

The Wayback Machine - <https://web.archive.org/web/20010412191859/http://www.leatherweb.com:80/dcarch...>

LeatherWeb



Washington, D.C.
Musings by Vern Stewart

APPROACHING HOLIDAYS
November 19, 2000

As the holidays are quickly approaching, new leather titles are being bestowed. In the city of Ottawa, our neighbors to the north sashed the new Mr. Ottawa-Hull Leather 2001.

A large crowd was on hand to witness the selection of Norm Miller as the new Mr. Ottawa Leather 2001. Rick Kingston grabbed the first runner up spot. The other two contestants were Andrew Mathewson and Scott Buckley.

Judging this event were: Dean Ross, (head judge) Mr. Ottawa Leather, 1999, and MAL 1999, Al Hodgins, Joanne C. Gaddy, Tom Robinson, MAL 2000, and Randie Smith. Chris Holmgren Mr. Leatherman Toronto 2000, had to decline the invitation due to illness. Shawn Murad, member of the Utica Tri's served as Tally master.

The Ottawa Knights do such a bang up job putting their leather weekend together. You wonder every year how they will top themselves from the previous year. Well, they did it again. The formal dinner held Saturday night, took place at the National Arts Centre. Such a grand environment. A positively beautiful building, just blocks from Parliament.

The food was absolutely superb. The handsome leather man in the stunning uniform (who's name I did not get) played wonderful music on the Steinway. Everyone in attendance enjoyed the entire evening.

Nothing much more can be said about the contest site. Except, the Barrymore Music Hall, is the greatest place to hold a contest. One can sit, stand, cruise and watch the contest all at the same time with a cocktail in your hand.

Of course having the victory after hours party at the Steamworks certainly makes for a pleasant wind down. Amazing how many leathermen were seen carrying a large portion of their leathers under their arm while traipsing back to the host hotel at 6 AM the following morning.

One of the most enjoyable parts of the weekend was the wonderful tour of Ottawa and the surrounding area on a double deck bus. The two tour guides (Ottawa Knights members) were an encyclopedia of historical information. Everyone on the bus had a wonderful time, and were even given the opportunity to stop and shop at one of Ottawa's finer leather shops.

Outgoing Mr. Ottawa-Hull Leather, Howard Hao, gave a brief but very humorous, and sincere step down speech, which was preceded by a wonderful exotic dance routine complete with

sword.

Howard brought new meaning to the word brotherhood during his title year. He is an exceptional role model for all future titleholders to follow. Thank you Howard. You did Canada and the United States Proud.

John Purdie, Excessive Producer, and Murray Lavigne, President and the entire membership of the Ottawa Knights once again brought pride to the leather community. Thank you guys.

Several other leather contests are being held in cities by our neighbors to the North. eStevan de Castro, Mr. Leatherman Toronto 2000 will sash his new successor, Saturday, November 25 in Toronto. There will also be a Toronto Bootblack contest. This will be Toronto's first bootblack contest. eStevan is another fine example of what a leatherman should be. You represented your city well, not to mention the entire country of Canada. Good luck in all your future endeavors.

Mr. Marcus, columnist for the Bay Area Reporter, will be on hand to witness the sashing of the new title holder...Marcus loves Canadian bacon on the hoof!

Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, is the site of yet another Leather contest. The second annual Mr. Atlantic Leatherman 2001. Saturday, November 25, 2000. The contest will be held at the Halifax Eagle. The starting time will be 9 PM.

Head of the organizing committee, Chris Aucion, says the gay leather community is looking for a few good men to compete. The weekend package is a mere \$20.00. Can you believe it? And includes several brunches and admission to all events. From what I have witnessed attending events in Canada, that Canadian bacon is mighty tasty!

For more info on the Mr. Atlantic Leatherman Weekend, call (902)463-0942, or e-mail : <http://www.eaglehalifax.com/mal/malhfx@hotmail.com>. And you thought those men in the "provinces" knew nothing about leather!

In Washington, DC. Thanksgiving weekend brings us the annual Mr., DC Eagle contest. This always brings out the men and boys from the Mid Atlantic Region. The Eagle will be celebrating it's 28th anniversary. This year they will be celebrating the entire weekend event under the new ownership of Bill Cappello, former manager of the Eagle.

This is not an event to be missed. Especially after you have tired of relatives and turkey, and need some excitement. The contest will be held on Saturday Nov. 25, 10 PM

DOUBLE DIP DISH.....

YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN THERE DEPT..... Joanne Gaddy, one of the Ottawa Judges frantically looking for her glasses, which she had lost on the street in Ottawa after the interview portion had ended...Club members were about to bring a directors chair on stage so that she could see the contestants for the rest of the contest. But---alas, boy Leif, from Prince Edward Island, had the same prescription, and lent his to her. Which only gave Leif, a good reason to "feel" his way around all those Daddy's the rest of the evening? Incidentally Joanne's glasses were found and returned before she left Ottawa.

Poor outgoing title holder Howard Hao, displaying all the cuts over various areas of his body (yes one cut was very close to "that"). Seems his choreographer, departed for Europe before he finished teaching Howard how to handle the sharp edge sword!

I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED DEPT.....

Canadian Customs were not amused. One member of the Utica Tri's was turned away at the boarder. And in the true meaning of brother hood, and loyalty, the other two who were riding in the car elected to go back to Utica as well. Too bad the Canadian boarder, does not have a hospitality room where he could have waited until they returned from the contest! oops

On another note, one customs official at the Ottawa International Airport gave a young man a hard time because he had a bottle of unopened liquor in his luggage. Another customs official asked another visitor what type of club event he was attending...When informed it was a social club, the official asked..." Oh, you mean like the Moose Lodge"? Yeah, right!

NOVEMBER BRIDE DEPT.....

Not sure if the bride wore white. However perhaps it was an Off-white maybe even red. But former Baltimore Drummer title holder and his significant other did dash to Baltimore, Vermont to tie the knot in a Civil Union ceremony...Best boy Jerry Acosta, stood by their side to witness this auspicious occasion. They will hereby be known as Mr. & Mr. Newton-Treadway....Mr. Treadway is the current Miss Baltimore Hi Heel or something like that! In any event congratulations to both. And as of this date there was no prenuptial agreement!

MI CASA, SU CASA DEPT.....

Emcee Frank Nowicki, has moved into a tasteful new condo, in the nations capital, which shall forever more be known as----"Hair spray Haven."

Down in Florida, former MAL title holder, Mauro Montoya (you know the one who gave the "I had a Dream and we all went to heaven in a little tiny boat " speech [30 min) at his step down. Mauro has moved into a lovely new home in Ft. Lauderdale. He wasted no time in stocking it with a very cute new French boy to ward away those hurricane nights.

FINGER LICKIN GOOD DEPT.....

Seems as though quite a few people wanted to get their hands on Ottawa contestant Andrew Mathewson. Who wouldn't? A 21 year old blond with puppy dog eyes. I predict we will see him again in another contest. Especially if the President of the Journeymen has anything to say about it. From what I hear he has plenty to say!

The Ottawa Knights member from Prince Edward Island needs a Daddy. A delightful boy. Anyone interested in moving to Canada?

Evidently, the waters have smoothed considerably for former MAL Dean Ross, and his significant other. A new home was purchased. And as the story goes-----They lived happily ever after...

The Bay Area Inquirer.....oops I mean Reporter columnist suggested in an article something about a Wicked Witch. The reply is as follows:

And as for the people INTERESTED IN getting a "PICK OF THE LITTER" from that Salem couple. There will be no Dalmatians in their future! And Rosemary ain't having no baby! The only thing new is a double seat BROOM!

IN THE "OH MY", OH NO, DEPT.....

People are still snickering over the two leathermen at the Ottawa contest who looked like Greek Gods. Later seen at the Victory party at the Steemworks (bathhouse). Minus the girdle, minus the hair piece, minus the dentures, and minus the TOWEL! A pretty picture? I think NOT!

THE WICKED WITCH

OCTOBER LITTLE CITY WITH A BIG HEART

Imagine attending a leather event where one can actually converse with leather folk. An event where you are not pushed, shoved and trampled like stampeding cattle. Such a city does exist. The city is Utica, NY. This past weekend Utica was the site of the 2nd annual North Atlantic Leather contest.

The contestants were vying for the Mr. North Atlantic Leather, and North Atlantic Leather boy titles. Although there was only one contestant for the leather boy contest, he did have to garner 80 percent of the points to win. There were six hot men competing for the NAL title.

Competing for NAL 2001, were Roger Cruttenden, Bob Gasser, John Chambers, Bob Erp, John Marino and Ross Nadler. Don Freeman competed for the NAL boy title.

Amazing how many current and past title holders attended this event. This weekend, hosted by the Utica Tri's, has quickly become "the" event to attend in the month of October for all who reside in New York and the New England area. Our neighbors to the North, (Canada) had great representation at this event as well. The Ottawa Knights were out in full force.

Head judge this year was Patti Brown, manager of the Cell Block in Chicago. Other judges included Jerry Acosta, Mr. Marcus, John Purdie and the two outgoing title holders Jimmy Lee Murray and Randie Smith.

Having attended every contest with the exception of one, I have watched this event grow. The weekend has grown so much, until this year it outgrew the original site. Most of the events were held at the Radisson hotel. A very posh place that accepted men and women in leather without bating an eye.

At the rate this contest and weekend is growing, The Utica Tri's will be booking the grand ballroom for this event in the very near future. For all the new faces that attended this year, aren't you glad you did? The food was exceptional, the cocktails had just the right amount of liquor, and the hospitality of the Utica Tri's was overflowing.

When the tallymasters totaled up the points, Robert Erp was announced as the new NAL 2001 and Don Freeman is NAL boy 2001. John Marino Grabbed 1st runner up spot. Bob Gasser claimed the 2nd runner up spot. To say that any of the six contestants would have been qualified to hold the title, would have been an understatement. All are fine men who continue to represent their communities exceptionally and are outstanding in their own right.

Mr. North Atlantic Leather will compete at IML next May. NAL Leather boy, will head to Washington, DC in April to compete for the American Leather boy title.

To the members of the Utica Tri's (and that cute new pledge), you are like a fine wine. Every year you become better and better. Thank you for such an outstanding weekend. And to the owner of the host bar, That Place, Marc Del Bono, you are simply fabulous. Emcee Frank Nowicki, was in rare form, and kept the audience laughing, and moved the contest along. No one is ever bored when Frank emcees.

The stepping aside speeches from Jimmy Lee Murray, and Randie Smith were short and to the point. Not one stop-watch was pulled from anyone's pocket! No, Kleenex were required!

Kudos' to the two wonderful men that held the title this year. You did yourself proud and the areas you represented as well.

DISH IN UTICA?-----YOU BETCHA

The look on a particular Utica resident face when he thought he would spend the night with his visiting EX. Except visiting EX showed up with a new boyfriend! I guess thats what is known as CLOSURE?

Major rumblings and grumbling over the fact that the Utica Tri's have held their contest for nine years on the same weekend. The only exception was the year that the quilt panels were on display in Washington, DC. Now Intl. Drummer has elected to use the same weekend for their contest. Now the question is, who will attend which? Stay tuned for the next chapter in this saga.

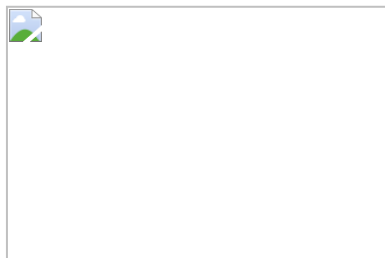
In Chicago, the Onyx Men were celebrating their anniversary and hosting their Mr. & Ms. Mid-America Leather contest. I am sure all the members attended. Wonder where their members were Sept 23rd when a big supporter of their club hosted a huge dinner in Oakland, CA. in their honor, and not one member showed up. Nor was there an explanation....Rather Rude, and quite tacky!

Emcee Frank Nowicki had a new squeeze on his arm in Utica. Yes, of course he was a blonde! And no, it was not the same one seen this summer in Rehoboth Beach! Not sure where the latest one was imported from.

The core seems to have fallen out of the "Big Apple." Hard to imagine that a city the size of NYC, now only has one leather bar! (The Lure.) Of course many would beg to differ with the words "leather bar." The Spike and NY Eagle customers are at a loss. If some of the bartenders at the LURE were perhaps a bit more friendly and more attentive, they might have more than subway tokens and change in their tip jar to count at the end of their shift!

The Ottawa Knights will be hosting their Mr. Leather Ottawa-Hull contest November 10-12. I am sure we will see a prominent DC leather business man in attendance. He is hoping to have an evening meal of Dim-Sum! After a certain leather title holder gives his step down speech.

THE WICKED WITCH MARCHING WITH A NEW DRUMMER



The Great Lakes region scored big with the selection of Dan Clark as the new International Mr Drummer 2000.. Richard Black of Phoenix, AR. grabbed the title of International Drummer boy 2000. The premier of Drummer 2000, was held in St. Petersburg, FL. just down the road apiece from Tampa.

The Suncoast Resort was the scene of all the action. A huge complex of shops, restaurants, and bars kept all attendees very busy the entire weekend. I might add, that the dungeon was packed as well, for all the late night/early morning crowd.

The weather was typical Florida. Hot and humid. However, as an extra added attraction hurricane Gordon paid a visit Saturday evening. The contest site was a huge tent erected on

the grounds of the resort.

Lights, sound, and motorcycle ramps under the big top, all added to the excitement of the weekend. The opening number was an event within itself. All contestants were brought to the stage on big yellow Harley's. Corky, a former Ms SF Leather, was one of the drivers, and Jack, a former PA Drummer, was the other driver. Excellent showmanship and experience on their part to maneuver those big bikes up and down those ramps.

Emcee, Frank Nowicki did a superb job. Of course he was attired in a smashing new outfit straight from Amsterdam.

The contestants for Intl. Drummer were, Daniel Rabone, New England, Rod Wood, Northern CA., Larry Cottrill, southeast, Keyth Fitzgerald. Southwest, Randal Kinnear, Gulf Coast, David Labriola, Mid Atlantic, and Mark D'Aleo, Florida Mr. Drummer.

The terrific Group of boys were: Efrain Nunez, Florida, Andrew Keisker, Great Lakes, Kevin Eddings, Gulf Coast, Derick Rojas, Mid Atlantic, Kevin Hagarman, New England, Terry Gauchat, Northern CA. Bruce Tidwell, southeast,

Runner up To Intl Drummer was Randal Kinnear, and the International Drummer boy runner up was Derick Rojas. All the contestants were and are, exceptional representatives of their local regions, and terrific role models.

The judging panel consisted of, Mikal Bales, Judy Tallwing McCarthy, Dean Ogren, Ray Perea, Fraser Picard, Graylin Thornton, Mike Taylor and Marcus Hernandez. John Embry was slated to be a judge, but suffered a serious fall just prior to his departure to Florida. IML 2000, Mike Taylor was asked to fill in.

Martha Walsh, (one half of the former Two Tons of Fun) and backup for the late great Sylvester, kept the place jumping with renditions of some of her old songs.

It must be duly noted that one of the best jobs during the weekend had to be that of the Den Daddy. Wayne Nesbitt, a professional in his own right, handled all the trials and tribulations of that position with such grace and diplomacy. Den boys Darren Cole, and Kyle Taylor were excellent. Daniel Premack assisted in the den duties as well.

Woodie Barnes, IMD boy 99, brought the crowd to it's feet on several occasions during his step down speech. Fraser Picard, IMD 99 made his speech short and to the point. But his words came from the heart...Thank you gentlemen for an exemplary year.

Timothy Snider, the interpreter, always there giving his best. In case you did not know, Carl Baldwin, MAD 98, has a wonderful voice, witnessed by all in attendance, when he sang the National Anthem. Way to go Carl.

Keep your eye on Kevin Hagarman, who won the servitude award. New England is quite fortunate to have such an outstanding boy. It is safe to say everyone attending this event, was quite impressed with this years contestants.

For those regions that did not participate this year, you would be surprised at the interest of many from those areas. Wondering why there were no contestants. Prospective sponsors, it's not too early to start planning for next year.

In San Francisco, the annual Folsom Street Fair, played host to over a quarter of a million people. Bare Bodies galore. And there are plenty of photos on the Internet to prove it. If you

missed this event this year, start making plans now for next year. Of course next weekend is the almost as famous Castro Street Fair. A bit more subdued, but lots of fun and lots to see.

DOUBLE DISH.....

I guess the importance of a title was truly on display, by what type of fabric was used on the 40 odd, sashes that were given out during one of the fun events at the Intl. Drummer contest. Lots of paper sashes, not too many naugahyde!!!! hmmm

Since Ryan Goldner, former IMD boy, has a new sewing machine, we can only hold our breath and wonder what his next creation will be, and who will be wearing it!

As for the "BIG" entertainer at Drummer, perhaps the title of the song should have been changed to, "IT'S RAINING ATTITUDE" Pity to see "HAS" been Diva's who now rely on the gay community for their bread and butter, try to be so GRAND. Especially when they ain't all that!

Yes, that was a former Mr. Ebony Leather in attendance. Most recognized him without a dress!

Whats with certain current title holders, attending Imperial Sate events such as Drummer, and cannot be bothered wearing their sash when introduced on stage. Does it really take up that much space in the luggage?

Talk about not wasting any time, the two newest Drummer title holders were wearing their prize title vests, which they had made, less than 24 hours after they won the title. Nothing wrong with that.

For all that would like a copy of Frank Nowicki's off the shoulder ensemble, I am sure he will be more than happy to provide you with the name of his couture!

It has always been said that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. However, can one picture the current Mr., DC Drummer impersonating THE WICKED WITCH? Evidently, the crowd attending that event was falling on the floor in laughter.....OH REALLY?

During a fancy soire, at the home of Mary Elizabeth Boyd last April a gift from an admirer disappeared from the premises. Five months later the gift, (a collector lunch box) suddenly reappeared at the victims hotel door in St.Petersburg, with a note inside stating that the lunch box had been kidnapped, and like Lassie, had come home! Figure that one out if you care to.

THE WICKED WITCH

SUMMER ? WHAT SUMMER?

The summer of 2000, went by so quickly, until I must have missed a great deal of it. I remember June. July and August were but a passing blur. However, there were a few events that stood out. Mid-Atlantic Drummer, DC Drummer, New England Drummer, and Mr. Double L Leather.

New England Drummer, which was held at the Ramrod bar in Boston, left something to be desired. Should the same producers put this event on next year? The may want to invest in a clock for a starting time that coincides with the advertised starting time? and all though there was an emcee, it was indeed pathetic, that he had to use a fifty galleon drum to place his notes.

Perhaps a book should be published and titled "I am the Emcee, but, It's not about me."

Over the course of two days, 12 intermissions did seem somewhat excessive. For any future judges who may be invited to judge that contest, it is advisable to check and see if an oxygen bottle and mask will be provided, or bring your own! The nasty smoke machine nearly wiped

out half the judges and most of the audience. Especially when the machine was located directly under the judges table.

Notwithstanding, the contest did proceed and a handsome young man by the name of Daniel, was selected as Mr. New England Drummer 2000. The producers did not have a Drummer boy contest, however, one was appointed to represent the region at International Drummer this month in St. Petersburg, Fla. Kevin Hagarman will do the honors. Kevin is also the bootblack at the Ramrod.

From Boston, the next leather contest brought us into Rehoboth Beach, DE. An Oceanside resort area, not unlike Provincetown or Fire Island. The Double L hosted the second annual Mr. Double L Leather contest. A very well run contest, with delightful contestants. A standing room only crowd packed the patio where the contest was held. Even more people would have attended, had the advertisements been placed and run two weeks earlier, NOT the day before the contest! It is safe to say, that had it not been for the outgoing Mr. Double L who worked his fingers to the bone, much of what went on would not have happened; from the fabulous party he hosted at his beautiful home on Friday night to the sashing of his successor on Saturday night. Many spectators likened it to throwing your own surprise birthday party. But then without Mark and John (the owners of the Double L) providing the site, there would not have been a contest

Seven contestants were vying for the title. Mark Teesdale, Victor Wiecech, David Cacciamani, Robert Sprout, Brian Waltc, Lloyd Harrington, and Richard Klank. All were bright, intelligent, good looking men. The Judges selected Mark Teesdale to hold the title of Mr. Double L 2000/2001. Richard Klank, was second runner-up and David Cacciamani grabbed the first runner up spot.

Jon Worthington's step down speech was brief because a portion of the time allotted to him was spent sharing his year with the audience with a wonderful slide presentation of his travels to various events. As the first Mr. Double L, Jon, set excellent standards for all future title holders to follow.

Labor Day weekend had the leather community heading four different directions. Some went south for Southern Decadence, and the Louisiana Leather contest. Others headed north to Olympia, produced by the Centaurs many headed west to events held in Los Angeles and San Francisco.

It is known that the torch Bearers for Olympia this year were: Tom Robinson, MAL 2000 and Mike Siemer MAL 97. Of course everyone knows Mike has no qualms when it comes to dashing around naked, with or without a torch! Nor does Tom Robinson. Both have great bodies.

For all of you who enjoy drooling over hot men and beautiful bodies, you will have two more chances. International Mr. Drummer 2000.(St. Petersburg, FL will be one, and the annual Folsom Street fair, (SF) will be the second place. Both events will be in September. [Ed note: 16th in Fla. & 24th in S.F.]

For those in the Mid-Atlantic region, ASGRA will once again be hosting the Mid-Atlantic Stampede the last week in Sept. in Maryland. If cowboys in tight jeans, and western boots are your thing, then that is the place to see and be seen

END OF THE SUMMER DISH....

Many in the leather community can hardly wait to see who the new IMD will be. One former regional title holder will be making his second appearance at said contest...No matter what the outcome he will be in the Florida sun celebrating his 30th birthday as well...

Did anyone catch that joke played on a current Mid-Atlantic Leather title holder down in Rehoboth Beach? I believe it had something to do with toilet paper??? oops! Some folks just won't forget.

Last years producer of the Double L contest, has a boy friend who is very prim and proper...NEVER exposed, Always covered up. Then I wonder what he was doing stark naked at 4 am in front of a sliding glass window leaving nothing to the imagination??? hmmm

What does it mean when a tallymaster falls asleep in the middle of a leather contest? Is the contest too long? Is it boring? Or could it be too much partying the night before? Perhaps a bottle of "NO DOZE" should be included in the packets? Oh trust me, PHOTOS DON' T. LIE!

The invitations are out, and the wedding is set, and the happy couple are registered at TARGET! Who are the happy twosome? Two former IMSL's and if you miss the first ceremony,(in Walnut Creek, CA) you can catch it the second time. Except you will have to go to Nebraska to catch that act.

For anyone who is just dying to have a sash, and do not care where or what state you win it from,,,,Well check this out... The levi leather community has been invited to participate in the Mr. Gay USA at Large (over 200 lb. only) on Sept 24 in Louisville, KY.

Still want more? Mr. Tennessee USA, Mr. Tennessee at Large, Mr. Tennessee Leather, Mr. Tennessee Levi, or Mr. Tennessee Cabaret. Gee, Mr. Ebony Leather would have never had to leave his state, had he known all of this! By the way has anyone seen Mr. Ebony Leather lately? oops! Do I hear plane reservations being made?

The latest info on last years DC Drummer boy-----he wants to become the new "Hedda Hopper" down in Virginia! I suppose he could cover the DC Boys of Leather, But then he's no longer a boy, according to his step down speech!!!! hmmm

THE WICKED WITCH

FROM EAST TO WEST AND BACK

The old broom got a work out this past weekend. This inquiring mind wanted to witness three new sashes being bestowed upon the winners of the SF Leather Daddy contest, and the Northern California Drummer contest. Departing on a trip which I thought would be uneventful, turned out to be just the opposite.

Departing Saturday morning, to Boston and on to SF seemed simple enough. However, some 18 hours later I finally arrived in the city by the golden gate. Weather, delays, and cancellations caused me to miss the Leather Daddy contest and the Drummer contest.

Arriving at close to midnight Saturday, I met up with the winners already celebrating at various bars through out the city. I bumped into Keith Truitt, San Francisco Leather Daddy 2000. There were only two contestants. Keith however, has become a workhorse in the community and deserved the title. Congratulations to Keith. I know he will do a fine job. And to think there were those nay-sayers who proclaimed that two people of color could not win that title back to back....WRONG!!!

Saturday evening Rod Wood snatched the Northern California Drummer title. Terry Gauchet who is SF Drummer boy, became the new Northern CA. Drummer boy. Both will compete in Florida next month at the International Drummer competition. The Drummer finals should

prove to be very interesting this year. There are some very outstanding men and boys vying for that title.

Sunday turned out to be a perfect day weather-wise for the annual Dore Alley Fair. Many have defined that fair as a dress rehearsal for the Folsom Street Fair. Over the years that comment has proved to be quite untrue. The real leather people attend this event in droves. The nice part about it is, the fact that you are not pushed, shoved, stepped on, and tripping over baby strollers, cats, dogs, snakes, monkeys and hoards of wide-eyed straights.

The Dore Alley fair will always have a special place in my heart, because of the person who thought the whole thing up. A young, vibrant, International Mr. Leather 1985, Patrick Toner put this event on the map and in the leather history books. Originally, it was known as Up Your Alley when it debuted on Ringold Alley. It eventually out grew the space and the complaints from some of the residents. SMMILE, the producers of the event have gone to great effort to make sure this is one of "the" events to attend every year. Thanks Members of SMMILE, for a job well done, and to keep the memory of Patrick, Jerry, and Christian flourishing.

Now we all know how political SF can be. This election year, has become the year for many leather people to toss their hats in the political ring. SF has a former Mr. SF Leather (Gary Virginia) running for a Supervisor seat in that city. Of course we have American Leather boy Jerry Acosta running for a State Senate Seat in Vermont. Once again the leather community is out there taking a stand and dealing with the issues.

They may not be your choice, but you must respect them and acknowledge that they are not taking a back seat on dealing with issues that somehow affect all of us one way or the other..No matter what the outcome in November, I admire them, and the many other lesbians and gays who have stepped out in front and are running for office in cities and states across this land.

Less than 24 hours after I left the East coast, I returned to the very cool, no humidity "big apple" where there is always something happening and parties galore.

In the nations capital, several interesting things have occurred. The DC Eagle has a new owner. Bill Cappello, longtime manager, has taken over the reigns of that famous establishment. The paperwork proclaimed him the new owner last week. Although this is not news to the DC Eagle customers, Those who know Mr. Cappello, have already seen changes taking effect. The pool table that was on the second floor, is now on the main floor along side the other table.

A remodeled bathroom is in the works, and a host of other surprises are in store. Congratulations to Bill, and best wishes go the lovable, former owner Dick McHugh, who can now devote his time to one of his favorite hobbies restoring those beautiful Packard's housed in that six car garage (or at least purchasing one or two more).

A few blocks away from the Eagle another surprise is in store for DC residents. The word is out. Glenn Mlaker, Mr., DC Eagle 98, is opening a new restaurant and bar. It will be open this fall. Renovations are moving right along on the bldg. Those visiting from out of town will be pleased to know it is only crawling distance from the Washington Plaza Hotel, and the Crew Club (the baths). How convenient!

It will be called Hamburger Marys, yes the same name as the original located in SF. Yes, a deal cut with the owners to allow Glenn to use that name. From what is being said, there will be a fabulous dance floor, and terrific music. A full liquor bar will be provided.

I have no idea when the first leather contest will be held there. Somehow, Mr. Hamburger Marys Leather does not have the right ring to it.. According to my sources, the second floor will be

named or called "Titan." Now, a Mr. Titan Leather has the right ring should he decide to have a couple of "heavy duty" nights!

Anticipation is growing with regard to this new venture. Anyone who has met Glenn, knows that his personality and good looks and good business sense, are all the right ingredients for a successful establishment. I can hardly wait for the doors to open.

WOULD THIS BE A COLUMN WITHOUT DISH?

Imagine going to IMsL in Toronto, and being detained for three hours by customs, because you had two cartons of cigarettes, which you purchased at the duty free shop. That's exactly what happened to Philip Turner, owner of DADDYS in SF. Poor man was totally undone, and his boy was a wreck, when they made him leave the airport without his Daddy. According to Phillip, if he never sees Canada again, it will be too soon for him.

The kickoff campaign party for SF Board of Supervisors candidate Gary Virginia, turned out to be a blackout party for said candidate, when all the power went off at the Edge Bar. The power was out so long that the bar closed for the rest of the evening. Imagine on a Saturday night? I don't suppose one of the other candidates had anything to do with that? It is rather strange that was the only bldg. in the entire Castro without power. Hmmm, I, SEE!

The San Francisco Bare Chest calendar 2001 is certainly striking, and the current Mr. SF Leather is on the cover. They make great stocking stuffers.

Former Int Drummerboy Ryan Goldner has his Singer just humming whipping new frocks for Olympia. The wait and see question is--- who will be wearing them?

Washington, DC friends of Luther Brown, will be pleased to know that he has fallen in love with SF. He and his significant other are living happily ever after, well, at least for this month!

Was that really Frank Nowicki swapping spit with the former president of the Knighthawks, of VA? In a dark corner of the DC Eagle. And yes he was there when the lights came up at 3 am! And no hair dryer!

The Wicked Witch

MID SUMMER MUSINGS

July 22nd, 2000

Months seem to go by, where everything is quiet. However, that is always subject to change. There always seems to be something, or someone to take the joy out of life.

I am referring to the treatment of some of our beloved leather title holders. International, regional, and especially many on local levels. I cannot for the life of me believe that once you win a title, sponsors, and those who are supposed to support you, suddenly dismiss that person as if they were yesterday's newspaper.

A perfect example of this, is the treatment a number of title holders received once they returned from IML and did not capture the golden ring. In several cities, the winner of that title did not even receive any acknowledgement once they returned home. Dismissed and kicked to the curb so to speak.

Denver seems to have a penchant for that type of treatment of some of their titleholders. Of course this is nothing new for Denver. This goes back to 1984. What's with bar owners and sponsors, who behave in this fashion?

It is no wonder, that our younger generation of leathermen and women are reluctant to pursue their dreams. No travel money, and in many cases, some contestants had to provide their own transportation and hotel accommodations to the competition that generally is held many miles away from their home. Either do it right, or don't do it at all.

Many contestants it has been discovered, had to pay for their own sashes, or vests when they have won the title. If a bar or sponsor cannot provide the necessary items then it should be made known to the contestants and the winner beforehand.

Many contestants have had to go to great lengths just to get the necessary applications to enter a major contest such as IML because their sponsor dropped the ball. Applications should be provided by the sponsoring parties and the entry fees paid if necessary.

Once the contestant has won, in many cases, contact from the sponsor ceases. No advice, no assistance and most of all very little support. This is a deplorable situation.

The womens leather community and the representatives carrying those titles are not immuned from this situation as well. You wonder why in many cases there are only one or two contestants (sometimes only one)? Therein lies your answer.

Of course this is not always the case. Many wonderful and supportive sponsors have gone above and beyond the call of duty. Able Productions, Maryland Drummer, Pennsylvania Drummer, Philadelphia Leather, Virginia, and DC, Clubs like the Hiwaymen, Centaurs, Potomac M/C, Utica Tris, Philadelphians, Stars, and the Ottawa Knights just to name a few have all done exceptional jobs. There are many more as well. Why then, are there those who haven't a clue as to how to treat their titled men and women? Could it be that they are only in it for the self glory and gratification?

Then of course we have those who are constantly seeking prizes from businesses for auctions and the like. During the rest of their year, do not even patronize the establishment that made the donation. Whats with that? To add insult to injury, many times the business or individual does not even receive a thank you note. More businesses are becoming less inclined to donate anything. Yet, they are slammed if they do not participate at the drop of a hat.

Hey people, wake up and smell the coffee. If the shoe fits, then slip it on!!

D MEANS DISH!

Former VA Drummer boy (Kyle) is still trying to get over his encounter at a hotel in Baltimore. Kyle who has been known to get locked in a bathroom when the door knob came off, found himself in the middle of a robbery when he checked into a tasteful "Charm City" hotel. Fortunately he was not harmed. The only noise that was heard was the cockring falling to the floor.

Congratulations to Pam Meyer, IMSL 99. A splendid year. You made friends from coast to coast. I am sure you will have some words of wisdom to pass on to the new IMSL regarding dealing with producers. Or make that singular!

Look out DC, Sir Lady Charles, the hysterically funny Philadelphian M/C member, is moving your way. God only knows, what will be in store for the Leather crowd. Hatboxes? Wig cases? Leather? Or all of the aforementioned!

Interesting how many of DC's fabled leathermen have been seen shopping in the major fabric stores. But then the Centaurs Olympia is fast approaching. Some members of the

Philadelphians have pretty much snatched up all the good fabric in the city of brotherly love. We know Ryan Goldner, would not be caught dead in another chartreuse green mermaid outfit!

I wonder if Intl Bootblack 99 (Bob "iron balls" Ehrlich) will retain his title at Olympia this year?

In the city by the golden gate, many people are wondering if there should be an audit of the books of the famed organization SMMILE ? Possibly MESS with the Folsom Street Fair organization. Just what the community needs--another scandal? I think not.

On a brighter note, See what happens when you are first runner-up? Richard Fox, Mr. PA Drummer 2000 made a decision to resign for personal reasons. First runner-up David Labriola stepped into the spotlight, and won the Mr. Mid Atlantic Drummer 2000 title. Sometimes it pays to be just a heartbeat away from the throne.

The Wicked Witch

SUMMER TIME AND THE LIVIN IS EASY, OR, GREASY

The month of June flew by with so many events and gay pride celebrations, that it was hard to keep up with everything and everyone. In the nations capital, the Potomac M/C hosted their annual River Run.

Always a pleasant and fun weekend. The cruise down the Potomac is something not to be missed. Unfortunately, I did due to work problems. However, I did not miss the DC Drummer and Drummerboy contest the following night. I also did not miss the announcement of outgoing DC Drummerboy 99 (Eric), that he was no longer a "boy." I suppose his knee pads will be up for auction in the not too distant future.

Most of the audience was taken aback. All I could say was "OH WELL." With the selection of Alexander Robinson, as Mr., DC Drummer 2000, and Allen Pittinger as DC Drummerboy, most in attendance breathed a sigh of relief that there would not be a major announcement at the end of their title year as to a role reversal.

The same weekend brought the DC pride celebration and parade. The parade had to be one of the shortest in history..43 minutes. It took the drag queens longer than that to put on their makeup. which was running like water from a faucet, in the near 100 degree heat..Not a pretty sight.

The following weekend attention was given to the Big Apple, as well as DC. Folsom Street east in New York, and The DC Boys of Leather in Washington. Folsom Street east has gone on for several years. Taking the name from the infamous Street fair in SF. However this fair is more likely to be compared to a big block party.

The entire fair is exactly one block long, The LURE bar holds court in the middle of that block. Any new comer to that west side area must be prepared to deal with the smell of butchered, smelly meat as the area is the wholesale meat arena. The aroma becomes stronger, the warmer it becomes during the day.

Smell notwithstanding, the evening auction raises thousands for several local charities. That event is always well attended and the stars of the leather community and the porn industry support this event one hundred percent.

The DC Boys of Leather held their first major event on Father's Day weekend (why not)? Founded a little over a year ago by Ray Hall, a former Mr., DC Eagle. The club has gained much

notoriety on the East and west coasts. Their newly elected president Brian "pup" Mullikin is a real cutie, and a go-getter.

I am not sure if there is a mandatory height restriction, but no one seems to be much over 5 feet tall. They have been compared to matching sets of salt and pepper shakers, or better yet, BOOKENDS. What an outstanding bunch of boys If you are interested in more information, check out their web site www.DCBoysofLeather.org. P> June quickly ran into July, and all the happenings surrounding the 4th of July. If you are into extravaganzas then once again NYC was the place to be to witness the arrival of the Tall Ships. What beautiful sailing vessels they are. From all around the world, they sailed into New York harbor. Some of the most gorgeous navy men that you have ever seen. The Navy men from Ecuador got my vote. The grand finale of course were the fireworks.

New York certainly gave it's residents their money's worth this year. Three days later, attention on the East coast was focused on Baltimore, MD. where the Baltimore Eagle hosted the Mid Atlantic Drummer and Drummerboy contest. Five contestants, competed for the Mr. Drummer title and five contestants competed for the Drummerboy title.

DC--Alexander Robinson, Drummer, Allen Pittinger, Drummerboy MD--Paul Bohli, Drummer, Bill Finnerty, Drummerboy PA--David Labriola, Drummer, Derick Rojas, Drummerboy VA--David Krobien, Drummer, Darren Cole, Drummerboy W.VA --Stephen Blake, Drummer, Jeremy Crook, Drummerboy

Each and everyone were excellent contestants and representatives of their local communities.

A very interesting panel of judges consisting of, Viola Johnson, Dan Noel, Bob Rourke, Fraser Picard, Victor Varella, and Mike Taylor, did not have an easy task selecting this years winners When the scores were tallied, one to four points separated the winner from the runner ups.

Frank Nowicki the Emcee for the weekend, announced David Labriola as the new Mid Atlantic Drummer 2000. The previous evening Derick Rojas was named Mid Atlantic Drummerboy 2000. Both will compete At IMD, in September. Congratulations to all the wonderful contestants, A special acknowledgment was given to MD Drummer, Paul Bohli, winner of the brotherhood award, sometimes known as the Miss Congeniality award. The recipient is selected by the other contestants. Way to go Paul!

The Drummer contest was held at a new site. Although a distance from Baltimore, it was very nice. Now if we can just figure out how to talk the producers into holding the Drummer boy contest there as well, it would make for a fabulous weekend. It is very obvious that the producers of the Mid Atlantic Drummer event have worked very hard to make the weekend a first class event, and it showed.

THY CUP RUNNETH OVER WITH DISH.....

The words surprise, mystified and what? were clearly on the minds of many Drummer attendees, when they read in the program that FIST, a Baltimore based women's group was a sponsor of the Mid Atlantic Drummer and Drummerboy contest. No one was more surprised than the EXECUTIVE PRODUCER.....

SPEAKING OF PROGRAMS.....

Is there truth to the rumor, that a proofreader, will be hired before the next Drummer program is printed? One can only hope that the names of former title holders will be spelled correctly, and titles correctly worded.

And to that former LEATHER title holder who put in an appearance at the Mid Atlantic Drummer contest who thanked a columnist for not "DISHING" Him previously: Well, my dear, why bother? Nearly every publication across the country has already done that. My only concern is, how do we get rid of the "black eye" that was placed upon the entire gay community, and the leather community in particular?

FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH.....

Two well known leathermen from DC. were overheard discussing the new restaurant and leather bar they are planning to open in the not too distant future. Yes, the establishment will be located in DC in the Northwest section of the city, If this proves to be true, a large AMEN, will be heard from the Potomac to the Anacosta rivers. Of course a city the size of DC can support two leather watering holes...stay tuned.

No one seems to know what to make of the rumor emulating from the DC area that a former resident of DC will be relocating to the windy city and investing with several other financial backers to take over IML, which would include (so he says) the Renslow enterprises? Most who have heard this story, find it hard to believe. Who knows? Is this fact or pure fiction? Stay tuned.....

Many in NYC are wondering if the founder of the original Mr. Leather, NY contest, is really seriously looking for a place to open, which would bring back the memories of the Mindshaft, and the recently closed NY Eagle.

The doorman on duty at the LURE in NYC, certainly was not on his "J" last Saturday night. when it was duly noted that over a half a dozen men were seen wearing sneakers in that dress code bar. hmhhh

Talking about Jaws dropping, when the newest Gulf Coast Drummer boy, 2000 announced that his Daddy sent fondest regards to all in the Charm City (Baltimore) and Who is his daddy? Former Mid Atlantic Leather Mike Siemer....I see.....

Evidently, the phrase, "boys should be seen and not heard" definitely does not apply to American Leatherboy 1999, Jerry Acosta, not only will be seen, he definitely will be heard if he has his way. Jerry announced last week that he is a candidate for the state senate seat in Vermont! He is campaigning across the state, He is accepting contributions For his campaign. Lets hear it for Jerry,

Upon hearing the news, one gay business man, was heard to say; "Gee, from boot licker, to ass kisser, of course that same person also ran for a council seat in his home town! EXCEPT HE LOST!" I hardly think of Jerry as an ass kisser, We all wish him only the best. We will keep our eyes and ears open as the November elections come up in the State of Vermont.

HEY, WEST VIRGINIA....

To the two wonderful contestants from W., VA, considering all that you had to go through to come to Baltimore, especially with that disastrous contest, you are very special leathermen and the audience appreciated your participation and becoming a part of the leather family....As for Maxx, thanks for giving them the encouragement and support. Leather folks think YOU should produce the contest next year.

International Mr. "Who-Haw" 2000, (Mike Taylor) is without a doubt the most gracious down to earth person that I have had the pleasure of meeting in quite some time. I am sure many of you will get a chance to meet him during his title year. Baltimore was thrilled to have him as a judge

in his first contest since winning the title in May,,He is really a man with a mission , ready to help educate our next generation.

The Wicked Witch

THE HIGH COW WEEKEND

Well over 3000 leather men and women descended upon Chicago over the Memorial day weekend. Chicago hosted the International Mr Leather contest for the year 2000. The Congress hotel was awash in a sea of leather, rubber, vinyl, and every other imaginable costume.

Although not everyone witnessed the sashing of the newest IML. Although their intentions were good, many could not pull themselves away from the hotel long enough. The pickings and cruising was just too good to pass up.

Mike Taylor of Cincinnati, Ohio, a 38 year old manager of a large corporation snatched the golden ring this year. He is the first IML to represent the "Buckeye" state. Pistons bar in Long Beach, CA. seems to be on a roll. For the third year their contestant has grabbed the first runner up spot. When Scott Bloom was announced a roar could be heard almost out into the street in front of the theater.

Bob "puppy" Pedder, Mr. Boston Leather (a real sweetie) took the 2nd runner-up spot. It can honestly be stated that this year was a real horse race right down to the wire. Brains overshadowed brawn so it seemed this year. The speeches were incredible. Kevin Clancy, (Mr. Cell Block Leather, Chicago, was 4th, and Howard Hao [Mr. Ottawa -Hull, Canada was 5th.

It has been many years since I have heard the type of standing, thunderous ovation that was given to Mr. Ottawa-Hull Leather. Howard brought down the house. Copies of his speech should be printed for all leather people to read.

The other finalist who made the top 20 cut, were, Mark Frazier, Dallas, Lance Gear, San Francisco, eStevan de Castro, Toronto, Mark Chipman, San Diego Peter Wallace, Norway, Jeff Wacha, Los Angeles, Mark Cady, Philadelphia, Gary Vandeventer, Washington, DC, Chuck Lance, New Orleans, John Pijnen, Holland, Lee Wheeler Grand Rapids, Michigan, Wim Clemens, Amsterdam, Steve Duvall, Fort Lauderdale, T.C. Haskins of Denver.

But there was no such thing as a loser. Each and every contestant was out standing in their own right. It was obvious that all had spent an awful lot of time in preparation for this big event. Congratulations are in order to all 62 contestants. To most, if not all, your title that you hold from your community is far from over, and there is plenty of work to be done.

On Thursday evening the Mr. Ebony Leather contest was held at the Cell Block. A fine group of men strutted their stuff to a packed house. When the scores were tallied, from Chattanooga, TN. Walked away with the title of Mr. Ebony Leather 2000.

Ric previously held the title of Mr Connecticut Leather, and was a contestant at IML several years ago. Congratulations to . The handsome Yale Graduate. I am certain that we will see a lot of Ric on the leather circuit during his title year.

Cocktail parties were evident on nearly every floor in the hotel. Three that stood out in my memory were, the Canadian party, the ONYX party, and the American Brotherhood /Centaur M/C /Leather Rack/DC Eagle party.

Of course the Roast for outgoing IML Bruce Chopnik had it's moments of hilarity also, especially with Lenny Broberg adding quips here and there along with a long list of roasters.

The leather mart was jumping. Wallets were emptying and charge cards were melting and vendors were grinning like a monkey eating peanuts..Many vendors were heard humming "Oh happy day."

If you have never attended this monstrous event, make plans to do so next year. This was the final year for the Congress hotel to be the host hotel (thank god). Next year the grand and elegant Palmer House will welcome the hoards of leather folk. I might add, the room rates will be much lower than the Congress.

DEEP DISH CHICAGO STYLE.....

Divorce American style, overnight weddings and future Ex husbands all happened during the weekend.

The next time you see Frank Nowicki, you might want to check that big bauble he was sporting on his right hand. Most were blinded by all the diamonds. I wonder where that came from? Or, better yet, who it came from?

Newly sashed American Leather boy 2000 (Randie) had a shiney new chain and padlock around his neck. He sure did not waste any time. I wonder if he held on to one of the keys?

If anyone was smart, they would have invested in Kleenex tissue. Stock in that company went up. Between the judges, and Mark Malan, there was not a box to be found in any Walgreens. Once the contest was over, the floor of the theater was covered in tissue. Yes, those contestants brought tears to the masses.

I imagine for those wondering about the fashion statement one contestant made during the physique competition, WELL, Charmin was NOT in this year. It was however, meant to be funny, but alas, the laughter was more like.....WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?

Folks are still talking about the great comeback made by Howard Hao. During the Saturday night Physique competition, Howard made mention that supporter in Ottawa had told him to "break a leg" (a good luck term) Sunday evening he almost literally did just that, when he fell nearly off the stage. Upon his second appearance, Howard hobbled and limped across the stage for his speech portion, and informed the audience

"Now I know what the phrase, 'break a leg means" to gales of laughter from the audience.

Who was that noted columnist that was seen with someone who was trying to pull down "La columnist " pants in the lobby of the Congress?

The explanation? Someone was doing a documentary! What was it going to be called? MOON OVER OMAHA?

And to that master who sent his "Fido" to bite the legs of the Wicked Witch, Fido had best be glad that the broom stick was parked outside, or else "Fido" would have looked like he was on a skewer!

Why were some sitting in the front row, during the contest, singing "A pretty girl is like a melody" everytime one of the contestants from Europe crossed the stage?

Hey Mr. Double L. Leather, I know what you can get your boy for Christmas. A copy of that heavy S/M bondage video, that he kept watching, over and over and over.

Well, Chicago was all abuzz about that large amount of money missing from the Millennium march held in DC in April. Many were vowing to keep their distance from those involved in that very disturbing mess with a capital "M"

Pat Batt, owner of Mercury Mail Order in SF, has to be an authority on Chicago Pizza. Something, or someone kept him in his room all weekend.
Could it have been the delivery boy?

The membership of ONYX certainly did improve their music this year and everyone danced their asses off

LEATHER LEATHER EVERYWHERE!

May 8th, 2000

There was one reason to be in Washington, DC. the last weekend in April. American Brotherhood Weekend. Although there was something someone called MMOW. Most leathersmen and women did not participate The comment from many leather folk, was TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE. On the other hand, ABW was the premiere show in town. Three contests in one weekend. A new American Leather Family was chosen.

It was not an easy contest to judge, (as the judges found out). From the looks of the crowd, this event has become one of the events to attend during the year. All but three of the IML judges were in attendance, and over 20 of the IML contestants were there to introduce themselves to the judges, and chat on an informal basis.

One contestant likened the weekend to the Golden Globes. Which is the dress rehearsal to the Academy Awards! All in all, the number one comment heard over and over, was , "Gee, it's so nice to be able to actually meet and talk to people for longer than 5 minutes"

For those who waited to the last minute and discovered that the VIP party was sold out, I suggest you get your application and fee in a little earlier next year. The gathering at Mary Elizabeth Boyds lovely home was truly the place to be that Friday evening. Drinks flowed like water, and the food was spectacular.

From there guests were taken to the DC Eagle, for the meet and greet. While all that was going on, on the second floor, Silent Bid for life, which is a yearly fundraiser, put together by The wonderful leather men of DC This years event raised thousands for the charities in the local DC area.

The Washington Plaza hotel, was the scene after the bar closed, along with several other after hours parties throughout the city. Saturday afternoon, with delightful DC weather, the contest began at the IMPROV Club. The conclusion of the contest was Sunday.

When all was said and done, Dean Ogren from Chicago, grabbed the title of American Leatherman 2000, His two counterparts were Paula American Leatherwoman, and Randie Smith who hails from Albany, NY The new American Leather family has said they will continue the traditions set by American Leather family 1999. Scott Reikofski, Schelli Dittman, and Jerry Acosta.

ABW weekend is fast becoming a popular weekend event. It should become one of the "must attend" weekends, so that you can see for yourself. The producers of ABW would like to thank all that attended, and hope you had an enjoyable weekend. They look forward to seeing you next year..

If ABW was not enough for you, seven days later, Pennsylvania Drummer and Drummerboy competition returned to the city of it's origin. Pittsburgh, PA. The weather was warm and humid, but no one really seemed to mind. The host hotel (The Inn on the Mexican War Streets) is the grandest. The former mansion of one of Pittsburgh's turn of the century wealthy barons was purchased by two men and restored to the beautiful bed and breakfast Inn that it has become.

Each room has it's own identity and decor. Circular staircases, chandeliers and original turn of the century furnishings, make it a place that you never really want to leave. Leathermen had a field day traipsing, sashaying, and making entrances into the receiving hall from the grand staircase. However, if you want a suite that reeks of modern traditional elegance, there is also one of those available.

If you are ever in Pittsburgh, It is a "must" stay there. The contest got underway in a HUGE white tent. Which included a vendor mart as well and another bar? The tent was erected just outside Donny's Place, which in its self, is a complex of three bars and two patios, one enclosed, and one open air. The three contestants for the boy title included Mark Michele Edge, Pittsburgh, Ky Eaton, Pittsburgh and Derick Rojas, Baltimore.

Mr. Drummer contestants were Michael Andrew Casey, Philadelphia, David Labriola, Verona, PA. Richard Fox, New Stanton, PA. Judges for this event were; Jack Holczer, PA. Drummer 99, Bobby Peck, cofounder of Pittsburgh Leather Grrrls, Fraser Picard, IMD 99 Woodie Barnes, IMD boy 99, Al Santora, DC Eagle 84, and Vern Stewart, WWE. Tally Masters were Mary Elizabeth Boyd and Matt Vertz.

Roars and cheers of approval rang out when Richard Fox was named Mr., PA. Drummer 2000, and Derick Rojas grabbed the PA. Drummerboy title. Both will compete for Mid Atlantic Drummer titles in July in Baltimore.

The contest was terrific. However, the hard work behind putting that event together was quite evident. All the hard work of the members of Leather Central, the Owner and staff of Donny's Place, Matt Vertz.Pittsburgh treated everyone Like royalty, guests and judges alike. Pittsburgh has class, and it showed.

IRON CITY DISH.....

Well, guess who showed up for the Drummer Contest? None other than Larry Everett, IML 95. Glad we got to see him, cause by the time you read this, he will have moved to Orlando. And yes the new digs does have a pool, for all you inquiring minds.

He and Arnie will not have a chance to use it soon. They will be off to Oklahoma, to see Larry's son graduate from high school at the top of his class no less...Talk about a proud papa.

Gee I think that the official photographer at the contest, could be talked into entering the contest next year, with a little prodding. It would be a shame to let all that beautiful chest hair not to be seen by all his fans.

Although a hair may not have been out of place while La Nowicki was emceeing, certain guests occupying the room below him wonder, what with all that bumping and thumping going on all night!

I would like to know how and why there are so many boys in the Pittsburgh area unattached or uncollared? What a shame I did not have my broom built for two with me Saturday night!

Talking about checking out the competition, those two Virginia contestants did not miss a beat during that PA contest nor did the two contestants from Maryland...

Speaking of Maryland a certain former Drummer title holder found a prize catch. That boy has the most penetrating eyes. Who knows, they could be penetrating from behind a sash ...say in maybe 2002? That is, unless Ryan Goldner scared him off with some of his horror stories during his title year...Oops

I think it can be safely established, that Derick Rojas has become the "ROSA PARKS" of Drummer boys----- at least in Baltimore!

ANDTo that stunningly handsome title holder from the mid Atlantic region...PAY LITTLE, NO, INFAC T PAY NO ATTENTION TO THOSE ANTIQUATED OLD QUEENS GIVING YOU ADVISE. You are your own person and a damn good one. Live your life your way, the hell with them!

THE WICKED WITCH

LEATHER HERE, LEATHER THERE

April 10, '00

Imagine taking a lovely spring drive through the upstate NY country side. The temperature in the 70 plus range. Top down for many, air conditioning on for others. Suddenly from out of nowhere clouds darkened, temperatures drop nearly 40 degrees and snow begins to fall. Trust me, it was not just a light snow. Four to eight inches fell depending on where you were at the time.

You ask where was yours truly? In Albany, NY. Attending the Mr. Empire State Leather 2000 contest. Produced by the STARS M/C. What began as a wonderful weekend, turned into disaster (weather wise). Flights canceled, attendee's were looking for hotels, brooms were buried in the snow along with cars. Having never witnessed anything quite like this, it was a sight to behold. However, the contest and weekend festivities went on without a hitch.

Albany's two leather bars the (The Waterworks Pub & Longhorns) located just doors from each other, were the place to be this past weekend - Jjm packed hot men and women were having a great time.

As usual, Friday evening kicked off this sixth annual leather event with the meet and greet. Saturday afternoon, outgoing Mr. Empire State, (Mike Brewer) hosted a cocktail party, and his lethal concoction of kamikaze's, were just that. The Leather Harvest had a vendor mart at the hotel. The hotel also served as the site for the now famous after hours parties both Friday and Saturday.

Prior to the contest Saturday evening the Stars hosted a superb buffet style dinner. It was very convenient to have the dinner on the lower level of the bldg. where the contest was held. The contest, emceed by Frank Nowicki (who else)? had the circus theme of under the big top. Frank of course, not to be out done was resplendent in a sequin covered tank top to go along with his leather.

It must be duly noted that the emcee seemed to display a lot more skin this weekend than usual.....hmmmmm Four contestants were vying for the title of ESL 2000: Bob Hargrave, Albany, NY. Don Freeman, Reading, PA., Bob Forbes, Syracuse, NY, and Kevin "Acey" Krause, Buffalo, NY.

A very diverse group of judges had the honor of selecting ESL 2000. Scott Reikowski, (head judge), Schelli Dittman, Bob Rourke, Thom Lockwood, Ralph Wood, and Mike Brewer. Ralph Wood served as alternate judge

When tallyboys Ryan Goldner, and Jerry Acosta, were introduced, an electric calculator, was held up to ease everyone's mind that the addition of scores would be correct. Maryland Drummerboy 99, Tim Schneider served as sign language interpreter. Dana Matthews held the entertainment segment together.

Gary Aldrich, a resident of Albany, performed the International Leather Anthem, along with the national anthem, and the Canadian national anthem..Gary of course wrote the lyrics to "One Common Heartbeat"

When all was said and done, Bob Forbes, was announced as Mr. Empire State Leather 2000, Don Freeman 1st runner up and Rob Hargrave took the second runner up spot.

The entire weekend was a breath of fresh air, despite the deluge of the white stuff. The opening number performed by Hilary and company was an absolute hoot. Hilary always brings a new dimension to entertainment. Congrats to John Marino, and the entire membership of the STARS M/C for a weekend well done.

April 14 - 16 takes us to Richmond, VA and the VA Drummer and Drummer boy contest. Fraser Picard, IMD 99/00 will relenquish his regional title, as will his drummer boy Kyle. Speaking of Kyle, he has certainly proven himself to be an outstanding drummer boy and representative for his community.

April 28 - 30 brings everyone to the nations capital for the American Brotherhood Weekend. A new American Brotherhood family will be selected. American Leatherman, American Leatherwoman, and American Leatherboy. The judges will be hard pressed to select three individuals who will work together, and actually become family such as the current titleholders. Lets face it, Scott Reikofski, Schelli Dittman and Jerry Acosta, were like shadows to each other. Where you saw one, you saw the other two.

There can be no finer representation of brotherhood than the three that have served in their title capacity for 1999 and 2000. What's even nicer, is, the fact that they will continue to promote the title, and the contest, and most of all brotherhood, even after they step down

Thanks guys, you have made this producer very proud. The interest in this contest has reached an all time high, especially for the boy title. As a side note to all of this. It was announced during the Empire State that the three producers of ABW, Roger Fleming, Jim Cobb, and Vern Stewart, have elected to bring another producer on board. Frank Nowicki, will be the newest Producer of ABW.

May 5 - 7 brings another premiere event. That being the Mr. Pennsylvania Drummer and Drummer boy. Interest is running high on this one. This contest will be held in Pittsburgh. I can assure you that all the stops are being pulled out. This will be a class act.

If you attended the the PA Drummer contest 1998, that was held in Pittsburgh, then you know that producer Mike Zuhl, had no qualms about adding class to that event. I would not miss this one if I were you.

DISH BY THE BUCKETS.....

Now that the world famous NY Eagle has closed, and you happen to be in the big apple, wondering where to go, Have no fear the Spike is still there, and of course the Lure IFou like Frenchmen, there is a hot, hot one tending bar at the Spike!

If you are into something with a Latin flavor, wait until you see the beefy and really nice young man at the Lure. After a look at him and conversation as well, makes you almost not mind paying a cover charge to get in....EVEN IF YOU DON'T GET A THING FOR YOUR \$7.00!!

If you enjoy being pushed shoved and squashed, then the place to go on a Sunday afternoon, is the Dugout on Christopher St. For those into bears, it is bear heaven.

Stonewall, (yes that Stonewall) has livened up since they have put in the new upstairs. Even though none of the bartenders working there were even born the year of the famous riots. But they are cuties and are quite attentive, at least they were that Sunday night.

A former Mr. Ebony Leather, was seen at the Lure, in his Marine Dress uniform, commenting on keeping a low profile, but yet mentioning going for another title in the not too distant future.

And yet another former Mr. Ebony Leather, is preparing himself for Chicago, and IML..His now famous thigh high boots and leather jock attire certainly had men and women waiting in line to be served by him at that popular Albany bar last weekend

Talk about having all the luck, John Marino's new squeeze, who kind of fell out of the skies was quite the social person! And where did John meet this one? At Hillside campgrounds. Hillside campgrounds should be on your list of places to go this summer, It's on mine! And yes, for all the sash queens, there is a leather contest held there. It is rumored that in addition to a Mr. Hillside leather, talk of a Hillside leather boy contest is in the works as well.

And to that former Baltimore Leather title holder---If you want to break up with the young man in Albany, at least be straight with him and stop playing games so that he can get on with his life. Thank goodness he did not move down there!

Congratulations to Heather the new Ms Ocean State Leather. Even though the snow was deep that sash remained high and dry. And no, she did not sleep with it on...

When last seen, Frank Nowicki was dashing to the Albany airport to retrieve his luggage due to the cancellations, and alas, who did he run into but Queen Cougar who was also stranded....Did they share a room together? Your guess is as good as mine...hmmmm The other option was a pajama party at the John Marino digs, but the stores were all closed and there could be difficulty in finding hair rollers. Giving facials would not be a problem, since NAL boy randie, is a makeup artistooops!

The Wicked Witch

Washington, D.C.
Musings by Vern Stewart
2000 - ARCHIVES
NORTHEAST BROOM PATROL
March 10, '00

I encountered very little turbulence enroute to big "D". (that's Dallas to non broom riders). Arriving just in time to witness the sashing of Dallas' newest leather title holder. The event was the Mr. Dallas Eagle 2000 leather contest.

Mark Frazier and Matt Miller owners of the Eagle, were great when it came to dishing out Texas hospitality. Although there were only two contestants, the cuties in the audience provided everyone with plenty to look at.

It was especially gratifying to see women being welcomed warmly in the bar..Judges consisted of Dean Walradt, Steve Waldren, Bill Bledsoe, Stacey Adams, Ron Hertz, and Steven Bayes. Emcee duties were handled by Wayne Davis, and Joey Murphy.

Once the tallying of the scores was completed, David Granger was chosen Mr. Dallas Eagle 2000, and Dean West was first runner up. The winner of this contest will compete in the Mr. Texas Leather 2000 contest this month. The winner of that contest will compete at IML.P Should you happen to be in the Dallas area, make sure you stop by the Eagle and sample some of their Texas hospitality. And yes, that Eagle does have a leather shop located on the second floor of the bar.

Flying from one Eagle to another. This time the broom circled the Baltimore Eagle. The Baltimore Eagle hosted their Mr. and Ms. Baltimore Eagle contest. This event was extremely well attended the entire weekend. The Mr. contest was held on Saturday night, and the Ms. contest on Sunday afternoon.

Derick Rojas, and Michele Smith were stepping aside from their great year. Both are extremely well liked in the community, and are hard workers for their community. Judges, Jill Carter, Al Santora, Derick, Rojas, Michele Smith, Woodie Barnes, and the Wicked Witch, put the five contestants through their paces in the interview portion.

Buzzy Malinowski, Doug Gatewood and Barry Newman were vying for the Mr. title. Mindy Chateauvert and Vendela Zane were the contestants seeking the women's title. This contest proved to be most interesting. Especially the fantasy category.

Within the past few months city government officials have enacted some of the most ridiculous laws that one has ever witnessed. Basically, it boils down to no one can have a partner, friend, or anyone else for that matter engaging in any touching, feeling, slapping, or any thing of a suggestive sexual nature. This has in effect closed several businesses, including the well known Playhouse, opened several years ago, by Glenda Rider and Sarah Humble.

When fantasies are enacted now, the key word is--*VISUALIZE!* In spite, of all of that, the show went on, and the contestants were ingenious in acting out their fantasies and had the audience rolling on the floor. Where there is a will, there is a way, I always say!

Lots of well known faces were seen in Charm City over the weekend. Jim Raymond was the tallymaster so no one had to worry that the sash would have to be pulled off one winner and given to another this time due to errors in addition. Once the scoring was completed, Emcee Dan Noel announced Buzzy Malinowski as the new Mr. Baltimore Eagle 2000. Vendela Zane grabbed the title of Ms. Baltimore Eagle.

The Baltimore Eagle has a warm and friendly bunch of men and women. I might also add that it is the first "Eagle" bar to have a Mr. and Ms. Eagle title. I wonder how many other Eagle bars in the U.S. will follow that act. Congratulations to Big John (Manager) and Rich Richardson (owner)for the exceptional weekend they presented, and the hospitality shown by all the staff of the Baltimore Eagle.

A SMATTERING OF "DISH"

Wasn't that Tom Robinson's EX-accompanying him to Baltimore? Maybe there is hope yet for a reconciliation?

Amazing that the Knighthawks of Virginia had one of their own in the contest, but rather than cheering him on, they were carrying on at the DC Eagle! (at least some of them were) So much for support!

What's with the attitude of a recent MD leather title holder? One would think, that in the length of time it took him to finally land one,(a title)he would be a bit more gracious-and friendly ! Matter of fact, make that a *LOT MORE!!!!*

Talking about BALLS----- a certain person who embarrassed the entire membership of a local DC club, has suddenly emerged from the rock he crawled under and was seen chatting away to a former president of another local club. I hope he was not asking for a membership application? Some people may forgive, but many have not forgotten!!!!

The Wicked Witch

['01 Archives](#)

['00 Archives](#)

['99 Archives](#)

['98 Archives](#)

Back to [REGIONAL REPORTS](#)

Back to [The Wicked Witch](#)

Back to [LeatherWeb Gay News](#) Return to [Calendar](#)

Go to [The Global Leather Village](#)