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Also, visit us on the web at <http://www.mattflynnforcongress.org/>
Sponsored by GLBT for Flynn, Andy Schauer and Craig Schoenung, Co-Chairs.

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Matt Flynn
for U.S. CONGRESS

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Vol. 11 #17 ~ Sept. 2 - 15, 2004



INSIDE

GAY.COM ANNOUNCES FINALISTS IN MR. GAY.COM 2004 CONTEST
from Honolulu, Hawaii Michael Lunde

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OR GWM, 5'10", 245, shaved head, goatee, pierced & tattooed, bearcamper43@yahoo.com.

Contact either or both. Leave name, phone no. & short message. Your pic will get ours. [2]

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Republicans Endorse Ban on Gay Marriages, Civil Unions & Employee Benefits

New York - Republicans endorsed an uncompromising position against any recognition of gay unions August 25. A panel made up largely of conservative delegates approved platform language that calls for a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage, and opposes legal recognition of any sort for gay couples.

Republican gay activists sharply criticized their party for adopting a hard line in advance of a convention that will seek support from swing voters and more liberal Republicans. Christopher Barron of the Log Cabin Republicans was livid after the panel endorsed the first-ever call for a constitutional gay-marriage ban in a GOP platform and went beyond that to oppose legal recognition of any same-sex unions. "You can't craft a vicious, mean-spirited platform and then try to put lipstick on the pig by putting Rudy Giuliani and Arnold Schwarzenegger on in prime time," Barron said, referring to the bevy of GOP moderates that will speak during prime time viewing hours at this week's convention.

Former GOP presidential candidate Gary Bauer, who has campaigned for the marriage amendment as president of the group American Values, said the platform draft solidifies the GOP as the "party of hearth and home."

Andrea Lafferty of the Traditional Values Coalition advised the national network of conservative churches not to worry about the religious right's low profile in prime time next week, given the advances against gay rights. "Don't be distracted by Schwarzenegger or Giuliani or even the vice president," Lafferty said. "It is what George Bush says that counts and he has been faithful and fearless on this important issue." Lafferty dismissed the other side as "RINOs" - Republicans in Name Only.

Following the initial committee meeting, religious activists and like-minded delegates tried over the next two days and one night of hearings to tug an already conservative document farther to the right. At their urging, the party went beyond its unprecedented call for a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage to go on record, too, as opposing all legal recognition of gay unions, including shared employee benefits.

Overall, Republican convention delegates

overwhelmingly disapprove of gay marriage, according to an Associated Press survey of about three-quarters of the 2,500-plus delegates. About 72% said they opposed same-sex nuptials, while only 2% favored it. A quarter of the delegates would not respond or claimed they had no opinion.

Cheney's Gay Marriage Comments Criticized

Davenport, IA - Vice President Dick Cheney drew criticism from foes of gay marriage after he distanced himself from President Bush's call for a constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage. When asked about his stand on gay marriage at a campaign rally here August 24, Cheney responded by saying "freedom means freedom for everyone."

The questioner asked: "I need to know, Sir,



Compiled and written by Mike Fitzpatrick

from your heart - I don't want to know what your advisers think or even your top adviser (an apparent reference to Cheney's lesbian daughter Mary) - I need to know, what do you think about homosexual marriages?"

"Lynne and I have a gay daughter, so it's an issue our family is very familiar with," Cheney replied in part. "People ought to be free to enter into any kind of relationship they want to." The Vice President continued by concurring with his wife Lynne's July remarks that the issue should be left to the states to decide.

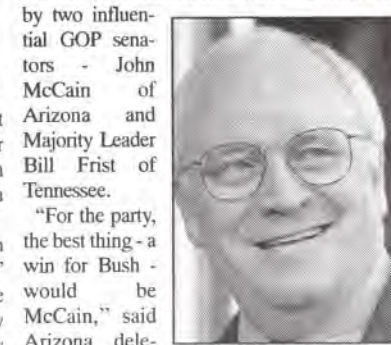
Addressing Bush's support of the antigay Federal Marriage Amendment, Cheney said: "At this point, say, my own preference is as I've stated, but the president makes policy for the administration. He's made it clear that he does, in fact, support a constitutional amendment on this issue."

Cheney's comments drew criticism from the conservative Family Research Council. "I find it hard to believe the vice president

would stray from the administration's position on defense policy or tax policy," FRC President Tony Perkins said. "For many pro-family voters, protecting traditional marriage ranks ahead of the economy and job creation as a campaign issue. We urge Vice President Cheney to support President Bush and a constitutional amendment on marriage."

On August 26 Democratic vice presidential candidate John Edwards took Cheney to task on the gay marriage issue using unusually harsh words at a Colorado forum that included undecided voters. Edwards, responding to a question about the Democratic ticket's stance on civil unions, referenced Cheney's remarks by noting that "the vice president disagrees with the president on this." Then referring to Cheney, Edwards said sarcastically "Somebody forgot to tell him what he was supposed to say I guess."

Cheney's comments also appeared to have stirred renewed speculation about replacing him on the Bush ticket. An August 26 Associated Press poll found that more than half the delegates to the Republican National Convention were willing to suggest a new running mate for President Bush if Dick Cheney leaves the ticket. Secretary of State Colin Powell and former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani top the list. National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice was third followed by two influential GOP senators - John McCain of Arizona and Majority Leader Bill Frist of Tennessee.



Vice President Cheney

"For the party, the best thing - a win for Bush - would be McCain," said Arizona delegate William Wiess Jr.. "I think he brings the party more toward the moderate flanks."

Both of Cheney's daughters are working on his campaign. Mary Cheney, who was present at the Davenport rally, is director of vice presidential operations for the Bush-Cheney reelection campaign. She also held a public role as her father's assistant in the 2000 campaign and helped the GOP recruit gay voters during the 2002 midterm elections.

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GWM, 28, 5'9", 150, lonely quiet guy seeking friendship/relationship guys, 18-28. I'm good looking, smooth chest, good build. Write w/ photo: Josh, 10457 Pine Rd., Bear Creek, WI 54922 [1]

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MAYOR KILLS GAY PRIDE DECLARATION

California: Citing a wave of angry opposition from residents, Bakersfield Mayor Harvey Hall abandoned plans August 23 to declare a local Gay Pride Day. Hall originally had intended to make the declaration during a Kern County Pride event September 4 in downtown Bakersfield. Though claiming that opposition to the Gay Pride event "disappointed" him, Hall announced in a prepared statement that he would bow to the feelings of "the majority of the community."

The Bakersfield City Clerk's office was swamped by over 300 phone calls plus additional e-mails. Only five calls were received approving of the planned proclamation.

Writers and callers expressed outrage and threatened to vote the mayor and members of the City Council out of office if they didn't reverse the decision. "There is absolutely no reason to have a 'celebration' of gay pride in this community. A pox on all of you," one protester wrote.

Valerie Carskaddon, another protester said she heard about Hall's plan at Valley Baptist Church, where members were encouraged, after the sermon, to share their opposition with city leaders. She said Hall overstepped his position with the proclamation. "He's speaking for everyone when he endorses this," she said. "Most people in Bakersfield support family values and not a gay pride event."

Kern County Pride organizer Whitney Weddell who had asked for the proclamation was disappointed by the mayor's decision. "Clearly he intends to be the mayor for everybody but us," she said. "That's OK. Now we know how we stand. The Kern County Pride event will continue without his help."

The flood of negative response to Hall's original proclamation plan prompted Bakersfield City Council members to spread the word that Hall's decision wasn't supported by them. Vice Mayor David Couch said he wanted to "let people know that these proclamations are not things we vote on. They are handled administratively through the mayor's office."

The turmoil seems to have started when Weddell wrote a small story about the Kern County Pride event mentioning the proclamation for *The Blackboard*, a local alternative newspaper. "Apparently the conservatives read the local liberal paper," she said. "They're making this out as a drag-fest orgy. It's not. We were just going to have a nice day with our families in the park."

GAY ACTIVISTS ANNOUNCE PLANS FOR NATIONAL ECONOMIC BOYCOTT

Georgia: According to activists at the planned national Boycott For Equality, the U.S. lesbian and gay population spends an average of \$1.4 billion each day, totaling \$500 billion a year. Boycott For Equality is organizing a one-day nationwide economic "walkout" on October 8, 2004 to make that point clear.

The one-day event is designed to highlight the contribution that lesbians and gays make to the domestic economy and tax base, at the same time they are denied the full legal protections and civil liberties afforded heterosexual Americans.



"We want to remind those in our nation who don't always see the impact of our community in terms of dollars and cents that we do have real market power," said Boycott for Equality Co-Founder Dale Duncan. "We were inspired by Don't Amend Founder Robin Tyler's famous quip, 'If being gay is a disease, let's all call in sick to work' and decided to put those words into action."

Up to twenty-seven million Americans identify as being primarily lesbian or gay, yet no Federal law provides protection from discrimination in the workplace and many State and Federal laws prohibit access to the rights and responsibilities of marriage.

According to the Washington D.C.-based public relations firm Witeck-Combs Communications, the nation's LGBT population contributed an estimated \$500 billion to the U.S. marketplace in 2003, while The University of Georgia's Selig Center at the Terry College of Business estimates that the African-American, Hispanic, Asian and Native-American markets contribute \$688 billion, \$653 billion, \$344 billion, and \$45 billion respectively.

"This event brings into focus the economic contribution of LGBT citizens," said Duncan. "And people understand money. The response so far has been tremendous."

Major groups that have endorsed or encouraged Boycott for Equality Day include the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Don't Amend: The Equality Campaign, *The Advocate*, Civil Marriage US, DC Diversity, Equality Illinois and Wyoming Equality. Additionally, comic Margaret Cho's website, www.loveisloveislove.com, has listed Boycott For Equality Day as one of the "12 Things You Can Do" to promote gay and lesbian equality.

October 8 falls on a Friday, and the following Monday is National Coming Out Day, Duncan explained. "It seemed like a great time to make our presence felt."

Boycott For Equality is an Atlanta-based non-profit formed to promote the boycott, scheduled this year for October 8. For that day, LGBT Americans and their straight allies are encouraged to withdraw from the economy in three specific areas: 1) Do not purchase anything. Do not generate sales tax or business revenue. 2) Don't work. Take the day off - do not generate payroll taxes, income taxes or add to the economy. 3) Do not use cell phones. Dropping out of the communication network is a way to measure the impact of your presence.

For more information, visit www.boycottforequality.org



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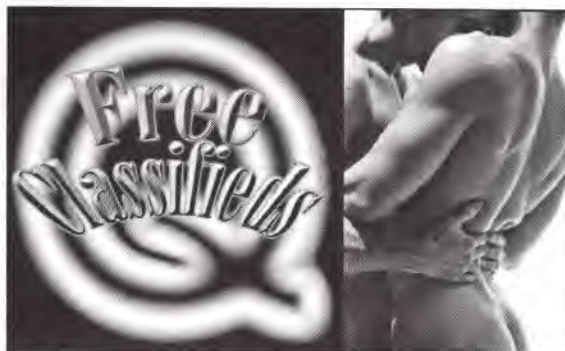
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COURT RULES ON LESBIAN CHILD SUPPORT CASE

Massachusetts: A woman who agreed to have a child with her lesbian partner, but split up with the mother before the baby's birth, cannot be forced to pay child support, the state's highest court ruled August 25. The split ruling by the Supreme Judicial Court - which legalized gay marriage in a landmark ruling last year - comes in the case of a lesbian couple, identified in court documents as "T.F." and "B.L." who lived together from 1996 to 2000. B.L. at first resisted T.F.'s wishes to have a child, but later changed her mind.

The couple broke up after T.F. got pregnant by artificial insemination. After the baby was born, T.F. sued her former partner for child support. A Probate and Family Court judge turned to the state Appeals Court, which in turned passed the case the case up to the Supreme Judicial Court.

Associate Justice Judith A. Cowin wrote that the informal agreement between the two women to have a child together did not constitute an enforceable contract, and B.L. can't be forced to pay child support. Cowin wrote that B.L. is "legally a stranger to the child" because she did not adopt the boy and has no long-standing relationship with him.

Three justices - including Chief Justice Margaret Marshall, who wrote the ruling legalizing same-sex marriage in Massachusetts - disagreed with the majority conclusion, saying that the implied contract between the woman is enforceable. "The child may have been abandoned by the defendant, but he should not be abandoned by the court," Justice John M. Greaney wrote in the dissent.

The case predates the high court's November ruling legalizing gay marriage in Massachusetts. The court did not consider that decision in this case, saying it "stands on the same footing" as similar cases involving unmarried heterosexual couples who live together.

ANTIGAY BALLOT MEASURE STALLED BY SPLIT VOTE

Michigan: In a 2-2 vote along party lines August 23, the State Board of Canvassers denied the proposed constitutional amendment banning equal marriage rights, civil unions and benefits for domestic partners

in Michigan, a place on November's ballot. However, the vote is likely only a bump in the road, rather than a roadblock for the measure. Proponents have vowed to appeal the Board's decision in court later by week's end.

"We're still preparing to defeat this at the ballot box in November should the courts decide to overturn the Board of Canvassers' decision," said Dana Houle, political director of the Coalition for a Fair Michigan. "Past history suggests that the court will overrule the Board of Canvassers and place the issue on the ballot."

Given the deadlines for getting absentee ballots out in time, Coalition strategists believe the case will be expedited by the appeals court.

Echoing many of the concerns the Coalition for a Fair Michigan has been identifying throughout the past two months, the State Board of Canvassers member Doyle O'Conner gave several reasons why the court should not certify the proposal. O'Conner responded to the questions of attorney Steve Gost, who appeared at the hearing on behalf of the proposal's proponents.

O'Conner drilled Gost about the possible effects of the amendment on domestic partner benefits. "I don't see how you can get around [that language] outlawing domestic partner benefits," O'Conner said. "It's patently, on its face, unlawful because of the language."

O'Conner added that, in addition to denying domestic partner benefits to couples regardless of gender, the amendment would void the common-law marriages of couples who have moved to Michigan from states where such marriages are recognized by law.

Gost countered that O'Conner's concerns about the proposal's effects on domestic partner benefits were unfounded. "That's one for the courts to decide," Gost said. "No law or amendment can invalidate a contract between two parties. That's one myth the opposition has been spreading."

Jay Kaplan, the Staff Attorney for the ACLU of Michigan's LGBT Project, disagreed with Gost's assessment. "We think that the language of the amendment is talking about public employers. We think that it could invalidate contracts that provide domestic partner benefits to public employ-



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PORN REVIEWS

by Sebastian Grande

IN BED WITH

Directed by Chi Chi Larue



For the first time ever five top studios have gotten together with five hot exclusives plus other hot guys to put this movie together. In Bed With is a film that pairs all types of men together for some very enticing scenes.

Once again from the pages of Men,

Freshmen, Unzipped and [2] magazines, the hotties are out and performing write out of your favorite mags. Four great scenes with guys of all types really make this a hot movie to add to your collection. From hairy to smooth, big to bottoms this movie shows your favorite models jumping out of the pages and on to film.

The only complaint I would have for this flick is that before each scene, the boys are interviewed and give a brief history of how they got started. Then meet their partner for the first time and exchange a little banter before they go at it. It just makes it seem more like a behind the scenes than a porn.

Because of that I give this one two shots across the room.

THE MOVIE

By Chi Chi Larue

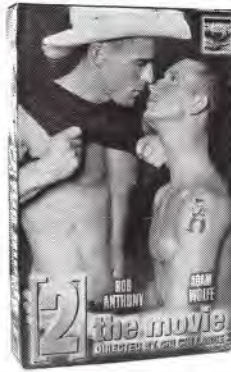
If you love the magazines the likes of Men, Freshmen, Unzipped and [2] magazines, you will probably enjoy this first installment from Unzipped Productions.

All the men in this flick are nicely built with very nice equipment. Each scene has a duo of dudes in different fantasy roles. The direc-

tion and camera angles are great, leaving nothing to the imagination. Without a twink in the bunch these men put on a good show for those who like real men going at it. If you have a subscription to any of these magazines, this is the chance to see your favorites in some hard core action.

It does not have a plot that runs throughout the whole movie just scene after scene of hot guys getting it on. Of course, what do we care? Who watches porn for plots anyway?

A definite must have for your collection. I give it three shots across the room out of five.



MARKET DAYS, CHICAGO

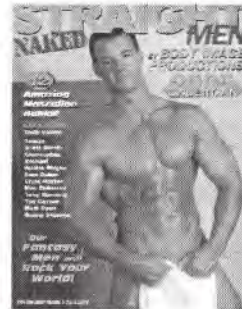
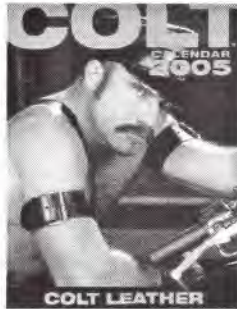
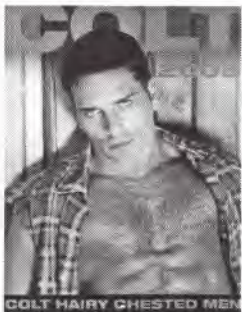
Thanx to Tony Ritschards for the pics

1. Tony with Barry Harris (formerly 1/2 of Thunderpuss) & Jason at Sound Bar, Chicago
2. Below Fabulous Soundbar Bartenders
3. Bottom Left The boys worshipping Madonna!



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ees," Kaplan told *Between The Lines*, Michigan's LGBT newspaper. According to Kaplan, the proposal's effects could also harm children. "We're concerned that this could have an impact on the dependents of domestic partners as well. It could end up taking away health insurance from children."

The proposal's supporters also seem to have consciously targeted domestic partner benefits in addition to equal marriage rights, Kaplan added. "I asked [State Senator] Alan Cropsey in September 2003, when he introduced this as legislation in the state legislature, whether the amendment would affect domestic partner benefits, and he said 'yes,'" Kaplan said.

Gost also serves as General Counsel to the Michigan Republican Party but denied any conflict of interest between his position with the Michigan GOP and his appearance before the Board on behalf of the antigay groups.

"The party doesn't pay me - these people do," Gost said. Gost also appeared before the Board in support of the Republicans' efforts to get Ralph Nader on the Michigan ballot as an independent candidate, another issue which will now be decided in court after a similar deadlock vote by the Board. *Dawn Wolfe of Between The Lines contributed to this report.*

PAMPERING REPUBLICAN CONVENTION DELEGATES: ANTIGAY OUTRAGE "YES," NAKED MEN "NO"

New York: Making GOP conventioners welcome in the Big Apple can be somewhat tricky. Antigay books are okay, naked gay men are not according to pre-convention news reports.

Republican delegates arriving in the coming days for next week's GOP Convention will find more than fruit baskets and tickets to Broadway plays in their hotel rooms. The Family Research Council is placing a complimentary copy of its latest book "Outrage: How Gay Activists and Liberal Judges Are Trashing Democracy to Redefine Marriage" in the hands of over 4,000 Republican delegates and alternates. Written by Peter Sprigg, director of FRC's Center for Marriage and Family Studies, the book claims to "make sense of the debate over same-sex marriage" and provides the delegates with strategies to defeat marriage equality. FRC press releases tout Sprigg's book as one that "demolishes stereotypes, showing why (same-sex) marriage should be opposed and often is by Republicans, Democrats, libertarians and even (gay people) themselves."

One set of theatre tickets won't be in those rooms, however. The city's tourist bureau has pulled the off-Broadway show called "Naked Boys Singing" from a list of discounted offerings to visiting Republican delegates, after the Republican National Committee complained it wasn't suitable.

The gay-themed show, billed as a musical revue that "celebrates the splendors of male nudity in comedy, song and dance," has received generally good reviews and hasn't created much of a stir since it began its run six years ago. Its 2,127 performances make it the 10th longest-running off-Broadway show. A national touring company performed the show in Madison earlier this year.

Earlier this month, when members of the RNC's Committee on Arrangements began to review the list of offerings, the show's title caught their eye, and they asked that it be removed. "The Republican Party selected what we felt were offers that would best suit our audience," RNC spokesman Leonard Alcivar said August 25.

ACLU CRITICIZES CDC'S PROPOSED CHANGES IN GUIDELINES ON AIDS-RELATED MATERIALS

New York: In an August 17 letter submitted to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the American Civil Liberties Union denounced suggested revisions to the agency's content guidelines for HIV/AIDS materials, which regulate the messages that HIV prevention organizations receiving federal funds can use in materials aimed at preventing HIV transmission. The new guidelines would require organizations to present HIV prevention materials for review by state and local health officials, who could be partisan, elected officials with no expertise in HIV issues and prevention.

"The CDC has been operating under the same material guidelines for 12 years. Now, just months shy of the election, it is suggesting changes in the guidelines that could give elected officials the right to veto prevention materials and shut down HIV prevention organizations," said James Esseks, Litigation Director of the ACLU's AIDS Project. "These changes are nothing more than dirty politics that put lives at risk."

Organizations receiving federal funds for HIV prevention are currently required to run materials past a Program Review Panel (PRP), a group of individuals knowledgeable about disease prevention. In addition to the PRP's, HIV prevention materials under the new guidelines would also have to be approved by state and local health officials. This gives state and local health officials absolute veto power over all CDC-funded HIV prevention programs in their local jurisdiction. In some areas, state and local health officials are elected officials without any expertise in HIV prevention.

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GAY.COM ANNOUNCES FINALISTS IN MR. GAY.COM 2004 CONTEST

ON OUR COVER

Five regional winners from North America, Australia, Germany, Spain and the U.K. to compete for \$25,000

SAN FRANCISCO, August 16, 2004 — Gay.com, a flagship website of PlanetOut Inc., a leading online media company offering consumer services, news and entertainment to more than 3.3 million active members around the world, today announced the five regional winners who will compete for a \$25,000 grand prize in the international Mr. Gay.com 2004 contest. They are: Mr. Gay.com North America Michael Lunde from Honolulu; Mr. Gay.com Australia Brett Humble from Perth; Mr. Gay.com Germany Julius Udem from Cologne; Mr. Gay.com Spain Angel Alonso Gonzalez from Madrid; and Mr. Gay.com U.K. Philip Hewson from London.

The final winner will be selected by member votes. Voting begins on Sept. 13 at <http://www.gay.com/polls/mrgay-com/>. The Grand Prize winner will be announced in early December

at a gala dance party in New York. "Charming, smart and super sexy — no wonder our five finalists dazzled Gay.com members with their heart, body and mind to win their regional Mr. Gay.com competition," said Jeff Titterton, Senior Vice President of Member Sales and Marketing at Gay.com. "It's clear there are astoundingly well-rounded gay guys to be found all over the world and a whole bunch of them are on Gay.com."

Earlier this year, Gay.com tapped its millions of profiles to compare the romantic habits and preferences of gay singles in more than 100 countries, including the home regions of the five Mr. Gay.com finalists. The resulting Gay.com Global Dating Report is the largest survey of gay dating habits completed to date. Results from the Gay.com Global Dating Report can be downloaded at:

<http://planetoutpartners.com/press/resources/#dating>.

Gay.com is the largest gay online community website in the world serving members in more than 100 countries through services in

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to set the stage for a rock concert, tuning instruments and passing around some pot. Hedwig (David Colbert) enters, an exceedingly lean and muscular, square-jawed "girly boy" in a ghastly wig and the first in a series of increasingly hideous costumes. With a curious nonchalance, Hedwig's concert begins. Colbert works hard and singing well but never connects with the opening night audience. Rather leisurely paced, only when Hedwig's much-maligned second husband Yitzhak (Toni Inzeo) grabs the microphone and the spotlight does "Hedwig" hint at the much needed rock energy and excitement this production otherwise lacks.



Full-price, half-price or worth a skip...

Placed in the architectural jewel of the Broadway Theatre Center's Cabot Theatre, "Hedwig and the Angry Inch" seems horribly misplaced. Still, "Hedwig and the Angry Inch" offers a witty script by John Cameron Mitchell and a terrific score by Stephen Trask and as David Colbert settles into the role, is sure to make this Hedwig his/her own!

Just the facts...

"Hedwig and the Angry Inch" continues at the Broadway Theatre Center's Cabot Theatre, located in Milwaukee Historic Third Ward, Wednesday through Sundays until September 1.

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"At a time when HIV prevention efforts are more important than ever, there's a very real fear that partisan politics will begin dictating prevention messages," added Esseks. "To be effective, these messages must connect with their intended audiences. Let's face it, abstinence until marriage isn't going to go over very well with gay teens who can't marry."

In its letter to the CDC, the ACLU also recommends that guidelines make it clear that the guidelines do not require the teaching of abstinence-only-until-marriage. The ACLU's letters to the CDC, are available online at www.aclu.org

GAY & LESBIAN YELLOW PAGES LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

Texas: The Gay & Lesbian Yellow Pages, Inc (GLYP) is pleased to announce the launch of the new and improved GLYP.com website. GLYP, Inc, a member of the Yellow Pages Integrated Media Association, is the only YPIMA publisher focused on serving LGBT consumers and friends. "Our mission is to provide our community with access to the most up-to-date information on where to buy the products and services needed by our families," Laura Villagran, founder and CEO, said. "We are very proud of our 14-year history of service here in the Gulf coast and we're looking forward to expanding our reach and continuously improving on the quality of services presented to the LGBT community going forward," she goes on to say.

GLYP distributes over 300,000 directories throughout the country and the web allows advertisers to reach those customers unable to obtain a book while at work or out and about in less gay-inclu-

sive parts of the country. GLYP.com displays local information in both traditional search engine results and in a new "look and feel format." Click on a city such as Houston or Dallas and you will see an actual version of the printed books. "We think this is the way of the future and sometimes a picture does say more than a 1,000 words. We are very excited to have the opportunity to provide this service to the LGBT community nationwide," Villagran said.

For more information, please visit GLYP.com, InformationPages.com, or YellowPageCity.com.

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Joint Run 2004 It's Official! Min, min, min. Wool. Wool

There are about 200 different versions of how things went at the Argonauts and Castaways Joint Run 2004. As the Argonauts President, I feel obligated to give the "official" version, and here it is:

The only things missing at the run that we normally expect to encounter there were: rain, mosquitoes, enough portable toilets, and dinner wine at the banquet on Saturday night. Somehow, we made it by without them.

What was NOT missing: the Mid-America Conference of Clubs, hot men and women from all over the country, old friends, new friends, great food, great fun, and the one thing that puts every Levi/leather event into its proper perspective: lots of liquor.

The Friday night Castaways show is always one of my favorite things about the Joint Run and this year was no exception. This year's show featured the usual insanity of Ma Barker and the "lovely" Casta-nettes, plus a few surprises. There were a couple of live singers, including Wisconsin's Gay Idol, Corky, and myself. Both clubs also did a special "Broadway" production number that included all the members of their respective clubs. Both numbers were delightful little disasters, and I must say- Argonauts VP Al Kamke has never looked so good as he did in that red teddy

with those mirrored Christmas tree ornament earrings.

As usual, the dungeon was in full swing (or should I say "full sling") as soon as the show ended, and business was steady until dawn.

Saturday afternoon featured games: "Drag Races," "Wrap the Willie," and "Hump the Master" - all measures of the contestants' strength, flexibility and willingness to forget one's self.

respect-also a brazen opportunity for the spectators to see a bunch of semi-naked leather men trying to move quickly in high heels. It was fun, but it wasn't pretty.

The most dignified moment at the run was the re-dedication of the Memorial Garden on Saturday afternoon. Dan McGough of Minneapolis, and his partner Colin Priestersbach, spent countless hours (and unknown

amounts of money) before the run, completely replacing and refurbishing

the outside deck, with an amazing new multi-leveled structure. Dan led the brief, but emotional and very beautiful re-dedication service featuring segments of poetry, scripture, music, and many tears.

It was an unexpected, but necessary opportunity to remember those we have lost, how and why we lost them, where we have all been, and where we need to be heading as we sail into the narrow.

On Saturday night banquet was unbelievable. Mike Petri and his kitchen crew outdid themselves for this year's double-anniversary run- prime rib, chicken parmesan, veggies, salad, breads, and more- and an incredible dessert bar. Following the feast and just before the Mr. Northwoods contest, the clubs held the parade of colors, honoring all of the clubs represented at the run. It was the

most spectacular display of club pride and leather unity ever seen at the farm with nearly three dozen clubs participating.

John Weiler emceed the Mr. Northwoods contest and show, which included several great entertainment segments by Cherise from Chicago, who came all the way up to show his admiration and support for John, and to wow the crowd. The contest was light-hearted and fun, but also featured six of the hottest and bravest men at the run as contestants- plus Gina (grin). John did a great job organizing and running the contest, and all of the contestants did a great job of impressing the crowd.

When the contest was over, the Argonauts had a new Mr. Northwoods who is certainly no stranger to the club. He is a former Mr. Harbor Room, former Wisconsin LeatherSir, former Wisconsin L/L Daddy („blah, blah, blah, blah, blah,); Mr. Steve Seepheldt from Milwaukee. We are certain to be seeing a lot more of Steve over the next year, and I am confident that he will do an outstanding job of representing and serving the Argonauts in his new capacity as Mr. Northwoods 2004/2005.

First runner up in the Mr. Northwoods competition was former Wisconsin L/L Granddaddy: Bob Hackl- who is also no stranger to the Club, and no stranger to the Joint Run. Bob is planning to move away from the area soon, and will be greatly

AT THE THEATRE

by Glenn Bishop

"HEDWIG & THE ANGRY INCH"

It must be admitted that Glenn could only scratch his head in bemusement upon learning that Milwaukee's Chamber Theatre company had won the rights to stage "Hedwig and the Angry Inch," John Cameron Mitchell and Stephen Trask's wild, gender-bending rock musical. Known for its more traditional and liter-

ary offerings, the folks at the Chamber Theatre are certainly taking their "Celebrate the Past, Imagine the Future" 2004/5 slogan to heart.

Many loyal Quest readers will surely be familiar with "Hedwig" from the excellent film release starring Hedwig-origina-tor John Cameron Mitchell a few years back.

In a nutshell, there was, once upon a time, a little boy named Hansel, a strange slip of a girly boy growing up East Berlin. Hansel often sought solace singing pop tunes with his head in the oven - a nice twist on the familiar fairy tale. Always somewhat gender-confused, Hansel dreamt of finding that one person that would make him complete. Not that Hansel was quite sure if that person would be a boy or a girl. Forgetting the old adage of never taking

candy from strangers, Hansel is wooed and eventually wed by an American soldier. Poor, youthful and idealistic Hansel quickly learns that in order to get what you want, you will often/usually be required to leave a little something behind.

Thus Hansel becomes Hedwig and the "angry inch" of the title is all that remains from a botched sex-change operation. Eventually hubby Luther Robinson moves on, leaving Hedwig to fend for herself in a trailer park in Junction Park, Kansas which may be the geographic heart of America but is unquestionable the middle of nowhere.

The fascinating saga of Hedwig, "the internationally ignored song stylist," is revealed during the Milwaukee stop on her concert tour that finds Hedwig shadowing/stalking rock superstar Tommy Gnosis, a young man for whom she once minded and later took as her protégé. Opening night of "Hedwig" has Tommy playing to ecstatic crowds at IrishFest, just off-stage left.

Milwaukee's Random Maxx, the onstage band portraying the Angry Inch, endeavors



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Safonda Says All

Hello Everyone,

This is Safonda and I have returned!

First and foremost I need to thank all of you out there that took the time out to write to me and express your feelings about my leaving the article. Also there has been others that either called me or talked to me in person. You all do not know how much it helped to know that there are some genuine people out there that do still care. As of this column, I have received over fifty letters on line. This has in turn, made me rethink my decision and keep writing. The last article was written at a time in my life in which all seemed lost. We have all been there and with me, I had chosen not to deal with certain things for so long that when all else came crashing down it was just too much for little ole me. Thank God I am not a drinker.

As I had mentioned in the last article, there had been rumors about my business, (I am guessing they needed a new target since the ones about the Wests closing were untrue) that since I stood up for the bar I was next on the list. I then found out who the ones were talking about it and found them all to be very insignificant people with little going on in their own lives. So, they decide to turn on others apparently to make their own lives seem better. Hope it worked but you just made me stronger.

Then it was two very good friends of mine that I had considered best friends for years. I have been on the hunt to try and find out why I have been asked never to speak to them again or the fact that at one point they just decided on their own to stop speaking to me. We have all lost friends before for one reason or another but I really thought that I had found two friends I would have for life. As I am sure they knew, I would have given anything for them in times of need. That is what good friends are for. Anyway, after lots of searching and talking to others all I can figure is that once hearing the rumors of my business going in the toilet that were false, they figured that they had gotten all out of me they could, apparently that was the reason they were my friends. There is no other reason I can come up with since I have never been but a good friend to them with no expectations. After realizing this I fell into a little depression for a while. Losing good friends is hard on me since I have been used so much in the past.

So, instead of letting these set backs ruin my life I am renewing my gay membership card and jumping back into my old self with both feet. I still hear things they are saying about me from others but I need to not dwell on such things realizing I need to move on even though they feel the need to keep the drama going.

So, now that I have dispensed with all the old let us start over with the new.



First up was one of the preliminaries to state, Miss Rainbow Over Wisconsin held at the ever fabulous Napalese Lounge. Owners Dale and Brandon did another great job putting on a good show. There was three contestants running who were: Emir Illuzion, Busty Sinclair and Racheal Vanders. All did great jobs to try and get there hands on the crown but Emir was the one to walk away with the jeweled hat. Her talent was a very lovely see thru black out fit to the song You are not ready for this jelly and the bitch tore it up. Racheal Vanders was first runner up.

Next was the combination pageant held down in Milwaukee at La Cage. I got myself a driver and piled Miss N.E.W. Lucinda Andrew and Miss Teen eight years running Mercedes Andrews along with Racheal V. And Ben and myself into a stretch limo and headed to the big city. Ten girls showed up for the double crowning. Interview started a little late so at show time we were still being held captive in the basement. Finally the doors were open, however the line was so

long to get in we all stopped in at Fluid while we waited for the line to go down. Who do I bump into, none other than Kelli Jo Klein who came down with Miss Holly Hot Damn. A quick drink and it was off to the show. Once again my favorite bartender Chris took care of me as I took notes off to the side. My writing did get a little blurry as the evening went on but I saw all. Talents were not much to scream home about but I did like Denise Blu doing a number from Lion King with back up dancers. To me the next best was, and I can not believe I am saying this but Nova Devine. Love ya girl! So, the way it ended up was Chantal winning Miss Cosmo, Denise Blu winning Cream City, Deja Vu taking 1st alt. To Cosmo and Nova 1st alt. For Cream City. The pageant went a little long being that it started late but Kylie and her co-host kept things moving right along. The unfortunate part was the finalists were being announced as they were calling last call and the crowning took place after all the bar lights were turned on.

It seems the girls are coming out of the wood work for this years state pageant. For a while there I was thinking it was going to be a tie for last place for everyone but the girls are really coming out for this years big crown.

Last but not least I attended Napalese lounge for their annual disco show. All disco all night what a great show this was. All in period costumes and doing songs from the old dance floors the night was a hoot. I should have brought my roller skates, after all it is the best was to move heavy objects, on wheels.

Keep your eyes peeled for the last remaining prelim pageants for state coming up. October is approaching really quick. Also, Miss Wisconsin Classic is coming up. I am hearing some great things are being planned that have not been seen ever in a state pageant. DO NOT MISS IT! The Mr. Miss Napalese pageant and a lot others are coming up. In Green Bay, the Wednesday night gay bowling league starts September 9th at Riviera Lanes look for the ad this issue for all the details.

Til next time, See ya at the shows!
Safonda
Safondaboys@aol.com

missed. We're hoping we'll be able to coax him back over for the run each year. It just wouldn't be the same without Bob's famous "sticky buns." (If you don't know, don't ask).

During the contest, I received a huge surprise and a great honor. Apparently, my Argonauts club mates conspired in the days preceding the run, and planned to present me with the Argonaut of the Year Award for 2004- what an amazing, and completely unexpected honor. I was totally surprised and (almost) totally speechless. I will try my best over the remainder of this year to live up to the standards that the Argonaut of the Year Award represents, and I will forever be grateful for this expression of appreciation from my Club brothers and sisters. But I will mostly be appreciative of the friendship and mutual support I have witnessed in each and every Argonaut. These men and women continue to inspire me daily. I am proud to belong to the productive, committed, and united organization that they have nurtured and grown.

Andy and Brian hosted their infamous Dungeon Martini Party after the contest. There is just nothing quite like sipping a well-made Cosmopolitan to the sounds of moaning and groaning men. And of course, the Andy/Brian combination visual isn't too bad either. Mm, mm, mm. Woof. Woof.

Sunday morning was awards time, and there were plenty of awards to be given as so many clubs and individuals had contributed to the success of the weekend. In addition to dozens of appreciation awards, several special awards were presented.

Castaways President Bob Pfeiffer presented the 2004 Castaways Presidents Award to Castaways member Jim Bird, in appreciation for his commitment and support of the Castaways, many events over the

past year. I had the honor of presenting the 2004 Argonauts Presidents Award to Dan McGough and Colin Spreistersbach for their work at the farm this year as well as their support of a number of club functions over the past several years. First runner up Club Participation Award went to the Black Guard of Minneapolis. Winner of the Club Participation Award went to Nimbus, of Michigan. The distance award went to Steve Jones, who made it back to Green Bay all the way from Arizona for the anniversary run. The pig award (Figure out what it takes to win that one— Oink, oink!) went to D. Stoddard of Nimbus. Best campsite award went to Michigan Storm Patrol for their "South Pacific" theme. The notorious "Can of Corn" traveling trophy was reluctantly accepted by the Kansas City Pioneers (Good riddance and safe journey to that old bio-hazard).

As always, it was an exhausting and completely satisfying weekend.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

September 11-12: "Give AIDS the BOOT" AIDS Walk team fundraiser at **Cricket's Fox River Lounge**; 701 Broadway, Green Bay, Wisconsin

September 17: "Give AIDS the BOOT" AIDS Walk team fundraiser at the **Napalese Lounge**; 1351 Cedar Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin

November 5-7: Leather Sweat Ball Weekend. Friday Night at **Napalese Lounge**; Saturday Night at the **Historic West Theater**

November 20: Castaways 25th Anniversary Dinner; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Details TBA

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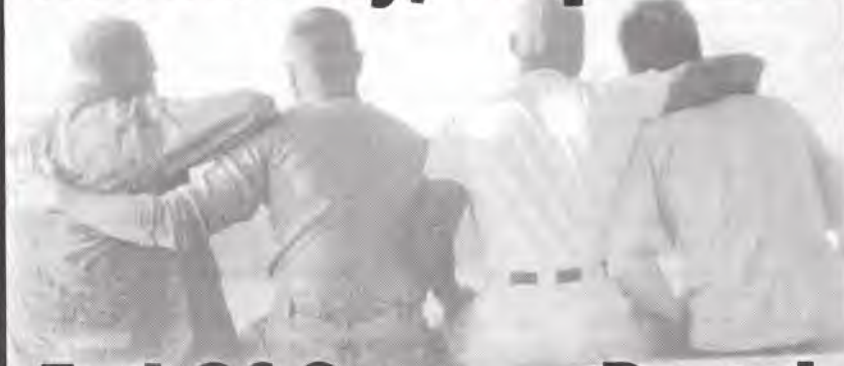
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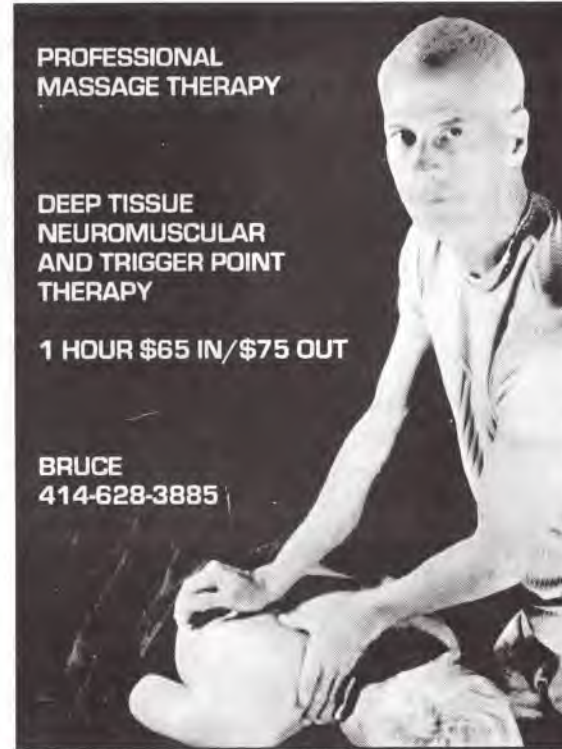
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Community Calendar

Friday, Sept. 3

L.D. CrossRoads (Appleton)
Karaoke w/ Starr Party (also 9/17
& every other Friday)

Saturday, Sept. 4

Switch (Milw.) Labor Day week-
end Foam Party

Wednesday, Sept. 8

STD Specialties free HIV &
syphilis testing, 10pm-1am, @ **94
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Saturday, Sept. 11

Club Night Out (Stevens Point)
Entertainers Against AIDS per-
form tonite

Angels of Hope MCC (Green
Bay/Appleton) Fall hike/picnic at
Bairds Creek Parkway, Green Bay

Sunday, Sept. 12

Pump (Milw., 722 N.
Milwaukee St. (414) 225-0003):
Wisconsin AIDS Walk Team

Annual Silent Auction & Show,
3 pm. It's a farewell party for DJ
Rob Winter w/ John Murges, DJ
Plez (Chicago) & Steven Kaye.

AIDS Walk Wis. Team Benefit for
"The Strongest Link" AIDS Walk
team, 5-10 pm. Silent auction, raf-
fles & show hosted by Michelle &
starring Dear Ruthie, Baby Jane

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Richards & Alexis St. James.
Movie Collectable Show (Milw.)
at Burnham Bowl Hall, 6016 W.
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Monday, Sept. 13

Outwards Book Club (Milw.)
meets to discuss *Father's Day* by
Phyllip Galanes, a contemporary,

quirky gay comic novel. Everyone
is welcome to come and join in on
the discussion!

Tuesday, Sept. 14
Lesbian Reading Group at
Outwards Books (Milw.) meets
to discuss Helen MacPherson's
arctic-cold Antarctica adventure,
Colder Than Ice.

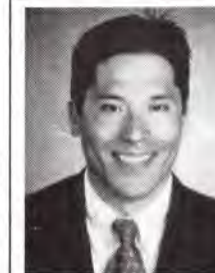
Wednesday, Sept. 15
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syphilis testing, 10pm-1am, @
Fluid

Saturday, Sept. 18
Miss Gay Forest City WI
USofA @ The Office Nite Club,
Rockford, IL...featuring Miss
Gay WI USofA Holly Hot Damn
+ Brittany Paige Daniels,
MisShalay Shontel +++, 10 pm
pageant

Monday, Sept. 27
Sexual Violence Support Group
for gay, lesbian, bi, transgender,
questioning, intersex (LGBTQI),
at Friends Meeting House, 3224
N. Gordon Pl., Milw. FMO:
sv@forge-forward.org or
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278-6031 (meets 4th Mon. of each
mo. - 10/25, 11/22, 12/27 etc.)

Tuesday, Sept. 28
Ami DiFranco & Margaret
Cho...appearing together, 7:30
pm, at the Overture Center for the
Arts, Madison

Sept. 30 - Oct. 10
2004 Milwaukee LGBT
Film/Video Festival...Oriental &
UWM Union Theatres. (see fea-
ture story this issue of *Quest*)



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and ending at the Main Club. The parade will start at Noon, with lineup starting at 11 AM.

One of Twin Port Pride's most popular events, the annual Fruit Float will set sail from the Vista Fleet docks at 3 PM in Duluth. The Fruit Float is an afternoon of fun on a boat touring the Duluth-Superior harbor and the St Louis River. Hors d'oeuvres are provided, and there is a cash bar available. The \$30 tickets were almost sold out as *Quest* went to press. Check for availability at the city's two gay bars, the Main Club and JT's Bar and Grill.

The weekend will conclude with the benefit Drag Show beginning at 7 PM at Main Club.

The host hotel for this year's Twin Ports Pride is the Androy Hotel, 1213 Tower Ave # 3 in Superior. The Androy is located right next door to the Main Club, and offers great lodging for everyone. For reservations, call 715-394-7731.

For more information about Twin Ports Pride, check out the festival's website at www.dspride.com. Mailing address is: Duluth-Superior GLBTQAI Pride, PO Box 3198, Duluth, MN 55805. You may also contact the festival by phone at 218-728-4217, or by email at dspride@hotmail.com

2004 Executive Committee includes Co-Chairs Sherry "Shiner" Berhow & Tamara Jones, Treasurer Keith Haugen & Recording/Correspondence Secretary Grace Bennett.

Quest Announces Miss Gay Wisconsin USofA Pageant Date - Green Bay -

Mark Mariucci, Quest Publisher has confirmed Friday, November 19 and Saturday, November 20 as the Prelim night and finals night respectively for Miss Gay Wisconsin USofA 2005 Pageant at Za's Historic West Theatre in Green Bay. This is a closed system franchise to Miss Gay USofA held in Dallas Texas near Memorial Day yearly. "A closed system means you must have won a preliminary pageant held throughout the state all year", says Mariucci aka ZA. There are three preliminaries left, with one in Rockford, one in Green Bay and the last one in Sheboygan. A possible fourth prelim in Kenosha has not been scheduled by promoter Lady Di at the time of writing this article.

This year's pageant was scheduled a week before Thanksgiving to avoid conflicts with the busy holiday weekend. A host hotel has not been selected yet. Kelli Jo Klein will co-produce the pageant with Miss Holly Hot Damn, the current Miss Gay Wisconsin USofA. Holly and Kelli Jo

will decide on the theme, decorating, emcee and guest performers, but will not select judges. Pageant owner ZA has arranged for Lou Haskel, President of USofA Pageants to act as head judge this year and will select a panel of at least five judges soon. Judges are usually kept secret until the last minute, but as in the past, an emphasis on judges not familiar with contestants will be chosen for most positions.

It has been an exciting year of preliminary pageants with a highlight being the well attended double crowning this past month at Cage in Milwaukee. This prelim had the most contestants of a prelim to date.

Miss Lakeshore in Sheboygan is rumored

to have up to eight contestants competing as well. Tickets to state will be similar in price as last year with table seating being available by reservation in advance. This is the sixteenth pageant that has been held yearly since started by the late Jimmy King. While solely owned by Quest Magazine in Wisconsin, this contest has traditionally been a co-operative effort by many people throughout the state who have a love for the art of female impersonation. "We could never pull off such a great pageant and enjoy a great long running system without the tireless efforts of the local promoters and other support people who have been there every year", stated Za.

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Appleton: Fall Gay Bowling League Begins September 9

Rascals Fall Gay Bowling League will run Thursdays at 7:00 PM at The 10th Frame bowling alley here. The ten week league will run from September 9 through November 11 with the Season Finale (or Last Call) on Thursday, November 18. Cost is \$9 per week and includes 3 games, shoes and prizes at the end of the league. To register your team, contact Rascal's, 702 E. Wisconsin Ave. You can sign up as an individual or in teams of up to 4 people. For more information, contact Kevin at dreamer24ks@aol.com

Eau Claire: Chippewa Valley Marriage Equality Town Hall Meeting Set

Action Wisconsin will sponsor another in its series of town hall meetings on Marriage Equality & the Wisconsin Constitutional Amendment on

Thursday, September 16th from 7-8:30 PM at Schneider Hall, Room 100 on the campus of the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire here. Join AW in confronting the threat of a constitutional ban on civil unions and marriage for gay couples.

In Wisconsin, lesbian and gay couples and their children are denied hundreds of rights and responsibilities that come with marriage. These include basic benefits, like being able to make funeral decisions for a deceased spouse. Instead of addressing this injustice, state legislators are proposing a constitutional amendment that would make matters much worse. The proposed constitutional amendment would ban marriage, civil unions, and domestic partnerships, possibly for generations to come. The proposed amendment could go to a statewide referendum as early as April 2005. That's less than eight months away.

The Chippewa Valley Town Hall will bring LGBT people and our allies together to face this assault on justice and threat to civil rights. Speakers will include Christopher Ott from Action Wisconsin, John Guyette from the national Human Rights Campaign, plus Chippewa Valley-area lesbian and gay couples sharing their stories. There will be time for audience questions and comments.

The event is sponsored by the LGBT Community Center of the Chippewa Valley, the Social Responsibility Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Eau Claire, the UW-Eau Claire LGBT Straight Alliance, UW Eau Claire Equality, and Action Wisconsin. Additional speakers and cosponsors will be announced soon.

LaCrosse: Community Center Sets Canoeing and Kayaking Event

The Seven Rivers LGBT Resource Center here has set its first recreational event: a canoeing and kayaking event on the Black River on September 11. Cost will be \$25 per person and includes canoe or kayak rental and drop-off and pick-up transportation. Details on meeting site and starting time were being finalized with Redtail Outfitters in Winona as *Quest* went to press. For more information or to make a reservation, contact Julie Cunningham via email at curlyj@acegroup.cc.

Madison: Action Wisconsin's Freker Elected To National Equality Board

Joshua Freker of Action Wisconsin has been named to the board of the newly rechristened Equality Federation. The nation's top LGBT statewide leaders, representing over 25 organizations from across the country, met recently in Austin, Texas to launch an aggressive new action plan to boost statewide organizing efforts across the country. The newly renamed Equality Federation - formerly known as the Federation of Statewide Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Advocacy Organizations - will hire an executive director and begin implementing programs that build the capacity of its member organizations.

The conference also brought together representatives from seven of the states facing ballot measures that would amend state constitutions to prohibit same-sex couples from marrying and, in many cases, from ever achieving any of the legal protections routinely granted to families, including hospital visitation, parental rights, and access to health insurance.

"The critical importance of strong, well-funded, and well-organized LGBT organizations in every state has never been more evident than in this election year," said Andrea Hildebran, Executive Director of the Kentucky Fairness Alliance and newly elected Equality Federation Co-Chair. "In nearly a dozen states, the religious right is attempting to constitutionalize discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Americans and their families. These attacks can only be defeated through the efforts and expertise of statewide organizations."

"The overwhelming majority of legal protections achieved by LGBT Americans has occurred and will continue to occur at the state level,"



Superior: Twin Ports Pride Concludes Wisconsin's Gay Summer Festival Season

The Labor Day weekend brings not only the start of school and professional football but the end of LGBT Wisconsin's pride festival season with the annual Twin Ports Pride festival in Superior/Duluth.

This year's Twin Ports Pride has an expanded schedule and features. The schedule of events for 2004 begins Friday, September 3 with an art show and poetry reading beginning at 7 PM at the Norshor Theatre in Duluth. On the Superior side, the traditional bonfire will kick off at 9PM on the Wisconsin Point.

Saturday, September 4 brings the main event: the day long Pride



Festival held at Park Point Park in Duluth from 11 AM to 5 PM. This year's festival will feature music by Trailer Park Queen, Fattypants, Holly Baby, and Cathy Conway, and performances by Miss Rochester and the American National Ballet. Speeches by Sue Anderson, Mike Smith, Denny Smith, and other local politicians are also scheduled. Festival emcee this year is the wonderful Ti'Nea! In addition to a wide range of vendors festival goers will enjoy the brand beer pavilion.

Sunday, September 5 will begin with the traditional Pride Church Service at the Peace United Church of Christ, 1015 E 11th St. in Duluth. Two services will be held at 8:30 & 10:30 AM. The annual pride parade will take place in Superior, starting on Broadway Ave.



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Brittany Paige Daniels ~ Miss Gay Forest City WI 2003
MisShalay Shontel ~ Miss Gay Rockford Il 1999
Reregistration @ 7 • Interview @ 8 • Pageant begins @ 10pm



WINNERS PRIZE PACKAGE:

\$75 the night of the pageant,
when you show up at state and the night you relinquish the title (\$225 total)
framed Winner Certificate • Crown (hers to keep) • Sash (Keeps sake for memories)

FIRST RUNNER UP WILL RECEIVE:

\$50 the night of the pageant • Framed 1st Alt Certificate

Please Contact Michelle Saucedo @ 815-316-7406 for more information.
Entry Fee is \$25 before 9/18/04 and \$30 the day of.

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Q. Allan Brocka's saucy new comedy "Eating Out" (October 1) has been spotlighted at regional festival's all year long, netting the juried prize for best first feature at San Francisco's International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival. Brocka's shorts – including his celebrated "Rick and Steve: The Happiest Gay Couple in all the World" lego animations series – have peppered Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festivals in the past. Here Brocka lets loose a bedroom farce instigated by a haplessly heterosexual college lad who decides posing as gay will help him score with a particular lady.

"The Time We Killed" (October 3), the celebrated debut feature from experimental filmmaker Jennifer Reeves, won an international critics prize at this year's Berlin Film Festival, the Outstanding Artistic Achievement at this year's Outfest, Los Angeles's LGBT Film Festival, and a Best Narrative prize at this year's Tribeca Film Festival for a New York film. Here, Reeves, who was a visiting artist two Festivals ago, crafts a richly textured portrait of an agoraphobe, haunted (even stalked) by the world outside her apartment – a murder-suicide next door, reveries of earlier loves, September 11, the war with Iraq.

The Festival also welcomes Sara Millman's "Robin's Hood" (October 1), a proudly independent caper drama/love story about a crime spree with a social conscience, and, from the emerging maestro of camp, Richard Day's "Straight-Jacket" (October 9) a comedy about the closet set in 1950's Hollywood.

The Festival is proud to present the US premiere of the new film from Apichatpong Weerasethakul, the Thai filmmaker whose hallucinogenic experimental narratives, set in the Thai jungle, have been garnering acclaim at festivals worldwide. A spellbinding fable-like tale of, eventually, cross-species love, "Tropical Malady" (October 5) recently scored a special jury prize at this year's Cannes film festival and has been igniting critical debate ever since.

The Festival will also unleash this resourceful young director's collaboration with cross-dressing Thai performance artist Michael Shaowanasai. "The Adventures of Iron Pussy" (October 2) unfurls a musically inflected, camp foray into spy adventure, with a hero who is a male convenience store clerk by day, an alluring secret agent-chanteuse as soon as it is called for.

The Festival is also presenting the finest from other, already celebrated emerging directors from across the globe. Included in this year's festival:

Sebastian Lifshitz's new film "Wild Side" (October 10) won the Teddy Award for best Gay Film at this year's Berlin Film Festival, and like his last film "Come Undone," this new work, is another sumptuously melancholy and erotic fugue on love, family, and other fragile connections. "Wild Side" shares the tender balance struck by three outsiders, each eking out a living in Paris--Stephanie, a transsexual prostitute; Jamel, an Arab immigrant also working the streets; and Mikhail, a deserter from the Russian army, living hand-to-mouth in a country where he doesn't even know the language. As photographed by

celebrated cinematographer Agnes Godard, Wild Side arrives with an uncommon beauty, the most seductive color palette of this year's Festival.

Mexican filmmaker Juilan Hernandez's "A Thousand Clouds of Peace" (October 3) won the Teddy award the year prior and is another film whose evocation of melancholy is coupled with unmatched pictorial splendor. Hernandez heightens his story of the romantically bereft Gerardo with a tactile black-and-white, unfurled in a majestic cinemascope. The title of the film comes from a poem by filmmaker Pier Paolo Pasolini, and the film echoes the work of the masters of Italian Neorealism who strove to find a felt film language both grand and direct enough to match the strife of their afflicted characters.

On a winningly lighter note, first time filmmaker Liz Gill's "Goldfish Memory" courses through contemporary Dublin to map a wittily engaging geography of coupling, presenting a panorama of relationship-addled women and men and the permutations of pairing that both contort and, ultimately, comfort them. This effervescent roundelay has won Audience Awards at LGBT film festivals worldwide.

In addition to the above films, the Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival will feature a number of documentaries and political commentaries. Look in the next issue of *Quest* for more details. For more information about the festival, contact Carl Bogner in the Film Department at 414 229 4758 or lgbt-film@uwm.edu



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said Ian Palmquist, Co-Director of Equality North Carolina and newly elected Federation Co-Chair. "The mandate of the Equality Federation is to ensure that the national movement for LGBT equality is strengthened by the expertise of state organizations and leaders."

The conference was hosted by Equality Federation member Lesbian and Gay Rights Lobby of Texas. Speakers included openly lesbian Houston City Controller, Annise Parker, and Lawrence v. Texas attorney Mitchell Katine with clients John Lawrence and Tyrone Garner.

Equality Federation Board members were elected at the conference. In addition to Co-Chairs Andrea Hildebran and Ian Palmquist, board members include Randall Ellis of LGRL Texas, Joshua Freker of Action Wisconsin, Michael Mitchell of Equality Utah, Christopher Neff of Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance in Washington, DC, Stacy Roth of MassEquality.org in Massachusetts, Sharon Semmons of Equality Georgia, Nadine Smith of Equality Florida, Carmen Vasquez of Empire State Pride in New York, and Ron Wheeler of the Coalition for Equality in New Mexico.

Equality Federation was founded in 1997 and has grown to include members from 35 states and the District of Columbia. The Federation provides resources, training and support to its members, and is a forum for states to share strategies and expertise. Equality Federation is uniquely situated to act as the national voice of statewide organizing in the LGBT civil rights movement.

The Equality Federation is a coalition of statewide lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender advocacy organizations committed to securing full civil rights for LGBT Americans by building the capacity of the movement at the statewide level and supporting state activists and

leaders. For more information, visit their website at www.federationlgbt.org.

Milwaukee: State Cuts LGBT Center's HIV Prevention Funding

The State of Wisconsin AIDS/HIV Program recently announced sweeping cuts to prevention and testing programs that seek to reach men of color who have sex with men. Organizations serving these men of color have received either total or severe cuts, while organizations serving other populations have received a 6% cut.

The cuts occur despite stated public health priorities that seek to end racial disparities in health outcomes and a commitment to reducing HIV transmission in men of color who have sex with men (some identify as gay; some don't). The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center will lose more than \$75,000 in funding to reach men of color through the Circle of Friends project, a coalition of community-based organizations encouraging men of color to get tested for HIV and encourage their friends to do likewise. The progression of HIV disease in men of color is more rapid than white men in part because men of color receive their HIV diagnosis later, keeping these men from getting the specialized care they need.

The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center is reaching out to decision-makers, including State AIDS/HIV program who want to ease the impact of the cuts. The LGBT Center is committed to being a strong advocate for smart public health priorities for the LGBT community and Wisconsin. For more information, contact Patrick Flaherty, Center Director of Community Relations, at (414) 271-2656 x112.

Milwaukee: 2004 Big Night Out Gala Tickets Available

It's that time of year again! The 2004 Big Night Out: "Chocolate and Jazz" is just around the corner. Big Night Out is a Gala Dinner, Auction and Performance that benefits the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center. The black-tie optional event will be held Saturday, September 25 at the Potawatomi Bingo Casino Northern Lights Theater and will feature acclaimed jazz artist Jennifer Springer and Wisconsin's own Corky Morgan as the evening's performers.

The evening begins with a silent auction that gives you a chance to get your own, personal next "big night out" arranged, with terrific deals on hotels, theater, restaurants and more. Attendees will also enjoy the casino's award-winning dinner service with cabaret-style seating in a digitally designed theater to ensure that every seat in the house is a good one.

\$600 Table of Six (6 at \$100/each), \$500 Table of Five (5 at \$100/each), \$450 Table of Six (6 at \$75/each) and \$375 Table of Five (5 at \$75/each). Call 414-271-2656 for reservations!

Milwaukee: 2004 LGBT Film/Video Festival Set for September 30-October 10

Offering its largest series of films and videos yet, the Milwaukee Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Film/Video Festival will unfurl 11 continuous days of the finest in new and noteworthy LGBT film and video work across September 30 - October 10.

With an engaging mix of comedy, historical pieces, noir-ish dramas, beautifully photographed essays in mood, bracing documentaries, and cartoonish camp, the Festival will offer an array of film and video as diverse as the LGBT community that it represents.


With over 40 titles from over a dozen countries - award-winning features, documentaries, shorts, and experimental work - the Festival remains as entertaining as it is edifying. And now in its - we think - 17th incarnation, the Festival endures as one of the city's longest-running film festivals and one of the city's major LGBT community events.

The Festival will open on Thursday, September 30, at the Oriental Theatre with the local uncorking of Angela Robinson's "D.E.B.S.," the satirical espionage romp which premiered at Sundance and has been feted at festivals all year-long. The Festival will then continue for the following 10 consecutive days with screenings at the UWM Union Theatre.

"D.E.B.S." debuted at the last Sundance Film Festival. Director Robinson's smartly hilarious short films have graced two earlier Festivals with their fleet satire, casual sexiness, off-the-cuff sophistication, and ready laughs. D.E.B.S., her irreverent, giddy romp of a debut feature about a squad of schoolgirls spies recruited via a test hidden within the SATs, is an expansion of the award-winning short that played here in 2003.

Other standout films this year are also first features from directors whose earlier shorts and experimental work have screened at earlier Milwaukee LGBT series.

Rodney Evans's "Brother to Brother" (October 7, Festival Centerpiece) is a landmark LGBT African American film and the most lauded gay film of the year. A moving and deeply felt paean to the Harlem Renaissance, Brother to Brother has won awards at this year's Sundance Festival and every major LGBT Festival this summer. (New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Philadelphia)



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