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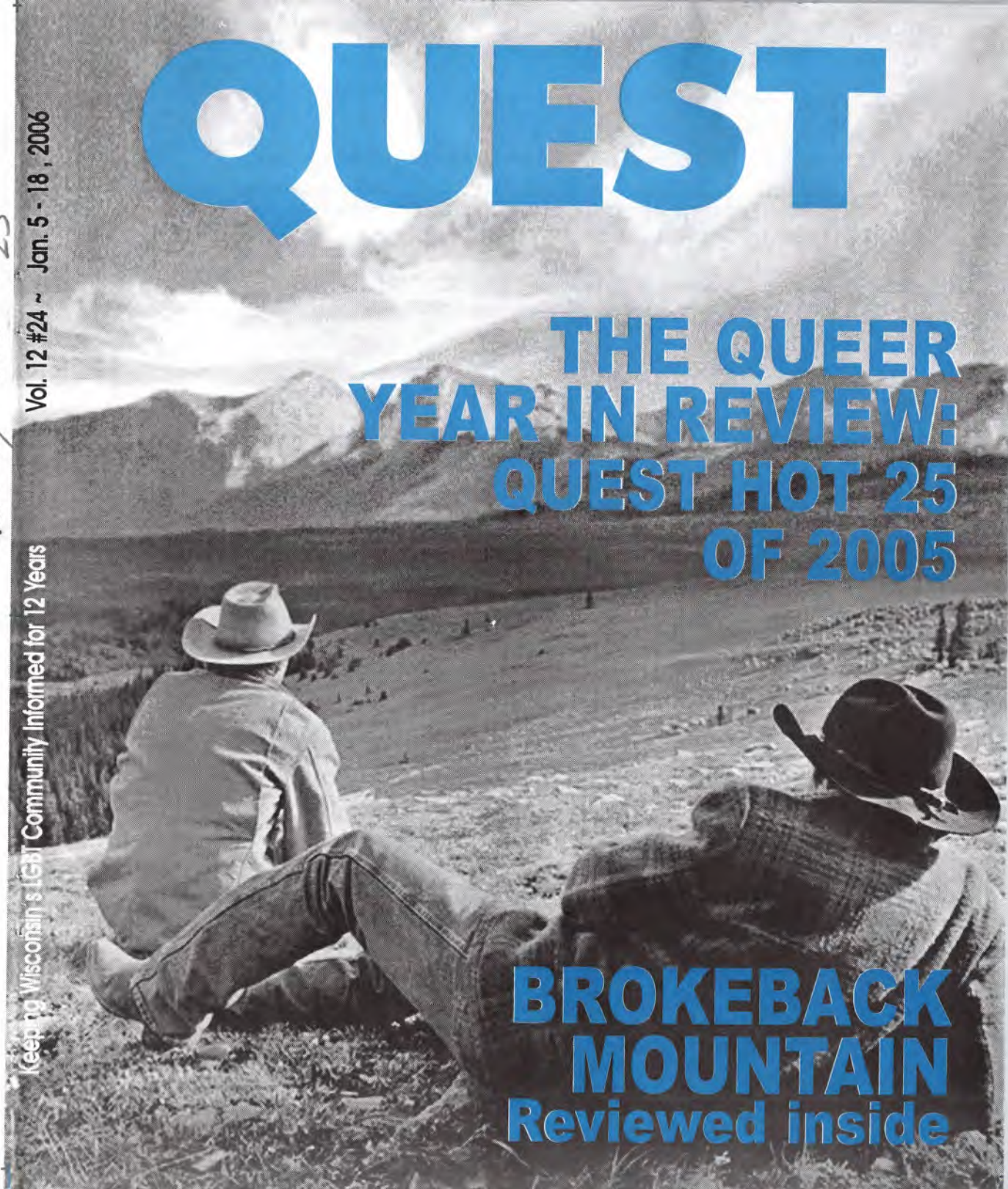
Keeping Wisconsin's LGBT Community Informed for 12 Years

Vol. 12 #24 ~ Jan. 5 - 18, 2006

QUEST

**THE QUEER
YEAR IN REVIEW:
QUEST HOT 25
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**BROKEBACK
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from the editor...

Another year has passed us, and boy do I feel older! I have made a News Year's resolution to drop those extra 20 pounds I have been carrying the past two years and I may actually keep my promise to myself this time. You see, I have been having some problems of the physical kind lately, and if I want them to go away I guess I will have to start living my life a little more healthy. (As long as I can keep drinking beer, I'm ok!)

You may have wondered what happened to the colorful covers on this and the last issue of *Quest*. I wasn't kidding about having a few physical problems. A badly swollen foot meant I haven't been able to do much walking, lifting or standing the past several weeks. Last issue was the first time in two years we went to press with me absent. I still did the layout and printing plates, but that was it. Instead of inviting disaster, we decided to skip the four color cover for the next couple of issues until I am back in full swing.

Unlike our "sister" publications in the Wisconsin LGBT Community, *Quest* is the only Wisconsin LGBT publication that actually owns its own printshop and does its own printing. While this keeps costs much lower so we may offer what we think is the best advertising bargain in the state, it also is a huge commitment on everyone who puts this thing together. If you read the names in the Masthead to the right you will see how many people are involved in getting *Quest* in your hands. I want to take a moment and thank the *Quest* staff for their dedication and hard work. Most of this job is anything but glamorous.

Next month we will get another printing press; our fifth. We will at last have the opportunity to bump up to a larger format similar to *Gay Chicago Magazine* or *Lavender Lifestyles*. I have been planning for this all year, acquiring press equipment, new book making machines and getting us ready. Now I need to hear from you. Many people I ask think *Quest* should stay the smaller size. We cram a lot of news in there and that makes the type really tiny! Moving to 8.5 by 11 format would allow us more room for news and bigger type. It would also benefit advertisers with larger ad sizes. Whichever you prefer, I want to know. You can email me directly at editor@quest-online.com. I am always eager to hear opinions regarding *Quest* including criticism as long as it is constructive.

In this issue, our work-a-holic news editor Mike Fitzpatrick presents his yearly recap of what he feels are the most newsworthy stories for 2005. Mike spends countless hours preparing the news and getting it ready for press. He also does a daily update on our website, www.quest-online.com. We are currently the only LGBT publication that updates information on the web every day. Click on **qun** (Quest News Update) for the latest including links to other websites with stories from all over the world.

Getting the news to you on time has been our primary focus the past two years and will continue in 2006. I think everyone is aware how messed up this country is becoming. There are so many issues that we as the LGBT community must face. We can achieve anything we set our mind to, but we have to know what's going on in the first place. *Quest* has chosen to bring you that news. We hope to see more people get politically involved in 2006, especially with the Gay Marriage Amendment in Wisconsin looming ahead. Its easy to be involved, and you may find it a lot of fun as well. I encourage each of you to make a new year's resolution to help out with your favorite charity, join a non-profit group and volunteer, encourage all your friends to get registered to vote. Even talking to family and friends about the challenges we are facing is a great start. Just like my diet I have chosen to follow, the key is to get started and then stay motivated. Together we will all win! (Now will someone please hurry up and invent a calorie-free great tasting beer. We are living in the beer capital after all!)

Mark Mariucci aka ZA
Publisher



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BARNEY FRANK: "BITTER BATTLE IN 2008 MASSACHUSETTS MARRIAGE BALLOT"

Washington, DC - Rep. Barney Frank sees an "angry, divisive" fight ahead for Massachusetts if a proposed constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage reaches the 2008 state ballot. The congressman blamed backers of the initiative petition for trying to provoke a new fight despite a lack of controversy over same-sex marriage.

"Basically, they're the disturbers of the civic peace," the Democrat said in a wide-ranging Associated Press interview Thursday. "We now have social peace in Massachusetts. They're the ones who want to stir it up ... This is a non-issue in Massachusetts."

The Massachusetts Family Institute said the 124,000 certified signatures it gathered for the petition, nearly double the number required, was a sign of strong public support for outlawing same-sex marriage. "All they want is an opportunity to vote on the definition of marriage," said the group's president, Kris Mineau. "Now that the people have spoken, the good congressman has decided this is a divisive issue."

However, before the amendment can be placed on the state ballot, it must be approved by at least 50 lawmakers during two sep-

arate sessions of the Legislature.

"I think by 2008, people will say, 'Do we really need to have an angry, divisive debate over a non-issue,'" Frank said. "The question for the 50 legislators is: Do they want to make this a front-page issue again, leading the TV news?"

MINNESOTA SPECIAL ELECTIONS SEE DEFEAT FOR ANTI-GAY CANDIDATES

St. Paul - The outcome of two recent special elections in Minnesota could make it harder for opponents of gay marriage to put a constitutional ban on the ballot next November. Both houses of the Legislature must vote first to put the measure on the ballot, and the DFL controlled Senate has blocked the proposal so far.

Now voters have chosen two new DFL senators who oppose a ban on gay marriage, and both of them replace Republicans who favored the amendment. DFL Senate Majority Leader Dean Johnson says he intends to hold a committee hearing on the proposal. But he says the Senate will concentrate on issues like trans-

portation, education and health care. Republican Senator Michele Bachmann says she'll continue to push for a floor vote even though she's lost.



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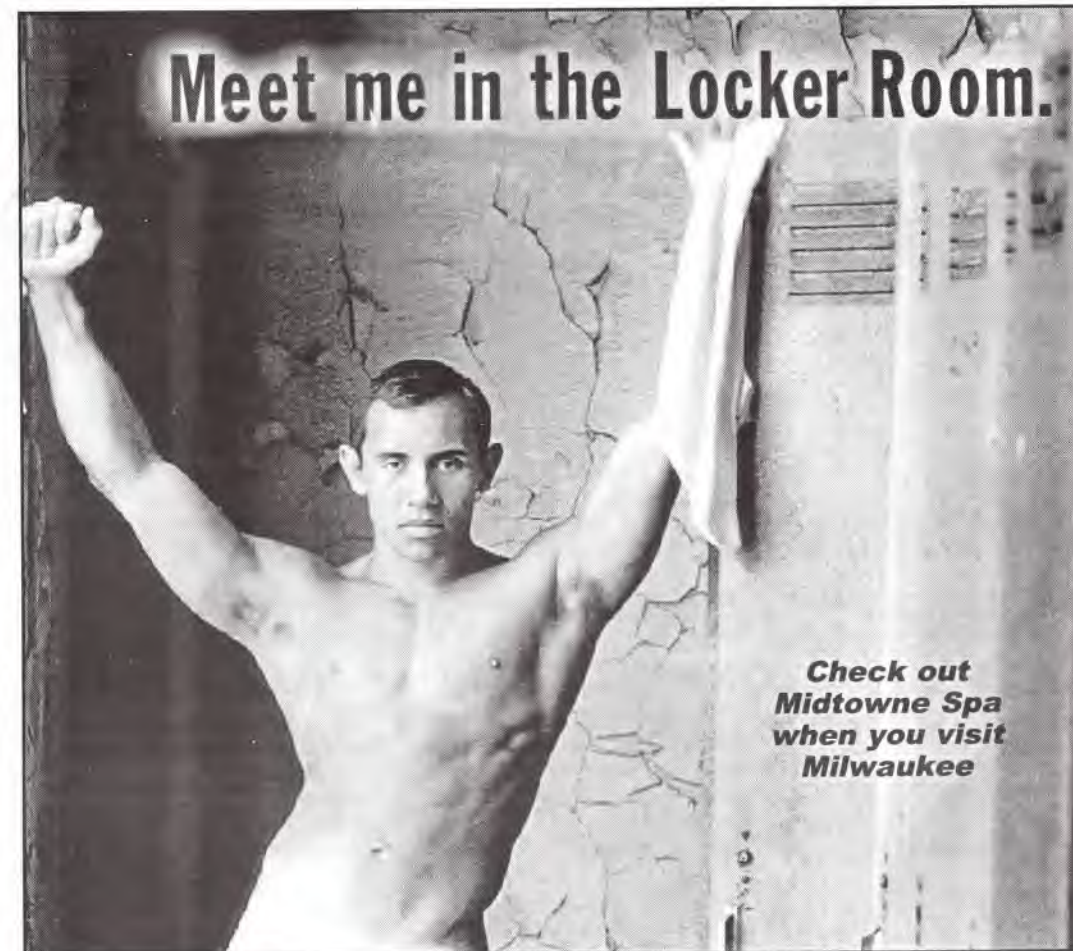
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MWM, 40s, seeking friends for friendship & discreet fun. Reply with contact info or e-mail me gbmartian@yahoo.com; am I the only one wanting this? [2]

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Where is all the foreskin in **Milwaukee**? UNCUT GWM, 5'11", 175 LBS., br/bl, clean and HIV neg. seeks other UNCUT gay men under 50 for mutual pleasure. LTR would be nice also, Call Sparky (414) 225-9683 [2]

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White couple (M & F) looking for some fun. In search of M, F, couples, lesbians, TV, CD, submissive a+. Into sex of all kinds. Photo & phone please. Mike, PO Box 3148, **Oshkosh**, WI 54902

AMENDMENT FOES CHEER PROGRESS AT "BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN" PREMIERE PARTY

Milwaukee - The sold out Wisconsin premiere of Ang Lee's gay-themed "Brokeback Mountain" at the Landmark Oriental Theatre here December 28 brought more than cheers from film buffs seeing what is now being considered a front runner for Oscar kudos. Good news on the progress against the proposed amendment to the Wisconsin Constitution that would ban legal recognition of same-sex marriages and civil unions also brought a packed house of the bill's foes to their feet for a standing ovation at the Center Advocates and the "No On The Amendment" Coalition's premiere party at the adjacent Twisted Fork restaurant just prior to the movie's debut.

"No On The Amendment" Campaign Manager Mike Tate predicted that the state will be the first in the country to defeat the marriage and civil union ban at the ballot box. Tate cited three factors in his assessment: Wisconsin's progressive and libertarian-leaning electorate, the unprecedented, on-the-record opposition to the amendment from mainline Protestant denominations, and - most importantly - time for the opposition to get its message out.

Tate compared Wisconsin's voter identification of bill opponents to that of Oregon's, the state that had the closest referendum vote in 2004. "In Oregon they had identified 75,000 voters opposing the ban two days before the election," Tate said. "Here in Wisconsin we've surpassed that number 312 days before the likely vote."

The premiere party also brought good financial news to the opponent's cause, raising over \$5000 with just six days' planning and limited promotion. Tate noted money will be key to "No On the

Amendment's" success. "We can win this if we can get our message out effectively," Tate said. "That's probably going to take five to six million dollars."

Of course, the premiere party was as much about fun making as about fund raising. In keeping with the "gay cowboy



Compiled and written by Mike Fitzpatrick

movie" theme of the event, many attending wore denim, jeans, boots and ten-gallon hats. Costumed party goers were awarded "Brokeback Mountain" movie posters. However, appetizers ranging from satay to sushi were far from country-western cuisine.

"Brokeback Mountain," the story of a two decade same-sex relationship between two sheep herders, has turned into a surprise mainstream hit in its three weeks of limited release. The film has been nominated for seven Golden Globe roles, made numerous top ten critics' lists and now is considered a top contender for Academy Award nods.

Center Advocates and the "No On The Amendment" Coalition have been working hard to "keep discrimination out of Wisconsin's Constitution," according to the



Campaign Manager Mike Tate

Center's political director Patrick Flaherty. More information about the effort is available at www.centeradvocates.org.

ARCW HALTS USE OF ORAL RAPID HIV TEST

Blood Based Rapid And Standard Oral HIV Testing Will Continue

Milwaukee - The AIDS Resource Center announced December 22 that it has halted the use of the OraQuick oral HIV test at its clinics around Wisconsin, joining other leading HIV clinics around the United States. The move comes following recent reports of a higher than expected number of false positive tests from the rapid HIV test. The test, OraQuick Advance, approved for use earlier this year, has become an important tool at the HIV testing sites. It is painless and requires no blood sample.

Scott Stokes, ARCW's Director Of Prevention, noted the agency will continue to offer rapid HIV tests that use a small

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drop of blood obtained with a finger stick, a procedure similar to tests used by diabetics to check their blood sugar. Standard OraSure oral tests also will continue. OraSure tests require interpretation by a professional lab and the agency typically provides results to clients in two weeks.

Officials at the Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are looking into the complaints about the OraQuick Advance test, but have indicated the test needn't be pulled off the market at this time. CDC data collected this year showed that the oral test was 99.8% accurate for people not infected with the virus.

More recent test results from some large health clinics have seen accuracy rates as low as 99.1%. The difference may seem small, but when testing large groups of people the number affected can be significant. Quest has learned that ARCW clinics recently had at least four false positive tests with the OraQuick Advance test, including three in Green Bay and one in Milwaukee. Follow-up testing using the blood-based rapid test confirmed the false positives. In the weeks prior to the official announcement, consumers seeking the oral rapid test at ARCW clinics had been advised of the concerns and offered the blood-based rapid test as an alternative.

RAINBOW OVER WISCONSIN SETS ANNUAL MEETING

Appleton - Rainbow Over Wisconsin, Inc. will hold its Annual Meeting on Monday, January 9 at 7 PM at the Fox Cities Rotary Multicultural Center, 128 N. Oneida Street here. The meeting will announce the charitable foundation's officers for 2006, and report on its activities in the last calendar year. The prospectus and applications for the 2006 grant year of ROW's Community Enrichment Fund will also be distributed to eligible organizational representatives attending the meeting.

Invitations to the more than two dozen organizations and groups that have benefitted from ROW underwriting and funding will be sent shortly after Christmas. ROW's annual meeting will also provide invited groups to update their fellow organizations on current and upcoming projects and programs.

The meeting will be open to the public without charge. Refreshments will be served. The ROW board will meet at the organization's official office at 702 E. Wisconsin St. an hour prior to the Annual Meeting for board and officer elections.

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Personals

Body work by 28 y.o. GWM - 5'8", 175 lbs., 7.5" cut, smooth, clean, discreet massage student. South side Milwaukee home. 24/7, \$75 for 90-min. session.

In/Out. Ricky. (414) 573-5339. Ethnic discount given. [1/18]

Releasing rubdown from clean, discreet young packin' Polish smooth massage student. 5'8", 180 lbs., own place near airport, freeway & downtown Milw. First timers welcome. 24/7, 90 min. session, \$75. In/Out calls. Mario (414) 791-7319 [1/18]

30 y.o. handsome nicely built dude is back from California offering full body massage service in the Milwaukee-Racine-Kenosha area. \$60. Will work nude (8" cut) if you'd prefer. (414) 588-4973 [1/18]

Full body massage, \$55 an hr., \$75 for 90 min. (414) 378-9838. SW side of Milwaukee; in/out. Says a December client, "this was the most wonderful massage I've ever experienced...for real, thorough, great relaxation/satisfaction."

MasterWork Massage, Relaxation, Deep Tissue, Lomi Lomi, Cranial /Sacral, Polarity, Nutrition, Master Reiki, \$65/hr. Joseph (414) 449-9883. Smarts...with heart!!

Massage and more! By a cute, smooth stud. (414) 614-8883. Outcalls only; Milwaukee area. **Great massage! No Hassle!** (414) 793-6959

Massage/rubdown from 20-year-old, 6'2", 155, bi racial boy, in/out calls. 1-hr. session. (414) 491-4466 (Milw & surrounding areas) Table available! [1/18]

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

Handsome Black Male seeks a man with whom to live the good life. He should be handsome, fit & a great kisser, 35-45. I'm 36, 135 lbs., have beautiful brown eyes that any man can get lost in. To learn more (414) 418-2183 and leave message; only I will hear your message. Milwaukee

IL-Wis. border. Bi curious 49 y.o. white male looking for oral service 1 or 2 times a month. You must be discreet, clean & disease free. For phone #, write me at PO Box 342, Ingleside, IL 60041 [1]

SWM, 50s, curious. Seeking others for occasional daytime meetings - massage, etc.?! Clean, discreet, curious, bi, gay, age/race open. (414) 573-2857, Milw.

Madison area WM, 42, sexy figure...seeking men who need loving feminine sexual pleasure at your place. Take me to bed while I am in sexy lingerie and I will please you all night long. e-mail jenny53701@yahoo.com [1] WM, 34, 6'4", virgin first timer, seeking hot sexy she-males, White, Asian, Hispanic. Send hot

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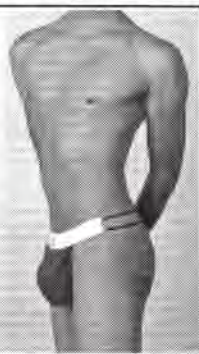
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Ask the Irreverent, Uncle Barbie (An effervescently gay advice columnist.)

Disclaimer: Although the author of this syndicated column holds a doctorate in clinical psychology, the tongue-in-cheek advice given is for entertainment only and is not a substitute for therapy. Mental health issues need to be directed to a private, licensed therapist. Readers should always use their own good judgment before following any advice given by the factitious, Uncle Barbie character. Send your questions to Uncle Barbie: AskUncleBarbie@msn.com.



Dear Barbie,

Whatever happened to the passionate female? All I ever see now are cold, frigid lesbians? Or is it just this town? Signed Diesel Dyke.

Hello Diesel Dyke,

Gee, I always thought that this town was supposed to be cold and frigid. If you are looking for passionate womyn who are feminine, try drawing them to you by becoming the type of womyn that you want to attract. Develop a zealous attitude that sends out a love signal to those other lesbians who are romantic at heart. Your attitude is like a garden. If you plant seeds of passion, you will harvest passion. Give it a chance, and you will see results. As Issac Newton once said, "For every action there is an equal reaction." If you act in a loving way, others who are like you will naturally come (pardon the pun)! Hot in town, Barbie.

Dear Uncle Barbie,

How do you know whom to "come out" to? Obviously, you should be out to close friends and family members, but what about not-so-close friends and family members? How can a person know where to draw the line, somewhere between the really important and the inconsequential figures in their life? Signed, One foot out of the closet.

Hello Closet foot,

To be "in the closet" or "out of the closet"—that is the question. It is usually

quite an internal struggle trying to decide who needs to know your affectional orientation and who doesn't. Sometimes you may feel that you want to share more of your sexual identity with people close to you, and at other times, you may feel like keeping it private. The vacillating desire to go back and forth between coming "out" and going back "in" is a dilemma that many of us have had to grapple with in the gay community.

Firstly, examine your motivations for wanting to come out to someone. Are you seeking acceptance from that person? Is so, then you very well may be setting yourself up for a fall because you are giving the other person the power to accept or reject you. However, if you are coming out to friends and relatives because you are trying to make a connection with them in hopes that they may be able to relate to you, then you may be pleased in finding commonality with them. Or you may be disappointed in discovering that you have less in common than you had previously thought. And as a result, you could feel even more distant from them. On the other hand, you may just be seeking to educate and enlighten the person you are telling. If this is the case, then you are less likely to feel hurt if the other person does not accept your personal

information.

Secondly, if you decide not to tell someone and choose to stay in the closet, you also need to examine your motivations for that decision, too. What is your reason for keeping it to yourself? Is this decision based on fear? If so, is that fear founded on solid reasoning, or is it just a false perception? (On a side note: fear is an interesting emotion. I have heard people say, "There is nothing to fear but fear itself." And I have heard the phrase, "The acronym F.E.A.R. stands for False Evidence that Appears Real." Overall, I think my favorite quote about fear was from a famous author who wrote, "My life has been full of terrible misfortunes—most of which never happened.") Of course, instinctual fears are healthy. For example, when you sense danger, it's wise to take heed. So if your intuition is telling you to be cautious, then by all means, protect yourself.

Ultimately, the decision to come out or not is yours to make. I recommend that you make the choice only after listening to your instincts and on a case-by-case basis. Every situation is different. Just like, every person you tell will have his/her own individual reaction. Do it for the right reasons. Do it if it enhances your life!

Love and tranquillity, Barbie.

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THE QUEER END OF YEAR SPECIAL: THE QUEST "HOT 25"

2005's Top Ten World/National & Top Ten State LGBT Stories

Plus: The Top Five Predictions for 2006

By Mike Fitzpatrick

2005's Year of the Queer was chock full of sassy stories! More marriage equality battles erupted both here in Wisconsin and nationally. Closeted Republicans were unmasked around the country. A former Nazi now wearing the big tiara at the Vatican pulled a few anti-gay pages from Himmler's play book. And a gay cowboy movie looks at year's end to have a death grip on Oscar's short hairs. So many great stories - so little room! Here are Quest's picks for the top ten world & national and Wisconsin stories.

And once again, we'll pull out the crystal ball to make five predictions for 2006, but only after taking a quick peek at how we did in 2005. Let the dish be served!

TOP 10 WORLD & NATIONAL STORIES

1. Gay Marriage Erupts Worldwide.



At the beginning of the year only Belgium and the Netherlands legally recognized same sex unions. By the end of the year Spain, Canada and the United Kingdom (England, Scotland and Wales) had been added to the list. Over the summer the Scandinavian countries of Iceland and Norway expanded their domestic partnership laws. In November, South Africa's Supreme Court had ruled in favor of gay marriage. And as the world puts on its New Year's party hat, the Czech Republic and Austria are poised to recognize gay unions, with Ireland possibly joining the list by next Spring. Honorable mention also must go to China as the world's most populous nation decriminalized homosexuality in 2005.

Not that every country on the planet was

racing to the pink altar: The eastern European countries of Latvia and Lithuania banned gay marriage. Poland elected anti-gay President Lech Kaczynski who promised to "cleanse" the nation of its queer culture. Most disturbing of all were Iran and Saudi

On the down side, Republican governor Arnold Schwarzenegger vetoed the California bill, while voters in Kansas and Texas passed constitutional same sex marriage bans by wide margins. Other states including Arizona, Iowa and Wisconsin are in the process of passing amendment bills for ballot box review. And in late December, anti-gay forces in Massachusetts succeeded in validating a petition for a 2008 referendum on gay marriage there.

The courts, meanwhile, had a field day with the marriage bans passed in 2004. Among the highlights: The Nebraska Supremes invalidated that state's amendment, and Ohio and Michigan judge invalidated domestic violence laws and domestic partner benefits because of those states' amendments. Appeals courts later overturned both rulings, with the losing sides vowing to continue their fights up the judicial ladder at the year's close.

3. Bush's Supreme Picks Filled With Gay Surprises.

The death of Chief Justice Rehnquist and the resignation of Sandra Day O'Connor gave President Bush the opportunity to nominate a several candidates to the nation's High Court, all of whom have had lavender tints in their backgrounds. Bush's initial success - mild mannered Chief Justice John Roberts - had worked on arguments to overturn Colorado's anti-gay Amendment 2, many of which showed up in the court's landmark 1996 *Romer vs. Evans* decision. Unsuccessful second pick Harriet Miers withdrew after the Religious Right howled over many things, including her pro-gay answers to a late 1970's questionnaire and her "habitual spinster" status.



Arabia's beheadings of convicted homosexual men and - just at this issue's press time - women.

2. U.S. Gay Marriage Battle Yields Mixed Results.

American gay marriage supports had reasons to both cheer and cry throughout the year here. On the positive side, Massachusetts celebrated its first anniversary of same sex wedded bliss while Vermont put five candles on their civil unions anniversary cake. Connecticut legalized civil unions and the California passed gay marriage legislation, the first two states to do so without a court order hanging over elected officials' heads.



(More on that at another time.)

8. There is someone out there for you. Even though many would consider what you like to be, "Fetish", It is not the be all and end all of your relationship fulfillment. You will need to have that activity in there, and the rest can follow. I had a 28 year Leather relationship. It was not common for the titles to be used. It didn't need outer signs of how it was, or worked. We were ourselves and as much as he said he was strictly "Old Guard", he often used the freedom of the 'New Guard' within his daily actions.

Being a Leatherman / fetishist / Kink person, is as unique to each practitioner as there are people participating in it. Be yourself, Be well, And Enjoy every bit of life you have the chance of experiencing! And; if you see me out in public, ask me the dumbest, or best, question you have. In my own history, 17years passed between actions i did that should have given me a clue that i was a Leather guy and my realizing that i really WAS one. No one goes from "inquisitive novice to Master in a week or two or even a year or two.

JeffH. bdsmbuy1971@sbcglobal.net

UPCOMING EVENTS

Argonauts L/L club:

WINTERQUEST 32

Saturday Jan. 21 st. At Napalese Lounge

Limited seating. RSVP Jan. 13.

2006 Daddy / Daddy's boy contest !

April 21 & 22 .

www.argonautsll.org/

TOUCHE CHICAGO :

Mister Chicago Leather: Jan. 27-28-29.

See: www.touchechicago.com

05-25/29-2006IML - International Mr LeatherChicago, Illinois

Argonauts & Castaways of Wisconsin:

Joint Run At the Hilbert Farm; August 18-19-20, - '06

Great Lakes Leather Alliance

Indianapolis, Ind. August 26 - 28, 2006

Watch for updates and web site URL.

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International Mr Skin and Steel Labor day weekend.

www.mrskinandsteel.com



Above: Rick & Steve



Left: Dave and Rick both at Harbor Room, Milw.

Below: New Year's eve at Shelter, Green Bay



Thank You SIR: by Jeff Hicks

THE LEATHER SCENE

E-mailed to bdsmboy1971; at Quest Magazine: Dear Mr H.;

I am stuck so I ask you; I will begin by saying that I like to be tied up during sex I love to be gagged as well. BUT I WILL NOT EVER CALL ANY ONE "SIR" will NOT be degraded or debased in any way. I will never consent to be called a "slave."

So I am stuck. I have bailed on several relationships due to this. and I ask where does my desires end? and where should I draw that line?? As far as my desires can I ever find some one who I enter into a relationship AS A FULL AND EQUAL PARTNER? knowing what I get off on in sex????

Signature withheld

Let's break this down into manageable segments so i can answer this step by step.

1. I am stuck so I ask you;
2. a. I will begin by saying that I like to be tied up during sex.
 - b. I love to be gagged as well.
3. a. BUT I WILL NOT EVER CALL ANY ONE "SIR"
 - b. will NOT be degraded or debased in any way.
4. I will never consent to be called a "slave."
 - [* titles that we use]
5. So I am stuck.
6. I have bailed on several relationships due to this.
7. and I ask where does my desires end? and where should I draw that line??
8. As far as my desires can I ever find some one who I enter into a relationship AS A FULL AND EQUAL PARTNER? knowing what I get off on in sex????

1. I am glad you asked, and lets see if we can get you "Unstuck" Your asking me to help is quite a compliment. Maybe my 34 years in Leather can be of some help for your questions.

2. a. great! This can be a very exciting action to have this done in a safe manner. That way you can enjoy it and the arousal that comes from being partially 'Helpless'. The Helpless feeling can be real or imagined, according to how you and your [mate]* set up the 'scene' that is workable for both of you. Just a side note; most bondage in any case needs to be equal tension and pressure from side to side. When it is offset it can be a distraction of focus for the person tied.

2. b. To be gagged is to also express, (or imply) "Hey [dude]*, I know that you understand what we both want and need". My not being able to speak is a placement of my total trust in your integrity and respect for me.

3. a. [Sir]* "Sir" is an expression that is used in daily life with many implications. We, in our scenes can use; ...dude, man, guy, buddy, bud, pal, boy, girl, sister, mister, Mistress,

ma'am, fella, fellow, mate, comrade, chum, brother, peer, ally, partner, etc. among others. All of these and many others that we can come up with are also used daily. What matters is what we mutually agree on, and what each term means to us; and if it will work for us. In most Leather scenes, The --SIR-- word is sometimes used to imply; 'Oh Lord and Master of my life'. Well, it isn't always that intense but sometimes can be. It is perfectly acceptable to NOT use the S word or title between two people who feel that it expresses too much. The relationship / arrangement / whatever, between you and someone else, can and should be what the two of you want. Many of us in Leather are drawn to 'tradition'. I for one am quite so. It suits me fine, has for a long time, and i expect that it will continue. That does not mean that you have to do exactly the same. There will be gatherings of other people in/of Leather who will not understand or accept your unique variation but they don't have to live your life. You may not want to attend their gatherings or functions. That is up to you and your chosen partner.

3. b. This is the BIG ONE !! degrade, demote, insult, humble, debase, cheapen, humiliate, objectify, belittle, etc... ! The person whom you have chosen and allowed to perform the actions that you find so appropriate for you, can very likely, not be a strong enough person to have them done to him/her self. This is not unusual in the scene. Look at where/how you have placed yourself; probably naked, very likely aroused, bound in place so you can't escape, gagged so you cannot speak or seek help or say "no more" ! What have you done? You have met someone you are very drawn to. You trust them completely. You know that later you will both be there together. What you have just accomplished is: *You have given your complete inner self and physical body to someone ! !*

How many people do you think can do that ? So few ever care enough in their entire life to be able to give that much to anyone. To attempt to degrade you or put you down in any way for doing that, shows that they have no concept of the intensity of the gift that you have just bestowed upon them. When that person is finding their gratification with doing what they want, and your mutual acceptance of that action; there is intense value shown in what you are giving. And, what you have the capacity To give; repeatedly. You are worth so much in that relationship that measuring it is impossible. Some bottoms try to make a 'submissive, or boy, or slave', 'power trip' out of this, but find that in time the power trips can backfire. It is best understood as an equalizer of our roles. We as submissives are persons of great worth and exceptional value.



4. Slave: This is enough to warrant an entire book. (Several have been written on that subject). ONLY those persons who KNOW that they need to go in that direction, should ever be referred to as such !! Two articles back i dealt with some of this subject. Only those person/s who are ready to enter into such a relationship should consider using this term !!

5. "So I am stuck",
i don't think so!

6. It might be just as well that you bailed on earlier relationships. You have; in your seeking of your true self; not found someone who could or would be absolutely HONEST. With what you and i do; we are engaging in "At Risk Behavior". I don't mean S T D's. I mean, when we are incapacitated within a scene, (bound/gagged/restrained/stretched/"wired"), we are "at risk" !! If the partner/dominant has not been completely honest, serious physical and/or psychological damage can occur before we know it. This is why so much emphasis is placed on Negotiations, Public first meetings, and extensive 'getting to know your partner', before getting in too deep.

7. Where do your desires end? Do they ever? Don't be surprised, they will change in time. You may tire of what you want now and step away from other such activities and do very little of the scene, or, GO even further !, into your own special interests. Whichever; There are people out there interested in doing the things that you have done, and will become ready for. Where you draw the line; that is what you can accomplish in negotiations.

The jury's still out on Samuel Alito, although his collegiate pro-gay rights writings have taken a back seat to more recent revelations of his 80's and 90's advocacy to overturn the nearly 40 year old pro-choice *Roe vs. Wade* ruling.

4. Gay Republicans Tumble From Closets Across The Country.



It seemed you couldn't swing a Shih Tzu without swishing into a closeted gay Republican in '05. The fun started early when gay bloggers Mike Rogers and John Aravosis fingered Talon News' White House reporter Jeff Gannon as a moonlighting, military-minded gay hooker calling himself James Guckert. The scandal touched on the alleged same sex proclivities of both White House Press Secretary Scott McClellan and RNC Chair Ken Mehlman, hotly denied by both of the middle-aged, dateless single men.

Out on the left coast, Spokane Mayor James West turned out to be the Gay.com chat room denizens Cobra82nd and RightBi-Guy. Cruising on city computers on the taxpayer's dime was not supported by the city's voters, who turned West out in a special recall election in December. The recall brought an end to West's more than two decades of actively opposing gay rights legislatively, even as he allegedly sexually harassed teenaged boys and offered young men government jobs in exchange for "special favors."

Congressional GOPers Mark Foley of Florida and David Drier of California were among several elected officials pulled from the closet by BlogActive, an outing site that scored its biggest surprise last summer when virulently anti-gay Sen. Rick Santorum's (R-Pennsylvania) Chief of Staff Robert Traynham was unmasked as homosexual.

The closet cout-de-gras, however, was the post-resignation revelation that the disgraced, butch, bribe-taking Rep. Randy "Duke" Cunningham (R-San Diego) has spent years engaging in "bi-married-curious" homo hook-ups. With so many queers cropping up on the right side of the aisle, the only honest, openly gay Republican in the House - Rep. Jim Kolbe of Arizona - apparently felt comfortable enough to call it quits after his current term expires.

5. Ratz The Nazi Pulls Hardcore Homos From U. S. Seminaries.



After engineering his own rise with political moves that rivaled Karl Rove's, newly-elected Pope Benedict XVI (aka former Hitler Youth Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger) quickly set his sights on the priestly pedophilia scandal in the United States. Eschewing scientific evidence in favor of Biblical blather, Benedict rush-released a policy he had been crafting in his fourteen year role as the Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith for the late John Paul II. The policy declared men with "deeply rooted homosexual tendencies" were unfit for the priesthood. The Pope then named a team of investigators to review all American seminaries for compliance with the new rule.

Less than a week after the anti-gay rule was officially unveiled, His Holiness cast a pall on World AIDS Day by permitting underlings to parrot an "official message" that opposed the use of condoms, blamed gays for the spread of the disease, while simultane-

ously praising the Catholic Church's efforts to combat HIV/AIDS.

Benedict's year-end nomination of Archbishop Pietro Sambi as papal nuncio (or Vatican ambassador) to the United States further alarmed many gay Catholics. Sambi was instrumental in a coordinated effort to scuttle the international gay WorldPride event from being held in Jerusalem while he served as papal nuncio to Israel.

In all, Benedict's actions earned him the "Anti-Gay Person Of The Year" awarded by the *Washington Blade* at year's end.

6. Bible Bigots Bite Big Business For Gay Support.

Religious wackos worked overtime to intimidate major U.S. companies into backing off from their publically announced support of the gay community in 2005. Among the most notable battles: Kraft's decision to support the 2006 Gay Games in



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Chicago, Ford's advertising in LGBT media and the Wells Fargo Bank's pro-gay employee benefits policies.

Kraft refused to back down out right. In an internal corporate memo to employees obtained exclusively by *Quest* last May and later reprinted worldwide, Executive Vice President Marc Firestone wrote about the controversy: "It can be difficult when we are criticized. It's easy to say you support a concept or a principle when nobody objects. The real test of commitment is how one reacts when there are those who disagree. I hope you share my view that our company has taken the right stand on diversity, including its contribution to the 2006 Gay Games in Chicago."

Ford's December reaction to a threats from the American Family Association - the same group that Kraft had stared down six months earlier about the same time as the AFA had begun to threaten a boycott of the car maker - was a model of how not to respond extremists. In an attempt to end what has been considered a public relations nightmare, Ford wrote to gay groups December 14 saying it would resume buying corporate ads in gay media, featuring all eight of the company's brands, reversing a week-old decision to pull Jaguar and Land Rover ads in gay publications - a move that coincided with the AFA's announcement to drop the planned boycott.

James Dobson's announcement to pull all Focus On The Family funds from the Wells Fargo financial system apparently came after months of behind-the-scenes arm twisting of bank executives to end what Dobson claimed was the active pursuit of a "radical homosexual agenda." Although Dobson later claimed "we certainly don't expect corporate America to do our bidding," he didn't like the trade-off of Wells Fargo's underwriting of FOTF's anti-gay agenda while using a miniscule portion of the interest and service fees the bank collected to fund the other side.

And if the above scuffles were not comical enough, don't forget James Dobson's gay baiting of *SpongeBob SquarePants* as the year began, followed almost immediately the kiddie cartoon "Postcards from Buster" drawing the wrath of the U.S. Department of Education for an episode briefly featuring two lesbian parents. And speaking of television...

7. I Got My Gay TV!



2005 was the year that America finally got not one, but three cable channels of all-gay programming all the time. The Q Network, Viacom's LOGO and Here! TV all debuted within months of each other. LOGO can be found on the higher end digital tiers of many urban cable systems and national satellite dish programming, while both Q and Here! operate respectively as premium and pay-per-view channels.

2005 also marked the end of two long-running premium cable series favored by the gay set: "Queer As Folk" on Showtime and "Six Feet Under" on HBO. Both series' finales drew big numbers, reversing viewer erosion that reached as high as a 75% loss in viewership in "Queer As Folk's" case.

Additionally, broadcast TV saw a drop in gay characters among the fall series as well as the announcement that this would be "Will & Grace's" final season. Openly gay Marc Cherry's "Desperate Housewives" also has seen viewer fatigue.

8. Science Says It's Genetic.

2005 was barely a month old when the first of a number of startling reports added weight to the theory that same sex attraction has a strong genetic component. An extensive study at the University of Chicago reported that genetics impacted behavioral patterns in 40-60% of the research project's subjects. Later in the year a Swedish team showed the response to scent differed dramatically between gays and straights. Other studies showed differences in patterns of aggression among men coincided with sexual orientation.

New studies also played the numbers game. Most dramatic with the exhaustive British study that announced 2-4% of all Britons were gay.

In the animal world, Oregon researchers

found 8% of rams are gay. Feathers flew when keepers tried to straighten out gay penguins in a Berlin zoo, while the Central Park Zoo's famous gay male penguin couple Silo and Roy split up - over a female. Then again, Boston's popular swan couple "Romeo & Juliet" turned out to be lesbians.

9. Protestant Denominations Continue To Struggle With Homosexuality.

It's a story that covers more than a year but once again mainline Protestant denominations such as the Methodists, the Lutherans and The Episcopalians continued to struggle with their response to God's gay people. Evangelical Lutherans considered then drew back from endorsing a resolution that would allow openly gay ministers to serve. Methodists eventually defrocked lesbian pastor Beth Stroud.

The Anglican Communion came perilously close to schism as third world bishops called for the removal of openly gay Bishop Eugene Robinson and the condemnation of American Episcopalians for Robinson traveled to England to meet with the Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, who called the encounter cordial yet candid.

10. "Brokeback Mountain" Breaks Gay Stereotypes.



The first media rumblings began in September when Ang Lee's "Brokeback Mountain" took the Golden Lion, the top prize at the Venice Film Festival. In November critics in the U. S. began singing the praises of what some have

"Brokeback Mountain" could have become that all too elusive thing, a great mainstream cinema gay love story, something totally unique and groundbreaking. Having seen so many previews that eliminate the relationship between the two men in favor of that of Ennis and Alma, Glenn imagines that it was never intended to be.

Setting the story in 1963, it is taken for granted that Jack and Ennis could not possibly believe they would have any option other than the ones they've chosen. Fair enough. Even today, more than forty years later, Ennis and Jack's predecessors would still have to think long and hard about forging a life together in these great open spaces. Yet despite knowing the consequences, Jack is willing to give it a try, dreaming of a day when he and Ennis might take over his parent's ranch and make something of it. No such thoughts enter the mind of the stolid, repressed Ennis, who as a boy of nine learned a hard lesson of just what happens when two men try to break the rules. Instead Ennis wanders aimlessly through life, certain in the knowledge that there can be no happiness for him. Divorcing Alma, Ennis eventually takes up with Cassie (Linda Cardellini) a lively, likeable waitress who ultimately realizes that Ennis's heart - if it be still beating - will never beat for her.

With gorgeous cinematography, a literate screenplay and a lush musical score, "Brokeback Mountain" is a classy movie based upon a classy story which first appeared within the pages of that oh-so classy magazine, *The New Yorker*. Performances, too, are top-notch. Heath Ledger is being Oscar-touted for his performance as Ennis, a man who has buried his emotions all his life and just can't see around making any change. Jake Gyllenhaal is believable and quite touching as Jack, a man who knows what he wants and who finally becomes willing to take a chance - any chance - to find happiness. He is never more heart-breaking than during the last "fishin' trip." Ennis is furious after Jack mentions to Ennis his escapade in Mexico. Jack has had enough. Finally putting words to years of pain and frustration, Jack challenges Ennis, "Tell you what, we could have had a good life together, a fuckin' real good life. You wouldn't do it, Ennis, so what we got now is Brokeback Mountain. Everything built on that. It's all we got, boy, fuckin' all..."

In this one shattering moment, Jack puts words to his desires and sexuality and in doing so must pay the price. Glenn can only wonder what the late Vito Russo, whose "Celluloid Closet" is still the best book on Hollywood's representation of gay films, might have to say.



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New on DVD by Glenn Bishop "Brokeback Mountain"



Having just returned from the eagerly awaited, much hyped "Brokeback Mountain," Glenn is relieved to find that there were no sharp implements found on the way to the liquor cabinet. Even being familiar with the story, Glenn wasn't at all prepared for the film's powerful, emotional impact.

Why o' why do they not serve vodka at the fabulous Landmark Oriental theatre??

For those loyal *Quest* readers living under a rock, "Brokeback Mountain" is the highly touted "gay cowboy" love story based on a short story from award-winning novelist Annie Proulx and starring Hollywood hunks Heath Ledger and Jake Gyllenhaal. Ledger plays ranch-hand Ennis Del Mar, a man of a few but invariably mumbled words. Gyllenhaal plays rodeo cowboy Jack Twist, who is something of a good-natured scamp. One fateful summer these two young men find themselves hired to tend sheep on scenic Brokeback Mountain, the summer of 1963 to be precise.

Oscar-winning director Ang Lee sets the tone immediately, opening the film with a series of panoramic shots of majestic mountains, relieved occasionally with intimate shots of our two quiet cowboys setting up camp. The setting is undeniably gorgeous. And isolated. These wide open spaces emerging curiously claustrophobic.

Their "big sky" days are pretty much their own, but at night one must sleep with the sheep, while the other guards the camp. And so their days pass.

The rigidly enforced separation goes out the window one night, thanks to liquor and an unusually frigid summer night. Taking pity on the freezing Ennis, Jack welcomes him into his tent. Huddling together for warmth, it is perhaps not terribly surprising that their hormones soon take over. In suitable rough & tumble fashion, our two cowboys couple in a scene of extraordinary sexual passion likely raise more than a few Fundamentalists' eyebrows.

"You know I ain't queer," Ennis tells Jack during the not unexpected, "boy-was-I-drunk-last night" morning-after. "Me, neither," says Jack. "This is a one-shot thing we got going on here." Or perhaps not, thinks Glenn.

When their blissful summer comes to an all too early end, Ennis and Jack must return to the real world. For Ennis, this means marrying Alma (Michelle Williams - mother to Ledger's own child and with another on the way). Jack once again tries the rodeo circuit.

Four years pass.

It is difficult to image a more dreary, less idyllic life than that Ennis carves out for he, Alma and their two little girls. Living

Full Price, Matinee or wait 'til the budgets

Quite simply, "Brokeback Mountain" is unmissable - if for no other reason than to see if it manages to live up to its extraordinarily effective marketing campaign and subsequent hype. Regardless how beautifully made or however many Oscars "Brokeback Mountain" might win in March, this is not the movie Glenn had hoped for. Not that Glenn wants to give away the film's ending but anyone hoping for our two Hollywood hunks to ride off into the sunset together is going to be sorely disappointed. "It is simply one of the greatest love stories in film history" claims one mainstream reviewer. Glenn must disagree.

Just the facts...

"Brokeback Mountain" 134 minutes
Rated R for sexuality, nudity, language and some violence

Annie Proulx's original short story can be found in her short story collection, "Close Range"

All about "Brokeback Mountain" at www.brokebackmountainthemovie.com
All about Jake Gyllenhaal - except a photo gallery all www.jakegyllenhaal.com
All about Heath Ledger including a fabulous photo gallery at www.heathbaby.com

on a ranch might have been Ennis's dream but from the look on Alma's haggard face, her two small children are sick and constantly crying in the background, it is clearly her worst nightmare. Then out of the blue, Ennis receives a postcard from Jack announcing his planned visit. With this news Ennis comes alive, literally and probably for the first time since that fateful summer.

Come the day of Jack's visit and Ennis is as nervous as a whore in a church hall. Any thoughts of Alma fly out of the window when Jack's pickup is spied coming up the drive. Jack is barely out of his pickup and Ennis is out the door ready to plant a lip lock on Jack - probably even before either man knows what's hit him. Astonished to see a passion in Ennis she's clearly never seen before, Alma can only look on helplessly, unbeknownst to her errant hubby.

So begins their regular "fishin' trips" where no fish ever seem to get caught.

dubbed the "gay cowboy movie." A limited six screen opening in early December saw the record for average per-screen box office shattered. As *Quest* goes to press, the film continues to be the #1 per-screen average in the country for the third successive week.

"Brokeback Mountain" has done more than win Golden Globe nominations, places on critic's year-end top10 lists and Oscar speculation. Audiences of all sexual orientations are embracing what is a deeply moving, tragic and very personal story of unfulfilled love and expectations. The movie's straightforward telling of its simple story of two men who happen to love each other, in fact, may do more for the LGBT civil rights movement in the next few months than all the carefully crafted, focus group-tested messages conjured up by the professional gay-for-pay activist crowd have done in the last few years.

A greater irony still would be if "Brokeback Mountain" finally breaks the back of the Bible-based bigotry movement in this country.

Top 10 Wisconsin Stories:

1. Wisconsin Anti-Gay Amendment Passes Senate On Party Line Vote.

December 7 saw SJR-53 pass in the state Senate on a party line vote. The likely inexorable process of the second passage of the proposed constitutional amendment barring legal recognition of all unmarried couples, gay or straight, had begun but on a distinctly different note. Democrats - particularly Sen. Dave Hansen of Green Bay and openly gay Sen. Tim Carpenter - found not only their voices but effective arguments showing up the Republican-sponsored bill for the cheap, mean-spirited political ploy activists have been calling it since its first introduction.

Hansen's turnaround was dramatic. A former amendment supporter, he could hardly contain himself and tried to offer an amendment to the bill before lead sponsor Scott Fitzgerald (R-Juneau) could exercise his prerogative to explain why the bill supposedly was needed. Hansen's passion was primed in part by a pro-amendment caller to his office who also encouraged an "open season on queers" in a recorded voice mail.



By offering amendments encouraging Republicans to live up to their own empty rhetoric on marriage and so-called "family values", Democrats were able to expose the amendment bill for the mean spirited, widely damaging cheap political ploy it was. The message also finally sunk in the the mainstream media who widely reported how the amendment's passage would harm families of unmarried couples of all types.

2. ACLU Files Same-Sex Domestic Partner Benefit Lawsuit.

Even as Republicans heated up the amendment battle, their decade-long refusal to allow consideration of same sex domestic partner benefits in the University of Wisconsin system and other state agencies came back to haunt them as the Wisconsin American Civil Liberties Union filed a lawsuit April 20 against the state of Wisconsin on behalf of six lesbian employees and their partners seeking domestic partner health insurance and family leave protections.

"I worked as many hours and just as hard as my straight colleagues and coworkers. I shouldn't be denied the ability to provide my family with health insurance solely because my partner of 29 years is another woman," Virginia Wolf, a minister and retired English professor at the University of Wisconsin-Stout said at the press conference announcing the action.

Republican lawmakers responded by hiring the Alliance Defense Fund, James Dobson's crack SpongeBob SquarePants

legal defense team, to insert the Assembly into the lawsuit - the first time in U. S. history a governmental body has selected a religious-based organization to represent them in a civil rights lawsuit.

Following the Assembly Republicans' lead, a shadowy, apparently one-man, religious-based group calling itself the First Freedom Foundation later approached eight villages, towns and cities - the largest of which was Green Bay - to solicit them to file a similar motion to intervene, arguing that a ruling forcing the state to grant benefits in the case would force them to follow suit.

In September, Dane County Circuit Court Judge David T. Flanagan threw out both motions, ruling that they would violate the separation of powers outlined in the state Constitution. Flanagan ruled that state law gives the Department of Justice the authority to defend the state's interests, and the department is already doing so in the lawsuit. Flanagan also found that the municipalities and the Legislature have no compelling interests that meet legal requirements.

3. "No On The Amendment" Coalition Develops Unprecedented Partnerships.

In 2005 Action Wisconsin, the statewide LGBT civil rights organization, and its Milwaukee-focused counterpart Center Advocates forged a "No On The Amendment" Coalition that has brought national attention to the states fight for marriage equality. The organizations brought unprecedented numbers of citizens to lobby against the bill in late January, when over 400 knocked on legislators' doors, and again in November - with just a few day's notice - when nearly 350 spoke or registered against the proposed constitutional ban.

Joining that partnership in February was the first religious-based anti-amendment organization, Christians For Equality, who mustered over 200 people of faith to a lobby day that month. Additionally, a multitude of mainline Protestant denominations that included the United Church of Christ, the Evangelical Lutherans, the United Methodists, the Presbyterians joined numerous individual churches, fellowships and synagogues that went on record opposing the amendment through-

out the year. The number of adherent members represented by those denominations now surpasses a half million. By contrast, The Family Research Institute's Julaine Appling was able to produce only a little over 52,000 of her promised 75,000 signatures supporting the amendment at the sole hearing on the bill November 29.

The "No On The Amendment" Coalition also boast the support of several labor unions and dozens of social justice and progressive organizations from around the state too numerous to mention here. The full list is available on the Action Wisconsin website at: www.actionwisconsin.org.

4. RuPaulFest, er Pridefest Shatters Attendance Records.



Billed in 2005 as Wisconsin's "pride and joy," the ninth annual PrideFest at the Henry B. Maier "Summerfest" grounds saw record-breaking attendance June 11-12. PrideFest officials claimed that the official attendance figure was 21,368, a number that also included volunteers, free passes and other non-paid admissions.

12,984 of that total attended PrideFest's opening day. This year's festival also scored a mix of gay and straight attendees. According to the *Quest* news team covering the event, most of those asked for the prime reason they were in attendance named the appearance of dance artist

RuPaul as their reason for passing through the gates. The day's lineup also featured disco diva Taylor Dayne and comedian Jason Stuart. Saturday evening saw half-hour waiting lines at admission booths outside the festival and similarly long lines at the beer ticket and ID bracelet stands, less memorable PrideFest firsts.

The financial success, however, allowed PrideFest to pay off all of its remaining debt of \$120,000 later that summer. The success also quieted calls for the reform of the PrideFest organizational structure to permit a more open process in membership and leadership selection.

It should be noted that a month later, RuPaul continued his/her successful sweep across the state by appearing at a Madison underwear party on the eve of that city's official Pride Weekend. The July 16 event at the Majestic night club also set attendance records.

5. HIV/AIDS Re-Emerges As Gay Community Concern In Wisconsin.



Following similar resurgences in major gay communities around the country over the last two years, the number of new HIV/AIDs in Wisconsin's gay men's community spiked significantly in 2005. The 16% increase in new Wisconsin HIV cases in the last year might have seemed alarming enough, but the 48% rise among the state's gay men, and the more than 50% surge in new cases among those under the age of 25 shocked many gay community leaders and AIDS activists.

"The resurgence is very troubling," ARCW's Vice President and CEO Mike Gifford told *Quest*. "Young gay men who did not live through the early days of this epidemic do not consider HIV a serious health threat."

AIDS Network's Bob Power thought the new OraQuick test may be contributing to the statistical rise. "I hope that (part of the rise in new cases) is due to the increased

efforts in testing with the rapid testing tool that is both convenient to use in non-clinical settings and reduces the number of people tested lost to follow-up," Powers said.

AIDS groups were heartened by the approval of \$1 million in increased funding for HIV/AIDS services in the state's 2005-6 biennial budget in July. Fundraising for AIDS prevention, health and social services continued apace with the combined efforts of ARCW and AIDS Network's rides, walks and Holly Jolly Folly topping a million dollars as well, in a year when the Southeast Asian tsunami and Hurricanes Katrina and Rita competed for donor dollars.

6. Milwaukee Alder Bigot Mike McGee Enrages City's Gay Community. The



ongoing antics of African American Alder Mike McGee caused the blood pressure of many in Milwaukee to surge in 2005, but none more so that the city's LGBT community. McGee's initial volley at a February 10 rally in defense of Frank Jude Jr.'s October, 2004 beating by off-duty Milwaukee policemen equated the Fox Valley resident's assailants as "hate mongers and KKK killers" but then McGee singled out one of the dozen attackers as "a straight-up sick faggot."

The subsequent response from gay blogger and former IN Step publisher William Attewell focused the city's attention on the anti-gay slur. The Milwaukee LGBT

Diversion of the Day Community Calendar

Thursday, January 5

SAGE/Milw. Drop-In Center, 1-5 pm

Friday, January 6

SAGE/Milw. Movie Night - *Lion in Winter* - 6 pm Starring Katherine Hepburn & Peter O'Toole

Saturday, January 7

Madison Gay Video Club, 8 pm: *Regarding Billy*, AMG *Resurrection: A New Beginning*. FMO www.mgvc.org or (608) 244-8675 evenings

Monday, January 9

Outwards Book Club (Milw.) A delightful mix of historical adventure and romance, Chris Hunt's *Duval's Gold* will be discussed by the Outwards Reading Group in January; 7:30 pm. Read the book and come join the discussion!

Tuesday, January 10

BESTD HIV testing @ Midtowne Spa, Milw., 6-9 pm
Outwards Books Lesbian Reading Group: A.K. Naten's debut romance *Turning Tides* is the book to be discussed; 7 pm. New members are always welcome!

Saturday, January 14

Madison - My Family Playgroup, for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender parents with children 0-10
...Movie & Pizza Party, 10:30-1:30, Rocky Rococo's Pizzeria private party toom, 1753 Thierer Rd. \$7.50 adults, \$5.50 children under 10. RSVP to Jim Schmid at jhs1120@yahoo.com or www.myfamilyplaygroup.com fmo.
Shelter (Green Bay) Snowball II, White Party: \$1 Black Jack Cola, \$2 domestic bottles, \$2 Captain & Cokes, \$9 Fallout Drink Bust 9-1

Saturday, January 21

Madison Gay Video Club, 8 pm: *Ice Men & Kollide*. FMO www.mgvc.org or (608) 244-8675 evenings

Monday, January 23

BESTD HIV testing @ Midtowne Spa, Milw., 7-10 pm

Friday, January 27

Skylight Opera Theatre (Milw., 158 N. Broadway / Cabot Theatre) *The Tragedy of Carmen* opens today & runs thru Feb. 12; tickets - (414) 291-7800 or www.skylightopera.com

January 27-29!

The 2006 Chicago Leather Weekend; club base is Touche', 6412 No. Clark St. FMO contact David Boyer (773) 761-8165 or chicagoleatherdaddy@sbcglobal.net

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4. Republicans Will Barely Retain Control Of Congress. Again, the numbers of vulnerable seats plus the red-leaning redistricting following the 2000 Census make it tough for a majority change in 2006, no matter how low the President's numbers go. If anything, dissatisfaction with the GOP is peaking way too early - even with all the scandals yet to be fully investigated. Look for meaningful troop reductions in Iraq by summer, with accompanying withdrawal rationales to match the WMD rhetoric that got us in there in the first place. Short of another natural disaster, the Republicans will regain the discipline they have appeared to misplace recently. This time illegal immigrants will be the fodder for the GOP big guns. Even a senior citizen revolt over the Medicare D mess won't help Democrats much as that boondoggle was a bipartisan effort. The net effect: a loss of Republican seats, but not Republican control in either the House or the Senate. My confidence in this prediction this far out, and with so many unknowns, is 60%.

5. Samuel Alito Will Be Confirmed As A Supreme Court Justice. The votes are there, both for the confirmation and the "Nuclear Option" to cut off filibusters forever. The Democrats will blink, but this will be hard right's final victory for some time. Prediction confidence is 70%.

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



**NEW
YEAR'S
EVE
2005**

**Shelter
Bar,
Green Bay**



Center, which sits in McGee's district, later chimed in admonishment but it was Sen. Tim Carpenter's on-camera confrontation with McGee at another of the alder's staged protests two weeks later that showed McGee up to be the cowardly, sniveling figure he is.

"Why are you disrespectful? Why don't you return phone calls?" Carpenter shouted. "When will you apologize for using the term 'faggot' when referring to police officers? You're an embarrassment."

McGee refused to acknowledge Carpenter, and instead ran off down the hall and into his office, trailed by Carpenter, TV cameras and reporters eager to capture the confrontation. Carpenter continued shouting to McGee after he went into his office "Why are you hiding?" The senator later explained that he had attempted to call McGee numerous times without success.

McGee also caught the anger of Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett and Common Council President Willie Hines not only for his anti-gay slurs but his use of derogatory terms for black women on the City's talk radio.

Later in the year, McGee was back on the city's gaydar after two teenaged girls accused him of making anti-gay comments while showing a video of the February 23 confrontation during a bus trip the alder sponsored to the Millions More March in Washington, DC. In November, McGee was arrested for disorderly conduct and resisting arrest in a suburban Wauwatosa Blockbuster Video parking lot. Once again the alder attempted to play the race card but to increasingly deaf ears.

7. Milwaukee Company's "Naked Boys Singing" Shutdown Saga Finally Peters Out. The much-heralded Uncommon Theatre production of the cabaret revue "Naked Boys Singing" closed December 29 at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center (MGAC), signalling the end of the first phase of a five-month saga of sometimes chilling and other times comical events.

For six weeks prior to the show's debut, ads focusing primarily on the nudity of the cast spread through the state's gay media. However, an un-retouched cover photo of the cast on the August issue of *Outbound* triggered at least one out-of-town night club to cancel a planned bus trip to the revue.

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

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

The Milwaukee Gay Arts Center subsequently filed a \$630,000 claim against the city, most of which is for an alleged violation of the not-for-profits' civil rights. The City of Milwaukee later backed down on the small theater license requirement for the

MGAC after reviewing documents relating to the center's not-for-profit status. The documents had been submitted with the earlier license request for a temporary Class B liquor license.

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

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

Much of the controversy was fueled by self-promoter extraordinaire Donald Hoffman. Hoffman serves as editor of the Milwaukee gay lifestyle monthly *Queer Life* and as the co-director of the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center. Hoffman coordinated the MGAC's placement of full page advertisements in the *Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel* on August 31 and September 2 demanding a "public apology" for the shutdown and devoted two issues of front page coverage about the imbroglio in *Queer Life*.

The next phase of the controversy will involve the settlement of the standing claim against the city. The failure of both the city clerk's licensing office and the MGAC to exercise due diligence in the review of pertinent ordinances prior to processing the MGAC's small theater license application request - the event that set in motion the subsequent chain of events - likely will weigh heavily on the final outcome.

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8. Door County Hate Crime Charges Ruled A Bar Brawl.

It took ten months, divided the residents a gay-friendly tourist region and captured the interest of hate crime activists nationwide, but the week long trial of father and son Mark and Joshua Sawyer last April found them guilty of misdemeanor disorderly conduct but innocent of serious battery charges. The younger Sawyer was also found innocent on the hate crime penalty enhancer.

Originally five men were charged with a variety of crimes, and four had the hate crime enhancer attached to their charges. Adam Bley pleaded guilty to a minor offense. Two others, Robert Wagner and Andrew Ostrand, pled guilty to lesser charges in plea deals that dropped the hate crime penalty. The elder Sawyer's hate crime charge was also dropped in pre-trial negotiations.

From the beginning the jury heard two widely divergent versions of what happened June 6, 2004 at Bley's Tavern in rural West Jacksonport. Prosecutor Joan Korb attempted to lay out a scenario of terror caused by intolerant men who could not accept the fact that several gay men had chosen to be themselves in a rural tavern. Photos of the bloodied Day were offered in evidence. The gay men's story was supported by Tina Ostrand who alleged Mark Sawyer's use of the word "fag" triggered the fight.

Defense attorneys Michael Fitzgerald and William Appel weaved a story that could only be described, according to one court watcher, as the gay version of the "uppsy nigger" syndrome: openly gay men flaunted their lifestyle in front of intoxicated straight men, thus causing a fight that got way out of hand. A defense witness claimed Day ripped of his shirt as if he were profes-

sional wrestler Hulk Hogan and started the fight. Photos of Mark Sawyer's severely brutalized face caused by a single defensive punch by Day were also shown to the jury.

The prosecution did get the younger Sawyer to admit he barred the door, preventing the victims from leaving the fray. However, Sawyer's reasoning for blocking the exit was because he did not want Day and Groeschl to leave before the police arrived.

In the end, Groeschl and Day's failure to follow up with the police after the incident appeared to confirm the defense's allegations, made most effectively by fellow assailant Ostrand, that the gay couple incited the brawl. Jury foreman William Sturdevant summed up his impression of the brawl as an liquor-infused affair. "I think it was just a matter of too much alcohol. The guys that were supposedly victims were just as culpable in starting the fight as anyone else," Sturdevant said.

9. Veteran Activist John Quinlan Quits OutReach.

In September, John Quinlan, the Executive Director of OutReach, resigned saying conflicts with the agency's board of directors that made his ability to helm the community center untenable.

The resignation came two months after local papers reported his continued leadership was under review. Quinlan claimed initially he was not being forced out by OutReach's board, but was discussing with

them the conditions under which he would stay or go. Following his resignation, Quinlan claimed that he returned from his family leave to find the locks changed on his office door. After negotiations with the board to resume his position, Quinlan asserted that he was subjected to micro-management by board members.

Quinlan remains a veteran Madison activist, with a long history of experience in the areas of civil rights advocacy, print and broadcast journalism, and community organizing experience. Prior to his three year tenure at OutReach, he served as the director of the city's Tenant Resource Center, public relations director at AIDS Network, and as an editor and freelance journalist for a number of state and national LGBT publications. He continues to host Forward Forum, a weekly talk show on WXXM-FM, in Sun Prairie, better known as "Madison's Progressive Talk, The Mic 92.1."

Quinlan also has served on more than a dozen nonprofit boards and government committees, including as membership chair of the local Rainbow Coalition, president of the Fair Housing Council of Dane County, trustee for the ACLU of Wisconsin, president of the Wisconsin Community Fund, and co-chair of the city of Madison's Study Circles on Race program. He currently serves on the advisory committees for the Madison Mayor and the Madison Superintendent of Schools and Rainbow Families Wisconsin, on the civil rights coalition "Communities United," and as secretary for the LGBT interfaith group "Coming Out, Coming Together." In 2002, Community Shares of Wisconsin presented him its "Sally Sunde

Award" for outstanding contributions toward social justice.

Quinlan succeeded Debra Weill at OutReach, which has had a history of turnovers at the agency's helm. Weill was fired in June 2002 by the board on a unanimous vote in her third year in the position.

10. Sudden Passings Sadden Gay Wisconsin.

2005 saw several high profile members of state's LGBT community and one long-standing tradition pass from the scene, a number of them suddenly.

In March Green Bay activist Chuck Hubbard succumbed to a suspected case of meningococcal meningitis, a rarely seen inflammation of the lining around the brain and spinal cord. Hubbard had been the Secretary of the Argonauts and the coordinator of the Argonauts' Charities which provides emergency, last-resort funding for the needs of people living with HIV/AIDS.

Hubbard also has been a key organizer of northeast Wisconsin pride events in 2003 and 2004, an active member of Entertainers Against AIDS, and Rainbow Over Wisconsin. Hubbard played a key role in the success of ROW's first ever fundraising banquet and silent auction in October, 2004.

In May Rev. Lew Broyles, pastor of the Milwaukee Metropolitan Community Church and long time gay activist died of a massive heart attack while visiting a friend in Mississippi. Broyles had just returned from a midday jog when he was stricken and was pronounced dead at the scene by local paramedics.

Broyles hosted the Milwaukee public access cable program "Gay by God's Will," served as a member of the PrideFest Task Force and had been scheduled to lead the gay wedding ceremony at PrideFest. Broyles also recently had completed a video project with the Medical College of Wisconsin on LGBT health

issues. At the time of his passing, Broyles served as the acting board chairman of SAGE-Milwaukee and had been a leading figure in the current revision of the LGBT senior citizens' group's By-Laws. Broyles also served on the board of HIT's International Gay Bowling Tournament 25th Anniversary event.

Two long time bar owners passed away in 2005. In July, John P. Wolfe, owner of the Wolfe's Den passed away June 9 at his home. In August, Clarence Germershausen, owner of Milwaukee's C'est La Vie died at age 74. Germershausen was more well-known in the community by his alter ego John Clayton.

Finally a passing of another sort was far more festive. After 11 years OutReach's Pink Party called it quits on New Year's Eve. Even last minute driving restrictions and a rival gay rave didn't dull the Pink Party's swan song.

Top 5 Predictions For 2006:

Before looking at our new predictions lets see how we did in 2005. Here were the five forecasts: 1. The Anti-Gay Wisconsin Marriage Amendment Will Pass If Held In April. It didn't happen but as we also suggested, all bets would be off on any later referendum. We'll call that a pass. 2. PrideFest Will Have Another Successful Year. Did they ever! Score one for our crystal ball. 3. The Iraq Quagmire Will Slow Bush's Revolutionary Domestic Agenda. It sure did, with Social Security restructuring, further tax reform and even the Patriot Act currently dead on arrival. We couldn't have predicted how Hurricane Katrina would bust Bush's approval numbers worse than a New Orleans levee but overall we were right on with this prediction. 4. The Moderate Middle of Wisconsin's GOP Will Emerge in 2005. Well, if they emerged they were groundhogs. That was a miss. 5. Bush Will Get His First Supreme Court Nominee Opportunity. He got two, does that make up for the miss on prediction four?

Putting on my brightest shade of Jeanne Dixon red, here are five predictions for 2006. Given its an election year, most of the predictions are political.

1. The Wisconsin Marriage Amendment Will Lose. The work the "No On The Amendment" Coalition has done thus far in organizing opposition to this bill is unprecedented among all the leg work done against these gay-baiting ballots to date. California now looks to be referendum free, which mean all eyes will be on Wisconsin in November. Prior to that all wallets from both sides nationally will be emptying into the state's pro and anti-amendment campaigns. The mixed religious messages of social justice versus marriage "protection" will mean a close vote among people of faith, but the underlying disgust for the state GOP's strategy of a Rovian re-do of 2004 will tip the balance against passage. The greatest concern will be turn out. The bigger the voting numbers, the better our chances. My confidence in this prediction coming true is 80%.

2. The Democrats Will Regain Control of The Wisconsin Senate. The number of vulnerable GOP seats alone suggests the the possibility of a turnover, before any other factors are taken into account. But the electorate's fear of two more years of God, guns and gays versus real progress on health care, energy and education will strengthen the desire for legislative houses divided. A number of in-district issues may cloud the Dems chances however. Prediction confidence is 70%.

3. Governor Jim Doyle Will Be Re-Elected. He may not be pretty or slick, but when it comes to campaigning, Doyle is a seasoned veteran. He balanced an out of control, GOP-created budget deficit without excessive pain to the state's taxpayers. Doyle's overflowing election war chest plus Mark Green's lack of statewide recognition will allow the incumbent to shape his challenger's image into that of a Bush-Delay Congressional toadie held captive by his religious extremist base. Of course this prediction is based on a sub prediction: Green wins the GOP primary, assuming there even is one. Despite all the cards that have to stand up on this house, my confidence in this prediction is still 70%.

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