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LeatherWeb



Washington, D.C.
Musings by Vern Stewart
ARCHIVES 2005

A Most Difficult Summer 2005

The witch took breather from summer activities. However fall has arrived and all the social activities have begun. All attention for the most part has focused lately on the horrendous hurricane that hit the gulf coast region. New Orleans being nearly wiped out. Hundreds of cities have held and are holding fundraisers to help all in need. Every bar club and organization in the US is doing their part. Members of the leather community are right in the forefront raising thousands of dollars. Many in the leather community are so relieved when we lean of friends and family in those hard hit areas are alive and safe. My heart goes out to each and everyone.

On September 1, we lost another one of our beloved members of the leather community. San Francisco resident Omar Mosley, former Mr. Northern California Drummer 95 and a former Mr. Ebony Leather 92 left us. Omar had been ill for a few months and fought a valiant fight. No one will miss Omar more than myself. Rest in peace my brother. A celebration of his life will be held at Daddy's bar in SF on October 8.2005 from 7 PM to 10 PM.

On a brighter note, Mid Atlantic Leather 2004 (Tug Taylor) has weathered the kidney transplant and is resting well. We all wish him a speedy recovery. And we definitely have to wish Robert Davis Intl. Leather Sir 2004 a speedy recovery. He is the donor of that kidney for Tug. Now that is brotherhood, love and concern all rolled into one.

Mean while leather contests are still going on. The wicked witch flew to Kansas City, having been invited to judge the Mr. Dixie Belle Leather contest. Randy Wrisinger Mr. DB 05 stepped aside. Having just had heart bypass surgery a few weeks back, Randy gave a gracious heart- felt speech that was short quick and to the point. Thanks Randy for a great year.

As is the case with so many contests these days, there was but one contestant. Of course he had to garner 70% of the judges scores.

When all was said and done Tim Stites a deputy and contractor from St. Joseph, MO became the new Mr. Dixie Belle Leather 2006 . The latest to join the IML class of 2006.

I had always heard that the producers of the Heart of America contest put on an outstanding weekend. Well, the Witch agrees one hundred percent. Kansas City hospitality is simply overwhelming. The Kansas City boys of Leather just outdid themselves. Great to see a club without drama and attitude, just good boys.

Thanks to producers Craig Heslop, Todd Holmgrain, Zack Marquardt, and Dale Rush and all the rest...One word says it all. Marvelous! To my host Zack, you put the "H" in hospitality.

One very interesting and informative event which was presented during the weekend was Leather University. A group of the KC leathermen hold all sorts of seminars and workshops on all facets of leather and the leather lifestyle. They also host fundraisers and have out-reach programs to the community. It was great to hear in the general session the concern and focus on actively seeking out people of color to educate and work with in the Kansas City and Missouri area. They seem hell bent on accomplishing and making headway in that area. We applaud them. and I back them.

Another big contest is on the horizon. Mr. Eagle NYC 2006 will be selected Friday, September 30 at the NY Eagle. Robert Valin, 2005 will be stepping aside. This year the Eagle will be celebrating their 35th Anniversary. Owners Derek and Robert are pulling out all the stops. Saturday, Oct 1, a sumptuous buffet, entertainment and the Eagle pins will be presented. If you are in the NYC area don't miss this one.

One little thing I need to mention about the contest---A Three Thousand dollar (\$3,000.) prize package goes to the winner. Now that ain't peanuts! And the opportunity to represent the Eagle at International Mr. Leather 2006 in Chicago. Contestant applications are online at the Eagle website

Amazing how uncomfortable people become when a conversation suddenly includes the words racism, or prejudice. Contrary to the belief of many in the leather community, racism and prejudice are alive and well in the gay and lesbian community. How many times have we heard the bogus comment, I'm not prejudice, and some of my best friends are black? People run for cover when racial issues surface, or turn their heads and look the other way unwilling to confront or, be confronted.

The "N" word surfaced in reference to a current title holder at IML, and of course those closely connected with the comment, chose to sweep it under the carpet hoping it would go away. It has not gone away. It is indeed disgraceful in this day and age that comments are coming from some in the leather community. And that a few of our alleged leather community title holders seemingly are afraid or reluctant to confront.

Family? Togetherness? Words which simply fall on deaf ears in the big picture. As far as the incident which occurred in May in Chicago, it has yet to be addressed. And in all likelihood will never be acknowledge. And the beat goes on.....

International Mr/Ms Deaf Leather 2005/06 was selected during the Rainbow Deaf Conference held in Washington, DC. Included was the Intl. Deaf Grizzly, Intl. Grizzly Cub and the first Intl. Deaf boy. There were a total of 8 contestants for the 5 titles. It took longer to judge and select those winners than it did for the 62 contestants and the top twenty finalist at IML.

The contest was not over until well past midnight. People were fleeing from the ballroom of the Grand Hyatt once it was over. The winners were as follows, Crystal Sisk, Intl Ms Deaf Leather, Michael Ratzlaff, Intl Mr Deaf Leather, Alex Leffers, Intl Deaf Leather boy, Roger Robb, Intl Deaf Grizzly Bear, Rob Shanahan, Intl Deaf Bear and Eric Madigan, Deaf Bear cub. Former IDL's were even apologizing for the length of the contest and the shortness of the Victory celebration at the Green Lantern.

I have no idea of why the lack of courtesy was not given to the contestants. Over half of the audience paid little if any attention to what was going on, or the fantasies. Just plain RUDE!

We then move on to the Master/Slave Conference held at the Capitol Hill Hyatt July 29 - 31. The Producer Master Taino (President of MTTA) worked very hard to provide an enlightening and fulfilling weekend. Viola Johnson was the keynote speaker, and was superb. Daddy Ed Moore was one of the two emcees, Lolita Wolf was the other emcee.

The workshops provided were very informative, enlightening, and well received, by all in attendance. I wish I could say the same for some of the other straight guests who were staying at the hotel attending other various conferences. International Master Stephen 2005 and slave Catherine 2005 stepped aside

from their exceptional year. My only thought about the weekend, was it would be nice to have some hands on lab workshops for many of the novices that were in attendance.

The third annual Black Beat conference August 19 - 21 was held in Baltimore, MD. The name does not suggest that only people of color can or did attend this event. It was open to all ethnicity's, and many attended. The producers of this event had a fabulous weekend planned. Workshops, play parties, dinners, cocktail parties and a wonderful opportunity to meet and mix with the Gay, Lesbian and Heterosexual community. An excellent time to engage in wonderful comradire. Pillars of the leather community were in attendance as presenters. The Vi Johnson Out Standing Community Service Award, was presented to Mufasa, a founding Father of the Chicago club ONYX. I can sure say one thing about the producers of that event. My, my those ladies sure know how to dress. And did they ever look beautiful. What a pleasure to see well dressed people for a change. The third annual BDSM conference for African Americans and their supporters was so well received. A special thank you goes to the Founders Diamond, Bgtreasure, and Lady Z. The workshop presenters read like a list from who's who. It is a conference well worth attending.

I am looking forward to Black Beat 2006.

And the Dish Goes On...

Imagine fighting over when to have a memorial service. Well, to all those in a Huff in SF, you can rest now, there will be a remembrance service in Atlanta during ILS/b for Omar Mosley since both events are the same date.

It was mentioned several times during the evening at the Mr. Dixie Belle contest that out going title holder Randy Wrisinger was "single." Might be a bit easier to find a husband dear, without the tasteful black cocktail dress, heels, and those bling, bling dangling earrings. The show was funny but most did not seem like that was the first time they had on a pair of heels!

Overheard... Two KC women referring to IML Michael Egdes... "Honey I'd write a bad check just to hear him read the phone book" he's so fine. Oh, I SEE!

The witch lost his wallet while flying over Kansas, trying to spot that damn dog and Auntie Em's house. Sandy Mama Reinhart arrived in KC, but her luggage didn't. All the boys were checking in their closets for an extra LEATHER corset, fortunately the luggage arrived the next day and the wallet was found with all the cash and credit cards intact.

Imagine This: Two guys hot in the throes of passion, suddenly a particular toy disappeared not to be found by either party. After searching the bed, it was decided perhaps they should make a trip to Emergency...Yep, after a xray was taken, there it was! and an extraction was performed by the doctor. These toy companies had best start making those things with a handle and a chain. Hmmm and he was not even walking funny in route to emergency. Hmmm the things that happen here in DC.

. The Wicked Witch



Tim Stites - Mr. Dixie Belle Leather '06

Gone are the Days

For the past several years, the question has popped up regarding the slow disappearance of real leather bars and contests. We know there has been a resounding don't give a damn attitude in and around the leather community.

The big question is why? Lets face it, how many leather bars still exist in the country as they were in the 70' 80's and early 90's? Very few to be honest. Oh, they may have a leather sounding name hanging above the entrance. But are they really leather bars anymore as many once knew them?

Strict dress codes have all but disappeared. Tennis shoes, kaki shorts and sandals have become the current fashion for many of the bars. Weekends when everyone always had on their leather, has now resulted in a cheap harness and arm band. Those are accessories not leather dress.

Leather/Levi bars? Just what does that entail? Certainly not what it used to mean. Leather/Levi and one hundred dollar plus tennis shoes. Is that what a leatherman has become?

The circuit dance set, seems to have discovered a whole new world in the popularity of coming to a leather bar on a weekend night, and then spending the rest of the week giggling and comparing notes at their neighborhood twinkie bar during happy hour.

What is the reasoning that this is happening? Is it because leather bars are no longer interested in preserving the traditions that they once honored and held dear? Is it because money is money and they will accept anyone's regardless of how they dress? Or, could it be the real generation of devout leathermen have dropped off, died off or just do not go out anymore?

Just who is purchasing leather these days? Certainly not many of the senior citizen leathermen. They have spent most of their early adult life collecting their wardrobes. and will only add to it, as a piece wears out. In the meantime, the young generation is attempting to make a fashion statement by purchasing cutesy color coordinated fashion pieces that will suddenly place them in the "I'm a leatherman category".

There was a time when men interested in leather "earned" their leather. It is doubtful if many know what that term means. Now, a credit card does the trick. Sad state of affairs that the world we once knew has come down to this.

Of course it can be said leather does not make the man. Well, let's question what does leather do? It has been said by many that they like the touch, feel and smell of leather. The same cannot be said for kaki or tennis shoes. Oh well as Patti LaBelle said in one of her songs---It's a New Day.

The aforementioned was extremely obvious this month at various Pride events and parades. Attendance at The Capital Pride celebration held in Washington, DC was pretty good. Although the absence of police (Saturday evening) to direct traffic, left volunteers of the parade committee to handle that job. Of course money was the bottom line on that one. The District definitely knew the dates of the parade. The event is now over, but the finger pointing is still going on. Hopefully all parties concerned will have their act together by next June 2006.

The Pride festival which was held Sunday brought out a huge throng of men and women to bask in the sun and attend all the festivities. For the first time in DC festival history, there was a Mr. Capital Pride Leatherman. The selection of Tsar Agus a 21 year old Rockville, MD, resident. The contest was held at the DC Eagle two days prior to the parade. Three candidates jumped on the bandwagon and entered. One contestant made it quite clear that if he won he would give the title to the runner up. So why bother to enter? That person did not have the opportunity to give the title to someone else.

For some strange reason having a parade beginning at 6 PM has never been explained, nor has the routing of the parade. But the important thing was, it did happen, and hundreds did come out to cheer

and support all who were involved. A special acknowledgment goes out to all the volunteers who worked long and hard to put in place the leather contingency which was twice the size of previous years. Thanks guys for a job well done. And a special thank you to DC's two reigning title holders. Scott Jones, Mr. DC Eagle 2005, and Steve Ranger, Mr MAL 2005. You have done the city Proud Both placed in the top ten at IML this year.

. We now move on to the Big Apple. Needless to say they pulled off the parade in Grand Style. Thousands participated in the parade. Hundreds of thousands lined the parade route which of course went right down world famous Fifth Avenue from 52nd Street all the way down to Christopher Street in the West village...

It was nearly unbearable in that 90 plus degree heat. But no one really seemed to care. Clothing was at a minimum both on and off the float. Of course there are always the attention getups. One male in particular wore just a sock (a thin one I might add) to cover his "whatchamacallit" and a leather pride flag extended from his posterior. And no, I have no idea as to how many inches of the dowel stick were imbedded! We were able to see the flag.

The NY Bear community had an extremely beautiful float, and I do mean float in the bear pride colors. The NY Eagle float had stunning men adorning theirs. It is safe to say, the music on the Eagle float was by far the best in the parade. The crowds along the street were dancing and screaming their approval. Mr. NY Eagle 2004, Brian Kent, did his new release live and several other songs as well. The sound system manned by that fabulous Eagle DJ Gustavo was wonderful. He knew all the right music to play.

Title holders from far and near, GMSMA, and dozens of leather organizations displayed their pride. International Mr. Leather 2005 Michael Egdes, spent the weekend in the city. Robert Valin, Mr. Eagle NYC 2005 who was also the leather contingent parade Marshall, held court on the street walking the parade route. IML and Robert shook hands, hugged and greeted hundreds of those lining the parade route.

I have not a clue as to the size of the parade committee in NYC. But there was no way that all of the residents of NY were not aware of Pride Week. There was a big poster in every single subway station in Manhattan, the Bronx, Brooklyn, and I am sure hardly anyone missed seeing them.

American Leatherman 2005 Blackkat, hosted a huge block party. The party was held next to the Dugout a very popular bear bar on Christopher Street. The bear club sponsored a boat cruise that evening and the boat was packed. Mr. Metro Bear 2004 (Mike Cotter) worked his buns off on that one.

And what would pride be in NYC without a Leather contest? Oh fear not, The Northeast Leather Sir/boy contest was held the previous weekend at the NY Eagle. Only two contestants, one Sir and one boy. So guess who won? Northeast Leather Sir 2005, Sir Jeff, from the state of Massachusetts. Northeast Leather boy 2005 is boy Alex, from NYC. They will represent the Northeast at Intl. Leather Sir/boy which will be held in Atlanta in October.

Leather Pride night auction raised a large chunk of money for several beneficiaries. The exact amount is not known. But it was very successful. Also the same weekend, Folsom Street East was held, sponsored by GMSMA. The crowd this year tripled last years attendance. A great time was had by all in attendance. The NY Eagle was certainly a moving force in helping to bring about that successful event.

Pride events all over the country during the month of June spoke out loud and clear... We're here, we're queer and we are here to stay!

PRIDE DISH.....

A few weeks ago an email appeared authored by Centaur member Danny Linden informing people far and wide that Hillside Campgrounds located south of Binghamton, NY. could be added to a list of places

for blacks to visit. Well, Mr. Linden and Mr. Neil Alexander, You can do one better than that. Just down the road apiece lies the lovely Camp Oneida. The other gay campground located in New Milford, PA. ninety- six acres, disco, 2 ponds, lakefront lot, 2 lodges. It can be yours for \$749.000 and maybe less if you haggle. Then every night could be Saturday night at the Apollo!

Anyone have a clue as to what has become of the Hartford Colts? After all that hub bub over becoming a AMCC member, it seems as though they have disappeared from the face of the earth.

Have the STARS of Albany fired their press person? Or, do they feel press is no longer important?

In case you were all set to attend the Mid Atlantic Leather Sir/boy competition next month in Baltimore, well forget it. It has been canceled. For the first time in all the years that I can remember, there will be no contest. Why? Because there are no contestants to compete. There were no contestants for a Mr. PA Leather Sir/boy, and the same goes for Delaware, Virginia, and DC. The only contest that produced contestants, was the Maryland Leather Sir/boy contest.

It was therefore decided that the two winners of that contest would be appointed to represent the region at the International contest in Atlanta. Is there a solution to this dilemma? Are people just plain tired of contests? Are people reluctant to make a commitment for a year or a lifetime? In this case, the answer may well be yes.

Some Leathermen and women in the Big Apple are aghast at the behavior of a current southern title holder who recently graced their city. Seems he had trouble locating the public Porte potty (located a few yards away) and decided the dressing room back stage would suffice. It's not nice to dampen entertainers gowns and pumps! Such is the life of intoxicated sash wearers. Imagine if he had won the IML title?

Sure was a poor showing of support during the NY Pride weekend with the POC. Where were the Panthers and the Men of Onyx? Oh the Pres of the NY chapter of Onyx was there, and several from the Panthers. Jeez, and the talk of working together and supporting each other. Yeah, Right! I sure hope the attendance increases for the People of Color In Crisis- Pride in the City 2005 to be held in August 4-6 in Brooklyn.

Leather boy clubs have sprung up throughout the country. However, how many even know what was the reason the boy movement was formed? or it's historical background? Having interviewed boys from various parts of the United States in the past few months, arrogance, self independence and a lack of respect seems to have surfaced. What is up with this?

On a happy note, It was wonderful to see Tug Taylor, MAL 04 on board the Eagle float. He looks wonderful and and was so much fun to be with. The current Mr. Connecticut Leather George Peet has certainly turned into a ball of fire. He is everywhere, supporting and sponsoring both in his local area and in other cities. George is truly a remarkable leatherman who has earned the love, respect and admiration of leather people wherever he has traveled.

The Wicked Witch



Tsar - Mr. Capital Pride Leatherman 2005



'Doc', Pres.,
New York ONYX Club



New York Pride
2005 Crowd



2005 Northeast Leather Sir Jeff

2005
Northeast
Leather boy
alex

2005 Northeast Leather boy alex



American Leatherman '05
Kwame 'blackkat' Barns &
IML '05, Michael Egdes



Blackkat & His boy



Float Rider



Photographer's pick.



Couple's count.



Parade celebrants
Ross Nadler &
Eagle owner
Derek Danton



Publisher's choice
2005 pin-up

Michael Egdes Captures IML 2005 Title

Ft Lauderdale, Florida has a new celebrity. Michael Egdes is IML 2005 Sponsored by the Ramrod, Michael was selected from 52 contestants vying for the golden ring. Dodger Allen, Mr. SF Leather 2005 grabbed the first runner up spot, Alan J. Bowers, MD, Mr. Louisiana Leather 2005, was selected second runner up.

Arthur "Boo Boo" Funni, Lakewood, Ohio, won the International Mr. Bootblack competition from a pool of nine contestants.....

The twenty top finalists were: 1. Michael Egdes, 2. Dodger Allen, 3. Alan J. Bowers, 4. Will Castillo Mr. FL Leather 5. Scott Jones, Mr. DC Eagle 05, 6. Richard Soulsby, Mr. Hoist London 05, 7. Raymond "Cody" Haugland, Mr. Los Angeles Leather 05, 8. Steve Ranger, MAL 05, 9 Robert Valin, Mr. Eagle NYC, 10. Shawn Carroll, Mr. Leather Ottawa 11. Sean Cribbin, Mr. Leatherman Toronto, 12. Roberto Menichetti, Mr. Leather Europe 04, 13. Adam Scott Latham, Mr. San Diego Leather, 14. George Brown Jr., Cell Block & Caliber Leather, Chicago, 15. Georges Schott, German Mr. Leather, Berlin 16. Randy Wrisinger, Mr. Dixie Belle Leather, Kansas City, 17. Stephen Seefeldt, Mr. Norwood, Green Bay, WI, 18. Wes Kassulke, Mr. Midwest Leather 2005 Dubuque, IA 19 Jeff Hettinger, Mr. North Coast Leather, Guernville, CA, 20. Jim Maciel, Mr. Boston Leather 2005.

Several new things occurred at IML this year. A new location for the contest. The event was held at Navy Pier in a huge auditorium. Many onlookers, families and children were gawking at all the leather folk descending from buses, and the parking garage. It was a bit uncomfortable for many in leather, both arriving and departing if they did not arrive on the IML buses. Although the site was walking distance from the host hotel, thank goodness nothing more than stares occurred.

A new IML flag was unveiled. The flag will be on permanent display at the Leather Archives and Museum. For the first time there was a closing ceremony which included a parade of colors of clubs from around the world.

Entertainment this year was comedian Judy Tenuta, the "Love Goddess". Judy has entertained several times at past IML's. She had guest rolling in the aisles. One thing that was a definite plus

this year was the fact that step down speeches were given earlier in the week and therefore did not drag on and on putting people to sleep at the contest itself...Bless whoever thought that up.

Hopefully next year, IML will have an electronic scoring system designed for their use. Waiting for nearly an hour to find out who the winners were was far too long. Tim Wong, the electronic scoring wizard of San Francisco would certainly have been a big help regarding that aspect.

Of course parties were everywhere. Breakfast, Brunch and dinner, receptions, seminars, 12 step gatherings and the dances. The Maple Leaf party, Texas party, and of course the Onyx dance party, which this year was moved to a larger ballroom to accommodate everyone...Even the hotel itself had a dance area set up in the main lobby, and that was packed every night.

There was a tribute to the late Robert Davolt. and the room was filled to capacity! Robert was well liked and had quite a following...

. Windy City dish.....

What a surprise to see Ray Hall, Mr. DC Eagle 96, and also one of the Founders of the DC boys of leather. All seems to be going well with him now that he has become a Hoosier resident.

Speaking of the DC Eagle, it was announced at the Eagle/MAL that the Eagle now has a new CO-owner on board...The very popular bartender Angus has become a part of the Eagle team..Congratulations.

It was most interesting to learn that the new IML is originally from South Africa and speaks several languages. One being "Africaneeze". Well, that's what the emcee informed us during contestant introductions. I am still looking for that dialect. Guess I will have to check with Michael Egdes to hear a few words.

Judy Tenuta who was the entertainment for the evening. Many comments were made on her costume. One person in the audience was wondering if she might wear a certain leather vest that disappeared the night that she and that "premier" DC emcee shared a dressing room the last time Ms Tenuta entertained!

There were many "virgin" attendees at this years event. Patrick Grady and Peter Lloyd, DC residents couldn't see for looking. We know they will be back next year. Daddy Jim Raymond introduced a new hankie at IML which he designed. We know how Daddy Jim loves his electric boy toys, and now we have a hankie with electric bolts of lightening for those who are into those pleasures. They are for sale at various stores across the US.

In a press release that is floating around advertising the Mr. Las Vegas Leather and Leatherboy contest August 5-7, requirements state they must be a resident of Southern Nevada, and "consider" themselves members of the leather community. According to the definition of "consider" does that not mean to ponder and study? Hmmm, hope the contestants have pondered and studied by August 7.

For the few new attendees who asked why there is no Leather Anthem...Well, there is one. All three hundred twenty-one words. Which was rather difficult to memorize and sing? It is entitled One Common Heartbeat. But no one has heard it sung in quite a few years. It was introduced in 1998.

And to that sorry sick queen who has nothing better to do than to bad mouth the new IML title holder on that ridiculous titleholder website, Get A LIFE! People like you never seem to have the balls to use their real name. If you are a member of the leather community then God help us..As the good book says "let us without sin cast the first stone"...Boulders and houses may be falling on you.



On a more pleasant note...Blackkat (American Leatherman 2005) has put forth such a positive image in the leather community. What a pleasure to see someone who was actively involved with outreach long before he went for the title. Great to hear his words at the Onyx POC conference. during IML weekend.

The vendor market had so many items to pick and choose from. However, one vendor left a sour taste in many mouths including mine...There they were selling leather wearing apparel, and after people tried it on and prepared to purchase, they told all customers. "CASH ONLY". Were there any signs stating that? Of course not, and at one point did not even want to give a receipt! Like who walks around the vendor mart with 6 or 7 hundred dollars in their jock? I thought that was what credit cards were for, or sugar daddies.

The Wicked Witch



Photos by Vern Stewart

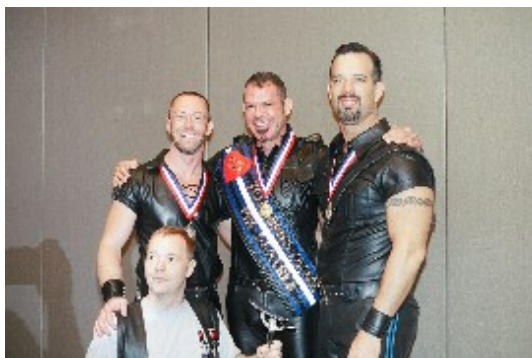
Geo Brown, Jr., Mr. Cell Block Lthr., Chicago

	 <p>Geo Brown, Jr., Mr. Cell Block Lthr., Chicago</p>
<p>John Tatum - Lthrman of Color - Chicago.</p>	<p>George Brown, Jr., Mr. Cell Block Leather - Chicago</p>

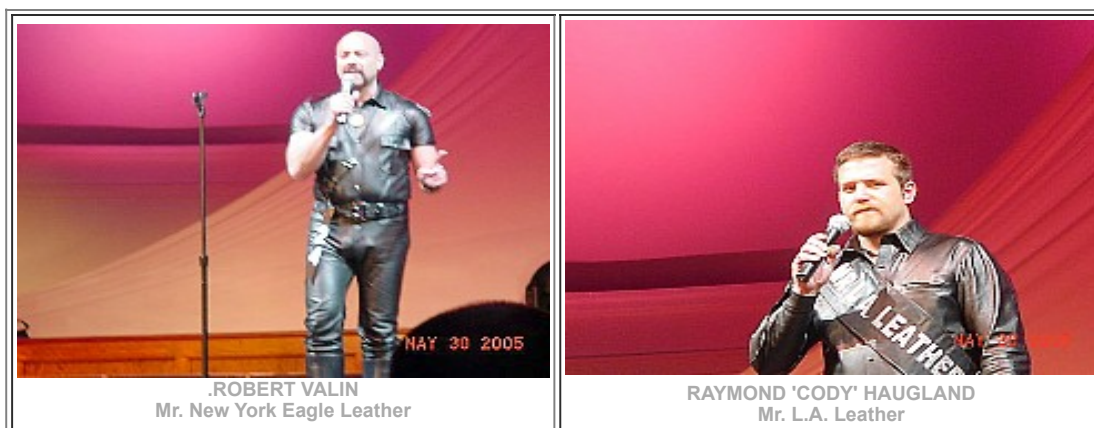


RICHARD SOULSBY; Mr. Hoist Leather, UK

	
<p>KEN JOHNSON Mr. San Antonio Eagle</p>	<p>JEFF WILLOUGHBY Mr. Chicago Leather</p>



2005 Winners: L-R Dodger Allen (1st R-U; IML MICHAEL EDGES; Alan J. Bowers, 2nd R-U Int'l. BootBlack 05; Arthur "Boo Boo" Funni



.ROBERT VALIN
Mr. New York Eagle Leather

RAYMOND 'CODY' HAUGLAND
Mr. L.A. Leather

HUGE HIT FOR ABW

When emcee Frank Nowicki, announced Kwame Banks, as American Leatherman 2005, Brooklyn, NY., Amanda "pup" Farrell, Eatontown, NJ., American Leatherwoman, Ryan Setzkorn, American Leatherboy, Tulsa, OK., and Girl Kim, Grover, NC., American Leathergirl the winners this year, the crowd roared their approval.

Cherry blossoms, beautiful weather and American Brotherhood Weekend. All the makings for a fun filled leather event. The weekend actually begins on Thursday with all the contestants arriving with steamer trunks filled with leather fashions and accouterments. Pickups and vans filled with fantasy props lined the host hotel driveway. Excitement was building. All the usual meet and greet receptions hosted by clubs and sponsors were well attended.

The amount of contestants in several of the categories were down from last year but the desire and interest was at the top. There was only one contestant for American Leatherwoman. However she had to garner seventy percent of the judges votes in order to win. The judges this year were: Judy Tallwing Mc Carthy, head judge, Slavette, Keith Truitt, SF Leather Daddy XVIII, Marcus Hernandez, and outgoing 04 titleholders Storm, Terry Brown, Robert Napolitano, and Beth Abate.

Tally Masters, Peter Lloyd and Peter Kinchelos. Judges boy and girl, Gene Throwe, and Jackie Hubschmann. Den family, Bill Mitchell, Phyllis Darcy, Sheryl Dee, and Jeff Nowak.

The formal leather dinner had 250 in attendance. And the step down speeches were made at that time. Only a few had to have their faces lifted off their plates when they fell asleep listening.

The auction for the travel fund went well. All the contestants really worked hard at bringing in wonderful baskets to be auctioned. It is not known what the final amount was raised, but it had to be in the thousands.

Once again I am not sure who was responsible for the program book, but it was exceptional complete with color photographs. Second year that I have seen no programs lying around on the floor after the event was over. That says a lot.

Head judge Judy McCarthy, gave a surprise, when her two lovely daughters attended the contest and were the entertainment for the evening. The audience loved them. Quite accomplished singers.

All in all the weekend was a success. Many new attendee's who vowed to return next year. The producers and staff made the weekend most enjoyable.

Tidal Basting Dish.....

Imagine the looks on the faces of those ladies with the big hats staying at the hotel over the weekend for a Southern Baptist church social. Jesus Christ and the 12 disciples were not the only thing they talked about. Especially when one male attendee's little yellow latex cover slipped from what it was supposed to be covering! oops

Of course Jim Raymond, American Leatherman 97 made the situation no better when he asked if they all had found Jesus.

IMSL 96 (Jill Carter) has to be up for the Peace Maker of the Year award. Calming down the broom bristles of a certain witch and a pushy young photographer. Perhaps the photographer got the message this time. Ms Carter can be very persuasive. In case Ms. Photographer didn't get it. It's called common courtesy!

You would have loved seeing where the premier emcee kept his change of clothes----in a duffel bag right under the podium! A lesson well learned when his leather vest disappeared from the dressing room at IML one year. Wonder if Judy Tenuta is still wearing it. HmMMMM

I guess some contestants are really not happy when they do not win the big prize. Photographs don't lie...A congratulation smile would have been nice.

Very interesting to observe some contestants entering a leather contest and not wearing any leather until the second day. Not quite clear on the concept I guess.

Leslie Anderson, American Leatherwoman 97, met the love of her life and has moved to Chicago from Albuquerque. Her first gift was a coat...With those Chicago winters, seems to me gloves and some long handle red flannel drawers would have been in order.

The two Chicago contestants, Mr. Chicago Leather Jeff Wiloughby and Mr. Cell Block Leather, George Brown breezed into town for ABW, and won the hearts of everyone they met. Their hands must be raw from shaking hands and those great smiles had many men weak at the knees After all, I am told Chocolate is an aphrodisiac.

. Congratulations to American Leatherwoman Amanda. A week or so ago, she became a US Citizen, and to top that off wins the title..

. Little did a particular New Jersey high school realize that they were producing such high caliber students. Imagine Former Mr. Ebony Leather (Hilary), John Loesch, Philadelphians MC, and Kwame Banks all attended the same High School...Two title holders, and one fixing to run we have been informed Now ain't that special.

Kudos, go to the STARS MC. Empire State Leatherboy 2005. Who ever is mentoring boi shannon is doing a terrific job. But on the other hand certain things come natural to some people like good manners, and courtesy. Watch out. I see good things happening to this particular title holder

. Evidently there will be a local Mr. DC Leather Sir/boy contest comming up soon. The winners will compete at Mid Atlantic Leather Sir/boy in July. I have not heard a confirmed date. I bet Neil "the Mayor" Alexander knows.

News from the big apple. The Northeast Leather Sir/boy contest is slated for June 10 at the NY Eagle. Bob Forbes will be producing that one this year.

On down the road the NY Eagle will be hosting the Mr. NY Eagle Leather contest October 1. which will conincide with their thirty fifth anniversary.

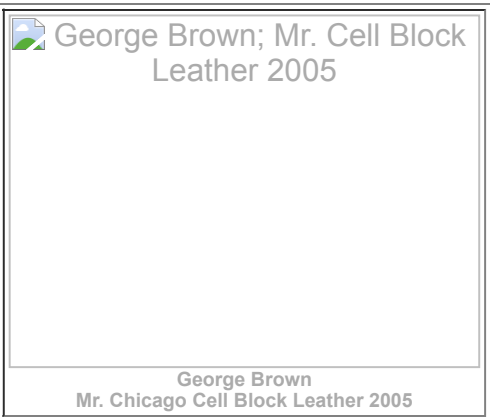
People are asking if anyone has a clue to where the Intl Leather Sir/boy contest will be held? No one knows and the powers that be ain't talkin'.

In a recent published interview with the current Mr. DC Eagle Scott Jones, he was asked who gets on your nerves? he replied "I get on my own nerves sometimes". Well at least he's honest.

The Wicked Witch

Photos by Vern Stewart





Winter Fundraising Months Have turned to Spring

February is generally known as the nothing much happens month. However contrary to that belief the leather community did not slow down. In the nation's capital the 34th annual Scarlet Bake Sale was held. This Bake sale is a community effort. Baked goods of all shapes, sizes and description appeared February 12 at Hamburger Mary's. This event auctions off all the culinary masterpieces.

In addition to the clothes worn by the newly sashed local titleholders. Down to their bare bottoms. It was indeed a sight to behold. Especially for the highest bidders who were allowed to remove the item that they purchased. Jock straps and the accouterments worn underneath went for very high prices.

Steve Ranger, Mr. Mid Atlantic Leather 2005 and Scott Jones Mr., DC Eagle 2005 graciously donated and were stripped of everything they wore with the exception of Scott Jones flip flops!

Proceeds from the auction supported Saint Ann's Infant and Maternity House. Over \$7,000 was raised. Seemingly many donated their time and effort to make this a success. One young man upon hearing what the proceeds were slated for wanted to help and decorated a cake he had some help with. While that alone is not a news breaker needless to say. What is interesting is the young man is only three years old and the grandchild of First Lady of Leather, Mary Elizabeth Boyd? Oh yes he was there and helped auction off his cake which brought in one hundred dollars.

Meanwhile in NYC at the NY Eagle, a benefit titled Love for Sale brought in \$4500.00 for the Teens Prepared for Life organization. Brian Kent, Mr. Eagle, NY, 2004 and Robert Valin, Mr. Eagle, NY 2005 were the two in charge of that auction.

The City of Brotherly Love President's Day weekend yet another fundraiser event took place. The spotlight was shining on the contestants for the Mr. and Ms. Philadelphia Leather contest. The male winner will represent Philadelphia at IML 2005 is Bill Hawk. The Ms. title is held by Dawn Marie and the winner, has her choice of competing at IMSL, Ms. World Leather or American Leather Woman, or American Leather Girl or staying home if she wishes. Has anyone heard from or about those two since they were crowned?. Hmmmmm

Congratulations to the Maryland Leather Sir/boy contest. Although there only one contestant for Leather Sir, and one for Leatherboy, they did have to receive 75% of the allotted scores in order to win.. Emanuel Nixon took the Leather Sir title and boy beetle the Leather boy title Both will compete at the Mid Atlantic Leather Sir/boy competition in July,

Cherry Blossom Dish.....

American Brotherhood Weekend is quickly approaching.(April 15-17)..and there are at least 18 contestants vying for the various titles. In the Leatherman competition we will see some divine chocolate working that stage. Yes, the NY Panthers are sending a contestant. Also there will be two other hunks. One from the Windy City, and another one from NY as well... It's about time a little color was added to the pot. We are still waiting for a person of color to capture the Men's title. Who knows, this may be the year. Judges for ABW this year are: Marcus Hernandez, Judy Tallwing McCarthy, American Leather Woman- Storm, American Leatherman- Robert Napolitano, American Leather girl- Beth, American Leatherboy-Terry, Keith Truitt, slavette parker, and Richard Doctor.. www.cockring.org

For those who have made plans to travel to Phoenix, AZ next weekend, the LLC, (Leather Leadership Conference) is definitely the place to be. Everyone who wants to hear top notched speakers, and great workshops and really learn about our history and the men and women who made it all possible..Do not miss out on this opportunity. Money well spent on a weekend that you will not forget

If you are really into leather contests, well listen up. The International Deaf leather organization will be hosting a deaf leather extravaganza this coming July. in Washington, DC. This will coincide with the Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf Conference. International, Mr. Deaf Bear, International Mr. Deaf Cub, International Mr. Deaf Grizzly, International Ms. Deaf Leather, International Mr. Deaf Leather and International Deaf Leatherboy. If all this is held on the same day, it will be strongly suggested that you bring a sleeping cot, blanket, toothbrush and a bucket of Chicken, because you will likely be there all day and all night.

What, no International Deaf Bootblack?

Sir Nagrom Monceaux, the extremely talented and fantastic artist and leatherman, held an exhibit of his beautiful work in Baltimore several weeks ago. The raves were heard as far away as NYC. The Jazz artists exhibit belongs in the Smithsonian. And I do believe some are on their way.

On the left coast (SF) it was announced by the owner of the Loading Dock that it would be closing in March. The bar had been around for eight years. Billed as a leather bar, the establishment has had it's up's and down. Discrimination charges were ongoing for several years. Women were given a hard time upon attempting to enter the bar. Various staff members at times seemed to Bring a Safeway bag of attitude to work with them. For years the bar never involved itself in holding a contest to send a contestant to the Mr. SF Leather. The reaction has been mixed as to the closing of the bar. The Yea's are a close second to the nay's

The one bar in Utica. NY, home of the Utica Tri's will be celebrating their Nineteenth anniversary during May. The original owner (Joe Williams) a lovable character, sold the bar to Marc Delbuono, and it is still going strong. Congratulations and here is hoping for 20 more.

Don't be surprised if there are some changes next year in the handling of the MAL Bootblack competition. Maybe it will take a rest! Or at least have time limits on those I-e-n-g-t-h-y step down thank you's.

The Potomac MC celebrated an anniversary during February They are one of DC's fun social/leather clubs. Never any drama that is witnessed by outsiders They did the smart thing several years back and decided to not host a leather contest, when they could only come up with one contestant or none! But they are so active in the local community. Ready to lend a hand at a moments notice...Way to go guys.

Sure is a shame when ego's get in the way of a community project such as the Scarlet Bake Sale. Does it really make a difference where the event is held? The bottom line is raising money for the charities...Making petty comments and advising people not to attend or participate simply because it is not being held at a particular bar is so immature.

Press releases are out on IML, and the fact that it will be held in Chicago at the Navy Pier this year. But there has not been a mention of who will emcee the event? Lot's of inquiring minds would like to know. Stay tuned.....

Get well wishes go out to that SF leather man about town Omar Mosley a former Mr. Ebony Leather and Northern California Drummer.

News from MAL Tug Taylor 2004, things are going well, and the kidney transplant is moving right along. But keep those prayers and candles burning for both these terrific men

According to those in the know in NYC, a tentative date for the Northeast Leather Sir/boy contest has been set for June 10 at the NY Eagle. Bob Forbes, NE Leather Sir 2003 has taken over the producer duties. who knows if the title holder boy from that year will appear (boy Andy) dashed to The sunshine state after giving up his title. The only person who may have an answer to that question would be Lenny Broberg...oops!

Spring is in the air, and love is in bloom. Well, according to the mileage being racked up between New York and Dallas by former Mr. Eagle, NY (Brian Kent) and his new Squeeze.

American Leatherman Robert Napolitano, is in the final week of his reign. But has not let any grass grow under his feet. Making sure that the photo opts with all he met the past year wind up in his scrap book of memories. He has nearly been to every nook and cranny in the US. It will be interesting to see if his other half recognizes him when he finally returns home to stay for more than a day or two.

The wicked witch has an extensive archive of 20 years worth of contest applications. While reviewing the question on the application: 1. Why do you want to be Mr. or Ms. Leather _____? Very interesting as to how many did do something during their title year and how many did nothing but strut around wearing the sash. No, the applications will not go on public display.

THE WICKED WITCH..

Editor's Note: *The Wicked Witch's views of The Loading Dock are his and his alone. We do not support this view. The Loading Dock was San Francisco's ONLY True Leather Bar during the past eight years. Never once after a visit to this bar did this writer not have great sex (and some had great sex "in" the bar). Now there is not a single True Leather Bar from Seattle to Los Angeles. Contests, Contestants and Titleholders do not a LeatherMan make. The Loading Dock honored Traditional Leather. To quote the owner, "It was a good five years that lasted eight."*

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ANOTHER OPENING ANOTHER SHOW

Autum in New York is indeed a wonderful time to visit. Perfect weather and delightful people. The humidity is zero and leather made it's appearance once again.

Kicking off the fall season was the NY Eagle's 34 anniversary celebration and the Mr. Eagle NY 2005 Leather contest. Derek Danton and Robert Berk owners of the Eagle did everything in grand Manhattan style.

October 1 - 3, the bar was packed every night. Friday night the bar hosted leathermen and women from far and near. An open bar for several hours, a fantastic buffet, and passed out the exceptionally nice Eagle pins. Because the weather was so nice, the 3rd floor roof deck was the place to be, see and be seen ..I swear you would have thought you were attending a body beautiful review.

Saturday afternoon the judges for the contest met and the interviewing of the contestants began. Another great lunch was prepared for the contestants and the judges. The judging panel for this years contest included Storm, American Leatherwoman 2004, Janson Hendrix, IML 2004, Wayne Nesbitt, Mr. DC Eagle 98, Fernan Royo, Mr. Florida Leather 2004 and outgoing Mr Eagle NY 2004, Brian Kent.

Five contestant applications were received, however two must have gotten cold feet at the last minute. Three exceptional contestants remained. Any one of the three could have been the new title holder. The contestants were all new faces no repeats.

The contestants were Frank Parisi, Robert Valin and Stephen Morris all from the immediate NYC area. Saturday evening the contestants strutted their stuff on the stage, and the wicked witch had great fun emceeing the contest.

When the scores were tallied by Tallymaster Michael Marino, the winner was announced. Robert Valin grabbed the title, with Frank Parisi first runner up and Stephen Morris second runner up. Robert will represent the Eagle at International Mr Leather in Chicago next May.

He will have plenty of support and guidance. After all American Leatherman 2004 Robert Napolitano was the den daddy for this event. and all the contestants paid close attention to his every word. Northeast Leatherboy 2005, boy ric served as judges boy for the event. NY's favorite interpreter Susan Weinstein handled that job with great gusto.

It was indeed refreshing for all in attendance to attend a leather contest without drag queens poorly lip synching to some tired show tune. Entertainment that evening was none other than Recording artist Joi Cardwell, who knocked the audience out with several of her brand new releases..

Brian Kent stepped to the stage to give a short thank you speech which touched everyone in attendance. What a marvelous year for Brian. He has definitely given new meaning to the words community, love, respect and leather. New York loves Brian Kent and it seems like half of NY was there to let him know that.

It must be noted that it has indeed been quite some time since a NY bar gave away such a hefty prize package for the winner. Three thousand dollars this year. A two thousand dollar travel fund which was donated by Budweiser, and a thousand dollar gift certificate from the Leatherman in NYC. A beautiful

sash and title vest donated from world renowned leather maker David Samuel Menkes. The support for the NY Leather community is still there.

Friday night a benefit was held for Life Beat, The Music Industry Fights Aids and \$4,000.00 was raised in a matter of a three hours. Now how great is that?

October 23, Mike Cotter, Mr. Metro Bear 2004 and Manny Diaz, Mr. Metro Cub 2004 are hosting Speakeasy a benefit for Sylvia's Place and Teens Prepared for Life. La Fleur's 355 West 41st Street. From 8pm to Midnight. The NY Bear community is quite active and very popular.

Due to a reschedule of the Mr and Ms. New Jersey leather contest, the winners Tom Meade and Amanda "pup" Farrell were in attendance for the NY Eagle contest. New Jersey Leather folks are so supportive of NYC events. And the Big Apple is very supportive of them as well.

The International Leather Sir/boy contest in St. Petersburg, FL has announced that the Mid-Atlantic region swept both titles. Intl. Leather Sir 2005 Robert Davis and Intl. Leatherboy Ivan Reyes. The Mid Atlantic region has done it again. Congratulations to both winners.

In Chicago the Men of Onyx are hosting their annual Black out weekend. The winner of their leather contest will represent them at IML in May. No report on who won the Leatherman of Color contest which they produced.

EAST COAST DISH....

Rumors flying around Manhattan that the LURE which closed well over a year and a half ago, is planning on reopening. According to various sources, a space has been located around West 43rd and the Westside Highway. Stay tuned to see if this actually is more than a rumor...

Another confusing rumor, to recently surface----- Contestants wishing to enter the Intl. Bear competition held in SF in Feb are being told that the first 15 to register will be the ones able to compete. Now how much sense does that make? If you' re number 16, I guess you are out of luck?

Amazing how many people did not recognize the current IML when he was in NYC last weekend. Could it be that all the facial hair he once sported has now disappeared? I guess that is what happens when you attempt to trim your beard yourself! One observer noted that he now looks 2! Well, I would not venture to go that far!

American Leatherwoman 2004 could not wait to tell all the patrons at the NY Eagle, with great glee, that the Wicked Witch was given a calling card-----by a damn seagull perched three floors above him all over his tasteful NY Eagle jacket..... And that is supposed to be good luck? I THINK NOT!

Former Ebony Leather titleholder Hilary Williams has pulled up stakes and moved to the Garden State...Leaving boy who was relocated to upstate NY from St.Louis. Still in Upstate NY!!! hmmmmm

Heart of America Leatherwoman 2003 "Shameless" has fled from the heart of America to the Garden State. How interesting both Hilary and Shameless are working for the same company!!!

Now that Connie Cox co-producer of the Northeast Leather Sir/boy contest will be moving south March 2005, What will happen to that region? I hear she has been looking for one of those tasteful Scarlett O'Hara cotillion gowns and a large plantation...Picture that!! down there in Carolina!!

Wayne Nesbitt, obviously had a good time on his first visit to the NY Eagle. People were all over him like white on rice! Or was it the other way around?

All those Will Clark fans will be happy to know he is firmly ensconced in his new upper west side digs...Well at least for the next six months!

The NY Eagle has without a doubt some of the hottest looking bartenders in Manhattan. The latest one to be added to that list is Clecio Lira. Not to mention they pour a good drink and are so personable. They even say thank you when you leave a tip, Pity the "thank you" has not caught on at some of the other NY establishments

American Leatherman Robert Napolitano celebrated his forty something birthday at a party given by his other half Walt Weis at their lovely Manhattan home. Everyone who was anyone was there. However, the best thing about that party is their boy Glen. What a treasure he is. I want one just like him, but then so did half the other guest that were invited.

A few of the attendee's to the Eagle contest thought they had seen one of the contestants on a once popular TV series. Well they were correct. He did have his 15 seconds of fame on the now defunct series Sex and the City, as the slave on the end of the leash held by Mr LURE 2002 which was filmed in front of the LUREOh, I SEE!

THE WICKED WITCH

Photos by Vern Stewart



International Leather Sir 2005 --Robert Davis
International Leatherboy 2005 - Ivan Reyes



Mid-Atlantic Sir/boy '04/'05



Mr. N.Y.Eagle Leather '05
L-R Frank Parisi, 1st Runner Up,
Robert Valin, winner,
Stephen Morris 2nd Runner up



Judges for Mr Eagle NY 2005 L-R
Storm, Brian Kent, Fernan Royo, Jason Hendrix,
Wanyne Nesbitt Rear: boy ric (judges boy)



First Leatherman of Color - 2005
John Tatum

Indian Summer? What Happened to Regular Summer?

Summer went by in such a hurry. But as one becomes older, it seems to happen that way. Regional Leather Sirboy contests are complete. All the contestants are nervously awaiting their stage debut in St. Petersburg, Florida. It has been rumored that this will be the last year that the International Leather Sir/boy contest will be held in the sunshine state.

The date for that contest will be October 9 - 11, 2004. Air fares are rather cheap now, if you make reservations at least 14 days in advance. We can only hope that the weather will not become ugly in that area in October like it has this month.

October 1 - 3, the NY Eagle will be celebrating their 34th Anniversary. Included in that weekend will be the Mr Leather NY 2005 contest. There is always a big turnout for that event. Brian Kent will be stepping aside. Brian has really put the NY leather community back on the map.

He has entertained,(he has a new cd single out) raised large sums of money for various local NY charities, and has been an excellent spokesperson for our leather community. Filling his shoes will not be easy.. If you are in NYC October 2, stop by the Eagle and say hello. The contest begins at 9 PM. Friday October 1, the Eagle will be passing out their anniversary pins.

Joining Brian on the judging panel will be Jason Hendrix, IML 04, Fernan Royo, Mr. Florida Leather 04, Storm, American Leatherwoman 04, Wayne Nesbitt, Mr. DC Eagle 98.

There seems to be no real explanation, as to why interest in competing for a leather title has declined. From coast to coast I am hearing more and more of contests being held with only one contestant entering. One contest in particular, even the one contestant entering did not win! One local midwest contest elected to cancel the contest as there were no contestants. What a sad state of affairs.

However, which is worse, to have a contest with only one contestant, or the contestant who does not have a clue as to what leather is all about or the responsibilities, or even worse does not have/own a stitch of leather? Entering a contest because a friend told you to, is not a valid reason.

Of course there are those who own some leather, enter a contest and then win, and disappear off the face of the earth until it is time for their step down speech the following year babbling on and on about what they accomplished, which in most cases was nothing.

Fortunately for the leather community (men and women) we are fortunate enough to have some outstanding titleholders and representatives. We can thank our lucky stars for them. Title holders that impress are the ones that do not disappear after their year is over. The list is endless of those who remain involved in their communities year after year, with charities, mentoring and fundraising and not trying to figure out what contest they will enter for their next sash.

The Men of Onyx, will be hosting their annual Blackout Weekend and the Onyx Leather contest October 8 - 10, 2004. Onyx now has two home bars. Touche' and the newly reopened Cell Block. The Cell Block was their original home bar. That club has grown leaps and bounds over the past 5 years, and they are a delightful bunch of leathermen.

September brings the annual Folsom Street Fair in San Francisco. A great weekend. Which begins with Leather Pride week Sept 20 - 26. If you have never attended The original Folsom Street Fair, it is an event not to be missed. It is so much fun to watch visitors faces as they see all the goings on on Folsom street that Sunday afternoon with 300,000 or more celebrants.

Dee Cee Dish....

Seems as though the Philadelphians were quite the social club at Olympia this year. Although their former Captain (recently divorced) John Loesch came alone, that did not last for long!! Not sure if he left alone.

Peter Lloyd president of the Potomac MC did not let any grass grow under his feet at Olympia. But then your feet have to be touching the ground! hmmm

The current leather title holder from Pittsburgh scored quite a hit with lots of the Pittsburgh Pirates fans when he tossed out the opening day ball a few month back.

In DuPont Circle, customers of the Fireplace bar, are quite elated that the owners have decided to do some cosmetic changes to the interior. It's about time they pulled up that smelly carpet, and put a tile floor in and a new ceiling. Wonder what they intend to do with the second floor? That carpet is still there!

Has IMDL (Intl. Deaf Leather) organization figured out a plan for collecting and distributing money. If money is being collected for an interpreters fund, lets have an accounting in the future.

If some members of the MPD (Metropolitan Police Department) in DC spent as much time patrolling the streets as they do getting free coffee at Starbucks, maybe some of the residents in the DuPont and 17th Street areas would feel a bit safer.

Amazing how many unemployed residents of DC and other cities are not as concerned anymore about who President Clinton had under his desk in the Oval Office...They were all employed then!

Anyone who does not get out and vote in Nov, you only have yourself to blame if the name on the mailbox remains the same at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. The "my vote will not make a difference" comment is now null and void.

In case you thought you heard wrong, you did not. Former DC Mayor Marion Barry is running for a city council seat this year. Put that in your pipe and smoke it. He did!

THE WICKED WITCH

Photos by Vern Stewart



Mid-Atlantic Sir/boy '04/'05



New York Eagle Owner
Derek Danton

Brian Kent'; N.Y.Eagle '04

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THE WICKED WITCH

Photos by Vern Stewart



MAL 2003 Alvin York



1st ru Mike Mitchel, Winner, Alvin York
2nd ru David Phillips



WOOF!!!



L to R David Phillips, Mark Whelan
Alvin York, David Baldwin
Mike Mitchell



Emcee Frank Nowicki
photo by Dick Johnson



Canadian LeatherMen
Douglas Conners (L) Ottawa
Paul Ciantar (R) Toronto



Cristo Webb
MAL Bootblack '03
photo by Dick Johnson

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