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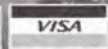
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Hi, guys! If you live nearby, or in the **Milwaukee** area and are tired of the bar scene, internet scene, cruising etc., look me up! I'd like to find someone new to the scene/or curious, bi or gay. I'm looking for someone 18-35 to be a mentor to, as you're making your way into the scene (no femmes or chubs). I'm a young looking more mature guy who will be totally private, and you can feel confident with me. R.B. (414) 272-5694; [raydirector@talkamerica.net](mailto:raydirector@talkamerica.net) [2]

Older Master seeking young GWS 18-22 willing to be stripped naked for pleasure (no pain). Must be disease free, clean body, no dopers, drinkers, smokers or fannies. 1-262-658-8567. Ask for Mr. Luke. Sailors welcome! **Kenosha, Racine, Milwaukee, IL-WI border**. Does a trip around

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40s GWM interested in meeting others AB/DL...into fun times, parties, also like bondage & seeking daddy type who knows to paddle a boy's butt the old fashioned way DTK, by hand on briefs & isn't ashamed of him being an adult toddler baby. Can travel. Write PO Box 1615, **Rockford, IL 61110-1615** [3]

Attention! Bi/Gay: GWM bl/br, 48, 200 lbs., **Marshfield/Central Wis.** For BJ info (715) 387-6433

I'm a GWM transvestite/crossdresser, seeking men only for hot encounters. I'm 49, tall, slender & passable for my age. Very talented at giving oral, a hot bottom. Write T.L., PO Box 311, **Appleton, WI 54912** [3]

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# Year Of The Queer Special:

## The Quest "Hot 25"

### 2004's Top Ten National & Top Ten State LGBT Stories

By Mike Fitzpatrick

2004's Year of the Queer was dominated by stories surrounding same-sex marriage: the fight for gay nuptials and the massive right wing backlash against them. But no queer year would be complete without surprise outings, gay divas gone wild and other tales bordering on the bizarre. Here are *Quest's* picks for the top ten national and top ten state stories of 2004. Plus we'll put on our bright red Jeanne Dixon lip gloss and make five predictions for the coming year? Don't like our selections or the view from our crystal balls? Start your own gay newspaper then! I hear just about everybody's doing it these days!

#### Top Ten National Stories of 2004

### 1. Karl Rove Bushwhacks Gay Americans To Cinch George W's Second Term

Rove's cold, calculating use of the lives of LGBT Americans to create a new right-wing wedge issue for political gain is not only the biggest story of 2004, it is the most disturbing. Rove's stated intention may have been to galvanize the GOP's evangelical Christian base, but the tactics were far more akin to *Mein Kampf*. In his win appeals to patriotism and bigotry Rove mixed terrorists with gays while appealing to Christian superiority just as Hitler mixed communists and Jews while outing Aryan supremacy seven decades earlier. From President Bush's call to sanctify discrimination in an amendment to the U.S. Constitution last March, through the cultivation of anti-gay marriage ballot measures in battleground states, the GOP's patently pandering platform at the NYC convention, to the mock shock at the mention by Democrat Presidential candidate John Kerry of Mary Cheney's lesbianism during the final debate, Rove took every opportunity to manipulate the gay issue to swing votes to the Republican ticket. Even more amazingly about the same percentage of LGBT votes went to Bush in 2004 as did

four years earlier.

### 2. Gay Faux-Marriage Escapades Bait The Bigots

In terms of its impact, the eruption of ersatz gay weddings around the country last winter prior to the first legal nuptials in Massachusetts is the runner up for top-story of the year. Beginning with the Valentine's Day week bevy of nearly 4,000 same sex weddings at San Francisco's City Hall last February, and continuing through similar nuptials in New Mexico, New York, New Jersey and Oregon, the deluge of events set the same-sex marriage issue on the fast track for the balance of the year, for better or worse. The combination of ordinary-looking, stereotype-busting pairs of gay men and women proclaiming their undying commitment in front of assembled relatives and friends appeared to be as distressing to right-wing Bible-toters as the alleged "legal anarchy" caused by the widespread by the joyously peaceful civil disobedience.

### 3. Anti-Gay Constitutional Backlash Reaches Tsunami Level

It began in Missouri last August, continued a month later in Louisiana and turned into a tidal wave in November. By overwhelming margins in initiatives in both "red and blue" states voters added amendments to their state constitutions barring same-sex marriages and - in some cases - any legal recognition of same-gender unions. The lightning quick passage of so many amendments by typically 2-1 and 3-1 margins stunned gay rights activists, who outspent their opponents by large margins in several states. Seventeen states now have constitutional prohibitions to same sex marriage of varying types, and many are now being challenged in the courts. More ballot initiatives loom in early 2005.

**4. The Guv Is Gay!** - The unexpected and unceremonious self-outing of New Jersey governor James McGreevey last August captivated America just a weeks before the Republican national

convention. With his wife at his side, scandal-tainted McGreevey announced "I am a gay American" to stunned reporters at the close of a press conference and said that because he had had an adulterous affair he would leave office in November. Though pledging her support for her husband at the time, when the McGreevey's did leave the governor's mansion the couple separated. The mixed messages of the governor's outing, ethical problems and resignation continue to perplex New Jersey's gay and straight communities.

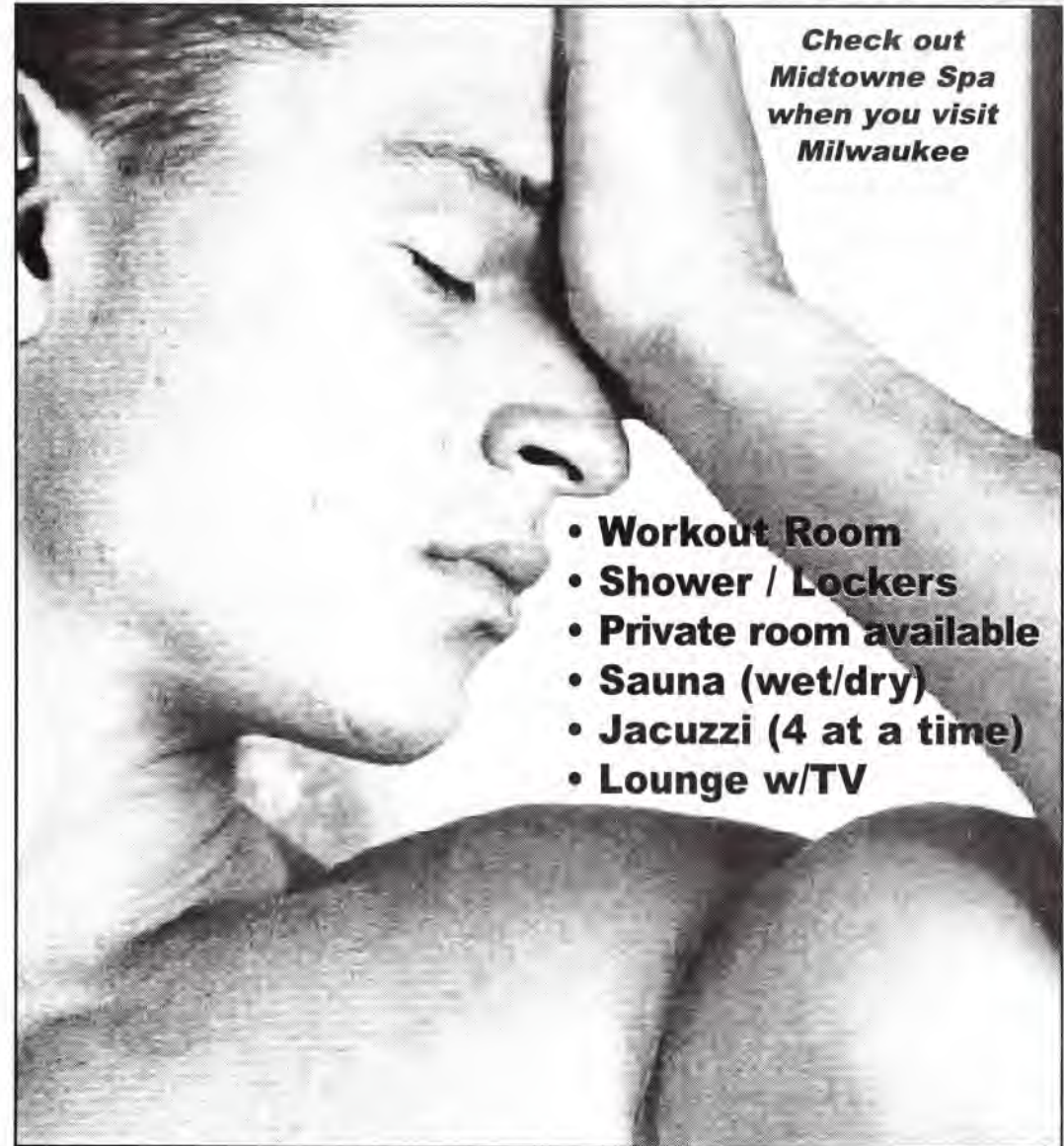
### 5. Legal Couplings Continue in Two States (Yawn!)

In Massachusetts, where the state's high court ruled in November, 2003 that barring gays from marrying was unconstitutional, the first legal same-sex marriages in America officially began in May, despite attempts by the right to abort the process. Six months later Vermont quietly celebrated the fifth anniversary of its legal civil unions for same-sex couples, as the Bay State began to see its first gay divorces. Amazingly, according to records of divorce proceedings, not a single couple in either state has cited legal same-sex pairings as the cause for the failure of their heterosexual marriages. It is the lack of impact on the general community that makes this story the fifth biggest of 2004.

### 6. A Breakthrough in AIDS Treatment?

Coming like a Christmas surprise just weeks after the gloomy predictions of ongoing planetary expansion of HIV/AIDS and a resurgent gay epidemic in the U.S. on World AIDS Day, Rutgers chemist Eddy Arnold and his team of researchers announced a new class of DAPY (rhymes with "happy") reverse transcriptase inhibitors may be able to effectively respond to the deadly virus' ability to rapidly mutate by literally shape-shifting themselves into its genetic strands to completely (and possibly permanently) disrupt HIV's reproductive process. Phase I trials of the most promising of the drug class has yet to begin, but Phase III trials of TMC-120, the first DAPY discovered, are set to start by mid-2005. That the reality of an inexpensive, once-a-day dosed, single pill to combat their illness may be less than 2 years away, has brought renewed to the 42 million people living with HIV worldwide at year's end.

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**New Year's Eve...The Final Night at The West. We will miss all that have supported us!**  
**Below Left:** DJ Carl bids farewell to The West Theatre. He has worked for Za as booth DJ/VJ more than 10 years until Za's West Closed. He now be spins at The Shelter Bar and XS both in Green Bay.  
**Below:** More hamming it up the final night!





## 7. Federal Marriage Amendment Falters -

The sole bit of good news for gay activists in their constitutional battles over same-sex marriage this past year was the failure in both houses of Congress of the GOP-touted Federal Marriage Amendment (FMA). Following an outright embarrassing performance by Republican leadership in the Senate in July, where the amendment stalled in a 48-50 procedural vote, Republican House leaders saw the amendment fall almost 50 votes short of the two-thirds needed for passage in a 227-186 vote on September 30. Though shortly after his re-election President Bush promised to again pursue passage of the FMA in the coming year, the historically precedent-setting executive branch initiative appeared to get lost in a subsequent bevy of domestic and foreign policy proposals.

**8. Robinson Becomes Bishop** - In early 2004 openly gay V. Gene Robinson, assumed the post of bishop of New Hampshire in the Episcopal Church following a contentious year of church infighting, and a looming schism in the worldwide Anglican Communion. An international church commission released the Windsor Report in October urging apologies and reconciliation, and Robinson himself signalled he would be willing to consider other options to prevent the sect from splitting. The Episcopal struggle over gay clergy was the most dramatic in a year that saw fellow mainstream Protestant denominations from Presbyterians and Methodists to even the Baptists struggle over the morality of homosexuality. American Catholics endured dire Vatican warnings about same-sex marriage and dealt with demonstrations by the Rainbow Sash movement. Evangelicals saw fading, philandering Jimmy Swaggart first encourage his kill any gay man who'd make a pass,

and then claimed he was being "historically euphemistic." Any Christians of all stripes had to engage the minions of Dr. Mel White's Soulforce on the gay morality issue and their national convocations and general assemblies throughout the year.

**9. 20/20 Tries To Re-Write History** - The memory of Matthew Shepard's 1989 crucifixion-like beating and murder was "just a drug deal gone bad" if one believed Elizabeth Vargas' unbelievably-biased report aired November 26 on ABC's prime time newsmagazine. Apparently recanting their on-the-record "gay panic" defense, Aaron McKinney and Russell Henderson now have claimed they killed Shepard because McKinney was strung out on drugs, not because Shepard was gay. Reaction from Shepard's parents and the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs was swift. NCAVP called the segment irresponsible, biased, shameful, and destructive. "The fact is that there is nothing significant in the 20/20 program that wasn't raised during the trial," said Clarence Patton, NCAVP's Acting Executive Director. "One has to question the motivation of the show's producers in not only attempting to engage in revisionist history, but in doing so at this point in time, as our nation's lesbian and gay community is fighting for its life to an extent not seen in years."

**10. Obama Buries Anti-Gay Carpetbagger Keyes** - This past November up and coming Democrat superstar Barack Obama crushed Republican conservative talk show gabber Alan Keyes in a landslide 70-27% victory to become the only African American currently in the United States Senate. Keyes, who moved from Maryland to take on Obama following

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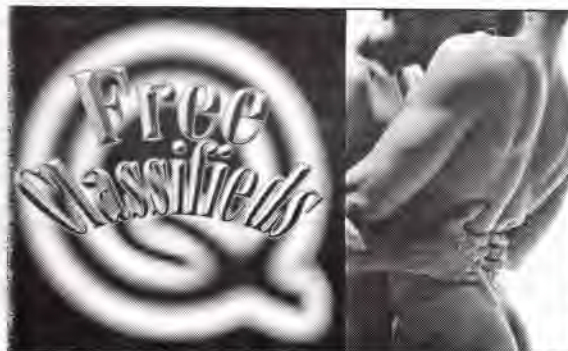
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his inclusive vision of America speech that highlighted July's Democratic Party convention in Boston, did not help his cause by spewing rhetoric that even offended members of his own party. The low point of Keyes' hate speech was calling Vice-Presidential daughter Mary Cheney a "selfish hedonist" because of her lesbian genetic pre-disposition. Subsequent Illinois Republican coordinated campaign materials failed to include Keyes in the mix in "an unfortunate oversight" according to party leadership.

## Top Ten Wisconsin Stories of 2004

### 1. Wisconsin Legislature Passes Anti-Gay Constitutional Amendment

Both houses of the the state legislature last Spring passed AJR-66, so-called Wisconsin Marriage Amendment, that in fact would bar any legal recognition of same-sex or even heterosexual non-marital unions. The passage was the first of two necessary to put the proposed amendment to the Wisconsin constitution before the voters in a binding referendum. The Republican-sponsored bill passed both house by largely partisan votes, and GOP gains in the November elections portend the second consideration of the measure likely early next year. Voters could have their say as early as April, 2005.

### 2. Action Wisconsin Emerges As An Effective Statewide LGBT Political Voice

The Wisconsin Marriage Amendment was just the latest challenge to gay equality to spur the further development of the statewide LGBT civil rights organization into well-organized and listened-to voice on gay rights issues. The metamorphosis of the AW from a "kitchen table" volunteer-driven group to a full-time political force began with the 2003 DOMA debate, but has escalated in 2004 to a fully-staffed operation conducting town hall meetings throughout the state and finding receptive ears to its message at newspaper and broadcast media editorial boards from Superior to Racine. AW's ally contact list has seen more than a thousand percent surge in size in less than nine months, with the number of non-gay supporters now eclipsing LGBT-identified backers. Even Milwaukee's With an operating budget likely second only to ARCW's among the state's LGBT organizations and the infrastructure to match, only one question remains: can Action Wisconsin successful-

ly challenge the forces of organized religion.

### 3. Assembly Speaker Disses Gay Couples At State Convention

In a story first reported by *Quest*, then picked up by WisPolitics.com and eventually the mainstream media, Assembly Speaker John Gard (R-Peshtigo) made comments characterizing same-sex couple's relations as either sub-human or bestial at the Republican Party of Wisconsin convention in LaCrosse on May 22 that raised the ire of the state's Log Cabin Republicans. To a smattering of applause, Gard claimed that "There are a lot of people out there who think that people should be able to marry whoever they want, or whatever they want."



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It wasn't Gard's only anti-gay gaffe, however. Just two weeks later on June 14 Rep. Mark Pocan (D-Madison) complained that despite three requests since last February, Gard had failed to sign a routine citation for the New Harvest Foundation, honoring the Madison-based LGBT philanthropic organization's 20th anniversary and its record of donating more than \$300,000 to area organizations.

Gard's shenanigans were the most prominent of a series of sometimes bizarre anti-gay behaviors by leading state GOP legislators. In January *Milwaukee Sentinel* political columnists Cary Spivak and Dan Bice "outed" State Senator Tom Reynolds (R-West Allis) for both his attendance at an anti-gay conference months earlier and for profiting from printing anti-gay literature at his privately-held print shop. (Reynolds' provision of back rubs to most of the male senators supporting the Wisconsin Marriage Amendment in the middle of the night during last Spring's floor debate certainly cannot be construed as anti-gay, just bizarre.) State Senator Scott Fitzgerald's (R-Juneau) decided to call the cops to investigate his own county's openly-heterosexual former party chair Jim Laird after the man had copied the senator on a letter opposing his sponsorship of the Wisconsin Marriage Amendment last April. July's decision by the Wisconsin State Bar Association to honor longtime anti-gay and anti-abortion rights legislation sponsor Mark Gundrum (R-New Berlin) with its "Scales of Justice" Award was widely criticized by progressives statewide.

**4. Gay Press Pioneer Geiman Succumbs To AIDS** - Ron Geiman, founder, longtime publisher and editor of the *Wisconsin IN Step* and the man who brought consistency and credibility to Wisconsin's gay press succumbed to complications of the HIV/AIDS in Milwaukee on May 11 at the age of 52. For nearly twenty years Geiman published, edited or wrote for a variety of incarnations of his own paper and - as he described it - his "friendly competitor" the *Wisconsin Light*. Geiman was also instrumental in awakening both the state's gay and straight communities to the coming scourge of HIV/AIDS beginning with reports in *IN Step's* premiere

issue, through the publishing of the columns of long-term survivor Arnie Malmom's final years of struggle with the disease in the early 1990s and finally his own personal journey through HAART chemotherapy and its effects in his own "Steppin' Out" column.

**5. PrideFest Proves Politically And Financially Successful** - After a devastating loss a year earlier, Milwaukee's PrideFest, the state's top gay pride event, came roaring back with slightly down-sized but highly successful run in 2004. From its grand opening that featured Governor Jim Doyle, Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett and other top state and local politicians, to its \$51,000 profit PrideFest 2004 with near-record proved itself a winner. Though at year's end controversy began to bubble about its revamped organizational structure, the LGBT festival still appeared to be on track to continue repay the debts of its 2003 rain-soaked debacle.

**6. 7 Rivers LGBT Center Opens** - Reflecting the continuing expansion and development of LGBT community infrastructure statewide, the August opening of LaCrosse's 7 Rivers LGBT Center was the most prominent new edifice to arrive in Wisconsin in 2004. Also, Chippewa Valley and Milwaukee's LGBT Centers saw relatively smooth first transitions of directorship, and Green Bay's Positive Voice opened its first office. Madison's Outreach saw a wide expansion of supportive programs for the city's bisexual and transgendered population. The "edifice complex" also included agencies with a strong presence in the LGBT community. In March, ARCW's Green Bay office moved into its newly constructed and expanded space. Expansion there continued with the completion of a food pantry in late November.

**7. Wisconsin's Gay Media Choices Contract, Expand** - The sudden, unexplained loss of *Wisconsin IN Step* at the end of last year created a void that was quickly filled by *Quest's* decision to add news coverage to its entertainment and lifestyle editorial content in January. Almost simultaneously, Rockford, IL-based *Edge* magazine expanded distribution of its lifestyle glossy to the major LGBT markets in the

eastern half of Wisconsin. At the end of summer *Outbound* quietly ceased distributing its pocket-sized lifestyle monthly outside of the metro Milwaukee area, even as it added "Midwest" to its title. In late November, former *IN Step* publisher Bill Attewell began running a Drudge Report-like "beta" website called Wisconsin Gay News on the paper's old internet address. Within a month Attewell had claimed his new site had recorded over 10,000 page hits. In December two new monthlies made their debut: *Queer Life* and *Outbound News* both made color-filled splashes on the 15th. At year's end *Edge* was in final negotiations to rent space in the heart of Milwaukee's gay district, apparently to enter the now glutted monthly lifestyle publication fray, even as *Quest* prepares to enter its 12th year as the state's only truly statewide, biweekly news and entertainment publication.

**8. Bar Brawl Spurs Hate Crime Charges** - A late night June bar brawl in a rural Jacksonport tavern brought not only hate crimes charges but heightened tensions to quaint, artist-friendly Door County for the latter half of 2004. In late December hate crime enhancers were dropped against the two oldest of five men accused of starting the fight with bed and breakfast owners Darrin Day and Bryon Groeschl because the pair were believed to be gay. Though the actual trials will begin in 2005, the defense reasoning thus far seems to be that because the couple were able to not only able to successfully defend themselves but were able to actually injure their attackers, the brawl's motivation cannot be considered a hate crime.

**9. Wisconsin Activists Make National Impact** - In August, Joshua Freker of Action Wisconsin was 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, had met in Austin, Texas to launch an aggressive new action plan to boost statewide organizing efforts across the country. The newly renamed Equality Federation was formerly known as the Federation of Statewide Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Advocacy Organizations. Several weeks later the

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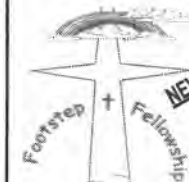
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Proteus foundation, known for its national grassroots advocacy awarded Action Wisconsin and the Milwaukee LGBT Center Advocates at \$100,000 grant that was split 6040 between the groups. In November, the Human Rights Campaign hired away Action Wisconsin's President Tim O'Brien to a DC-based post, based on his work with the statewide LGBT civil rights group.

### 10. Sapp's "Amber Alert" Drama Revealed As Exit Strategy

The are probably more newsworthy pieces that I could have selected for the final spot on the state's top 2004 stories, but the sheer "tempest in a teapot" factor that surrounded Quest leather columnist and Argonaut President Michael Sapp's alleged Labor Day abduction, there's nothing else still lingering more largely in the the collective frontal lobes of Wisconsin's gay bar community. Sapp's mysterious disappearance sparked the gay equivalent of a national Amber Alert. His "lost in action," and subsequent curiously silent "safe and sound" return message apparently served as cover for a semi-smooth transition to a new life and a new boyfriend in Atlanta, GA. It just goes to show that the girls in cowhide drag are just as capable as their chiffon-clad sisters in vying for the coveted tiara of drama queen.

### Top Five Predictions For 2005

#### 1. The Anti-Gay Wisconsin Marriage Amendment Will Pass

If the state's GOP leadership has any sense of the political moment - and I assess their political acumen equal to if not surpassing their right-wing zealotry - I expect to see early 2005 consideration and quick passage of the anti-Gay Wisconsin Marriage Amendment, followed by a solid voter verification in April, 2005. Unlike their Taxpayer Bill of Rights amendment initiative which continues to founder in light of hard statistical data on its impact, the GOP sponsors of WMA has a good chunk of organized religion on its side. Action Wisconsin is battling a force that goes to church more times a week than most LGBT folk frequent their favorite gay bar. The vote will look more like Oregon's margin than Missouri's, but pass it will - provided it makes a Spring ballot. Any delay, however, and all bets are off. Assuming an April ballot my confidence in this prediction is 90%

#### 2. PrideFest Will Have Another Successful Year

Despite the current whining going on by some Milwaukee activist types, PrideFest found a successful formula in 2004: politics at the ribbon-cutting then party on. Pride parades? That's so 70's, attracting both the "embarrassing" fringe elements and religious wackos videotaping every over-the-top-second. Hopefully they'll stick with success. As for complaints about "open process" and possible profiteering (by a 501 (c)3 charitable community foundation no

less), the PrideFest organization can nip all the "watches" by inviting the noisiest camels into their organizational tent with board membership or consultancy offers. Short of a tsunami on the lakefront June 10-12, my confidence in this prediction is 95%

#### 3. The Iraq Quagmire Will Slow Bush's Revolutionary Domestic Agenda

As I write these predictions the odds of truly meaningful elections happening in Iraq in late January is a 50-50 bet at best. Osama has now weighed in on the issue and his "democracy is anti-Muslim" allies appear to be gaining ground daily. Unsuccessful elections will cause the situation to deteriorate more rapidly. Any attempt by the White House to push its domestic agenda from Social Security reform to the anti-gay Federal Marriage Amendment



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## **Diversion of the Day Community Calendar**

**Wednesday, Jan. 5**

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

**Saturday, Jan. 8**

Club Night Out (Stevens Point) - Ladies Nite! Drink specials for the ladies

**Sunday, Jan. 9**

SAGE/Milw. Sun. afternoon movie *Holiday Heart*; doors open 1:30, movie at 2. Call 224-0517 to reserve your place.

**Tuesday, Jan. 11**

Outwards (Milw.) Lesbian Reading Group, 7 pm, to discuss Gerri Hill's *Sierra City*. Everyone welcome to join in the discussion

**Wednesday, Jan. 12**

STD Specialties free HIV & syphilis testing, 10pm-1am, 94 North (Kenosha)

**Saturday, Jan. 15**

Argonauts of Wisconsin WinterQuest 31: Installation of new officers, presentation of appreciation awards, etc. Club Night Out (Stevens Point) - Beach Party 7-2:30

**Monday, Jan. 17**

Outwards (Milw.) Outwards Books Club meets, 7:30 pm, to discuss Damian MacNicholl's poignant coming of age novel, *A Son Called Gabriel*. New members always welcome

**Thursday, Jan. 20**

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

**Saturday, Jan. 22**

Club Night Out (Stevens Point) Fetish Nite

**Wednesday, Jan. 26**

STD Specialties free HIV & syphilis testing, 10pm-1am, Woody's

**Friday, Jan. 28**

Club Night Out (Stevens Point) 18 Plus Nite (all welcome)

**Saturday, Jan. 29**

Club 94 South (Kenosha) Mr. Wisconsin Club 2005 Contest, open to club titleholders and first runners. FMO [kenoshascott@yahoo.com](mailto:kenoshascott@yahoo.com); see ad this issue of *Quest*

**Sunday, Jan. 30**

SAGE/Milw. - Social Outreach Committee Meeting - potluck brunch, open to all members & friends. Bring a dish to pass, share your ideas about events you'd like to see SAGE present. At SAGE offices; call 224-0517 to advise you will be in attendance.

**Thursday, Feb. 3**

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will be seen by his own party's leadership as a potentially politically disastrous attempt at diversion. The President has been making all the right moves to reapproach our western allies in the last few weeks. He has even been able to stop "no disasters please, I'm on vacation" critical spin on his laggardly response to the Asian quake/wave. But actually getting genuine allied military support in Iraq will take more than a little jawboning on a couple of weekend-length multinational sound bite tours of foreign capitols. Sadly, the higher the body count in Iraq, the more confidence I will have in this prediction. Right now it's at 80%.

**4. The Moderate Middle of Wisconsin's GOP Will Emerge in 2005** - The warning shot has already been fired with aborted "anointment" of Scott Fitzgerald as Senate Majority leader. The lingering distaste for hard-right rhetoric following Mark Belling's "wetback" episode is emboldening politicians in the center of the state's Republican Party. A few switched votes on TABOR or possibly even the Wisconsin Marriage Amendment might signal the return of the party's moderate faction to the driver's seat. The desire to win back the Governor's Mansion also portends a GOP run to the middle in the coming year.



Given the feisty and downright stubbornness of the stat GOP's hard right, however, I only have a 60% confidence in this prediction.

**5. Bush Will Get His First Supreme Court Nominee Opportunity** - Even if Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist wanted to stay on after he administers the Oath of Office to George Bush this January, his terminal thyroid cancer likely will not allow him the

opportunity. George W. will get his first opportunity to nominate a new chief justice and his replacement to the Supreme Court by the summer solstice. Whether his pick will put Biblical values equal to Constitutional ones is anyone's guess. But my confidence in his chance to nominate one is 95%.

That's it - *Quest's* Big 25 - we'll check back in July to see how cloudy or clear my crystal balls really were.

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## The Battle of the Bar Rags

*And I thought the drag queens were the only ones who got bitter!*

Now that all of the new LGBT newspapers are out in the marketplace and the rumors have settled down, I thought I would share some final thoughts on the issue. If you did not follow the saga, Quest and Outbound received numerous emails from agitated people about what was happening with all the new bar publications. It's hard to determine if all the email was legit or if some of it was devised to divide people, but perhaps all that will backfire afterall.

Outbound Magazine's publishers and Quest have had brief discussions via email and are pledging to work more closely with each other where possible. I extend my hand to Q Life with the same offer. While it is true we all will compete for a slice of the ad revenue out there, each magazine or newspaper brings something different to the public and for as long as all of us are publishing, the reader is the one who will reap the benefits here. Wisconsin has plenty of choice with how you get your news and entertainment now. I hope you, the reader, takes full advantage of that. Most states have only one, perhaps two publications to choose from.

Since Quest has published a few articles on the rumors and such, I thought it would be good idea to dispell a few that looked shakey. Outbound has assured Quest they are not behind on paying the printing bills. That was one of the nastier rumors out on the web. They also assured Quest they were not the ones spreading a lie that Quest had stopped distributing in Milwaukee. Both of these rumors are mean spirited and somewhat outrageous, so it is not hard to assess they may be started by people mis-informed who have a grudge against one or both above mentioned papers.

A comment on the number of copies printed and distributed: You may note Q Life is listing the print run in their issues. This does a couple of things including giving the appearance of strength, not to mention the illusion of a set audience. It is one

thing to print 10,000 copies, and entirely another to have all those copies picked up and used. Quest and Outbound have not in the past listed a print run. I do not know how many copies Outbound has printed. Quest runs between 6000 and 7000 copies each issue. We would print more, but they would end up in the trash can. I assume Outbound makes a similar choice for their paper and magazine.

I am preparing to permanently close my other business, Za's Historic West Theater. I expect to be in Milwaukee more doing work for Quest. I hope to form a stronger alliance with all the LGBT publications and I look forward to a strong and prosperous 2005. The gay community in Wisconsin is small compared to major markets around us such as Minneapolis or Chicago. It's time we start acting more like family and less like the bunch of bitter queens we sometimes can be.

Mark Mariucci (ZA), Publisher

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## NEW AT THE CINEMA

by Glenn Bishop

### "Andrew Lloyd Webber's Phantom of the Opera"

During the Golden Age of Hollywood, nothing shone quite so brightly as the movie musical, whether the film was one of those glorious Busby Berkeley extravaganzas or a humble "Judy and Mickey puttin'

Richard Attenborough's inept effort bringing "A Chorus Line" to the screen.

Now comes "Andrew Lloyd Webber's Phantom of the Opera."

Expectations couldn't be higher for this big budget adaptations of Webber's long-running stage hit. And certainly, how well "Phantom" does at the box office will definitely impact the future big screen musicals.

Although there must still be a hand-



on a show." Generations of small town show queens learned, to paraphrase from that quintessential holiday film, "White Christmas," "the best things happen when you're dancing."

The movie musical is going through something of a revival of late, what with the success first of the fabulous "Moulin Rouge" and more recently the Oscar-winning "Chicago." Before that lay decades of a barren cinematic landscape virtually devoid of the sort of glamour a big screen Hollywood musical offered once upon a time. Sure, there was the terrific "Cabaret" but what has made a far more indelible impression for millions of moviegoers is the horror of Lucille Ball croaking her way through "Mame," or

ful of theatergoers who haven't experienced Webber's "Music of the Night" live on stage, "Phantom" is another variation of the classic love story of "the beauty and the beast." Deformed man (here played by Gerald Butler) hides in the bowels of the Paris Opera and there is enchanted by young Christine (Emmy Rossum). Taking the lady under his wing – or should I say cape – the Phantom maneuvers his protégé to replace starring soprano Carlotta (Minnie Driver). Christine is grateful for the Phantom's attentions but is really in love with Raoul (a rather milquetoast Patrick Wilson). Jealousy leads to the climactic confrontation with....

Well, of course Glenn isn't going to give the ending away!

Director Joel Schumacher has crafted a sensational looking film, fully utilizing the newest technology to bring, most memorably, the derelict Paris Opera theatre vividly to life right before our eyes. The Phantom's underground den is quite simply unbelievable – something of a cross between the Bat Cave and a Gothic funeral parlour on steroids. But just how could he live there undetected for all those years?

As Christine, Emmy Rossum is a star in the making – she's lovely, sings beautifully and manages even the most outrageously melodramatic dialogue with a wonderful sincerity. Given that the Phantom is supposed to be grotesque, one wonders why original stage star Michael Crawford wasn't cast as the Phantom. Instead, Gerald Butler is far too handsome – really, who wouldn't chose him as long as he kept that cute little mask on – and didn't sing??

Minnie Driver and Miranda Richardson are fine in all-too-fleeting supporting roles.

### Full price, Budgets or forget it...

It is difficult to imagine very many of the legions of "Phantom" fans to be too disappointed by Webber's big screen effort and director Schumacher makes damn sure there's plenty of visuals to keep even the most die-hard action film aficionados relatively content.

### JUST THE FACTS...

"Phantom of the Opera" is in English and is clocked at 143 minutes

Patrick Wilson was one of the stars of "Angels in America" on HBO

For everything "Phantom," check out the official film website at [www.phantomthemovie.com](http://www.phantomthemovie.com)

Opened Christmas Day

## The Hottest Face In Print Is Now On the Big Screen: CHANNING TATUM. A&F Model and, now, Movie Star!

By: Tim Nasson

New York City – Channing who? Yes, Channing is his first name, and Tatum is his last. And, no, he is not in any way related to Carol Channing (or Tatum O'Neal). And, Channing Tatum is his birth name, not just some wild name thought up in a duplicitous publicist's office.

You may not have known his name, but now that you do, it will be hard to forget – the boy's face and body has graced the pages of virtually every glossy magazine in the world, (Nautica, Aeropostale, Dolce & Gabbana and A&F ad campaigns), and on television in one of Mountain Dew's most popular commercials, "Drive" – now that he is co-starring with Samuel L. Jackson and Ashanti in January's best movie, "Coach Carter," (opening January 14th).

It's quite unusual for male print and television models to make the transition to the big screen, and even more surprising when they can actually, well, um, 'act.'

Standing at six feet, one inch tall, the (almost) shaved headed, twenty-four year old, with the most well-defined jaw my I have ever seen, greets me with an outstretched hand, clenching mine firmly, staring directly into my eyes. "How are you? Channing Tatum," he says, as polite as he can be, upon entering the suite in which we share a breakfast on a recent Sunday morning at the Drake Hotel, during the hustling and bustling Christmas shopping season in the Big Apple. You see, Channing is not a native New Yorker, nor Los Angelino. He is, what many, including him, would describe as 'white trash.'

"Yeah, I am white trash, by blood," he says, his piercing blue eyes, glowing, trying to convey with his looks and charisma that the trash is long gone. "I was born in Alabama, raised in the summers by my grandparents, Nana and Papa, in Mississippi and then my parents decided to move to Mississippi to be closer to my grandparents. I was definitely an outdoors type of boy, getting into trouble all the time. But my Nana would always say to me, 'Oh, Channing,' when she knew I was feeding her a line of bullshit."

And what were those lines of bullshit? Well, for starters, he was not supposed to be playing in the bayous. "There were (and still are) alligators, rattlesnakes, and Jesus knows what else in those swamps," he laughs. "And I was the one who was always spending as much time as I possibly could down by the

bayous, against the advice and, dare I say, orders of my Nana."

Channing Tatum has come a long way from the bayous. He might still be weathered and tanned, i.e., beautiful, 'fuck-me,' white trash, but the evolutionary process has taken hold. He has, it seems, become more civilized during the plethora ad campaigns in which he has appeared, clothed, (sadly), – in the latest, most popular U.S. fashions, groomed and to die for.

"I love modeling," he chimes, sipping a bottle of Evian, and then picking at a fruit plate, (slices of watermelon, pineapple, honeydew, cantaloupe, and strawberries, blueberries, blackberries and grapes.)

"But, I 'loved' making my first movie. I did an episode of 'CSI,' [the original], this season, (September) – I shot it after the movie – but the movie was the fucking bomb. I can see myself, at least part of the time, acting. I love modeling but acting is a great distraction."



As rumors abounded in the late 90s and early 00s, A&F solicited models on the street and didn't pay them. According to the rumor mill, A&F used their models as slave laborers. The models got free ink and A&F got hot, young, tight-assed boys. "That's a crock of shit," says Channing, when I ask him how he got involved with A&F. "I have an agent and my agent got me that contract. Contrary to what the urban legend is, lots of the queens in AOL chat rooms, A&F pays their models, they are not solicited in malls or in parking lots. They leave that to the government," he chuckles, referring to a scene in "Fahrenheit 9/11," proving he is not a vapid model, cum actor.

"I know that modeling is not going to last forever, so I need to find something else that will keep me busy for the next forty years," he explains, in all sincerity.



"Coach Carter" was such a fucking god-send," he says. "I never, in a million years, expected to be cast in an MTV/Paramount collaboration. I mean, they are the partners behind 'Save The Last Dance' (which grossed over \$100 million US), and that catapulted Julia Stiles to fame."

Is Channing Tatum destined to multiplex, name recognition status? You will be the judge. Do you think he is hot enough to plop \$10 down for one hour and forty-five minutes worth of pleasure on the big screen?

I am not one to be bribed. If I didn't think "Coach Carter" was worth the price of admission, I would be the first to omit my praise for the movie in my "Channing Tatum Feature." I mean, it would be that easy. I wouldn't have to say I liked it, or I hated it.

The truth is, even if one removed Channing Tatum from "Coach Carter," the movie would be a crowd pleaser, unlike anything since "Hoosiers," "Lean On Me," and "Remember The Titans."

He just adds to the fabulosity of the film. I have no ties to Hollywood. They don't pay my salary. So, I can truthfully say, "Coach Carter," is the Best Movie about redemption, and humanity that I have seen in a decade. The only movie that rivals this, for soundtrack, script, acting and directing, is "Lean On Me." And that movie was released in 1989. Sixteen years ago. This, "Coach Carter," and Channing Tatum, (along with Samuel L. Jackson and Ashanti), is the best human spirit movie in more than a decade.

Tim Nasson, whose interviews regularly appear in this publication, divides his time between Los Angeles and Boston. He can be reached at [timnasson@yahoo.com](mailto:timnasson@yahoo.com)



**Late Breaking News:** *Quest's* quick look at stories making the headlines throughout the state, the nation & the world

**Arkansas: Judge Voids Gay Foster Parents Ban** - A judge struck down a 1999 regulation of the state's Child Welfare Agency Review Board that said gays cannot become foster parents, and foster children cannot be placed in any home with a gay member under its roof. Judge Timothy Fox's December 29 ruling stated that the state agency enforcing the rule had overstepped its authority by trying to regulate "public morality." The state promised to appeal the ruling, in the case brought by the Arkansas chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union.

**California: Court Blocks Bid to Halt Gay Rights Bill** - On December 21, an appeals court in Sacramento denied an effort by so-called "Christian" activists to prevent AB 205, a law that will grant same-sex couples nearly all the rights and responsibilities as marriage, from taking effect on January 1. The California Court of Appeal for the Third District rejected the groups' request for an emergency stay, but is allowing the legal challenges to the law itself to move forward. The groups, the Campaign for California Families and the Proposition 22 Legal Defense and Education Fund, were appealing a September ruling by a Superior Court judge in Sacramento that held that the new law doesn't violate a voter-approved measure that holds the state can only recognize marriages between a man and a woman. When the new law takes effect, same-sex couples who register as domestic partners in California will have the same spousal benefits as married couples in California except for the ability to file joint income taxes. That includes access to divorce courts, automatic parental status, and responsibility for each other's debts.

**Eau Claire News Briefs:** The *LGBT Center of the Chippewa Valley* again adopted a local needy family for the holiday season. Thanks to the generous contributions of center members, the five member family matched to the center by a local social service agency received a variety of gifts, including shoes, boots, clothing items, gift cards, electronics and practical items like paper towels and laundry soap. The Center also sponsored a number of holiday festivities for the local gay community including a presentation on dealing with stress by mental health counselor Andrea Popko December 8, a community cookie exchange on December 17, a gift-wrapping service that also benefitted ARCW's client food pantry, and a December 24 holiday feast featuring roast turkey and baked ham.

**Green Bay News Briefs:** *Rainbow Over Wisconsin, Inc.* will hold its Annual Meeting on Monday, January 10 at 7 PM at the Historic West Theatre here. The meeting will announce the charitable foundation's officers for 2005, and report on its activities in the last calendar year. The prospectus and applications for the 2005 grant year of ROW's Community Enrichment Fund will also be distributed to eligible organizational representatives attending the meeting.

A new "think tank" group of progressives living in Brown County will hold their second general organizational meeting on January 6 at 6:30 PM in the lower level of the Multicultural

Center, 612 Stuart St. in Green Bay. Among the goals of the new organization is the creation of an informational network to inform area individuals and organizations on environmental, equal rights and social & economic justice issues. For more information about the group, please contact Pete at: pangilel@yahoo.com.

ARCW has begun preparations for its *Have A Heart* dinner and auction to be held February 12, 2005. The gala dinner and silent auction will again be held at the Lambeau Field Atrium. Reservations can be made by calling 1-800-359-9272, Ext 1545.

**Iraq: Insurgents Claim They're Fighting to Prevent Gay Marriage** - Three Iraqi rebel groups, including the one claiming responsibility for the recent suicide bombing of the U.S. military base at Mosul said December 30 they are fighting to prevent "homosexual marriage." Ansar al-Sunnah and two other rebel groups, posted messages on their websites warning people not to vote in the January elections, declaring that democracy is un-Islamic. The statements said that democracy would lead to passing un-Islamic laws, such as permitting same-sex marriage. "We also warn everyone to keep away from all military targets, whether they were bases, American Zionist patrols, or the forces of the pagan guard, and police," Ansar al-Sunnah said on its website and in a statement it released in Baghdad. "Democracy is a Greek word meaning the rule of the people, which means that the people do what they see fit," the statement said. "This concept is considered apostasy and defies the belief in one God - Muslims' doctrine."

**Kansas: Phelps Claims Tsunami Is God's Vengeance on "Fag-Loving Swedes"** - In his latest offering of the Almighty's insights on world events, notoriously anti-gay "Reverend" Fred Phelps has published the cause of the disastrous tsunami that hit southeast Asia December 26. According to the New Year's Eve posting on the Westboro Baptist Church's godhatesfags.com website the tsunami was in response to the country's jailing of Pastor Ake Green "or preaching in how own church to his own people that homosexuality is abnormal and sinful." Referring to the Scandinavian country as the "land of the sodomite damned," Phelps "thanked God" and wondered how many of the reportedly missing 2,000 Swedes were "fags and dykes vacationing on their fat expendable incomes without kids to bother with and spend money on." However, in his posting Phelps failed to explain why in the same quake and tidal wave the Almighty decided to take the lives of the more than 125,000 men, women and children that had to be living in some cases thousands of miles from the offending Swedes.

**LaCrosse News Briefs:** The *7 Rivers LGBT Resource Center* is co-sponsoring along with Action Wisconsin a lobby day in Madison on January 27 from 10 to 4 PM. Cindy Killion is organizing the event locally. Information regarding transportation will be posted shortly on the center's website at: [www.7riverslgbt.org](http://www.7riverslgbt.org).

The Center's first annual meeting will be held January 29 at the Concordia Ballroom. Those who are paid members are invited to participate in a business meeting at 6:30 PM during which three new board members will be elected. Then the party starts after

## Thank You SIR: by Jeff Hicks

Who or What are we in the Leather/community/activities/relationships/lifestyle?

For many of us we knew early on that we needed same gender partnering, no matter what style activity we preferred to engage in. As time went on, many of us realized that there was a definite dominating and submitting within our relationship/s. As the degrees of give and take became more obvious to us, we found ourselves taking on a definite role with our partner/s. The surprising thing is that we began to see the reality of that in all personal relationships around us: same/mixed/trans/even multi-partner-mixed - gendered. Also, some of us began to want, or need, some greater degree of physical action, stimulation, activities, and if you admit it or not, fetishes. (more on that later). And so, in our Dominating or submitting, Leading or following, or Teaching &/or learning, we all have a special place within the Leather community that we have allowed ourselves to know. Most NON - Leather people, straight &/or GLBT... think that we are just out to give or receive pain. Nothing could be further from the truth. We have come to know ourselves and others to the degree that we will play out and embrace our tendencies to be aggressive or passive. This is our path to greater mental health and happiness. As a straight couple will exchange rings before and with "marriage" We often, do the same, sometimes with rings, or a chain, or a collar. The collar is often the most misunderstood item in our world. I turn here to the words of a boy who wrote in 2003 how he felt when he received his:

"He wanted to be my Sir and all it entailed - mentor, guide, teacher. i do everything i can for Him and i do it out of love, respect and devotion for Him, and also because i want to. all my life i had done everything because it was expected of me or demanded - now i do it because i want to and to see my Sir able to take time for Himself by my doing the work pleases me. the smile on His face and knowing He is taken care of is reward enough for me, He gives me so much in return - i serve Him, He lets me be myself and god knows i have faults or bad habits. He accepts me the way i am, i have a key for my collar so i can take it off when i shower, or go to the doctors or where ever i may not be able to just simply wear my collar under my shirt. each time i take it off to shower i feel naked and vulnerable: then as i place that collar back around my neck and snap the lock closed, the feelings of warmth, comfort and security envelop me once again.

Every time i feel stressed at something that goes wrong i instinctively close my hand around His lock and i hear His calming voice reassuring me. His collar is my connection even when we are apart.

Some "Sirs" don't understand what a collar means to a boy - they simply think of it as a way to claim a piece of property. to a boy it is more than just a claim to us. it is our connection to our Sir and our security and protection." {boy r.... Ottawa, Can.}

It becomes a symbol and protection of the deep love that we feel. A collar for any couple can be as intense or casual as they both feel and can be as showy or subtle as typical wedding rings. Many of us boys have had a life of not fitting in, last choice on the team, frequently considered weak, ineffective, unacceptable, somehow always inadequate. When a SIR finds a boy not only acceptable, but deserving of much care, nurturing, love, and respect, the boy becomes a whole person in all respects. In the boys' act of giving complete personal power to the one he loves, he learns the true value of all that he is!

All of us in the "scene", can appreciate the degree of knowing our selves; and value the gift of self that so many are willing to give in their journey to Know: self, Value, worth, and Power.

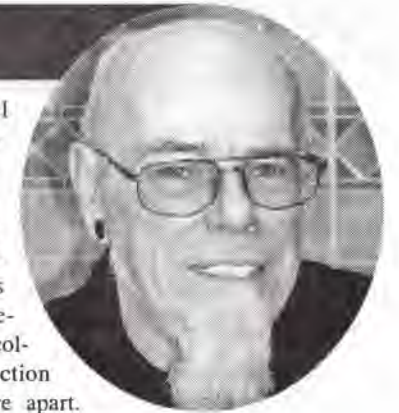
### JANUARY EVENTS:

**Jan.15, '05** "Winterfest", Argonauts Anniversary Dinner, 6:30 P.M. info.; [www.argonautsll.org/](http://www.argonautsll.org/)

**Jan. 14-16**, Mid-Atlantic Leather weekend, Centaur MC, Washington D.C. info.; [www.leatherweekend.com/](http://www.leatherweekend.com/)

**Jan. 28-30**, Mr. Chicago Leather at Touche' info.; [www.chicagoleather.org/main.html](http://www.chicagoleather.org/main.html)

**Jan. 27-30**, Flesh & Fantasy, Dallas Texas; SoCen.Sir/boy/b.b.contest. Bootblack Spencer is a judge this year. info.; [www.dallaseagle.com](http://www.dallaseagle.com)





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Constitution's guarantee of equal protection because unmarried heterosexual partners could get the benefit by signing a common-law marriage affidavit, while unmarried gay partners could not.

## Pennsylvania: Gay Issue Breaking Baptists Apart -

The 25 regional executives of the 1.5 million-member American Baptist Churches in the USA jointly announced during a conference in Valley Forge on December 23 that the denomination's ongoing controversy over homosexuality "threatens to break us apart." A pastoral statement to "preserve unity," released after the meeting of denomination leaders, said they had personally agreed to "voluntarily refrain from" naming sexually active gay men and lesbian women to national and regional positions. The church leaders also said they would not participate in same-sex marriage ceremonies, but pledged to shun "homophobic behavior."

"We further pledge to continue listening to those who hold differing viewpoints," they said. The executives will give a follow-up report to the Baptists' General Board in

June, just before the denomination's biennial meeting. Liberal policy toward accepting gay people as equals in some American Baptist congregations was one reason cited by the Southern Baptist Convention decision last June to end 99 years of affiliation with the Baptist World Alliance.

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7:30 PM (everyone is invited to attend this), and the evening will be full of surprises! More information regarding how to renew your membership and details about the evening's entertainment will be provided shortly on the center's website. If anyone is interested in becoming a board member, please email Cindy Killion at: [ckillion@winona.edu](mailto:ckillion@winona.edu) for more information. Deadline is mid-January.

## London: Tabs Tattle "Sir Elton Ties The Knot"

British tabloids reported December 30 that Sir Elton John has formally exchanged vows with long-time partner David Furnish. The singer's spokesperson refused to comment on the reports of December 23 nuptials between the rock star and long time partner David Furnish that appeared in several papers. The couple allegedly had a commitment ceremony at the home of famed soccer star and former Spice Girl David and Victoria Beckham. Reportedly John and Furnish left the home with a "just married" sign in the back of their car. John and Furnish have lived together for 11 years.

**Madison News Briefs:** AIDS Network will sponsor a "Meet the Phantom Cast Party" on Thursday, January 13 beginning at 10:30 PM at the Orpheum Theater here. Meet members of the cast and crew of the national touring production of "The Phantom of The Opera" following their performance at the Overture Center. Attendees will also enjoy desserts & coffee and meet the Phantom! Tickets are \$20 and may be reserved by calling 608-252-6540, Ext. 10.

**Milwaukee News Briefs:** Center Advocates will hold two phone banks on Tuesday, January 11 and Wednesday, January 19, from 5:30-8:30 PM at SEIU, 633 S. Hawley Rd. Volunteer callers will help find opponents of Wisconsin's constitutional ban on marriage and civil unions for gay couples. For more information or to volunteer call Pabitra Benjamin at 414-271-2656, Ext. 119 or e-mail her at: [pbenjamin@mkelglt.org](mailto:pbenjamin@mkelglt.org).

Meet James Pennington, the New LGBT Community Center's Executive Director at a reception to be held on Thursday, January 13, from 5-8 PM at the center's 315 Court St. location. Refreshments will be served. For more information call 414-271-2656.

The Milwaukee LGBT Center will hold its monthly *Legal Night* on Thursday, January 13, from 6-8 PM. Free legal consultation with LGBT-friendly attorneys will be available on a first come, first served basis.

The Milwaukee LGBT Center's monthly *Rainbow U Lecture* will feature a presentation on "Gay Games II & III: A Participants View of the Games" on Thursday, January 20, from 7-8:30 PM. The slide show and presentation by Peggy Morsch of Cedar Creek Images is free and open to the public.

The *Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee* will hold a Game Night on Friday, January 14, from 6-10 PM at the Milwaukee LGBT Center. Come by the Center to enjoy a board game and meet with other interesting women. For more information call 414-272-9442 or email LAMM at: [lamm@milwpc.com](mailto:lamm@milwpc.com).

"Richard Rogers: The Sweetest Sounds" will be the concert offering by the Wisconsin Cream City Chorus on Saturday, January 15, beginning at 7:30 PM at the Plymouth UCC

Church, 2717 E. Hampshire. The performance will be conducted by Paula Foley Tillen. Tickets are \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door. Tickets are available through chorus members, OutWords Books, and by contacting the chorus office at 414-276-8787. Visit [www.creamcitychorus.org](http://www.creamcitychorus.org) for more information.

The Milwaukee LGBT Center will participate in *Action Wisconsin's statewide Lobby Day to Stop the Constitutional Ban on Civil Unions & Marriage* on Thursday, January 27, from 10am-4 PM. Citizen lobbyists are invited join the Milwaukee LGBT Center's contingent to the Lobby Day. The bus will leave from Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St. at 8 AM by reservation only. For more information or to RSVP, please email Patrick Flaherty at: [pflaherty@mkelglt.org](mailto:pflaherty@mkelglt.org).

The Project Q youth group will hold a fundraising drag show on Saturday, January 29, starting at 8 PM. Performers under 24 years old welcome to compete for cash prizes. Prizes will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place contestants. Admission will be \$3 at the door. For more information contact Warren at 414-223-3220 or email him at: [warren@projectq.org](mailto:warren@projectq.org).

## Montana: Gay Couples Eligible For Domestic Partner Benefits -

A divided state Supreme Court declared December 30 that the state constitution's guarantee of equal protection extends to gay men and women, and ruled that the state university system must offer same-sex couples the same health benefits available to heterosexual ones. In a 4-3 decision, the justices struck down the university's policy of denying benefits to employees' gay partners. The high court said the policy violates the Montana

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