlifecorp.org.

Hike Overton Park June 10

Join the Sierra Club and Overton Park Friends on Saturday, June 10, at 10 a.m. for its "Old Forest Hike" in Overton Park. Explore the only urban old growth forest of its kind in America. Meet at the bridge next to the parking lot at the end of Old Forest Lane in the center of Overton Park. For more information, call Don Richardson at (901) 276-1387.

Power of sun to be discussed

On Wednesday, June 28, at 7 p.m., at the Memphis Public Library, Poplar-White Station Branch, 5094 Poplar Avenue, the Sierra Club will present a discussion on solar power. Randy Johnson, the director of solar engineering at Sharp Manufacturing in Memphis, will discuss the basics and practical uses of electrical energy from solar power. For more information, call Tom Lawrence at (901) 237-4819.

Concert set at Lindenwood

The Music at Lindenwood concert series presents its final concert of the season on Sunday, July 2, at 11 a.m., in the sanctuary of the church, located at 2400 Union Avenue at East Parkway. The Lindenwood Chancel Choir, Orchestra, The Gary Beard Chorale, organist-composer Chris Nemecek and conductor Gary Beard will present "Sing Out, America - A Patriotic Salute." The concert will include favorites, such as, "God Bless America," "America, The Beautiful," "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" and the Mid-South premiere of George William's arrangement of "Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor." This event is free to the public. For more information, call (901) 458-1652.

Enjoy brunch, jazz June 11

On Sundays, June 11, July 9, and Aug. 13, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., enjoy a "Lazy Sunday Jazz Brunch" at Cordelia's Table, 737 Harbor Bend Road in Harbor Town. Cost is \$16 per person and includes choice of one entree, a bountiful selection of homemade breads and pastries, coffee, juices and mimosas. Executive Chef Nancy Kistler will prepare a tempting table of entrees, including cold poached salmon with greens, crumpled bacon and bleu cheese; nouveau eggs benedict; roasted asparagus; quichelettes; breakfast burrito with green chili sauce and groovy grits cakes. Entertainment will be provided by the David Malone Trio. For more information, call (901) 526-4772 or email nkistler@misscordelias.com.

Orpheum to show classics in June

The Orpheum Summer Movie Festival will present the following movies during the month of June: *Rocky Horror Picture*

Show on Friday, June 9, at 8 p.m.; *Mary Poppins*, on Sunday, June 11, at 2 p.m.; *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* on Friday, June 16, at 7 p.m.; *This is Spinal Tap* on Saturday, June 17, at 8 p.m., and *The Birds* on Friday, June 23, at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for seniors (65+) and children 12 and younger, and \$6 for all others. Tickets are available at the Orpheum Box Office two hours prior to the start of each movie; cash only. For more information, call (901) 525-3000.

Workshop on gardens is slated

Join Floriculturist Greg Francis and Greenhouse Supervisor Angie Gastel on Wednesday, June 21, at 1:30 p.m., at The Dixon Gallery & Gardens, 4339 Park Avenue, as they demonstrate how to combine plants of varying colors, textures and forms to create lively and exciting containers for the summer garden. Following the demonstration, a tour led by Francis will showcase the tropical containers now on display in the gardens. The class is located in the Potting Hub and is included in regular admission, which is \$5 for adults; \$4 for seniors (60+), and free for children, as well as students with valid ID. For more information, call (901) 761-5250, ext. 113.

Japanese candlelight tour set

On Thursday, July 6, from 7:45 to 8:45 p.m., enjoy the tranquility of a summer evening while touring the Japanese Garden at the Memphis Botanic Garden, located at 750 Cherry Road in Audubon Park. For more information, call (901) 685-1566, ext. 110.

Wine, Roses is theme for tasting

Tuesdays on the Terrace Wine Tasting at Fratelli's in the Garden is set for Tuesday, June 27, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Memphis Botanic Garden, located at 750 Cherry Road in Audubon Park. "Wine & Roses" showcases a selection of rose wines with floral infused hors d'oeuvres. Tickets are \$30 each and reservations are recommended by calling (901) 685-1566, ext. 130.

Stonewall Tigers receive award for student organization of year

The University of Memphis's Stonewall Tigers, an on campus organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, questioning and straight allies, has been awarded the 2005-2006 University of Memphis Student Organization of the Year Award by the UofM.

"Let me just say how proud I am of this group!", Stonewall Tigers President Robin Yow wrote in an email to the group, announcing the award. "This award is a monumental and historical accomplishment for the GLBT community and the community at large. I want to thank each of (the members), whether you are consistently active in the organization or not. It takes EVERYONE OF US to make up an organization such as this one, and it is because of EVERYONE OF US, we are Organization of the Year!"

The Stonewall Tigers received the award on April 9 at a ceremony in the University Center Faulkner Lounge on campus at The UofM. The award now hangs at The Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center, 892 S. Cooper.

RAINBOW DIRECTORY

BARS/NIGHTCLUBS Memphis, Tennessee

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

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

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

MADISON FLAME, 1588 Madison Avenue, (901) 278-0569, 7 p.m.-3 a.m. Wed., Fri. & Sat./5 p.m.-? Thurs.

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

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

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

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

SESSIONS, 1278 Jefferson, (901) 276-1882, 4 p.m. to midnight, Mon.-Thurs., 3 p.m. to 3 a.m. Fri.-Sat., www.sessionsmemphis.com

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

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

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

BARS/NIGHTCLUBS Tupelo, Mississippi

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

BARS/NIGHTCLUBS Hot Springs, Arkansas

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

BARS/NIGHTCLUBS Little Rock, Arkansas

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

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

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

SOCIAL Memphis, Tennessee

ALPHA CHI UPSILON, a multi-cultural social sorority, email: alphachiupsilon@yahoo.com, website: www.alphachiupsilon.com.

BETA EPSILON CHAPTER OF BETA PHI OMEGA SORORITY INC., is a social service organization for feminine lesbian, bisexual and heterosexual women of all races, call Natasha at (901) 949-6889 or Samantha at (901) 596-5530, email: betaepsilonchapter@yahoo.com, website: www.betaphiomega.net

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

EXODUS EMPOWERMENT PROJECT, 2600 Poplar Ave. Suite 200, Memphis, TN 38112, (901) 458-4717. Mission: To prevent the acquisition and transmission of HIV among African-American men who have sex with men, ages 13-29, and to make safer sex a community norm.

H.O.M.E. (HOMOSEXUALS OF MEMPHIS EMBRACE), Latricia at (901) 212-1410, a political, social and charitable organization open to all GLBT and straight ally individuals. Meets the third Saturday of every month at the MGLCC at 5 p.m.; email: homeofmemphis@yahoo.com; website: www.geocities.com/homeofmemphis.

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, (662) 349-0056, www.mkofmu.org

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

THE STONEWALL TIGERS, The University of Memphis on-campus group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer and straight supporters, email: stonewalltigers@yahoo.com; website: www.people.memphis.edu/~bgla

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

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

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/glb

PFLAG-TUPELO, 115A Issac Drive, Tupelo, MS 38801, (662) 566-2282, email:

RAINBOW DIRECTORY

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

SOCIAL Missouri

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

WHOLENESS Memphis, Tennessee

FEAST FOR FRIENDS DINNER, (901) 272-0855, Dinner is served the 1st and 3rd Monday of every month at St. John's United Methodist Church, 1207 Peabody, beginning at 6 p.m. NO FFF DINNERS IN JANUARY.
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, 43 N. Cleveland, Memphis, TN, (901) 272-0855 • 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, Ovett, 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:



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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.yahoogroups.com/group/MidSouthGLR.
MEMPHIS STONEWALL DEMOCRATS, www.geocities.com/mpsstonewallem, (901) 327-2677, email: mpsstonewalldem@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@FrontrunnersMemphis.org, www.FrontrunnersMemphis.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

FRINEDS FOR LIFE, HIV/AIDS service organization devoted to helping those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS live well. Location: 43 N. Cleveland, Memphis, TN 38104. Phone: (901) 272-0855. Website: www.FriendsForLifeCorp.org

DOCTORS

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

OPTOMETRISTS

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

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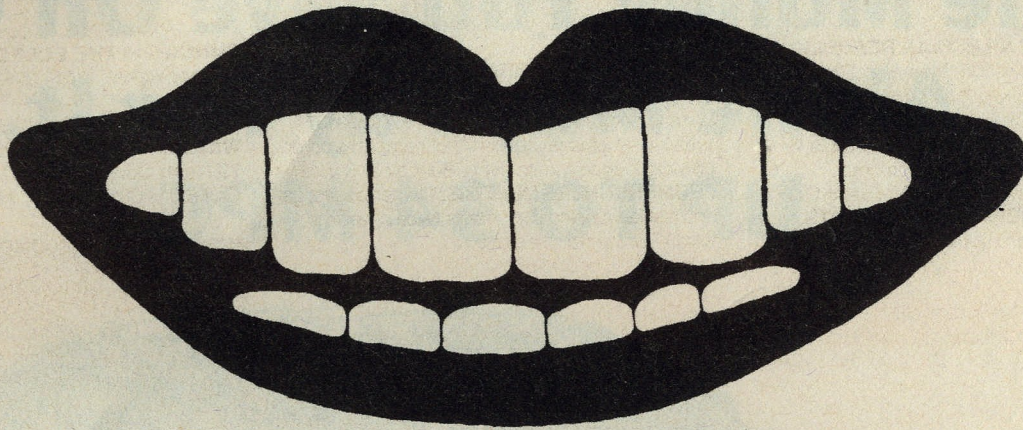
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