

ART for Art's SAKE AUCTION



ART FOR ART'S SAKE AUCTION

Public art at the heart of CY revitalization

BY SUSANNAH ACUFF

If you've lived in this neighborhood awhile, I know that you are more than familiar with the Trestle Art over Cooper Street, and you are probably aware of the Art for Art's Sake Auction that takes place each April to raise funds for its upkeep. This year the Art Auction will take place on Saturday, April 9, at Young Avenue Deli from 6-9:30pm, where treasures created by local artists and contributions from area businesses will be up for grabs. Radio personality and CY resident Ric Chetter will be the auctioneer for the live auction, and there will be a silent auction as well. We all know what a great time the Art Auction is, but perhaps you have never considered the importance of this event or why maintaining the Trestle Art matters.

When I first moved to Cooper-Young in 1990 as a seven-year-old, it was a community on the cusp of revitalization. It was a struggling crossroads in Midtown. The main reason for my

family's entry into the neighborhood was that my single mother was able to buy a nice-sized, extremely affordable home for us at the corner of York and New York. Back then old hippies, single-parent families, artists, and elderly residents who had lived in their homes since the 1940s and 50s were the norm. CY was working class but on the rise. There was still a considerable amount of crime, but despite these incidents there was a sense of promise and belonging which cemented residents firmly to their turf.

The neighborhood was always a magnet for artists and creative-types. If the low cost of property and central locale didn't give that fact away, it could easily be determined by a look around at the plethora of quirky yard art and porch decorations. Tie-dye was a particularly common theme, if my memory serves me correctly. Much like today, creative expression was everywhere – open-mic nights, live local music, off-beat festivals, and unusual businesses a plenty. Cooper-Young welcomed everyone, particularly alternative-types looking for an open-minded community. It was a place where diversity was unapologetically embraced.

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

April at a glance

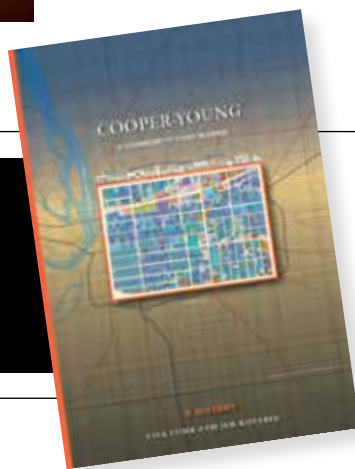
This is going to be an exciting month for Cooper-Young! On April 9, from 6–9:30pm at Young Avenue Deli, the CYCA will host the Art for Art's Sake Auction. It's a great time to get out, see some friends, have a beer, and get some great local art for a low (unless someone is bidding against you!) price. Tickets are only \$15 for CYCA members and \$20 for non-members – saving \$5 is a great reason to join our membership rolls. To purchase a ticket go online to cooperyoung.org.

April is also a great time to begin spring cleaning. It's amazing how much stuff I've collected and carried from place to place in all my moves. What a great feeling it is donating those possessions to resale charities. In addition to the inside of our home, this is a wonderful time to clean out flowerbeds, trim back winter growth, and re-mulch. The CYCA will be on the lookout for yards to recognize as our Yard of the Month. Plant something pretty and you might be selected to display the Yard of the Month sign in your front lawn and be recognized in upcoming issues of the *LampLighter*.

At the April General Meeting our members will be voting on amendments to our bylaws and electing both a Vice-President and a Secretary. Please come out and vote, or even better, come out and run for office. Nominations will be accepted from the floor.

As our motto says, "Life is good in Cooper-Young!"

John Kinsey



History book

The CY history book, *Cooper-Young: A Community that Works*, is available for purchase at Burke's Books or online at cooperyoung.org.

LampLighter

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Inside

9 High school students get a college jumpstart

Have you heard of Middle College High School? No. Well, maybe it's time to get acquainted with this school located just one mile from CY and offering a unique program that allows high school students to earn college credits – all for free.

16 The CY Community Farmers Market returns with a renewed sense of purpose

Everyone in CY knows that if you want fresh produce, you need look no further than the Community Farmers Market in the parking lot of First Congo every Saturday. But did you know that this Farmers Market accepts food stamps? See what they have planned for this coming season and how they are working to make sure everyone has healthy food to eat.

22 The conversation: an interview with Tavis Smiley

If you are a PBS or public radio junkie, you know the name of award-winning talk show host Tavis Smiley. While Mr. Smiley was recently in Memphis, one of his supporter strongholds, our own writer Betty LaMarr was able to conduct an interview. Tavis fans will certainly want to read this!

Deadlines for the May LampLighter

Article submissions: April 15
Advertising copy: April 20
Distribution beginning: May 6
Please send all articles and submissions to LampLighter@cooperyoung.org. For advertising rate sheet, or to submit ads electronically, please email ads@cooperyoung.org.

Cooper-Young Organizations

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901-272-2922
info@cooperyoung.org

CYBA

Tamara Walker
901-276-7222
cyba@bellsouth.net

Meetings & Dates

Art for Art's Sake Auction
Saturday, April 9, 6-9:30pm
Young Avenue Deli
Join this community celebration of the arts and support the CYCA as they maintain the Trestle Art over Cooper Street. Tickets are available at cooperyoung.org.

CYCA Annual Meeting and Elections
Tuesday, April 12, 6:30pm
2298 Young Avenue
Doors open at 6pm
All are welcome to attend as CYCA members vote on the amendments to our bylaws as well as the slate of candidates for CYCA Vice-President and Secretary.

Communication Committee Meeting
Tuesday, April 12, 7:30pm
2298 Young Avenue

CYCA Board Meeting
Tuesday, April 19, 7pm
2298 Young Avenue

Safety Committee Meeting
Monday, April 25, 7pm
2289 Young Avenue

CY Neighborhood Yard Sale
Saturday, May 21
Now is a great time to begin preparing for our community wide yard sale. More details are coming in the May *LampLighter* and online at cooperyoung.org.

CYCA Board Officers

President	John Kinsey
Vice-President	June Hurt
Secretary	Andy Ashby
Treasurer	Jason Word

CYCA Committee Heads

Beautification	OPEN
Ber Fest	Andy Ashby
Block Clubs	April Boleware
Building	Debbie Sowell
Code Awareness	Amanda Ball
Communications	Emily Bishop
Festival 4-Miler	Richard Coletta, Michael Ham, Emily Bishop
Finance	Jason Word
Safety	Sarah Frierson
Membership	June Hurt
Volunteers	Kevin Ritz

At-Large Board Members

Dan Atlas
Renee Massey

A CY ORIGINAL

Artist Karen Capps gives back to the community

BY LAURA JOHNSON

It's hard to drive down Evelyn Avenue in the daylight without noticing Karen Capps' orange bungalow. The first thing that pops into your mind when you see the wine bottle statues, ceramic sculptures, and broken electronics scattered amongst the neatly organized chaos that is her landscaping is that an artist lives in that house. When you enter her house, it's even more evident that this collage artist has been acquiring materials from under bridges and bar stools for a long time.

Capps is one of many artists that will be participating in CYCA's Art for Art's Sake Auction, as well as the artist featured on this year's Art Auction Poster. The money raised by the auction is kept in the community to maintain the Trestle Art over Cooper Street. Artists generously donate works to be auctioned, with 100% of the profits going towards our neighborhood's most distinguishing piece of artwork. Capps says that it is a great way for artists to meet each other and one of the best ways she feels that she can give back to the community.

Karen Capps was in the corporate environment for ten years before realizing her true calling: taking junk and making it beautiful. Capps takes your average trash material (bottle caps, broken glass, cigarette lighters, computer parts...you get the idea) and uses heavy duty glue to mount these odd shaped pieces onto wooden canvasses. She starts her pieces by painting the background so that she can get a better idea of where to place the 3-dimensional pieces. Her work has a distinctive sense of Memphis pride; from the bar-b-que pigs adorned with their signature fork, to the catfish with nails as its barbels. There is a definite juxtaposition of new and old in her work.

Some of her past commissions have been of houses in the Cooper-Young area. One such commission gave her a broken plate from their parent's wedding to use in the piece. Capps broke the plate further and used it as the border to the house. The customer was very touched to have the otherwise unusable relic put to great use, saying that, "its fun to include your own junk, there's something more satisfying about it."

Not only is Capps creating beautiful works of art, but she is cleaning up much of the broken glass and bottle caps in the surrounding area, and she is graciously willing to accept donations from your junk drawers.



Karen Capps smiles in front of her mixed media piece, *She Flew the Coop*, at this year's Art Auction Artist's Reception at Otherlands.

COMMUNITY SPIRIT

MISSION: Our purpose is to form an association of residents and interested parties to work together to make our diverse and historic community a more desirable and safer place to live, worship, work, and play.



Enclosed is a check for my membership in the Cooper-Young Community Association

- New Renewing (Memberships are from 1-1-2011 to 12-31-2011)
 Household – \$20 Trestle Tender – \$50 Senior 55 and older – \$5

Name _____

Address _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

I want to hear about volunteer opportunities

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____

in honor or/in memory of _____

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____ for the General Operating Fund

Mail this form with your payments to:

CYCA Membership, 2298 Young Avenue, Memphis, TN 38104

You can also join online at cooperyoung.org. The CYCA is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

ARE YOU SIGNED UP FOR OUR EMAIL ALERTS ON SAFETY, COMMUNITY EVENTS, AND VOLUNTEERING?

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GIFTED VOCALS

Local talent leads CY Art Auction

BY EMILY BISHOP

The Art for Art's Sake Auction welcomes a new voice to stage on Saturday, April 9 at the Young Avenue Deli. Ric Chetter, a local radio veteran, will be the auctioneer for this CYCA event. Ric has been on the air for the past 14 years. He is the former partner of Bad Dog as co-host of the Bad Dog and Ric Show on WEGR-FM. Ric and his wife Josephine have been CY residents since 2005 and are often seen in the neighborhood walking their two Greyhounds. The CYCA is grateful to Ric for giving of his time and energies to this community event.



YOUR TREASURE AWAITS

CY Neighborhood Yard Sale coming in May

BY KRISTAN HUNTLEY

When was the last time you used that kitchen gadget that was supposed to deseed your strawberries? How often do you use that hand-me-down chair to sit in and not as a coat rack? Do you really still use that pair of roller skates? Well, now it is time to weed out all those things that are just taking up space because the annual Cooper-Young Neighborhood Yard Sale will be here before you know it!

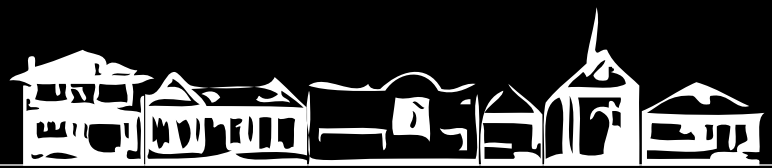
This year's yard sale will be held on Saturday, May 21. The CYCA will be offering the use of our Cooper-Young online classifieds section for free again this year, so post photos and descriptions of all those special knickknacks and lure even the pickiest yard sale shopper to drop by your yard. The Cooper-Young Community Association will be helping get the word

out about the neighborhood yard sale, but make sure to tell all your friends because word of mouth is always best!

More details will be coming soon, so check cooperyoung.org, make sure to "like" us on Facebook, and don't miss the May *LampLighter* so you can stay in the loop on all the details.



MEMBERSHIPS



HOUSEHOLD MEMBERSHIPS

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Ashley Bianchi
Carla Cartwright
Jennifer Childress
Ernest & Vickie Hall
Ron McElroy
Alli Payne Robinson
Glen Stovall
Matthew Strini
Nathan Tipton
Alicia Triche
Jennifer Tucker
Ronnie & Sharon Turnmire
Kerry Vaughan
Claire Prince & Dave Wiener
Michaela Burkhardt & Andy Wildham
Wendy Sumner Winter

SENIOR MEMBERSHIPS

Barbara Cook

TRESTLE TENDER MEMBERSHIPS

Brad & Sarah Gilmer
Devin Greaney
Pat & Cathie Turns

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Our heartfelt appreciation goes out to the following people who have shown their support of the *LampLighter* by contributing financially toward our operation costs. These benefactors have made a contribution of at least \$60 either by making a one-time donation or a monthly donation of \$5 or more.

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Doris Porter • Jacques and Joi Samson • Ronnie G. Smith
Betty Slack • Kobie and Bianca Sweeten
Joyce and Jerry Turner • Tura and Archie Wolfe

If you love reading the *LampLighter*, please join us so that we can maintain the quality and frequency of the paper. Go to cooperyoung.org and click on the Membership tab to learn how you can become a recognized *LampLighter* Benefactor.

Thank you for your support!

These memberships & donations were received as of March 24. Donations received after the 24th will be listed in the next issue. Email info@cooperyoung.org for corrections or additions.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

Cooper-Young Night Out celebrates third year

BY TAMARA WALKER

Come party in Midtown at the Cooper-Young Night Out third anniversary on Thursday, April 7 from 5-9pm. Cooper-Young is the largest historic district in Memphis and is known for its eclectic mix of restaurants, retail shops, antique venues, art galleries, and bars. Every first Thursday of the month businesses stay open late to serve up discounts on everything from vinyl records to BBQ nachos. Joining us this month are the artists of the Memphis Arts Collective and CY neighborhood.

Approximately a dozen artists will display their wares at booths on the sidewalk at the corner of Cooper Street and Young Avenue. Some of the artists that will be joining us are Rene Nickel, Dinah Makowsky, Chuck Parr, Billy Moore, Angie Cooper, Lisa Blake, and Jennifer Hyatt.

Starting at 5pm at the gazebo, the Dancing Fire performance team, consisting of belly dancers, break dancers, poi artists, hoop artists, jugglers, and drummers, will entertain with their unique artistic abilities that are enhanced by the manipulation of fire props. Their moves are set to music producing a one-



The Dancing Fire, photographed by Ande Demetriou/Gemini Multimedia – all rights reserved

of-a-kind performance that should not be missed. At 6pm Odd Normality, an instrumental group, will perform original music derived from rock, jazz, funk, classical, and bluegrass roots. Their unique and versatile sound doesn't fit any mold. They're here to create something new, funky, and very cool.



Odd Normality

CY is full of restaurants offering sweet deals for Night Out. El Diablo, the newest taqueria/tapas shop by Chef Ben Vaughn located at 938

South Cooper, is offering \$1 tacos all night long. Another addition to the CY restaurant scene is Sweet Grass Next Door at 937 South Cooper. Ryan Trimm's new neighborhood bar will be open and offering drink and appetizer specials. Young Avenue Deli and SoulFish Café are offering a free child entrée with the purchase of an adult entrée, and don't forget that it is Trivia Night at Young Avenue where they have beer discounts galore. The Beauty Shop has discounts on their appetizers, and Do Sushi actually creates a different sushi roll special to celebrate each Thursday Night Out event. Café Ole has happy hour margaritas all night long as well as DJ Lil Egg Roll starting at 9pm. Scoop up some half-price nachos and beer specials at Central BBQ. Cortona has their patio lit up and is the perfect place to enjoy all the Night Out music and fun, plus David is offering discounts on beer and wine.

Live music abounds throughout Cooper-Young during Night Out. At 6pm Susie and Bob Salley will be playing Irish ballads and country covers on the patio of Celtic Crossing with Jeremy Stanfill starting at 10pm. Over at Lou's Pizza, enjoy Candy Company starting at 7:30pm and buy one pizza, get the second half price. Make you own music at Java Cabana during their Open Mic Night and get discounts on coffee drinks.

If you are in the mood to shop, Painted Planet has 50% off gallery jewelry plus complementary refreshments. Toad Hall Antiques has a shop and sip party for their guests where you can browse their newest Easter gifts, decorations, and home furnishings. House of Mews has 50% off approved cat adoptions and 20% off all retail purchases. Underground Art is offering buy one piercing get the second for half price, so bring a friend! And you can work off those extra Night Out calories at Inbalance Fitness where group fitness classes are half price and you can get \$2 off any punch card purchase.

Hope to see you in Cooper-Young for all of the music, art, food, and retail fun!

ALL CALL

CY Thursday Night Out needs solo singers, bands, and artists to participate

BY TAMARA WALKER

The CY Business Association is looking for musicians to play every first Thursday at the gazebo area in conjunction with the Cooper-Young Night Out event. If you are a solo musician or in a band and would like to play at this event, please contact Tamara at 901-276-7222 or cyba@bellsouth.net. Your picture and a short bio will be sent to all area media as well as posted on our Cooper-Young Historic Facebook page and our *cooperyoung.biz* website.

In addition to musicians, we have artists from the Memphis Arts Collective as well as CY area artists that setup free booths in and around the gazebo area during each of our Night Out events from 5-9pm. If you would be interested in setting up a free space at one or all of our Night Out events, please contact Tamara at 901-276-7222 or cybabellsouth.net.



Attention Cooper-Young Artists



Submit your art to be considered for the **2011 Cooper-Young Festival poster**

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Winner announced May 6

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MicroMemphis takes a closer look at Cooper-Young

BY LURENE KELLEY

Cooper-Young is the focus of a new venture by the University of Memphis Department of Journalism. *MicroMemphis* is a hyperlocal news hub staffed by student-journalists. The group of six aspiring reporters gathers stories about or directly affecting the Cooper-Young neighborhood. The effort is part of a new curriculum in the Department of Journalism designed to teach students multimedia storytelling. *Micromemphis.com* is a collection of videos, slideshows, links, and stories. Students are also active on Twitter and Facebook promoting information from the site and sharing links created by other Memphis media reporting CY related news. The Cooper-Young site is the first stop in the overall plan to cover multiple Memphis neighborhoods in the next several years. You can follow the *MicroMemphis* project on Twitter at twitter.com/micromemphis or find *MicroMemphis* on Facebook. If you have any story ideas you'd like to share, please contact us through the site at micromemphis.com.

Sweet and spicy additions to the CY restaurant scene

BY BARB ELDER

The Memphis Business Journal has been buzzing about two new restaurants coming to CY this April. The first is actually an expansion of the year-old, highly successful Sweet Grass. Chef Ryan Trimm is calling it Sweet Grass Next Door. This new venture will be located, you guessed it, right beside the original Sweet Grass (937 S. Cooper) but will feature a menu of small plates ranging from \$6 to \$15 and a more casual, bar-like atmosphere.

In addition, Chef Ben Vaughn is opening a taqueria called El Diablo at 938 S. Cooper next to his other restaurant, Au Fond Farntable. With this move he hopes to provide an approachable, laid back atmosphere with taco and tapas plates and dinner entrees ranging from \$4 to \$12. El Diablo will serve dinner only and will be open until 2am, giving CY residents and visitors a late option.

Bon Appetite!

CY mom and education advocate wins trip to Washington DC

BY VICTORIA LIVADAS

Parenting magazine recently announced that Mandy Grisham has been selected to represent Tennessee at the second-annual Mom Congress on Education and Learning at Georgetown University in Washington, DC this April 10-13. Grisham was chosen for her outstanding contributions and dedication to improving local schools. A total of fifty-one moms, representing each state and the District of Columbia, have been selected by *Parenting* as Mom Congress delegates. Mandy will receive round-trip airfare,

a three-night hotel stay, and the opportunity to connect with other moms from across the country to share success stories, challenges, and concerns as they work to improve our nation's schools. She will also have opportunity to hear from US Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, First Lady Michelle Obama's *Let's Move!* campaign, StudentsFirst.org, Reach Out and Read, the National PTA, the National Education Association, Headstart, PBS, and NBC Learn. CY is proud of Mandy's achievements and looks forward to the new ideas and resources she will bring back for the betterment of our community. For more information on the Mom Congress, visit Parenting.com/momcongress.

Local artist, Yvonne Bobo, teams up with Sherwood Elementary

BY NICOLE PHILLIPPE

At Sherwood Elementary students were exposed to a truly unique creative experience while learning about the environment and renewable sources of energy. Cooper-Young artist Yvonne



Bobo (YvonneBoboStudio.com) led students in a project where they harvested motors, gears, and LED lights from donated VCR's. Students will be using these parts to make their own pinwheel generators that power an LED light when exposed to wind. During her visit Yvonne discussed renewable sources of energy and showed a PowerPoint presentation of her kinetic sculptures and other metal work. Students explored magnetism and motion through a series of experiments and then had a blast taking the VCR's apart. Thanks to Yvonne for giving of her time to this project, and thanks to everyone who donated VCR's!

Art Auction at Playhouse on the Square

BY LISA LYNCH



Playhouse on the Square's 34th Annual Original Art Auction will take place on Saturday, April 30. With over 160 artists contributing one-of-a-kind pieces for a live and silent auction, the party of the year will be at Playhouse on the Square! Auctioneers Gene Katz, Mike McLaren, and Michael Detroit help to create a festive atmosphere for everyone from the serious art buyer to the auction novice. Admission is \$25 (which will be deducted from the purchase of art), and hors d'oeuvres and beverages are complimentary. The All-Day Silent Auction will begin at 10am. The Live Auction begins at 6:30pm with a special performance by the cast of *Ragtime*. For more information please call 901-725-0776.

CY up and coming artist makes a debut

BY BARB ELDER

On Friday, March 25, CY native Susannah Acuff was the center of attention at Material art gallery, located at 2553 Broad Ave.

This one night exhibition called *Stripes* was Susannah's first solo show. Susannah received her Bachelor's degree from the University of Memphis in Health Science



Astral Yawn, Mixed Media

and Communication. However, after returning from lab work in Brazil, she engaged in additional courses for a BFA at the U of M. Her sculptures, installations, and mixed media works explore the relationship between the physical and the metaphysical. Often featuring totemic imagery, Susannah beckons the viewer into a fantastic world with themes of levity, duality, and carnal urges. CY is proud of our artists, and we wish Susannah continued success in her creative endeavors.

CY singing circle open to all

BY SHAI WHITE-GILBERTSON

Singing together is a time-honored way to create and maintain a sense of community. As I've moved around in life, I've happily participated in several informal singing groups with different styles, although they've primarily been acapella groups that gathered in living rooms. Typically, someone will teach a brief song or chant, often only a few lines long, to the group. As voices take up the melody and repeat it, simply listening to one another allows harmonies to arise. Since coming to Memphis about a year ago, I've missed the camaraderie of these kinds of gatherings. Luckily, I landed in the Cooper-Young neighborhood, probably the best place in Memphis in which to propose starting a local singing group! If interested, e-mail CYSinging@gmail.com.

Free hat making workshop at Playhouse on the Square

BY LISA LYNCH



Learn a new skill and help Playhouse on the Square prepare for the highly anticipated re-staging of *Ragtime*. Playhouse on the Square will host a hat-making workshop on Saturday, April 9, from 10am-4pm in the theatre's

costume shop. The free workshop will begin with a brief history of hat-making, general information, and techniques from 10-11:30am. Participants will get to work hands-on from 11:30am-4pm, with an hour break for lunch. The workshop will be led by Karen Ralston, the Volunteer Milliner for Playhouse on the Square's costume shop. Karen has designed, constructed, or assisted in the construction of every hat that has been on any of the Playhouse stages for more than a decade. For reservations call 901-937-6478.

Memphis artist to exhibit painting in Russia

BY GIORGIO VASELLI

Memphis artist Rollin Kocsis will participate in the Energy Art Movement's Energy Art Salon 2011 in Vellky Novgorod, Russia in April. The exhibition's host will be the prestigious City's Art Exhibition Center "Dialog." Mr. Kocsis' 20 x 24 inch acrylic on canvas painting *Prism* was selected to be included in the exhibition. The exhibition opens on April 22 and runs through May 22. Rollin Kocsis is currently the curator of art at Gallery Fifty Six at 2256 Central Avenue. For more information on the show see dialogvn.ru/english/index.html.



Prism, Acrylic on Canvas

Springfest 2011 rocks The Children's Museum of Memphis

BY RANDY MCKEEL

Celebrate spring with The Children's Museum of Memphis at Jamming to the Music: Springfest 2011 on Saturday, April 16, 10am-1pm. Bring your lawn chairs, blankets, and picnic lunches to chill out and enjoy continuous stage performances including the Luv Clowns, Delta Rhythm Cloggers, The Friendzies, and The Doorknobs. The festivities also include cowboy pony rides, face painting, animal balloons, crafts, moon bouncers, races, and concessions - something for everyone! All activities are included with admission and are free to members. In case of rain, the event will be cancelled. For more information, call 901-458-2678 or visit cmom.com.

Church Health Center offers community classes

BY JEFF HULETT

For those unfamiliar with the Church Health Center, there are several free classes coming up that you are welcome to participate in. The first is our free healthy cooking class that is offered in the demonstration kitchen at Church Health Center Wellness, 1115 Union Avenue, every Thursday at 9am, 10:30am, and 5:30pm. The Church Health Center is also offering a free, six-week course on diabetes education, helping people take control of their diabetes. Classes are Mondays at 11am or Thursdays at 6pm at Church Health Center Wellness, 1115 Union Avenue. Those interested can start anytime and no reservation is required. For more information on these activities please call 901-259-4673 or visit churchhealthcenter.org.



In addition the Church Health Center is asking doctors' offices to donate one out of every three sample medications to the Center. The Center will provide containers and pick up the medicines. To sign up for the "1 in 3 for the CHC" initiative call 901-272-0010, Ext. 1106.

Get to know The Bodine School

BY ASHLEY SMITH

The Bodine School will once again present their Spring Library Talks series, featuring Executive Director, Dr. Rene Friemoth Lee. The talks will be held on Tuesday, April 5, 6:30-8pm at Literacy MidSouth in CY, and again on Wednesday, April 13, 10-11:30am at the Germantown Library. Topics include: understanding the reading demands of school; pinpointing specific reading difficulties in children; identifying dyslexia; understanding the impact of reading difficulties on school and home; finding the help parents need; and survival strategies.

The Bodine School, located in Germantown, is a leader in the MidSouth in teaching children with reading difficulties to read and succeed. For further information on the school and programs please call Ashley Smith, Technology Communications Coordinator at 901-754-1800 ext. 309 or email asmith@bodineschool.org.

Sign up to be a Snowden Elementary ThinkShow! juror

BY MARGARET METZ

Please consider volunteering on Thursday, April 28 to be a juror for the ThinkShow! at Snowden. ThinkShow! is an inventive new program that asks students to stretch beyond standardized testing and tap into other talents and skills. The program relies entirely on volunteer jurors (like you!) to help evaluate these creative and original student projects. We need at least one juror per class for a total of one hundred jurors. Any two hour block between 8am-2pm would allow you ample time to talk with students and gain a clear understanding from them and their teachers about the learning that was embedded in the project. That also includes time to view the orientation video, enjoy a snack, and provide feedback for the class. It's fun!

To participate go to thinkshow.org and click on the "Sign up to be a Juror" link. This will take you directly to an on-line application. If you are uncomfortable giving Memphis City Schools any of the information such as address and phone number, you can leave those fields blank, but we do need an e-mail address. For questions please contact Christine Todd at ctoddmem@aol.com or 901-628-1212. Thank you!



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School Happenings



BEANY GOODNESS

Chili Cook-Off hits the spot

BY GINGER SPICKLER

The 4th Annual Cooper-Young/Peabody Elementary Chili Cook-Off was another resounding success. Over \$1,500 was raised for campus beautification efforts which will be enjoyed by both the school and the neighborhood.

Approximately 150 people, including Congressman Steve Cohen, enjoyed the culinary efforts of the two dozen chili-cooking teams in the Peabody Cafeteria on March 5.

The contest was judged by Central BBQ owner and Peabody dad Craig Blondis, Ching's Wings owner and Peabody mom Neisey Bobo, and University of Memphis journalism student and *MicroMemphis* reporter Daniel Wilkerson.

Winners of this year's contest were John Shoemaker and the Textbook Chili team for People's Choice, Peabody dad Charlie Land for Best Hot Chili, CY resident Karen Capps for Most Unusual Chili, Kathy Price for Best Peabody Alumni Chili, and taking the prizes for both Best Vegetarian Chili and Judge's Choice was the team of CY residents Art, Kim, and Ayler Edmiston, a 2nd grader at Peabody.

Event organizer and Peabody dad, Josh Spickler, said, "The Chili Cook-Off is one of my favorite Cooper-Young events of the year. It's always great to see people from the community and people from our neighborhood school getting together for a great cause. If you've never been to the cook-off, mark your calendar now for the last weekend of February 2012!"



Four chili cooking teams pose for a picture at the Chili Cook-Off.

LET'S BUILD SOMETHING TOGETHER

Study sheds light on the relationship between CY and Peabody Elementary

BY SARAH BOGDIEWIECZ

You've probably seen me in your neighborhood knocking on doors, passing out flyers, asking you to complete surveys or to sit down for a cup of coffee to talk about school. Over the past eight months I've been speaking to residents about their thoughts on public education options for their children, in their neighborhood and throughout Memphis. I've learned that Cooper-Young parents want the best possible education for their children and want to consider all of their options – the latter being a privilege that many others in Memphis do not have. But why look at educational options for elementary school outside of Cooper-Young? This was one of the questions the Cooper-Young Parent's Network (CYPN) asked me to investigate. Armed with tape recorders, surveys, and some fantastic volunteers, we collected data to help shed some light on this issue.

We learned that Cooper-Young residents love their neighborhood and the sense of identity it embodies. Residents expressed strong feeling of commitment to the neighborhood, boasted strong activist and engaged identities, and spoke highly of their close-knit ties to neighbors. As an informant explained, "I think there's an idealism [in Cooper-Young], where people feel like if something needs to be done, then they can do it and that there are other people around them that will help." Why not use these great attitudes to forge a stronger relationship between Cooper-Young and Peabody Elementary?

The CYPN and I also learned that a possible explanation for the overall current disconnect between the Cooper-Young neighborhood and Peabody stems from a dislike with the perceived large-scale bureaucracy within Memphis City Schools (MCS). This generalization can be a deterring factor in community participation in MCS that extends to Peabody Elementary by default. Furthermore, Cooper-Young families that had attempted partnerships with the school in the past were met with obstacles from the administration.

On a positive note, we learned that residents perceived many benefits to Peabody and desire more community involvement in the school, something that the current administration at Peabody wants too. Residents expressed that the major benefit Peabody offers is that it has a stellar optional program within walking distance. We also learned that Peabody is extremely affordable, has a diverse student and family population, fosters ties to the community, has quality teachers and staff, small class sizes, and good parental involvement.

So, with all of these benefits, how can Cooper-Young make Peabody a community school? The simple answer is by establishing opportunities for community engagement with the school. Doing this can lead residents to rethink the role that Peabody can play within their neighborhood. Residents expressed some recommendations for ways individuals and community groups can create sustainable partnerships with Peabody that include: develop a relationship between the Cooper-Young Community Association and the Rozelle-Annesdale Community Development Corporation (because both neighborhoods belong to Peabody's school zone), hold more informal community gatherings at Peabody to draw all members of Cooper-Young into the school, increase the presence of student work in Cooper-Young in order to see all the great things Peabody students do, localize aspects of the curriculum to include things that need done around the neighborhood, and develop a community vision statement for Peabody aimed at finding the best ways for the community to serve its children's educational needs.

Community-school building may seem like an overwhelming task, but when a diverse community can come together and agree to find ways to best educate their children, it becomes unified under a common productive purpose. Rather than focusing on deficits that all communities have, finding ways to incorporate individual, family, organizational, and institutional assets is key for successful community-school building – and Cooper-Young is just the community to do it!

Sarah Bogdewiecz is a Masters of Arts candidate in Applied Anthropology at the University of Memphis. For the full report and a community-school building resource guide, please email her at sbgdweicz@memphis.edu.



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High school students get a college jumpstart

BY MYE GRIFFIN

One way to send your child to a good university is to sock away thousands of dollars each year. Is there a cheaper option? How about Middle College High School near Cooper-Young where students take college courses at Christian Brothers University (CBU) for free. Middle College High School (MCHS) shares a building with Fairview Middle School at the corner of East Parkway and Central, so students just walk cross the street to attend college classes at CBU.

MCHS moved to the Fairview site in 2009 after signing a partnership with CBU. Before that the school was located on the Southwest Tennessee Community College campus, and students earned college credit there. MCHS has been housed at Southwest since 1987, but the move to Midtown allows students to now earn credit from a 4-year institution. The primary focus of MCHS is to allow students from traditionally underrepresented groups to get an early start on college. The program, however, is open to students of all races and ethnicities.

MCHS is part of a Middle College National Consortium along with schools like Hollis F. Price Middle College High School, which is housed on the campus of Lemoyne Owen College. The consortium includes approximately forty schools throughout the US and is backed by some big names in education reform. Funders include the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Kellogg Foundation, the Carnegie Corporation of New York, and the Ford Foundation.

Middle College High School principal, Michelle Armstrong, sees education as the most obvious way to improve our city. Armstrong says the equation is simple: more educated people leads to more employment and less crime. To prove her point Armstrong quotes statistics from a 2008 study done by the Alliance for Excellent Education.

"Eight-thousand students who were going to graduate in 2008 dropped out. If you cut that number by half, it would generate tax revenue of four million dollars. It would increase single year income earnings by 40 million dollars and generate 350 more jobs."

This is why she says that national programs like Middle College work.

"The current juniors and seniors have to have 21 college credit hours to graduate from high school. Previously, students felt as if their senior year was a waste, because they were done with most of their high school requirements. So rather than wasting a year, they can access college credits, deterring the likelihood of them dropping out."

Christian Brothers University president Dr. John Smarelli believes the partnership between the two schools was necessary for first generation college students. "For many first generation college students, there is a tremendous gap between their perception of the difficulty of earning a college degree at a prestigious university like CBU and the reality of attaining that goal. We envision this partnership with Middle College High School as a way to bridge this gap for students who are earning their high school diplomas just across the street from our University."

Smarelli says that with this partnership, students develop improved study skills and enhanced critical thinking skills.

Janice Johnson was the 2007 valedictorian of MCHS. This May she plans to graduate from Christian Brothers University with a degree in Psychology.

"Those 22 credits will help me graduate earlier than expected, even though I sat out a semester while having my son," she said. "My best friend also graduated earlier and obtained an engineering certificate before her high school graduation."

Apparently, students at MCHS like going to their school. According to the Tennessee Department of Education's school report card, MCHS has 93 percent attendance rate, a 100 percent graduation rate, and has 100 percent highly qualified teachers as of 2010.

For student's to attend MCHS, they must apply and be interviewed. "We don't look for the cream of the crop students, the top two percent; instead we look for ordinary student and give them extraordinary benefits," said Armstrong. Students can earn up to 60 hours of transferable college credits. Some classes even count towards high school credits as well as college hours. Students, however, are still required to attain a sufficient score on the American College Test (ACT) for college admittance.

Mye Griffin is a reporter for MicroMemphis. You can access this story as well as more Cooper-Young news at MicroMemphis.com.

The Cat in the Hat visits Literacy Mid-South

BY MARILYN RABINOWITZ

Thirty-five 4 and 5 year olds from Red Robin Pre-School celebrated Read Across America Day in style at Literacy Mid-South (LMS). Greeted by the Cat in the Hat and Yertle the Turtle, the children spent the morning playing games, working on puzzles, and making those famous hats.

Volunteers from First Book Mid-South and the University of Memphis chapter of Pi Phi Sorority read to children from a variety of Dr. Seuss books. Donations from WKNO, Davis-Kidd Booksellers, and First Book also enabled LMS to give each student a bookmark, a workbook, and their very own hardback copy of *The Cat in the Hat* to keep. Next year LMS hopes to include an after-school celebration for children and parents who live in the neighborhood.

Read Across America is sponsored by the National Education Association. It is a "year round reading motivation and awareness program that calls for every child in every community to celebrate reading on March 2, the birthday of beloved children's author, Dr. Seuss." Literacy Mid-South supports this mission through a variety of programs.

The Family Literacy Program trains parents to read to their pre-school children. The Academy Tutoring Project recruits volunteers to help children in five charter schools learn to love to read. Adults can attend classes and work with volunteer tutors through the Adult Literacy Program. LMS also sponsors a coalition of literacy non-profit agencies, organizations, and individuals who want to promote reading in the Mid-South. The group meets the third Thursday of every month at the Assisi Foundation.

If you would like to support the efforts of Literacy Mid-South, stop by our offices at 902 South Cooper Street or check out our website at literacymidsouth.org. Maybe you can be the Cat in the Hat next year.



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The sacred and secular meet at Gallery Fifty Six

BY ROLLIN KOCSIS

Gallery Fifty Six will present *Illuminations: Sacred and Secular*. This exhibit will include 30 paintings by Memphis artist David Douglas. Almost half of the paintings will be illustrations of Biblical stories from the New Testament and half will be individual portraits. The exhibit will be open to the public on Friday, April 1, with an artist's reception from 5-8pm at the gallery, which is located at 2256 Central Ave. *Illuminations: Sacred and Secular* can be viewed Wednesday through Friday from noon-4pm and Saturday from 11am-4pm throughout the month of April. Private viewings are available by appointment.



Mixed media painting by David Douglas

David Douglas, 53, completed a BFA from the Memphis College of Art in 1987 and in 1994 received a MFA from the University of Memphis. His religious paintings had their beginning 25 years ago in a class Douglas was enrolled in at the Memphis College of Art taught by Veda Reed. The paintings by Douglas are composed using the golden mean ratio and proportions. The Biblical stories depicted are from the New Testament, beginning with Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. They cover events leading up to and including his death and resurrection - the Easter story.

Douglas' individual portraits make up the secular part of the exhibit. These paintings express the hurt and pain people inflict on one another. They are not meant to be nihilistic in thought, but to be imbued with meaning and hope.

For more information about Gallery Fifty Six, its artists and shows, visit GalleryFiftySix.com.

Werewolves: sexy or evil?

BY KIMBERLY RICHARDSON

Let me get right to the point – Andy Deane's werewolf novel, *The Sticks*, is one incredible ride! The narrating character, Brian, who is an all around slacker but a good guy at heart, leaves a party one night after being hoisted out by the host, affectionately known as Lisp. Several hours later he discovers that Alicia, his recent ex-girlfriend who attended the party with him, has disappeared. What follows next is a roller coaster ride leading Brian and his friend Jessica through a nightmare that is headed by werewolves that are not sexy, charming, mysterious, or even likeable. These werewolves are mean, vicious, cruel, destructive, and pure evil...and I loved it! The 210-page novel will keep you turning pages till the very end and leave you wishing there was more.

The author, Andy Deane, is the front man for the dark alternative band Bella Morte, of which I am a big fan. *The Sticks* is a well crafted werewolf novel that will appease lovers of classic horror and gore movies, as well as those who just like a good werewolf that rips its prey to shreds without any form of nicety. Brian's sometimes humorous narration is the voice of an average guy who just happens to get caught up in a terrible worse case scenario situation. When I read the book, I felt as though I was actually listening to Deane tell a really cool story he overheard one night while on the road touring with his band. I could truly believe in his werewolves; they did not have supernatural origins but were more the result of a bad case of rabies, making it all the more believable and terrifying. And when the werewolves died, they simply died. There was nothing supernatural about their bloody death, making it all the more plausible that this story could have happened in any small town in the US. Big thumbs up to Deane for keeping me entertained all the way through. I can't wait to read his future books. You rock!



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Banned films in history

BY MATT MARTIN

Almost from its very inception, like every other art form, film production has been riddled with censorship. Long before there were Hollywood studios, even before there were movie theatres, the raw power of this new art was being edited, controlled, and sometimes even outlawed.

In America this first appears in 1894, when the state of New Jersey banned the erotic short *Dorlita in the Passion Dance* after it was shown on a bare wall at several peepshows and burlesque houses. Almost a decade later, in 1903, the short film *Reenactment of the Massacre at Wounded Knee* by Buffalo Bill was banned nationwide due to “a sympathetic portrayal of Native Americans” in the film. These early, questionable incidents would set an uncomfortable standard; long before society had even been exposed to this art form, what would be deemed “acceptable” was being decided. Most artistic censorship is based on politics or morality. It would seem the following 100 years of cinema would not be immune.

In 1915, director D.W. Griffith created America’s first piece of cinematic genius, truly exploring the new possibilities of this form of storytelling. The film *Birth of a Nation* would create the standards of modern filmmaking in terms of narrative structure, editing, lighting, character development, and cinematography. And it would be one of the first films to be released around the country, making it the most profitable movie of the silent film era, bringing in over ten million dollars. At the same time, the film, which chronicled the “heroic” rise of the KKK out of the ashes of the Civil War, was a racist, bigoted, and offensive film. Several states moved to ban it, including Illinois, Colorado, and Kansas. Arguments began to form over a state’s right to ban something that the federal government considered acceptable. *Birth of a Nation* is still a requirement in any film class, studied not only for its technical and narrative breakthroughs, but also for its lesson in controversial material and the public acceptance of it.

By the 1920s, the financial potential of this new art form was obvious. Newly formed film studios in Hollywood had begun mass film production and were becoming increasingly influential on the growing movie scene. After several drug, sex, and murder scandals involving various movie stars and studio brass (as chronicled in Kenneth Anger’s book *Hollywood Babylon*), America’s opinion of Hollywood soured, and political officials began to doubt the studio’s ability to control themselves or their art form.

Out of fear that the US government would establish a federal censoring agency, the film industry began a form of self-censorship in 1928 called the Motion Picture Production Code, also known as the Hays Code after its founder, Will Hays. Instantly, Hollywood reworked its image as squeaky clean, and controversial material disappeared from American cinema for decades. Early attempts to touch on racy material were quickly snuffed. And the few risky films that did get released, like Howard Hughes’ 1932 crime saga *Scarface*, still faced heavy opposition on a city by city basis.

In the wake of the massive cultural shift in 1960s America, movie tastes were shifting as well, showing more and more desire for challenging, adult material. Hollywood wanted it both ways: to give people the edgier films they wanted and to satiate the moral panic of others about touchy subject matter. To do this the film industry altered their production code into a new form of self-regulation: a film rating system designed by the newly-formed Motion Picture Association of America, or MPAA. This meant all films would have to be viewed by Hollywood before it was given the green light to be released at all. Agreements between the studios and local movie theaters (many of which were actually studio-owned) allowed them to retain control by denying release to any film that did not have a rating code. This practice continues to this day, and the MPAA has become as much a moral watchdog as it is a guardian of acceptable age limits for films. Countless controversial masterpieces have disappeared in their judgments. Check out the amazing documentary *This Film is Not Yet Rated* for more details.

Since the advent of the MPAA in the sixties, a growing number of controversial films have been released, although always edited before release to theaters. Only a handful of major directors have control of the final cut of their films. And although hundreds of films have been debated, decried, and attacked for their subject matter, in the last 45 years only a few films have come under explicit bans for content reasons, as opposed to copyright infringement. All of these were made outside of the Hollywood studio system.

VIVA MARIA! – French director Louie Malle’s sexy comedy starring Brigitte Bardot was banned in Texas in 1966 for “sexual and anti-Catholic content.” In 1968, the US Supreme court struck this ban down, becoming the first legal case to set federal standards limiting a

state’s right to ban a film.

TITICUT FOLLIES – This 1968 documentary covering the abuse of inmates at a Massachusetts prison mental hospital was banned because it was decided that “the film violated the inmates’ right to privacy.” Ironic and bizarre, seeing that the point was to show the abuse of their private lives. This film is still incredibly difficult to find, even in the internet age.

I AM CURIOUS (YELLOW) – The 1967 Swedish film about the self-destructive, sexual relationship between a teenage female political activist and an older man was immediately banned as “pornography.” Although its nudity and sexuality is well done and integral to the plot, it was deemed too much and was denied entry into America for decades. The 1979 film *The Tin Drum* ran into similar problems, even though it won the Palm d’Or at the Cannes Film Festival and the 1979 Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film.

MONTY PYTHON’S LIFE OF BRIAN – Due to its “blasphemous view on Christianity,” this 1979 masterpiece from the British comedy collective known as Monty Python was immediately banned in many states, particularly in the south. This held for several years till the cable/videocassette age rendered these bans pointless in the mid-eighties.

THE LAST TEMPTATION OF CHRIST – In 1988, countless American cities and states attempted to ban Martin Scorsese’s brilliant adaptation of the celebrated novel by Nikos Kazantzakis, which chronicles the last moments of Christ on the cross as he sees what his life would have been like had he just been a normal man. Although these bans delayed its release, all attempts eventually failed and sealed forever the ability of a city or state to ban a film outright.

THE PROFIT – This film is the only modern and still-standing ban on a film in America. Made in 2002, this film loosely chronicles the life of L. Ron Hubbard and the creation of the religion/self-help group/dangerous cult called Scientology. In order to prevent its release while side-stepping censorship laws, the church claimed the film would taint the jury pool of a wrongful death suit of a former member. Once the court case was settled, the injunction was lifted only to have a former investor suddenly side with the church and block its release. Hmmm. Curious. The film is currently relatively easy to find online, yet is banned from any form of standard release in this country as well as several others.

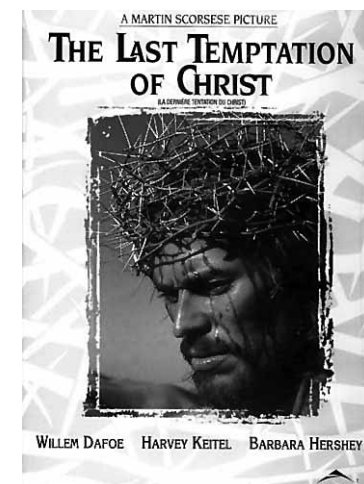
Around the world censorship standards vary widely by country and can change within an individual country over time due to political shifts and cultural changes. Many countries have private or government-appointed groups that rate, censor, or ban films for public exhibition. This has resulted in some pretty bizarre bans over the years. In South Korea obviously controversial works like *A Clockwork Orange* and *Last Tango in Paris* are banned, but so is the inept horror movie *Scream*. In Iceland they went to the trouble of banning *Halloween 5* and *Halloween 6*, but not the preceding four films, even though parts 5 and 6 are the least violent of the series. In Burma, *The Simpsons* TV show and movie are banned, not for any cultural or political reason but rather because the colors red and yellow are banned in all of their cinema (hence the character’s yellow skin color was the issue!).

As for which country has banned the most films over time, Iran and Malaysia take the award, each having hundreds of films that are illegal to screen. For many films, the reason for their ban was obvious, either for political reasons (*Schindler’s List*, *Fahrenheit 9/11*) or cultural (*South Park*, *Borat*). But often the bans evade any rational thought, including *Austin Powers*, *Pinocchio*, *Pineapple Express*, *Talladega Nights*, and *Zoolander* (Iran found this harmless, comic look at the world of modeling to be “troubling and disturbing”). Malaysia found *Barney’s Big Adventure* to be “unacceptable for children.” I guess we can’t argue that one.

And what are the most banned films across the globe and across history? Just by counting the number of countries that banned them, there are five films that have been banned in over 50 countries. All five are from America, and none are so shocking or controversial that they should ever have been banned anywhere. They are: *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre* (1974), *Cannibal Holocaust*, *Last Tango in Paris*, *The South Park Movie*, and *The Da Vinci Code*.

But what films in history are so shocking and disturbing that they might actually merit some form of censorship? Well, that’s another story...

Matt Martin has written movie reviews for the St. Louis Post Dispatch and is co-owner of Black Lodge Video, located on the corner of Cooper and Evelyn. Black Lodge is the largest video store in the eastern US and is a faithful CYCA membership sponsor.



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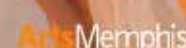
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Caring for pets in emergency situations

BY TRISHA GURLEY

Be prepared – it's the Boy Scout motto and a good motto for us all. Alas, I'll be the first to admit that I am not always prepared. I'm doing well to get myself dressed and out the door most mornings. Keeping a decent food supply in the kitchen and enough toilet paper in the bathroom can be even harder. I'm focused on the day-to-day rather than the long term. What can I say? Life moves fast, even for an occasional slacker.

As I write this, Japan is reeling from a severe earthquake and tsunami. Thousands are homeless and displaced from their families. That is horrific enough just to watch on a screen. Surviving a disaster is something most of us can't comprehend; imagine surviving and knowing that the most helpless ones in your family are lost, afraid, and suffering. We can teach children emergency preparedness, but pets are another issue.

Most of us don't want to let our thoughts go there, but knowing we've prepared as much as we can for the unpredictable is empowering. Maybe a family member has been hospitalized and you need to be with them. Can you depend on a friend or neighbor to take your dog out for a potty break or to give her the medicine she needs? Say a water main breaks and you cannot return to your home tonight. Will your pets be able to access food for the next 24 to 48 hours? Will they be okay?

The first action you need to take is to enlist the help of a friend who is within walking distance or a neighbor that you trust. Give them a key to your home and any special instructions for your pets. Make sure your friend knows where your pets' leashes, food, crates, and carriers are. The ideal would be to have an emergency kit assembled, not just for you but for your pets too.

What should be in a pet emergency kit? It should contain items such as:

- Food and water along with bowls for feeding
- A can opener for canned food if needed
- Pet medical records and medications in a Ziploc bag or other waterproof container
- Towels and bedding for a crate or carrier
- Leash and collar
- Veterinarian contact information
- Favorite toys to help soothe and relax your pet
- Cat litter, poop scoop bags, scoopers, and grooming items

It is also a good idea to have a recent photo and description of your pet with you should you have to give proof of ownership.

Next, you should make plans now in case you ever need to evacuate your home. Numerous pets were displaced from their families during Hurricane Katrina because shelters could not accept pets. Most emergency shelters will only accept service animals. Find out which hotels accept pets or which ones waive their no-pet policy in case of emergency. Check with friends or family outside of your area now to see if they'll let you and your pet stay with them – your Aunt Suzy may be willing to help you but also may be deathly allergic to your pet. Check with veterinarians and pet boarding facilities to know what their emergency policies are ahead of time.

Most importantly, during an evacuation take your pets with you if at all possible! Pets can easily escape your home if there is a broken window or open space. Do not assume your pet will know their way home; in a disaster the once-familiar can be uprooted in seconds. Landmarks or scents can be wiped away, leaving your pet as lost as if they'd never lived in your area at all. Despite what emergency personnel predict, you have no concrete way of knowing exactly how long you'll be gone. A few hours could turn into a few days or weeks. If it looks like evacuation is a possibility, leave now as opposed to later. If you wait until emergency officials must remove you, it's possible you'll be told to leave pets behind. It's far better to have wasted some time and effort as opposed to abandoning pets. And please don't even think of leaving your pet tied or chained in your yard during an evacuation. To put it bluntly, this is leaving your pet to die.


Lastly, when you are able to return home keep your pets confined. It may be best to keep your cat in a roomy carrier and your dog in a crate. Animals can sense chaos and displacement as much (if not more!) than humans. Your pet may run away out of fear or disorientation. Also remember that pets need adjustment to normalcy too. Be patient with them and give them the time they'll need to calm down, re-acclimate, and re-establish routine.



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The CY Community Farmers Market returns with a renewed sense of purpose

BY ANGELA KNIPPLE

After a successful first year, the Cooper-Young Community Farmers Market (CYCFM) will be opening for its second season at the corner of Cooper St. and Walker Ave. in the parking lot of First Congregational Church on April 30.

Most of last year's vendors will be returning, and many of them are planning to offer more products than ever before. Las Delicias, makers of those incomparable chips and dips, plans to bring tamales and perhaps ceviche. Bill Albrecht, who sold worm castings and composting supplies last year, will also sell vegetables this year. CYCFM board member Lori Greene says, "Bill's growing these vegetables in his wonderful worm compost. I can't wait to see how gorgeous they're going to be."

Some new vendors will be familiar faces as Farmer Bert, Bert Dinkins, will have his own booth this year. Dinkins worked last year with Greene at her Downing Hollow Farm in preparation for running his own farm. True Vine Farms is another new vendor. True Vine is a family farm from North Mississippi that plans to offer sustainably grown produce and eggs from their flock.

Also new at CYCFM this year is an increased sense of purpose and dedication. While farmers markets bring fresh produce into a community, in some communities the need for that produce is more profound. CYCFM straddles two food deserts. The 2008 Farm Bill defined a food desert as "an area in the United States with limited access to affordable and nutritious foods." While it may be hard to think of any part of Midtown falling under that definition, for many Memphians without personal transportation, it's not just an idea; it's reality.

In the media it seems that, more often than not, farmers markets are portrayed as being the domain of foodies. They're seen as being more expensive and less convenient to shop at. But for community markets like CYCFM, the mission is to be just that – a community market that meets the needs of the community. "It's easy to look around the community and see the need and talk about fixing it. But just talking isn't a solution. It's time for us to walk the talk," says Sue Easley, CYCFM board member.

One way that CYCFM is helping is by becoming a vendor in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Formerly the Food Stamp program, SNAP uses debit cards to distribute benefits to program participants. A cardholder can buy food and non-alcoholic beverages from any participating vendor. By working with GrowMemphis, CYCFM, along with the South Memphis Farmers Market and the Urban Farms Market, expect to be able to accept electronic benefit transfer purchases. SNAP opens the markets to customers who would not otherwise be able to shop there. Residents of area food deserts will be able to purchase



much-needed fresh produce. Additionally, GrowMemphis has received a grant that will allow at least some of the dollars spent with food stamps to be doubled – sending more produce home with more customers.

Fresh fruits and vegetables are an undeniably important part of a healthy diet for people of all ages. Also important is a sense of community. CYCFM plans to continue building that as well. As Greene says, "Having a market like this makes a community more livable. And Midtown is just a natural home for our market." The market is entirely volunteer-supported. "We want the community to be as involved as possible. Our volunteers are what make the market run," says Greene. If you would like to be a part of the team at the market, email sue@cycfm.org.

GIVE FREELY

Retailer and charity organization partner to help Japanese relief effort

BY LEIGH WOELLER

On March 11, no one thought that a 9.0 earthquake would cause a tsunami to hit Japan, home to the world's third largest economy. Together we watched in disbelief as the waves flooded inland and moved homes, buildings, and cars like they were toys a child might play with in a bathtub. But the only thing harmless and innocent about this event was the unsuspecting people whose lives have been changed forever.

At Good Feet and Soles4Souls, we are terribly saddened by the devastation in Japan and are mutually committed to assisting in the recovery. Together we are fully prepared for an extensive response should the need prove to be as widespread as reports are predicting.

An event like the Japan earthquake and tsunami can make people feel helpless, but they're not. Good Feet and Soles4Souls are asking that people stop by any participating Good Feet Store location (goodfeet.com/locations) or visit giveshoes.org to find the nearest shoe drop-off location and donate as many new or gently worn pairs of shoes as they can spare.

Why donate shoes? Shoes are a personal item that protect from disease, reduce injuries, and provide hope that things are going to get better. A natural disaster like the one in Japan immediately creates situations of extreme poverty which put people at greater risk for disease and creates terrible feelings of hopelessness. Providing shoes that protect people from disease and gives them a sense of hope and caring can help speed up the recovery process and make it possible for the Japanese people to dream beyond their current situation and remind them that they are loved and cared about.

Join our response by donating shoes and giving generously today! If you're interested in supporting the Good Feet and Soles4Souls relief efforts, stop by a participating Good Feet Store today (goodfeet.com/locations) or visit giveshoes.org to find the nearest shoe drop-off location. To financially sponsor a new pair of shoes from your laptop or smart phone, text the word SHOES to 20222 to donate \$5 now.



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Spring Recital Series at Visible School

BY CRISSY LINTNER

Graduating seniors at Visible School, a music and worship arts college, will be hosting their Spring Senior Recital Series, a set of farewell concerts, beginning on Saturday, March 26 and continuing through Friday, May 6.

Students will produce the series as a final course component, applying principles they have learned throughout their studies at Visible School. This year's performances will highlight the talents of students majoring in percussion, vocal, songwriting, guitar, and worship leadership. The events are free to the public. The Spring Senior Recital Series will include the following performances, all of which will take place at Lifelink Memphis, located at 1015 S. Cooper St. in CY at the corner of Cooper and Walker:

- Daniel Bennett – Worship Leadership – Saturday, March 26, 7pm
- Craig Sanner – Percussion – Friday, April 8, 7:30pm
- Sawyer Schafbuch – Guitar – Saturday, April 9, 5pm
- Michael Mountford – Percussion – Friday, April 15, 7:30pm
- Jennifer Osterlund – Songwriting – Saturday, April 16, 6:30pm
- Eliza Chavez – Vocal – Sunday, April 17, 6pm
- Eric Testrake – Worship Leadership – Wednesday, April 20, 6pm
- Nick Steele – Guitar – Thursday, April 28, 7pm
- Josh Glasenapp – Songwriting – Friday, May 6, 7pm

For more information on Visible School visit visible.edu.

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So you want to be a teacher?

BY DR. D. JACKSON MAXWELL

Everyone feels overworked, under-appreciated, and stressed-out by their jobs. We all work hard. However, once in a while I hear someone say, "You are lucky to be a teacher. You get all the holidays off and a summer vacation. You've got it made!" I shake my head and reply, "Yes, the benefits are nice, but you have no idea what a teacher's day is like." This article is for those who are thinking about giving up the corporate life to join the easy life of a teacher. Do not misunderstand, I love my job. I just want to give you a peek at what a teacher's life is really like.

An elementary school teacher's day typically begins no later than 5:30am. After a shower, a cup of coffee, and maybe breakfast, it is time to leave for work (that is if you don't have the additional responsibility of getting your own children ready for daycare or school). Teachers often clock in by 6:45am. That gives just enough time to review lesson plans for the day and set out the day's classroom activities.

Breakfast duty begins at 7am and lasts until 7:30. Teachers need to make sure that all students get the opportunity to eat breakfast. At 7:30, teachers return to their rooms, take role, collect homework, and instruction begins. After the reading, spelling, math, and science lessons are completed (not counting restroom and water breaks), it's time for lunch, often as early as 10:30am! By 11:00, it is time

for computer, social studies, writing, and support classes (e.g. library, art, music, language, or P.E.). At 1pm, you head out for recess, where as a teacher you are expected to supervise organized activities such as kickball, basketball, or other active endeavors. Next, it is time for grammar and review and time to assign homework and prepare for dismissal at 2:15pm. Bus duty lasts until around 2:45 and the official day ends (that is if you do not have a faculty meeting, tutoring responsibilities, a club to sponsor, a sport to coach, or perhaps a parent-teacher conference).

Not too bad, eh? A bit busy but manageable, right? Actually this is where the teacher's second day begins. After school duties and programs, teachers are required to take staff development classes. If the teacher is not tenured, they must prepare for frequent observations and evaluations. All teachers must research and prepare unit and daily lesson plans in six or seven subject areas. Teachers rarely leave school on time and many often stay on campus till after dark.

However once these tasks are complete, a teacher can now go home for supper and relax, kick their feet up, take it easy, and watch a little tube. Another

day is done. No corporate stress, no phone calls at home, and all worries are left at school until tomorrow. Well, not quite. What about all of the homework collected and tests taken? Those must be graded. What about little Johnny and Kierra who argued all day? You need to give their parents a call. The report cards are also due? Better tally up the scores, record the grades, and enter them online. There is the paperwork required by your school, the board of education, state department of education, and federal government. These are reports on everything from student achievement, student physical and mental health, teacher standards, professional certifications, supply lists, material inventories, and innumerable other forms.

Whew! I am worn out. It's time for a cold drink and some couch time! Not quite, what about the laundry, dinner, and lunches for tomorrow? How about time for my kids and spouse? Plus, teachers do this for substantially less than what a comparable job in the corporate world would pay. So, why do teachers do it? Teachers are not about making money, avoiding the corporate world, or for benefits such as holidays and summer vacations. Teachers chose teaching because they love children. Teachers are in the business of preparing children to meet the challenges they will face in life. Our goal is to ensure students can achieve their dreams. A truly admirable objective, if I do say so myself.

Dr. D. Jackson Maxwell is a National Board certified teacher with over 20 years of educational experience. If you have any questions or comments, please email djacksonmaxwell@gmail.com.

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Public art at the heart of CY revitalization

Continued from page 1

By the mid-90s, houses were flipping and new businesses were moving in at a moderate rate. The Cooper-Young Festival was attracting floods of people, and CY was gaining validity in the city. The late-90s ushered in unprecedented advances. Homes were sold and renovated seemingly overnight. Crime diminished. Community residents and advocates were streamlining the look of things as a reflection of neighborhood pride.

At its dedication in 2000, the Trestle Art served to crown the Cooper-Young gateway at the apex of both the millennium and the revitalization movement. The lights inside the Trestle's houses shine brightly at night. The inclusion of such a detail seems a befitting nod to the artists and creative spirits who played a major role in the neighborhood's collective identity and relentless advancement.

I look back on my youth in Cooper-Young with nostalgia. In a sense, I grew up alongside the neighborhood. Now at 27, I'm preparing for my first solo show as an artist. I feel that I owe a huge debt of gratitude to the neighborhood artists who demonstrated that creativity is valid and necessary. Though most of the artists who lived on my street in the 90s have moved on (from the set designer who lived behind us and sculpted timber on Saturdays, to the musicians practicing on their porches in the summertime), I want to take this moment to say thank you. Thank you to all of the artists who have contributed to the community.

Artist Jill Turman, the CY Community Association, the Community Foundation, and the Urban Art Commission are responsible for gifting Cooper-Young with the Trestle Art. Who is responsible for maintaining it? The art is public, even though the Trestle is officially owned by the CYCA. Those of us who enjoy public art have a responsibility to support it. After all, "higher levels of cultural participation change the social environment by fostering a sense of collective efficacy - the willingness of people in a community to act together in public matters of collective

and individual interest," according to the Social Impact of the Arts Project (SIAP), a research center at the University of Pennsylvania. SIAP also found that, "neighborhoods with an active arts scene were nearly three times more likely to see their poverty rates decline and their population increase." I know my community pride soared when I first saw the Trestle Art. In light of such evidence, I urge you to do your part to support the public art that Cooper-Young has and to encourage more.

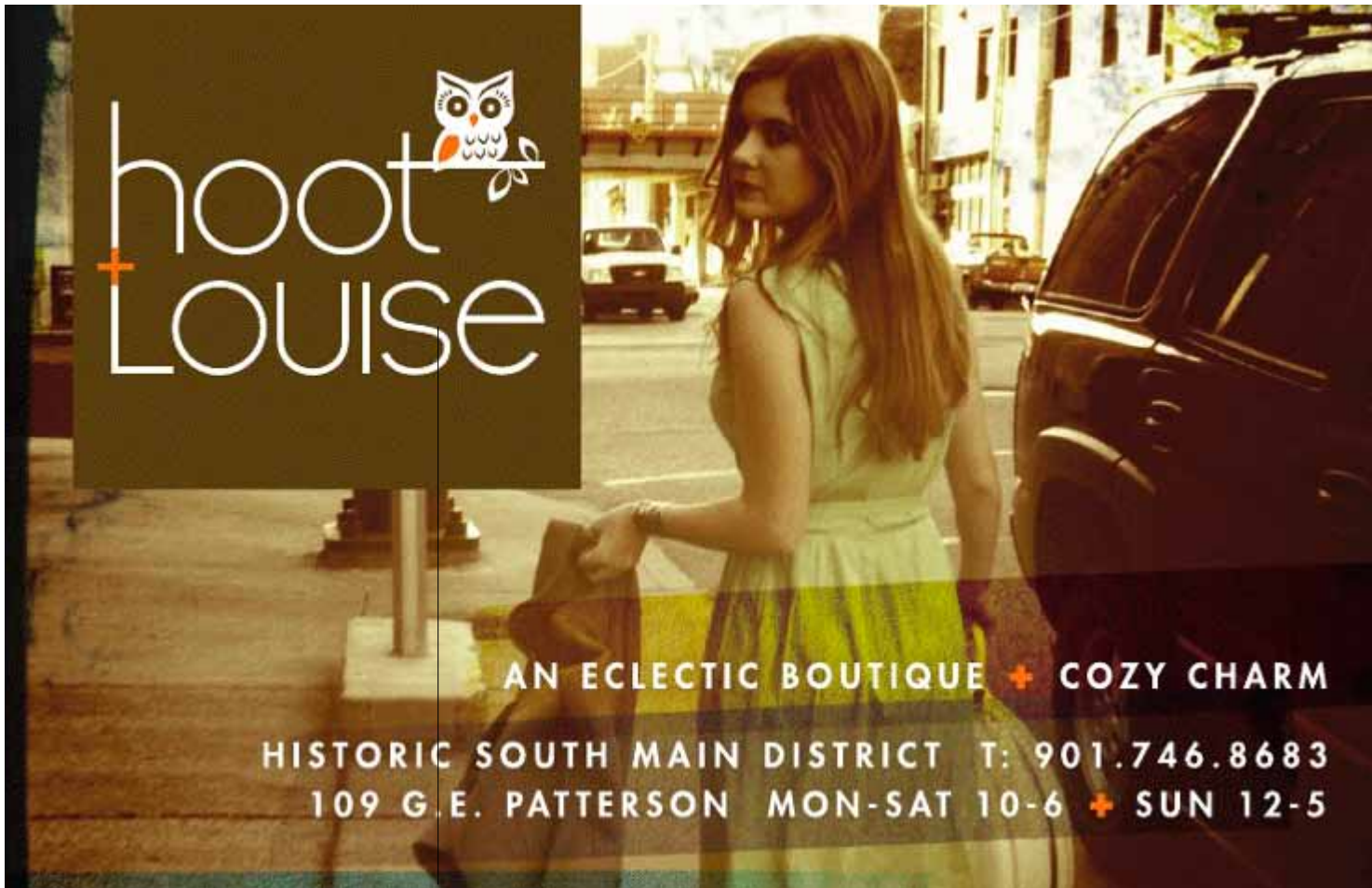
You can help the CYCA finance the maintenance, insurance, utilities, and repairs of public art like the Trestle Art by attending this year's Art for Art's Sake Auction on Saturday, April 9. Auction entrance is \$20 for non CYCA members or \$15 for members. The best way to purchase your ticket is online at cooperyoung.org. You may also email info@cooperyoung.org or call 901-272-2922 to arrange the purchase of your ticket. Please come out and show your appreciation for and support of public art in our community!



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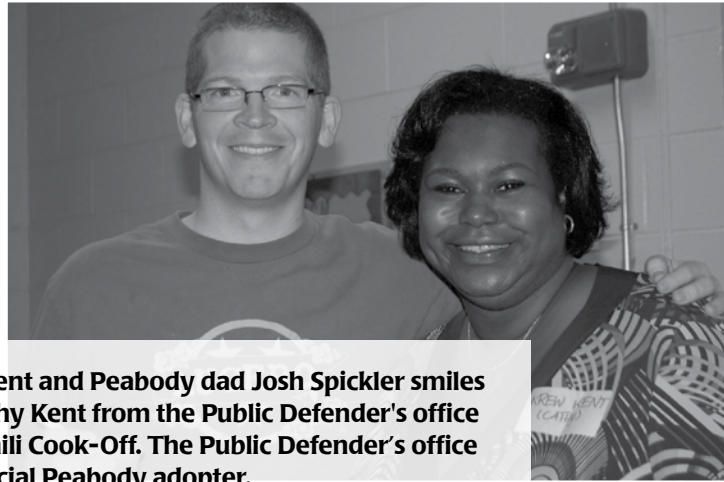
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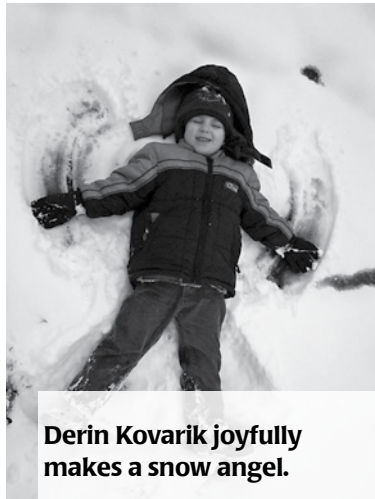
CY resident and Peabody dad Josh Spickler smiles with Cathy Kent from the Public Defender's office at the Chili Cook-Off. The Public Defender's office is an official Peabody adopter.



Karen Golightly and Pip Borden enjoy a snowy day in CY.



Fork It Over Catering provided the refreshments for the Art Auction Artist's Reception at Otherlands on Sunday, March 20. Michelle Campbell, owner of Fork It Over, set a beautiful table with the help of June Hurt for the event.



Derin Kovarik joyfully makes a snow angel.



Elek Owen of Oliver Avenue is sharing a ride with a new friend, Nikolas Petzold, in Louisville, Kentucky.



One-year-old Victor Ruleman is mesmerized by the falling snow.



Mark Morrison and Leslie Thompson enjoy themselves at the Cooper-Young/Peabody Chili Cook-Off in March.



Asher Kovarik is all geared up to tackle the snow in his favorite juggernaut gloves.



Andy and Sydney Ashby are happy to announce the arrival of their son, Samuel Gray Ashby, born on November 23, 2010. Congratulations to the proud parents!



Nelson resident and Peabody kindergartner Walt Spickler, along with his parents Josh and Ginger, visited Washington DC over spring break. Pickles, his class' mascot, went along to learn about all the places he's been studying in Ms. Malland's class during their focus on the United States this year.



Oliver resident Chris McHaney poses for a picture at his first marathon. Chris was one of many Cooper-Youngians who participated in the St. Jude marathon in December.



CY resident and chili competitor Karen Capps chats with CY resident and Peabody PTA co-president Mandy Grisham at the Chili Cook-Off.



Mallory Prater and Pip Borden pose with their snowy creation.

Betty's World

The conversation: an interview with Tavis Smiley

BY BETTY LAMARR

On February 16, I had the pleasure and privilege to conduct a phone interview with Tavis Smiley. During his 20 years in the broadcast industry, Mr. Smiley has made significant contributions to radio and television as a talk-show host. His many achievements include being a best-selling author of 14 books, being named one of "The World's 100 Most Influential People" by *Time* magazine in 2009 as well as the *Ebony* "Power 150 in Media", being the recipient of 12 NAACP Image Awards, and being a part of the 2009 Film Documentary *Stand*, set in our very own city of Memphis. Our phone interview preceded Mr. Smiley's 20th anniversary tour that brought him to Memphis on March 5. The event theme, "Tavis Smiley: Changing the World One Conversation at a Time", takes Tavis from interviewer to interviewee.

Betty LaMarr: Thanks so much for giving me the opportunity to have this conversation with you. Let's reexamine the concept of "success vs. greatness" in light of local Memphis and current world events. What tools can Memphis youth use to overcome the challenges they face today?

Tavis Smiley: I think it is important to know exactly what you believe. I think the real value of education is teaching one to think critically for himself or herself, not the rote learning that so many young people are exposed to today. When you learn how to think critically for yourself, you can come to your own conclusions. You are an original and not a copy of somebody else.

The problem with the world today is that people are blown around like the wind. They don't know exactly what their own core beliefs are. Once you're clear about that, it makes navigating life a bit easier. That doesn't mean that your assumptions can't be reexamined. It doesn't mean that you can't be exposed to new ways of thinking that might expand your inventory of ideas. But it does mean that you at least start with the notion that these are the convictions that you want to live your life by. I try to live my life by a certain set of immutable principles based upon what I have come to believe about the life I want to live and the legacy I want to leave, and I try to encourage others to do the same.

BL: On the world stage, what lessons can we learn from recent youth activism in Tunisia, Yemen, Egypt, Algeria, and now Libya and Bahrain?

TS: I think what we can learn from these democratic explosions around the world is to remember the lesson that we taught these protesters. African Americans have always been the conscience of the United States of America. The world has taken note of our fight for justice, freedom, equity, fairness, and respect. The world has taken note of the struggle that we were engaged in for civil rights, for human rights, and for economic rights. The world has watched

our struggle, and they've taken a page from our playbook. So the lesson we need to take from them, really, is to be reminded that we taught the world how to protest. We taught the world how to stand up straight. We taught the world how to sing protest songs.

Dr. King is the greatest American we have ever produced, and people are quoting King all around the world, including Egypt and other places. We taught the world how to

demand change, and we taught the world how to do it nonviolently. If we are sick and tired of public policy, injustice, and inequities in our own country, then we need to be reminded that we know how to resolve this. We must organize our power in some compelling strength. Although we taught the world how to protest, we've forgotten. We've gotten lazy and complacent, and we've adjusted to injustice. Our own country needs to be reminded that the people have the

power, and if we don't like the direction of our government, we have to speak up about it. Activism and politics are not spectator sports. You've got to get off the sidelines and get involved in the game.

BL: How important are social networks, new media, and emerging technology to broadcast journalism?

TS: Terribly important. I've learned for myself, sometimes the hard way, that it's impossible to navigate forward in today's world without understanding, appreciating, and on some level embracing social media. It is the most contemporary way of communicating a message. There are all kinds of things about the internet that I could complain about, but I have to juxtapose those complaints with the good that can be done vis-à-vis the internet and social media. We must find a way to navigate ourselves forward in a world where social media is not going away. It's going to become more important, more relevant. And so, for those of us who have slowly come to accept that, you've got to deal with it and find a way to make it work for you.

BL: How important is a support network for individual and community greatness? And in your own life, how much did your support network help fuel your inner strength and determination to take \$50 and a small suitcase such a long, long way?

TS: Familial, social, and community networks are terribly important. None of us walks this journey alone. Our destiny as individuals is inextricably tied to a larger group. Every one of us is who we are because somebody loved us. No one who succeeds walks this journey alone. I would not be as fortunate without a network of people who supported me and pushed me toward my potential.

In regards to the question about going to Indiana University, it's not about money and a suitcase. I think every one of us has the capacity to do more than we think we're capable of. But this requires us to take stock of our situation and make a decision about the kind of life we want to live and the kind of legacy we want to leave. I was thinking about these things even when I was a young person. I was exposed to Dr. King's work, writing, and speeches when I was just twelve or thirteen. Although King had long since been dead, his work brought me to life. I decided at a young age that I wanted to live a certain kind of life and leave a certain kind of legacy, and I've been working on that ever since. I'm a cracked vessel. Like everybody else, I've got my

failings and my shortcomings. But I'm a work in progress.

Life really boils down to making choices. Every one of us has a life to live and a legacy to leave and all of that is determined by the kind of choices we make along the way. I decided as a young person that I wanted to go to college. I knew my life would begin or end with the quality of my education. Malcolm X once said, "Education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today." I knew that quote as a child. I believed that quote. I knew that education was my passport to the future, and I was determined that nothing was going to stop me, no lack of financial aid, no lack of a dormitory to stay in, no lack of books, no lack of period. Nothing was going to stop me from getting an education, and when you're that serious about anything in life, I believe the universe will line up behind you to support you into getting across that finish line.

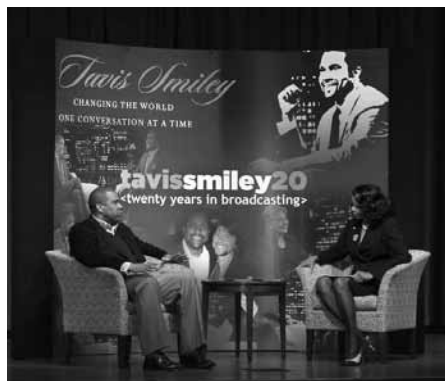
BL: In conclusion, what do you feel is your single most significant contribution, and what do you want to leave us as your legacy?

TS: My latest book talks about the 20 biggest mistakes I have made in broadcasting and what I've learned from those mistakes. The book is called *Fail Up*. I believe my life is a series of failures, but I've been blessed to fail my way up to the top. And I believe every one of us can fail up if we learn from the mistakes we have made. I'm still making mistakes, I'm still learning, and I'm still getting better – I hope!

I would like to think that my greatest contributions are ahead. I've been very fortunate throughout the years to have achieved a lot. I've received all kinds of honors and honorary degrees, been celebrated around the world in a variety of places. I feel very blessed by what God has done with me over these 20 years. But if I thought my best days were behind me, it'd be hard to get out of bed every morning. What's the point in getting up if you've already done the best you can do? So, I don't believe I've done my best. I do believe that every day I'm getting better.

I believe that my legacy, my role, is to make the world safe for the legacy of Dr. King. I know there's a strange connection with King in Memphis. I can't go to Memphis without going to the Civil Rights Museum and going to The Lorraine. It's an annual ritual for me. Whenever I come to Memphis, I have to go to pay my respects. I really believe that the future of this democracy is directly linked to how seriously we take the legacy of King's life: justice for all, service to others, and a love that liberates people. That's what I hope to do through all the enterprises that we own and operate. It's all really about trying to make sure there's justice for everybody. By way of our media platform, we're trying to serve others, trying to raise issues of justice, fairness, and equality for everybody, and ultimately trying to love people.

I believe that love simply means that everybody is worthy just because. Not because of your last name, who you know, where you live, how much money you make, or where you went to school. I believe that everyone is worthy just because. Everybody is somebody's child, and we're all God's children. Every life is equally valuable. Every life is precious. When we get to a place in this country where we start to believe that, we're going to start treating people as valuable and precious. Everybody will have health care, a job, and a safe environment to live in. People ought to be treated this way by private and public institutions. That's what our work is all about. I'll continue doing it, and I thank you for this chance to talk to you about it.



To Our Readers

The *LampLighter* is working with the CYCA to bring you meaningful crime information. In addition to the crime map, which details crimes within a one-mile radius of the Cooper-Young intersection, we also included a list of crimes that happened within our neighborhood. This list includes the case number, which you can use to contact the police. The crimes were reported from February 21, 2011 to March 23, 2011.

CASE #	ARREST	OFFENSES	DATE	100 BLOCK
1103005396ME	n/a	Simple Assault/DV	03/09/11	900 S MC LEAN
1103004004ME	n/a	Burglary/Residential	03/07/11	700 S BARKSDALE
1103000912ME	n/a	Other Theft/Non-Specific	03/02/11	1900 CENTRAL
1103000821ME	n/a	Vandalism/Misdemeanor	03/02/11	800 BARKSDALE
1102016861ME	n/a	Vandalism/Misdemeanor	02/28/11	2000 YORK
1102016485ME	n/a	Shoplifting/Misdemeanor	02/28/11	2100 CENTRAL AVE
1102016408ME	n/a	Shoplifting/Misdemeanor	02/27/11	2100 CENTRAL
1102013580ME	n/a	Shoplifting/Misdemeanor	02/23/11	2100 CENTRAL
1102012381ME	n/a	Other Theft/Non-Specific	02/21/11	2200 YOUNG AVE
1102012167ME	n/a	Theft from Motor Vehicle	02/21/11	2200 YORK AVE



Crime Map

Do you want to know what crime is taking place in our neighborhood? The Memphis Police Department offers a tool on its website (memphispolice.org) that allows you to locate crime information. Crimemapper allows you to input an address and search in quarter-mile increments for a specific type of crime. It then returns with the results of your search for the previous 30 days.

The crime map for this issue was compiled by June Hurt.



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