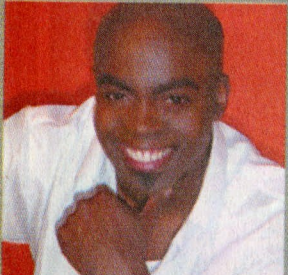


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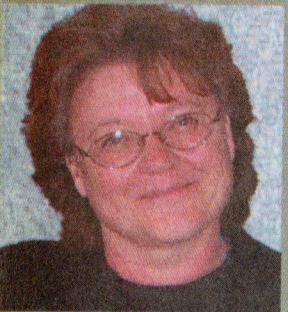
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INSIDE



MAURICE JAMAL



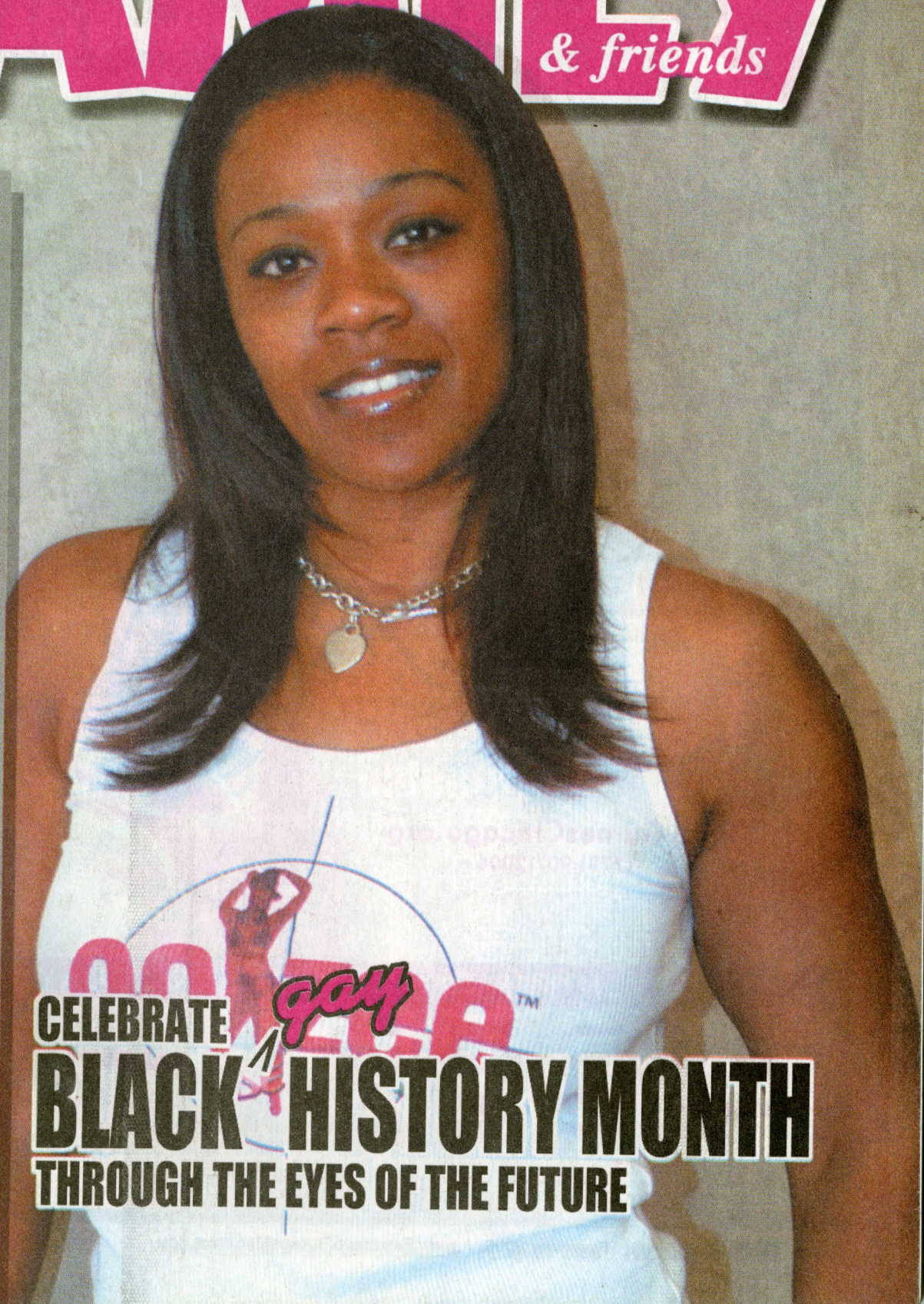
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BRIAN MOTT



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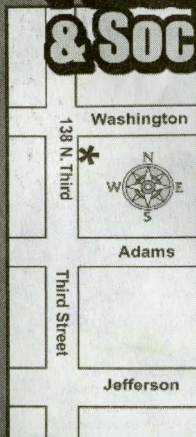
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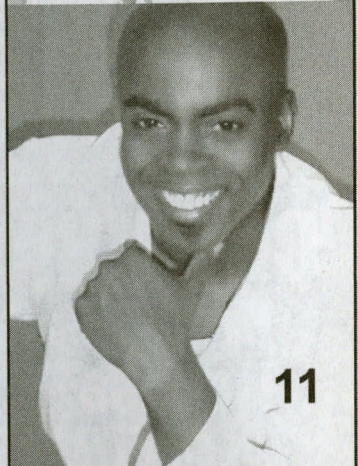
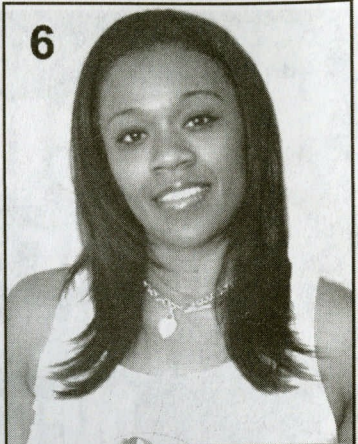
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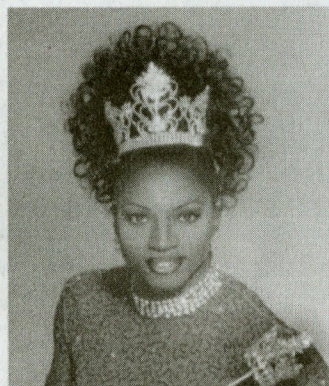
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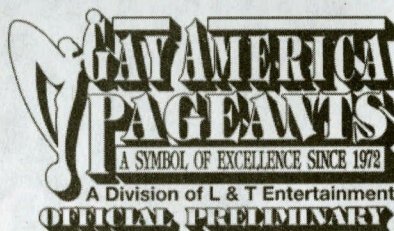
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Oohzee sizzles

by
Patricia
Pair
publisher

Almost any woman in the Memphis and Mid-South Black SGL (same-gender loving) community is sure to recognize our cover girl this month, if not by her name and/or her face, then certainly by her, umm, body.

The Washington, D.C., native goes by the stage name Oohzee, but not because of all the sensuality she oozes forth.

"I got the name Oohzee when I used to dance for MC Hammer's group Oaktown 357," she explains on her website. "When we chose dance names for our solos, we had to choose names of guns and I chose Uzi. When I started exotic dancing, I changed the spelling to make it more exotic."

Describing herself as "too wild, spontaneous," Oohzee first started performing for the money, needing to pay her school loan. Memphis audiences got their first taste of the sexy woman when she was booked to perform at The Paragon.

"J.C. (Carter, owner of Paragon) booked me," she recalled. "I believe Skyy (Kourvoisier) had a lot to do with that. Terry (Buckner, owner of Club Allusions) and I talked

about bookings but the timing wasn't working out at first. We have it together now though."

When she's not performing, this mocha-skinned beauty works as a community support specialist in D.C., which she describes as "very similar to social work and crisis intervention." Her hobbies include cooking for loved ones, reading, music and trying new restaurants and cuisines.

In celebration of Black (Gay) History Month, we asked Oohzee about herself, the SGL community and the future.

"Growing up, I don't remember viewing anyone as heroic," she said. "Times weren't so good then and my view of the world was a little pessimistic.

"I feel people should be able to celebrate their love however they see fit," she replied when asked about her views on same-sex marriage.

"The people in the community," Oohzee answered when asked what she feels is the greatest plight facing the Black SGL community today. "We tend to get caught up on mediocracy when there are bigger battles facing us."

As someone we feel has and will have an impact on black gay history, we asked Oohzee about what she's contributed to the community so far.

"I have partook, performed, organized and donated to many fundraisers in the SGL community," she said. "Aside from that, I hope my eclectic show has in some way, shape or form entertained them for a moment in time, thus taking their minds off of whatever may have been stressful."

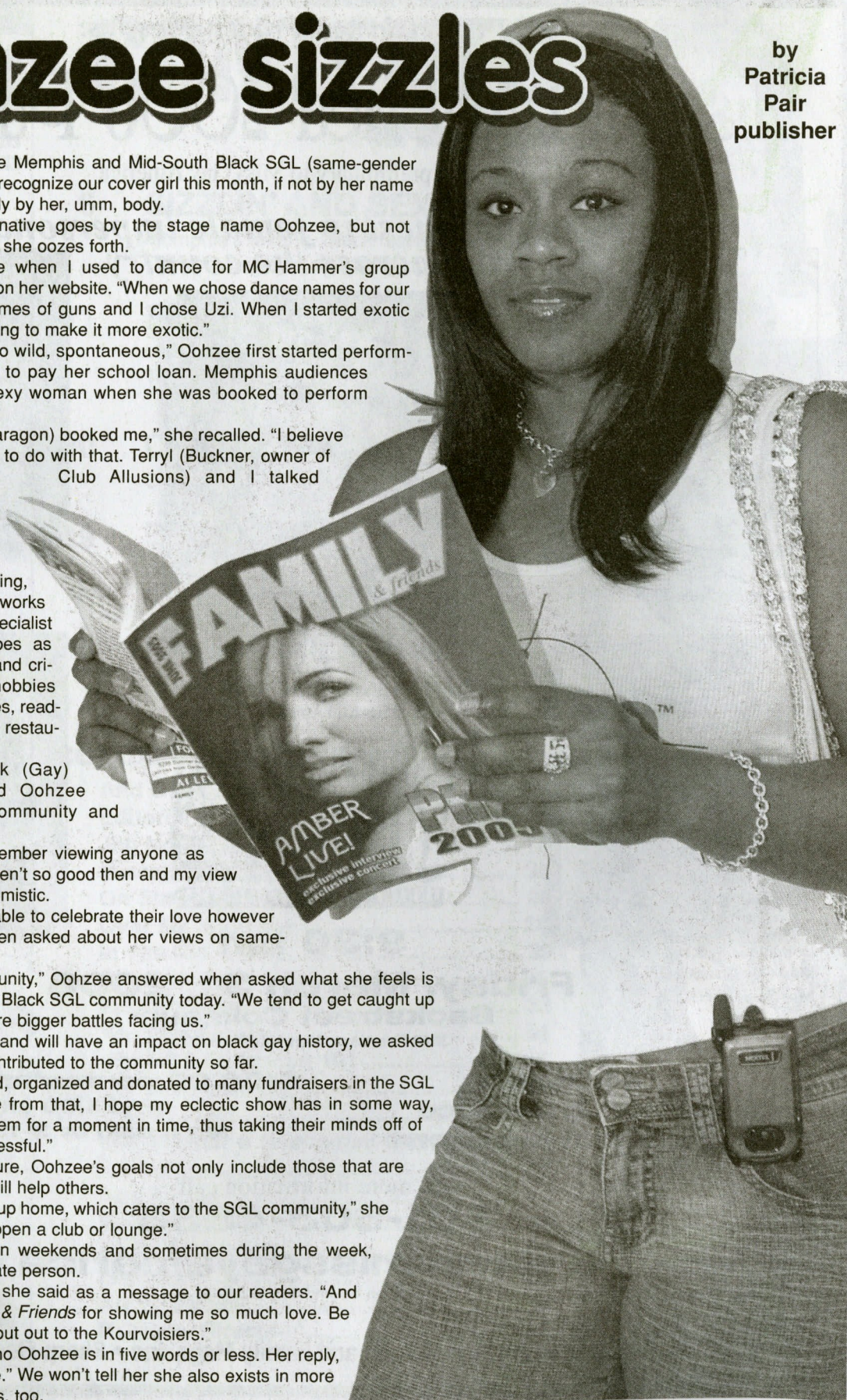
Looking ahead to the future, Oohzee's goals not only include those that are personal, but also one that will help others.

"I would like to open a group home, which caters to the SGL community," she told us. "I also would like to open a club or lounge."

Although she performs on weekends and sometimes during the week, Oohzee is an extremely private person.

"Thanks for the support," she said as a message to our readers. "And thank you guys from *Family & Friends* for showing me so much love. Be blessed. I love Memphis. Shout out to the Kourvoisiers."

We asked her to tell us who Oohzee is in five words or less. Her reply, "Oohzee exists only on stage." We won't tell her she also exists in more than a few women's fantasies, too.



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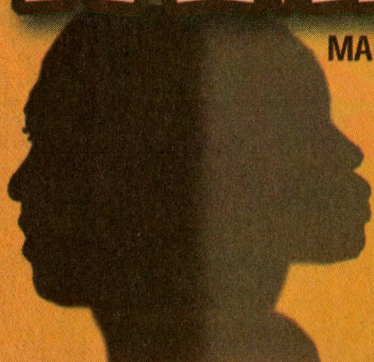
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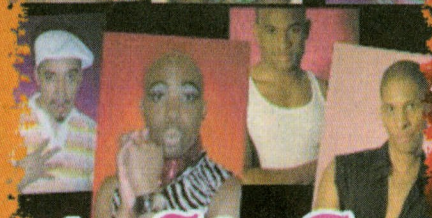
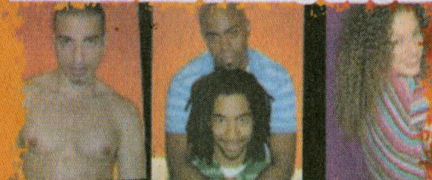
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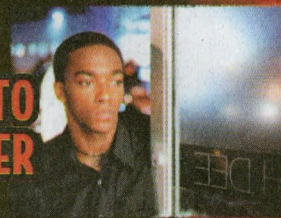


BLACK AURA
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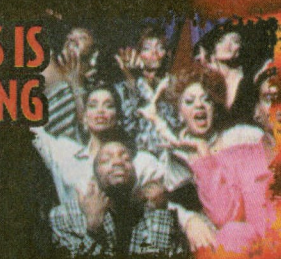


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		7:40	STORME
		8:15	SKI TRIP

Doors open 30 minutes before 1st film • Times & films subject to change

writer, director, actor MAURICE JAMAL

by Anita Moyt, managing editor

Maurice "MoJAM" Jamal wrote, directed and was the lead actor in the featured film of Memphis's First SGL Film Festival, *The Ski Trip*.

The Ski Trip was released in 2004, and made history as the first Black, gay feature-length film on commercial television when Jamal signed the movie to MTV's LOGO network, a network that targets the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender viewer. The movie was first aired by LOGO in June 2005, as part of its premiere lineup, and has been more than well received.

"The response has been absolutely amazing!" Jamal told *Family & Friends*. "People write us and stop me in the streets all the time and tell me how much they've loved the film. But even more important than that is the fact that people tell me they've been inspired to chase their dreams, too. Being the first Black gay film on TV has been a true blessing. I'm really proud."

Jamal plays the lead, Corey, in *The Ski Trip*. Corey is a nice guy but depressed. Why? It is his 30th birthday, he is unemployed (he is a comic book artist) and has been dumped by his sexy boyfriend. His friends come to rescue him from the blues and sweep him away to enjoy the winter slopes. But they didn't plan on the blizzard, which snowed them all in, all together, for the whole trip. So, a *Big Chill* (no pun intended) plot ensues, with lots of talking, urged on by cheap wine. And the talking leads to TMI (too much information) for some, as secrets are told and revelations and hidden passions come to the forefront.

In 2004, *The Ski Trip* received the Best Film (Jury Prize) award at the New Orleans Gay and Lesbian Film Festival and the Best New Film award from the Oakland (Calif.) Black Gay Film Festival.

Often referred to as a black, gay Woody Allen, Jamal's bold, brazen, yet infectious persona is directly reflected in his art.

"When I was making (*The Ski Trip*) there were some 'critics' out there who wanted to know why the characters were

flawed or why they acted the way they did," Jamal said. "The answer was simple: because they are real people and real people aren't perfect. I think the future of Black gay cinema is to present stories that illuminate what it means to be who we are. And that means drama/comedy/pathos ... the warts and all. The 'preachiness' in films really insults the audience. At least I think so. I don't need to talk down to my audience. Or tell them what they need to think. I just need to present a whole and vivid story."

"Honesty," Jamal told us, is the main thing he strives to capture on film. "I want to capture true and honest emotion. I want to tell a story where the characters speak 'their' truths and we follow the world they live in."

Jamal's roots in acting are Shakespearean. He is a classically-trained Shakespearean actor and performed with New York's famed LaMama Experimental Theatre Company, as well as performing and directing both national and regional productions. He has directed and performed on the contemporary stage, as well.

As far as the small screen, Jamal is most notably associated with "Chappelle's Show" and "Make My Day."

His big screen credits include *Spider Man*, *A Beautiful Mind*, *The Guys* and *Kate & Leopold*. He has also directed numerous short films and music videos.

Jamal is presently directing his second film, *Dirty Laundry*, a daring comedy about family drama, identity and coming out. It stars Loretta Devine, Sommore and Sheryl Lee Ralph.

Jamal lives in Brooklyn, where he founded the Urban Arts Collective, which produces films from young, queer, urban filmmakers. He also founded the African-American Shakespeare Company there, as well.

Social causes are just as important to Jamal as his filmmaking.

"My family has always been socially



and politically active and Sickle Cell awareness was a particular cause of my sister," Jamal said, explaining his involvement in Sickle Cell awareness. "Fortunately no one in my immediate family is afflicted ... My sister ran a groundbreaking camp for inner city kids and I worked there one summer and have been involved ever since."

As far as HIV/AIDS education, Jamal has been a crusader since high school.

"I have been involved in the fight for rights and education (about HIV/AIDS) for years," he said. "Ever since high school, really. The pandemic hits our community so hard and there seems to be such a 'deafness' in people being truly involved in the efforts. It can be frustrating because we are so disproportionately affected."

And Jamal says literacy is something that doesn't need to be overlooked either.

"Everyone in my family is in education in some way or another and we were raised with a strong sense of education and literature being important. It wasn't really until I went away to college that I realized how on-point my family was in regards to being 'intellectually curious.' It's really about more than encouraging literacy as a survival skill ... to me it's about getting our young people to embrace their literacy as a source of pride and strength."

Well said, Jamal, well said.

Former MLB player turned gay activist Billy Bean to speak

Billy Bean will be returning to Memphis, this time the guest of the The University of Memphis' Stonewall Tigers (formerly BGALA), the on-campus organization for gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgender individuals and their straight supporters.

The former Major League Baseball player, now out gay activist, will speak at the Rose Theatre on the UofM campus on Thursday, March 2, at 7 p.m. on the effects of homophobia.

Bean played major league baseball from 1987 through 1995. He broke into the major leagues with the Detroit Tigers, and tied a major league record with four hits in his first major league game. He went on to play for the Los Angeles Dodgers and the San Diego Padres.

According to Bean's website at www.BillyBean.com, he was born in Santa Ana, Calif., in 1964. He was a multi-sport star at Santa Ana High School, where he was chosen "athlete of the year" as a senior. He was selected Valedictorian of his graduating class and went on to become an "All-American" outfielder twice before graduating from Loyola Marymount University in 1986, with a degree in business administration.

After years of living secretly (as a gay man), Billy came out

publicly in 1999. His story was front-page news in the *New York Times* and subsequently on a nationally-televised story with Diane Sawyer, as well. He has been working actively to try and dispel the myth and stereotypes that follow people of diversity. He was a featured spokesman on behalf of the Democratic National Committee during campaign 2000, and travels around the country as a national spokesman on behalf of the Human Rights Campaign, reaching out to many young adults who are desperately in need of a role model.

In the prime of his career, Bean walked away from Major League Baseball in 1996, in part because of a year-long struggle dealing with the sudden death of his former partner, and the frustration of holding onto that secret all alone. His desire not to let that happen to anyone else pushes him to share his story.

"I believe that all people, regardless of their personal belief or religious denomination, would agree that being honest with yourself, your family and those around you is a great foundation for living your life," Bean wrote on his website. "It has been a long, hard journey for me, and I want people to learn from my mistakes, not share them."

Bean lives in Miami Beach with his partner of nine years, Efrain Veiga. They share a real estate business redeveloping residential properties. He is the author of *Going the Other Way: Lessons from a Life In and Out of Major League Baseball*. The film adaptation of his book, produced by Storyline Entertainment, will soon air on the Showtime network. Bean, still devoted to competitive sports, travels around the country playing tennis and basketball in organized tournaments in hopes of raising the visibility of athletes of diversity.

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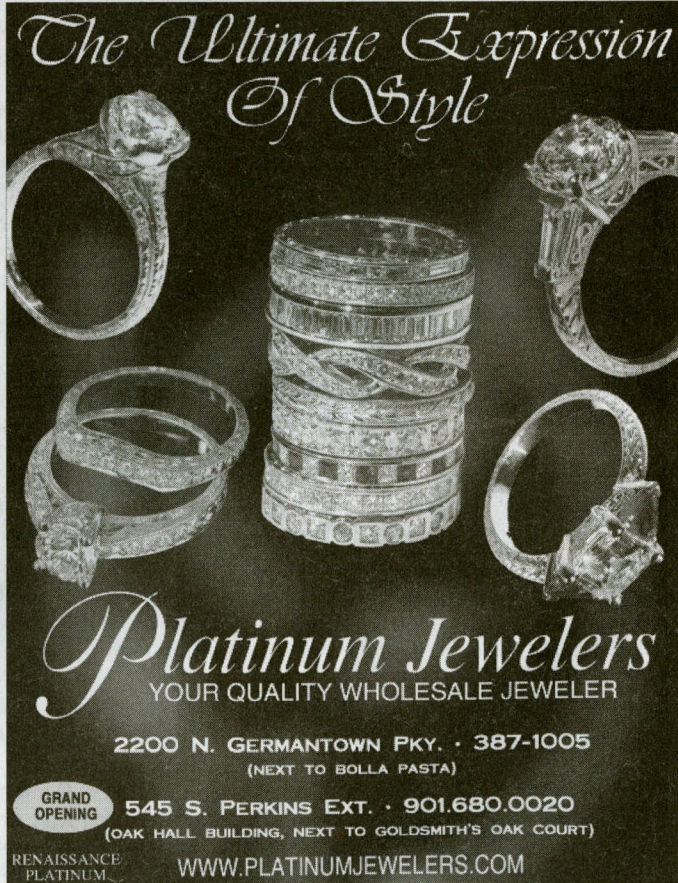
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Remembering Coretta Scott King

On the walls at our offices are hung a dozen or so framed *Family & Friends* magazines, those autographed by the celebrity or person of national recognition usually pictured on the front cover.

However, there is one such cover, one such autograph that we always wanted, but were unsuccessful in being able to obtain. That is Coretta Scott King, activist and wife of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. Although we did request an interview with her on a couple of occasions, we were never granted the interview.

We always felt she would be the hardest person to interview. What do you ask a woman who was a civil rights leader in her own right, even before her marriage to Dr. King, and even more so after his assassination? She was a woman we deeply admired, to say the least.

Coretta was a strong woman, and spoke her mind. Watching a rerun of an interview she did with Tavis Smiley in 2005, we laughed as she responded to Smiley's question asking her why she hadn't remarried, commenting that to remarry Coretta Scott King would be a major role to fulfill, considering who her first husband was. Without missing a beat, calm and collected, she replied: "Tell me why you haven't married, Tavis." "Touche," Smiley responded as we laughed out loud.

Coretta stood on her values of equality for all. And she didn't move. What's more, she believed in a God who dictated those very values of equality and love. She wasn't persuaded by men to change her tune for a little bit of glory here or a little bit of material wealth there. She knew who she served and continued



in that service until shortly before she died Feb. 2, in a Mexican hospital where her family had sent her for a last-ditch effort to treat ovarian cancer. She had already suffered a stroke and heart attack in 2005.

Coretta is known to so many in the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community (regardless of color) as a woman who welcomed the GLBT community,

often amid insults and rebuffs by her fellow civil rights activists, as well as the preacher crowd.

Here is the proof in her own words, words that we need to remember and take to heart, words that can get us going when we feel worn out in the fight for civil rights for the GLBT community:

- "For many years now, I have been an outspoken supporter of civil and human rights for gay and lesbian people," Coretta said at the 25th anniversary luncheon for Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund. "Many of these courageous men and women were fighting for my freedom at a time when they could find few voices for their own, and I salute their contributions."

- "I still hear people say that I should not be talking about rights of lesbian and gay people," Coretta said in 1998. "But I hasten to remind them that Martin Luther King Jr. said, 'Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.' I appeal to everyone who believes in Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream to make room at the table of brother and sisterhood for lesbian and gay people."

- "(My husband) believed that none of us could be free until all of us were free, that a person of conscience had no alternative but to defend the human rights of all people," Coretta said at the 1997 National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's Honoring Our Allies award ceremony. "I want to reaffirm my determination to secure the fullest protection of the law for all working people, regardless of their sexual orientation ... it is right, just and good for America."

We thank God for the years Mrs. King shared with us on this earth and hope the seeds she has sown through the decades will take root in this generation, and the next and the next, and one day, bring to fruition civil rights for all, most especially the GLBT community.



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TEP, MGLCC's I:F to host lobbying workshop

Tennessee Equality Project (TEP), a statewide GLBT rights organization, in partnership with the Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center's Initiative: Fairness will hold a "Lobbying 101" workshop on Saturday, Feb. 11, from 9 a.m. to noon at the center, located at 892 South Cooper.

"Lobbying 101" is designed to prepare citizens to lobby their members of the Tennessee General Assembly at TEP's "Advancing Equality Day on the Hill" in Nashville, on Feb. 21.

"We trained over 50 citizen lobbyists from Memphis, Knoxville and Nashville last year to work for equality in the 2005 General Assembly," said TEP board spokesman Chris Sanders. "Their work helped beat back the tide of anti-gay legislation introduced last year. We urge the Memphis GLBT and allied community to come to this session and learn how to advocate effectively for equality with our lawmakers."

"We are glad to deepen our partnership with TEP," Tommy

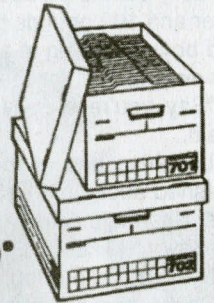
Simmons of Initiative:Fairness said. "We both realize that citizens from all parts of Tennessee have to be involved if we are going to advance fairness for the GLBT community."

For more information, contact Sanders at (615) 390-5252 or via email at ChirstopherSanders@yahoo.com.

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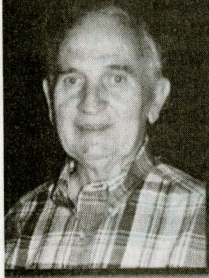
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REUNIONS & REALIZATIONS



an unpublished novel
by Jim Norcross
(chapter by chapter)

Good news, bad news

"Say you're a nelly queen," said Mike as she sat on Bobby Cheatham's chest, twisting one arm painfully behind his back. At six-foot-three, Bobby was a full foot taller and 100 pounds heavier than she. But Mike, though small and boyish looking in appearance, was strong and was holding her own. In fact, for the moment she was completely in control.

"Say you're a nelly queen," she insisted, twisting his arm again.

Laughing and at the same time grimacing in pain, Bobby thrashed about in an effort to break Mike's hold, but it was useless. She maintained a firm grip on his arm.

"Say it," Mike said.

"Never!" yelled Bobby.

Bobby and his lover Paul were visiting Mike and Claudia's New Moon Lodge at the lake for the weekend. Bobby and Mike had been playing touch football until Bobby, beginning to tire, had pulled away and plopped down on the ground near the area where Paul and Claudia were starting to grill hamburgers. In a jocular mood, Mike had jumped on Bobby, straddled him and soon had him rendered powerless. Enjoying herself thoroughly, she twisted his arm again. "Say it," repeated Mike.

"Claudia, come call off your little butch lover," said Bobby laughing, still trying to extricate himself.

"Don't involve me in your battle. Paul and I have work to do."

"Cut it out you two," said Paul. "Gordon and David should be here any minute, and we could use some help here."

Mike laughed. "I'll let him up just as soon as he admits he has a secret desire to be a drag queen – like Frank," Mike said, inflicting pain again.

Finally, Mike released her hold on Bobby enough for him to work his way free. Then she took off running with Bobby in hot pursuit. "If I catch you, I'm throwing you in the lake," Bobby said.

"Children will play!" Paul said, watching their antics as he began to wrap foil around ears of corn.

Claudia, who had been forming neat, round hamburger patties, stopped and turned to Paul. "I have something to tell you," she said, smiling at him. "How does the word 'daddy' affect you?" She enjoyed watching the changing expression on his face. "I took a pregnancy test this morning – one of those self-test kits – and it was positive." She grinned at him.

Claudia had been trying to become pregnant by means of artificial insemination for several months now. Paul, her former high school sweetheart, was the sperm donor. Claudia had been feeling discouraged about it actually happening until today.

"Really?" Paul said, momentarily stunned. "That's – it's ... that's wonderful. I've been wondering how I'd feel if it really happened. Have you told Mike yet?"

"Yes, and she's thrilled. You know she had problems for a while with the part you were playing in all of this. Felt left out, I guess, since she couldn't do anything to help make a baby. But

she's beginning to work it out. The important thing is, she's trying. I thought you might want to be the one to tell Bobby."

"Yeah, I'll go and do that right now." Paul dropped the corn he was preparing and took off running toward Mike and Bobby, who were now rolling on the ground, rough-housing again. "Bobby, Bobby, we're going to be daddies. Can you believe it?"

About that time Gordon and David drove up in their Bronco. Gordon was in his mid-60s, tall and trim with a full head of wavy silver-white hair. His ramrod straight military manner testified to his former role as a colonel in the Army. Now he was retired, and he and David, his partner, lived in an immaculately kept stone and frame house across the lake from the New Moon Lodge. Gordon flashed a broad smile at Claudia.

"What's going on here?" he asked.

"Wonderful news," said Claudia. "We're pregnant."

"That's great. Hear that, David? We're going to be uncles." He reached over and put his arm around his lover's shoulder. Gordon and David had been together for more than 25 years. They had met while they were in Viet Nam where David, an enlisted soldier, had served as Gordon's driver. David wound up losing a leg in an ambush there, and now walked with a prosthesis. He worked full-time as a barber in town.

"Wonderful," Gordon said. "David and I can't wait." Both of the men went to Claudia and gave her a hug.

Later, after they had eaten, the three couples sat on the ground finishing the last of the homemade ice cream that Gordon and David had brought.

"What's happening with Frank and the straight policeman that he's so in love with? Is the guy still in intensive care? Any changes to his condition?" Mike asked of Paul and Bobby. "Claudia and I have been trying to get to the city to see Frank, but this is our busy season at the lodge – and now that we're selling real estate, we just haven't been able to get up there. The last time we saw Frank, though, he was so happy."

"He's there at the hospital every day waiting for this Johnny to regain consciousness. He's holding up as well as can be expected, I guess," Paul said. "Bobby and I are just glad that they've caught the guy who shot him. Also, Frank's been attending the Holy Trinity Church, which seems to help. He likes the minister there."

"Frank's strong, and he'll be all right, even if Johnny doesn't make it," David said. "What's more, who knows what that cop might do when he finds out Frank's not for real."

"Say," Bobby said, changing the subject. "Mike and I have been talking about trying to put together a gay softball team. What do you think? Mike and Claudia's friends Lynne and Barb want to play and maybe we can get Paul to play if he lays off the doughnuts long enough to get in shape." Bobby reached over and patted Paul's stomach. "Looks to me like Paul's trying to help Claudia out in having this baby," Bobby teased.

"Well, what about David and me?" asked Gordon. "Do you allow senior citizens and the handicapped to play? David was a hell of a pitcher on our base team when we were in the service, and I think I can keep up with you youngsters here. In fact, how about a little game of touch football right now? Mike and me against Bobby and David. I'm sure the expectant parents here would like to be alone for a little while?"

Soon there was a spirited game going. After a half-hour of

vigorous play, Mike threw a long, hard pass to Gordon who ran for it and then suddenly fell to the ground clutching his chest and gasping for breath.

David was at his side immediately. "My God, he's having a heart attack. He's been complaining about chest pains recently. I've tried to get him to go to the doctor but he said it was nothing."

"Come on Bobby," Mike said, always unflappable and the one who stepped forward to take charge in any kind of situation. "Bobby help get him in the Bronco and we'll get him to the hospital. David you get in the back and I'll drive. Claudia get on the telephone and tell the hospital we're on the way."

...

The hospital in town was very small, more like an emergency clinic. The staff, especially on weekends, was minimal. If anything like a major medical or surgical problem came through the doors, it was treated as an emergency and referred to the larger facility in the next county.

While Gordon was being assessed in the emergency area, David, Mike and Bobby sat in the waiting room. David, anxious to hear some word on Gordon's condition, paced the floor. Mike and Bobby stared stoically into space.

After what seemed forever, a large buxom woman in a white uniform came into the waiting area. Her gray-streaked hair was pulled back into a no-nonsense bun at the nape of her neck. The clipboard she carried made her look even more official. Pinned to her chest was a name tag which read, 'Ophelia Haskall, R.N., Head Nurse.'

"How's Gordon?" David asked anxiously.

"Are you Mr. Thompson's next of kin?" the nurse asked, looking for a resemblance. "Are you his son?"

"No. His son lives in St. Louis, and I'll call him as soon as we

know something," David said. "May I see him now?"

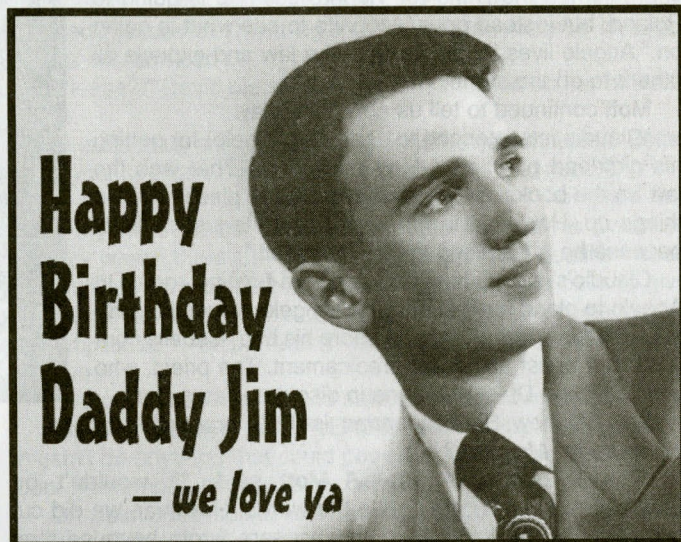
"Mr. Thompson is in serious condition. Are you a member of his family?" Nurse Haskall glared at David over her wire-rimmed glasses. "Are any of you family?"

"No, but ..."

"No buts, young man. I have my instructions."

Seeing David so distraught and fumbling for words was upsetting to Bobby, who approached the nurse. "Look, Nurse Haskall, David Jefferson here is a special friend to Mr. Thompson. Very

See Good News, page 21



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Does out actor Brian Mott 'measure' up?

by Anita Moyt, managing editor

Theatre Memphis, 630 Perkins Extended, will stage Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure* on the Next Stage Feb. 24 through March 11.

"The title, *Measure for Measure*, alludes to the play's nature of justice," actor Brian Mott, who plays Angelo in the TM production, told *Family & Friends* magazine in a telephone interview. "My character, Angelo, is left in charge when the Duke (of Vienna) says he is going to Poland, but instead goes incognito to see what is going on." Angelo lives by the letter of the law and expects all others to do the same.

Mott continued to tell us about the play.

"Claudio is sentenced to death (by Angelo) for getting his girlfriend pregnant," Mott explained. "That was the law on the books, so Angelo feels it is his place to clean things up. However, in the end, Angelo is just as 'bad' because he is breaking the laws himself."

Claudio's sister, Isabella, a nun-in-training, goes to Angelo to plead for Claudio's life. Angelo agrees but with one condition; Isabella has to share his bed. Isabella confides to a priest about her predicament. The priest, who is actually the Duke of Vienna in disguise, has a plan.

So, just how Shakespearian is TM's production of *Measure for Measure*?

"The language is as is," Mott said. "It wouldn't be Shakespeare if it didn't have the words. However, we did cut out some of the jokes that Shakespeare wrote because they don't mean much, if anything, to us today. We did modernize the costumes, though, it is contemporary in dress."

Many people shy away from Shakespeare because of the foreignness of the language. Mott said to give it five minutes.

"If the production is done well, five minutes into it you are getting it and understanding what is going on," Mott said.

"*Measure for Measure* is a Shakespearean 'problem play'; the drama is pretty dark," he continued. "But there are bawdy outrageous characters; it is not a full evening of heavy drama. ... Heavy drama and raucous comedy often happen in the same scene. As actors, we have to create a world where both are possible. We have to strike a middle ground where both are possible.

"And we have a great cast," he said. *Measure for Measure* is directed by Joanne Malin.

"There is a contemporary message in keeping a check on power," Mott said about the timeless plot in *Measure for Measure*, which is as relative the day it was written as it is today in 2006. "This is something I think Americans should be concerned about right now. Angelo comes to power and applies the law literally without compassion. All Angelo is doing is what the



law says – right there in black and white. There is a parallel to Bush and spying. To hand authority a blank check is a big question of the play."

Mott, 41, moved to Memphis from the New Orleans area to attend Rhodes College, where he earned a degree in theater. His first job out of school was with Theatre Memphis's ShoWagon.

"I didn't start acting until college, at 19," Mott said. "My first career choice was teaching. I'm now getting my masters in special education at The University of Memphis and will be teaching in the Fall. The beautiful part of teaching is your evenings and your summers are free for acting."

Mott is both a director and an actor. He just recently completed a great performance as John the Baptist in Playhouse on the Square at the Works' production of *Corpus Christi*.

"I started directing 14 years ago," he said. "I really enjoy both acting and directing. I think I am a better director than an actor; I'm an okay actor."

And Mott is openly gay.

"I am out," he said. "I knew young, about 14 years old. My family had a difficult time; my family is very supportive of me now."

We asked Mott what he thought the Memphis theater community, as a whole, needed.

"If I won the lottery, I would spend some of the money on how to build an audience," he answered. "So many people don't access live theatre. I don't know why they aren't coming. I'd say 90 percent of the city has never darkened the theater door. I would like to cultivate an audience. ... I'd also like to see more political and protest theater."

Showtimes for *Measure for Measure* are 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays, 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and 2 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$20 for adults; \$12 for students with valid ID, and \$8 for children under the age of 12.

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

Family & Friends magazine is a proud media sponsor of *Measure for Measure*.

**Be The Change You
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Marriage celebration is set

The Memphis chapter of Integrity Inc. and The Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center's Initiative:Fairness (I:F) project invite the Memphis and Mid-South community to a special Freedom to Marry celebration on Monday, Feb. 13, at 6 p.m., in McClure Hall at Grace-St. Luke's Episcopal Church, located at 1720 Peabody Avenue.

The event will feature the highly-acclaimed documentary film, *Tying the Knot: The Union That's Dividing America*, as well as an opportunity to learn more about organized opposition to the marriage amendment referendum that will appear on Tennessee's November 2006 ballot. Local Memphians featured in the film will be present to meet those who attend.

Admission is free and refreshments will be provided.

Tying the Knot highlights the vulnerabilities faced by many gay couples who are without civil marriage rights in our country.

When a bank robber's bullet ended the life of Tampa, Fla., police officer Lois Marrero, her wife of 13 years, Mickie, was honored as her surviving spouse but denied all pension benefits. When Sam, an Oklahoma rancher, lost his beloved husband of 22 years, long-estranged cousins of his late spouse tried to lay claim to everything Sam had. As Mickie and Sam's lives were put on trial, they were forced to confront the tragic reality that in the eyes of the law their marriages meant nothing. From an historical trip to the Middle Ages, to activists storming the Manhattan marriage bureau in 1971, *Tying the Knot* digs deeply into the past and present to uncover the meaning of civil marriage in America today.

For more information, contact Jonathan Cole at JonathanTN@juno.com or at (901) 301-3306.

Good News

from page 19

special. They've lived together for more than 25 years."

"Oh, I see ..." said the nurse, a knowing look passing over her face. "I'm sorry, but there are rules and I'm obligated as a nurse." She studied David closer. "You're that barber in town, aren't you? You live in that house at the lake, the one with all the roses around it." The look turned to disapproval and her tone grew strident. "There could be serious consequences, don't you see? I can't let you in to see him if you are not family. I can't make any exceptions. If you were his wife," she looked over the wire-rimmed glasses at David again, "I might let you see him, but you're not, so I can't."

"Please?!" David pleaded as the nurse turned on her heels to leave.

Mike stood up and put her arm around David's shoulder. "Better save your strength, David. You're probably going to need it."

The nurse turned back to the group. "Mr. Thompson will probably have to be transferred to the hospital at Crawford County where there's a Coronary Care Unit and qualified heart specialists. It's important not to lose time. I'll come back to give you some details about his condition and how the transfer will be accomplished - or perhaps I can persuade the doctor to talk with you."

"I've got to see him!" David said, tears standing in his eyes.

"Stay where you are, PLEASE," Nurse Haskall said. "We mustn't do anything that could pose a risk to the patient's condition. Remember, I'm in charge here."

On cushioned soles, she moved briskly through the white swinging doors.

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Gaye Adegbalola

from page 29

I had kinda given up on love. We met and it clicked. We've been together 15 years."

Adegbalola summed up being gay and being a blues singer, as so many of her blues foremothers were, best: "Blues doesn't know any color ... it is the great equalizer."

For a good dose of the blues in person, check out Adegbalola, who will be on stage at Memphis in May, on May 7, performing with Saffire: Uppity Blues Women.

For more information, go online to www.uppityblueswomen.com or www.adegbalola.com.

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Neo-Classic Blues
Gaye Adegbalola with Roddy Barnes

Hot Toddy Music (2004)

Gaye Adegbalola's voice is one that belongs on Memphis's Beale Street, one that Mr. Handy would be glad to share a stage with. Actually, Adegbalola received the W.C. Handy Award in 1990, for composing the Blues Song of the Year, "The Middle Aged Blues Boogie," which was released on *Live & Uppity* by the trio Saffire – The Uppity Blues Women.

However, with *Neo-Classic Blues*, Adegbalola takes a solo side trip from the female blues trio, accompanied on the keyboards by Roddy Barnes.

Classic blues was the first blues to be recorded for popular consumption. It was grounded in folk blues combined with vaudeville stylings. It was almost exclusively performed by women who were unashamed to lay their souls bare, unafraid to give advice. Adegbalola, with Barnes, embraces and redefines this style as neo-classic blues.

Neo-Classic Blues contains 20 songs, most from the 1920s and 1930s, including such classics as "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom," "Crazy Blues" and "Nobody Knows The Way I Feel This Morning."

Adegbalola lives in Fredericksburg, Va., with her life partner, Suzanne Moe.

Saffire – The Uppity Blues Women

Ann Rabson (pianist/vocalist/songwriter), Gaye Adegbalola (guitarist/vocalist/songwriter) and Andra Faye ("queen of all things stringed"/vocalist/songwriter) make up the trio known as Saffire – The Uppity Blues Women. And blues is what they do. Not dance. Not rock. Not a social message. Just the pains and joys of life. Just the blues and telling it how it is.

And their newest release, *Deluxe Edition*, gives us a sample of the uppity women's favorites from their 18-year history of performing and recording together. This, their eighth release as a band, was released Jan. 31.

Saffire's women re-established and updated the long tradition of women blues singers, like Ma Rainey, Bessie Smith, Sippie Wallace and Memphis Minnie. Mixing first-rate musicianship with equal parts of sass, soul and humor, Saffire has unleashed unforgettable originals – composed with humor and poignancy – alongside definitive versions of classic blues songs.

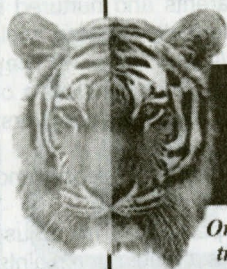
When not performing as a group, each of the uppity women has found time for solo releases. In fact, Gaye Adegbalola also just released *Neo Classic Blues* with pianist Roddy Barnes.

For more information, go online to www.uppityblueswomen.com.



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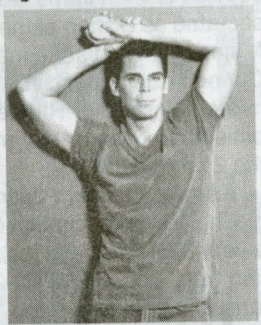
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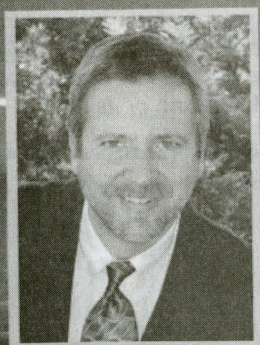
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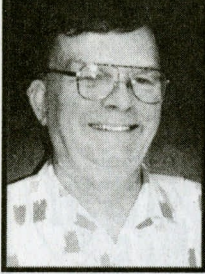
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MISCELLANEOUS MUSINGS



editorial by Jim Easter



• Bud in a can, fresh lime, salt, four napkins, a glass of water for taking pills, and a clean ashtray, not to be emptied. These are what Doc wanted when he visited a bar for his customary two beers. In return he always gave a \$1.25 tip. Many of us lost a dear friend when he passed away Jan. 17 at age 65. His well-attended funeral, orchestrated by his partner of 25 years, Jamie, and his niece Sharon, was held four days later in his hometown of Harrisburg, Ark. May he rest in peace.

• Congratulations and a huge thank you to U.T. Professor Dr. Herb Zeman, inventor of VeinVision, which projects the image of a person's veins on the skin's surface making it easier to insert needles. Dr. Zeman, a generous supporter of the MGLCC, enabled the organization to have a home of its own. As one who has blood drawn monthly, I welcome any device that makes it easier for techs and nurses to become more proficient in finding my tiny, rolling veins.

• An era ends ... John Stillwell and Allen Cook did not give

birth to *Gaze*, they become surrogate parents and nurtured it through its formative years. In 1990, they formally adopted "their baby" and changed its name to the *Triangle Journal News*. They edited and published wire service, Internet and local stories of GLBT interest for 26 years. I applaud their altruistic endeavors. The MGLCC has been given a huge legacy to uphold.

I'll miss Shannon Yarbrough's "What AbOUTIt" book and movie review column and wish him well as a novelist.

I'll miss Jim Maynard's "Queer Notes," particularly his amusing, vitriolic Bush bashing. I won't miss his chronic complaints about being a leader without followers. I recall something that Jim wrote to the effect that only a fanatic could follow a misleader.

• Oh those progressive Yankees in New England ... Vermont legalized same-sex civil unions. Marriage between same-sex couples is legal in Massachusetts. An openly gay man was consecrated as Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of New Hampshire. Maine bans discrimination based on sexual orientation. Connecticut recognizes same-sex partnership benefits. And now in the tiny state of Rhode Island, it is legal for AIDS and cancer patients to grow or buy marijuana. When will the South get with the 21st century?

• Are you taking Pfizer's Viracept or Rescriptor? If you're single, have no prescription drug coverage and earn less than \$19K a year (\$31K for families), you may be able to get your prescription free. Call (866) 706-2400 or go online to www.pfizerhelpfulanswers.com for details.

• Did you know that in some states EMTs and physicians can refuse to treat AIDS patients or prescribe needed medications on religious, moral or ethical grounds? Pharmacists can refuse to fill prescriptions for birth control pills or Viagra on the same grounds.

• It is notable that Bush doubled federal funding for abstinence-only education and stopped funding sex-positive education started in the AIDS community. Faith-based organizations get the bucks. \$200 million a year goes to the ineffective "just say no" programs for teens. At least the CDC still grants just over \$400 million a year to states, cities and community organizations for some prevention activities.

• A company in China is making condoms under the trademarks "Clinton" and "Lewinsky." Whether Bill, Monica, Trojan, Durex or Lifestyle is your preference, be sure to use one.

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

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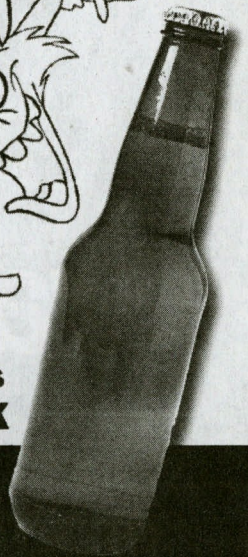
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Mrs. Robinson on stage at POTS

Derived from the Oscar-nominated movie and best-selling book, *The Graduate* is being staged now through Feb. 26 at Playhouse on the Square, 51 South Cooper. *The Graduate* tells the tale of Benjamin Braddock, a recent college graduate, who returns home to empty, materialistic Southern California, uncertain of his future. Braddock soon finds himself being seduced by longtime family friend, Mrs. Robinson, but falling in love with her daughter, Elaine.

Showtimes for *The Graduate* are Thursdays to Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$30 for adults; \$20 for seniors, students and military personnel, and \$10 for children.

For more information or to make reservations, call (901) 726-4656.

Ten Tenors at Orpheum

The internationally-acclaimed Australian singing phenomenon, The Ten Tenors, will be in concert on The Orpheum Theater stage, Feb. 14 to 19. They have been seen by more than 77 million people, on three continents, selling out shows with their charm, camaraderie and vocal prowess in opera, pop, rock and more. From arias to ABBA, their unique style is an unparalleled fusion of artistry, musicianship and comedy.

Showtimes are Tuesday to Thursday at 7:30 p.m.; Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 2 and 8 p.m., and Sunday at 1:30 and 7 p.m. Tickets, which range in price from \$10 to \$60, are on sale at the Orpheum Box Office, Davis-Kidd Booksellers in Laurelwood, Ticketmaster locations, or charge-by-phone at (901) 525-3000.

Chipman directs at TM

The Country Club, which provides a fresh, comedic look at a wealthy group of young bluebloods who were best friends in high school and now seem to be floundering through their early 30s, is on stage now through Feb. 19 at Theatre Memphis, 630 Perkins Extended. Directed by Jerry Chipman, the showtimes are 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays, 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and 2 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$20 for adults; \$12 for students with valid ID, and \$8 for children under the age of 12. For more information or reservations, call (901) 682-8323.

Movement, music, rhythm set

The Buckman Performing and Fine Arts Center, 60 Perkins Extended at Walnut Grove Road, will present Alonzo King's Lines Ballet, Friday and Saturday, Feb. 10 and 11, at 8 p.m. Alonzo King has emerged as one of the pre-eminent dance artists in the U.S., renowned for his unique vision of movement, music and rhythm.

Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$22 for seniors and students. For more information or reservations, call (901) 537-1483.

Truck stop musical

Pump Boys and Dinettes is set for The Circuit Playhouse, 1705 Poplar Avenue, now through Feb. 12. In the fictional home-grown world of this wildly popular blue-collar musical revue, the audience is welcomed into a friendly truck stop on Highway 57 where four gas attendants at the Pump Boys Filling Station deliver some high-octane humor, with the assistance of the two spunky waitresses across the street at the Double Cupp Diner.

Showtimes for *Pump Boys and Dinettes* are Thursdays to Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$30 for adults; \$20 for seniors, students and military personnel, and \$15 for children.

For more information or to make reservations, call (901) 726-4656.

UofM presents *Parade: the Musical*

The University of Memphis Department of Theatre & Dance will present *Parade: the Musical*, Feb. 16-18 and Feb. 23-25. All shows are at 8 p.m.

Parade: the Musical is the colorful story of the pursuit of justice and the agendas that drive it and explores the cultural heritage of the United States, especially the American South.

Tickets are \$15 for adults, and \$10 for students and senior citizens.

For more information or tickets, call (901) 678-2576.

Parody, comedy set at Orpheum

Menopause The Musical Out Loud is set for Sunday, Feb. 26, at 3 p.m. at The Orpheum Theatre.

In March 2001, Jeanie Linders, writer/producer of *Menopause The Musical* brought her comedy, a parody of hits from the 1960s and 1970s, to the stage to give women a way to laugh about "the change." Since the launch of the show, her passion for opening lines of communication about women's health issues has grown even deeper and now she has launched a national tour of *Menopause The Musical Out Loud*. *The Out Loud* tour benefits regional and national ovarian cancer charities.

Tickets, which range in price from \$40 to \$50, are on sale at the Orpheum Box Office, Davis-Kidd Booksellers in Laurelwood, Ticketmaster locations, or charge-by-phone at (901) 525-3000.

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ON STAGE NOW

Jazz to be heard at Buckman

The Buckman Performing and Fine Arts Center, 60 Perkins Extended at Walnut Grove Road, will present Sakesho and Andy Narell on Saturday, March 4, at 8 p.m.

Much more than a modern jazz quartet, Sakesho, featuring Steel Pan master Andy Narell, has its roots deep in the Beguine, the intensely syncopated, polyrhythmic music of the French Caribbean. Based in Paris, this "super band" of singular jazz musicians is celebrated for completely inventing a new world groove.

Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$18 for seniors and students. For more information or reservations, call (901) 537-1483.

UofM to celebrate Jazz Week

The University of Memphis Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music will celebrate Jazz Week 2006, Tuesday, Feb. 28, through Saturday, March 4. The lineup is as follows:

Tuesday, Feb. 28, 7:30 p.m., Jazz Combos, Harris Auditorium, free to the public.

Wednesday, March 1, 7:30 p.m., Blue Ascendance, Harris Auditorium, free to the public.

Friday, March 3, 7:30 p.m., U of M Faculty Jazz Group with special guest Bennie Powell, former trombonist with the Count Basie Orchestra, Harris Auditorium, free to the public.

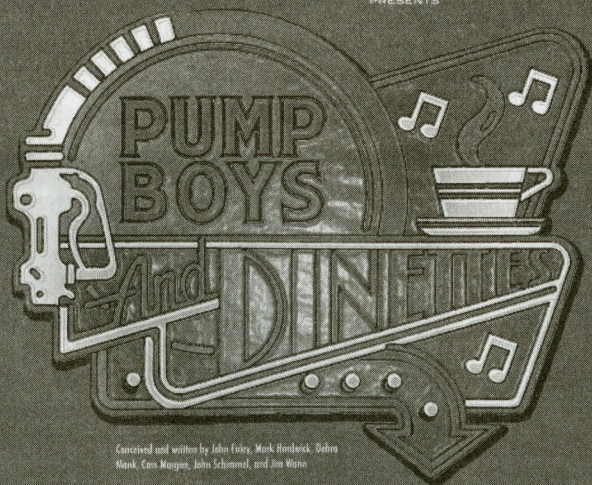
Saturday, March 4, 7:30 p.m., Southern Comfort Jazz Orchestra with special guest, Kurt Elling and his trio, Michael D. Rose Theatre. Tickets are \$8 to \$10 each.

Looking for a back issue?

Call (901) 682-2669

THE CIRCUIT PLAYHOUSE

PRESENTS



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January 13 - February 12

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THE CIRCUIT PLAYHOUSE

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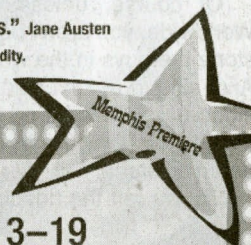
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OVER MY SHOULDER



editorial by Patricia Pair, publisher

What an interesting month it has been since we last met here inside the pages of this labor of love called *Family & Friends*.

So, where do I start? How about with my health.

For all of you who telephoned, sent cards or emailed with well-wishes and hopes for a speedy recovery after January's column, thanks. They really meant a lot to me, each and every one of them.

Here's the latest on what I hope is NOT the continuing saga of the traveling kidney stone. Prior to our January issue, I sought the services of the Methodist Hospital Germantown emergency room for some very severe pain in my lower back and right side. After numerous blood tests, an IV I did not want and a CT scan of my lower abdomen the smiling (and young) doctor appeared with more than one diagnosis (I'll get to the other one in a minute), but the source of the pain as a "fairly large kidney stone pretty high up."

Apparently in some secret, or not so secret, club of urologists there's a semi-magic number. This number is the size, usually measured in millimeters (remember those things we dealt with back in high school math and science), of a kidney stone that can either pass on its own, with no lack of pain mind you, or refuse to void the body, again with no lack of pain.

Of course, unless you're in that special Urologist Club Worldwide, you aren't privy to the magic number, even if it is your stone the guys in the white coats are pouring over on the x-rays. And, since we don't belong to "the club," not to mention the drug-induced fog brought on by the pain killer du jour, we don't even think to ask what the number is and how it relates to our very own personal stone.

So, we left the hospital with a diagnosis, and lots of meds in

hand. Among the meds were something for pain (which my regular physician later doubled and a friend of mine refers to as "happy pills"), an antibiotic for the urinary tract infection the little bugger had already caused; a little something for nausea, which also served as a one-way ticket to dreamland, and one for the prostate.

The what? I'm sure I said to the doc as no amount of IV pain medication could have caused me to turn a deaf ear to that little bit of explanation. The doc (I swear those guys, and gals, get younger, and better looking, every time there's cause to end up in the ER) was quick to explain that the medicine, Flomax, while used for men with prostate problems, also causes the urinary tract to dilate, which should, in a perfect world, make passage of the kidney stone much easier. But, as the commercial reminds us just about every 10 minutes when we're watching a really good episode of "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit," we don't live anywhere near Perfect.

Now, to make a long story somewhat short. Two and a half weeks later, on what the folks in the ER call "Medical Monday," we weathered the people and the hours-long wait and was seen again in the emergency room, this time at what we know as Methodist Central. There was more blood drawn, another IV and CT scan. Diagnosis: still had the damn kidney stone. Left the hospital again with more scripts and a referral to an urologist on Wednesday who expected to perform surgery the following Thursday.

Again there were hours of sitting in a waiting room (don't believe me, just check out the nine books reviewed on page 52), but this time, we finally found out something we didn't know. The first (yes, first) kidney stone was five mm and was no longer on the x-ray. But, what was on the film were two new stones, thankfully, much smaller, but still cause for surgery.

Went home (with more meds) and, fearing I wouldn't feel like checking email for a few days, sent out a note to friends telling of the impending surgery. Very late Thursday night, the doc called and said he and his colleagues had decided to give the stones two more weeks to attempt passage, hence no surgery, at least not yet. And, thanks to the pain meds, I forgot to tell all those recipients of my email, thus making them (and all the folks they told) worry needlessly. Sorry.

And, during all of this, our son gets his first serious girlfriend. Wonder if all those doctors have a script for motherhood-of-a-teenager-itis or at the very least a "magic number?"

Allyson Frisch



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Lady sings the blues

Gaye Adegbalola sings the blues.

Her latest two recordings are *Neo-classic Blues*, with pianist Roddy Barnes, and *Deluxe Edition*, the eighth release of the trio, Saffire: The Uppity Blues Women (see inserts on page 22).

"Roddy plays piano and I perform," Gaye Adegbalola told *Family & Friends* magazine in a telephone interview from her home in Fredricksburg, Va. "In Saffire, all three of us play instruments." Adegbalola is a songwriter, vocalist and guitarist with Saffire.

Adegbalola continued to explain the differences of the two groups. She said that her duo with Barnes is in the classic style of blues, whereas Saffire has modernized the blues of old to some extent.

"Saffire has evolved from the classic blues women of the '20s," Adegbalola said. "We come out of that tradition of Ma Rainey, Bessie Smith, Sippie Wallace and Memphis Minnie. 'Uppityness' comes from the music done back then, music that really empowered women. With the duet with Roddy, I do Ma Rainey and other's songs but it is the more classic of the two.

"We (she and Roddy) perform in tails," she continued. "Back then the women performed in tails and beads; we emulate the formal vaudeville thing. Saffire is performed as who we are now.

"Roddy and I bill ourselves as a handsome woman and a pretty man," she said, explaining that both she and Roddy are gay.

Her duo with Barnes came out of a need she realized from a PBS mini-series.

"Neoclassic Blues"



grew out of a response to a Martin Scorsese PBS production 'The Blues,' a 14-hour mini-series," she said. "During those 14 hours, there wasn't 14 minutes on women in the blues. I got pissed and decided to do something positive and do something about it.

"Those who come to a Neo-classic concert will leave knowing who Sippie Wallace, Big Momma Thornton and other women of the blues were," she said. "Thornton was the first to record 'You Ain't Nothing But a Hound Dog' and 'Ball and Chain.'"

She pointed out the relevance of the women blues singers in their day.

"These women were the advice givers," Adegbalola said. "They talked on stage about sex, homosexuality, etc. They also were the first to have gold records in a matter of weeks. Bessie Smith sold hundreds of thousands of records. These women were the first to make records financially viable."

Adegbalola was awarded the W. C. Handy (Blues Music) Award in 1990, for Song of the Year for her composition, "Middle-Aged Blues Boogie," released on Saffire's self-titled debut CD. In that song, the chorus reads "I need a young man, to drive away my middle-age blues," which would seem to be heterosexual lyrics from a gay woman.

Adegbalola explained that over the years she has embraced her sexuality as same-gender-loving and the award-winning song is not one she enjoys singing now.

"I taught school in Fredericksburg for many years, so I had to be closeted," Adegbalola explained. "As I performed more and more, I got true to myself. I usually don't sing my song, 'Middle-Aged Blues Boogie,' unless I am being authentic to the genre. I don't sing it because it isn't true to me anymore. Now I am wide open and make no bones about it."

Adegbalola is the only gay member of Saffire.

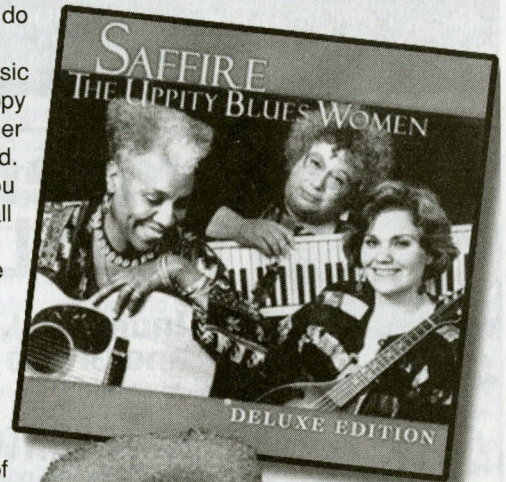
"My partners in Saffire (Andra Faye and Ann Rabson) are not gay but they are so supportive of me," she said. "My message goes out to a whole lot of people with Saffire; Roddy and I sing to a lot of gay audiences.

Adegbalola met her partner,

Suzanne Moe, in 1991.

"I met her at a gas station," she said. "It was instant; there is 21 years between us.

See Gaye, page 22



Stephen Pair

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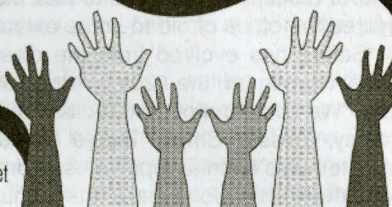
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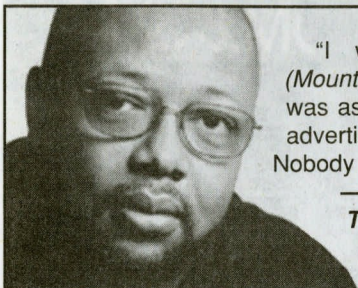


QUOTE / UNQUOTE

by Rex Wockner

"I'm not going to get old in public. I've seen some great men, literally great men, deteriorate in public view. ... I don't think you should do that. ... One goal is to retire early enough to write some books. I wish I could write more fluidly than I do. I can still talk a lot more easily than I write."

— Gay U.S. Rep. **Barney Frank, D.-Mass., to the Associated Press, Dec. 29, 2005.**



"I went to see *Brokeback Mountain*. And I can report that it was as shattering and powerful as advertised. People were moved. Nobody threw up."

— **Columnist Leonard Pitts, The Miami Herald, Jan. 9.**

"I'm for it (same-sex marriage). I personally have no desire to get married. That's for straight gay people. I'm not one of 'em. I wanna invest in gay divorce and tattoo removal, the growth industries of the next decade."

— **Filmmaker John Waters to the Portland, Ore., gay newspaper Just Out, Dec. 2, 2005.**



"New York is jaded, but when you play Indianapolis, the women come out. One of the best compliments I've ever gotten came after a show I did in Lexington, Kentucky. A middle-aged woman came up behind me, whacked me hard on my back, and said, 'Kate Clinton! You made me want to f*** again!' It was fabulous."

— **Comedian Kate Clinton to PlanetOut.com, Jan. 5.**

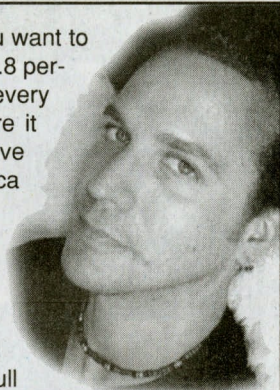


"I'm not supposed to say it, but Matthew's gay. He's really gay. He's much gayer than I am. It wouldn't take much — a couple of drinks. He's very agreeable."

— **Actor Nathan Lane on his *The Producers* co-star Matthew Broderick, to the San Diego gay magazine Buzz, Dec. 23, 2005. Broderick, who was being interviewed simultaneously, responded, "Well, listen to her!"**

"Do you know what it is? Do you want to know the real gay agenda, what 96.8 percent of all gay couples wish for every single day, including Sunday? Here it is: From what I can glean and above all else, the gay people of America seem to want this simply inexcusable level of boundless, unchecked normalcy. It's true. For some reason, they believe the utterly disgusting idea that they should be able to live their lives in peace and trust and health, with full support and assistance from their schools and hospitals and government, just like everyone else. I know. Shudder."

— **Mark Morford, columnist for the San Francisco Chronicle and SFGate.com, Jan. 27.**



"What we do on 'Queer Eye' is in many ways superficial when it comes to hair and clothing and decorating your apartment, but we are five openly gay men who are playing ourselves. We've had the chance to be ourselves on television, reach a lot of straight American living rooms and be embraced there. I think that helps."

— **"Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" food guy Ted Allen to the San Francisco Bay Times, Dec. 15, 2005.**

"If we look at the ... HIV vaccine, we're going to have an HIV vaccine. It's not going to be made by a (drug) company. They're dropping out like flies because there's no real incentive for them to do it. We (the government) have to do it. (If) it works, they (the drug companies) won't have to make that big investment. And they can make it and sell it and make a profit."

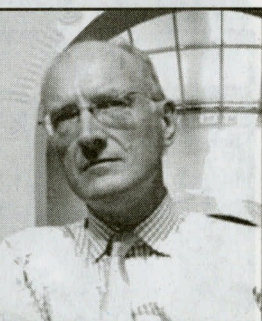
— **National Institutes of Health AIDS research division head Dr. Edmund Tramont as quoted by the Associated Press, Dec. 26, 2005.**

"I come to Palm Springs a lot. ... It's very relaxing, and I can go to Gold's Gym and walk on the treadmill and not feel like the biggest and oldest person in the world. There are people a lot bigger and a lot older at that Gold's Gym."

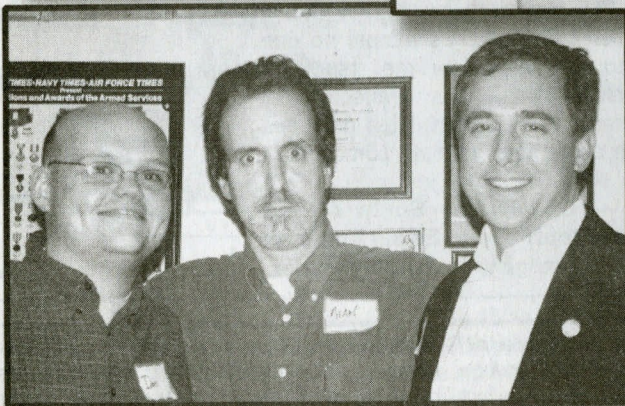
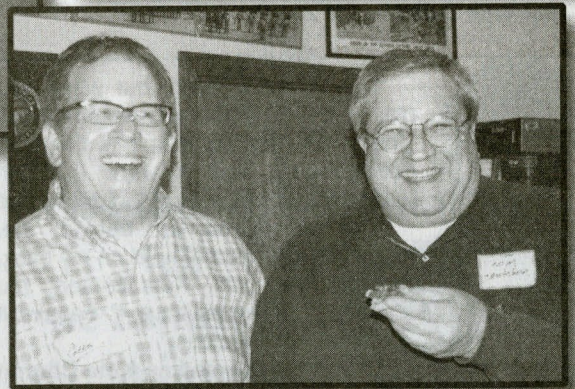
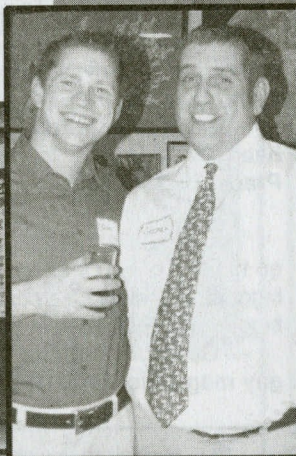
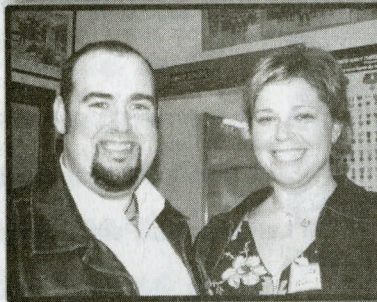
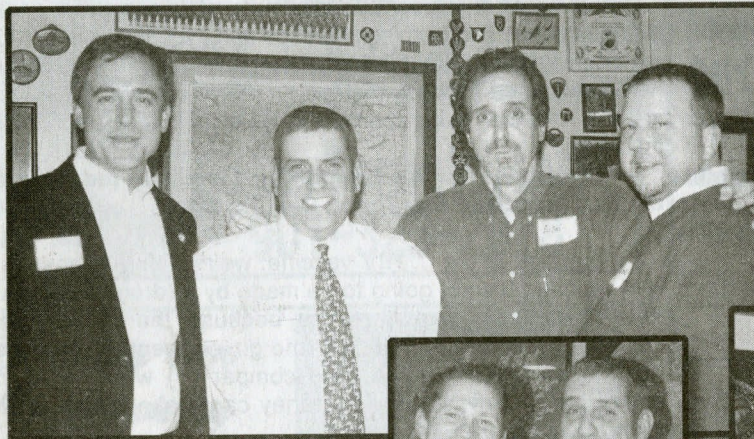
— **Gay porn director Chi Chi LaRue to the Palm Springs gay magazine Pulp, Dec. 2, 2005.**

"If I go into a gay bar or club — which I do — there's almost no one who doesn't know me, black or white. But that hasn't affected my personal interactions. I'm a loner. I've run away from intimate commitment my entire adult life."

— **Openly gay South African High Court Judge Edwin Cameron to POZ magazine, January issue.**



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.





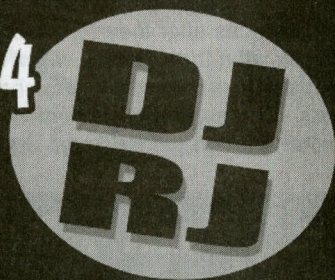
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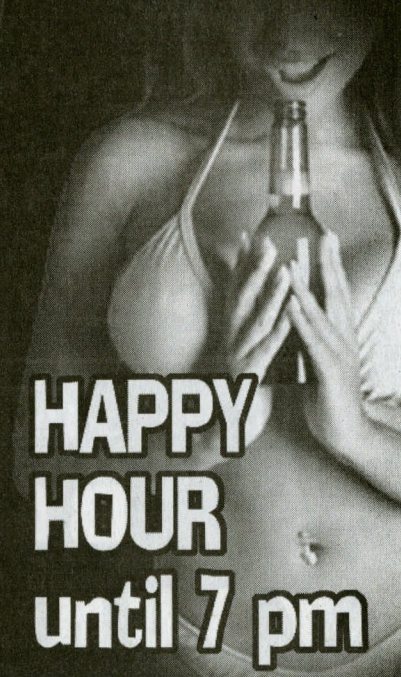
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'Playing Together: Games' returns home to Memphis

"Playing Together: Games" has returned to The Children's Museum of Memphis, 2525 Central Avenue and is on exhibit now through April 23.

Play King Tut's favorite game of Senet. Challenge a friend to a game of Skittles or Mancala. Play chess on a giant chessboard with huge game pieces. Play a multitude of games that span generations and cultures in this exhibit, which was developed and designed for children of all ages by The Children's Museum of Memphis in 1994, and has traveled to numerous other children's museums across the country for the past 11 years. Now it returns home to the Van Vleet Gallery for another showing before it tours the country again.

"Playing Together: Games" is divided into game categories of strategy, math, coordination and physical skills and racing to the finish.

In addition to playing games, one area focuses on how people react to winning and losing games. Photographs capture people's faces after they've won or lost a game. Visitors can try to guess what the outcome was from their facial expressions.

"The goal of this exhibit is to show how throughout history and across cultures, people invented imaginative ways of playing together through games," said Judy Caldwell, CMOM executive

director. "As children and adults play games together, they build skills, gain knowledge, learn cooperation and share memories.

"Playing Together: Games" is included with museum admission, which 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.

Pink Palace exhibit shows magic as science, illusion

"Magic: The Science of Illusion" is being presented at the Pink Palace Museum, 3050 Central Avenue, now through April 23.

"Magic" is a special exhibit from the California Science Center exploring the art and science of entertainment magic in a new way. Focusing on four main illusions – mind reading, transformation, levitation and the disembodied head, the exhibit connects

magic's huge popularity to science and demonstrates how scientific concepts help create a successful illusion. Learn about the history of magic and its most famous performers – from Houdini to Henning – in the Magicians and Performances area. See authentic magical artifacts; watch the film, *Magic at Work*; experience the emotional impact of magic performances in the Mansion Theatre; learn about an illusion's cultural history, and explore magic through hands-on exhibits and video.

Admission is \$8.25 for adults; \$7.75 for seniors, and \$5.75 for children. The museum hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and noon to 5 p.m. Sundays.

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



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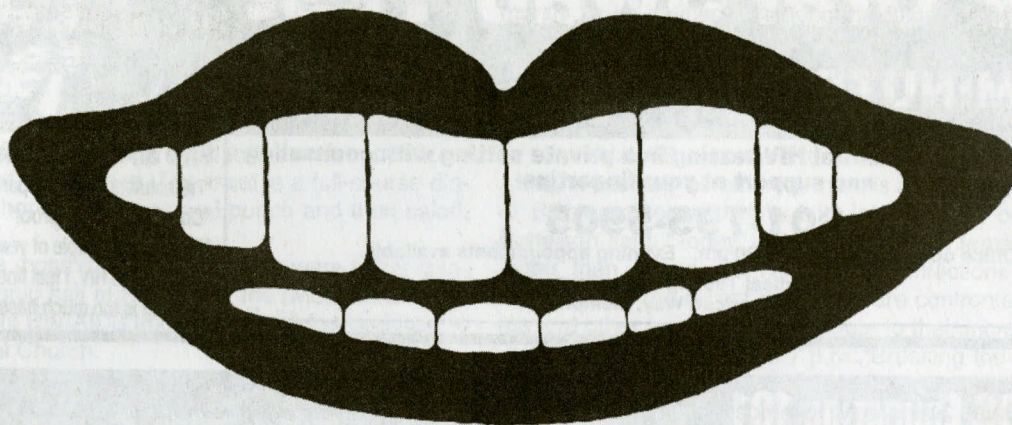
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"I can't have HIV, I feel fine"

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

HIV/AIDS EDUCATION 101

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day observed



On Tuesday, Feb. 7, Black American leaders and organizations of Memphis responded to the impact of HIV and AIDS in the city's African-American communities in the sixth annual observance of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NBHAAD). A press conference and a community forum have

already been held and an evening of enlightening entertainment is set for Feb. 10. The purpose of these events is to encourage citizens to get educated, get tested, get treated and get involved with HIV/AIDS as it continues to devastate Black communities.

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

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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

"Seventy-two African-Americans are infected with HIV every day," said Ernest Donelson, founder and president of Black AIDS Memphis, a local grassroots organization. "African-Americans make up approximately 13 percent of the population of the United States, yet almost half of the total AIDS cases reported in this country are among members of the Black community. In 2003, more African-Americans were reported to have HIV/AIDS than any other racial/ethnic group. In Memphis, over the last several years, more than 70 percent of newly-diagnosed people with HIV are Black."

Memphis is one of more than 100 cities across the U.S. that sponsored programs on Feb. 7, to call attention to the problem and seek solutions to halt the epidemic.

HIV/AIDS, especially among African-American females, has become a growing concern in recent years. Longtime HIV/AIDS activist and educator Sharron Moore-Edwards, director of community services at St. Andrew A.M.E. Church said, "African-American women have continued to love themselves to DEATH, while not addressing the delicate issues surrounding HIV infection — issues such as the stigma associated with HIV/AIDS, low self-esteem, abusive relationships and the threat of men on the D.L. (down low). So the question becomes, 'Can African-American females survive in the midst of HIV and address the factors that continue to contribute to their risk for contracting this dreaded disease?'"

Moore-Edwards adamantly stated, "We must break the silence!"

Initiatives in recognition of NBHAAD in Memphis include:

- On Tuesday, Feb. 7, at St. Andrew A.M.E. Church Community Life Center, 1472 Mississippi Blvd, Project H.O.P.E. (HIV Outreach Prevention & Education) and Project C.H.A.R.M. (Christian HIV/AIDS Response Ministry) of St. Andrew A.M.E. Church, along with several other community-based organizations in Memphis, hosted a press conference followed by a com-

See Black AIDS Awareness, page 37

FFL's Feast For Friends dinner returns to St. John's church

Friends For Life's popular Feast For Friends returned to St. John's United Methodist Church, 1207 Peabody at Bellevue on Monday, Feb. 6.

The bi-monthly Feast For Friends will next be held at St. John's on Monday, Feb. 20. Doors open at 6 p.m. for appetizers and dinner is served at 6:30 p.m. The meal is a full-course dinner beginning with hors d'oeuvres and punch and then salad, entree and dessert.

For the past nine months while renovations were being completed to the fellowship hall at St. John's, the twice monthly hot meal for persons with HIV/AIDS and their caregivers was held at First Congregational Church.

"There is no way we can express our gratitude to First Congo for their support of this program, as well as Friends For Life in general," said Kim Moss, executive director of Friends For Life.

Feast For Friends, a free congregate meal program, is a popular program among volunteers, as well as persons with HIV/AIDS. Volunteers serve dinner to persons with HIV/AIDS twice a month (first and third Mondays). Entertainment, excellent food and good friends keep people coming back to the Feast For Friends dinner. This program is one of many that enhance Friend For Life's mission to help people affected by HIV/AIDS live well.

Black AIDS Awareness

from page 36

munity forum entitled "Breaking the Stigma: The Time is Now – Black Women and HIV/AIDS." A panel of African-American women discussed HIV/AIDS among Black females, what is being done and what the community can do to address these and other issues.

"As HIV/AIDS continues to be a dire health concern in the African-American community, there is a disproportionate number of Black women reporting HIV infections in our community," Donelson said. "Today, in Memphis, Black females account for better than 80 percent of new HIV infections among ethnic females over the recent years and are confronted with the stigma and other factors that contribute to their increased risk."

• On Friday, Feb. 10, at 7 p.m., "Breaking the Silence: Artists Speak Out Against HIV/AIDS," an evening of music and entertainment, will feature some of Memphis's outstanding spoken word artists and the M3 Jazz Trio. There also will be door prizes and food. Free HIV counseling and testing, sponsored by community based organizations, also will be available.

For more information, call (901) 335-5931 or (901) 461-3313 or go online to www.blackaidsday.org.

Be The Change You Want To See In The World!



Black AIDS Institute releases report on Black youth

When we think of the multiple challenges African-American youth face, many of our minds rightly turn to mass incarceration, failing public school systems and an economy without living wage jobs. Clearly, our community's young people are disproportionately affected by these and other social ills. Together, they dim our children's horizons, limit their opportunities and, broadly, make their pursuit of happy, healthy lives more difficult – and in some cases impossibly daunting.

Few of these challenges are new; they have hamstrung young African-Americans from our nation's inception. But in recent decades we have seen a new threat, itself a byproduct of the broader crisis our youth confront: the raging AIDS epidemic among Black young people.

In the Black AIDS Institute's latest report, "Reclaiming Our Future: The State of AIDS among Black Youth," University of Chicago political science professor Dr. Cathy J. Cohen and her co-authors explain how the collected social ills bearing down upon African-American youth have added up to make them the new face of AIDS in America.

Today, people under the age of 25 account for half of all new HIV infections each year. Within that group, African-Americans account for 56 percent of new infections. No matter what age group one focuses in on, Blacks are most impacted:

- African-Americans account for 66 percent of new HIV infections among 13 to 19 year-olds.
- Among 20 to 24 year-olds, it's only slightly better, with Blacks accounting for 53 percent of those infected.
- In 2002, 71 percent of all new HIV diagnoses reported in children under the age of 13 were found among African-Americans.

We must begin to recognize HIV/AIDS as one of the leading challenges to the survival of young African-Americans. But, ultimately, this epidemic cannot be separated from the countless others our youth face every day. In "Reclaiming Our Future," Dr. Cohen and her co-authors, Alexandra Bell and Mosi Ifatunji, describe some of the key ways in which HIV intersects with the larger social challenges Black youth navigate. They dissect how public policymakers and the industries that shape popular culture have contributed to the problem, and they explore answers for undoing it.

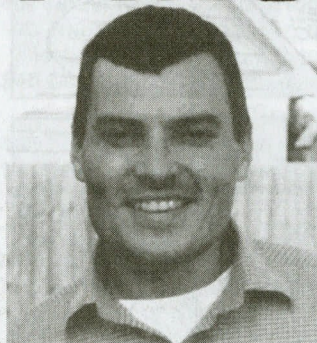
A free copy of "Reclaiming Our Future," can be downloaded at www.BlackAIDS.org or by writing Black AIDS Institute, ATTN: Reclaiming Our Future 1833 West 8th Street, Suite 200, Los Angeles, CA 90057.

Attorney to discuss HIV/AIDS disclosure, privacy issues

Attorney Daniel W. Van Horn, of The Tennessee Bar Association Young Lawyers Division, in conjunction with Memphis Area Legal Services, will present a seminar on "HIV/AIDS Disclosure and Privacy Issues" on Tuesday, March 7, at 6 p.m. at Friends For Life, 43 North Cleveland.

The public is invited; reservations can be made by calling Sheron Booker at (901) 272-0855, ext. 237.

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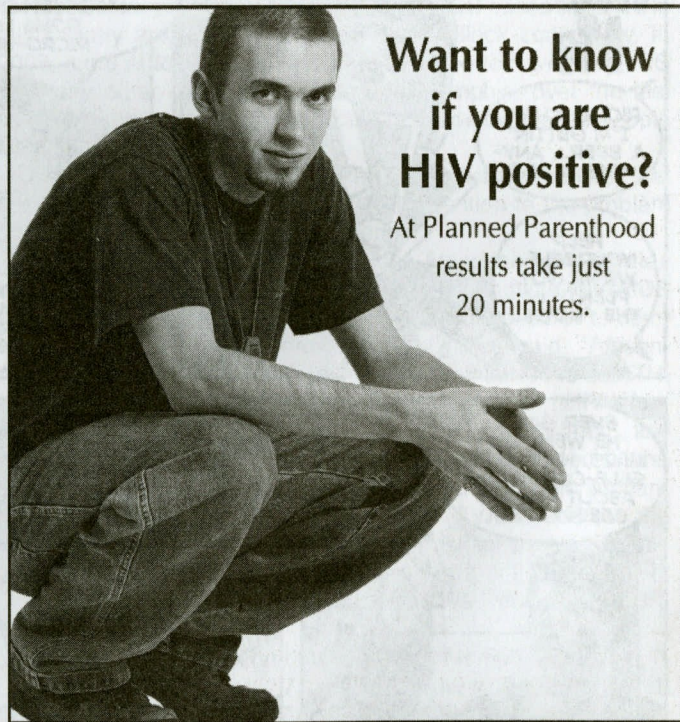


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by Shelia Tankersley

It is February already. I have always liked February because it is the "love month." It brings up thoughts of the heart, flowers, gifts, relationships and all those memories that are good and bad. I want to share a few thoughts regarding love and the heart. As always, 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.

When I started to write this article, I had to contemplate the question of why the heart was a symbol for love. It always has been but I wondered why the heart and not the eyes or the brain. As I began to think about energy centers and the chakras, it was apparent why the heart was the symbol. I will briefly explain the chakras so you will have an understanding of this concept. Every living thing is alive and pulsates with energy. This energy contains information, i.e. the Bible says "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he." Living tissue generates energy. There are energy points in the human body. The fourth chakra is the heart chakra (in the chest area) and its lessons relate to love, forgiveness and compassion. It is the center from which love emanates. When this chakra's energy is closed off (to love or non-forgiveness) many times some physicians have found that heart problems occur. This shows how very important the heart energy is.

In many cultures the heart is a frequent modern symbol of love. Many refer to the heart as the seat of the soul. The heart is a vital center of one's being, emotions and senses. It is the totality of our being. It is where love resides. Love is located within you.

Love is a mystery to so many. Until you understand and experience genuine love, you might see it as many different things. If the heart is an energy center and love resides in the heart then we know that love is energy. The type of love (energy) that we experience is determined by the definition we give it. My love for my friends is different from the love for my partner. It is just as powerful but it has a different definition and it is experienced differently. I love my family but that also is a different kind of love and experienced differently. Are you with me? The power of the energy of love is the same. It is differentiated by the description and the experience of it. Different people place varying degrees of importance on the kind of love they receive.

I think the most important thing to remember is that love begins within. Be the love that you want to attract into your life. Love is subtle, tender, not about your needs but caring about the other. Love is powerful, intimate and divine. Love also has a healing power. The popular Biblical passage, often used at weddings, reads, "Love is patient, love is kind, and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant. Love does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness but rejoices with the truth, bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails."

There are many different ideas about love. Many cultures have deified love in gods and goddesses, such as Aphrodite, Eros, Inanna, Kama and Venus, to only name a few. Each world religion has its own meaning of love. The Buddhist and Hindu believe that love is compassion and mercy. The Christian belief is one of Agape love, which is charitable, selfless and unconditional, i.e., "Love your neighbor as yourself." The Islamic meaning is one of being full of loving kindness. The Jewish meaning is one of affection and compassion. Indian Guru Babaji said, "Love is the major quality of God. We have to learn to feel emotions of love to perform deeds of love, to eliminate all the opposite states and acts, whatever external conditions we live in." Love seems to be very universal in its meanings.

Each one of us is a natural messenger of love. You can learn to tap within yourself to hear the message of the heart that will allow you to heal the areas of your life that are keeping you from your highest good. This means to make an effort to practice unconditional love, starting with you and spreading out to others. Practicing unconditional love is practicing forgiveness and letting go of judgments. To practice unconditional love means opening the heart. This is the first step in healing. Love has a healing power. Let go of all the stuff you continue to tote around because you cannot forgive someone (or yourself). Let it go. Do whatever it takes to experience the wonderful energy of love.

Now, I want to say a few words about genuine love. If I had a dollar for every time I thought I was in love, I would be a rich gal today. I am very blessed today to be in a mature, intimate, loving relationship. It started out with the love of friendship and evolved to another level of love, another definition. I am in a partnership that understands that we are supporting each others' soul growth. We understand that we mirror for each other those things that need to be healed. We understand that when we hurt each other we are only hurting ourselves.

We are not co-dependent; we are pure, genuine love.


As I said earlier, love is love, the energy is the same. Let people know you love them. Speak the words, show it with your actions and come from the heart. Show it with compassion, show it with forgiveness. Allow yourself to receive the love that is shown to you. It feels so much better than the negative opposite. Love yourself; be good to yourself ... that is the best love of all.

This month's article is in honor of my life partner, Chris Sinnock, and my Twin Flame, Wayne Harris, both whom I love very much.

Have a blessed Valentine's Day!

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

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(901) 725-1909
3. **The Jungle**
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(901) 278-0521
4. **Lorenz/Aftershock**
1528 Madison Avenue
(901) 274-8272
5. **Madison Flame**
1588 Madison Avenue
(901) 278-0569
6. **Metro Memphis**
1349 Autumn Street
(901) 274-8010
7. **Allusions (inset)**
3204 North Thomas
(901) 357-8383
8. **One More**
2117 Peabody
(901) 278-MORE
9. **The Pumping Station**
1382 Poplar Avenue
(901) 272-7600
10. **Paragon**
2865 Walnut Grove Rd.
(901) 320-0026
11. **Printer's Alley**
322 S. Cleveland
(901) 725-9809
12. **Sessions**
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(901) 276-1882

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- Buns On The Run**
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(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
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- One More Bar & Grill**
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(901) 278-MORE
- Barksdale Restaurant**
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(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
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(901) 276-7437

Audrey Rose Cafe
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Suite 100
(901) 323-1196

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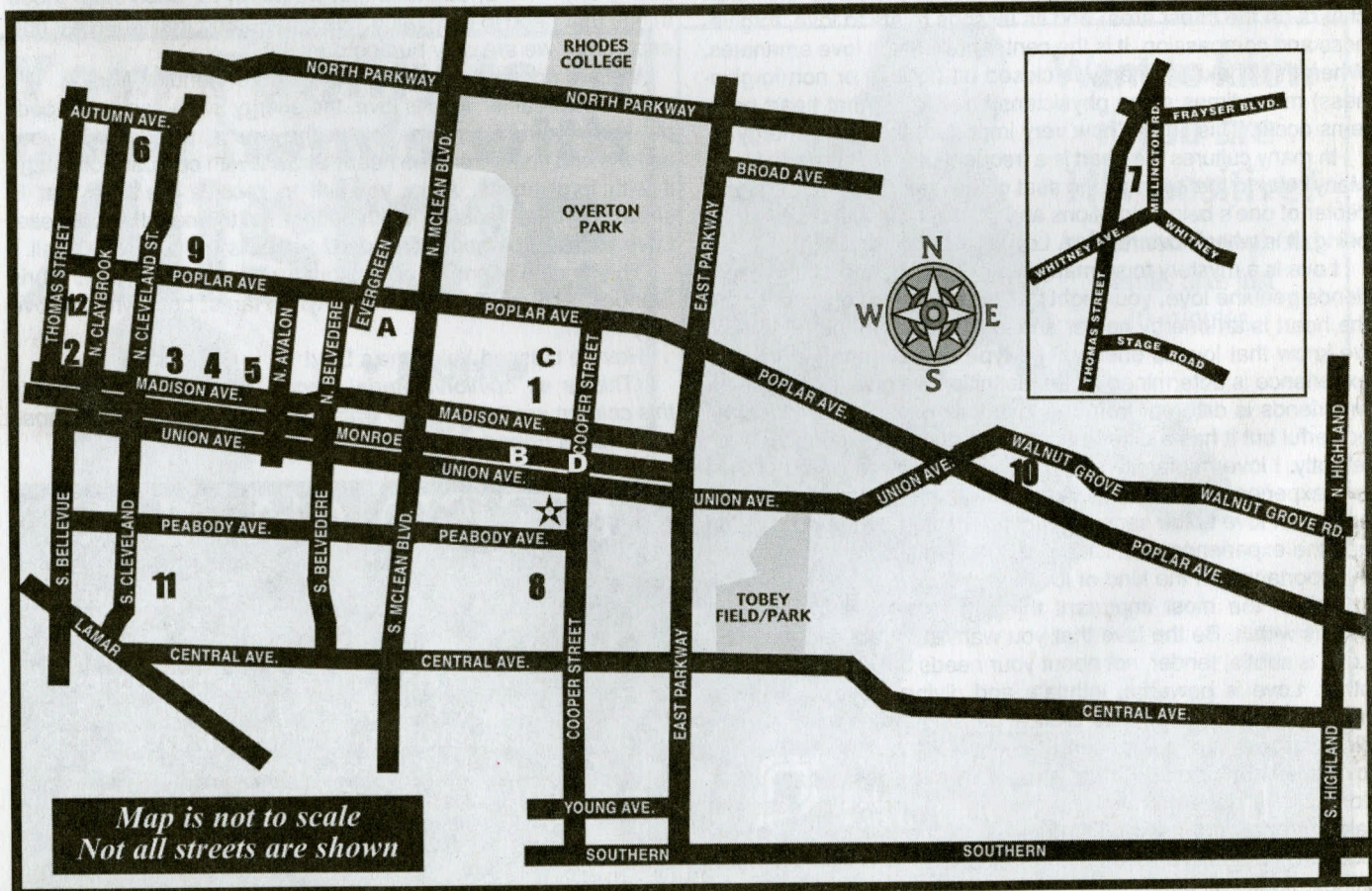
Pancho's
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(901) 685-5404
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- C Malco's Studio on the Square**
2105 Court Avenue
Movie Hotline: (901) 681-2020
- D Playhouse on the Square**
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(901) 726-4656
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The Orpheum
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(901) 525-3000
- Theatre Memphis**
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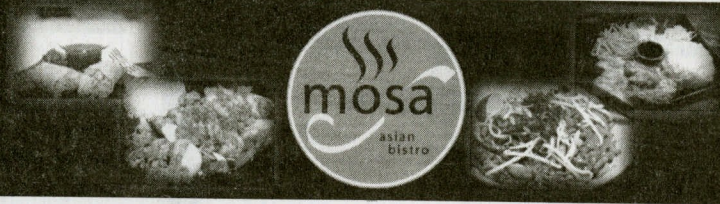


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Not all streets are shown



DINING OUT

by Laer Gib Retae



Used to be one of our favorite places to eat was Formosa, not just because the Asian food is top-notch, but because there were locations all across town, one on Summer Avenue, one on Quince and the other out in Germantown. But, during the past year or so their numbers have dwindled down to just the Quince location, which, if you don't know where it is, you'd probably never happen past it.

Not long ago we were out East near the intersection of Poplar and Kirby Parkway and just by chance we noticed a restaurant tucked away behind the McDonald's, which fronts Poplar. For many years this building was home to a Kentucky Fried Chicken, however, within the past decade it's been many different restaurants and the scene of one fire. The name on the new restaurant was Mosa.

Formosa ... Mosa, could it be or was it just coincidence? We decided to find out.

Mosa Asian Bistro is the brainchild of Alfred and Edward Pao, the founders of the perennial award-winning Formosa Restaurant. According to its website (mosaasianbistro.com), the Paos strive to offer their guests the ultimate dining experience with food and atmosphere that truly innovates.

The menu is surprising simplistic in its design, compared to most Chinese and Japanese restaurants. Offering dishes from various parts of Asia, Mosa offers eight appetizers, or "starters," two soups, three salads, four noodle bowls, seven rice plates and five Mosa classics. While this doesn't seem like a lot of variety to most, the latter three categories offer variations to each by allowing the guest to "choose your protein," which consists of veggies, chicken, beef, shrimp and in some cases tofu, but only allowable in vegetable dishes and then only in the noodle bowl and rice plate selections. All rice plate and Mosa classic dishes are served with a choice of white or brown rice.

On this particular trip we began with two starters (there were two of us), Mosa spring rolls and potstickers. The spring rolls were great and exactly like those we find at Formosa. However, it was the potstickers that will have us coming back again and again. These pan-fried dumplings are stuffed full of marinated pork, scallions and ginger and served with soy dipping sauce. For those of you who were fans of the former Lily's Dim Sum's Gazoza, these

potstickers may not have wasabi in the dumpling batter, but they are the closest thing you'll find in the Memphis area. Other "starters," include chicken lettuce wraps, basil rolls, crab cheese wontons, edamame, sesame chicken and hot and sour wontons.

We opted to forego the soup on this visit, but Mosa offers both hot and sour and won ton soups.

For dinner we chose two of the Mosa classics, Bistro Fried Rice and Green Beans; in both cases we chose chicken as our "protein." While the fried rice was just as we expected, flavorful and overflowing with egg, scallions, carrots, onions and just the right amount of soy sauce, it was the

See Dining Out, page 42

Mosa Asian Bistro
1825 Kirby Parkway
(901) 755-6755

Price/Cost: \$10-\$15/person (dinner)

Dining Style: Casual

Cuisine: Pan-Asian

Service: Very Good

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Dining Out

from page 41

Green Beans that were the pleasant surprise. Wok-seared with scallions and sweet soy sauce, this dish was so delicious there was no need for a to-go box by the time the check arrived. My dining companion noted she would be back for more, and soon.

Space simply does not allow us to describe all the dishes Mosa has to offer, but for those who like to spice things up, Mosa denotes its spicy dishes on the menu with a little red chili pepper. And, to make certain, this isn't just another Chinese restaurant, there are menu selections whose names indicate the areas of Asia from which they hail, for example Mosa Pad Thai, Singapore Curry and Taiwanese Lo Mein noodle bowls; Mandarin Kung Pao, Red Asian Curry and Thai Curry rice plates, and Szechuan, Hunan and Su Chai Vegetable Mosa classics.

There is a children's menu for kids 10 and under and only if dining in. The five selections come with fried rice and a drink.

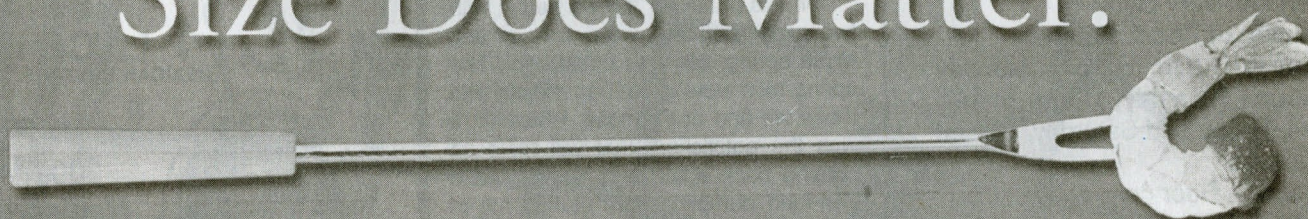
Beverages offered include soft drinks, iced and hot tea, Thai iced tea, bottled water and both domestic and premium beers.

Worthy of a special note is that Mosa offers two kinds of house salad dressings for their salads: ginger and peanut.

The first thing you'll notice when you walk inside is the large menu board. You won't need to peruse it if you're planning to dine-in, as someone will seat you and provide menus at your table. The wait staff was attentive, friendly, knowledgeable and very eager to help explain the menu. Take out is available and Mosa also offers lunch specials.

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

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ABOUT TOWN

things to do 'round town

MSO to offer free concert

The Memphis Symphony Orchestra will present "I Have a Dream ... a Musical Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr." on Sunday, Feb. 12, at 7:30 p.m. at the Cannon Center, located at 255 North Main Street in downtown Memphis. This MSO concert is free and open to the public. However, reservations are required by calling (901) 324-3627.

'All That's Clay' show set at Dixon

The Third Annual "All That's Clay" Dixon Pottery Show and Sale is set for Saturday, Feb. 25, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at The Dixon, located at 4339 Park Avenue. This show features 15 potters from the Mid-South. Admission to this event is free.

Dixon to offer photography lecture

The Dixon Gallery and Gardens, 4339 Park Avenue, will present "Photography: The Evolving Face of Picture Taking" on Thursday, March 2, from 7 to 9 p.m. Learn about photography from four experts in the field. Art photographer Maud Schyler Clay will talk about the craft; Candace Spearman will demonstrate copy stand work and pitfalls to avoid; a *Commercial Appeal* photographer will discuss how digital photos have revolutionized the industry, and professional children's photographer Beth Moore will share tips. Time will be available to consult with each of the speakers. Cost is \$10 per person; reservations are recommended by calling (901) 761-5250.

Tree care tips to be shared at MBG

On Saturday, Feb. 11, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., the Memphis Botanic Garden, located at 750 Cherry Road in Audubon Park, will present a tree clinic to the public; admission is free. Learn all about proper tree pruning and tree care. Staff knowledgeable in the care of small and large trees will be on hand to answer questions; offer advice on tree problems; host guided tours of trees, and give examples of tree-care methods. For more information, call (901) 685-1566, ext. 129.

Pink Palace to host Oscar Night

Oscar Night America will be celebrated in a gala black-tie event at the Memphis Pink Palace Museum, 3050 Central Avenue, Sunday, March 5, from 6 p.m. to midnight.

The Ronald McDonald House Charities of Memphis Inc. and the Pink Palace Family of Museums will host this unique fundraiser for the two charities. The party is the only Oscar party in Memphis officially sanctioned by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Multiple screens, including the Crew Training International IMAX Theatre, will provide live broadcasts of the 78th Annual Academy Awards Ceremony from Hollywood.

Tickets to the black-tie gala are \$125 each. For more information, reservations and tickets, contact David Branch at (901) 320-6394 or Lindy Shockley at (901) 312-7479.

Academy Awards for outstanding film achievements of 2005, will be broadcast locally on Sunday, March 5, at 7 p.m., on ABC24-WPTY.

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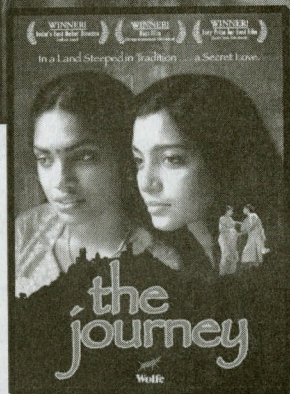
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REEL TWISTED film reviews

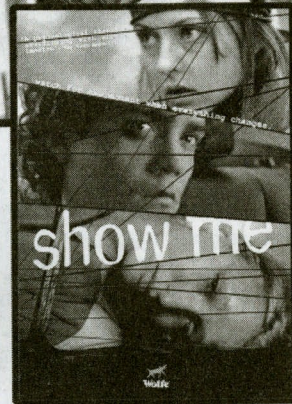


Coming to DVD Feb. 14, *The Journey* is the feature film debut of Indian-American director Ligy J. Pullappally.

Winner of the Chicago Award for Best Film at the 40th Chicago International Film Festival, *The Journey* tells the story of two young women who grow up together in a rural Indian village, where arranged marriage is the only acceptable form of coupling. Kiran, a studious and reserved young woman, is mortified by her growing lesbian desire for the effervescent Delilah. Ashamed and frightened, she agrees to help her neighbor, Rajan, in his attempts to win Delilah's heart, but Delilah soon discovers Kiran's true feelings. The romance that follows changes both women, but when the relationship is discovered, Delilah's family plunges her into an arranged marriage, and Kiran finds herself standing at an abyss, facing a future without her one true love.

Director Pullappally was born in Kerala, India, and grew up in Chicago. She began writing and directing theater at the age of 13, and was recognized by the Chicago Young Playwright's Festival for her first full-length work. After pursuing a career as a lawyer and human rights activist, Pullappally returned to the arts, making two short films before embarking on *The Journey*. This film also won the Special Jury Prize at a film festival in her hometown of Kerala, India, as well as Best Director award at the Lankesh Awards in Bangalore, India.

Run Time: 107 minutes. Malayalam with English subtitles
Pre-ordering available now at www.WolfeVideo.com



The acclaimed psychological thriller starring *Ginger Snap's* Katharine Isabelle and *Gypsy 83's* Kett Turton, *Show Me*, becomes available on DVD March 21 from Wolfe Video.

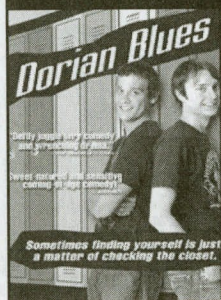
Show Me is a taut psychological thriller; a cat-and-mouse tale of captors and captives. After being carjacked and kidnapped by two reckless teens, Sarah is forced to take them to her isolated cabin where her yuppie facade turns to cunning revenge. This creates a high-stakes power play when Sarah turns the tables on her young captors. *Show Me* plunges viewers into a maze of mystery, desire, memory and self-sacrifice.

This film marks the feature film directing debut of Cassandra Nicolaou, who previously directed award-winning and popular short films, including *Interviews With My Next Girlfriend* (included on the best-selling shorts compilation DVD *Watching You*). Isabelle, who stars as Jenna, has developed a solid fan base from her lead performance in the cult hit *Ginger Snaps* and its two sequels. Turton, who plays Jenna's partner in crime, Jackson, was featured in the blockbuster *Blade: Trinity*, and can be seen in the upcoming Harrison Ford thriller *Firewall*. Michelle Nolden (Sarah) recently co-starred in the romantic comedy *The Perfect Man*.

Show Me has already gathered strong notices on the festival circuit.
Run Time: 97 minutes.
Pre-ordering is available now through www.WolfeVideo.com

COMING SOON TO DVD

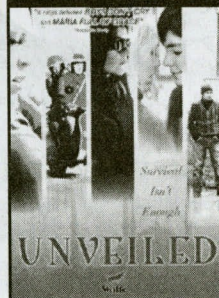
DORIAN BLUES



Available Feb. 21. A tremendous surprise, *Dorian Blues* is a witty, well-directed and acted comedy about a gay teen from first-time director/writer Tennyson Bardwell and a cast of skilled, unknown actors. 88 minutes

It is currently available for pre-ordering.
Available at www.tlavideo.com

UNVEILED



Available April 18. A powerful and political drama from Angelina Maccarone, this film tells the story of an Iranian woman who flees to Germany to escape political oppression in her home country. DVD also includes the short film, *Everyone, Everywhere* narrated by Sir Ian McKellen. 97 minutes

Pre-ordering available March 7.
Available at www.WolfeVideo.com



The Ski Trip to highlight 1st SGL Film Fest

by Patricia Pair, publisher

The first-ever SGL Film Festival in Memphis and the Mid-South will be held Friday and Saturday, Feb. 24 and 25, at The MeDiA Co-op, located inside First Congregational Church, 1000 South Cooper. The entrance to the Co-op's 125-seat theater is located on the south side of the church building. The film festival is being presented by *Family & Friends Magazine* in honor of Black (Gay) History Month.

The term "SGL" is one that's used within the Black GLBT community. It stands for same-gender loving.

The doors will open at 6:30 p.m. on Friday and 11:30 a.m. on Saturday. With breaks scheduled between the eight films and concessions available for purchase, the last films of the evenings promise to conclude in time for those who might want to go out clubbing afterward. A complete schedule appears at the bottom of this page.

Admission to the Memphis SGL Film Festival is free both days, however, donations will be accepted for The MeDiA Co-op.

Heading up the list of films is director Maurice Jamal's *The Ski Trip*, previously unavailable for viewing in the Mid-South unless you subscribe to Logo through a satellite TV service.

The Ski Trip (comedy, 90 minutes) **MAIN ATTRACTION AND MID-SOUTH THEATER PREMIERE** *The Ski Trip* opens a world we've never seen before: the first romantic comedy starring Black and Latino gay characters. These aren't simple queer characters; they are vibrant, articulate, strong and diverse. Their lives are just like everyone's: complex, involved, dramatic and always hilarious. *The Ski Trip* will screen twice, opening and closing the two-day event.

For more on Maurice Jamal, see page 11 in this issue.

B.D. Women (drama, 1994, 20 minutes)

This film by Inge Blackman is a wonderful celebration of the history and culture of Black lesbians. Lively interviews feature Black women talking candidly about their sexual and racial identities. These contemporary views are cleverly interwoven with a dramatized love story, set in the 1920s, in which a sultry romance develops between a gorgeous jazz

singer and her stylish butch lover. This film rewrites the vanished history of Black lesbians' lives in an eloquent and entertaining way.

Black Aura on an Angel (thriller, 64 minutes) After a chance meeting, Angel is completely captivated by the beautiful, mysterious Phaedra and the two women soon fall madly in love. But, as the relationship intensifies, Phaedra begins a downward spiral that drags the loving Angel with her. Based on actual events, this film by director Faith Trimel is a sexy, mesmerizing thriller that depicts the passion and the pain as two women's worlds collide.

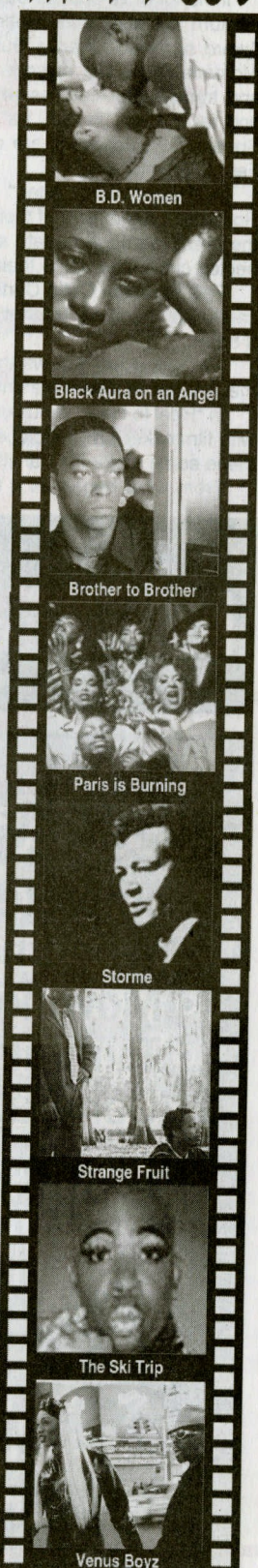
Brother to Brother (drama, 90 minutes) This critically-acclaimed drama directed by Rodney Evans, invokes the gay glory days of the Harlem Renaissance. An elderly man, poet Bruce Nugent, meets Perry, a young Black gay artist struggling to find his voice and together they embark on a surreal journey through his inspiring past, which includes such brilliant figures as Langston Hughes, Wallace Thurman and Zora Neale Hurston.

Paris is Burning (documentary, 71 minutes) This award-winning film by director Jennie Livingston remains one of the top-grossing documentaries of all time. When it was released in 1991, it made visible a gay Black and Latino subculture (the Harlem House Ball circuit) and made gay men of color visible to themselves and served as a vitally important conduit of culture.

Storme: The Lady of the Jewel Box (documentary, 21 minutes) This film by Michelle Parkerson examines the life of Storme DeLarverie, a woman whose life flouted prescriptions of gender and race. During the 1950s and '60s, she toured the Black theater circuit as a mistress of ceremonies and the sole male impersonator of the legendary Jewel Box Revue.

Strange Fruit (drama, 116 minutes) Set in contemporary rural Louisiana, this film by Kyle Schickner explores the tribulations of William Boyals, a gay Black lawyer from New York City, who comes home to investigate the lynching of his also-gay childhood friend, Kelvin.

Venus Boyz (documentary, 104 minutes) This film directed by Gabriel Baur is about people who create intermediate sexual identities. A legendary drag king night in New York is the point of departure for an odyssey to transgendered worlds, where women become men – some for a night, others for their whole lives. Find out what motivates them.



FRIDAY, FEB. 24		SATURDAY, FEB. 25	
7:00 pm	THE SKI TRIP	NOON	BROTHER TO BROTHER
8:30 pm	break	1:30 pm	break
8:45 pm	B.D. WOMEN	1:45 pm	PARIS IS BURNING
9:05 pm	break	3:00 pm	break
9:20 pm	BLACK AURA ON AN ANGEL	3:15 pm	VENUS BOYZ
		5:00 pm	break (30 min)
		8:15 pm	THE SKI TRIP
		5:30 pm	STRANGE FRUIT
		7:25 pm	break
		7:40 pm	STORME
		8:00 pm	the lady of the jewel box break

Doors open 30 minutes before the first show • Movies & Times subject to change

ON THE SMALL SCREEN GLBT Television

'In The Life' to celebrate Valentine's Day with shows

In honor of Valentines Day, "In the Life" explores "The Right To Love," a return to stories that celebrate love and commitment. Hosted by Tony Award nominee Charles Busch (*The Tale of the Allergist's Wife, Die Mommie Die!*), this episode highlights ordinary gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender couples who share memories of when they first met and fell in love. "In the Life" also debuts a new segment: Kate Clinton Speaks Out. Following are descriptions of individual segments for the Feb. 2006, show.

In "Happily Ever After," "In The Life" visits Chuck Allen and Tod Roulette in the middle of their wedding preparations. The implications of the great marriage debate suddenly became very real when an unexpected crisis interrupts their plans.

Folk musician Catie Curtis experiences the dramatic changes in her career and personal life that occurred after she and her partner adopted a baby.

"On the Road" follows the partnership of two truck drivers who first met and fell in love while driving on the nation's highways.

In "Reel to Reel: Venus of Mars," "In the Life" goes behind the scenes with filmmaker Emily Goldberg to discover how one GLBT couple overcame some major life transitions both on and off the performing stage.

From what began as a tiny support group for parents whose adult

children had come out of the closet, PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) has evolved into one of the GLBT community's largest and most effective organizations. In "PFLAG Evolution," "In the Life" recalls how parents and friends of the GLBT community united to help combat homophobia.

In "Reel to Reel: Ruthie and Connie," filmmaker Deborah Dickson talks about her award-winning film, *Ruthie and Connie: Every Room of the House*. The film chronicles the friendship, romance and extraordinary journey of two 1950s housewives who transformed themselves into modern-day, lesbian-grandmother activists.

In the debut of Kate Clinton Speaks Out, political humorist and entertainer, Kate Clinton offers bold ideas on how to become an active member in your local community.

"In the Life" is shown on public television. Memphis's WKNO-Channel 10 does NOT carry "In The Life." However, readers can still enjoy "In the Life" via its website at itl.tv, where all archived episodes can be viewed in their entirety.

Editor's Note: If you would like to see "In The Life" on Memphis's public television station, WKNO-TV Channel 10, visit the "In The Life" website for a prepared email or print letter, or contact the station at (901) 458-2521.

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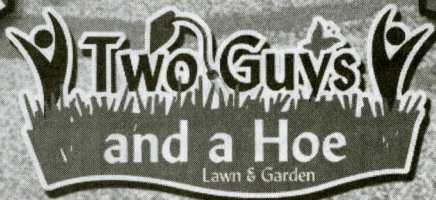
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**For More info:
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Ask For Robert**

The New Wave In Lesbian Fiction

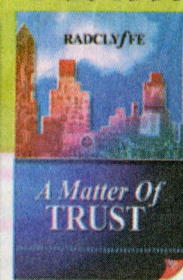
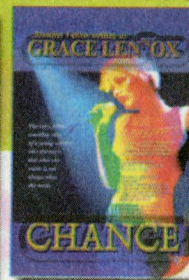
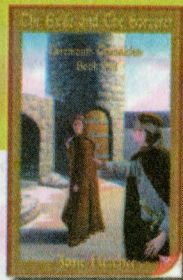
Available This Month



Bold Strokes
BOOKS

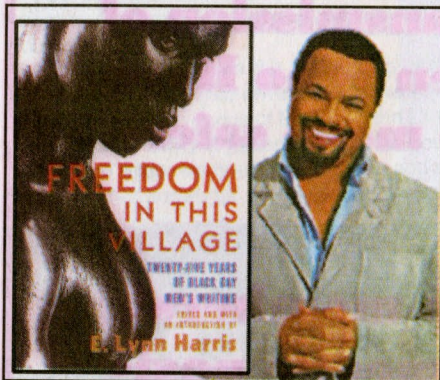
Where Tradition Meets Tomorrow
Writing Outside The Box

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LITERATURE

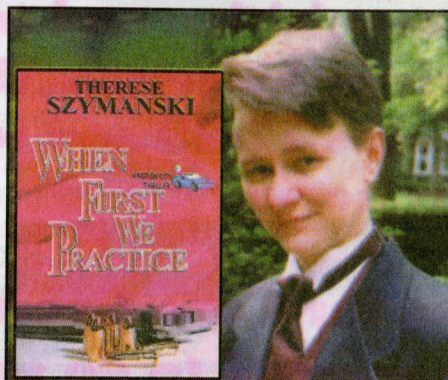
books by, for or about GLBT people



Freedom in this Village: Twenty-five Years of Black Gay Men's Writing
edited by E. Lynn Harris
Carroll & Graf Publishers © 2005

"For the first time ever, *Freedom in This Village: Twenty-five Years of Black Gay Men's Writing* chronicles the vital but all-too-often overlooked course of black gay literature from roughly the emergence of AIDS up through the present day," wrote the anthology's editor, E. Lynn Harris, acclaimed writer of eight novels and his memoir, *What Becomes of the Broken-Hearted*, in the Introduction to the book. "One of the secondary tragedies of AIDS has been the figurative death of works by Black gay men who have died. With the exception of re-issued editions of books by Essex Hemphill and Melvin Dixon, most contemporary Black gay writing has disappeared from public view with each new death. ... Thus, *Freedom in This Village* highlights our neglected past, while showcasing exciting new work by today's writers."

Forty-seven authors are represented in this anthology, including James Baldwin, Samuel R. Delany, Marvin K. White, Marlon Riggs, G. Winston James, James Earl Hardy, Tim'm West, Keith Boykin, Thomas Glave, Randy Boyd and Bruce Morrow.



When First We Practice
A Motor City Thriller
by Therese Szymanski
Bella Books © 2005

Brett Higgins is back in the seventh installment of this popular mystery series. This time, Brett and her girlfriend, Allie, are once again caught in the middle of murder and intrigue. When Allie's former partner pulls a gun at a local nightclub, Brett is forced to intervene. Once separated, the cause of the fight is obvious – her former partner is living with Lauren – and Jill wants her back. Nothing like a little dyke drama to liven up the bar.

When the bullets in the dead body found the next morning match Allie's ex-partner's gun, Allie sends Brett to solve the murder. And Brett will have to use all of her charm to gain information.

... "Bitch!" a woman screamed.

Brett didn't think, she reacted. In just the flash she'd seen, she knew what the brunette had pulled, and she flew, taking the most direct route, leaping up and running across tabletops to the dance floor. Pushing aside several women who were just realizing what was happening, Brett grabbed the brunette's arm, her gun arm, and pushed it up. Brett shoved her other arm between the two women so that the drunk sailed backward ...



The Boys in the Brownstone
by Kevin Scott
The Haworth Press © 2005

"In his first novel, *The Boys in the Brownstone*, screenwriter and playwright Kevin Scott writes a hilarious comedy of manners about a group of gay men who don't fit in anywhere except a bar they call home," wrote *The New York Post* in a review of *The Boys in the Brownstone*. "A 'gentleman's bar' on the affluent Upper East Side of New York, the Brownstone is a quaint oasis of Chippendale and Sondheim in a city of gym rats and club kids. But the boys in the Brownstone aren't gentlemen and they certainly aren't quaint.

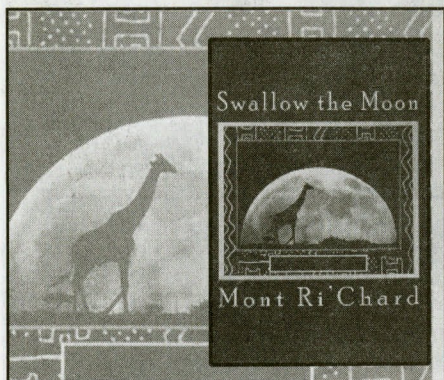
"Scott's wild parade of characters includes a museum curator who can't resist a handsome young pianist whose previous boyfriends have all committed suicide; an assistant pastor who steals from a dying Monsignor to finance his lover's landscape gardening business; an African-American blue blood who tires of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy his well-bred parents try to enforce, and a soon-to-be-married soap opera writer who panics when his sanctimonious father defies his congregation to perform the gay wedding at his own church. There doesn't



LITERATURE

books by, for or about GLBT people

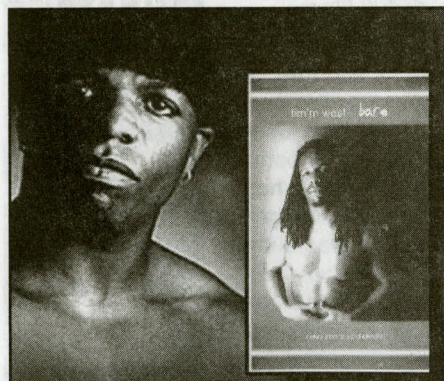
seem to be anywhere these characters can just be themselves – except at the Brownstone.”



Swallow the Moon
By Mont Ri'Chard
Dorrance Publishing Co. Inc.

Mont Ri'Chard's 59 pages of poetry is a collection of poems written with honesty and passion, leaving the reader with a sense of catharsis. Ri'Chard grapples with his own identity as a Black male in today's society.

Swallow the Moon takes the reader to Ri'Chard's "Early Years," where he explores what it means to be Black, to the present as he searches for companionship and acceptance. *Swallow the Moon* captures the emotions and difficulties in the life of a young Black man. (Note: *Swallow the Moon* includes explicit adult material.)

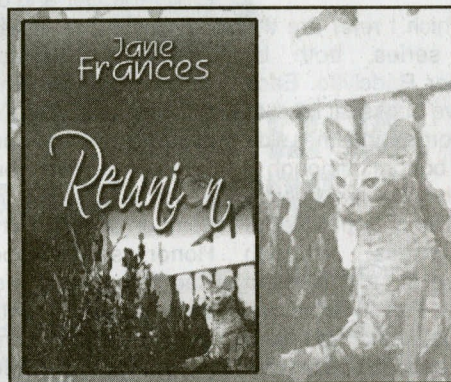


Bare: Notes from a Porchdweller
by Tim'm West

This 42-page chapbook is filled with the poetry and thoughts of Tim'm West, author of *Red Dirt Revival*. West continues his gift of the word, his analysis of the word and his deep respect for the word as a way of communication and expression of one's soul.

In one poem found in *Bare*, dedicated

to Malik Ameer, West writes: "whenever i remember you/i remember aspects/i don't think you show yourself/the beautiful, fuzzy shit/like your notebook-scribble/it disobeys boundaries/has its own style/is oblivious to any eyes/that might judge it/incorrectly/and my ears beg to hear/sanctified poetix/the imaginable wild-style/your smile makes/when happiness slips/out your eyes and into mine."



Reunion
by Jane Frances
Bella Books © 2005
reviewed by Patricia Pair, publisher

Reunion is the debut novel of Jane Frances who describes herself as "an active daydreamer with a practical bent." A first-time writer, Frances is pursuing a lifelong love of reading and self-expression through the written word.

Reunion is the story of Cathy Braithwaite, a woman who seems to have it all; good looks, money and a thriving accounting practice. But, below the surface of this successful career woman is a void that just can't seem to be filled.

Toni, Cathy's best friend and employee, is desperate to fill that void. She's fallen for her boss hook, line and sinker and will do anything to be with her, maybe even stretch the truth.

Lisa, freshly broken up from a cheating partner, is not looking for love. Indeed, she tells anyone who'll listen she is "through with women."

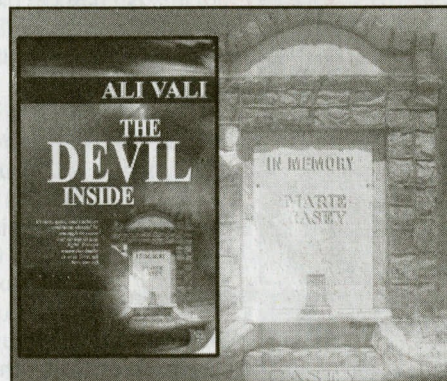
Follow this tale of three women as they navigate their way through old love, new love and unrequited love.

Although the author now resides in Paris, when she was in school, her studies took her to a job in Perth Western Australia, where she spent more than a decade working with a creative and supportive team.

While I found the story completely

warm and enjoyable, it was a bit of a struggle at first to overcome the hurdle of the Australian jargon, for example, "going to university," instead of going to the university or attending college.

At any rate, definitely a good first effort from a writer we hope to see more of in the future.



The Devil Inside
by Ali Vali
Bold Strokes Books © 2006
reviewed by Patricia Pair, publisher

It's not very often that I find myself literally counting the days until a book's release, but this is one of those very rare occasions. *The Devil Inside* is the first book in what will become the continuing saga of the Casey Family and marks the debut of Bold Strokes author Ali Vali into the literary world of fiction.

Originally from Cuba, Vali has retained much of her family's traditions and languages and uses them frequently in her stories. Billed as a romantic thriller, *The Devil Inside* is set against the backdrop of New Orleans and from page one finds the reader immersed in the world of organized crime by way of Derby Cain Casey, head of the Casey Crime Family. But this isn't your typical "Godfather-esque" novel, oh no. The head of this crime family is not only a lesbian, but a mother to boot.

Vali's fluid writing style quickly puts the reader at ease, which makes the story and its characters equally easy to get to know and care about.

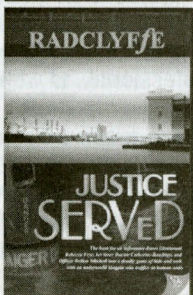
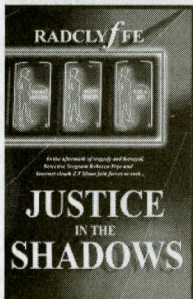
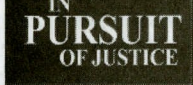
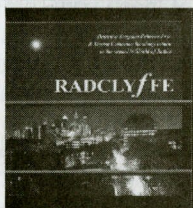
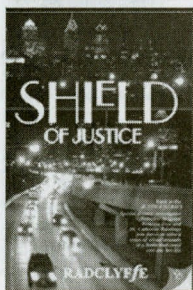
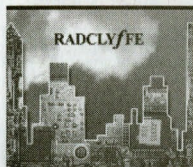
When you find yourself talking out loud to the characters in a book, you know the work is polished and professional, as well as entertaining.

Ever just wanted to grab a crime boss by the lapels, get in their face and tell them to open their eyes and see what's right in front of their eyes? If not you will once you start turning the pages of *The Devil Inside*.



THE RAD REVIEWS

JUSTICE SERIES



by Patricia Pair, publisher

I recently got the chance to do what most readers don't have the opportunity to do, that is I had the pleasure of reading two lesbian fiction series from beginning to end without having to wait for the next book to be released.

The two series to which I refer are the Justice and Honor series, both by acclaimed lesbian author Radclyffe. Each of the series contains five books, at least to date. They are listed in order on either side of this page from top to bottom, although *A Matter of Trust* isn't exactly the first book in the Justice series, but rather a prequel to the remaining four books. Although unavailable for purchase for a time, Bold Strokes Books, of which Radclyffe serves as president and publisher, has just released this month the second edition of *A Matter of Trust*. Unfortunately, it had not arrived by presstime so I was unable to read it for myself.

The Justice Series

At first it was a bit difficult to get into *Shield of Justice*, although I'm not entirely sure why, perhaps a bit too much exposition, but then again, I was meeting the cast of characters for the first time.

The series revolves around a number of main characters, although central to the story are special crimes unit investigator Detective Sergeant Rebecca Frye and psychiatrist Dr. Catherine Rawlings. These two become reluctant allies, then lovers, as both seek to uncover a murderer; the man responsible for a series of sexual assaults, and ultimately the persons behind a national Internet child pornography ring; the latter with the help of a specially-created, multi-level task force headed up by the Department of Justice's Avery Clark.

The remaining characters, who are introduced at varying intervals within the series of books, include computer super sleuth J.T. Sloan and her partner, Jason McBride; business executive Michael Lassiter; gentle practitioner of eastern medicine Sarah Martin; Philadelphia police officers Detective William Watts, Captain John Henry, and rookie Dellon Mitchell; prostitute Sandy Sullivan; surgeon Dr. Ali Torveau, and the crime scene investigation unit's head, Dee Flanagan, and senior technician, Maggie Collins.

To say there's a lot going on there is a

gross understatement. But, to her credit, Radclyffe not only manages to do a great balancing act with her characters and how they relate to one another, she uses her well-honed craft to weave a story so realistic and complex that it can't help but reel the reader deeper and deeper into the pages.

I think one of the most surprising elements of the Justice series is the inclusion of the art of drag, and not just drag queens, but drag kings, too. You won't be able to put any one of these books down.

The Honor Series

Although a bit more simplistic in the number of major characters involved, the Honor series doesn't disappoint as Radclyffe again wields her extraordinary craft into a story both emotionally mesmerizing and ripped from the headlines.

As Radclyffe herself likes to say, she tends to begin a story with the question of "What if...?" and that's apparently just how the first book in this series, *Above All, Honor*, came about. What if a secret service agent were to fall in love with their charge? The answer to that question lies in the pages of the Honor series as Secret Service Agent Cameron Roberts is saddled with the responsibility of heading up the team in charge of protecting the first, and only, daughter of the United States, Blair Powell.

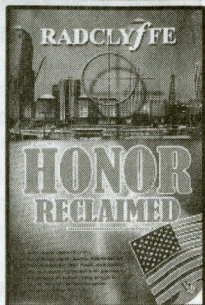
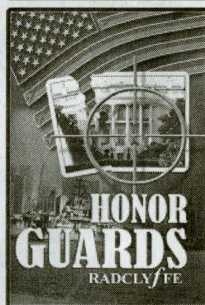
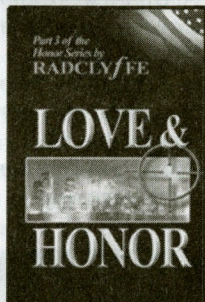
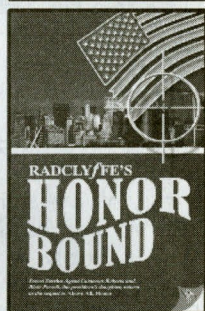
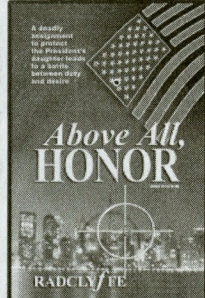
Cameron and Blair are complimenting opposites. Cam is as duty-bound and reserved as Blair is reckless and free, and both have a stubborn streak as wide as the Grand Canyon. In fact, more than once I found myself actually shouting at both of them as they allow their pride and pig-headedness to cloud their judgement and get in the way of what each of them wants more than anything, each other.

Their developing on-again, off-again love affair is set against the real-life backdrop of some of this decade's most riveting moments, among them the threat of national security and terrorism, "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," as well as the attacks of 9/11.

It's a testament to any writer who can create a character so real that the reader finds themselves falling in love with said character, but I won't tell you if it's Cam or Blair I fell for, and hard.

For more information on how to purchase any and all of the books in both these series, log on to www.BoldStrokesBooks.com

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The program for the 4th annual Saints and Sinners Literary Festival is coming together. There will be the usual roster of high-quality panel discussions. Sample topics for 2006, include: Cross-dressing To Sell – What Makes A Book Gay?; "Dealing With Writer's Block;" "Breaking Rules – How Much Do Reader Expectations Count?;" "Is AIDS Still Part of the Plot?;" "Brave New Love: Telling Our Bisexual, Transgender & Polymorphous Perverse Stories," and many more.

The event will kick-off with informative workshops lead by experts in the field. This year there will be sessions led by Michelle Tea, Steven Saylor, Greg Herren, among others.

And it wouldn't be "Saints and Sinners" without the opportunity to meet and mingle with the community of authors, editors, publishers and literary fans. There will be our traditional opening and closing receptions, the reading series and our fundraising dinners. Please join us in the nation's most distinctive city for a weekend of literacy revelry.

Take a look at our website, www.sasfest.org, for updates on the program and events. Your presence and registration to the event will mean even more this year. Not only will you be supporting the literary community, but also helping to recover losses in funding by the NO/AIDS Task Force, as well as supporting the economy of the city. The Saints and Sinners' events take place in the French Quarter, and I can assure you that the celebrated neighborhood is as beautiful and charming as ever. Our host hotel, the Olivier House, and other hotels, B&Bs, restaurants and clubs are open for your enjoyment. Please join us for a Saints and Sinners to remember – a reunion, a celebration and a pledge to the cultural future of New Orleans.

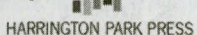
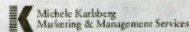
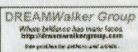
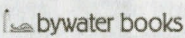
All the best,

Paul J. Willis

Paul J. Willis, Founder

2006 PARTICIPANTS

Toni Amato, Charlie Anders, Bear Bergman, Poppy Z. Brite, Randy Boyd, Dan Boyle, Jameson Currier, Becky Cochrane, Judy Doenges, Amie M. Evans, Charles Flowers, Jim Gladstone, Trebor Healey, Greg Herren, Martin Hyatt, Karla Jay, Thomas Keith, Timothy J. Lambert, Shaun Levin, Jeff Mann, Val McDermid, Kay Murphy, Achy Obejas, Ian Philips, Joseph Pittman, Martin Poussan, Max Pierce, Jim Provenzano, Radclyffe, JM Redmann, Brad Richard, Gary Richards, David Rosen, Carol Rosenfeld, Justine Saracen, Steven Saylor, Scott & Scott, D. Travers Scott, Kelly Smith, Karl Soehnlein, Caro Soles, Susan Stinson, Ron Suresha, Robert Taylor, Michele Tea, Jim Tushinski, Patricia Nell Warren, Greg Wharton, Jerry Wheeler and Emanuel Xavier, among others.



ART ON EXHIBIT



'Pictures from Home' exhibit at Brooks

The Brooks Museum of Art, located at 1934 Poplar Avenue in Overton Park, will present "Pictures from Home: Six African-American Studio Photographers in the South." Feb 13 through April 30.

Organized by the Tubman African-American Museum, the six commercial photographers represented in this exhibit created a wide spectrum of remarkable photographs from 1900 to 1950, documenting the shared rituals, diverse lifestyles and evocative stories of Southern African-Americans. The 122 dignified images provide an important counterpoint to

the racial stereotyping that prevailed between the Civil War and the Civil Rights Movement.

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 to hang works of Margaret Bourke-White

The Dixon Gallery and Gardens, 4339 Park Avenue, will present "Margaret Bourke-White: The Photography of Design, 1927-1936," now through April 2.

Margaret Bourke-White (1904-1971) is best-known as the first staff photographer of *Fortune* magazine; the first female war correspondent and a woman whose photographs made the covers of *Life* magazine famous.

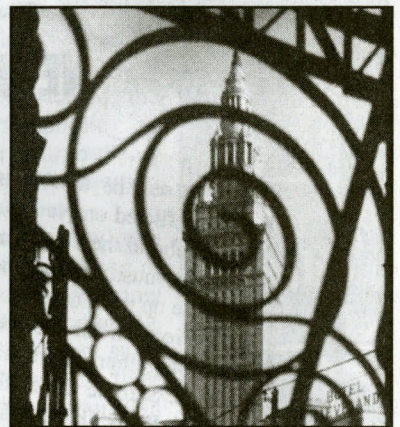
Comprised of approximately 140 photographs from the critical years of her career, prior to traveling the world to document history,

this exhibition is the first to explore the development of her aesthetic vision and her move toward photojournalism based on early images.

Bourke-White is best known as one of the great chroniclers of the Machine Age through her work that romanticized the period.

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) 761-2409 or go online to www.dixon.org.



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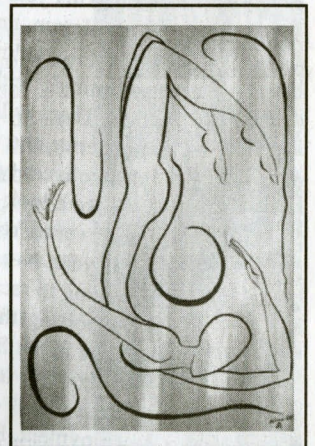
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Eclectic Eye to host new works by LaTricia Cote in its showroom

The Eclectic Eye, 242 South Cooper, will present "New Works by LaTricia Cote" in its showroom, Feb. 24 through March 22. An opening reception is slated for Feb. 24, from 6 to 8 p.m.

LaTricia is a self-taught artist who uses acrylic paint to convey her emotions. She considers each of her pieces as a product of the reaction between her unleashed spirit and a blank canvas. This is her first show.

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



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AN INTERVIEW WITH RADCLYFFE

by Patricia Pair, publisher

The name Radclyffe started showing up on a few books here and there sent to us for review a while back. The first cause for fascination with this author came in the form of her name; one

name, was it a first name or a last name? And, of course the question, "Is she really good enough to warrant using just one name?" like Cher or Madonna. It didn't take long to answer that question with a resounding, "Yes!"

An award-winning author, and lesbian, Radclyffe's extraordinary talent for storytelling soon became apparent through the pages of her books, hence this interview, but first a bit of background.

Born in Glens Falls, N.Y., in 1950, Rad, as she is affectionately called by friends and fans alike, has always enjoyed writing having written her first story at the age of nine.

"I first wrote plays and short stories when I was a child," she said in her website bio, "just for the fun of it and, sometimes to keep myself company. I couldn't find enough stories that I identified with, particularly stories of adventurous, independent women doing exciting things, so I made up my own. As an adult, I did the same thing with novels. There weren't many romances involving two women available at that time, and I longed to see our stories told."

However, when it came time to choose a career path, she didn't take the literary road, but instead opted for a journey into the field of medicine, more specifically plastic and reconstructive surgery.

In 1999, Rad had her first novel accepted for publication (*Safe Harbor*) and in 2004, she decided to start her own publishing company, Bold Strokes Books

Family & Friends: From the dedications in your books, it's obvious you have a partner, Lee, who's also listed among the staff of Bold Strokes Books, correct?

Radclyffe: Correct.

F&F: How did you two meet?

Rad: We met in an online writers' group in 1998.

F&F: Do either of you have any children?

Rad: Since we both work full-time and then some, and travel fairly frequently, we have no children, but three dogs. The dogs are slightly more portable.

F&F: With such a busy schedule, what do you do in your spare time?

Rad: I like to read and exercise. (she has a black belt in Ju Jitsu and a brown belt in Aikido)

F&F: Do you have any siblings?

Rad: One brother, and he reads all my fiction.

F&F: What's your favorite color?

Rad: Blue.

F&F: When did you first realize you were gay and how old were you?

Rad: I was a teenager.

F&F: What is your coming out story?

Rad: This one I'll take a pass on since it has little bearing on my writing.

F&F: Something that does have a bearing on people's writing is the space in which they create. Describe yours.

Rad: I have a large office, which is my private space, although dog and family members are allowed to visit. Big windows, lots of computer equipment, office paraphernalia, etc. My desk is u-shaped and covers an eight- by nine-foot space.

F&F: Do you still practice medicine?

Rad: I retired in May 2005, to publish and write full-time. I was an associate professor of plastic and reconstructive surgery for 20 years prior to that.

F&F: What made you decide to go into medicine?

Rad: It was the perfect combination of my love for science and my desire to have my work impact others on an individual, personal basis.

F&F: Earlier you mentioned that you like to read. What was the first lesbian romance you read?

Rad: Other than *Beebo Brinker*, which I would not call a romance, *The Latecomer* by Sarah Aldridge.

F&F: Do you have a favorite book or author you enjoy reading?

Rad: This is an incredibly difficult question to answer because my favorites span 30 or 40 years. I'd have to go through every genre to even begin to answer the question.

I've read literally everything published by every lesbian press – some writers I enjoy (in no particular order) are Jennifer Fulton, Lauren Maddison, K. Simpson, LJ Maas, Cate Culpepper, Gerri Hill, Kenna White, Karin Kallmaker, JM Redmann, Kate Allen and anything from Tristan Taormino or Nicole Foster. I also think that Nora Roberts is an incredible writer and (I) have learned a great deal from reading her works.

F&F: When and how did you first get published?

Rad: I was first published in 2000, after a publisher approached me about a novel length work I had posted on the Internet on my website. I had eight finished manuscripts at that time and published them rather quickly after that time. I currently write three full-length new works per year.

F&F: Lesbian author Rita Mae Brown once said to be a good writer you had to have a knowledge of Latin. Do you agree?

Rad: I don't know. I love Latin, which I studied in high school, and German, which I studied in college – which are similar in many ways. Both give one an understanding of the structure of language, which is essential to good craft.

F&F: Where does the inspiration for your stories come from?

Rad: The plots often stem from current events, but the characters arise from my imagination – and the character interactions are an exploration of those issues I find most interesting in romantic relationships – power, need, passion, sexual expression.

F&F: Are any of the characters in your books autobiographical?

Rad: No.

F&F: Exactly how do you go about writing one of your books?

Rad: I first decide on a very basic plot, ie two women meet under "x" circumstances, are attracted, but have some (several) obstacles to their forming a relationship. Then I concentrate on "who" these women are. Why are they single (if they are), what issues do they have precluding forming an intimate relationship, what's their history, etc. Then, I start at page one and write until the book is finished.

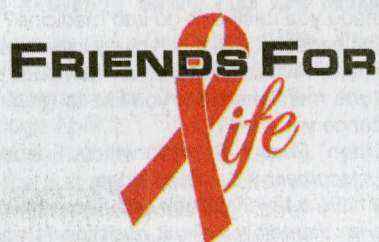
See Radclyffe, page 59

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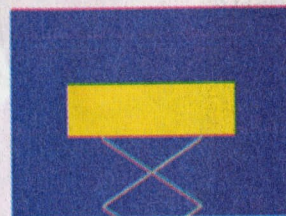


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Radclyffe

from page 55

I write every day, seven days a week, 52 weeks a year.

F&F: Why did you decide to start Bold Strokes Books?

Rad: In the last decade I have seen an upsurge in the amount of lesbian fiction being published and a broadening of the types of work being sought by readers and written by "new" authors. This is very exciting to me as a reader and as a passionate follower of the development of lesbian fiction over the years.

I can't think of a greater contribution to my community than assisting in the production of fiction that provides enjoyment, validation and a positive sense of identity.

I enjoy interacting with other authors in a formative way and I also enjoy the mechanics of book making. Publishing marries all these elements, plus it gives me control over the timing and production of my own work.

F&F: How would you describe yourself personally?

Rad: Organized and focused.

F&F: Is there any one particular book of yours that you're more attached to than the others?

Rad: Ah, not really – there's the first, then there's the one that was the hardest to write, the one that marked a new direction, etc. Each has a particular place in my heart.

F&F: Which was the easiest to write?

Rad: *Safe Harbor* – because the setting is as much a character in the book as the people and I loved the place.

F&F: Okay. Which was the hardest?

Rad: All of the Justice series – the plots are multi-layered, I'm working with an ensemble cast and I have to balance intrigue and character development. There's just a lot going on that requires a great deal of integration.

F&F: In addition to the Justice series, there's the Honor series. How did these come about?

Rad: I think you can be much more experimental in a series because you have the opportunity to take your characters much farther along in their life story. The more I write the same characters, the more I learn about them and the more complex their relationships become.

These two series, because they have an action/procedural plotline, adapt well to the ongoing nature of a series. Fortunately, the characters are also popular, which helps maintain reader interest.

(For reviews of both series, see page 52 in this issue.)

F&F: I'm sure you have quite a few fans. Any of them ever try to get close to you or expect you to be like a certain character in one of your books and find themselves disappointed?

Rad: I don't know if they're disappointed. I am definitely not my characters – they are all far more interesting than I.

F&F: I have noticed an obvious lack of particularly "butch" and "femme" roles in regard to many of your characters. What are your thoughts on the whole butch/femme thing?

Rad: It's interesting that some readers have commented that they *don't* see my characters as being butch or femme (although I feel I write them that way), and I think this reflects the fact that readers shape the characters in their mind to a form what's comfortable for them or more in keeping with their own experience. Other people simply look at the characters on the surface and think they typify "butch-femme" roles.

I think my characters definitely lean toward butch-femme polarity, but in many important ways, they diverge. From a physical appearance point of view, the characters often fit the butch and femme models as the terms were initially defined, but psychologically and emotionally, I think each character is a blending of the archetypal characteristics. By that, I mean that those characters who "appear" butch in profession or body build or with androgynous names often are the emotionally more fragile characters. And many

of the "femmes" are "tops," both psychologically and sexually.

I happen to find the physical polarity sexy, which is part of the reason I write the characters the way I do, but I also find that the blending of what were once rigidly segregated emotional characteristics allows for two well-balanced main protagonists. So I think that my characters tend toward butch and femme in almost every book, but subtly.

F&F: How do you define the butch and femme models?

Rad: I think simplistically, butch-femme archetypes can be reduced to "more masculine" versus "more feminine" behavior. Defining the terms masculine versus feminine is very difficult and changes as gender roles change within society. What was considered butch in 1950, is different than in 2006.

Gender roles encompass physical, emotional and sexual characteristics, and I would define the butch-femme dynamic as some polarity existing within the spectrum of what is recognized as masculine and feminine behavior exhibited by individuals within a relationship. For example, I think we can all agree that to be "butch" means to exhibit some characteristics that one would traditionally term "masculine," such as short hair, absence of traditionally feminine accoutrements, such as makeup, emotional reticence or reserve and a greater comfort level with active, problem-solving behavior as opposed to empathetic or reactive behavior.

The femme role is often equated with nurturing, supportive, cooperative behavior. Obviously, and I wish to be very clear, these are fluid roles, which are not rigidly defined nor adhered to in today's social and cultural environment. Nevertheless, some physical, emotional and sexual distinction is often apparent within lesbian couples, and I write the couples in my work that way.

F&F: What advice would you give to someone, both as a writer and as a publisher, who is interested in writing stories with lesbian main characters?

Rad: It helps to be a lesbian, and I'm not being facetious. Not everyone who writes lesbian characters is a lesbian, and I think that the most important aspect of any fictional work is "truth of character." The characters must be believable in terms of their behavior, experience, reactions, etc. If one is not a lesbian it is very difficult to appreciate what it means to live as a minority and to deal with the social and cultural pressures that result.

Therefore, if one is writing lesbian characters and has not had the experience that those characters would be expected to have, then it's important to discuss those issues with someone who has. Not every lesbian work needs to be focused on "being a lesbian" and what that means, but the characters themselves must have a lesbian identity sensitive to the issues that lesbians face in the world today. If that isn't apparent in the work, then why write lesbian characters at all?

F&F: Since you're a romance writer, where's the most romantic place on the planet?

Rad: Personally, I don't think romance has anything to do with place. It has to do with attitude, and fortunately, we can take that with us anywhere we go.

In case you're still wondering about that one-name business, Radclyffe is a nom de plume.

F&F: Why the nom de plume? Does it have any symbolic significance?

Rad: I first began sharing my writing with others on the Internet, and having a desire to be "lesbian-identified" in a forum where many writers were heterosexual and on occasion, men, I chose a pseudonym with what to me was a telling historical reference.

When I reached the point where I was ready to publish, I had an established following of readers who knew me as Radclyffe. Since I relate very naturally to the name and many people know me primarily as my nom de plume, I have kept it and continue to publish under it.

Thanks again for the opportunity to interface with your readers.

Presently, Radclyffe is working on *Promising Hearts*, the sequel to her book *Innocent Hearts*. *Promising Hearts* is due out this coming June and will feature the main characters from the previous book, as well as a new romantic pair.

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

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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.

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/glbf
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, Overt, MS 39464, Feminist education/cultural/retreat center, www.campsisterspirit.com, email: sisterspir@aol.com

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

POLITICAL Tennessee

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

MEMPHIS STONEWALL DEMOCRATS, P.O. Box 241363, Memphis, TN 38124, (901) 327-2677. Email: mlgcj@yahoo.com, website:



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RAINBOW DIRECTORY

www.memphisstonewalldemocrats.org, meets second Sunday of each month at 2 p.m. at the MGLCC, 892 South Cooper.

MID-SOUTH GAY & LESBIAN REPUBLICANS, P.O. Box 770505, Memphis, TN 38177, meets the third Sunday at 1 p.m. at the MGLCC, 892 S. Cooper and meets the first Wednesday at 7 p.m. at area restaurants, Email: MGLR_President@yahoo.com, www.yahogroups.com/group/MidSouthGLR.
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@FronrunnersMemphis.org, www.FronrunnersMemphis.org.
OUT SPOKIN', a group to support bicycling in the Memphis GLBT community, email: marty@outspokin-mem.org, website: www.outspokin-mem.org

WELLNESS Memphis, Tennessee

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)

DENTISTS

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

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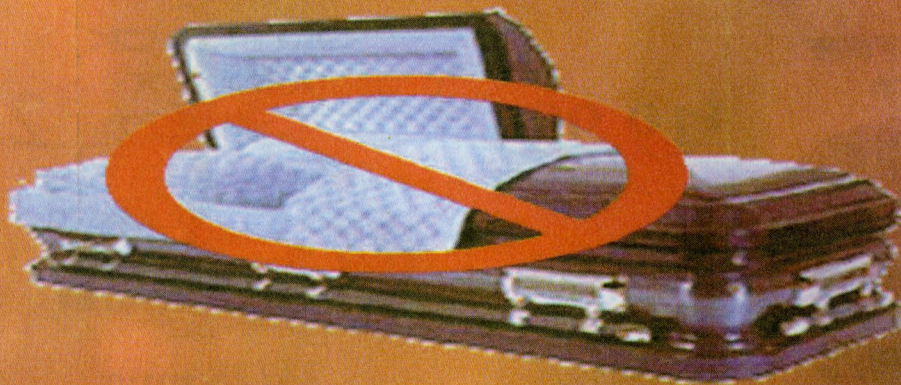
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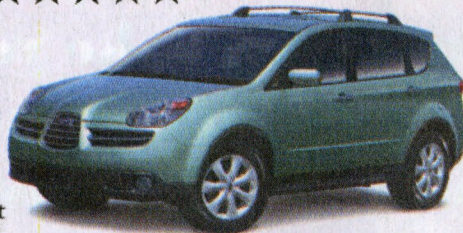


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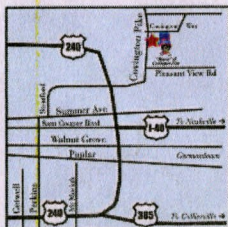
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