XENOGENY

YOUR UPPER MID-SOUTH'S LESBIGAY NEWSWEEKLY PROMOTING DIVERSITY, VISIBILITY & COMMUNITY UNITY! **DECEMBER 9, 1996 VOLUME 3 ISSUE 49**

AND LIBERTY FOR ALL

By Michael Grantham

Pre-registration for "And Liberty For Al"l, the 6th Annual Southeastern Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual College Conference begins today!

The conference will be hosted by Middle Tennessee State University Lambda Association Feb. 14-16, 1997. More than 500 gay and lesbian student leaders from across the southeast are expected to attend the leadership and inspirational conference.

The conference will bring powerful keynote speakers and workshop lecturers to MTSU's campus. David Mixner, Torie Osborn, Patricia Nell Warren, Lynn Shepodd, and Paul Yandura will all serve as remarkable role models in

A private fundraiser reception will allow patrons to meet the keynote speakers and workshop lecturers. The champagne reception will be held at the Garden Plaza Hotel in Murfreesboro on Saturday night, Feb. 15. A dinner will follow with David Mixner addressing both patrons and student participants at MTSU's James Union Building.

The private fundraiser reception is crucial in helping bring some very remarkable people from as far as LA and the White House to gay and lesbian student leaders in the southeast. Community support will also help foster a generation of active community members right here at home.

The announcement of pre-registration for this empowering conference coincided with a press statement released by the MTSU Administration regarding equal rights for campus gays and lesbians.

In the press release, MTSU President James Walker stated he does not feel the policy of non-discrimination should include "sexual orientation." In its place, President Walker will include a Statement of Community Standards of Civil Behavior in the Student Handbook.

Continued on page 3



HAWAII'S HISTORICAL DECISION

NATIONAL GAY AND LESBIAN TASK FORCE

In Hawaii last week, First Circuit Court Judge Kevin Chang handed down a historic decision in Baehr v. Miike, the case of three same-gender couples who sued for the right to marry. In his decision, Judge Chang rejected the claims made by the state that such marriages should remain illegal. Instead, he declared the right of same-gender couples to marry as protected by the Hawaii state constitution.

This decision is one small but crucial step forward in a long march toward civil equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered people," said Kerry Lobel, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. "We seek the same rights and responsibilities of marriage that heterosexual people enjoy. Marriage is an important personal choice and a basic human right. Whether gay people decide to get married or not, it should be our choice," added Lobel.

At a trial in September the state Attorney General's office marshaled expert witnesses to demonstrate the state had a compelling reason to prohibit same- gender marriage. The state particularly focused on the needs of children, claiming two-parent couples of a man and a woman provided the best environment in which to raise children. "The Attorney General in Hawaii had three years to pull together the evidence to make his case, and the judge wasn't convinced," said Lobel. "It proves what our community has said all along: there are no intelligent reasons why same-gender couples should be denied the right to

The state of Hawaii is expected to appeal a decision by a state judge who ruled that same-sex marriages are legal. The ruling makes Hawaii the first state in America to declare that gay and lesbian couples are entitled to the same privileges as heterosexual married couples. Judge Kevin Chang found that Hawaii's state government had not established a "compelling state interest" to justify a ban on same-sex marriages. The Hawaii case triggered legislative moves to bar recognition of gay marriages. President Clinton has signed into law legislation prohibiting federal agencies from giving those in same-sex marriages the same benefits as those received by heterosexual couples. The decision by the court will most likely be appealed and stayed until the higher court makes it final judgment.

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COMMUNITY FOCUS

INTERACT'S GAY TRAVEL PROGRAM



On Thursday, December 14th, INTERACT, the gay men's discussion/social group will sponsor a program all about gay travel.

Mr. Nick Pride of Pride Travel, will discuss travel options for gav men at 7pm at the Center located at 703 Berry Road.

Representatives from Vacation Express and Destination Costa Rica will also be present. These firms specialize in the Caribbean, Mexico and Costa Rica.

LET'S HEAR FROM YOU! FAX IT: (615) 832-9701 **VOICE IT**: (615) 832-5653 E-MAIL IT: XENOGENYX @ AOL..COM XENOEDITOR@ AOL..COM WRITE IT: XENOGENY NEWS P.O. BOX 110884 NASHVILLE, TN. 37222 WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!



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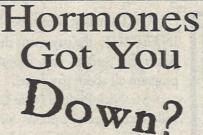
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HIV/AIDS DIGEST

TAYLOR HONORED

Actress Elizabeth Taylor received an award for courage Monday from the group she helped found, the American Foundation for AIDS Research, known as AMFAR.

She told a special luncheon that people were under the illusion that she first

became involved with AIDS because of the death of her friend, actor Rock Hudson.

But she said she encountered difficulties in 1984 when she organized her first AIDS benefit in Los Angeles, a time when no one wanted to speak publicly about the disease.

"I have never known rejection like that before in my life," she said. "Then Rock became sick and that really hit the

I had no idea then I would be taking the first step on such a long and heartbreaking road," she said. "It isn't over yet. We need more than hope. We need you."

town and people did start to get involved.'

She was presented with a bracelet of hearts from the president of the Cartier jewelry firm, Simon Critchell, who quipped that Taylor had been "a long-time friend" of the company.

The day's events at the United Nations, following World AIDS Day on Sunday, were scheduled to culminate with speeches in the General Assembly hall by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Taylor and other speakers.

MOM & SON WIN

HUNTINGTON BEACH, Calif. (AP) — In a precedent-setting settlement, the owners of a seniors-only housing development agreed not to evict a tenant for allowing her son, who has AIDS, to live with

The agreement settles a claim that the Huntington Shorecliffs Mobile Home Park discriminated against Shirley Lewis and her son, Steven, U.S. Attorney Nora Manella announced Tuesday.

The owners agreed to pay the Lewises \$25,000, but did not admit fault or liability. Federal law guarantees that no one will lose his or her housing because of irrational fear of, or prejudice against, a disabling condition," Manella said. "Today's settlement makes that guarantee a reality.

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moved in with his 61-year-old mother when he became too ill to live alone.

The park's minimum age requirement is 45. The complaint alleged that it had waived the age requirement in other cases. The Department of Justice and private lawyers can consider the settlement a prece-

dent, said Assistant U.S. Attorney Suzanne Bell.

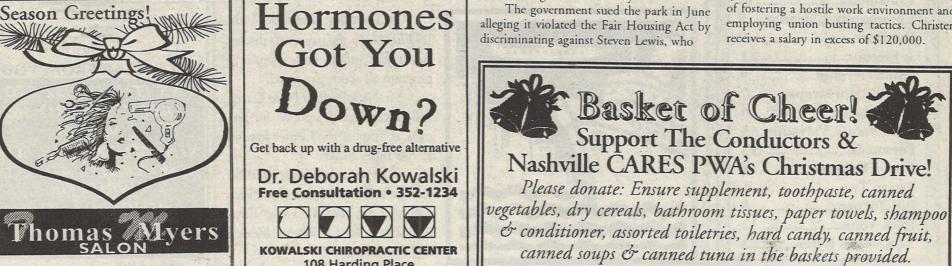
This is probably the first case in the country, and definitely in California, brought by the U.S. Department of Justice alleging that the failure of a housing provider to waive its minimum-age residency rule for a person with AIDS violated the Fair Housing Act," Bell said.

FAT CAT?

San Francisco - Twenty activists from ACT UP San Francisco, the AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power, crashed a pricey AIDS fund-raiser at the Hyatt Regency Embarcadero on Monday, November 27th. Angry protesters blew whistles, chanted, threw fliers, blocked the entrance with "red tape" and set off stink bombs inside the hotel's lobby. The event, a \$75.00 per person "Gala Cabaret To Honor San Francisco AIDS Foundation Executive Director Pat Christen" was a fund-raiser for the University of California at San Francisco's AIDS Health Project (AHP).

ACT UP S.F. members charge that the AHP displayed a "complete lack of respect" toward the gay and lesbian community by holding their gala fund-raiser on the evening of November 27, the day that marks the 17th anniversary of the assassination of openly gay City Supervisor Harvey Milk. In response to pressure from AIDS activists and the community, City Supervisors Susan Leal and Tom Ammiano, who were listed on the AHP invitation as Honorary Committee Members, have stated they will draft a letter critical of AHP's decision to schedule the festive money-making cabaret at the same time as the traditional candlelight march to remember the life and mourn the death of

AIDS activists say they are also outraged that AHP chose to honor Christen, an executive director of an organization that for years has been steeped in controversy and bitter battles with employees and community members alike. ACT UP accuses Christen of fostering a hostile work environment and employing union busting tactics. Christen receives a salary in excess of \$120,000.



XENOGENY NEWS BYTES

Continued from page 1

The statement encourages a "disdain for bigotry and hatred expressed in any form or medium and directed toward identifiable groups or individuals in the community.

The Uniform Equality Committee, formed under MTSÚ Lambda Association to seek ways of ensuring equal protections without regard to sexual orientation, viewed the statement as a positive first step toward adopting a policy of

equity for campus gays and lesbians.

The UEC hopes And "Liberty For All" will encourage student leaders to take steps to increase activism and awareness efforts on campuses across the

Last year's conference, held at the University of Alabama, drew considerable controversy when Alabama's State Attorney General Jeff Sessions moved to ban the conference. It finally took a federal court in Mobile to rule the state's law preventing campus gay and lesbian groups. from meeting on campuses as unconstitutional before the conference could go on.

Sending one of the largest stu-delegations, MTSU Lambda Association moved to secure the conference for MTSU 1997. After becoming involved with several national conferences, the current co-chairs are excited about bringing home the energized spirit of an empowering era for gay and lesbian

For more information on this conference, visit www.mtsu. edu/mtlambda/selgb.html If you are intersted in attending the private fundraiser reception or the conference itself, please call 615-780-2293.

JENNY JONES VERDICT

PONTIAC, Mich. (AP) — The county probation department recommended that a man serve at least 25 years in prison for killing a gay admirer who revealed his crush during a taping of the "Jenny Jones Show.

Jonathan Schmitz, 26, was convicted of second-degree murder in the March 1995 shooting of Scott Amedure. Judge Francis X. O'Brien, who was to sentence Schmitz this afternoon, is not bound by the probation department recommenda-

Defense attorney James Burdick said the probation department report was inaccurate and unfair. Burdick, who suggested a sentence of four years or more for Schmitz, told *The Oakland Press* he would ask for a delay in the sentencing to seek a

hearing on the report.

'Twenty-five years' imprisonment for a man who is mentally ill, who was betrayed, who was lied to, who was set up, who was ambushed, who was stalked, and who was pursued relentlessly and who snapped - where is the justice in that?" the newspaper quoted from a report Burdick filed in court objecting to the sentencing recommendation.

Second-degree murder is punishable

by any term up to life in prison. Sentencing guidelines are based on a point system taking into account the crime and a defendant's criminal record.

Prosecutor Jerry Gleeson wants a 25-

PREACHER TACKLES THE BIBLE

Cambridge, Mass-Peter J. Gomes is a preacher who defies stereotypes. He's an ordained Baptist minister who presides over Harvard University's nondenominational Memorial Church. And he's a black, gay Republican.

He's also Harvard's Plummer Professor of Christian Morals. But he knows that title might not sit well with the Jerry Falwells of

"I'm sure I don't fit your idea of Christian morals, which is why I think you're quite wrong," he said. "They have patented the notion of Christian morals, but it is not theirs to coin or mint.'

There, he said, "I found it was possible to be both intelligent and thoughtful on the one hand and pious and believing on the other-that mind and heart thing."

Gomes rejects the anti-gay Biblical interpretations of the so-called religious right. And in his new book, "The Good Book: Reading the Bible With Mind and Heart," published this month by William Morrow, he argues the Bible's words support him.

Throughout history, he says, some Christians have manipulated the Bible to oppress certain groups: Jews, women, blacks, gays and lesbians.

And it's those Christians who claim to be most devout who traditionally have been the biggest oppressors, he says: the white Southern Baptists who perpetuated slavery, for example, and the German Nazis who executed millions of lews.

But, "Just because white people had abused Scripture didn't mean Scripture was abusive," he said.

"I wanted black people, women, gays and lesbians among others, to see and to hear that the Bible was both for them and with them," he wrote.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Dear Editor,

I want to express my thanks to Mr. Barry Noland and his generous promotion of my name in his article (Perfect Fit) in the November 25th edition. And I concur with many of his statements and answer questions that he queried.

Yes, Vanity thy name is queer and so is she. I'm really not a deadly sin, but I've been known to be a sinfully good time. Of course his reference to deity was correct, being the goddess that I am, my body isn't a temple, but God knows I'm as big as a

church! My favorite question that he posed was "So tell me, how did Vanity get such a bad rep? Well, I must reply honestly, it was the good old fashion way my dear, I earned

Barry, preach on about balance, balance, balance, because I alone know how hard it is to balance 280lbs. on four inch

Keep up the good work Barry, thanks for the plug, and keep your toe nails clipped.

-- Miss Vanity Valvoline



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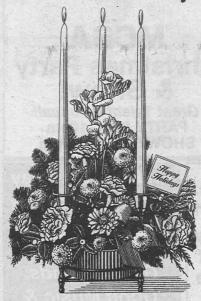
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TEN TO TWO

BY DJ RON SLOMOWICZ

If Junior Calls..

With "If Madonna Calls" blowing up the club charts and crossing over onto radio, Junior Vasquez is defi-

nitely experiencing a highpoint in his career.

His remixes of Qkumba Zoo's "Child Inside", For Real's "Like I Do", Cher's "One by One", Amber's "This is Your Night", and Whitney Houston's "I Wanna Dance With Somebody have been some

of the club highlights from the past few months. However, his remix of the Cher song "Paradise is Here" has put a spike in his crest. Without a doubt, "Paradise is Here" is one of the weakest songs from Cher's album. It would take a miracle to make this song work, and Junior just does not pull it off. Granted, he does make this turgid track listenable, but it is obvious that this was a rushed job without much thought invested.

Junior's work also takes the backseat on new releases by the Spice Girls and Kristine W. The Spice Girls made their mark with their massive international smash (except of course for the United States) "Wannabe". "Say You'll Be There" starts with the same flava, a smoothed out r&b jam on the pop tip. While the "Wannabe" remixes were on the euro tip, the "Say You'll Be There" goes in the house direction. Junior Vasquez does a good job, adding epic breaks and a dark trancey tribal feel. Junior is eclipsed by Dancin' Danny D, the man behind the success of D-Mob (Remember "C'mon Get My Love" with Cathy Dennis?) Danny's mix builds around a "Love Me" sample that sounds like it is taken from the Cardigan's "Lovefool". He adds a new level of energy while keeping the dark club feel intact.

Kristine W achieves her third consecutive #1 Billboard Club Hit with the title track of her debut album "Land of the Living". While the import single was amazing, containing mixes by Dekkard, Deep Dish, Rollo and the Lisa Marie Experience, the American version adds a mix by Junior Vasquez. Each mix takes the epic anthem into a different direction. The Dekkard mix is disposable, perhaps one of the worst remixes I have heard this year. Rollo mixes the track with a disco feel for great results. Deep Dish pays

respect to Kristine's loungy roots by starting with Kristine belting out the lounge standard "Don't Get Around Much Anymore". The mix slams and builds, using Kristine's vocals as an instrument. Though her vocals are not emphasized in the mix, they are present in full effect. The Lisa Marie

Experience Mix sounds like euro done at a house speed, tres unique. The Junior mix builds and builds, into what. I have no idea. The other mixes just overwhelm the Junior mix, making it seem like an also ran in a marathon of champions.

In other news..

Simply Red lead off both the "Set It Off" soundtrack and their own greatest hits album with "Angel", their collaboration with the Fugees. The hip hop mixes are really sweet and should make this song a hit. Mousse T goes in three different directions, soul, funk and house. Let me just say that the house mix is interesting... to say the least. To begin with, there is an extra beat that throws off the whole beat count. To fit the house tempo, Mick's vocals are timestretched. These two elements make the house mix a totally different trip.

Did you see Toni Braxton perform at the Billboard Awards? She started off with the ballad version of "Unbreak My Heart" which exploded into the dance mix. A wide array of dancers joined her as she ripped off her dress to expose one of the best toned bodies in the music industry. I was impressed to see two guys dancing together, doing the same close dance moves that their heterosexually coupled compatriots were doing. That the gay couple was in the foreground in front of Toni herself, shows that Toni is very accepting of the lesbigay community. Please support this gay friendly dance artist!

If you ever have any questions about dance music, feel free to e-mail me at dj.ron@nashville.com.



ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY

Music City Rollers Bowling League: 12:30 p.m. 227-3543

Fall/Winter Volunteer Volleyball League: Shelby Park 1:30 p.m. 297-0008

Stonewall Mission Church: 6:30 p.m. at 703 Berry Road 269-3480 Metropolitan Community Church 7:00 p.m. 1808 Woodmont Blvd. 262-0922

Rejoice and Be Glad: For Catholic's meets monthly for mass & potluck, call 646-5163

MONDAY
NOW: National Organization for Women, 4th Monday 7:00 p.m. at the Nashville Peace & Justice Center located at 1016 18th Ave. south, call 269-7141 for details.

Positive Attitude: 6-8pm at the Connection support for HIV+ individuals & friends Excellent Verbs: lesbigaytrans prose-poetry-factual songwriting group, 7pm. 650-0961

MTSU Lambda Association: 6:30 p.m. Fall & Winter 780-2293 Southern Country Dance: At The Chute 7:00 p.m. 2535 Franklin Rd. 297-0008

MAGNET: The Married and Gay Network: 1st Tuesday 6:30 p.m. At the Center for Lesbian & Gay Services located at 703 Berry Rd 297-0008.

NWA: Nashville Women's Alliance 3rd & 4th Tuesday 7:00p.m. At the Center 703 Berry Road 297-0008. Monthly NWA Newsletter.

MENTORS: Sacred Space for Men. Discussion & Support Group. 7-9pm at the Center. Call 269-4342 for details.

Integrity: Lesbigay Episcopalians. 4th Tues. Eucharist potluck & Service, 6:30pm 297-7779.

WEDNESDAY

Co-Dependents: Anonymous 7:00 p.m. 703 Berry Rd 297-0008.

Free to Be {AA}: 6:30 p.m. 419 Woodland St.

One in Teen: 6:30 p.m. 703 Berry Rd 297-0008

Women's Discussion Group: 7:00 pm at the Center- 703 Berry Road. Call 297-0008

THURSDAY

Music City Rollers II: Bowling League 6:30 p.m. Donelson Plaza Lanes 227-3543

The Lesbian & Gay Coalition for Justice: The Board meet 7pm the 1st Thurs. & the general membership meets 7pm the 3rd Thurs. At St. Ann's Episcopal Church, 5th & Woodland. Info 298- LGCJ (5425)

INTERACT: Gay men's discussion group 7:00-8:30 P.M. on 2nd & 4th Thursday 703 Berry Road 297-0008

Vanderbilt Lambda Association: meets weekly at 7pm @ the Cumberland House-Westside Row on the Vanderbilt Campus, Call 322-0376 for details.

Alternatives (AA): 7:30 p.m. 2007 Acklen Ave.

FRIDAY

HIV-infected & Affected (AA): Noon at CARES, 209 10th Ave. S. Ste 160. 1-800-845-4266

Overeater's Anomynous: 5:00 p.m. 703 Berry Rd 297-0008

Program Study Group (AA): 7:00 p.m. 2007 Acklen Ave.

SATURDAY

Nashville '97 Lesbian & Gay Pride Committee: Meets the 1st & 3rd Saturday at 12:30pm at the Center 703 Berry Rd. Everyone is welcome! Call 226-6193 for details. Tennessee Vals: Support/social group for CD's, TG's, & significant others meets 2nd Sat. 664-6883. P.O. Box 92335 Nashville, Tn. 37209. See Web Page@ http://www. transgender.org/tg/tvals/index.html.

OTHER

NashvilleGayWeb: http://nashvillegayweb.com Discover this Web site! 883-2637.

Clarksville CARES: 1-615-503-4063

Human Rights Campaign: 292-0007

The Center: 297-0008

Positive Voice: 383-9285

Tennesseans for Equality: 386-9077

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OUR INTERNET ADDRESS

FILTH

"Filth" disgustingly offensive dirt, garbage, anything viewed as grossly indecent or obscene. By Billy Masters

ful readers for help. While "Filth" is extremely popular, we are finding that

the name of this column has created some problems. One publication loves the column but said flat out that they would not run it with the name "Filth". Two others have actually changed the name. This is fairly rep-

resentative of some of the comments we have gotten from readers who feel that the name "Filth" doesn't do the contents justice. What do you think? Help me come up with a new name.

Another complaint I've gotten recently is that I have been too tame and haven't "outed" anyone. I guess I can't win - either I'm too scandalous or too mainstream. So, I'll tell you about someone who is, at the very least, bisexual. Remember "The Truth About Cats and Dogs" and it's hunky co-star Ben Chaplin? My sources have told me about his various girlfriends and I believe them, but I personally know two guys who slept with him in London. And, I'm told that he is affectionately known as London's other Big Ben.

Another of my favorites, David Chokachi (be still my heart), was home for Thanksgiving. Davey, who is from Plymouth, Mass. (just a hop, skip and a jump from P'town, incidentally) came back to visit his folks - and he wasn't alone. Who was the lucky girl? Try lucky GUY since he brought his "room-mate" Doug Coupe with him. What's the scoop? David has known Doug forever and they are "inseparable". Doug is also just as gorgeous, hunky, and enhanced. Look for him on the cover of the February issue of "Men's Fitness" - or by David's side. He is VERY protective.

Speaking of "Men's Fitness", they recently ran an interview with Matt LeBlanc where he comments on his ever-increasing waist line, something I have made note of occasionally in this very column. Matt was quoted as saying "girth is good" and did refer to his "fat butt". Well, cross him off my list!

Several spies swear they bumped into Ralph Macchio at a popular gay dance club in Phoenix. I did some

Once again I turn to my faith- investigating and discovered that Ralph was indeed in Phoenix at that

time with the touring company of "How To Succeed In Business". Friends of Mr. Karate Kid were quick to tell me Ralph is married. Yeah, so was Elton John!

Speaking of Elton John, I am SO thrilled for one of my biggest fans, Dean Steib. Steib, a for-

mer Mr. Hotlanta turned real estate hawker and sometimes "personal trainer to the stars" recently placed fairly well at the 1996 Mr. Fitness Contest in NYC. While he didn't win any money, I'm told that he was VERY popular with the other contestants and judges. Well, thatis a talent in and of itself!

Michael Jackson's getting another divorce? While this isn't all that shocking, who would have thought that he would have ever married anyone, let alone being twice divorced? I'm told his wife filed for divorce after he wanted to spend their wedding night in a zoo with his "friends" rather than with her. And that made me wonder - what ever happened to

Speaking of celebrity divorces, I was sad to hear that Kirstie Allie and Parker Stevenson are getting a divorce. Guess they both decided to shave off their beards.

Could it be that former LA Law star Amanda Donohoe has come out? More importantly, was this news to

Could it be that Liza Minelli is off the wagon? I can attest to the fact that many of her recent concert dates have been marred by a persistent "sinus problem". Hmm.

While I send Liza some Dristan, we've come to the end of another installment of "Filth". And, that reminds me - HELP ME please come up with a new name for this column. For the New Year I want something brand new - something that will indicate the column is gay, gossipy, and funny. So, send your suggestions to E-Mail address Filth2Go@AOL.com and you'll be rewarded. Until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

Towboat Captain Looking For Lesbian to Share House or Large Apt:

DWM, straight, 50, politically progressive towboat captain, university grad, seeks femme lesbian to share house or large apartment. Your life is yours (in or out). I am a good listener, and not a tattler. I have a Mac and can get my own phone line. Republicans, ditto-heads, racist trash need not respond. My car needs off street parking. I'm out of town 20 days a month. I travel a lot, so I'm not home much. I read a lot and go to movies (not "film" thank you). Off the boat on 11-27 and can be reached through Xenogeny by phone at (615) 832-5653, for messages or write to:

Richard, 73 White Bridge Road Road Suite 103, Box 142 37205.

E-mail to: Rmb 7 19 79@aol.com

Sister Sage's Astrological Reading



Aries March 21st - April 20th
You reach for the highest possible achievements this week. You

don't want what's easy, you want something of meaning in your life. You want to be regarded by those around you as worthy of respect and admiration. It is important for you to remember that high ideals and easy wins rarely go hand in hand. Don't settle for less than what you really want in love or in life. Aim High.



April 21st - May 20th This week you think about deep meanings for your life journey. You search for important truths and concepts by which you can formulate your life. This is an excellent time to delve more deeply into astrology because there you can find many of the answers you are seeking. It is a good time to consider new year resolutions.



Gemini May 21st - June 20th If you have recently broken up then it is possible that you are still in turmoil about splitting up your possessions. You can let go of the memories with out letting them have everything you both have: purchased over the relationship. It will be hard to replace them later and you may never see them again. Do an inventory and choose care-



and you may never see them again. Do an inventory and choose carefully. It may make life easier later on down the road.

Cancer June 21st - July 22nd

You focus on your ideal partnership this week. You have high standards and you want to decide exactly what that means as far as you are concerned. You try to decide how much of yourself to give in a relationship. You deal with complex issues regarding a prospective mate. You will receive good luck hunting for a partner or you might decide to connect with someone who needs rescuing. Think twice!!!



July 23rd - August 22nd You seek meaningful work opportunities this week. People around you either want to help you or they are a drain on your energies. Ego concerns are always important to you. You may decide that you accomplish a lot more by putting your ego aside. Self respect and ego are not the same thing. Your health is another issue. You desire to take better care of yourself and a good check-up may be in order.



Virgo August 23rd - September 22nd
You think about the meaning of love this week. If you are not involved already, you seek true love and are willing to meet new peo-ple, even if they're not immediately your type. Just being available for social interaction is the key. Time spent around children in your life is rewarding. Your own inner child needs attention and fun. You may embark on some new hobby to be creative and express yourself.

<u>Cibra September 23rd - October 22rd</u>

You think about changes in your living situation this week. This



might mean moving in with someone or having them move in with you. Two can live as cheaply as one on a budget. You may be considering a move to a more spacious place, but if you are planning to buy, be sure to have a professional examine any property you look at to make sure it's is good shape. Consider whose name is on the title/lease. Scorpio October 23rd - November 22nd



A serious talk with someone from your past helps to put things into perspective. You deal with the emotions you shared and what that has to do with the meaning of your life. If there was a misunderstanding you can take steps to set it right and that will make you feel better and stop brooding about it. It is very hard for you to let go, but sometimes it is necessary. Dig below the surface and the truth is there.



Sagittarius November 23rd - December 21st
You deal with financial issues this week. You are in a period of increased earnings, but you also have a tendency to squander extra cash. This means you will remain in balance. This is a good time to concentrate on your feelings about prosperity. We all achieve at the level we believe we deserve. Not just in money but in other areas of wealth as well. Envision the amount you want, then think about why!

Capricorn December 22nd - January 19th

You think about your value system this week. People come into



your life now to teach you lessons about give and take. Some will do nice things for you and you will be grateful, but you also learn the value of putting someone else first. It really can be more rewarding to give than to receive. Basically the universe works on a system of



give than to receive. Basicarly the universe works on a system of give and take and there should always be enough for all of us.

Aquarius January 20th - Jebruary 18th

You deal with plans for the future and issues from your past this week. Our minds are like huge reservoirs where every experience is stored. We can access all of the past, but sometimes it takes great effort. You float through time perhaps when you sleep and definitely while daydreaming. Bits and pieces of your life emerge into your consciousness and you try to make sense of your life.



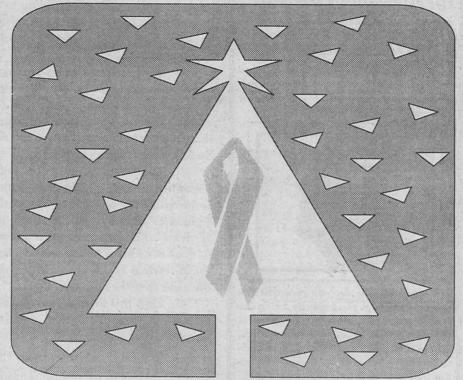
Pisces Jebruary 19th - March 20th

You connect with a new set of friends who are idealistic and inspiring this week. You enjoy being part of a group and you are more willing to join in a team effort for a worthwhile charity. You are also focused on long term goals for the future. You think about what you have accomplished so far and what there is still left to do. In fact, you are probably already writing your list of resolutions for 1997.

Talk to Sistersage at 615-391-5286 or Sistersage @aol.com



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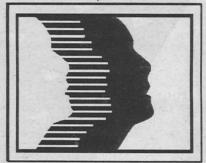
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WRITE FROM THE HEART

BY RENEA ROBERTS, THE RELATIONSHIP SPECIALIST

DON'T LET HOLIDAY EXPECTATIONS BE TOO HIGH.

Why do we think things need to be bigger, greater, prettier, more organized? Our unrealistic expectations only cause unnecessary pain and worry.



Make the decision now that you are going to have a good holiday season this year. Experts tell us this time of year can be the most depressing and stressful of all the seasons. Just in time, I have some suggestions designed to help spark your imagination and beat the dreaded "Holiday Blues."

First and foremost, DON'T be lonely. Reach out to a friend, or many friends for that matter!! You would be surprised how many other people feel just as lonely as you and being alone will only exaggerate the Blues. Remember not to isolate yourself...be with people.

Begin new traditions this day, this year. Keep the old traditions you enjoy, but discard the unpleasant ones. Replace them with things you like to do, not what you think you are expected to do. Don't let this holiday season fall into the same old, dull routine.

Get all dressed up and find somewhere to go. Don't wait to be invited to holiday parties--create your own holiday event. Invite other people who are waiting to be asked to special events. Ask them to help plan it, get everyone involved and have a good time at your own event.

Don't Eat, Drink and be Miserable. Holidays are traditionally a time when people stuff themselves with food and drink they normally would not indulge in. The more alcohol, sugar and heavy food they ingest, the more strain that is put on the body and the greater the chances they will feel fatigued, depressed and overall Holiday Blue.

Now that a new year is approaching, quite possibly another year may be passing without any significant personal or professional accomplishment. Don't let too high expectations and unachievable goals get you down. Set aside some time now to evaluate your growth during the past year. Write down the things you have learned, personal insights you have gained and accomplishments you are proud of. Share this list with a close and trusted friend. Appreciate yourself for the small steps you have taken, not just the big ones.

Above all, know that the most important relationship you have this year is the love you have for yourself. So, think now, how can you enter 1997 without the Holiday Blues and with you as the most important person in your life?

WON ROUND ONE IN HAWAII

BY BILL TURNER

ruled against the state's ban on same-sex marriages. Don't book conclusion about same-sex marriages as threats to the social your flight just yet, though. The same judge also delayed the

implementation of his own ruling to allow the state time to appeal the decision to the Hawaii Supreme Court. That process should take at least a year.

In the meantime, don't forget that various right-wing groups are working to amend the Hawaii state constitution in order to add an explicit prohibition of same-sex marriages. If that effort succeeds, the state Supreme Court's decision will be irrelevant.

And, of course, even after the issue gets settled in Hawaii, we still have both the state

antimarriage law prohibiting recognition of same-sex unions in Tennessee, even if legally granted in another state, and the "Defense" of Marriage Act that allows the federal government to deny benefits to legally married same-sex couples. In other words, various courts around the nation will have to take up this issue over the next several years.

Does that mean we have nothing to celebrate? No. We may not yet have the option of marrying one another legally, but we do have yet another document in which a judge has carefully reviewed the standard right-wing stereotypes about the dangers of openly lesbian and gay persons and declared the logic on which those stereotypes rest bunk.

Courtrooms are usually the closest thing we have to a neutral public space in which to discuss issues rationally and dispassionately. They clearly are not perfect. Judges sometimes intrude their personal opinions and prejudices into the legal process. They sometimes have motives other than the pursuit of justice. Lawyers do not always present the strongest possible position for their side, whether through incompetence or

But the point remains that the purpose of a courtroom is to provide a space in which impartial observers can weigh arguments and evidence on each side of an issue and arrive at the best possible conclusion.

You've probably heard that the trial court in Hawaii has According to Judge Chang in Hawaii, the best possible order is that they are not. The state had the burden of proving

a "compelling state interest" in prohibiting samesex marriages. This is the highest level of scrutiny in such cases, and the hardest to meet.

The state argued above all else that procreation is the primary purpose of marriage and that the state has a compelling interest in promoting procreation by conferring specific benefits on those persons who have the capacity to procreate.

Anytime one comes across an argument, such as this, that seems patently stupid or nonsensical, it is important to consider that argument carefully for indications about the thought of the person(s) who

present the argument. The attorney general of Hawaii, presumably, is not really stupid. We should probably conclude that he actually believes this argument.

The only problem with it is that, when one takes but a moment to consider that argument in light of the available evidence, it immediately looks foolish. One has to start out with a basic set of right wing assumptions in order to make sense of this argument.

The argument might once have seemed self-evident to many people, and in the past it may have been that many judges would have shared those assumptions and agreed with the argument. But no more. This situation is similar to the one that Abby Rubenfeld faced in challenging Tennessee's sodomy law: the arguments that the state offered to defend the law looked downright silly.

So the important part of the Hawaii decision is that it confirms a very slow, uncertain process of changing the underlying assumptions that people bring to this debate. Laws and judicial decisions are extremely important, and we should fight for laws and decisions that protect our rights to equal treatment and opportunity.

But in the end what matters most is the assumptions that people bring to the debate, and those are the hardest things of all to change.

WORLD AIDS DAY RETROSPECT

World Aids Day was marked by prayer, protests and proclamations all over the world.

In Washington, the AIDS awareness group ACT UP staged a vigil across the street from the White House, urging more government funding for AIDS research. Across the country, in Portland, Archbishop Francis George celebrated a special Mass for the peoples with the disease.

In Rome, taxi drivers distributed AIDS leaflets. Across Thailand, gas stations offered free condoms. In South Africa, Nobel laureate Desmond Tutu went on TV to urge people to practice safe

World AIDS Day was marked with renewed vigor around the world Sunday after a U.N. agency reported an accelerating death toll, with nearly a quarter of the 6.4 million AIDS deaths to date occurring in the past year.

In 1996, 3.1 million people were infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, bringing the total number of people with HIV or AIDS to 22.6 million, UNAIDS said.

In Asia, the site of an AIDS explosion, the war on the disease

Activists posted photos of an emaciated AIDS victim in Beijing's central Zhongshan Park near the ancient imperial palace, along with posters that read, "The risks of careless sex and lifestyle

Health officials have warned that more than 1 million Chinese

10 times the estimated present number - could be infected with HIV by 2000 if preventive measures are not taken.

In Thailand, which has an active sex industry, 420 gas stations distributed 3 million condoms to customers with the warning, "Be careful of AIDS when feeling naughty."

The health ministry and state-owned Petroleum Authority of Thailand sponsored the program. An estimated 800,000 of Thailand's 60 million people have the HIV virus, and 50,000 more have died of AIDS.

In the Philippine capital of Manila, about 250 government officials, activists and at least four HIV patients joined in the 1 1/4-mile "First National AIDS Walk."

In Taipei, an AIDS awareness group displayed memorial quilt patches to honor victims of the disease.

Photo exhibitions carried the message in India, which volunteer organizations say has Asia's worst AIDS epidemic, with an estimated 1 million or more HIV cases. Charity organizations sponsored marches in Bombay.

More than 400 people gathered in Tokyo for the lighting of a 20-foot tree bearing 12,000 red ribbons, symbol of the fight against

Europe warned against complacency.

In central Paris, several hundred AIDS activists marched with signs reading, "AIDS: The Epidemic Isn't Over" and "Zero Equals the Number of AIDS Survivors.'

INVASION OF RAINBOWS

By Paula Ghergia, AXGRND@aol.com

It didn't take long to pack, it took 21 hours to drive, and about TUFTS, and had a pink triangle ball, I believe! 15 minutes to unload everything. Mom was thrilled to see me, it had been a year since my last visit. She loves the dogs, even if they do bark at the neighbors, and I looked good too. Although, I had my doubts as to the truth behind that statement, she had to have eye when my brother got home, Mom and I were "hammered" as he put

surgery this week, to replace the lens in her "terrible" eye, leaving only her "bad" eye to see with! That will be corrected next year, then she will really be able to see me, and not just a blur running around. I thought I had settled in for the evening, when she suddenly got a hankering for a glass of wine.

'Walk down to Crowley's and get a bottle," she said, stuffing a \$20 in my hand.

Walk! Me? It made sense really, I had a prime parking spot right out in front of the house, a treasure that would most certainly be gone if I drove those 5 blocks, so I bundled up in my wool coat and headed

down the street. I walked quickly, before the chill could set in.

Every telephone pole on the entire street has a light on it, so the street was as bright as day (every pole except the one next to my driveway, and that's why my uncle keeps losing his driver's side mirrors) and as I walked along, I noticed all the changes. The man who lived across the street was gone, and in his place were 2 women, ("nice girls, one drives a Jeep like yours" I was later told by a relative.) Up at the bend in the street where my aunt lives there was a new resident, someone who was flying a rainbow flag on the porch. A bit closer to my destination, there was yet another rainbow flag, this one was being used as a curtain, and I noticed one on the car in front of that house as well.

I began to smile, all alone, by myself in the streetlight, there I was, smiling my fool head off! I never should have left the neighborhood! We could have blocked off the entire street, all the way up to

I arrived back at Mom's with (no lie!) a bottle of Beringer's and a 1.5 litre bottle of Woodbridge, cheap, but what the menu called for. We opened the small bottle first, then the bigger bottle,

it, and we all watched a "real fight" on pay per view. My mom kept telling us it wasn't real, but she couldn't see it! She thought she was watching wrestling! I tried to tell her they weren't wearing make-up, that they were bleeding...she would have no part of that. She went to bed.

I agreed to a trip to Maine with my brother, to keep him company while he went to pick up his kids for the holiday, and we chatted about the neighborhood. His complaint was that, no matter how nice he is to the girls next door, or the ones across the street, none of them give him the time of day. I realized the

next day, when I went outside to play with my dogs, the 2 cars in the neighbor's driveway had rainbow flags on them, as did the across the street neighbor's Jeep (she even came out on her porch with her morning coffee, watched me playing with the dogs, and started a conversation with me) and she was joined by another woman, momentarily, who then hopped into a Honda in their driveway, and a rainbow flag alongside a pink triangle backed into the street! So, that's why they didn't give him the time of day! He did make mention to me that he heard me talking to someone in the yard, and I told him I met the neighbors, he looked a bit confused. I let it go, it's funnier this way!

The old stomping grounds have certainly taken on a new look, as the unsuspecting are slowly being invaded. I have a sneaking suspicion I never should have given up my room, that morning coffee on the porch sure looked good to me!



~~~~~~~~~~~~

#### HATE AIDS JEFFREY, NOT LIFE! BY DEL DORR

I really liked the movie "Jeffrey". Somehow I found it easy to relate with this man as he struggled to harmonize his being gay

Jeffrey's initial reaction to this conflict is a decision to stop having sex. In an attempt to appease his bottled up sexual urges, he goes to work out in a gym. While there, he meets Steve, a handsome young man, and is attracted to him. To his disappointment, he quickly learns Steve is HIV positive. Jeffrey spends the remainder of the film trying to avoid running into Steve. He finally determines to leave New York and go back home to a small midwestern town, hiding himself from anything to do with being gay.

As Jeffrey prepares to leave New York, he is called to the hospital where his friend Darius has been admitted. Before he can get there, Darius dies. In a wonderful scene (only possible in the movies) Darius appears to Jeffrey in a tunnel of white light reminiscencent of the many near death experiences that we all read about. Two great pearls of advice are given to him by Darius at that time. The first, "Hate AIDS Jeffrey, not life". The second "Remember this, it's still our party!"

I was reminded of the reality if AIDS again as the World AIDS Day was observed on December 1st. Locally Christ Episcopal Church hosted a program of music and readings remembering those we have lost to this dreaded disease. As there always is in such a service, an opportunity was given to call out the names of those within your circle of friends who have died of AIDS. I get upset as my list of lost friends continues to grow a teach service. I can relate to Jeffrey and his struggle because it is one that I must face as well. As I watch the movie, I can laugh at the humor and foolishness of his efforts to deal with this part of his life. But I wonder when we look at our lives, if they really differ so very much from Jeffrey's.

I imagine we all at one time or an other have made a vow of celibacy, to really take firm control of our lives, and in the process gone to the extreme of nearly retreating from life itself. Yet life is to be lived. One of the great paradoxes of the Christian faith is the teaching of Christ that "we are in this world, but not of this world.

Each one of us will go in any aspect of our life.

An illustration of this concept might be television. There are those who avoid the idiot box completely and see no value or good in the thing at all. At the same time, there are others who are addicted to the TV set and let it run continually and get little accomplished because they spend much of their time sitting in front of the thing watching whatever comes on. The reality is that thereare some good selections presented over the airways on a regular basis. Ultimately, one has to learn to put it into a proper perspective, to make choices and to use it wisely.

I hate to sound like I see sex in the same way that I view a television set. yet we may end up with the same extremes of being completely controlled by our sexual desire or by trying to totally deny this aspect of our lives. As Jeffrey, we may be trying to get away to our own little mid-western town and to hide from life. My younger brother used to run and hide his head under the bedspread thinking no one else could see him. He was like the ostrich with his head in the sand. It may be one way to fool ourselves but that is all

In his play, Paul Rudnick finally has Jeffrey come to the conclusion:

> "I'm a gay man. I live in the city. I'm not an innocent bystander. Not anymore.'

In my own life, I know I have to wrestle with the matter of sexuality, just as you have. There are choices and decisions to be made. AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases are a truth that must be faced in making these choices. The extremes: no sex at all or unrestricted sex. Call it what you will, compromise, rationalization or whatever, there must be a more satisfactory alternative. Let me throw out an other term as I close and say safe sex. Darius observed, "It's still our party!" It is our life to live or to be simply observed. I think I want to become a participant as Jeffrey finally concluded to

#### COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Through March 2nd Women of Africa: Guardians of Culture. At Scarritt-Bennet Center.

Wednesday, December 11th LESS STRESS IN 5 MINUTES!

The Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center on the Vanderbilt Campus will sponsor this stress reducing program from 11:30am - 12:30pm. Call (615) 322-4843 for details!

Tuesday, December 10th OPEN HEART- HIV/AIDS Support Group in Shelbyville. Meets at the First Christian Church at 309 Madison Street, Shelbyville. For details, call Sandy Craig at (615) 684-8481.

Thursday, December 12th

INTERACT- GAY TRAVEL-(discussion) Men's Social/Discussion Group. Meets the second and fourth Thursday at the Center, 703 Berry Road. Call (615) 254-3806.

Friday, December 13th -

HANUKKAH ENDS

Friday-Sunday, Dec. 13th-15th: PERSON'S LIVID WITH AIDS.

Starring the Eggplant Faerie Players. Sponsored by Query at the Darkhorse Theatert located at 4610 Charlotte Ave. in Nashville. 8pm, \$10. Call (615) 297-7113 or email:pkurland@edge.net.

Saturday, December 14th

NWA Women's Craft Fair At the Unitarian Church, 1808 Woodmont Blvd. 10am -5pm.

Tuesday, December 16th

OPEN HEART- HIV/AIDS Support Group in Shelbyville. Meets at the First Christian Church at 309 Madison Street, Shelbyville. For details, call Sandy Craig at (615) 684-8481.

Thursday, December 18th INTERACT- Christmas Party/New Years Party! Men's Social/Discussion Group. Meets Thursday at the Center, 703 Berry Road. Call (615) 254-3806.

Saturday, December 21st -WINTER SOLSTICE

Saturday, December 21st -Room In The Inn Christmas at the Center 703 Berry Road.

Wrapped gifts of warm clothing, sweaters, sweat shirts, socks, underwear, knit caps and other items will be handed out at 8pm. For details call Jennifer at (615) 391-5286

Tuesday, December 24th -CHIRISTMAS EVE!

Wednesday, December 25th -CHRISTMAS DAY!

Thursday, December 26th -KWANZA BEGINS Tuesday, December 31st -NIEW YIEARS IEVIE! Wednesday, January 1st -NEW YEARS DAY!

Send us your Calendar of Events!

## The MCSA Softball League Proudly Presents:

The First Annual

HOLIDAY GOLD PARTY
"A 24 Carat Event"

Saturday, December 14th, 1996

At The Chute Complex

Food, Fun, Festivities & Entertainment! Prizes Given Away During the Night Come Early, Stay Late!

<sup>7pm-11pm</sup> "The 24 Carat Contest"

7pm-11pm

Come dressed in your favorite Holiday attire! (be creative, be festive, have fun!) You could just win \$100 just for being there!

Admission to "The Gold Party" is \$3.00

Hosted By R. Scott Russell & Raquel Savage



Special Guest: Nationally Known Impersonator Dane "Dolly" Chase.

Featuring Many Live & "Memorex" Entertainers From Our Community

"Bring a red ribbon in support and remembrance to be placed on the "AIDS Tree". Ribbons will also be available at the event. A Portion of the Proceeds will be donated to the PWA Fund.

#### A PALER SHADE OF READ

J. Fleenor

Pawn, Promise and Price

The Last Herald Mage Trilogy -Mercedes Lackey

"I deserve to die, Vanyel thought in anguish, closing his eyes. I want to die.

NO. The mind voice was bright, bright as a flame, and sharp as steel, piercing his dark hope for death. NO you must not, you must live, chosen.

Vanyel thought weakly back at the intruder, Let me alone. No one wants me, nobody should want me, I kill everything I care for

But I am here..

Unable to escape the unknown mind-voice, Vanyel finally opened his eyes - and met a pair of glowing sapphire eyes so full of compassion and love that he knew their owner would forgive him anything, That love reached out for him, and flowed follow the adventures of Vanyel, an older over into him. It couldn't erase his loss, but and much jaded Vanyel. He has become a it could share the pain - and it didn't blame him for what had happened.

He groped for the Companion's He has just spent a year in the wilds of

smooth white neck and clung there, sobbing himself into exhaustion.

And all the while that bright voice murmured, like a litany, over and over, into his mind -

I am here, my chosen. I love you. I will never leave vou!

These are the first words we read about the young

man named Vanyel. A kind of prequel to that he claims what is inside the book Magic's Pawn. This doesn't even tell half the story. Mercedes Lackey has woven a tale of love, loss, power, and horses that speak in your mind into a page turning trilogy of epic proportions.

Though Vanyel has been born with near legendary abilities to work both Herald and Mage Magic, (you'll understand when you read the books) he wants no part of newly discovered Herald, adds a different such things. Nor does he seek a warrior's path like his father. He wishes instead to be a bard. Such talent as Vanyel possesses if left untrained may prove a menace not only to himself but to those around him as well. He is sent away by his parents to train with his Aunt Savil at High Court in Valdemar. It we are introduced to a new and more is here that Vanyel meets Tylendel, the man who will become Vanyel's one true love. (Imagine, sex with a telepath)

Strong willed and self-centered Vanyel is a challenge which Savil has trouble mastering on her own. His emerging talents and confusion at being in love with another man combine to make the manchild a terror. Vanyel soon becomes the that could stand alongside any other great focus of frightening forces, lending his raw sci-fi hero untrained magics to a spell that unleashes terrifying wyr-creatures onto the land of great read with the Last Herald Mage Valdemar.

By the time Savil seeks the aid of the Hawk Brothers, who are actually lovers not brothers, Vanyel's wild talents may have adventures of Vanyel but on Ms. Lackey's already grown beyond anyone's ability to writing as well. Thankfully she has written contain. Placing Vanyel, Savil, and the a multitude of other titles with just as much others in desperate peril.

As we learn about Vanyel plight, we are treated to what for many will be a replay of their own coming-out thoughts and late night prayers. Vanyel is shown to us as a scared adolescent who realized long ago that he is different. Now he is realizing where those feelings stem from. The playful and very out Tylendel slowly breaks his shell and opens Vanyel up to the life bond they are destined to share. 'Lendel even nicknames Vanyel "Ashke", short for the Shin'a'in word for gay.

Mercedes Lackey tells a tale as spellbinding as the magically aided bards in her stories. Her characters call up sympathy, hope and intense feelings of longing in the reader. Vanyel will stick in your mind and your heart.

In Magic's Promise, we again thing of legend. The bards sing of him as Vanyel Demonsbane, the Shadowstalker.

> Valdemar, doing the job of five Heralds.

This is the second book in the trilogy and the one that really delves into Vanyel's abilities as a mage. The mystical language is written in a believable and comfortable style. The reader should feel no need to make a leap of faith to believe he is able to do all

The only problem with this book is that at the beginning Vanyel seems to have gone back into the closet. He feels that others fear him because he is gay. Thankfully Yfandes, his companion, is the voice of reason that makes him see they are afraid of his enormous magical talents and not his feelings toward other men.

The introduction of Tashir, a perspective to the series. Vanyel's struggles to protect his kingdom, lead the Heralds and overcome his own self-doubt carry this book through an exciting and engaging mystical mystery.

In the third book, Magic's Price, confidant Vanyel. He is now the last Herald Mage. His confidence has grown throughout his hardships and he has come to terms with the losses in his life.

This character is incredible, the culmination of Vanyel's life lessons are evident, he is proud of his sexuality and of his power. A truly magnificent character

Mercedes Lackey has given us a trilogy. Superbly crafted characters, engaging plotlines and powerful emotions will have you hooked on not only the spirit and imagination.



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#### XENOGENY



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Linda Welch Publisher Mikhail Brown

Editor David Henricks

Circulation Director XENOGENY WRITERS:

> Jennifer Day Del Dorr Paula Ghergia Linda Goss Michael Grantham Dave Henricks Kevin Isom Richard Morton Judy Labinovitz Barry A. Noland Shelly Roberts DJ Ron Slomowicz Bill Turner

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#### FINANCIAL FREEDOM

BY LINDA GOSS

The day after Thanksgiving kicks off the Christmas frenzy. I always said I would not shop can save themselves a lot of money.

on this day. This year was different. I was up at 6am and at the mall early. It wasn't so bad. I was done shopping by 10:30am and went home for a

My shopping was limited because I no longer use plastic to fund my shopping. I use a debit card that deducts

directly from my checking account. It's like buying with cash. If I don't have it, then I can't

In the past, I've tried not to use credit cards, but as Christmas would get nearer, I would get emotional and go charge whatever I needed. In January, when the bills came in, I would be angry at myself for spending so much money. It's worse when you think of the interest you have to pay.

I cut up all my credit cards. (there was a grieving process). I closed my accounts and adjusted my mindset. Today, I am on my plan to be debt free. Wouldn't it be wonderful to have no debt?

RAM Research of Frederick, Md. says that the typical U.S. family owns 14 credit cards, with an average balance of \$5,800. By taking two steps--negotiating for a lower interest rate and paying an extra \$25 each month rather than just the minimum payment due-cardholders

Start today by calling your credit card issuer and ask for a lower rate. Just tell them that you have another card with a 6.9% interest rate and you were planning on transferring your current balance. They will probably agree to lower your current interest rate for a special time frame. If they don't, trans-

fer the balance to the lower rate card you have. For a list of low rate cards, send \$4 to Bankcard Holders of America, 524 Branch Dr. Salem VA.

At this point, you need to begin the snowball process. Take the lowest balance you have and add an extra \$10-\$25, whatever you can afford, each month. Continue to pay the minimum on the rest of your credit cards. If you do this process until your cards are paid off, you will be saving yourself thousands of dollars in interest.

Remember, once you start your plan you have to stop using your cards. Cut them up. Call and have all your accounts closed. That way you won't be tempted.

Start today, believe you can get out of debt. Put a plan together and commit to it. Take control of your finances and your life. By changing a few things today, you can make tomorrow brighter. If you need help in putting a plantogether or have questions, please call 782-0715.

#### VIEW FROM MY PADDED CELL

BY RIKK VONN

"ON YOUR MARK, GET SET. SHOP"!

Well, Thanksgiving Day has come and gone and the Christmas shopping rage is upon us. Once again we will make our fateful trek into the jungles at Rivergate, Hickory Hollow, Harding and Cool Springs Malls to face the wretched jaws of vicious roaring beasts...our fellow shoppers. (pardon the dra-

Have you ever noticed how Christmas seems to come earlier each year? There was a time when the season started the day after Thanksgiving. Then it was after Halloween that you first began to see Christmas merchandising and advertising. If things continue in the direction we are going, soon merchants will actually mean it when they refer to "Christmas in July sales"!

It also seems that the closer we get to Christmas, the meaner and more obnoxious people become. What ever happened to the spirit of the season...... "peace on earth, good will towards men"? It has almost become; "Me On Earth, my will above all." Maybe this attitude is more noticeable if you work in retail. Why will people fight over the last Power Ranger action figure? Or the latest Barbie craze. ( there are so many different Barbies out there now. I'm just waiting to see the P.M.S Barbie- comes complete with a butcher knife, and screams obscenities when provoked. Bottles of Pamperin sold separate-

Someone once referred to the 80's as the "Decade of Greed." The 80's were nothing compared to today. Why is it so important to rush all over town and have a nervous breakdown just so little Johnny or Suzie can have the latest over-advertised kidtrap by Mattel? Is it worth making a complete

jackass of yourself by belittling or harming your fellow man over a piece of modeled plastic that the kid's gonna snap the head off of a week later? It's not so much that parents want their kids to have everything they want (which is not to say that parents wouldn't want to give them everything they want) but I think in some cases, it's the parents wanting their peers to know that their kids have the latest trend. Kids are used in the ever present search for status and acceptance in society. Society has made us all that way. If you don't have the newest, the biggest, or the best, you just aren't with it at all. So, we as wanna-be's throw away all dignity to possess that little plastic icon that helps us achieve one step higher on the ladder of human acceptance.

Now, all of my fellow gays and lesbians who are saying, "well, I don't have children so this doesn't apply to me." I say, "Hello? How about these Doc Martins or Polo Shirts or cell phones that you have to have or else you'll just die?"

Now, I'm not saying that there's anything wrong with wanting and having nice

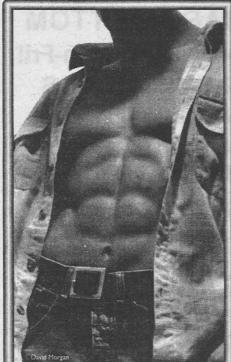
things. I am saying that we should not let these things control us.

This Christmas season, instead of thinking so much about what tie to get for Dad, or what size panties grandma wears, or how much you'd really like to keep that angony mentage the property of the prope ra sweater for yourself you bought for cousin Greg...and instead of thinking so much about self, think about those who may have no Christmas at all this year. Give something to a local charity....ie Toys for Tots, CARE Bear Trees, etc. In doing this, you'll do your part to restore the true meaning of the season and the good humanity. I promise it will give you a good feeling.





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#### Alabama

BOUND TO PLEASE YOU SIR! I'm a submissive 30 year old Gay White male looking for dominate Gay White men, 25 to 40, for serious bondage, discipline and S&M session. Discretion is assured (Birmingham) #18503

CONSIDER THIS I'm a thoughtful and considerate 46 year old Gay White male, 6'2, 155lbs, attractive, fit, educated, romantic, and quiet. I'm seeking a compatible Gay White male 35 to 45 who is stable and honest. Call me. (Mobile) #16927

SIMPLE ROMANCE I'm looking for someone who is romantic. I'm not into the party scene and am partial to long walks, and going to the movies. (Noth West) #17139

BLACK BOTTOM PIE I'm looking for men who want to get together for no strings fun. I'm a Black bottom male. #17654

JACK'S BACK I'd like to meet other men to jack off with. I prefer men who are very well endowed. #17752

LET'S GET DRUNK AND SCREW I'm 5'9, Blond hair, Green eyes. I like sports. I'm looking for guy to go out and get drunk with on the weekends. #12661

SOMEONE TO DO THINGS WITH I'm 21 years old. I would like to meet a White male, 25 to 40, to do things with.

#### Kentucky

GOOD TIMES IN THE BLUE GRASS
58 year old, submissive bottom. I am oft,
170lbs. I love all sports and reading and
want to have some good times with like
minded men in the Louisville area.
(Louisville) #21634

CHOCOLATE FEVER I'm a Gay White male, 21 years of age, 140lbs and very versatile. I'm looking for a masculine, Black male for good times. #18579

LOUISVILLE
LOVER I'm new to
the area. I'm 5'9,
165lbs, Brown hair,
Blue eyes. I like to
work out, ride bikes,
etc. I'm looking to
meet someone in my
area. Call me.
(Louisville)

MISSING YOU?
I'm a professional Bi
male, 30 years old,
oft, 165lbs, married
I'm looking for a
Straight acting guy
in my area to show
me what I've been
missing. (Louisville)
#11542

CAFE AU LAIT WAITING FOR YOU I'm a Black male, 20 years old, 5'5, 128lbs, looking for a White male, 38 to 45, for friendship and more. I enjoy singing, dining out, dancing and movies. Although I'm from Las Cruses, New Mexico, I am willing

Mexico, I am willin to relocate for the right man. #9982

#### Ohio

BLACK MEN ONLY I'm a Black, Gay male looking for a professional, aggressive, goodlooking, well toned Black male. Must be able to travel to Ohio. Non smoker, non drinker, masculine, in shape, attractive and assertive. Tall and bald headed a plus. 28113

#### Tennessee

BIG BROTHER I'm a 31 years old Gay White male, 5'8, 160lbs. I enjoy listening to rock & roll, watching videos, and participating in sports. I'm looking for a teminine White, Asian or Latino pretty boy, 18 to 24. (Clarksville) #1433

DELIVERANCE? I'm 32 years old, 6'4, 238lbs. I'm looking for someone who likes the outdoors and movies. (Clarksville) #16717

THE DATING GAME I'm a Gay male, athletic, 5'10, 165lbs, dark Brown hair. I'm looking for athletic, masculine men for dating. (Goodsville) #18034

KEEP IT IN THE CLOSET I'm a Black, Gay male, 6'0, slender, 34 years old and in the closet. I would like to meet a Gay White male to help motivate me to "come out" safely. I'm not into drugs, drinking, or smoking. Casual men only please! (Knoxville) #42784

THE SOURCE I'm a White male, in my thirties, 5'10, 150lbs, dark Blond hair, Blue eyes, nice build and attractive. I'm looking for some attractive play mates in the Knoxville area. Give me a ring! Must be discreet. (Knoxville) #14280

OPPORTUNITY KNOX I'm a romantic guy from Knoxville. I'm White, 5'11, 175lbs. I'd like to meet a guy 24 to 30, 5'6 to 5'9, 135lbs to 150lbs. If you are warm and loving call me. I'd like to take you out dancing, dining, and more. Or we could just stay home by the fireplace. (Knoxville) #17482

LATIN LOVER I'm a 39 year old Gay White male with a variety of interests, I'm looking for Hispanic men to have fun with. If you are looking for a good time call me. (Madison) #10868

MANLY MEN WANTED I'm a 26 year old Bisexual Black male who enjoys art, singing, dancing, camping, traveling and working out. I would like to meet Italian, Hispanic, and Irish men that are Bisexual or Bi curious with similar interests. Please, no feminine men.
Discretion is a must. (Memphis) #18398

YOU KNOW, MOTHER NATURE
I'm looking for straight looking guys that
are unihibited in their 20's to 30's. I like
guys that like to work out and like to stay
in shape. If you fill that bill, give me a
call. I want to have safe fun. Naturism.
(Memphis) #20084

LOYAL FOR YOU I'm a 24 year old Gay White male, 5'10, 175lbs, Brown hair, Green eyes. I'm looking for a relationship with someone who is loyal, dominate, straight acting, honest, age 30s to 40s. (Memphis) #17958

HI, DAD! I'm an attractive Italian male, straight acting, hairy, and masculine. I'm looking to meet some friends. You won't be disappointed. (Memphis). #18140

LEATHER, RUBBER AND SWEAT I'm a 48 year old, sweaty, kinky, Gay, White bear, who is butch, hairy, at 6'1, and 220 lbs, and well-endowed. I'm looking for rough action, erotic pain, and am into leather, rubber, and dirty jockstraps. (Memphis) #49991

CREATIVE SCREWING I'm a 38 year old Bi White male. I'm 5'9, 160lbs, and very well endowed. I'm looking for straight acting men who do not expect commitments. Let's get creative and have some fun! (Nashville) #21900

CHECK OUT THIS FRAT BOY I'm
6'1, 180lbs, Brown hair, Green eyes. I'm
just an average looking fraternity boy.
I'm looking for guys in the Nashville area
for friends and fun. (Nashville)
21941

ENDANGERED SPECIES ALERT! I'm 26 year old, 6ft, 185lbs, Brown hair, Hazel eyes. Some of my interests include parachuting and other outrageous stunts. I also enjoy movies, dinners and bowlings i'm looking for an endangered species in Nashville, it's called a gentleman. If you are a gentleman and interested in dating give me a call. (Nashville) = 18475

A LITTLE ADVENTURE Goy Black man 32 years old, 6'2, 170lbs, seeking Gay White male, 21 to 35 years old, who is understanding, caring, loving, open minded, outgoing and willing to learn and try anything. You must be attractive and slim. (Nashville) #22022

HEALTHY FRIENDS I'm a 49 year old, professional, Gay, White male. I'm 6'4, 238lbs, and healthy. I'm masculine and attractive. I would like to meet an attractive man under the age of 50 to develop a friendship and possibly a long term relationship with. Please be healthy. (Nashville) #21601

DR. PROBE Hi guys. I'm a big top looking to probe. Leave a message! (Nashville) #18144

SISSY MALE I'm a sissy White male looking for other sissy White males to have fun with in the Nashville area. (Nashville) =18918

THE BEAR NECESSITIES I'm a 38 year old Gay White Bear looking for young cubs to teach them what it is all about.
Cubs 25 to 28 are a great plus. All calls will be answered. (Nashville) #19248

INCUNED TO SECRECY I can keep a secret if you can! I'm a Bi, White male, 29 years of age, Blue eyes, light Brown hair with a boyish figure. I'm looking to meet other guys in the Nashville area under 30. You must be slim, good looking and masculine. Black men are especially welcome! (Nashville) #19843

GENUINE DRAFT I'm a very interesting 40 year old man with a genuine heart. I would like to get together with someone and talk. Give me a chance! (Nashville) #16285

WANNA DANCE WITH
SOMEBODY I'm a Gay, Black male,
seeking friendship with another male.
Age and race are not important. I'm
willing to relocate! (Nashville) #19406

BIG HUNK? I'm a healthy Gay White male bottom looking for hunky top White dudes who want to have good times.

(Nashville) #17908

UNCUT, JUICY MEN ARE A PLUS I'm a Gay White professional male, 5'10, 185lbs, Brown hair, Blue eyes. I have a variety of interests. I'm a loving, caring, and sinceré person. I'm seeking the same in the Nashville area. I prefermen who are hairy and uncut. (Nashville) #17445

THE REAL THING I'm 6'2, 220lbs, real hairy, 17" arms, 48" chest, work out, short Brown beard, short Brown hair, Hazel eyes. I like camping, swimming, travel, short trips, etc. I seek men 35 to 55 for good times. I'm-a professional looking for-the same. (Nashville) #30498

BY THE BIG INTERSTATE I'm 21 years old, 5'6, 120lbs, professional. I'm looking to meet other guys. Please give me a call. (Nashville) #17171

ALARM SOUNDING I'm looking for other guys under the age of 40. I enjoy bike riding, movies, and camping out. I'm 577, 145lbs, 23 years old, Blond hair, and have a smooth chest. (Nashville) #14176

ON THE ROAD AGAIN I'm 32 years old, 5'10, Blond hair. I'm looking for some good times and good friends. (Nashville) #17102

CUM UP TO MY CABIN I'm a Gay male and I'm looking for other Gay men 35 to 55, to join me in my cabin on top of the mountain. (Nashville) #16162

solib GOLD I'm a body builder, very attractive, very muscular, hard working, work out everyday, professional, 34 years old, Brown hair, Blue eyes, 5'8, 190lbs of solid muscle. I'm looking for a friend, a work out partner, or a lover, 25 to 35. (Nashville) #16372

AS LONG AS YOU ARE
MASCULINE I'm a Gay, Black male
looking for a masculine male for
friendship and more. Age and looks are
unimportant. (Nashville) #16685

AND EVERYTHING NICE I want to meet someone who will treat me right. I'm a very good looking, 27 year old, Black male, butch, clean, and neat. I'm sweet as sugar and fun. Let's chat. I love the Gay life, what about you? (Nashville) #15853

MISSED CONNECTION AT LA
BOHEME Looking for you! You were
at ta Boheme on October 15th. You
were seat T-10, I was in seat T-8.
(Nashville) #15879

THE HEAT OF THE NIGHT I'm 27 years old, 5'11, 160lbs. I'm looking for a masculine man who is honest, open, and friendly. I like dancing, friends, and nights at home.
(Nashville) #15648

GETTING TO KNOW YOU
I'm looking for a nice, middle
aged, well built, hairy man. I'd love to
get to know you. (Nashville)
\$\pi\$15397

BORED WITH LIFE I'm 27 years old, 5'8, bored with life. I'm looking for new friends. (Nashville) =15780

TOP THIS FRESH CREAM I'm a 21 year old Gay White male, 5'11, 165lbs, Blonde hair, and blue eyes. I enjoy movies, swimming, and other summer adventures. I'm seeking top men to have fun with. (Nashville) #12962

READY FOR A STEADY I'm 32 years old, 5'8,135lbs. I'm interested in a long term relationship with someone who is honest and sincere. If you are 25 to 40 and ready for a friends first relationship call me. (Nashville) #8061

HAD A PIECE LATELY? I'm seeking a White male 20 to 30 who likes to have a good time. I'm 5'9, 27 years old, very up to date, and very good looking. No drugs please. (Nashville)

NO WANNABEES Are you tired of trashy men who want nothing but sex and money? Me too. I'm looking for a warm hearted guy. I'm 27 years old, 6ft, clean cut. I'm looking for a relationship mined Gay White male. Call me. (Nashville) #9632

HELP! I'm a 52 year old Gay White professional male. I'm in search of an affectionately aggressive, very good looking, extremely muscular, young White male. Call me. Lets negotiate. [Nashville] #10383

BEARDED LOVER WANTED I'm 32 years old, 5'8, 135lbs. I'm looking for a man with a hairy chest and a neat beard. I want a long term relationship with a man 25 to 40. (Nashville) #10758

GOOD TIMES I'm 26 years old, 6'2, 185lbs. I like to swim, hike, travel, and more. I'm looking for men 25 to 45 to have a good time with. If you are interested please call and leave me a message. (Nashville) #11079

THE BUDDY SYSTEM I'm 31 years old, 5'7, 155lbs, Brown hair, and Blue eyes. I'm looking for someone 26 to 36 with a medium build for summer fun. (Nashville) #11775

WHAT A TOWN! I'm a lonely ex New Yorker looking for new friends. If you'd like to be on the greeting band wagon give me a call. (Nashville) #7951

CITY MEN I'm Gay White male, 5'9, 175lbs, Blond hair, Blue eyes. I'm looking for well educated men under the age of 40 for casual dating. No country boys are allowed. #18714

#### womyn seeking womyn



There's no charge to create an adl 1-800-326-MEET!

#### Kentucky

HONESTY I'm 5'4 with long Blond hair and Blue eyes. My hobbies are animals, children, outdoors and the simple things in life. I'm looking for a relationship with another woman. Honesty is a must! #16317

#### Tennessee

LONELY AS ME? I'm a
Gay White female with Bland
hair and Brown eyes. I'm 6'1
and 190lbs. I'm interested in
horse back ridding and all
types of athletics. I'm lonely
and would like a womyn who
is lonely too. Call! (Nashville)
#22061

SMOKE GETS IN YOUR EYES I'm a 25 year old Gay White female, 5'9, long Brown hair, Brown eyes. I enjoy long walks, good conversation, sports, and staying home. I'm a non smoker. (Nashville) #18353

To respond, browse or check your messages, call: \$1.99/Min. 18+

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- To pick-up messages from your existing od Call: the 900 number & Press the stor key (-) Due to our large volume of calls, if you can't get thus, simply try your call later Gaston, Call: 1-415-281-3183

Call: 1-900-737-2636

To record your FREE Personal ad Call: 1-800-546-MENN (We'll print it here)

To respond to ads, browse unlisted ads, or retrieve messages. Only \$1.99 per minute. 18+.

## RAMROD

Mr. Y's New "MEN ONLY BAR"

Check out our new CENTER PIECE on Sundays @ 5:30pm. Come hungry....Eat and get filled!



# Friday The 13th BLACKOUT PARTY

10pm-6am...
it just may
be your lucky nite!

# Butts...

Try Our NEW BARE BOTTOM
HAPPY HOUR! 4pm to 8pm Sun-Fri!
2-4-1 DRAFTS 2-4-1 COCKTAILS
\$1.50 LONGNECKS!
\$2.00 Big Mouth (16 ounce)....
Bud, Bud Lite, Miller Lite & Ice House

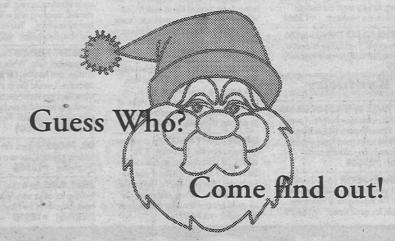
Coming Soon.... Mr. Y's new attraction..5 kinds of Draft Beers!

ALWAYS OPEN TO THE CRACK OF DAWN!

To Our Valued Customer; Ynonah's & Ramrod will be closed on Tuesday, December 10th at 4pm for our annual employee Christmas Party! We will re-open at Midnight-Come join us afterwards!

Ynonah's & Ramrod Men's
Bar is happy to announce
they have installed state of
the art video tape surveillance
security system inside and
outside to prevent theft and
vehicle damage! 24 hours a
day 7 days a week! Quad TV
Monitor inside!

## Come Meet Mr & Mrs Claws



on Friday, December 20th!

1700 4th Ave S. (615) 251-0980 Ynonah's Saloon

#### \*People Needed\*

New study starting at The AIDS Vaccine **Evaluation Unit at Vanderbilt** 

We need men and women of all races and ethnic groups who meet the following criteria:

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\* Gay Males who practice high risk sexual behavior

A modest honorarium is provided. If you are interested in helping to find a vaccine to prevent HIV,

Please call Mary at (615) 343-2437





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Make a great, unique gift! Send name, birthdate, birthplace, and time of birth, along with \$20.00 (Money Order Only) To: Paula P.O. Box 358 Ashland City, Tn. 37015



THE STONEWALL MISSION CHURCH

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## E (CO) | | E (C) | E (C) |

Open Tuesday - Sunday 8pm to 3am

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Tuesday Nights: Country Western Dancina Starts at 7pm!

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Country Western Dancing in Our Lounge!

High Energy Dance

Cast of La Boy Le Jemme in Our Theater!

Tis The Christmas Spirit

Closed Christmas Eve - Tuesday, December 24th ristmas D

Wednesday, December 25th

Watch for Our "Absolutely Jabulous" New Years Eve Celebration!

CONTRACTOR OF THE PROPERTY OF

Julians Eatery Open Wednesday thru Sunday 8pm to Midnight!

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## & COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

SUPPORT THE BUSINESSES THAT SUPPORT US!

XENOGENY P.O. BOX 110884 ▼ NASHVILLE, TN. 37222 ▼ VOICE: (615) 832-5653 ▼ FAX: (615) 832-9701 ▼ E-MAIL: XENOGENYX @AOL.COM

#### AIDS Support:

- D-11 Nashville CARES 209 Tenth Avenue South 259-4866, 1-800-845-4266
- D-10 Vanderbilt AIDS Vaccine Eval. Unit, Med. Center N. 343-2437
- D-10 Vanderbilt AIDS Trials 936-1174

#### Attorneys:

- B-12 Rubenfeld & Associates 2505 Hillsboro Road 386-9077
  - Edward S. Ryan P.O. Box 128226 Nashville, Tn. 37212 (615) 269-0926
- E-11 Jennifer L. Smith 222 Second Ave. North Suite 360, Mezzanine 248-2188
  - Steve Walker P.O. Box 159234 Nashville, Tn. 37215 (615) 313-7726

#### Adult Entertainment:

- E-10 Metro News 822 5th Avenue South 256-1310
- E-14 Purple Onion South 2807 Nolensville Road 259-9229

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- C-11 Magical Journey 212 Louise Ave 327-0327
- D-10 OUTLOUD Books & Gifts 1805-C Church Street 340-0034
- D-10 Tower Books, Tower Music 2400 West End 327-3722

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Joyce Arnold, M.Ed., M. Div., Ph.D. 385-9235

Carlton Cornett, LCSW 329-9509

Terri A. Franco, LCSW

Ross Hudson, LCSW 329-9509

Julie D. Jones, LCSW 646-5185

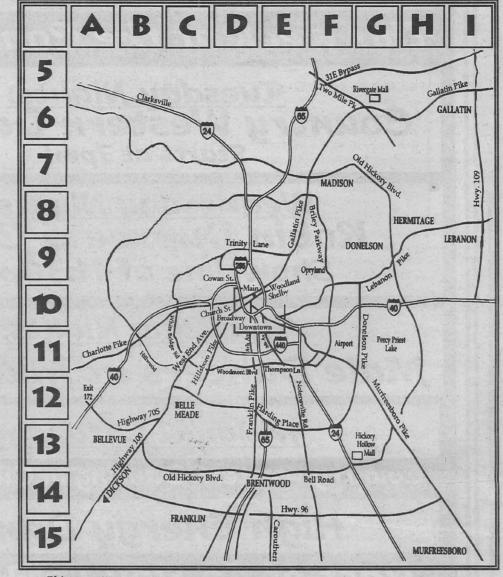
Barbara Sanders LCSW 327-0756

John Senter, LCSW 700 Craighead Bldg.#101 385-4411

John Waide, PH.D. LCSW 329-0558

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We Tote The Note Ray Hunter 320 North Lowery Street Smyrna, Tn. 37167 (615) 459-7991



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C-13 Dr. Deborah Kowalski 108 Harding Place 352-1234

#### Theraputic Massage:

C-13 Body Conscious Massage
Susan Buck, LMT
108 Harding Place, Ste 100
356-1082

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662-8891

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  1123 Murfreesboro Road
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#### Insurance: John M. Witcher

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- E-10 Calypso Cafe Ellison Place 321-3878
- C-10 Mad Platter 1239 6th ave. North 242-2563
- C-10 Monell's 1235 6th ave. North 248-4747
- D-10 Moskos 2204 Elliston Place 327-2658
- E-10 Radio Cafe 1313 Woodland Street 262-1766
- D-12 Sunshine Grocery 3201 Belmont Blvd 297-5100
- E-10 Towne House Tea Room 165 8th Ave North 254-1278

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- E-11 Blu's Crazy Cowboy 2311 Franklin Road 269-5318
- F-11 Boots 302 2nd Street 254-8037
- E-11 The Chute Complex 2535 Franklin Road 297-4571
- F-10 Chez Collette 300 Hermitage Ave 256-9134
- D-9 Connection 901 Cowan Street 742-1166
- E-10 Gaslite Lounge 167 1/2 8th Ave 254-1278
- E-10 The Jungle 306 4th Avenue South
- 306 4th Avenue South 256-9411
- D-10 KC's Club 909 909 Church Street 251-1613
- E-11 Ralph's Rutledge Hill Tavern 515 2nd Ave S. 256-9682 E-11 The Triangle
- 1401 4th Avenue South 242-8131 D-11 Worlds End
- 1713 Church St. 329-3480
- F-11 Ynonah's Saloon 1700 4th Avenue South 251-0980

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- E-14 Brentwood's Botanical Creations & Gifts 127 Franklin Road 661-8811
- E-8 Florist Nashville 1819 Church St 321-3952
- H-14 LaVergne Flower Shop 5150 A Murfreesboro LaVergne, Tn 37086 793-7981

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NO RESTRICTIONS, ONE WEEK, ONE MONTH, ONE YEAR, YOU DECIDE.

ONLY ONE WEEK CANCELATION NOTIFICATION REQUESTED!

CALL TODAY...832-5653 AND SEE HOW YOU TOO CAN GET ON THE BACK PAGE!