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Wisconsin's LGBT News and Entertainment Magazine

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2006'S TOP TEN WORLD/NATIONAL & TOP TEN STATE LGBT STORIES

Plus: The Top Five Predictions for 2007 *By Mike Fitzpatrick*

Political and judicial wins and losses over gay marriage, celebrity and political closets bursting open, right-wing attacks but greater visibility and acceptance: in short the 2006 Year In Queer can best be characterized as "more of the same." To be sure the Mark Foley scandal story was certainly a page turner - not to mention a majority murderer. When evangelical megachurch pastor Ted Haggard showed up in a TV interview talking about escort massages and buying but throwing away meth it sent every gay man on the planet to his knees praying - for his gaydar not to go "ding" (alas, for some prayers the answer is "no"). And for Wisconsin's political size queens, bigger was not better when it comes to majorities voting for Constitutional amendments.

So many great stories - so little room! Here are *Quest's* picks for the top ten world & national and Wisconsin stories. And once again, we'll pull out the crystal ball to make five predictions for 2007, but only after taking a quick peek at how we did in 2006. Let the dish be served!

Top 10 World & National Stories

1. Foley Scandal Brings Down GOP Congress



The "October Surprise" in the 2006 election cycle was not one of GOP strategist Karl Rove's making. In early October revelations that Florida Republican representative Mark Foley had been for years email-

ing and instant messaging seeking sexually-explicit conversations with underage male Congressional pages led to his resignation within days of the first stories and a firestorm of criticism of the Republican leadership who kept the scandal under wraps for political purposes.

Already struggling with an unpopular war, the Foley mess and the revelations of a so-called "velvet mafia" of gay GOP staffers known and accepted by their on-the record "family values" elected officials impacted the Republicans' "values voters" base at the ballot box a month later. The irony that Foley also headed the Congressional Committee seeking oversight of online and other sexual predators was not lost on the nation's Religious Right, who howled "wolf in the fold" rhetoric right up to election day.

The Foley scandal also impacted gay issues voting in other areas, including Wisconsin's passage of the Constitutional amendment banning same sex marriages and civil unions. Because of its wide ranging impact on the direction of the state and the nation, it *Quest's* top national story of the year.

2. Gay Unions Gain Further Recognition

The march to marriage equality worldwide continued its slow but steady pace in 2006. By year's end five states in the USA had some form of legal recognition for gay couples. In late December New Jersey (*see story below*) became the third in the nation to institute civil unions. Connecticut

and Vermont allow civil unions for gay couples. Massachusetts allows gay couples to marry; California has domestic partnerships that bring full marriage rights.



Internationally, South Africa made gay marriages legal and the Czech Republic, Slovenia and Mexico City recognized gay civil unions. Israel recognized same-sex marriages performed by other countries. Ireland both North and South was poised to grant legal recognition as the UK celebrated the first anniversary of same sex unions. Canada's new conservative majority in Parliament briefly thought about repealing that country's same sex marriage law but decided not to December 7, just one month after Arizona became the first state in the USA to reject a constitutional same-sex marriage ban.

3. Judicial Setbacks On Gay Marriage Amendments

Even as political gains were made on the marriage front, Supreme Courts in Georgia, New York and Washington dealt setbacks to those seeking to overturn the constitutional marriage bans in those states' constitutions. A California appeals court also ruled against the "right to marry" for gay couples, though the Golden State's Supreme Court accepted that ruling on appeal at year's end.

Nationally, the U. S. Supreme Court allowed a lesbian's lawsuit to seek parental rights move forward, but turned away another gay marriage case. The John-Roberts-led court has been noticeable for its lack of involvement in hot button issues in 2006, though the mixed messages coming from state courts and legislatures ultimately may force the nation's top court to take up the right of gay couples to have their unions legally recognized.

4. APA Slams "Ex-Gay" Movement

Just hours after a demonstration by a so-called "ex-gay" groups garnered national attention, the American Psychological Association (APA) issued a formal denouncement to the so-called "reparative therapy" at its national convention last August.

Responding to the demonstration by about two dozen members of Exodus International and the National Association for the Research and Therapy of Homosexuality (NARTH), the APA issued the following statement: "For over three decades the consensus of the mental health com-

munity has been that homosexuality is not an illness and therefore not in need of a cure."

"The APA's concern about the positions espoused by NARTH and so-called conversion therapy is that they are not supported by the science. There is simply no sufficiently scientifically sound evidence that sexual orientation can be changed. Our further concern is that the positions espoused by NARTH and Focus on the Family create an environment in which prejudice and discrimination can flourish," the statement said.

The American Psychological Association ceased listing homosexuality as a mental disorder in 1974. Though ex-gay groups claim "thousands" have been "cured," the only actual long-term clinical study the groups have ever permitted of their work showed just 4/10 of one percent actually ceased engaging in same-sex behavior after being "converted." That study began in 1977 and ran for five years.

5. Supreme Court Upholds Military Campus Recruiting, 8-0

The military has a right to recruit on college campuses and at law schools nationwide, the Supreme Court unanimously ruled March 6, despite the Pentagon's policy of excluding openly gay men and women from its ranks. The justices rejected a free-speech claim brought by several law schools and professors who said they should not be forced to aid an employer who practices job discrimination based on sexual orientation.

In his first major opinion for the court as Chief Justice, John G. Roberts Jr. characterized the case as "a stretch." The decision upheld the Solomon Amendment, in which mandated that colleges and universities that take federal money must permit the Pentagon to recruit on campus.

"The Solomon Amendment regulates conduct, not speech," Roberts wrote in his opinion. "It affects what law schools must do - afford equal access to military recruiters - not what they may or may not say.... [It] neither limits what the law schools may say nor requires them to say anything."

6. Top Evangelical Haggard Steps Down Amid Gay Sex, Drug Use Claims

Election eve revelations by a Denver male prostitute about Rev. Ted Haggard, President of the National Association of Evangelicals, lead pastor at the 14,000-member New Life Church, Colorado gay marriage ban supporter and consultant to President Bush were probably the most damning example of the hypocrisy of the so-called Religious Right in 2006.

Haggard eventually admitted to church elders that all of 49-year old former masseur Mike Jones' accusations made public November 1 were indeed true, adding public lying to his earlier denials of the reports that he paid for gay sexual favors for three years and occasionally used crystal meth during those trysts. Haggard stepped



down as head of the national evangelical group and as the mega-church's pastor November 2, and was formally fired less than a week later after an investigation by a church panel.

Haggard's accuser said he decided to go public because Colorado is considering an amendment to ban gay marriage. Jones said he was upset to discover that Haggard and the New Life Church oppose same-sex marriage.

Weeks after the election a second Colorado evangelical pastor was fired for similar behavior.

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7. Wal-Mart Reaches Out To Gays, Gets Slapped Left And Right Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. August announcement that it had joined the corporate advisory council of the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce made neither its usual supporters - nor some gay activists - very happy.

The world's largest retailer reached out to more diverse shoppers in its bid to keep expanding beyond its rural and Southern roots, but it risked alienating loyal and long-standing patrons.

Randy Sharp of American Family Association (AFA) immediately claimed he and others have stopped shopping at Wal-Mart because of its shift from a "pro-family" stance. Later, delegates at the annual meeting of the Missouri Baptist Convention

voted November 1 to warn Wal-Mart Stores Inc. that it was considering a boycott of the company because of its "pro-homosexual support."

Also, not all gay and lesbian groups took Wal-Mart's move well. "Our community is a smart community, and we can see a shameless marketing opportunity when it comes," Pride At Work program director Jeremy Bishop said. Pride at Work is a group within the AFL-CIO that represents gay and lesbian workers.

Wal-Mart's predicament is common to any business that tries to grow or change with the times. According to Nelson Lichtenstein, a professor of history at UC Santa Barbara and editor of the book *Wal-Mart: The Face of 21st Century Capitalism*, Wal-Mart is figuring out how to make itself welcome and amenable in every corner of America's pluralistic society. "Lots of companies once thought of as conservative culturally have made their peace with gay and lesbian rights. It's become a standard corporate thing," Lichtenstein said.

8. Mary's Having A Little Lamb And Everyone's Upset Speaking of getting slapped

left and right, Mary Cheney has incurred Gay Left and Religious Right wrath over her December announcement that she and life partner Heather Poe are having a baby.



In highly predictable fashion the Religious Right voiced dismay at news that Mary Cheney, the lesbian daughter of Dick Cheney, was pregnant. Janice Crouse of Concerned Women for America described the pregnancy as "unconscionable."

Meanwhile the gay-rights group Family Pride said the vice president faces "a lifetime of sleepless nights" for serving in an administration that has opposed recognition of same-sex couples.

Cheney and Poe, 45 are expecting a baby in late spring, according to Lea Anne McBride, a spokeswoman for the vice president. "The vice president and Mrs. Cheney are looking forward with eager anticipation" to the arrival of their sixth grandchild, McBride said.

President Bush also added his views, expressing confidence that Mary will make a loving parent, even as he continues to believe it is best that a child is raised by a man and woman married to each other. Talk about a bitch slap!

9. Lance Bass Leads the 2006 Celebrity Coming Out Parade

Following weeks of rumors in gay blogs and scandal sheets, former 'N Sync heartthrob made it official in late July, coming out in a People magazine tell-all.

"I knew that I was in this popular band and I had four other guys' careers in my hand, and I knew that if I ever acted on it or even said (that I was



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gay), it would overpower everything," Bass told the weekly, referring to bandmates Joey Fatone, Chris Kirkpatrick, JC Chasez and Justin Timberlake.

Six weeks later *Grey's Anatomy* star T.R. Knight admitted that he's gay, but hoped people don't consider that "the most interesting part of me." The 33-year-old actor addressed rumors of his sexuality in a statement to *People* magazine on October 19.

"I guess there have been a few questions about my sexuality, and I'd like to quiet any unnecessary rumors that may be out there," Knight's statement read. "While I prefer to keep my personal life private, I hope the fact that I'm gay isn't the most interesting part of me."

Two weeks later it was *How I Met Your Mother*'s Neil Patrick Harris turn to tell *People* that he was gay - and wanted to quell recent reports that he had denied it. "I am happy to dispel any rumors or misconceptions and am quite proud to say that I am a very content gay man living my life to the fullest and feel most fortunate to be working with wonderful people in the business I love," the former *Doogie Howser* star told the magazine.

With so many male leads tumbling out of the closet in rapid succession, industry insiders wondered if straight America would continue to accept them in romantic straight roles.

Of course not everyone was ready to scream "I'm a queen!" even when the evidence suggested otherwise. Long suspected pole-smoker John Travolta vigorously denied his front page *National Enquirer* man-on-man smooch was anything more than friendship for the fellow involved.

10. RIP: Betty Berzon, Gerry Studds, James West As in any year, the passing of notable figures



Pioneering lesbian activist Betty Berzon, a psychotherapist and author who championed gay rights after struggling for more than half her life with her own sexuality, died at 78 at her San Fernando Valley home January 24, according to her longtime partner Teresa DeCrescenzo. Berzon had battled breast cancer for many years.

America's first openly gay congressman, former 12-term Massachusetts Congressional

Representative Gerry E. Studds died October 14 at Boston University Medical Center. He had been hospitalized after collapsing October 3 while walking his English springer spaniel Bonnie. The cause of death was complications from a blood clot in the lung. He was 69.

Disgraced former Spokane mayor James West who was booted out of office last year after a sex scandal involving young men who were offered city jobs in exchange for sexual favors, died on July 22 of colon cancer. While a GOP legislator, West had co-sponsored a bill that would have made it a crime for unmarried teenagers to have sex, and often opposed gay rights proposals. West, 55, died at the University of Washington Medical Center here with his family and pastor by his side.

Other passings of note: John Wilson, 56, *New York Times* journalist and founding member of the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association died of heart attack on August 25 and American gay rights activist Laurel Hester, 49 died of lung cancer on February 18.

TOP 10 WISCONSIN STORIES

1. Wisconsin Marriage Equality Ban Passes 59-41%

In terms of state stories, the different twist and turns in the nine-month campaign to defeat the constitutional ban prohibiting legal recognition of all unmarried couples in Wisconsin could have populated *Quest's* entire top 10 for 2006. Over two years in the making, the late February vote by the State Assembly set the final process in motion. A day later Fair Wisconsin debuted and gathered support from thousands of volunteers, hundreds of prestigious mainstream groups, 72 county coordinators, dozens of supportive broadcast and print media, four ex-governors and sitting U. S. Senator Russ Feingold.

But despite \$5 million in its war chest, a half-dozen attention-getting TV ads, the unprecedented coalition of the state's two most powerful gay activist groups and one of the most politically savvy campaign managers available in the country - Mike Tate - all was for naught November 7 when voters approved the ban by a nearly 3-2 vote. Madison once again proved the "fifty square miles surrounded by reality" adage true by



overwhelmingly opposing the ban, though LaCrosse County came close with just a few hundred votes more in favor than against.

Fair Wisconsin's get out the vote efforts in campus wards however did nab the group a consolation prize: the turnover of the Wisconsin Senate to Democrat control and a thinning of the GOP's Assembly majority from 14 to 5. Political figures from victorious Governor Jim Doyle to GOP Congressional Representative cited Fair Wisconsin's efforts in the turnaround. The defeats of anti-gay Republicans John Gard, Mark Green, Dave Zein and Tom Reynolds also made the bitter pill of defeat easier to swallow.

Though the actual effects on the new constitutional ban won't be known for months, the election of a more gay-supportive legislature may - in fact - bring greater equality for gay and lesbian, coupled or otherwise. Action Wisconsin, keenly aware of the political power in the Fair Wisconsin "brand," changed its name at year's end.

2. Wisconsin First In The Nation To Pass Pro-Gay Funeral Protest Law

Flanked by members of ten state families who had lost their soldier sons and daughters in Iraq, Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle signed the Funeral Dignity Act on President's Day, February 20. The bipartisan-sponsored bill had earlier passed both houses of the legislature with only three dissenting votes on February 2.

Doyle's signature made Wisconsin the first to enact such a law since the Topeka-based Westboro Baptist Church began conducting their anti-gay protests at military funerals. 14 other states were considering similar bills the day Doyle signed the Wisconsin version, some later passing them.

Though court tests are expected, Fred Phelps' "Westboro Wackos" have largely faded from public view at military funerals as a result of such laws. In early December, a Marine's family successfully sued the Topeka group for the added security costs their protests caused, putting a new financial nail in their hate-filled coffin of anti-gay rhetoric.



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3. Action Wisconsin Wins Storms Lawsuit. Wisconsin's largest gay rights group was awarded \$87,000 in attorneys' fees by a judge who last January verbally spanked a Louisiana "pastor" and his lawyer for bringing a frivolous lawsuit claiming the group defamed him.

Grant Storms had claimed in the lawsuit that Action Wisconsin defamed him by saying remarks he made at the "First International Conference on Homo-Fascism," advocated the murder of gays. The day-long conference was held in Milwaukee in October, 2003 and sponsored by the now-defunct Wisconsin Christians United.

But in her ruling, Milwaukee County Circuit Judge Patricia McMahon said the AW's interpretation of the remarks was reasonable and the lawsuit lacked merit from the day it was filed in February 2004. The judge also blasted Storms' lawyer, James Donohoo of Milwaukee, saying he should have known the complaint was a waste of time.

Donohoo also suffered the most financially. Donohoo had his bank accounts garnished in an attempt to collect the \$87,452 awarded to the gay civil rights group. Madison attorney Lester Pines garnished about \$20,000 from Donohoo's accounts about one week after McMahon tossed the suit.

4. Milwaukee's Pride Parade Steps Up And Storms Back.



For the revitalized Milwaukee Pride Parade, the second time was the charm. With dozens of marching units from three states and the unfurling of a block-long rainbow flag, the parade's 2006 edition wowed an estimated 2,000 watchers on June 10. Entries from Chicago, Minneapolis, Appleton, Green Bay, Kenosha, Madison, Milwaukee and other cities strutted their stuff before the cheering bystanders, some waving rainbow flags and others holding professionally printed placards stating "Gay Marriage Doesn't Scare Me - Not Having Healthcare Does!" The latter were distributed by the unions representing the teaching assistants in the University of Wisconsin.

Stepping off about five minutes late with the Great Lakes Harley Riders leading the march, the entire review passed smoothly, taking about 75 minutes in all. A coterie of fundamentalist protesters attempted to lead off the parade but were literally forced to the sidewalks by mounted police. A police horse immediately adjacent to the protesters relieved itself shortly after the group had set up its banners, making an unintentional but humorous editorial on the message being spouted by the "Christians."

Several of the Milwaukee bars outdid themselves with some of the biggest, most elaborate floats and parade entries in the history of Milwaukee Pride, regardless of sponsor. The Club M & M "Last Call's Over But The Memories Linger" float brought both cheers and tears from the crowd. Triangle's parade-ending unfurling of a block-long rainbow flag brought a fitting close to the cavalcade.

Over at the Summerfest grounds, the 2006 edition of PrideFest was the most attended in the festival's history. The not-so-good news was Wisconsin's largest LGBT festival needed three days to break the 2005 record, set in just two. Margaret Cho broke records for Friday attendance, but cool, rainy evenings the first two nights had a lot to do with suppressing the weekend's potential numbers. Some also pointed to the failure the market the festival's promotional Pride Guides outside of the Milwaukee area as another cause.

5. Christian Group KOs Another Viroqua H.S. Diversity Day Viroqua High School cancelled a Diversity Day for a second time in two years after an out-of-state Christian legal group threatened action over the inclusion of gay speakers. Speakers were to have included representatives of the African American, Latino, Jewish, Muslim, native American and gay communities.

In 2004, about 400 people signed a petition asking that speakers on gay, lesbian and transgender issues not be included in the school's Diversity Day. The school board cancelled the event, but it was reinstated after spring elections changed the board's makeup.

While pressure in 2004 came largely from within the community, in 2006 much of the challenge was from outside, according to Gregg Artleson, a Spanish teacher at the school who was on the Diversity Day planning committee.

In a fax sent to the school on March 8, Liberty Counsel, a Florida-based Christian public interest law firm that regularly fights LGBT civil rights issues, warned that if Diversity Day went on the school could face legal action. School officials caved to the threat.

Weeks later two Viroqua High School students brought the Diversity Day back to life and organized an off-campus event held May 8. Tasha Mills and Jenna Thompson collected donations sufficient to cover this year's event and to provide seed money for future events. Diversity Day was held at The Move in the town's Main Street Station mall.

6. Top Gay UW-Madison Researcher Exits Over Lack Of Benefits

The University of Wisconsin's gay-unfriendly benefits policies and the constitutional marriage and civil union ban caused a top-flight gay researcher to seek a new position in Pennsylvania, which prompted new debate over a feared "brain drain" in the UW system.

Rob Carpick, an associate professor of engi-



neering, told the Associated Press on August 24 that he would depart for the University of Pennsylvania, a school that offers domestic partner benefits. Carpick took with him a nanotechnology research portfolio that since 2000 has been awarded \$3.4 million in grants from the National Science Foundation, branches of the U.S. military and private companies.

"After six and one-half years of working very hard, I found it's problematic to work in an environment where you are not treated equally," Carpick said. "Fortunately there are other entities that are more enlightened than the state of Wisconsin on this issue, and the University of Pennsylvania is one of them."

7. UW-Madison, Appleton's Lawrence Make Lists of LGBT-Friendly Campuses

Rob Carpick might not like UW-Madison but the editors of the nation's top gay magazine certainly did. The University of Wisconsin-Madison and Lawrence University in Appleton were recognized as two of the best campuses for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students respectively in *The Advocate College Guide for LGBT Students* and the *Princeton Review*.

The *Advocate* book profiled 100 colleges and universities nationwide that offer resources and create a positive living and learning environment for LGBT students. A number of UW-Madison's programs and services and LGBT Campus Center were listed among its attributes.

The *Princeton Review* recognized Lawrence University in the 2007 edition of its annual book, *The Best 361 Colleges* for providing an outstanding undergraduate experience and campus community. The book, which featured student survey-based rankings of top 20 colleges in about 60 categories, included about 15% of the nation's four-year colleges and universities. The *Review's* guide was the first comprehensive campus guide to offer such a list in the United States.

It listed Lawrence as twelfth in how accessible professors make themselves to students outside the classroom; twelfth in how accepting the campus was to the gay community; and twentieth in how popular college theater productions were on campus. About 300 students per campus were interviewed.

8. Midwest Sulu Sightings Tickle Trekkies

Just months after news that *Star Trek's* George Takei was openly gay became widespread, two appearances by the actor - one in Madison and one as the Grand Marshall of Chicago's Pride



Parade - caused Trek fans from the Planet Cheesehead to swoon with delight.

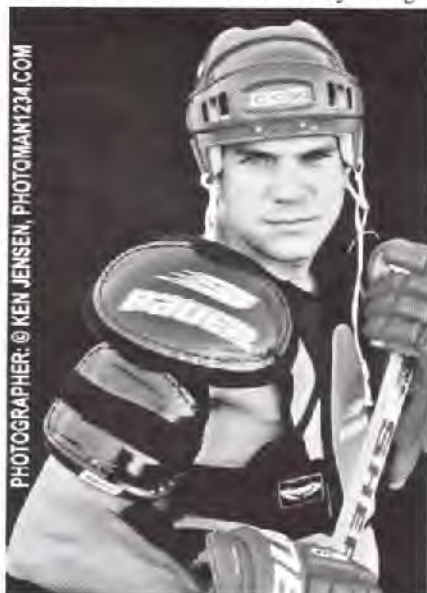
The national struggle for marriage equality - and what he considers a personal slap in the face by another famous film celebrity, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger who vetoed a bill granting

California gays full marriage rights - initially sent the sonorous-voiced Takei on his new mission where no *Star Trek* actor had gone before: a spokesperson for the Human Rights campaign.

The HRC starship landed at UW-Madison April 18 for Takei's Wisconsin stop in his month long equality lecture tour. Takei and his life partner of 19 years, Brad Altman later rode in a front vehicle as Grand Marshal for this year's Chicago 37th Annual Pride Parade June 25.

Quest's exclusive interview with Takei remains available online at: www.quest-online.com

9. Madison's Gay Hockey "Thunder" Create A Storm



PHOTOGRAPHER: © KEN JENSEN, PHOTOGRAPHY234.COM

New York City managed to make its way to Madison this year. Former New York City Gay Hockey Association player Patrick Farabaugh founded the Madison Gay Hockey Association last August. Teammates have come from Madison, Milwaukee and other cities around the state.

The Thunder stepped on the ice for the first time on October 15 and will meet every Sunday night through February at the Madison Ice Arena.

The team joins Wisconsin's long time softball and bowling leagues in expanding the options for those seeking to participate in gay athletics.



10. Judge Dismisses "Naked Boys Singing" Lawsuit. In December, fifteen months after Milwaukee police shut down its production of "Naked Boys Singing," a federal judge threw out a civil rights lawsuit filed by the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center (MGAC). U.S. District Judge Charles N. Clevert Jr. dismissed the suit, saying that to proceed, the center "must establish that the violations were part of a custom or policy by the municipality." (full details in State News below)

TOP 5 PREDICTIONS FOR 2007:

Before looking at our new predictions lets see how we did in 2006. Here were the five forecasts:

1. The Wisconsin Marriage Amendment Will Lose. It passed, and with numbers bigger than a similar measure in Virginia, the Cradle of the Confederacy. If its any consolation, pundits much more famous than I got burned on similar predictions as well. **2. The Democrats Will Regain Control of The Wisconsin Senate.** Yep, make that one for the lavender crystal. **3. Governor Jim Doyle Will Be Re-Elected.** My predictions about how Doyle would paint Green as an extremist were right on target too. **4. Republicans Will Barely Retain Control Of Congress.** Well, they barely lost the Senate. Pundits nationally agreed with me that GOP gerrymandering probably saved at least twenty Republican seats in the House. Other than that, the prediction was off the mark. Foley, that is. **5. Samuel Alito Will Be Confirmed As A Supreme Court Justice.** That one turned out to be the slam dunk I predicted and then some. It happened just weeks after the prediction hit the streets.

Three for five wasn't so bad, compared to my dear departed idol Jeanne Dixon. Once again dabbling on her brilliant red polish, here are my predictions for 2007.

1. The UW System Will Get Some Form of Domestic Partner Benefits. The political winds

have blown and the reality that Wisconsin is the only school in the Big Ten without this lightly-used fringe benefit will sway the few Republicans in the Assembly needed to get this through the budget process. FRI-WI's Julaine Apppling will wave the 59-41 marriage ban win in the Assembly's face. Too bad its not an election year, dear. Confidence in the prediction is only 60%, due to the number of Republicans who have to switch.

2. California's Supreme Court Will Set Up The Federal Test On Gay Marriage. If the court had wanted to rubber stamp the appeals court ruling they could have declined the case. The decision will conflict with 2005's rejections in Georgia, New York and Washington. Hopefully the ruling will center on equal protection under the law and legal recognition, not the "M" word. Confidence in this prediction 70%.

3. Jim Doyle Will Make At Least One Notable Openly-Gay Appointment. Doyle thanked Fair Wisconsin on election night. Can he get away with absolutely no political payoff? Probably not. A visible appointment? Yes. High profile? Maybe but don't bet the farm. Confidence in this prediction is 80%.

4. The Episcopal Church Will Teeter But Not Fall Into Schism. Like the United Church of Christ, which has lost several dozen churches nationally but picked up the Dallas Cathedral of Hope - the largest LGBT-focused ministry in the country, the U. S. Episcopal Church will continue to see some parishes in conservative areas slip to Anglican supervision. But the communion will remain overall intact. Too much history and overall support for the sect's social progress will keep the denomination from a full split. Prediction confidence is 70%.

5. There Will Be Little Progress In Undoing The Wisconsin Marriage Ban. Lip service has been paid. Trial balloons have been floated. But the issue is still too hot to handle and the real impact of the amendment's passage simply isn't known yet. It will take more than a year to see what it all means. Expect rhetoric but no revision on the issue. My confidence in the prediction is 90%.

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NEW JERSEY APPROVES GAY CIVIL UNIONS

Trenton - New Jersey Governor Jon S. Corzine signed a civil unions law giving gay couples all the rights and responsibilities — but not the title — of marriage here December 21.

The law makes New Jersey the third in the nation to institute civil unions and the fifth to offer same-sex couples some version of marriage. Connecticut and Vermont allow civil unions for gay couples. Massachusetts allows gay couples to marry; California has domestic partnerships that bring full marriage rights.

"We must recognize that many gay and lesbian couples in New Jersey are in committed relationships and deserve the same benefits and rights as every other family in this state," Corzine said to the approximately 150 people who attended the bill signing.

The New Jersey law takes effect February 19. Same-sex couples seeking civil unions will have to wait for three days for a ceremony to take place

after registering their plans with local officials. That is the same waiting period for couples seeking marriage licenses.

Once joined in civil union, gay couples will enjoy adoption, inheritance, hospital visitation, medical decision-making and alimony rights and the right not to testify against a partner in court.

"I believe very fundamentally in equal protection under the law and this legislation is about meeting that basic responsibility and honoring the commitments that individuals have made to each other," Corzine said.

The law passed the Legislature on December 14 in response to an October state Supreme Court order that gay couples be granted the same rights as married couples. The court gave lawmakers six months to act but left it to them to decide whether to call it unions "marriage" or another term.

Gay couples have welcomed the new law, but argue not calling it "marriage" creates a different,

inferior institution. Even some same-sex couples who attended the bill signing remained lukewarm about the law. "It's a step forward, but it's not true equality," lesbian activist Veronica Hoff said. Hoff attended the ceremony with her partner.

Right wing religious groups and some lawmakers opposed the measure, reasoning it brings gay relationships too close to marriage, but it easily passed the Legislature. "It's same-sex marriage without the title," New Jersey Coalition to Preserve and Protect Marriage president John Tomicki claimed. "It uproots the cardinal values of our culture."

Tomicki promised opponents would push for a constitutional amendment that would ban same-sex unions in New Jersey, no matter what they're called. "Let the voters decide that marriage is defined as a union of one man and one woman," he said.

Democrats who control both houses of the Legislature have indicated that they have no plans to consider such a proposal.

CALIFORNIA SUPREME COURT TAKES GAY MARRIAGE CASES

Sacramento - The California Supreme Court unanimously voted December 20 to review whether the state's ban on same-sex marriage violates constitutional rights.

Same-sex marriage proponents' opening brief will be due January 19, with opponents' answer due thirty days later and reply briefs due twenty days after that. With all papers filed by spring, the court could hear the case as early as this summer and render an opinion within ninety days after that.

San Francisco Superior Court Judge Richard Kramer in March 2005 ruled the statutory same-sex marriage ban serves no rational purpose and unconstitutionally denies same-sex couples equal protection under the law. But the state Court of Appeals, in a 2-1 ruling issued Oct. 5, concluded the ban doesn't violate anyone's constitutional rights, and marriage's definition is best left to the people and lawmakers rather than courts.

Arguing against same-sex marriage in these six consolidated cases are the state Attorney General's office, which is duty-bound to defend existing state law; the conservative nonprofit Campaign for California Families; and the Proposition 22 Legal Defense and Education Fund, named for the 2000 ballot measure passed by 61% of voters to reinforce an already-existing

statutory ban on same-sex marriage.

Arguing for the right to same-sex marriage are the city and county of San Francisco, which fueled the debate by issuing marriage licenses — later voided — to same-sex couples in 2004, and same-sex couples and gay-rights groups that challenged the ban. The couples and groups are represented by a legal team including the National Center for Lesbian Rights, Lambda Legal and the American Civil Liberties Union.

Lesbian Rights Center Executive Director Kate Kendell said the court's unanimity and speed in granting review "is a signal they well understand the importance and significance of the case not only to lesbian and gay folks in California, but to all Californians." She said she hopes the court "will stand up for fairness and inclusion and equality for lesbian and gay couples."

Tom Dresslar, Attorney General Bill Lockyer's spokesman, said Lockyer took the unusual step of petitioning the court to review a decision he'd won "because all Californians expected all along that the final resolution of the consolidated cases would come from the Supreme Court."

Dresslar said Lockyer is pleased with the court's action. "The people of this state need and deserve clarity on this issue as soon as possible."

TRANSITION BEGINS: ACTION WISCONSIN BECOMES FAIR WISCONSIN CAMPAIGN MODE ENDS DECEMBER 31 AS NAME CHANGE, 100 DAY PLAN ANNOUNCED

Madison - Even as its unsuccessful political campaign to defeat the recently-passed constitutional amendment banning gay civil unions and marriage enters its final days, Action Wisconsin has begun its transition back to its traditional role as the statewide, not-for-profit LGBT civil rights educational and political advocacy organization. But it will do so with a new moniker capitalizing on the good will its campaign name - Fair Wisconsin - has generated.

In a mid-December email to supporters entitled "We Heard You," the group announced it has changed its name based on results from a post-election Internet survey. Claiming 90% support "to retain the Fair Wisconsin name," the group announced its plans to switch from Action to Fair Wisconsin. The former Action Wisconsin Education Fund will also be renamed. The two organizations are respectively federally tax-exempt 501 C4 and 501 C3 groups.

Fair Wisconsin also announced a "100 Day Plan" that will also reflect the supporters' desire "to see an aggressive legislative strategy that fights for further rights for all Wisconsin fami-

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lies." Absent from the communication, however, were specifics on how the twin groups will "immediately work toward expanding legal protections for LGBT people and their families."

Several transitions were revealed in the days following the announcement. Action Wisconsin president and campaign treasurer Michael Childers had earlier announced his desire to step back after the campaign ceased at a two "retreat" for board members of the two parent organizations held at the beginning of December. Aaron Scherer of Oshkosh was elected to replace him as board president. Action Wisconsin Executive Director Chris Ott also resigned his position. Communications Director Joshua Freker was named as interim Executive Director. Freker will be assisted by Fair Wisconsin campaign manager in the transition.

Scherer explained the challenges in moving from campaign mode to long-term advocacy to the *Capital Times'* Judith Davidoff. Scherer explained the group has experienced tremendous growth since it took the lead in fighting the marriage amendment.

"Before there was talk of an amendment, Action Wisconsin had a few hundred members," he said. "Now we have over 12,000 donors and 50,000 people on our e-mail list," Scherer said. "We're so much stronger coming out of the campaign than we were prior to it. We have this tremendous base to continue to engage and mobilize to work on issues affecting gay and lesbian individuals and families."

Fair Wisconsin pledged that their long-term strategy was to "work aggressively to remove this mean-spirited amendment from our constitution and achieve full equality for all LGBT people, whether this takes two or fifteen years." In addition to political work, the group also indicated that they would "consult with legal experts to consider options for overturning the amendment through litigation."

First, however, will be Fair Wisconsin's possible involvement in the pending battle to obtain domestic partner benefits for UW faculty and staff. "If we can be influential in getting domestic partner benefits for gays and lesbians, we've impacted the most people under one employer in

the state we could possibly do," Scherer told the *Capital Times*. "Also, we want to have a great education system in Wisconsin, and part of that is being able to recruit and retain top candidates."

Additional focus will be on educating "progressive minded Wisconsinites about the harms of anti-equality legislation and lawmakers' voting records." To that end the email solicited a tax-deductible "founding gift" to the newly-renamed Fair Wisconsin Education Fund.

Freker told the *Capital Times* that the organization had enough money left from the campaign to last through this year, but it has begun soliciting funds for 2007. "For the first three months especially we'll be trying to build back up and capitalize on our increased statewide support," Freker said. "Hopefully people who were focused on the amendment will transfer into being long-term supporters."

Freker added Fair Wisconsin would also focus on the thousands of non-gay individuals who got involved in the fight against the amendment. "We're hoping to keep them on board."

JUDGE DISMISSES "NAKED BOYS SINGING" LAWSUIT

Milwaukee - Fifteen months after Milwaukee police shut down its production of "Naked Boys Singing" a federal judge has thrown out a civil rights lawsuit filed by the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center (MGAC). U.S. District Judge Charles N. Clevert Jr. dismissed the suit, saying that to proceed, the center "must establish that the violations were part of a custom or policy by the municipality."

Acting in response to a complaint filed by a local street preacher, the city's police department vice squad had shut down the nude musical revue in August 2005, allegedly because the show's producers didn't have a license.

City officials later determined that the center didn't need the license because the venue is a non-profit organization. "Naked Boys" was recast and the production ran uneventfully from October to December 2005.

The MGAC had alleged violations of free speech and due process. The lawsuit also claimed the group had been targeted because its members are gay.

That wasn't the case Clevert ruled, because members of the Milwaukee police vice squad do not have decision-making authority. "Allegations regarding a high-ranking official are insufficient when there are no allegations that the individual had any policy-making authority," Clevert wrote in his opinion.

No appeal of the ruling is planned at this time, according to MGAC offi-

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cials. The court ruling brings the troubled "Naked Boys Singing" saga to a close. It had begun with prolific, and some might say, prurient promotion. For six weeks prior to the show's original August 2005 debut, ads focusing primarily on the nudity of the cast spread through the state's gay media. However, an unretouched cover photo of the cast on the August issue of *Outbound* triggered limp advance sales and an attempt by at least one out-of-town night club to cancel a planned bus trip to the revue.

The ads also brought out the naked fury of Milwaukee street preacher Drew Heiss who filed an open records request on August 2 to see if all the appropriate licenses for the production were in place. The MGAC applied for a small theater a license request just a day later, city records indicated. However, since the license had to be approved by the common council, it was not in effect when the revue opened on August 11.

A week later "Naked Boys Singing" was caught with its licenses down as the city's vice squad shuttered the production. Director Mark Hooker claimed the shuttering was an unprecedented in the history of the show and that the police action was "mean spirited and homophobic" selective enforcement of a technicality. Within days, however, it was learned the revue had been shut down on at least four previous occasions in cities ranging from the gay mecca Provincetown to Atlanta.

The Milwaukee Gay Arts Center subsequently filed its \$630,000 claim against the city, most of which is for an alleged violation of the not-for-profits' civil rights. The City of Milwaukee later backed down on the small theater license requirement for the MGAC after reviewing documents relating to the center's not-for-profit status. The documents had been submitted with the earlier license request for a temporary Class B liquor license.

On August 30 Mayor Tom Barrett called for both a review of the city's licensing division and the police department's handling of the shutdown. Barrett later met with about fifty interested gay community members at a town hall meeting at the Milwaukee LGBT Center.

On October 29, a partially recast version of "Naked Boys Singing" re-opened for an eight week run. In November the international touring act "Puppetry of the Penis," another show noted for its frontal male nudity, put on benefit show in support of the beleaguered Milwaukee revue.

Much of the controversy had been fueled by self-promoter extraordinaire Hoffman. Until his sudden departure for Massachusetts shortly after this year's PrideFest Hoffman had served as editor of the Milwaukee gay lifestyle monthly *Queer Life*, co-director of the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center and owner of the now-shuttered InterMezzo Wine Bar. Hoffman had coordinated the MGAC's post-shutdown placement of full page advertisements in the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel on August 31 and September 2 demanding a "public apology" for the shutdown and devoted two subsequent issues of front page coverage about the imbroglio in *Queer Life*.

Quest

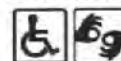
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Rehearsals begin Wednesday, January 17.

WISCONSIN CREAM CITY CHORUS "WHY WE SING" CONCERT SET

Milwaukee - The Wisconsin Cream City Chorus will kick off its concert season on Saturday, January 13 with the presentation of "Why We Sing." According to Kristen L. Weber, Interim Artistic Director for the group's 20th Anniversary season, "Why We Sing" celebrates song and all that it brings to each of our lives. "We're a community chorus, and we're in this for the joy of singing. If there's any group in Milwaukee that understands why we sing, it's the WCCC," she said.

Chorus publicist Emory Churness added, "Song is one of the most powerful forces in the world, crossing all boundaries and drawing us closer together. Although expressions of the love of music vary, the existence of that love, of that power in music, is universal." Churness noted that Weber has created a delightful and heart-warming selection of songs, including two numbers for which alumni members are being invited to sing with the current ensemble.

"Why We Sing" will begin at 7:30 PM. Doors open at 7. Tickets are \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door, and are available through chorus members or by contacting the chorus office at 414-276-8787. Student and group rates are also available upon request.

For more information about the chorus, its 20th Anniversary season and alumni opportunities, visit the Chorus' website at: www.creamcitychorus.org. The site has been completely redesigned and greatly expanded as part of the WCCC's anniversary revitalization. The chorus may also be contacted at 315 W. Court Street, Suite 101, Milwaukee, WI 53212.

LaCage Owners Michael & Kris Celebrate Their First Year



Milwaukee - On January 7 the city's premiere dance club LaCage will begin its 24th year of operation. However, less than two weeks ago on December 15, co-owners Michael Jost and Kris Heindel celebrated their first year as new owners of the landmark club. *Quest's* Mike Fitzpatrick sat down with Michael to review the partners' freshman year at the helm and their plans for the future.

Quest: As one of the co-owners of the premiere dance bar for the last year, is it all that you expected it to be?

Jost: It has been everything I expected to be and so much more! It's been very time consuming, at times (has) been very frustrating, very fun, very exciting - it's run the whole gamut.



Quest: What has been the biggest change in the bar since you've taken over?

Jost: Kris and I are very motivated and dedicated to serve the community and to make LaCage continue on for as long as the community wants it. To be perfectly honest with you, we did not buy (the bar) for "us." We did not buy it for the money because finances are much tighter than anyone would ever think they are.

We bought the club and the business for the community. We genuinely wanted it to stay in the community. We did not want a developer to come along and changing it into something else: turning it into condos or turning it into a straight bar.

Kris is very dedicated to providing a fun, prosperous work environment for our staff. We also dedicated to providing a fun, ever-changing environment for our customers.

Quest: What things do you see happening in the next year?

Jost: Kris and I have been striving to give back to the community through special shows and helping build the drag community. (Milwaukee's) drag community is so prevalent once again - it has really come back a lot. LaCage and Triangle have tried really hard to bring (female impersonation) back to life again.

Another thing for the community will be for the second floor (of the club) to be opened up. People are looking for a decent gay restaurant. We want the second floor to become a lounge and restaurant. That's something that will be coming up this year.

Quest: What was your take on the recent Miss Gay Wisconsin USofA 2007 pageant?

Jost: Kristopher and I were both very impressed with it. We were impressed with the performances, the quality of the candidates. We were impressed with (pageant producers) Dan and Kylie. And we loved working with Za - We love him. We think he's great.

Quest: What do you see as being the biggest challenge in being a bar owner in the gay community these days?

Jost: Keeping the club fresh, keeping it inviting, (and) keeping talented people on staff.

Quest: What are your plans for New Year's Eve?

Jost: We're going to have two different catered food buffets, and a huge, all over the bar, balloon drop. We'll be having free champagne at midnight. A good time will be had by all I'm sure! People are still talking about last year's party!

Quest: And what's beyond 2007?

Jost: Well, while it was Kris and my first anniversary of owning LaCage, it is going to be 24 years old in January: one year to the prelude of the 25th Anniversary. We will try to make a big deal out of that this year so we can make a humongous deal out of (the silver anniversary) next year!



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Diversion of the Day

Quest's Events Calendar

Friday, December 29

KRUZ (Milw) Jerry & Serge Annual Christmas Party. Invitation Not Required

Saturday, December 30

Club 1226 (Oshkosh) Holiday Show 10:30pm No Cover, Drink Specials

La Cage (Milw) Let's Dance Party! The last Saturday night dance party of 2006 & pre-lude to New Year's Eve. 2-4-1 Drinks in LaCage Half Price Cover 10-11:30

Sunday, December 31

Art Bar (Milw) New Year's Eve Bash 2007 Live music w/ Hannah Wolff Band 11pm Free breakfast buffet 2 am

Ballgame (Milw) Open round the clock Buffet at 1 am

BOOM & The Room (Milw) New Year's Eve Extravaganza with Adult Film Star Cole Ryder. Free Champagne Toast at Midnite, No cover

City Lights Chill (Milw) Open 40 hours! Pajama Party 2am-8am Games, snacks, appetizers.

Club 5 (Madison) Champagne toast & Balloon drop at Midnight, Best of 2006 Countdown with DJ Tony Ritschard

Club ICON (Kenosha) Champagne Masquerade Party 2 Food Buffets. One hour of Open Bar, Champagne fountain, Party makers, cameos and a contest for the best mask with a \$100 prize. Designated Drivers drink free soda and water.

FLUID (Milw) Open 11am for Packer game Free Cham[agne at Midnight, No Cover Midnight Buffet Open 39 hours!

Harbor Room (Milw) 43 Hours consecutive New Years Eve Celebration. Free favors, free champagne, free buffet, no cover.

La Cage (Milw) 2 Catered Buffets throught the evening, Doors open 9pm Champagne toast & huge balloon drop at midnight

Milwaukee Pumphouse(Milw) Grand Opening Celebration!

Madison Gay Video Club New Year's Eve Party - Boys Life Marathon-20 short films, "Nominees for Best DVD's of 2006-GayVN Awards" 8pm (608)244-8675

Napalese Lounge (Green Bay) Bear Club for Men Party: Pack vs Bears noon then Olar Bear Picnic with a Bear BeachWear Contest Raffles.

Switch (Milw) New Year's Eve Karaoke 8pm - 3am

Saturday, January 6

Madison Gay Video Club A Love to Hide (France) and La Dolce Vita 8pm (608)244-8675 evenings or www.mgvc.org

Wednesday, January 10

BESDT Clinic Testing at Midtowne Spa (Milw) 6 - 9 pm

Saturday, January 13

Cream City Chorus (Milw) Presents Why We Sing. 7:30 pm at Plymouth Church UCC 2717 E. Hampshire Ave. Tickets \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door.

CrossRoads (Appleton) Cast Show tonight

Tazzbah (Milw) Craig & Jim's Birthday Party 11pm

Saturday, January 20

Madison Gay Video Club First Out: Collection of Award Winning Shorts also Caged Men (Hungary) 8pm (608)244-8675 evenings or www.mgvc.org

Tazzbah (Milw) Great Lake's Harley Riders Beer Bust and raffle prizes. 10 pm

Tuesday, January 23

BESDT Clinic Testing at Midtowne Spa (Milw) 6 - 9 pm

Saturday, January 27

This Is It (Milw) Three Strikes Prod & Black Male Entertainment's 3rd Anniversary Bash with Milwaukee Exotic Male Dancers Showtime 11 pm Hosted by Kenny Fletcher & Tank Jones

Saturday, January 27

Tazzbah (Milw) Tazzbah's 2nd Anniversary Celebration! 11 pm

Sunday, January 28

FLUID (Milw) DRAG QUEEN BINGO! and a Silent Auction to benefit Aardvark's Softball Team. 4 pm.



new years eve

2007

sunday, december 31st

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I never get invited to the GOOD parties!

Tony Ritschard sent these from one of those Saturday night parties at Club 5 that got "kinda crazy! We can see fun was had by all!

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Ask the Irreverent, Uncle Barbie

Disclaimer: Although the author of this syndicated column holds a doctorate in clinical psychology, the tongue-in-cheek advice given is for entertainment only and is not a substitute for therapy. Send your questions to: AskUncleBarbie@msn.com

Dear Barbie,

Do you feel that there is a valid gay community in the Twin Ports area, or is it in need of more activities to promote unity?

-- Singed, Hopeless in the City.

Hello Hopeless,

Yes, there is a valid gay community here. And of course, there is always the need to promote more unity. Personally, I feel that the gay community here is growing. Ask yourself this question, "What can I do to make things better?" You may want to get involved with some gay group in order to make a positive change. There are plenty of organizations to join and gay social groups to meet new people. Just look in this publication, and you will see plenty of different clubs, associations and groups with activities.

-- Hopeful for the Future, Barbie

Dear Barbie,

I just got out of a long-term relationship that lasted about 2.5 years. What can I do to help

myself recuperate? In other words, I've been sad and depressed lately. What can I do to help myself move on? Also, where is a good place to go to meet suitable dating partners, and not just people who only want me from the neck down? -- Signed, Sad Eyes.

Hello Sad Eyes,

It has been my experience that a loss (no matter what it is) needs to be mourned and worked through. Let your emotions run their course. Don't try to repress your emotions. Instead, talk out your feelings with a caring friend or a professional counselor. As far as your other question, regarding where to meet new partners, try the Women's Center, or Men's Center, a gay friendly church, the library, cafes, the supermarket and so on. My advice is to stay away from the bars—unless it makes you feel good to go to bed with people who have more problems than you do. Get rid of the baggage first, and then open yourself up to new possibilities.

Wishing You Silver Linings, Barbie



Dear Uncle Barbie,

How come ten percent of society is gay or lesbian? -- Singed, 10%er

Hello Ten Percenter,

I think that the percentage of people in any given population that is gay or lesbian is pretty constant throughout history. Globally the percentage changes slightly over time. However, it stays pretty much the same generation after generation in all different cultures. It is worth noting that some cultures try to deny having gays and lesbian in their societies. However when sociologists look a little further into those cultures, they discover that there is, indeed, roughly about 10% of the population is gay and lesbian.

I remember a report that I heard on the news back in the 1970's. The reporter stated that the communist government of China (red China) released a statement stating that there were no homosexuals in their society. Of course, there were. It's just that sometime politics likes to cover up the facts.


Anyhow, to answer your question, the reason why 10% of society is gay or lesbian is multi-causal. In other words, there are many dynamics that come into play when factoring in the elements of sexual orientation. For example, biological contributions, prenatal hormonal levels, environmental factors and of course, personal experiences all blend together to create an individual's sexual orientation. It's really quite complex because there are different degrees of sexuality—including bisexuality. Not all gay sexuality is the same; just like not all heterosexuality is the same. Everyone is an individual, and I am sure that if you talk to 100 different people, you will find that each one has a unique sexuality. The important thing is to find a way to freely express your sexuality in a respectable manner that does not harm or violate the rights of anyone else. Just be yourself. -- Peace Out, Barbie.

Please Have a Safe and Happy New Year.

If you are going out, please arrange for a designated driver, or take a taxi home!



MILWAUKEE PUMPHOUSE MANAGERS PREVIEW NEW YEAR'S EVE DEBUT



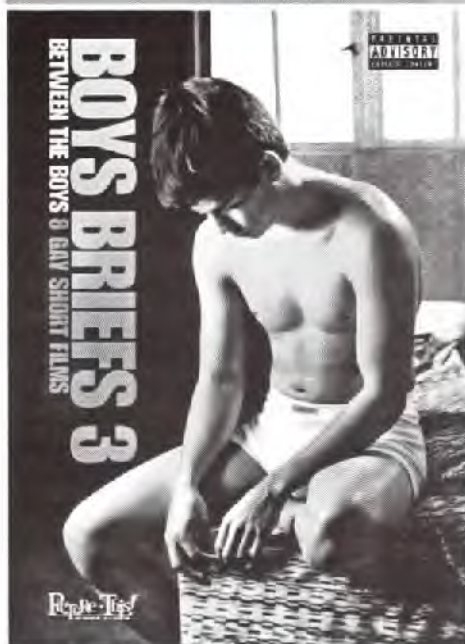
Milwaukee - December 31 will mark the opening of what some are calling Milwaukee's newest treasure. The Milwaukee PumpHouse is co-managed by two of the gay community's best known bar personalities: ex-Harbor Room manager Bobby Nollenberg and former Walker's Pint co-owner Becky Persin. Both took time out of their busy schedules to chat with *Quest's* Mike Fitzpatrick about the new lounge and the buzz surrounding its opening.

Bobby feels the building alone will "sell itself." "It will be a relaxing atmosphere, everyone will feel welcome and have a good time," Nollenberg said. "We've tried to keep the original charm of the building (in the renovation)." Bobby noted the building is two stories with an upper and lower deck, with the middle of the upper level open to the first floor. Decorators utilized the Depression Era building's cream city brick and metal in the concept.

The bar will open mid-to-late afternoon on New Year's Eve. "We're still talking about exactly when we'll be opening," Bobby said. The bar will be open non-stop until 2AM on January 2.

Becky thinks the word is getting out about the new lounge. "Week in, week out there's been a neon sign lit but nobody knows what's going on there," Persin said. "the buzz is getting out that there's this great bar going to open up ... that's gonna have a whole different feel within the city of Milwaukee." Persin also feels the PumpHouse's location will be a drawing point. "We will have access for outside seating... (and) the boat slips' access on the river," she noted. "(Owners) Michael and David are interested in bringing up potential customers from the Chicago area (since it's) not far off the freeway with easy on-off access." Another special feature will be 25 cent taps of Sprecher's Root Beer. "It's not alcoholic, but it's something that's going to be different and unique." — By Mike Fitzpatrick

NEW ON DVD by Glenn Bishop **Boys Briefs 3**



Top of Glenn's stack of New DVD Releases is "Boys Briefs 3", the latest in a series of gay short film compilations from Picture This Entertainment. Well, it is their latest compilation at least until **Boys Briefs 4** turns up - possibly as soon as next week.

December looks to be a bountiful month for excellent short films.

Subtitled "Between the Boys", **Boys Briefs 3** offers eight different films about hooking up. Much like Forrest Gump's infamous box of chocolates, the eight films here each very different, some are very sweet while others, **"Boys Grammar"** in particular, left a bad taste in Glenn's mouth.

Highlight of **"Boys Briefs 3"** must be Garth Bardsley's adorable **"Latch Key."** While Mom's away, both Sam (Ren Casey) and his older brother Lou (William S. Caleo) have plans for some after school fun. Lou, home from college, is entertaining his old girlfriend Vanessa (Carey Macaleer) upstairs. Downstairs, Sam is getting ready for his cute friend Thomas (Brendan Bradley) to come over to watch a video. It seems that it is quite chilly in the living room, so Sam considerably has blankets at hand. Under the blankets, these boys will be boys. Things heat up nicely for both Sam and Lou until Mom pulls up in the driveway. Bardsley's final plot twist cleverly wraps up this delightful short film.

More thought provoking is director John McCrite's **"Little Boy Blues"** which stars Malcolm Gets, familiar to many loyal *Quest* readers from his co-starring turn in the popular flick, **"Adam & Steve."** Here Gets plays Michael, an artist who is still mourning the death of his lover. Sitting alone in a smoky club, Michael spies a beautiful young man at the opposite end of the bar - Zeno (Adam Bloch). Much to Michael's surprise, Zeno comes and sits down next to him. When this gorgeous young man actually wants to be taken home, Michael can't begin to believe his good luck. Or maybe not such good luck. Lurking just beneath Zeno's fit and handsome exterior lurks real danger. At Michael's apartment, the large painting of his dead lover still dominates, here paying silent witness to the sexual drama about to unfold. Quietly powerful, **"Little Boy Blues"** boasts fine performances from both Malcolm Gets and Adam Bloch's dangerous dark angel.

Dean Francis' **"Boys Grammar"** is an even more disturbing film. Gareth (Matt Levett), a sensitive student - read that gay - is bullied and then raped at his exclusive boys school by some older classmates, led by handsome Nick (Tom O'Sullivan). Curiously, Nick had seemed attracted to the younger boy but such bullying is presented as a school tradition. Gareth pleads with his Dad to leave the school but an alumnus, he refuses. "What doesn't kill you makes you stronger," says Dad. To make matters even worse, Gareth's brother James brings Nick home for dinner. Can Gareth confront his tormentor?



Buy It, Rent It or Forget It

One of the drawbacks to all of the **Boys Briefs** entries is the use of a twinkie host to introduce each short film. In **"Boys Briefs 3"** it is the scantily clad Erwin Saracho G offering the insipid commentary. Better to watch each short in the desired order and then to watch the Filmmakers interviews contained in the Special Features section. The shorts programs at Gay Film Fests are inevitably some of the most entertaining and stimulating and the eight collected here for **"Boys Briefs 3"** are unlikely to disappoint.

Just the facts...

"Boys Briefs 3" runs approx. 90 minutes. Most of the shorts are in English, although Roberto Fiesco's **"David"** is in Spanish with English subtitles. DVD extras consist of Filmmakers interviews.



Other shorts include Samuel Park's charming **"Shakespeare's Sonnets,"** inspired by his recently released novel of the same title as well as the erotically-charged **"David"** from director Roberto Fiesco.



Triangle Bar, Milwaukee hosts a show featuring guys and "girls" from Club ICON, Kenosha as well as a few local performers... Photos by Sharkey



Thank You SIR: *by Jeff Hicks*

How good was the old?

In the last issue I talked about the "Old guard" It wasn't very safe by yourself causing many leather folks to stick close and keep very secretly to themselves. But this started to change in the early 70's. The Leathermans Handbook was out in print. More information was becoming available. More people began to let their Kinky side have some expression. Soon The word came to be : safe - sane - & consensual. Yes it took away the Excitement and thrill of the 'unknown, unpredictable, unsafe, and very uncertain aspect of the old way. All of that had with it an ultimate thrill and anxiety, that gave every scene just a little more edge. However, not everyone was into the ultimately unknown outcome type of scene. The new realized that the fantasy of the ultimate scene was quite a thrill but not everyone was ready to put that fantasy into real action. That is alright. Many of the old tolerated more than they were ready for just because if they didn't they might not have any scenes at all. The new was bringing into being a space and tolerance for players of Many levels. There are today many "Edge" players who scene without safe words. Without any limits. With no guarantees of safety, physically, mentally, or medically. Is the new better? Or the Old? That depends on your point of view. Just about everyone in the Leather community has a slightly different opinion on this point. Personally I prefer the behavior and protocol expectations of the Old. They are based on Emily Post and military discipline any way. Some degree of the old *Risk* and *thrill*, is very enjoyable. To take it too far and risk life and limb is just a bit more than everyone can be expected to do. So ; Whatever level you wish to practice, If it suits you - it is appropriate. If it doesn't suit some of your friends, it is still appropriate for you and your chosen partner(s). Leather is what you can and will make of it. Most of all: **BE YOU**. That is the only way your life will be a joy for you to live it.

upcoming events:

Argonauts of Wis. Green Bay WINTERQUEST 33 January 20, 2007
Cocktails 6:30, Dinner 8pm, Naps Lounge, 1351 Cedar St. Reservations by Jan. 12.

IF YOU KNOW OF AN EVENT YOU WANT LISTED, JUST LET ME KNOW. or have any questions. bdsmbboy1971@sbcglobal.net.



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Two responsible Roommates Wanted to share clean house near stadium (**Green Bay**) \$350 /month covers everything. Must be clean. BJ's whenever you want. Avail Now (920)327-0160

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Furnished. Large closets DSL connection & Satellite avail [you pay \$5 for box] Kitchen privileges etc. Downtown. fmi Mike at (920)436 9032 [2]

Pewaukee. Looking for a roommate to share a furnished home, except your rooms, bedroom, den, bath, two levels all amenities included. Quiet, close to the lake and 194 n/s clean /neat \$450/month (262)691-4812 or (414)708-8878 [2]

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Interested in trading or watching Bel Ami videos? **Wausau** (715)845-6467 [1]

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Home Services, cleaning, painting, snow removal, cleanouts, minor home repairs, any odd job. Good rates and references. Jay (414) 769-0601. **Milwaukee** & surrounding area.

Louies Handyman Elf Special! 65 & Older in SE Wis obtain first 5 hours of job at \$9/hr. Painting, cleanup, minor carpentry... Tooled, though rental may be necessary. (414)297-9790 [1/10]

Looking for Male Dancers for Tuesdays & Fridays. Inquire@ (414)469-7972

Join our team! Home of Wisconsin's largest gay danceclub, LaCage is currently hiring for the following positions: Experienced and licensed bartenders, Security, Servers, and Bar Backs. You must be at least 21 years old and have availability on weekends after 10 pm. If you're interested, please visit us in ETC (lower level of LaCage) anytime after 5 pm daily. No phone calls please.

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Treat yourself to a very relaxing **full body massage**. Ladies welcome, too! **Green Bay/Fox Valley** area. Page me (920) 613-3835 [2/7]

Have you tried my outstanding sensual massage?! BiWM, 30, 165 lbs., in A-1 physical shape, has an introductory offer of \$75 for 45 min. Haven't been in Milwaukee all that long; hope to meet you soon. 7 days. Tom. (414) 322-0043. New to gay scene.

Full Body Massage, an exhilarating experience, \$55/hr. \$75 for 90 min. (414)378-9838 SWSide Milw. [1/10]

Fox Valley Area: If you are looking for that great massage then give me a call and let my hands do the walking. **I'm running a special - First Massage full price, second one half price.** Best times to call: 11am - 10pm weekdays, some weekends (920)707-6467 [12/27]

FREE relaxing/erotic full-body massage, nude, one hour, for h/wt proportionate (slender) single guys/gals. Men of color a plus, mutual touch. I am 5'11", 165#, 34" w. Near Milw Mitchell Airport (414)852-8845 [1/10]

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PERSONALS

Two novice but serious Masters in Green Bay looking for PT/FT slave. You must be eager to please. Fetishes include leather, humiliation, water-sports, diapers, bondage, and more. E-mail contact must include a photo. SIRSinGB@yahoo.com [1]

40 year old open minded hard working gwm hobbies include floral, gardening,

movies, light drinking, seeks same for fun to serious relationship. race age background not important. animal lover a must! no drugs. safer sex! hiv+ ok email fletcher520@gmail.com [1]

I'm in 40s looken for friends. **Just moved back from Florida.** Like to meet other guys in Central WI area. I'm 5' 7" 167# br hair, gm eyes, gotee. Like camping, fishing trips,

movies, a good time with another guy. Very lonely, have one very nice friend so far, like to meet others. Also room for rent and apt in dorchester 715-654 5044 email rechot@aol.com [1]

Penpals needed! Want positive folks (18 & over) with whom to communicate. Am waiting to hear from you. Scott Nelson, PO Box 800, Mauston, WI 53948. [1]

I'm fun, mature, healthy, varied interests, sitting-active nature-travel, seeks buddy, soulmate even better, prefers over 55 or mature thinker! 773-585-6275 Tommy or leave number! [1]

Attention BiGay; 6'2" GWM seeks oral, anal sex. I am 270#. Would prefer 160-250# hairy or smooth. anyone in Wausau area call (715)297-2180 7am-7pm any day I am disease free. [1]

M/F Couples, I am 37 yo WM 5'6" 145# 29" waist smooth, 6", dark hair, hazel eyes, attractive in shape looking for attractive in shape 18-37 M/F couples for 3 ways (906)280-7081 Upper Michigan [1]

GWM 57 5'8" 185# looking for friendship/LTR. Someone who likes outdoors, quiet evenings, movies, eating out, travel. No one night stands. Serious only. D/D, N/S. Responsible & dependable. Green Bay/Fox Valley (715)927-8700 [1]

GWM 44 yo ISO fun loving GWM Please be 21-50yo only for LTR in Rock County area. Send reply to: Occupant 6221/2 West Drive Room 5 Beloit, WI 53511 Please be discreet when sending reply. all replys answered. [1]

SWM 5'11" 138# 50yo hung, shaved, pierced nipples looking for T.S/T.V's or bi males. Have place to meet 920-660-9187 Green Bay area [1]

Strap On Sally! Looking for a girl or girls or tansexual to pleasure me anal. Want some discreet fun? Sexy fit, ND, No STD's. give me a call Michael 2 6 2 - 9 0 2 - 2 7 9 2 Racine/Kenosha area. [1]

I'm a naughty little cow! Fun boy seeking weekend companionship in Milwaukee or Racine area. Into spanking, star Trek and Squishees [1]

West Bend area 46yo GWM Br/Br 195# looking for friendship/relationship. I'm a smoker w/ speech imp. May be willing to relocate. No games please. 262-335-4214 [1]

All Male Chat! 18+ record & listen FREE! (920) 431-9000 code 4120 [P]

UWSP Students Wanted to form Chess Club in Stevens Point. Call Frank (715)345-9613 [2]

Friend or someone special wanted, pen pal, travel partner, love Vegas, beaches, camping, fishing, hiking! 3658 W. 79th, Chicago. I'll call u or 773-569-6333 Tom. or any new or 2nd job wanted / considered! [2]

Bi WM 57yo 5'11", 160#, 33" w 7" cut ISO F/F, M/F couples and full figured ladies Bi or S8 for sexual pleasure. Reply to RJ, P.O. Box 142 West Bend, WI 53095 [2]

Wanted M & F Lovers of Fetish, leather, rubber, B&D, Furniture, Crossdress clothing, corsets, boots, erotic movies... Add to my collection & enjoyment. Let's talk. Can trade or buy Lyle, Milw (414)321-8005 7am-10pm

52 yo from Racine wishes to meet a mature man. Call Stephan (262)994-7023 [2]

Man on Man Fun! 18+ Record & Listen FREE! (920) 431-9000, code 4166 [P]

Physically fit, slender, 5'11" Long legs, 160#, openminded WM., loves to dress up **SEXY/SLUTTY/VERY HOT!!!** ISO other CD's, must be fit. Openminded couples, single females or fit blacks most welcomed. 100% discretion. E-mail me rswhite@wi.rr.com [2]

GWM, 6'4, 230lbs, hazel eyes, short brown hair. Looking for Mr. Right, who enjoys quiet nights at home, who enjoys watching TV, spending time together, who is honest, loving, caring, enjoys each others company. Looking for a long-term relationship, tired of short ones. Also enjoys out-door activate, going places and meeting new people, and dancing and going to nightclubs. [2]

Submissive, 52 yo seeking a disciplinarian and owner. Master will be catered to as he deserves to be. He will have



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Hi guys, I want kinky e-mails. I'm 42, in good shape. I love older, younger and middle aged men. E-mail me and let's see what POPS-UP 8675309@charter.net [2]

Looking for chubs-big bears in N.E.W./Greenbay. I'm 56 yrs. 230 lbs. 5'10" blue eyes enjoy music, outdoors, looking for someone between 40-65. dave 920-680-2041 [2]

30 yo GWM 165# 5'8" looking for discreet group adult fun in **Green Bay** area. (920)412-0083 [2]

56 yo single WM 6'1" 200# br hair bl eyes ISO 45-60 yo st8 acting man free of any addictions. Should have a very hairy chest and back & likes outdoor life. I live **50 miles north of Green Bay** Call Ron (920)897-2468 [2]

CLOSETED, WM, Spice up LTR overly vanilla relationship. ISO age difference 60+, good conversation before/after flaming sex. Fetishes/cockrings, endowed men. Me: adult son, 6'2", 250#, masculine, nice package, bottom S/F-buddy, meet at Ballys-Hawley Rd., Milw bath/your place. spycdude@aol.com [3]

BiWM58 5'11.180#I I'm a Crossdressers Bl/BrI'm looking for some new friends that are into oral? Like giving oral to a lesbian partner, but also open to a male. Would also get together with married couples. I can travel Dianne572006@yahoo.com

Chub seeks chaser in Madison. 39 yr old, six-foot three-400lbs, professional please email- sean-npaul@yahoo.com [3]

I'm fun, mature, healthy as 19, varied interests, sitting-active, nature-travel seeks buddy, soul mate even better, prefer over 55 or anyone mature thinking! Illinois 773-585-6275 tommy or lv number. I'll also consider holding companion position! [3]

Milwaukee area, DWM, 6-2, 180, mid-50s, br/bl, Libra, retired human services professional, solid values, good conversationalist, politically progressive, healthy lifestyle, straight-acting, sense of humor, into arts and travel; ISO similar male, preferably of color (especially African American), 40-60, d/d-free, bayviewboy1009@yahoo.com

WM, 37, 5'9", 170#, 6" cut. Looking for in shape men to give head to (I swallow), up to four men. Must be disease free, your place on Sundays, Milwaukee-Waukesha area. E-mail moon-scape2006@yahoo.com. [3]

Bottom guy, Green Bay wants thick hung tops with low hangers. Dangle them in my face or plow my behind. Also searching for new exciting friendships. Works all shifts, mostly third. Hard to get me, keep trying, live alone discreet. (920)497-2522 [3]

GWM 40 6'2" 190lbs N.S. Looking 4 someone in Oshkosh/Valley area for get togethers & friendship. Not into bar scene, I'm a non-drinker, prefer someone 18-35 email BSCBRY@hotmail.com will replay all. [3]

Fun Top 7 1/2 cut artist 35yr 5'11" 185, clean cut, hazel eyes, digs cats out of Rockford seeks traveling bottom, Call Del "Cool Cat, (815)962-4221 [3]



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Beloit, (608)361-0000

Club 5 Bar/Restaurant 5 Applegate Ct
Madison, (608)277-9700

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Shamrock 117 W Main St.,
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