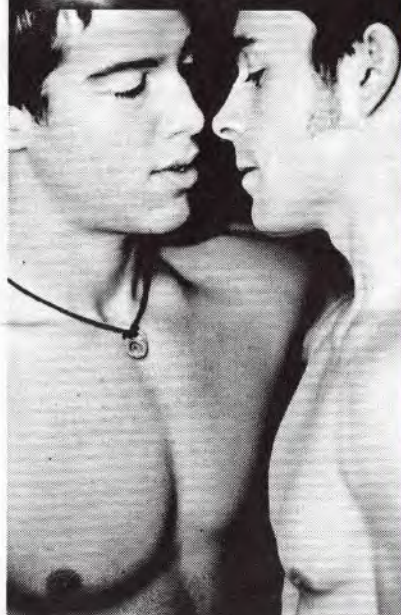


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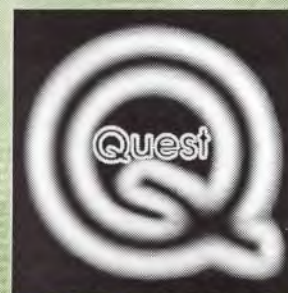
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## Log Cabin Republicans Vote to Withhold Endorsement from President Bush Gay GOP Group Will Focus on Supporting Inclusive Republican Candidates for U.S. House and Senate

**Washington DC** - The Republican Party's largest gay and lesbian organization, which endorsed President Bush in 2000, is withholding its endorsement of the president for re-election because of his support for a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage.

The national board of Log Cabin Republicans voted 22-2 September 7 to hold back the endorsement and called Bush disloyal to the 1 million gay men and lesbian women who it said supported his candidacy four years ago.

"Log Cabin's National Board has voted to withhold a Presidential endorsement and shift our financial and political resources to defeating the radical right and supporting inclusive Republican candidates for the U.S. Senate & House of Representatives," said Log Cabin Board Chairman William Brownson of Ohio.

"Certain moments in history require that a belief in fairness and equality not be sacrificed in the name of partisan politics; this is one of those moments. The national board's vote empowers Log Cabin to maintain its integrity while furthering our goal of building a more inclusive Republican Party. Log Cabin is more committed than ever to its core mission to build a stronger and more inclusive Republican Party. There is a battle for the heart and soul of the Republican Party, and that fight is bigger than one platform, one convention, or even one President," said Log Cabin Republicans Executive Director Patrick Guerriero.

The vote by Log Cabin's 25 member national board marks the first time since the organization opened a national office in Washington, DC in 1993 that the organization has not endorsed the Republican nominee for President. Log Cabin endorsed Bob Dole in 1996 and George W. Bush in 2000. Exit polls confirmed that over 1,000,000 gays and lesbians voted for Bush/Cheney in the 2000 election, including nearly 50,000 in Florida alone.

Log Cabin will devote its financial and political resources to elect fair-minded Republican allies to local, state and federal offices. Log Cabin will endorse more than 50 GOP candidates for the U.S. House and Senate. "Every victory by fair-minded Republicans is a victory for the future of our party. We have made it clear that we can either be the party of Arnold Schwarzenegger and Rudy Giuliani or we

can be the party of Alan Keyes and Rick Santorum," continued Guerriero.

"Log Cabin has proudly supported the President's historic leadership in the global fight against HIV/AIDS," continued Guerriero.

"At the same time, it is impossible to overstate the depth of anger and disappointment caused by the President's support for an anti-family Constitutional Amendment. This amendment would not only ban gay marriage, it would also jeopardize civil unions and domestic partnerships. For six months, the President has made it clear what he opposes. He opposes civil marriage equality; however he has failed to articulate clearly what he supports. Does he support federal civil unions? Does he sup-



port domestic partnerships? Does he support tax fairness for gay and lesbian couples? Does he support employment non-discrimination? Does he support hate crimes legislation? Does he support allowing gay and lesbian service members to serve openly and honestly?" asked Log Cabin Political Director Chris Barron. "An organization's endorsement means nothing if it does not have to be earned."

"Some will accuse us of being disloyal. However, it was actually the White House who was disloyal to the 1,000,000 gay and lesbian Americans who supported him four years ago. Log Cabin's decision was made in response to the White House's strategic political decision to pursue a re-election strategy catered to the radical right. The President's use of the bully pulpit, stump speeches and radio addresses to support a Constitutional amendment has encouraged the passage of discriminatory laws and state constitutional amendments across America. Using gays and lesbians as

wedge issues in an election year is unacceptable to Log Cabin," continued Guerriero.

"At the same time that we saw record numbers of gay and lesbian delegates at the Republican National Convention, and at the same convention where we saw hundreds of fair-minded Republicans gather to support Log Cabin and our allies, our party's platform adopted vicious and mean-spirited language that marginalizes gay and lesbian Americans."

One of those openly-gay delegates - Milwaukee's Patrick Prudlow - told *Quest* that the LGBT delegation nearly walked out of the convention during a caucus meeting the Saturday before the convention's kick-off and the day after final work was completed on the virulently anti-gay party platform proposal. According to Prudlow the closed-door vote was very close. "We recognized that this is the best shot the Religious Right is ever going to get and it will be their last," Prudlow said. "Time is on (the gay community's) side. The younger members of the party do not share the far right's social agenda."

The change after four years has been compelling, according to the gay GOP group. Log Cabin's 2000 endorsement of the Bush/Cheney ticket came during an election where the Republican nominee ran a compassionate conservative campaign that avoided culture war issues. After meeting with gay Republicans in 2000, Mr. Bush declared "I am a better man," and welcomed gays and lesbians as valued parts of the American family. Three of the "Dallas 12" - the dozen gay representatives who met with then candidate Bush - were from Wisconsin.

The early days of the Bush administration were marked by significant victories-maintaining existing anti-discrimination protections for federal employees, appointing openly gay employees throughout the Administration, a continuing dialogue with our organization, and the extension of survivor benefits to gay and lesbian partners who lost loved ones on 9/11. Unfortunately these early successes were short-lived. "Last year, a dramatic and disappointing shift occurred rooted in Karl Rove's public acknowledgment that the 2004 re-election campaign would focus on turning out four million more evangelicals who he believed stayed home in 2000," said Guerriero. The

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President's initial reluctance to amend the Constitution became full-fledged support on February 24th of this year.

Log Cabin has spent most of the year fighting the anti-family Federal Marriage Amendment. This fight culminated with a July victory in the Senate when a growing chorus of Republican opposition to the amendment forced the pro-amendment faction to play procedural games to avoid an embarrassing loss. As many as a dozen or more Republican Senators were prepared to oppose the FMA on its merits.

"During the fight over the anti-family FMA, we sadly watched as the President and his Administration leaned on Republican members of the House and Senate to support this divisive and unnecessary amendment. We watched as the President's support for this anti-family amendment emboldened the forces of fear and exclusion to push anti-gay ballot initiatives and legislation on the state and local level. We watched as the radical right works to defeat fair-minded Republicans across the nation. We watched as the Republican Party Platform rejected our Party Unity Plank and included language opposing not only civil marriage but also civil unions, domestic partnerships or indeed any basic benefits for same-sex couples. At a time when courageous gay and lesbian military personnel are helping to win the war on terror, the platform outrageously claims 'homosexuality is incompatible with military service,'" continued Guerriero. The GOP platform language continues to target gays and lesbians and fails to present a positive agenda to ensure basic fairness for millions of gay Americans, who pay taxes, serve in the military, enhance communities, and serve in government.

Throughout this challenging year Log Cabin has doubled in size and launched new chapters where none existed. Log Cabin successfully led the fight against the Federal Marriage Amendment with its first ever television advertising campaign, worked with 18 GOP lawmakers in passing hate crimes legislation in the Senate, and continued supporting and educating state and local officials, ration of inclusive Republican leaders," said Guerriero.

Log Cabin recently launched a new television advertising campaign to take this

fight for the GOP's future directly to the American people. The ad makes it clear that the party has a choice. We can be the party of hope, in the best tradition of Ronald Reagan, by uniting around issues that bring Republicans together, like winning the war on terror; or the party can divide Americans with the politics of intolerance and fear that only lead to hate.

"The battle for the heart and soul of the Republican Party has just begun. We are confident that the politics of inclusion and hope will prevail over the politics of exclusion and fear. History, fairness and common decency are on our side," concluded Guerriero.

## Gay Marriage Could Affect Swing State Vote

**New York** - The war in Iraq; jobs and the economy; terrorism. For voters nationwide, those issues seem sure to determine the outcome on Election Day. But in several critical swing states, the conservative push to amend state constitutions and ban gay marriage is giving delegates and party officials a way to lure a group of voters - especially traditional churchgoers - who could tip these states to President Bush.

Pollsters and analysts disagree how much impact voters on these ballot initiatives will have in their states - unless the presidential race gets very close. If it does, they say the

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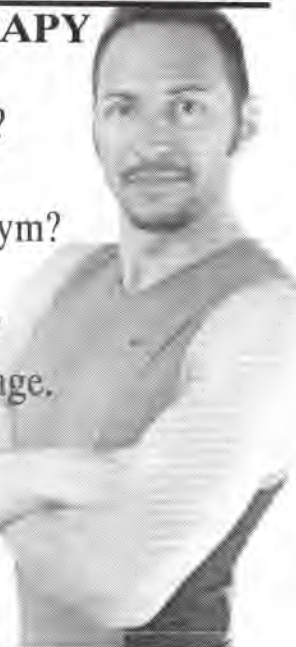
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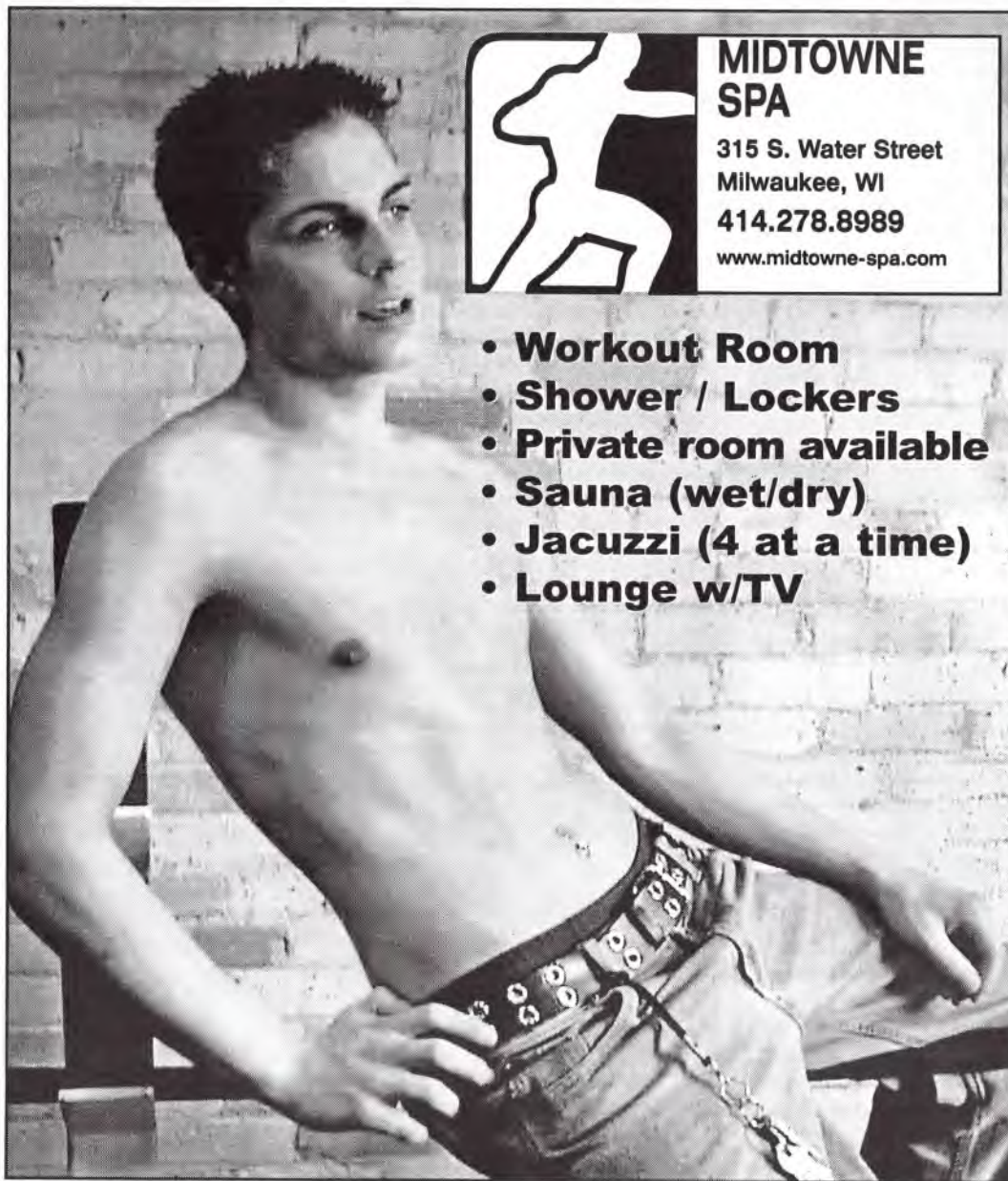
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edge would go for the GOP.

"It's going to get people out to vote," said Ohio delegate Donald Miller, a retired industrialist from Fostoria. "If we can get the congregations to register and vote, it's going to make a huge difference."

Miller, a state party committeeman, said he and other state officials met with over 100 ministers, asking them to inform their congregants and encourage them to register and to vote in support.

"They're not being asked to vote for Bush. They're being asked to vote their heart," he said. Still, he's confident that conservative churchgoers who respond will vote, four out of five, for Bush.

Amendments are on the Nov. 2 ballot, or pending approval, in 11 states, including four swing states: Arkansas, which Bush won in 2000 by 50,172 votes; Oregon, which former vice president Al Gore won by less than 1 percent, or 6,765 votes; Michigan, which Gore won by 217,279 votes. The ballot question in Michigan has yet to be certified; and Ohio, which Bush won by 165,109 votes. The question has yet to be given final approval.

Outside of Election Day, Louisiana will vote on its amendment September 18. Missouri voters already amended their constitution, turning out in record numbers August 3 to overwhelmingly approve the ballot question.

Same-sex marriage has already been a divisive and attention-getting issue in recent months. Bush pushed, unsuccessfully, for Congress to agree to a constitutional amendment banning such marriages, after Massachusetts legalized same-sex marriages under court order.

Then leaders in a scattering of communities, from New Paltz, NY, to San Francisco, challenged state law by marrying homosexual and lesbian couples. Republicans responded by passing a platform Monday that uncompromisingly opposed such marriages.

All that attention actually makes it less likely the issue will have sweeping impact in the swing states, because voters on both sides are energized and voters overall are already more engaged and likely to vote this election, said Ed Sarpolus, a Michigan pollster. Sarpolus said Republicans would only benefit from the ballot question in Michigan if the margin between Bush and Kerry were as slim as 50,000 votes, less than a quarter of the winning margin for

Gore in 2000.

Another Michigan analyst sees a greater benefit for Bush, especially since the latest polls there show a statistical dead heat. "It is possible this race will be decided by less than 100,000 votes. That's absolutely when it will be felt," said pollster Steve Mitchell. "It allows supporters to do voter registration drives in the churches. If they do that, by huge margins, people who go to church once a week or more are Republican."

Many see an underhanded strategy, convinced that backers hope to boost Bush along with banning gay marriages. "I don't think it's an accident that a number of swing states are facing these constitutional amendments," said Rebekah Kassell of the No on Constitutional Amendment 36 group in Portland, Oregon.

For those in support, it's about morals and

tradition. In Arkansas, David Purifoy, a volunteer with the Family Council, is sending packages to pastors as well as talking with friends, neighbors and members of his congregation.

"Not every church member is going to feel the same way," said Purifoy, from Greenwood. "But more so than not, the churches are going to favor not changing the definition" of marriage. And that, he would bet, will help Bush, even if conservative Democrats also support the question.

For swing states, those incremental numbers are everything, said Ohio Secretary of State Ken Blackwell.

"This is a big issue in Ohio. It's going to be an issue that will draw out a lot of voters," said Blackwell, a delegate who spoke to ministers at the gathering with Miller. "Turnout is going to be very, very key."

**Finally... Bartender Andy is turning 21**

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#### Employment

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#### Personals

Your signature, address and phone w/ area code are required on classified ads so we can contact you if there's a problem. E-mail classes return address OK. (Business related classifieds are \$10 per issue; include payment with ad copy) **STATE YOU ARE OVER 18!** Please **LIMIT COPY** to 30-40 WORDS! (We can not accept classified ads from incarcerated folks.) Please be considerate of others; we have limited space...please do not submit additional ads until several months have passed. *Quest* reserves the right to edit for brevity.

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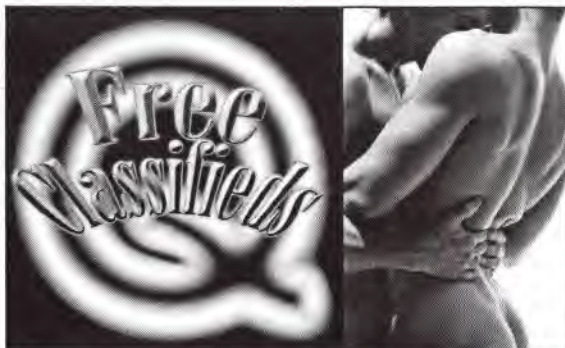
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**Housemate/Roommate:** NW Milwaukee, good quiet neighborhood; 2 BR, 1 Bath, off-street parking. Looking for responsible male, smoker OK, \$400 incl. utilities (except phone). (414) 258-2105 [1]

Great **Chicago** apartment avail. Oct. 1 - considered Ravenswood

(Lawrence & Ashland), but one block from Andersonville businesses, including Clark's on Clark and the Eagle. 1 BR, 1 bath garden apt., kitchen, living & dining room. Secure bldg., HW floors, sunny, laundry on site, storage, street parking (no residential stricker needed), cat/dog friendly. Sec. Dep. is 1 1/2 mo. rent, heat & water incl., good credit needed. \$650 mo. (608) 347-4418

**Neenah** apartment - Heylett St., \$450 mo.: 2 BR features self-cleaning oven & defrosting refrigerator, big bedrooms & closets. Coin laundry on site. Half off 1st mo. rent, small pets considered. (920) 379-1167 [1]

Large Riverwest (**Milwaukee**) flat for rent, 3140 N. Weil St. Quiet area! Huge LR, hardwood floors, new kitchen counters & sink, appliances, garage parking, central air. No smoking. Pets negotiable. \$750 mo. + security. Gene (414) 213-8544 [2]

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Who are the men in the ManKind Project? We are a progressive men's organization striving to be inclusive and affirming of social and cultural differences with respect to faith, age, color, class, sexual orientation, ethnicity and nationality. The Mankind Project is an organization of men working together to improve their lives and help other men in a community of brotherhood. The New Warrior Training adventure (NWTa) is where it starts. Gay and bisexual men are often more interested in attending a training a NWTa where the majority of the staff and those attending are gay or bisexual. These two NWTa weekends are organized with the participation of the gay and bi members of our community for any men who want to join us.

### Contact Information:

Chicago - Steward Walker

312.243.6743  
[mkpchicago@sbglobal.net](mailto:mkpchicago@sbglobal.net)

Atlanta - Paul Brown

404.493.5594  
[atlanta@mkp.org](mailto:atlanta@mkp.org)



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## CALIFORNIA: JUDGE OKS NEW DOMESTIC PARTNER LAW

A Superior Court judge in Sacramento upheld a new state law Wednesday that is poised to give gay couples who register as domestic partners nearly all the legal benefits and responsibilities of married spouses. Dismissing arguments of two groups that sued to have the law struck down before it takes effect January 1, Judge Loren E. McMaster ruled that assigning privileges such as alimony and parental status to same-sex couples does not violate a voter-approved measure that holds California can recognize only marriages between a man and a woman.

"The parties' obvious fundamental dispute is whether a domestic partnership under the new statute constitutes a marriage. The court concludes that it does not," McMaster wrote. "In the end, although the two relationships now share many, if not most, of the same functional attributes they are inherently distinct."

Former Governor Gray Davis signed the California Defense of Marriage Act last year. Randy Thomasson, executive director of Campaign for California Families, said his group would appeal The September 8 ruling.

"McMaster has trashed the vote of the people who said they want everything about marriage to stay for a man and a woman," Thomasson said. "The clear and plain reading of these marriage-attacking bills was to create homosexual marriage by another name."

Gay civil rights advocates applauded the ruling, saying the statute's implementation would herald a new era of legal protection and participation for gay couples who beginning next year will have access to family courts for dividing their assets if they split up and be able to take extended leave from work to care for a partner. The law, in fact, gives same-sex couples all the duties and privileges of marriage available under state law except the ability to file joint income taxes.

"Domestic partnership is a really important step forward for the gay community," said Jon Davidson of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, which helped defend the law.

In upholding the new law, the judge largely adopted the reasoning advanced by the state attorney general and lawyers for Equality California, the state's largest gay rights lobbying group, that the institution of marriage is much more than a collection of state-sanctioned duties and rights. As such, it can't be undermined when those duties and rights are changed or expanded to other groups, he said.

"A marriage is no less or more a marriage when government adds or subtracts yet another restriction, duty or benefit exclusive to the marital relationship," he said. "The relationship remains a 'marriage,' in name and nature, nonetheless."

Meanwhile, the city of San Francisco and a coalition of gay rights groups have sued the state to have California's one man, one woman marriage laws overturned on grounds that they violate the constitutional rights of gays and lesbians.

Although his opinion is not binding in those cases, McMaster seemed to hint that it won't be long before California follows Massachusetts in legalizing marriage for same-sex partners. "It is questionable, in light of recent statutes and court decisions, whether the state may articulate a rational basis to deny rights to same-sex couples that are granted to persons who are married," he said.

## GEORGIA: BOYCOTT FOR EQUALITY GATHERS STEAM ORGANIZERS CLAIM

Echelon Magazine, a news source for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Business Community, was the first of several LGBT businesses who have committed to close their offices October 8 as part of the national Boycott For Equality to protest marriage and employment discrimination. Now, several others have joined the boycott.

With still a month to go before the walkout, more than 650,000 visitors have come to the website, and almost 5,000 people have taken an active role by pledging to support the effort by providing money and contacts. The success is a result of endorsements from lesbian and gay groups across the country and a grassroots desire to do something to raise awareness about freedom and equality.

"It's fantastic to see the community uniting behind this event," Boycott for Equality co-Founder Dale Duncan said. "it's about time we put aside our self-fulfilling cynicism and do something to show our strength and express our freedom."

Joining Los Angeles-based Echelon Magazine ([www.echelon.com](http://www.echelon.com)) are Traders Neighborhood Store in Atlanta ([www.tradersatlanta.com](http://www.tradersatlanta.com)), Shag: The Salon in San Antonio ([www.shagthesalon.com](http://www.shagthesalon.com)), Azteria Healthcare Recruiting in Los Angeles ([www.azteria.com](http://www.azteria.com)), Alta Vida Dental Lab in Springfield, Missouri, and The Grass Harp, also in Springfield, Missouri.

Duncan welcomes the actions these businesses have taken, and expects many more to follow. He says small businesses are particularly sensitive to the extra costs that discrimination brings, such as the added tax burdens incurred by unmarried partners who are taxed differently for domestic partner benefits from their counterparts who are able to legally marry.

"When the owner of a small business leaves the economy, they bring their employees with them," Duncan points out. "Nobody can say that America is stronger or better when gay people are not allowed to participate fairly - but in effect, that's what is happening. These closures will help to change that."

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: not making any purchases, not going to work and not using cellular phones.

A number of groups that have endorsed or encouraged Boycott for Equality Day include Don't Amend: The Equality Campaign, *The Advocate*, Civil Marriage US, several local PFLAG chapters, DC Diversity, Equality Illinois and Wyoming Equality. For more information, visit [www.boycottforequality.org](http://www.boycottforequality.org)



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## Community Calendar

**Thursday, Sept. 16**

Fluid (Milw.) Post Office Party, 10 pm (also Sept. 30)  
Harmony Cafe (Appleton) Pita (from the reggae band Unity) hosts another awesome open mic jam session, 7-9 pm  
STD Specialties free HIV & syphilis testing, 10pm-1am, Boom

**Saturday, Sept. 18**

Harmony Cafe (Appleton) 7th annual Foods of All Nations (2:30-6:30) authentic food from over 20 nationalities, + dance and music from around the world including the return of the Taiko Drummers from Japan. Tickets \$7 (children under 6 free)  
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  
La Crosse LGBT open house for the official opening of the new Resource Center for the Seven Rivers Area - 115 5th Av. So., Suite 408, 4-10 pm. Refreshments & beverages provided  
ZA's (Green Bay) Happy Birthday Andy! He's turning 21. 11:30-close. \$3 cover. \$1.50 tappers, \$2 rails, \$2 btl beer, \$3 pints of Captain 'n Coke. On the go-go boxes: Portfolio Men

**Sunday, Sept. 19**

Boom (Milw.) Celebrate Greg's (aka Myrna) Birthday, 9 pm  
M & M (Milw.) Baby Jane Hudson's Annual Birthday Show  
SAGE/Milw. - A community discussion for lesbians of all ages, 6-8 pm, at the Counseling Center of Milwaukee, 2038 N. Bartlett. Meets 3rd Sun. of each mo. FMI (414) 271-2565

**Monday, Sept. 20**

SAGE/Milw. - Milw. LGBT Community Center Cyber Center...an introductory computer course called *What's the Internet Anyway*, 6:30-8:30 pm. Pre-registration necessary. (414) 271-2565

**Tuesday, Sept. 21**

SAGE/Milw. - an Introductory Seminar on Estate Planning to be presented by Attorney Nancy L. Shue (DeWitt, Ross & Stevens, S.C.); reserve your spot by calling 224-0517

**Wednesday, Sept. 22**

STD Specialties free HIV & syphilis testing, 10pm-1am, Woodys

**Saturday, September 25**

Club 5 (Madison) Queen of the Dance Divas - Kristine W - appears live, 11 pm  
Jo'Dee's Int'l (Racine) Miss Jo'Dee's Int'l Pageant 2005, 10:30 pm, featuring Traci Ross, reigning Miss Jo'Dee's 2004 and Mark Madison, reigning Mr. Jo'Dee's 2004

STD Specialties free HIV & syphilis testing, 10pm-1am, Club 219

ZA's West Theatre (Green Bay) Miss Emerald City USofA contest at 11 pm  
**Sunday, Sept. 26**

**AIDS WALK WISCONSIN**

M&M (Milw.) Ginni performs this evening

**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](mailto:sv@forge-forward.org) or [www.forge-forward.org](http://www.forge-forward.org) or (414) 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

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**Wednesday, Sept. 29**

Harmony Cafe (Appleton) Kyle Keehan, just back from Second City in Chicago, returns for another night of comedy; this time he'll be doing stand-up with Phil Zimmerman

**Sept. 30 - Oct. 10**

**2004 Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival  
Oriental & UWM Union Theatres.**

Boulevard Theatre (Milw.): *School for Wives*, Moliere's delightful comedy, opens today & runs thru Oct. 23. Tickets (414) 744-5757. More info at [boulevardtheatre.com](http://boulevardtheatre.com)

**Saturday, Oct. 2**

Angels of Hope members (the first 15 to sign up...Tina 920-217-3313) tour the Fox River on the Foxy Lady Yacht!

Blue Lite (Sheboygan) Miss Lakeshore WI USofA

**Wednesday, October 6**

STD Specialties free HIV & syphilis testing, 10pm-1am, Harbor Room

**Saturday, Oct. 9**

Sass (Green Bay) Ms Gay WI USofA

Swan Club (DePere) An Evening with Rainbow Over Wisconsin, a gala LGBT event benefiting ROW's Community Enrichment Fund: cocktails & silent auction at 6, dinner 7:30, live auction featuring Jarica Jordan at 8:30, dancing & cameo performances 9:30. Tickets \$25; tables of 10, \$250. Nancy (920) 432-9646 to reserve tickets, or e-mail [rainbowoverwi@athnet.net](mailto:rainbowoverwi@athnet.net)

ZA's West Theatre (Green Bay) Za celebrates his birthday with open bar from midnight to 1 am

BADGER PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

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Michael Ray ~ Mr. Gay USA At-Large 2004

**\$5 cover**

Registration 2:00 pm

**\$50 Entry Fee**



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**10:30pm showtime**  
**\$3 Cover**

**Starring**

**B.B. Foxx ~ Miss Gay Wausau USofA 2001**

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**Tami Faye ~ 1998**

**CC Domino ~ 1999**

**Emur Illuzion ~ 2001**

**Cass Marie Domino ~ 2002**

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## CHICAGO BODY ELECTRIC WORKSHOP PLANNED

Illinois - "Celebrating the Body Electric," a workshop for men exploring the connections between touch, physical pleasure and spiritual awareness, will be held in Chicago on October 16 & 17 from 9 AM to 7 PM. Social conditioning has taught men to disconnect from their bodies, and most Western religions teach men to abstain from pleasure. "Celebrating the Body Electric" uses a series of group and individual exercises to allow men to experience their erotic energy as playful, sacred, energizing and transformative.

The workshop is conducted by the Oakland-based Body Electric School, which has been offering classes in massage and erotic spirituality since 1984. The cost is \$350.00 for the two day workshop. Scholarships are available for men living with HIV. For more information, call the Chicago coordinator at 312-819-1524

## MICHIGAN: ANTI-GAY BALLOT, NADER ON NOVEMBER BALLOT

In two-pronged news likely to be good for President Bush, the state's appeals court last week agreed to put Ralph Nader on the November ballot and also allow a proposed constitutional ban on gay marriage before Michigan voters this fall, the Detroit Free Press reported. The Michigan Court of Appeals approved petitions to put Nader on the ballot as an independent, and Republicans expect Nader to draw votes from Democratic presidential nominee John Kerry, the Press reported. The GOP also backed petitions by a group called Citizens for Protection of Marriage to get a gay marriage ban proposal on the Nov. 2 ballot, according to the Press. Bush supports a federal constitutional amendment to ban gay unions, and Democrats allege that the gay marriage petition drive is powered by the GOP to help Bush, the newspaper reported. The Michigan group filed 412,243 signatures, far more than required, to put the anti-gay measure on the ballot, according to the Press.

"The Court of Appeals had an opportunity to make sure the voters had a fair and accurate description of how this amendment will wipe out existing domestic partnership benefits, including those between a man and a woman," said Wendy Howell, Campaign Manager for Coalition for a Fair

Michigan. "Unfortunately, when voters read their ballot, they will read legalese meant to deceive keep them from knowing that this amendment will take away health and pension benefits from Michigan families, including those of a man and a woman."

In hearings before the State Board of Canvassers, the backers of this proposed amendment would not deny that they want this amendment to pass so they can attack domestic partner benefits. Furthermore, in their arguments before the Court of Appeals, the proponents admitted that the meaning of "marriage or similar union for any purpose" is so unclear that it will have to be interpreted by the courts. Same-sex marriage is already against three Michigan laws.

"It's too bad the Court of Appeals has allowed the backers of this amendment to use deceptive legalese to try to trick the voters into banning domestic partnerships," said Howell. "By not clarifying the ballot language, the Court of Appeals has made it harder for voters to see what is hidden in this unnecessary and cynical amendment."

The Coalition for a Fair Michigan is a diverse group of organizations, leaders and

voters around the state that have joined together to defeat a proposed amendment to the Michigan state constitution that would permanently ban any legal recognition of relationships other than opposite-sex marriage, including civil unions or domestic partnerships for unmarried heterosexual couples. It would also prohibit any form of domestic partnership benefits (such as health care and prescription benefits) from being offered to public-sector employees.

## TEXAS: COURT RULES FOR GAY INMATE IN PRISON SEX SLAVE CASE

In a legal first, a unanimous federal appeals court has ruled that seven ranking Texas prison officials can be sued for damages due to discrimination based on sexual orientation, the American Civil Liberties Union announced September 9. The ruling by the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals came in a lawsuit filed by the ACLU on behalf of a gay man who was repeatedly raped by prison gangs and whose pleas for help were ignored by officials.

Margaret Winter, Associate Director of

ally make it illegal to be fired from your job for being gay. In most states, that's still OK," Meyer said. "Even here, though, human rights laws are under attack."

Several marchers said efforts to prevent gays from marriage and civil unions are demoralizing but are also the source of renewed energy to keep battling for recognition and rights others take for granted.

"We're part of the community. We want our commitments to be recognized. I think we have a lot to offer," Moore said.

Several parade participants praised Duluth Mayor Herb Bergson for his proclamation of support for the weekend's 18th annual Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Allied and Intersex Pride Festival. And they denounced Superior Mayor Dave Ross, who refused to offer a proclamation.

"It's a shame the Superior mayor can't support members of his own community," Meyer said.

Dana and Ryan Korhonen of Superior watched the parade from Tower Avenue, saying they came to show support for friends and relatives who are gay. "We wanted to show that we're supportive of them. We love them for who they are," Ryan Korhonen said. "They go through a lot living here."

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Saturday., October 2

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8:30pm Interview • 10pm Pageant Time

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Featuring:

Alexis Winter ~ Miss LakeShore USofA 2003

Holly Hot Damn ~ Miss Gay WI USofA 2004

DeeDee Winters ~ Miss Gay WI USofA 2002

Jarica Jordan ~ Miss LakeShore USofA Emeritus



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around the globe offered in two programs (one lesbian, one gay, both October 9), and sprinkled through the program.

The opening night showing of Angela Robinson's Sundance favorite *D.E.B.S.* unspools September 30 at the Oriental Theatre, 2230 N Farwell, with tickets at \$12, available at the Oriental and Outwards Bookstore, 2710 N. Murray. All other screenings will take place at the UWM Union Theatre, on the second floor of the UWM Student Union, at 2200 E Kenwood Boulevard. Tickets at that venue are \$7 for general admission, \$5 for students, seniors, and members of the UWM campus community. Festival passes will be available. Festival booklets are now available at ticket locations and at the Milwaukee LGBT Center.

The Festival is presented by the UWM Department of Film in the Peck School of the Arts, and is co-sponsored by the UWM LGBT Resource Center and UWM Union Programming. This year the Festival is co-sponsored by the Sundance Channel, Showtime's *The L Word*, and Here! TV, with community support from PrideFest Milwaukee, the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, the Lesbian Alliance of Metropolitan Milwaukee, the Washington Heights Rainbow Association, the LGBT Center Advocates, FORGE, and with UWM campus support from the LGBT Certificate Studies Program, the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, the Community Media Project,

French and Francophone Studies and the UWM Women's Resource Center.

For more information, contact Carl Bogner in the Film Department at 414 229 4758 or [lgbtfilm@uwm.edu](mailto:lgbtfilm@uwm.edu)

## SUPERIOR: HUNDREDS TURN OUT FOR 18TH ANNUAL GAY PRIDE PARADE

There were no marching bands and only one real float, but to members of the Twin Ports gay and lesbian communities, September 4's pride parade in Superior was as big as Macy's on Thanksgiving Day. The event took less than 15 minutes as parade participants walked, motorcycled and drove down Broadway Street from Hammond Avenue and then turned up Tower Avenue in downtown Superior, ending at the Main Club tavern.

In a town where the Republican mayor wouldn't support their cause and in an era when states are passing constitutional amendments denying gay rights, participants and their supporters said the Labor Day eve event was an important showing.

Michael Moore of Superior and Grace Bennett of Duluth made up the color guard, carrying the US and the rainbow flags side-by-side at the front of the parade. "It's important to do this to show pride in our community. To show unity and support," Moore said. "To show others they aren't alone," Bennett added.

More than 200 people walked or rode in the parade with dozens of people sitting in folding chairs and crowded in tavern doorways watching along the way. The atmosphere was friendly and there were no reports of any confrontations, and heavy rain held off just long enough to finish the event.

"It's great to celebrate people who are out and open about who they are," said Monica Meyer, public policy director for Outfront Minnesota, the statewide LGBT advocacy group. Meyer said gay, lesbian, transgender and bisexual rights are under attack across the country. While Minnesota and Wisconsin tend to be fairly supportive of equal rights, Meyer said the gay community and its supporters must continue to fight for equal protections under law.

"Minnesota and Wisconsin are two of only a few states that actu-

the ACLU's National Prison Project and an attorney for the former prisoner, Roderick Keith Johnson, applauded the decision, which was issued late yesterday. The decision also upheld the right to proceed in the case under the Eighth Amendment's protection against cruel and unusual punishment.

"I could not be more pleased that we are one step closer to Roderick Johnson having his day in court," said Winter. "Once heard, Mr. Johnson's testimony about the horrifying abuse he endured and the prison staff's deliberate indifference to that abuse will shock Texas citizens and hopefully bring about improvements for all prisoners in similar circumstances."

For 18 months, Johnson was housed at the James A. Allred Unit in Iowa Park, Texas where prison gangs bought and sold him as a sexual slave, raping, abusing, and degrading him nearly every day, the ACLU said in legal papers. Johnson filed numerous grievances, letters, and complaints with prison officials and appeared before the unit's classification committee seven separate times asking to be transferred to safe-keeping, protective custody, or another prison, but each time they refused, telling him that he must "fight or fuck." Prison officials moved Johnson out of the Allred Unit and into a wing designated for vulnerable prisoners only after the ACLU intervened on his behalf.

In its brief to the appeals court, the ACLU showed that Johnson had produced ample evidence that Texas prison officials "were well aware of the significant risk that ...[he] would be raped and that they consciously disregarded the risk, arbitrarily denying him protection." Indeed, direct evidence provided by Johnson includes statements by prison officers announcing that they were denying him protection because it was up to Johnson to fight off predators if he did not choose to sexually submit to them and that he should "choose someone to be with" if he wanted protection from rape.

In its unanimous ruling, the appeals court noted the U.S. Supreme

Court's 1994 ruling that officials have a duty to protect prisoners from violence at the hands of other prisoners. "[H]aving stripped them of virtually every means to self-protection and foreclosed their access to outside aid, the government and its officials are not free to let the state of nature take its course," wrote Justice David H. Souter in *Farmer v. Brennan*. "Being violently assaulted in prison is simply not part of the penalty that criminal offenders pay for their offenses against society."

## VERMONT: RESEARCHERS SEEK WISCONSIN LESBIANS FOR PARENTING STUDY

exciting study about families headed by lesbian couples. Lesbian mothers will participate in an anonymous online questionnaire sponsored by the University. The researchers hope that results from the study will lead to better public policy decisions regarding lesbian motherhood and help communities more effectively support families headed by lesbian mothers.

For more information and a link to the survey, please visit: [www.uvm.edu/~mcmeconn/webpage1.html](http://www.uvm.edu/~mcmeconn/webpage1.html). If you have any questions, please contact Melanie McConnell via email at: [Melanie.McConnell@uvm.edu](mailto:Melanie.McConnell@uvm.edu) or Dr. Lynne Bond via email at: [Lynne.Bond@uvm.edu](mailto:Lynne.Bond@uvm.edu) or by phone at 802-656-1341.

## WASHINGTON, DC: PEW RESEARCH POLL SHOWS RELIGIOUS GROUPS OPPOSE GAY UNIONS

Americans in most religious categories want laws to define marriage as between a man and a woman, with support among black Protestants virtually as high as among white evangelical Protestants, according to a survey issued September 9. The 4,000

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Vol. 11 Issue 18

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respondents chose among three options: legal status only for heterosexual marriage (55% of the total sample in favor), legalized civil unions (18 %) or legalized same-sex marriage (27 %).

The wording did not refer specifically to the proposed Constitutional amendment backed by President Bush and many Republicans and religious conservatives. The only groups giving majority backing to same-sex marriage were Jews (55 %), white Catholics identified as "modernist" in belief (51 %), followers of faiths other than Judaism or Christianity (50 %) and the growing category of those with no religious affiliation (50 %). There was plurality support for man-woman marriage among white "main-line" Protestants (47 %) and of only 48 % among white Roman Catholics - despite strong stands by the Vatican and U.S. bishops. But support reached 52 % among Latino Catholics, 71 % among Latino Protestants, 72 % among black Protestants and 75 % among white evangelical Protestants.

John C. Green of the University of Akron, who directed the survey for the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life ([www.pewforum.org](http://www.pewforum.org)), said Republicans need to be cautious on the issue, however. The reason: A 57 % majority of Americans said yes on a more general question of whether gay people should "have the same rights as other Americans."

The survey also showed that since the 1996 campaign, belief that abortion should only be legal "in few circumstances" or not at all has moved from minority to slight majority status among black Protestants (54 %) and Latino Catholics (57 %) and increased to 69 % among evangelical Protestants. The margin of error for the entire sample was plus or minus 2 percentage points, but higher to varying degrees with the breakdowns of smaller groups.

## Quest on the web.

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permits registered voters to vote right from the privacy of their own homes in whatever state of dress (or undress) they choose. Flaherty emphasized that the upcoming election on November 2 may be the most important one of the gay community's collective lives and stressed the need to get out and vote for candidates who are sympathetic to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community. Flaherty noted that through there are approximately 10 million LGBT people in the United States only only 4 million voted in the 2000 election, according to exit polling.

### **MILWAUKEE: 2004 MILWAUKEE LGBT FILM/VIDEO FESTIVAL DOCUMENTARIES TAKE ON HOT BUTTON ISSUES**

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. In addition to the original dramas and comedies outlined in the last issue of Quest, this year's festival will offer films that confront today's hottest issue: same sex marriage. Two documentaries to be screened at the festival will provide insight into what may be the "make or break" issue of the 2004 presidential election.

The ongoing marriage debate receives a helpfully expansive treatment in Jim De Seve's celebrated *Tying the Knot* (showing October 10) which, through moving case histories, startling archival footage (of, for instance, the Gay Activist Alliance taking over the New York City City clerk's office to protest the denial of the right to marry - in 1971), and helpful historical contextualiza-

tion, provides a vigorous and activist intervention in the ever-shifting legal struggles around this issue.

Or consider the happily married couple in Emily Goldberg's documentary *Venus of Mars* (October 9), the portrait of the transgendered lead singer of the Minneapolis glam rock band All the Pretty Horses. Married to Lynette for twenty years, Venus, AKA Steve, is talking female hormones but resisting sexual reassignment surgery, preferring to remain "in between." This genial documentary offers both the unique coming-out story of Venus's gender-redefining journey, and the truly contemporary love story of a couple redefining marriage. Filmmaker and the All the Pretty Horses to be in attendance!

The Festival will also offer a free screening of the Swedish documentary *Don't You Worry, It Will Probably Pass* (October 9), Cecilia Neant-Palk's collaboration with three teen age girls, each armed with a video camera to record their thoughts and questions about themselves, their sexual identities, over the course of four years.

The Festival will also present the landmark video from the pioneering artist/scholar/activist Marlon Riggs, who died of AIDS-related illnesses ten years ago. Combining memoir, spoken word performance, dance, and manifesto, *Tongues Untied* (October 2) expanded the form of personal documentary to incorporate a rich variety of voices, testifying to the hardships and joys of black gay male experience.

Also planned at the festival will be a revival screening of Euro erotica auteur Radley Metzger's lesbian classic *Therese and Isabelle* (October 6, presented in Ultrascope), and a gaggle of shorts from



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## LACROSSE: SEVEN RIVERS LGBT CENTER OPEN HOUSE COINCIDES WITH NEW BOOK GROUP

The unveiling of the new Seven Rivers LGBT Center here Saturday, September 18 will also be a treat for gay and lesbian bookworms. In addition to the formal reception at the center from 4 to 10 PM in Scenic Center building (115 E. Fifth Avenue South, Suite 408), there will also be the first meeting of the center's new book club.

The club will meet after the open house event. Interested participants are asked to contact group facilitator Sandra Krajewski prior to the meeting via email at: [krajewsk.sand@uwlax.edu](mailto:krajewsk.sand@uwlax.edu) The type of reading that the group will be doing and future meeting times will depend on the interests of the group Refreshments will be served at both events.

For find more information about the open house and other center activities, access the center's website at: [www.7riverslgbt.org](http://www.7riverslgbt.org).

## MADISON: ACTION WISCONSIN DISTRIBUTES VOTER GUIDE

This could be the most important election year in a lifetime for LGBT people and our loved ones. Wisconsin will head to the polls for a September 14th primary and then again for the November 2nd general election.

As in election years past, Action Wisconsin, the statewide LGBT civil rights advocacy group, has conducted a legislative candidate survey to inform you about candidates' positions on LGBT civil rights. The survey is non-partisan and designed for informational purposes only. At this time the group is not endorsing particular candidates.

The 2004 Voter Education Guide is available through the AW website: [www.actionwisconsin.org](http://www.actionwisconsin.org). Look for "Who's Running?" in the top right-hand corner of the web page. the guide will be updated in the week following the September primary and re-distributed online, via mail and at LGBT friendly outlets throughout the state.

AW asked candidates about their positions on the proposed constitutional ban on civil unions and marriage, civil marriage equality, and nondiscrimination protection for transgender people. The resource guide also has details about incumbent candidates' voting records on anti-gay legislation.

Every Assembly seat is up for election this year—as they are every two years. But only half of the state Senate seats are up for election in a given election year. This year, it's the even-numbered state Senate districts.

Wisconsin also has an election for U.S. Senate this year. Current Senator Russ Feingold is running again. Four Republicans ran in the September 14th primary to run against Feingold, and one Libertarian is in the race as well. Wisconsin also has eight seats in the U.S. House of Representatives, and each of these seats is up for election this year—and every two years.

## MILWAUKEE: GAY SENIORS ENCOURAGED TO "VOTE NAKED"

It was far from politics as usual at the SAGE offices here on Monday, September 13. Patrick Flaherty of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center met with the senior group's political discussion group, Politics as Unusual. Flaherty explained the center's OutVote "Vote Naked" project, an absentee voting program that



## Miss Wisconsin USofA Classic

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Ginger Manchester  
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## 2004 MILWAUKEE LGBT FILM FESTIVAL



by Glenn Bishop

The Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival is back and according to Festival Director Carl Bogner, it will be bigger and better than ever. Beginning Thursday, Sept. 30, the finest in new and noteworthy LGBT film and video will be screened over 11, count

them, eleven continuous days! In this issue of Quest, Glenn will highlight and spotlight the highs and lows, the ups and the downs of the Festival's first weekend before returning the rest of the closing weekend in the next issue.

**Day 1. Thursday, Sept. 30**

One of the highlights of last

year's Festival was Angela Robinson's hilarious short, "D.E.B.S." As the Festival's Opening Night Gala at the Milwaukee's fabulous Oriental Theatre, the agents for the elite espionage squad dubbed D.E.B.S. (Discipline. Energy. Beauty. Strength.) once again battle their arch nemesis, the sinister master criminal babe, Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds. So top secret is D.E.B.S.'s latest misadventure that Glenn could not even get a screener - not on eBay, not even for ready money!

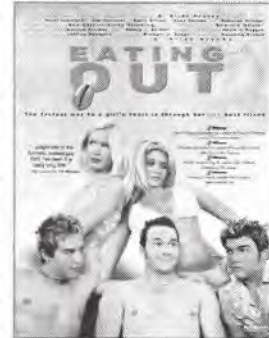
(Angela Robinson, USA 91min.)

**Day 2. Friday, October 1**  
(7:00) Sara Millman's

"Robin's Hood" begins the evening in a hip hop ultra low-budget Lesbian re-tooling of the classic fable of the historically eccentric protagonist who stole from the rich and gave to

the truly deserving. Robbing banks may not quite be analogous to stealing from the rich but sexy French butch mechanic and petty thief Brooklyn (Clody Cates) and her gal Robin (Khattee V Turner) eventually begin to make the world - or at least a small district of Oakland a better place for underprivileged kids to grow up in. Part fable, more successfully a rather unconventional love story, "Robin's Hood" is an earnest cinematic effort whose heart is in the right place.

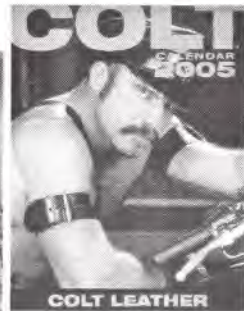
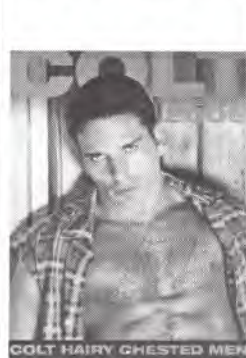
(Sara Millman, 90min. USA)



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**Lace**



## APPLETON: HARMONY CAFE EVENTS FEATURE INTERNATIONAL FOOD FEST

The LGBT-friendly coffeehouse Harmony Cafe will sponsor its 7th annual Foods of All Nations festival on Saturday, September 18 from 2:30-6:30 PM. The festival will offer authentic food from over 20 nationalities, as well as dance and music from around the world. Highlighting the musical portion of the festival will be the return of the Taiko drummers from Japan. The majority of the festival will happen on Oneida Street outside of Harmony Cafe and the Fox Cities Rotary Multicultural Center. Children's games, prizes and face painting will be inside Harmony Cafe. Tickets are \$7, children under 6 are free.

Comedy will be the order of the evening on Wednesday, September 29 when Second City comedian Kyle Keehan joins area stand-up favorite Phil Zimmerman for an night of laughs. The fun will begin at 7 PM.

FMI about Harmony House events and programs, call 920-734-CAFE or access the website at: [www.harmonycfe.org](http://www.harmonycfe.org). The Harmony Cafe, a peaceful place to celebrate diversity of people, ideas and activities, is located at 124 North Oneida Street and is a program of Goodwill Industries of North Central Wisconsin, Inc.



Compiled and written by Mike Fitzpatrick

## APPLETON: NEW FEMALE ILLUSIONIST PAGEANT DEBUTS ON DECEMBER 4

Madison Productions has announced that a new national female illusionist pageant system will hold its first-ever title search at the Crossroads Bar here on Saturday, December 4. The Miss Gay Wisconsin United States pageant will begin at 10 PM following a day-long series of interviews and other events for contestants. For more information about the pageant, rules, entry forms etc. access the pageant website at: [madison-productions.tripod.com](http://madison-productions.tripod.com).

## GREEN BAY: PRIDE AT THE POLLS ROLLS SEPTEMBER 22

LGBT residents living in Green Bay Area have been invited to a "Pride at the Polls" event, Wednesday, September 22 from 6-9 PM at the Historic West Theatre. Pride At The Polls is a locally-organized effort to inform, register and unite hundreds of LGBT voters and their allies for the 2004 elections.

"The most important thing that any of us will do this year is vote," Susan Allen, one of the organizers said. "One lasting lesson from the 2000 election is that every vote counts."

Attendees will have the opportunity to meet and mingle with the invited candidates and/or their representatives from the following campaigns: John Kerry for President, Russ Feingold for U.S. Senate, Dottie LeClair for U. S. Congress, Tracey Vandever for State Assembly, Tom Nelson for State Assembly, Dan Aude for State Assembly and Helen Schaal for State Assembly. All of the invited campaigns are allies that support civil rights equality for the LGBT community. In addition to finding out where the candidates stand on important LGBT civil rights issues they can also register to vote.

FMI about the event: Raymond Coderre at the Green Bay Democratic Campaign Headquarters at 920-436-0056 or Susan Allen via email at: [conversari@aol.com](mailto:conversari@aol.com) or by phone at 920-737-2278.

## GREEN BAY: GAY MARRIAGE DEBATE SET FOR OCTOBER 4

In the 2000 U.S. Census, Wisconsin had 8,232 voluntarily registered households with same sex partners. Recently, the Wisconsin legislature passed a proposed

amendment to the state that would deny those couples any legal recognition of their relationships. On Monday, October 4 the Office of Student Life, Good Times Programming, and the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay will co-sponsor a debate on same sex marriage featuring two of the best known voices in the national debate: Elizabeth Birch and Robert Knight.

Elizabeth Birch served as the executive director of Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest LGBT advocacy organization, from January 1995 until January 2004. Robert H. Knight, director of the Culture and Family Institute, co-founder of P-FOX, the homophobic parents and friends of so-called "ex-gays" group, and "expert" witness in the state's 1997 AB-106 definition of marriage hearings will counter Birch's.

Look for sparks to fly as the pair spar over this cutting-edge social issue. The debate will be held in the Phoenix Rooms of the University Student Center at begin at 8 PM. There is no admission charge, but an overflow crowd is expected. For more information, contact Grant Winslow at 465-2200, Ext. 37.

(9:00) Sure to be an audience favorite is Q. Allan Brocka's sexy gay farce, "Eating Out." Caleb (Scott Lunsford) is a collegiate hunk with a sweet disposition, abs that won't quite and an unfortunate affection for aggressive girls. Gwen (Emily Stiles) is a headstrong co-ed who keeps falling for boys who, one might politely say, are awfully light in the loafer. Caleb is immediately enchanted by Gwen and egged on by his gay roommate Kyle (American Idol's Jim Verraros), finds himself pretending to be gay to woo Gwen, but their scheme is thwarted when Gwen decides that Caleb would be the perfect catch for her own gay roommate, Marc (Ryan Carnes).

Kyle secretly loves Caleb. Mark openly lusts after Caleb. Caleb is panting like a big dog for Gwen. Still, Caleb is that proverbial nice guy. In Q. Allan Brocka's neighborhood, this gorgeous boy next door type can be both blissfully clueless about his roommate unrequited adoration while feeling suitably guilty about leading Marc. But what's a boy to do?

The press material boasts that "Eating Out" has been an audience favorite wherever it has played and Milwaukee is sure to

be no exception. Glenn, however, remains unconvinced. Perhaps Glenn has seen too many films in which gay desire is inevitably played out upon that most elusive gay male fantasy: the hot hetero male? Or maybe Glenn just couldn't believe that film's "fairytale" happy ending was much of a happy ending at all? You decide.

(Q. Allan Brocka, USA 90min)

Day 3. Saturday, October 2 (2:00)

Kathryn L.

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Beranich will be in

attendance.

Not screened.

(Kathryn L. Beranich USA 68min)

(5:00) A commemorative screening of

"Tongues Untied" (1989), which remains

one of the few LGBT films to explore

African-American gay male identity. Free. (Marlon Riggs USA 55min) (7:00)



Decidedly Off-beat, Ja Ljublu Tehja (You I Love) is hands down Glenn's highlight of the Festival's first weekend. Sure to be compared to the wild and wonderful films of Pedro Almodovar with a hint of Noel Coward tossed in for good measure, "You I Love" is set in contemporary Moscow. Timofei is a very successful "idea guy" for an advertising firm ("Cola is Love"). Vera is a highly professional television newscaster. Fate tosses them together but not before throwing into the mix, Uloomji, a newcomer to Moscow who falls into Timofei's lap - or in this case, the hood of his car.

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Vera loves Timofei and Timofei loves Vera but is quite simply bewitched both-ered, and bewildered by Uloomji who is quite simply drop-dead adorable. Set against the urban landscape of a Moscow that has at long last fallen in love with a new "ism," that of consumerism, "You I Love" is a refreshing and unpredictable contemporary love story.

(Olga Stolpovskaya & Dmitry Triotsky, Russia, in Russian with English subtitles 90min) shown with "My German Boyfriend" (Wayne Yung, Canada/Germany, in English 19min)

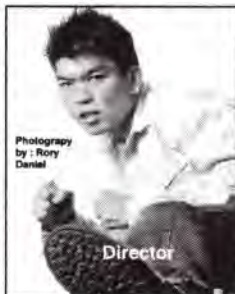


(9:00) Watch out "Priscilla, Queen of the Desert," here comes "Drag Kings on Tour!" From the deep Douth up to Toronto, with stops in such culturally diverse places as Milwaukee and Las Vegas, the "Kingdom Come" tour follows a motor home full of Drag Kings out to discover America. *Not screened*

(Sonia Slutsky, Canada/USA 80min)

(11:00) "The Adventures of Iron Pussy" probably defies any reasonable efforts of description that Glenn might manage to offer but here goes. Equal parts James Bond parody and low-budget music video,

"The Adventures of Iron Pussy" follows the exploits the drag artiste cum secret agent Iron Pussy (Michael Shaowanasai). A mild-mannered convenience store clerk by day, Iron Pussy is enlisted by the Thai government to infiltrate the home of Madam Pomidoy to investigate questionable financial dealings. Keeping an eye out for any and all wrongdoings, Iron Pussy captures the attention of Madam Pomidoy's handsome if dishonest son Tang. Interrupted at every turn to lip-sync yet another love ballad, Iron Pussy must decide between love and her sworn duty. Which would you choose? (Apichatpong Weerasethakul & Michael Shaowanasai, Thailand, English subtitles, 90min)



#### Day 4: Sunday, October 3

(2:00) Back in 1992 a New York gay activist published a book titled "Heartlands" in which he sought to discover some notion of gay brotherhood as he journeyed across America. He was somewhat surprised to find a world of difference between gay life in a major urban area like New York and that in rural America. Such is the case in the documentary "Farm Family: In Search of Gay Life in Rural America." Filmmaker Tom Murray interviewed gay men across America's breadbasket, those who grew up or moved back to the farm. Most of those interviewed questioned how their lives are perceived by

the media, particularly the popular LGBT periodicals.

(Tom Murray, USA 74min)

(5:00pm)

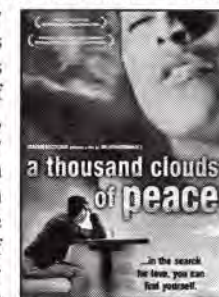
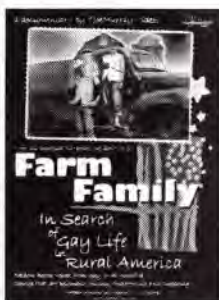
"The Time We Killed" An experimental film that explores the life of Robyn, a writer unable to leave her NYC apartment while confronting her growing agoraphobia. Free. *Not screened.*

(Jennifer Reeves, USA 94min)

(7:00pm) "Mil Nubes de Paz Cercan el Cielo" (A Thousand Clouds of Peace)

Julian Hernandez' "A Thousand Clouds of Peace" is a haunting exploration of adolescent love. Gerardo is an attractive 17-year old who continues to pine away for Bruno, the boy who loved him and who would eventually leave him. As Gerardo wanders the streets of Mexico City, occasionally seeking solace in trysts with strangers, he finds himself increasingly overcome with pain and loss. Based upon a poem by the Italian filmmaker Pier Paolo Pasolini (Juan Hernandez, Mexico in Spanish with English subtitles 80min)

*Our coverage will conclude ext issue.*



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## Upcoming Leather Events:

**September 17:** 9:00 p.m. „Give AIDS the BOOT% AIDS Walk team fundraiser at the Napalese Lounge; 1351 Cedar Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin; Show at 10:30 p.m.

**September 18:** 9:00 p.m.- Castaways M. C. Beer Bust and Club Night at the Blue Lite; 1029 N. 8th St, Sheboygan, Wisconsin

**November 5-7:** Leather Sweat Ball Weekend. 9:00 p.m. Friday Night at the Napalese Lounge; 9:00 p.m. Saturday Night at Historic West Theater

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



1. Former Mr. Northwoods John Weiler and current Mr. Northwoods (2004/2005) Stephen Seefeldt.

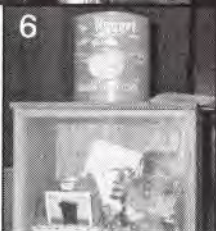
2. Mr. Northwoods contestants

3. Newest Argonauts member Gina "crashes" the Mr. Northwoods contest.

4a & b Here, I am serenading the infamous "Can of Corn" traveling trophy Oh, the humiliations one must endure to merit "Argonaut of the Year?"

5. Mr. Northwoods 1st Runner Up Bob Hackl makes his farewell speech (He's moving to Michigan).

6. I was honored (and surprised) to be named Argonaut of the Year for 2004 at Joint Run 2004.  
7. This is the infamous travelling trophy: The Can of Corn. This corn has been passed around between leather clubs all over the country for the past 24 years. The tradition was started in 1980 by then Argonauts member Paul Kiepelkowsi. (Yes, the can of corn is 24 years old). Last October, it was returned to the Argonauts in St. Louis. This year, the Club had some fun with it at the run, and sent it on its continuing journey with the KC Pioneers to Kansas City.



## Miss Out-N-About pageant in Milwaukee

The winner is Krystal Styles (also Miss City of Festivals USofA and Miss Club 94 North).

pictured is

Dixie Diamond

Krystal Styles in evening gown

Krystal in creative swimwear

and

Misha Mahon in evening gown and talent number

Thanks Dan & Kylie for the photos



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## Some Things Are Just Frightening

Ok. It WAS more than a little unsettling when I walked into the pansexual play room and saw the hetero woman fist-fucking the hetero man. Other than that, I thoroughly enjoyed my weekend in Indianapolis at the Third Annual Great Lakes Leather Alliance Weekend. This was my second year at the event, and there were some great improvements primarily the shuttle bus service to/from the main events, and the main venue itself.

Rather than holding the contests in any of the local bars, the organizers chose a completely private location- Club Industry. This is an amazing establishment- a very, very nice high-tech facility with a modern, industrial metalwork décor. In the center is a large, raised dance floor that looks a bit like a boxing ring, surrounded and enclosed by four large spiraled dance cages that extend from the floor to the high ceiling. At the far end of the building is a professionally designed and lighted stage. At the near end, two industrial fans, at least 8 feet tall each, slowly oscillate. There are two bar service areas, a mid level with restrooms and seating areas, and a third level with additional restrooms. The upper levels are designed as decks overlooking the dance floor and stage areas.

My favorite feature- In the men's restroom, you can look through a plate glass window and see the dancers below while you're taking a whiz. How cool is that?

Wisconsin L/L boy Carlos was there competing in the GLLA Leatherboy contest. Carlos did a great job representing himself, representing the Argonauts of Wisconsin, and representing the entire state! Although he did not place, he can certainly hold his head high. There was very fierce competition in this 7-contest event, and the judges showed no mercy. One of the contests (Mr. Great Lakes Olympus) had only ONE competitor, and he did NOT win, because he did not earn enough points from the judges.

After a quick stop at the 501 Eagle, it was on to the pansexual play room, where I was more than sufficiently terrorized (See paragraph 1)- Just when you think you've seen it all. The play room was mostly filled with heterosexuals displaying and demonstrating their BDSM skills, while the gay leather boys stood aside and whispered critiques among themselves: "I would definitely not be seen in public wearing THAT."

"Maybe if he keeps up that flogging, he'll beat a few of those extra pounds off of her."

Yes, that was a little frightening, but not

nearly as frightening as a recent column I read at [www.leatherpage.com](http://www.leatherpage.com). Guy Baldwin's 13-page dissertation about Radsex sent chills down my spine.

It describes in length how the new phase of radical sexuality is being expressed- not in the edgy sex-play of leather men as was the case in the 1950's and 1960's, and into the 1970's; but in a new manifestation: raw, positive, sex-pigs. Men, specifically, who are HIV positive, and who knowingly engage unabashedly in unsafe sex, without



any regard for or fear of the consequences. These are men who have become desensitized to the calls for safe sex, have become more brazen in their activities, bolstered by the advances in medical treatments for AIDS, and without the fear of death associated with AIDS in the 1980's.

The most frightening part is knowing that Baldwin is right. The raw positive sex-pigs are among us, and his explanation as to how and why they came to be is especially disturbing. This is equally as dangerous (if not more so) than the "complacency" towards AIDS Service

Organizations I mentioned in a previous column. This is conscientious infection. This is Russian Roulette, though some might argue that the bullets are now rubber. That doesn't make it safe. Don't point that thing at me.

It's frustrating. The more you tell people, the less they want to

hear. They've heard it all before anyway. The people who are willing to help are burning out, or have already burnt out. The people who contribute are being tapped out, on a regular basis. And the people who need to wake up before it's too late are having too much fun to worry. Some don't even care.

I'm convinced- It's time to channel as much energy toward the scientific and political communities as we have been channeling toward the medical and social services communities for the past twenty years. God damn it! Cure this shit already.

Stop holding people hostage with therapies and promises of a vaccine. We want a fucking cure. Stop funding the invasion of our privacy with PATRIOT Act Gestapo policies and stop funding wars against undeveloped nations with megalomaniac rulers as knee-jerk reactions to one despicable act that killed nearly 3,000 individuals on September 11, 2001. That same year, nearly 9,000 Americans died from AIDS and nearly 25,000 more cases were diagnosed. Where is the knee-jerk reaction to those frightening statistics?

It is time for more political activism and more activism directed toward the scientific and medical research communities, but not at the price of neglecting the AIDS Service Organizations. Until there's a cure, I'll wear my UTAC bracelet, and I'll keep walking.

Please join the "Give AIDS the BOOT" team and countless others at AIDS Walk Wisconsin in Milwaukee on Sunday, September 26. You can join or support the BOOT Team at any of our upcoming fundraisers (September 11 at Cricket's Fox River Lounge and September 17 at the Napalese Lounge).

You can also find the team's web page at [www.AIDSWALKWIS.org](http://www.AIDSWALKWIS.org), and join the team or make a contribution there.

People are not going to change their behaviors and they are tired of being told to.

It's been a frightening month.

## Back hair is a virtue.



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