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LeatherWeb



Washington, D.C. Musings by Vern Stewart ARCHIVES 2004

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!

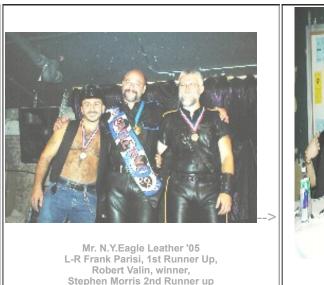
The NY Eagle has without a doubt some of the hottest looking bartenders in Manhattan. The latest one to be added to that list is Clecio Lira. Not to mention they pour a good drink and are so personable. They even say thank you when you leave a tip, Pity the "thank you" has not caught on at some of the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





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! hmmmmmm

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.

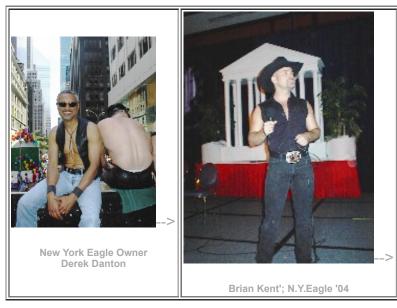
Amazing how many unemployed residents of DC and other cities are not as concerned anymore about who President Clinton had under his desk in the Oval Office...They were all employed then!

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





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The Beat Goes On and On

Mid Atlantic Leather Sir/boy contest for 2004 was held last weekend in the nations capital. Three contestants for the Sir title and three for the boy title. Robert Davis, MD. Leather Sir, Brian Lincoln, PA Leather Sir and Michael Sessa, VA Leather Sir.

Boy Ivan Fox, MD, Leather boy, boy Michael Eurbin, PA Leather boy, and boy Jeff, VA Leather boy competed for the boy title.

When the votes were tallied, Emcee Wayne Nesbitt, announced Robert Davis, and boy Ivan, as the new Mid Atlantic Leather Sir and boy. Both will compete at the Intl. Leather Sir/boy in Florida in October.

Maryland seems to be on a winning streak. It is the second year that MD. has taken the title of Mid Atlantic Leather Sir/boy. Congratulations on their success. All of the contestants did terrific job, and their fantasies were outstanding. I have no doubt that they will continue to represent their communities in an outstanding manner during their title year.

At press time the amount collected had not been disclosed as to how much money the basket auction brought in for the travel fund. However, the baskets were awesome.

DC's favorite Leather Rack Manager (Patti Brown) made absolutely sure that the scores were correct. Tally master role has become a very important aspect of a contest. The new winners were asked if either one of them were planning on vacationing in Mexico this year. Considering the fact that last year one contestant departed to Mexico as a runner up, and upon returning from vacation discovered he was Mid Atlantic Leather boy. oops!

Just when you think you will have a rest from leather contests for a few weeks, remove that thought from your mind. The big Apple kicked off their Pride week with the Northeast Leather Sir/boy contest. The event nearly did not happen because of the lack of contestants. One boy contestant does not a contest make. At the last minute two more decided to enter.

This regional leather event sends their winners to International Leather Sir/boy which will be held in St. Petersburg, FL during the month of October. The contest was held at the NY Eagle. Although little advertising occurred, a decent crowd did turn out to support Producers Michael Marino, and Connie Cox.

Outgoing 2003 title holders, Bob Forbes and boy Andy Fischman were assisted in the judging duties by Jim "Tug" Taylor, MAL 2004, Storm, American Leather Woman 04, Rick Titusboy Mansfield, Intl. Leatherboy 03, William "Rubberwilli" Schendel, Mr. Intl. Rubber 03, and Aaron Tanner, party planner and Porn Star.

Tally Masters were Robert Napolitano, and Walt Weiss. Judges boy was boy Ted. Emcee duties were handled by Joe Ricci, who celebrated his ten year anniversary as Northeast Mr. Drummer 1994.

Boy contestants were boy Joe Justin, and boy Rick Spencer. The Sir contestant was Rob Carabelli.

Rick Spencer won the Leather boy title for 2004, and Rob Carabelli is Leather Sir 04. Congratulations to the winners.

Considering the fact that the producers of this event had very little if any support from the so called leather community in and around the NYC area, it is indeed remarkable that they were

able to pull it together.

A very nice program listed the donors, who always seem to be there through thick and thin. The contest staff and the NY Eagle definitely deserve a special thank you.

Saturday night the scene shifted to the Puck Bldg. in Manhattan. The Puck bldg. for those not from NY, is the bldg. that anyone who has watched the comedy series Will & Grace, will note is the office where Grace has her design studio. (just a little trivia) Leather Pride Night auction which is an annual event and collects big bucks for well deserved charities. A final amount has not been provided. However, I am sure it was hefty. Nice to see that all aspects of the gay community come out to support that terrific event.

Now we roll around to Sunday, June 20. The eighth annual Folsom Street East Street Fair premiered at a new location this year. The fair was held on W. 28th St., located in front of the NY Eagle as well as other establishments on the block. The Weather was perfect, the men were hot, and the women were stunning in their leather attire. GMSMA sponsored and produced this event, along with the wonderful assistance of the NY Eagle.

Several thousand were in attendance. Agencies and organizations were well represented. One of the best things that occurred during the day was the entertainment. Brian Kent, Mr. Eagle NYC 04 emceed the event. But as many may or may not know, Brian is an accomplished performer. All in attendance, were given a special treat. Brian performed a single from his new just released CD. He rocked that audience. The two back up male dancers who have performed in Las Vegas had the audience panting and fanning...Oh yes they were Hot with a capital "H."

The Court system entertained as well. The current Empress (Tray la Trash) has a great voice and used it. So nice to hear a voice and not some tired lip synch number. Although there were two who lip synched and they were tired. .

The NY Eagle has become one of the most popular bars in the city. Now that the roof deck is open and a full bar, it is the place everyone wants to go. No matter if you are a smoker or not it is the cruise part of the entire bar. Sunday afternoon the place was beyond packed until well past 10 PM.

Folsom Street east, is no where near the original in SF. However it has made positive advancements. Even with all the grumbling about the new location, the fair was a success and It will be held at the same location next year.

The NYC Pride parade had to be one of the longest in recorded history. Floats were still turning on to Christopher Street in the village as late as 6 PM. The marriage theme seemed to prevail throughout the parade, as it did in other pride parades throughout the country.

The NY Leather community turned out in full force. The New York Eagle had a float loaded with hot leathermen and women. Their float gave music, and the music had the thousands along the parade route rocking. Mr. Eagle NYC 2004, (Brian Kent) had just released a new single and everyone had it memorized word for word, by the time the float reached the end of the parade.

Manhattan Dish.....

Imagine the look of surprise on some of the judges faces, when boy contestants did not kneel during the interview portion. Oh well no worse than a photographer having to ask the boy contestants to kneel for an official photograph with the Sir. Guess they just don't build those boys like they use to.

For those Sir's and boys who are entering regional contests or competing in Florida: At least look and act like you like each other. It sure shows when you don't and the judges will be making mental notes. It's sure disappointing to see title holders who can't stand to be around each other and go their separate ways. You know who you are!

In what must be a first, the DC boys of Leather have elected their first person of color as President. Congratulations to boy ky. However as President, your picture will have to surface somewhere sooner or later.

Mr. Florida Leather 2004, Fernan Royo hosted a tasteful Brunch in honor of IML 04 Jason Hendrix at his Manhattan digs. Everyone in attendance decided Fernan's second career should be as a comedienne. He had everyone rolling on the floor with his antics.

To that NY leatherman who arrived at the Street Fair proclaiming he was a top----had to have a boy tell him all his accounterments were on the wrong side! oops he was last seen dashing to a Porte potty with boy in tow to make the necessary changes. The body was by Fisher, but the brain was definitely by Mattel.

Yes, that was IML 04 trudging up to the Roof deck with sash tightly rolled up under his arm. Next time dear bring a back pack with you to stuff that sash in. You only have to wear it at Imperial State functions and when you go to bed!

If anyone happens to be in the Key West, FL. area in the next few weeks. They just may see Mr. Europe Leather 03 (Saad Hassoon). Yes, that million dollar butt will be vacationing there.

Is there a new way of advertising? Seems as though if a title holder has won a title, is there any reason to have the runner up positions listed on a business card for all the times that he did not win? Hello? Does anyone really care how many times you were first or second runner up?

It is amazing how many wannabe's think every photographer wants a picture of them with the designated subject. 'i.e.' titleholder. If professional photographers want a photo of you, they will ask you to be in the photo. At least have the common courtesy to wait. Better yet, bring your own camera. Nothing worse than submitting a photo for publication with unidentified subjects.

Should the three strikes and your out rule apply to people who run and run for titles? There was a time when a serious contender if he ran more than once, at least competed for the same title. Now it seems that any sash will do, as long as it is a sash. Sir's (allegedly) if they don't win that title, will suddenly turn around and run for the boy title the next time around. IML title the next time, then American Brotherhood and last but not least Leather Sir/boy suddenly becomes an option. Now we have guys who swore up and down to judges that they were a true boy. and that was all they ever wanted to be. Six months later there they are running for the Mr. or Sir title. But lets not forget those who have run and won Miss this or Miss that Drag titles and at the same time will run for a Leather boy or man title. Would this be considered a deceptive practice? How can one be a representative to the leather community when they are not quite clear on the concept? What's up with that? Can't they make up their mind? or are they just plain confused and not sure what or who they are? Sash queen comes to mind. No wonder mentors are far and few between. Some mentors are too busy running for titles and stroking their ego's. Would be so nice to see new faces competing occasionally.

American Leatherman 94 Victor Magide, well known photographer in Miami has surfaced. Victor has relocated to Washington, DC. and is a student at Gallaudet Univ. working on his Masters degree. Looking just as handsome as ever. and soon to be making his debut at the DC Eagle. Well, guys, fresh meat in town.

In answer to the questions that have come up within the last few months---- Collection of funds to provide interpreters at various leather events seems to be rather confusing as to who and where the money is going if for a fact any has been collected at all. Yes, it is time for an accounting. IMDL organization - are you reading this?

It has also been confirmed that IMDL contest will be held in Washington, DC in 2005 in association with the Rainbow Deaf Alliance conference. The location will be the Grand Hyatt. in downtown DC. Not too shabby I would say.

In the Gay Mecca (San Francisco) racial discrimination has reared it's ugly head. A letter was sent to the Alcoholic Beverage Control asking for the liquor license to be lifted. Informing them of alleged racial discrimination by the owner of a popular Castro Bar (Badlands) Whites entering the bar are asked for one piece of ID, Blacks are being asked for three. According to some women are not welcome as well.

Should be interesting to see how this unfolds, especially since owner in question (Les Natali) has just purchased the popular Castor bar, The Pendulum, which is frequented by Afro Americans. Stay tuned.

Good news for the Chicago leather community. The world famous Cell Block,after a four month absence will reopen for business Friday, July 23, 2004, at 8 PM. Bar owner Roger Hickey announced. The bar was sorely missed during IML this year.

The NASW (National Assn of Sash Widows), would like to welcome it's newest Member Sir Nagrom of Baltimore, MD. A former Mr. Ocean State Leather, Sir Nagrom is now the Sash widow to boy Ivan Fox, Mid Atlantic Leather boy 2004. Members will be contacting you to suggest hobbies to while away the hours...knitting, crocheting, cruising.

If anyone wondered why the producer of the Mid Atlantic LeatherSir/boy contest was not wearing leather? Well it's because some dispicable person broke into his house and helped him self to leather and other personal items. Known as the Mayor of the DC Eagle. Well Mr. Mayor how soon will we see a for sale sign going up on that property? Two times is really two times too many to be broken into. Any of those DC boys of leather trained for K-9 duty?

It is really a damn shame to have a popular so called leather bar advertise a leather contest, make money hand over fist (especially during peak summer months) and are too cheap to even pay for the title holders patch and vest.. Poor title holder had to design and pay for his own patch if he wanted one. But being the extra special title holder that he is, he will make sure his successor has a patch for a vest at his upcoming stepdown. Paid for out of his own pocket. And we wonder about some bar owners in the leather community. Shame on you.

If you happened to see the movie Terminal, and thought you recognized someone in several scenes, well you were correct. Yes that was Alvin York, Mid Atlantic Leather 2003. Well Hello Dolly!

On a final note, the witch has been looking for a computer geek who has a computer business and can remove broom bristles from my pc in the nations capital. Anyone out there?

The Wicked Witch





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THE NATIONS CAPITAL CAPTURES IML 2004 TITLE

The twenty-six annual International Mr. Leather was held during Memorial Day weekend. Jason Hendrix, Mr. DC Eagle 04 was announced as the winner. Remi Collette, Mr. Leatherman Toronto was announced as first runner up and Thomas Schoch, Mr. Fetish Switzerland 04, grabbed the second runner-up spot.

Alan Tunstall, LA Boot Black 04, was announced the winner of the Intl. Boot Black title. It can truly be said that surprise was the word as each winner was announced. Jason Hendrix's face said it all as Chuck Renslow, Executive Producer of IML announced his name.

The top twenty finalist were (in order) Fernan Royo, Mr. Florida Leather, Marc Watrel, Mr. LA Leather, Brian Kent, Mr. Eagle NYC, Tim Lott, Mr. Louisiana Leather, Ron Walters, Mr. Missouri Leather, Pierre Lavigne, Mr. Cuir Montreal, Saad Hassoon, Mr. Leather Europe, Eric Edelstein, Mr. North Coast Leather, Tug Taylor, Mr. Mid Atlantic Leather, Cesarano Catello, Mr. Leather Italia, Philipp Tanzer, German Mr. Leather, Daniel Hogue, Mr. Central CA. Leather, Jose Arteaga, Mr. Chicago Leather,

Robert Hoepfner, Bavarian Mr. Leather, Rick Iber, Mr. Texas Leather, Jim Nelson, Mr. Mid States Leather/Mr. Indiana Leather, Douglas O'Keeffe, Mr. Cell Block Leather.

The Chicago Hyatt was the host hotel, and site of the vendor market. All of the events were held at the hotel, with the exception of the contest itself. It has become increasingly obvious that more visitors are spending most of their time at the hotel cruising and not attending the Sunday night contest. Although there was a IML room rate, five days at the hotel could cost a person nearly a thousand dollars. and lets not talk about the cost of cocktails, beer or bottled water.

The usual list of parties at the hotel seemed to have doubled this year. All were well attended. The hosts of the parties were all trying to outdo each other. The San Francisco party complete with stage sets. Thirty foot tall twin towers of the Golden Gate Bridge. Disco diva Linda Clifford had the place jumping (yes they had their own entertainment).

The Onyx party outdid themselves, with the terrific music, and the room was packed. The Colorado party passed out all types of novelty items at the door. The New York Eagle brought in an NYC DJ and kept everyone jumping and bumping. Canada held their annual Maple Leaf party. Leather Archives and Museum held a Leather Casino party. Boy gatherings, Leather Sir/boy and the list just goes on and on

Plenty of meetings to attend. Leather Recovery for one. The men of Onyx hosted a workshop with panelist, for a question answer session on People of Color and the leather community which was very well attended. Ideas and thoughts were exchanged. although the one item that was not discussed was, why was there only three people of color in the contest? Hopefully this will become an annual workshop event..But Mufassa why wait until next May to have these discussions? Some attending the workshop were very surprised to learn how many black presidents of clubs there are or were, in the Northeast or Mid Atlantic regions. in the past three to four years.. Just to name a few, The Utica Tris, Utica, NY., The STARS, Albany, NY, Defenders (NY Chapter) Promethean Guards, Highwaymen TNT, Washington, DC. The Panthers (NYC) just to name a few. Have any of these past or current presidents ever contacted each other?

The Sunday night main event at the Congress Theater had several technical problems which left some contestants and the audience somewhat confused. However the bars in the lobby of the Congress were doing big business.

Entertainment at the contest itself was less than appealing. A group called the Bootlickers attempted to entertain the audience. Perhaps they should have done what their name reflected, and left the singing to someone else.

Tom Stice handled the emcee duties for the evening. The technical problems he had to endure were not his fault. It does seem as though the contest becomes longer (time wise) each year. John Pendal gave a splendid 39 minute step down speech. Intl. Boot Black Richie Chamaroy 2003 said his thank you in 15 min.

Judges George Hester, John Pendal, Randie Smith, Dan Hughes, John Weis, George Wong, David Allen, Andy Anderson, and Mary Elizabeth Boyd did not have an easy time selecting this years winner.

Speaking of a real trooper, judge Mary Elizabeth Boyd was not feeling all that well the entire weekend. Upon returning home she made a trip to the doctor, who immediately took one look at her and admitted her to the hospital. She underwent heart surgery the following morning. She is recovering very nicely, and thanks everyone for their concern and cards and flowers.

It has been said many times if you have never attended IML, it is an experience that you will never forget. IML 2005 May 26 - 30.

Windy City Dish......

Intl. Leather boy, 03 was sure busy "serving." Allegedly moving to the windy city. one wonders if that destination has changed to Grand Rapids, Michigan and moving in with contestant # 51? Hmmmmm Oh yes, the shadow knows who was in that contestants room!

If there was ever an award given for Intl. best butt...Hands down this year it would have gone to Contestant # 37. Saad Hassoon, originally from Iraq, now living in Sweden. The red tape he had to go through just to make it to the US to attend IML was worthy of a standing ovation.

Mr. Cell Block 2004 was lamenting that he had no bar to support him. Well, the Cell Block is currently closed. However, keep your panties on. The bar will be reopening in short order. Make sure you are there when it does!

Just who advised some of the contestants on what to wear? Did they pick up an old, old copy of Clown Wear Daily? One contestant was asked by a judge during interview, why he had no leather on? The answer was "Well I did'nt think I had to wear it for the interview," I will have it on all weekend! DUH? Most likely he could not find his butt with a search warrant.

On another note---- Would someone kindly inform that recent national titleholder, that sneakers do not compliment the sash. Take some money from your travel fund and buy yourself a pair of leather boots! I am sure they have boot shops somewhere in the San Joquin Valley.

Nowhere on the IML contestant application did I read clothing optional at contestant interview...So why were there bimbo's walking into that session totally nude? Did they expect extra points? or were they waiting for the judges to break into a chorus of "It's a small, small world"? The nude thing has already been done. Just ask a Boston contestant a couple of years back. And he did not win the title either! Less is not always more!

When one of the judges asked the question, "Are you a sash queen?" to some of the contestants, what do you think they were REALLY asking you? Like, give it a rest! But then when the Intl. Grandpa/Grandma contest is produced go for it! Rather than entering every dog and pony show, why not become a mentor to the new and inexperienced future generation of leathermen?

Interesting to observe some of the International title holders during the past year who's ego's have swelled to unimaginable proportions. Two years from now the public won't even remember your name.

The IML 25 years of Champions book which is on sale with the proceeds going to the LA&M;, is well worth having. Tons of beautiful color pictures of our rich past. It is only \$19.95. You should own one. They make a great gift especially for Christmas. You can go to the IMRL website for ordering the book.

Perhaps someone might know the answer to this question. Why would a person prepare enter a local area contest, win that contest, and prepare for IML? Arrive at IML and go to the contestant interview, and inform the judges that you really do not want to win! You tell them that you are afraid you will not be able to live up to the title. Oh yes it happened this year. Not once but twice. Why would a person waste everyone's time (including the bar owner/sponsor)? Would that person be known as a brain dead sash queen?

Many people wondered why there was not an Ebony Leather contest this year? Perhaps the producer or owner should consider letting some other organization produce the contest if anyone is interested. By the way, where was the last Mr. Ebony Leather? Another vanishing cream award in the making.

San Francisco is still reeling from the news that Daddy's bar has been sold. No idea as to what changes the new owner plans to make. The late Daddy Philip Turner must be rolling in his grave. The Pendulum bar another Castro landmark is rumored to have also changed hands or will shortly.. The

owners of the Moby Dick bar in the Castro, are rumored to be the new owners of Daddy's. And the owner of Castro landmark Badlands, is rumored to be the new bar owner of the Pendulum.

Now we know why Daddy's pulled out all the stops and threw such a grand party at IML..It very well may be the last one.

Intl. Mr. Drummer 98 (Herve' Bernard) breezed in from Paris for the weekend. Looking just wonderful, and ALONE, I might add.

I wonder if David Kloss and Remi Collette rode their new Harley back to Toronto. David was the lucky winner of the Harley that IML John Pendal put up for raffle. It was his prize last year Tickets were only \$20.00, and David bought 10. the proceeds went to the Spanner fund and the LA&M.; well over \$10,000.00 was raised. Not a bad investment for a tewnty thousand dollar bike. Training wheels were not included

THE WICKED WITCH





IML Line '04



TWO A's IN ONE MONTH

The month of April gave us two special leather events. Empire State Leather held in Albany, NY. and American Brotherhood Weekend, held in Washington, DC. Both were wonderful events. The STARS of Albany hosted their annual event. With the exception of the after hours party and the interview portion and brunch, everything was held at the Club Phoenix bar and entertainment complex. Three contestants were vying for the title of Mr. Empire State Leather 2004. There was a nice turnout for the weekend event. It was indeed great to see a large representation from the Ottawa Knights...They do support their neighbors to the South. Judges for the event included Jill Carter (head judge) Tug Taylor, MAL 2004, Don Muscante, President of the Hartford Colts, Al Lawrence President of AMCC, and Vern Stewart. Tally Mistress Connie Cox, and Tally Master Coyote. Sal Susino handled the Den Daddy duties. The exceptional Boy Rick was the Judges boy, and Queen Cougar was the emcee for the weekend. The StARS always put their best foot forward, and the buffet dinner was delicious. The RI Enforcers hosted a kick ass after hours party. The contestants were put through their paces in the four categories. Kevin Perdue, Furby, and BJ. When the votes were tallied, Furby was announced as the new Mr. ESL Leather 2004.

Disappointing as it was, ESL 2004 will not compete in any leather events until 2005. The STARS board felt he would not have enough time to prepare for ABW 2004. which was a few weeks later. We will have to wait and see. With a year to prepare for ABW 2005 he should be at the top of his game. Congratulations to the STARS for a really wonderful weekend. STARS President Hilary Williams and the entire club really out did themselves..... A wonderful weekend was had by all in attendance.

American Brotherhood premiered at a new location this year. The contest was held in Virginia, across the Potomac from Washington, DC. The Sheraton Hotel was the site. A very nice hotel to say the least. Although one wonders how prepared the hotel staff was for what they were about to see and hear. If they were not prepared, we can only hope that they will be by next year. It was announced the hotel will be the site of ABW 2005. It might be advisable for the hotel management to hold a sensitivity training course for their employees before next years event. A few attendee's expressed disappointment that it was not held in the District of Columbia. However there was a shuttle van to get people back and forth into the city and to other bars and businesses.

The registration was considerably higher than in past years, and the ABW staff and volunteers did everything to make things run smoothly. Things ran like clockwork...If there were behind the scene problems, no one was aware.

A number of IML contestants were in attendance and nearly all the IML judges were there. Friday night was more than the usual meet and greet of judges and contestants. This year the contestants were given the opportunity to introduce themselves, and a few minutes to speak.

Bob Brunson, Manager of Daddy's Bar in SF, hosted an evening of entertainment at the opening party which included songstress Abigail. Rounds of applause erupted before, during and after. Needless to say there were many after hour parties. Also those who spent time at the bars in DC returned with smiles on their faces in the wee hours.

The program book this year was exceptional, and a special thank you goes to Ryan Goldner for heading that. Judges for this years event were Judy Tallwing McCarthy, head judge, Sandy, "Mama" Reinhardt, David Kloss, IML 79, and the outgoing American Leather Family, Bill Mitchell, ALM 2003, Sheryl Dee, ALW 2003, Boy Jeff Nowak. John Weis, Marcus Hernandez, and Mik Miller the original founder of ABW.

Peter Kincheloe, Jim Raymond and Peter Lloyd were the Tallymasters. Boy Tim and boy Jesse were the Judges boys. Seventeen total contestants were running for the various titles, which this year included a new title--American Leather Girl.

The contest was divided into two days of Fantasies and speeches. In addition to the basket auction, which the proceeds went to several organizations, and the travel fund. Nearly 31,000.00 was collected which surly has to be a record in basket auctions.

There was one fantasy which took the audience by storm. Only because of who was in the fantasy. Bound gagged and no broom! The witch made an appearance. And that is all that will be said about that!

When all the tally masters added up the scores the results were: Robert Napolitano NYC, American Leatherman 2004, Storm, MS, NJ Leather, American Leather Woman 2004, Terry Brown, Kansas City, American Leatherboy 2004 and Libby Abate, Ms. Central, CA Leather as American Leather Girl 2004. The crowd was please and roared their approval. ABW has certainly come a long way in it's 14 years of existence. Congratulations to the staff and volunteers who made it all possible...

DISH CHERRY BLOSSOM STYLE......

The clamoring over Mr. Michigan Leather (Bob Rose) at ABW and who was going to snag him for the night was something to behold...Don't know who was the lucky one (or ones) during the weekend.

Women ogling Ms. Philadelphia Leather 2003, and that low cut dress she was wearing.not just low cut in the front. If it was cut any lower in the back she would have had two more cheeks to powder!

And then we have Judy Tallwing McCarthy looking slim and svelte and dancing like a disco dolly with that new knee implant. My my!

And just who said Master Jlammer and Wayne Nesbitt could pass for twins? No, we do not all look alike thank you very much!

Did not take the new ALM long to grab his first "piece" as a new title holder! Oh, I see! Well, he did win the Brotherhood award. (also known as the Miss Congeniality) Or was that his significant other doing the snatching and grabbing? Guess Sash widows do what they have to do!

I guess it can be termed "Artistic Differences" but yet again another Manager at the Baltimore Eagle has departed. At the rate that bar is going, the Guinness Book of Records people will be knocking at their door.

Just in case tally masters forget, they are the guest of the sponsoring club that invited them and have no right to hold on to any scores once the contest is over. The scores are the property of that club. regardless of who did or did not win!!... And no I do not mean ABW tally masters. More like 350 miles north of DC. was the scene of that eposode.

Now that the Willow Grove Trio has become a duo....Look out California---Queen Cougar is on her way back. Ready, willing and definitely able! Actually QC has has arrived in the golden state. and is working her mojo.

After 20 years of emceeing the Bare Chest Calendar, Mr. Marcus has decided to resign. I wonder if the Bare chest committee have a clue to what an impact Marcus had in getting that up and rolling to the success it is today?

No one has heard a word about the Ebony Leather contest this year. What's up with that? Has that fallen by the wayside?

And talk about a quick change--The Cell Block Bar in Chicago changed hands last fall, and is now about to change hands again! Rumors have it that It will revert back to the original owner again...Hope it is up running and ready by IML....But if not, Touche' is definitely ready and so is owner Chuck Roderker... Chuck has revived the Mr Windy City Leather contest and will have a contestant entering IML this year.

If hairy posterior's are a turn on for you, wait til you get a look at the new Mr ESL's backside...it could be braided into corn rows!!!

Sometimes it pays to travel to other cities and do a spot check on new bartenders and barbacks. Such was the case in Albany, NY. What a nice, friendly man by the name of Tom now works at the Phoenix bar.. My my someone should be grooming him for a leather title. So shy and not jaded. A rareity these days.

And to that former titleholder who thought he was being funny by sending out a bogus April Fool's email, filled with lies pertaining to the closing of the NY Eagle...How mean was that? The only fool in April was HIM!

And on a lighter note--- The new American Leather Girl 2004 has acquired a new nickname. Miss Sun Maid. Well, after all she is from Fresno, CA. If my memory serves me correctly, is that not the raisin capital of the world?

The Wicked Witch...



California LeatherMan Master Jammer



Jimmy Lee Murry, The first Mr. Ebony Leather & Mr. NAL 2000



ESL 2004 (L-R) BJ, Furby, and Kevin



ABW Leather Family 2004 (L-R) Robert Napolitano, Storm--(Kneeling) Terry Brown, Beth Abate

Mr. Ottawa Leather 2004



Queen Cougar and Empire State Contestants

L-R MAL 2004 and Alvin York, MAL 2003



Mid Atlantic Leather L-R Dennis McMahon, Tug Taylor, Jerel Cooper



Jerel Cooper Mr NJ Leather 2003

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A Windy City Weekend

Chicago was one place members of the leather tribe conveniened during Valentine Day weekend. Pantheon of Leather held their annual award show and the Mr. and MS Olympus contest.

Across town the world famous Cell Block hosted Leatherfest. The spotlight being on the Mr. Cell Block Leather contest. The bar was extremely busy Friday night with registration for Pantheon weekend being held there, and the meet and greet for judges and contestants for both events.

It was a Frank Nowicki weekend. He basked in the spotlight, emceeing the Cell Block contest, the Pantheon Award ceremony, and the Mr. and MS Olympus contest. Let us not forget (or should we), that he also had the emcee duties for the SALIVA CONTEST, which was held at Touche'

Contestants and observers alike were busy cabing it back and forth across the city in very brisk Chicago weather. Four contestants competed for the Olympus contest, and five contestants were vying for the Mr. Cell Block title.

Cell Block contestants were Erick Occasio, Steven Maxey, Doug O'Keeffe, Remington Van Allen, and Clayton Pelno. Brian-Mark, was Den Daddy, Bill Stadt handled the Tally Master duties. The bar was packed both nights and Sunday afternoon for the Onyx Beer Blast.

Judges for the Cell Block contest were Patti Brown, Adrian Williams, John Pendal, Walter Klinger and Vern Stewart. When the scores were tabulated Doug O' Keeffee was announced at Mr. Cell Block 2004. Erick Occasio, first runner up, and Steven Maxey second runner up.

Outgoing Mr. Cell Block (Adrian Williams) gave a short and to the point thank you speech which was loudly cheered. John Pendal, IML 03 gave a very passionate speech with regard to fundraising for the charities and organizations that are near and dear to him. The leather Archives, and the Spanner fund to be specific. He also reminded every one of the opportunity each of us have to be the proud owner of that beautiful Harley that he won, as his prize, and is raffling off, to raise money for the aforementioned organizations.

Twenty dollars per raffle ticket is a small amount to give for the chance of a lifetime to be a Harley owner. The winner will be announced at IML 2004.

Mr. and MS Olympus 2004 titles went to Daddy Mikey from Oklahoma City. The Ms. Olympus is Lillian Hannah, Louisville, KY. The new arm pit licker title (Saliva) went to Connie Cox. Poor John Pendal's pits will never be the same. Connie's tongue found areas that he never knew he had! Jeez, one more to add to the parade of title holders!

Congratulations to all the Pantheon winners this year

As many have heard, the Cell Block was sold to new owners several months back. Of course jaws began to flap over what may or may not happen to the bar and if it would retain it's leather atmosphere.

Owners Jamie Fritz and Toby Kane are two of the most delightful dedicated and fun people that this reporter has had the pleasure of meeting in a long time. Having visited the bar, I find very little has changed, and some of the cosmetic changes were for the good. All the hoopla over the cell bars coming down. Good, their gone! and for once you can actually look out the front windows. Did you know there were windows? Gone are the days of dark rooms painted black. This is not the 50's or the 60's where gay men and women were not seen or heard. The back bar and back room at the Cell Block still exists. So don't get your panties in a knot!

Anyone in their right mind knows that new ownership brings change. And the right for new management to make those changes. Just where is it written in stone, only people in full leather can go into a leather bar? All the old guard leathermen are slowly disappearing. Leather to the younger generation is not always a replica of a Tom of Finland drawing. Leather is expensive and not everyone can purchase thousands of dollars worth of leather at one time. So we have punk leather. So what?

So to all those crotchety, addlepated old leather queens in Chicago, whose sense of loyalty dissolved because new owners came along and made some changes, fine, trot off to another so called leather bar. What happens if that bar should change hands? Will you desert that bar also?...

Have some become so forgetful that you cannot remember the first leather bar]you attended? And did you walk in encased in full leather? Yeah Right! The 60's, 70's and 80's are gone, and so are most of those leathermen. We can instill and educate our younger brothers and sisters all that is near and dear to us. But we cannot expect things to remain as they once were. Leather, and those who wear it as an integral part of their being, life and soul, should be and always will be respected. Without them none of the younger generations of leather people would be where they are today.

Change is not always a bad thing. So it may be well worth the time to help and mentor our young and to instill in them what some of the older generation perhaps may have forgotten when they were that age.

To those clubs and patrons that call the Cell Block their home bar, support the bar don't desert the bar. Lets face it, how important was it when you met that cute number, if he/she was wearing tennis shoes, when they got out of their clothes and into your bed?

Of course leather contests, and those competing in them and representing the leather community should have respect for the title, the true meaning of leather and be dressed appropriately no doubt about it.

Windy City dish dot, dot, dot

Douglas Connors Mr. Ottawa Leather 03, is having such a terrible time trying to figure out what to do with his hair, now that it is long again. Well, hon, you can dash into Vidal Sassoon's and have them put it in a French twist!

People are still in shock over the demise of Male Hide Leather. The pillar leather store for well over twenty years in Chicago. What a shame the new owners did not quite have it together.

JUST WHEN YOU THINK YOU HAVE HEARD IT ALL DEPT.----- Imagine this, several hundred people attending the Cell Block contest. A question was asked to each of the contestants while on stage.. One particular question was---Many leather contests are held during the year. However, there

seems to be very few people of color who enter contests. As a title holder, what could you or would you do to perhaps change that? That contestants answer was---Well, I guess I would have to go to a "COLORED" bar and find some! Needless to say, every mouth in the bar fell open. He was dead serious! He was seen fleeing out the door when the contest ended. No, he did not win, place or show!

The club members of ONYX searched the Chicago telephone directory looking for such a bar, but nothing was listed.

Just when you think you have heard it all, another disgusting situation pops up..... A certain contestant of a recent leather contest borrowed leather to enter the contest. When the contest was over, would you not think that the so called leather person would return what he borrowed? Well, guess again. Not only did the person not return the borrowed items, but the owner of said leather had to take him to court to get the items back. Aren't we glad that one did not win? The lesson to be learned, Don't lend anything to anyone, or you may wind up in front of Judge Judy.

Just who does that former leather title holder think she is? Dispensing unwarranted and unnecessary how to judge comments to a judge for IML. Obviously he was selected for his knowledge and know how. He was not amused. Hopefully it went in one ear and out the other. Straighten up your own act first dear.

Inquiring minds would like to know----- Since money has been donated to International Deaf Leather to provide interpreters for leather events, how does one go about obtaining an interpreter for future contests? Just who is in charge of that fund?

While on that subject, congratulations go to Timmy Snider who has been an interpreter for more contests than this person can remember. It's about time he was given the recognition due him. Thank you Dave Rhodes and the Pantheon of Leather Board.

Mr. SF leather 1990 (Ray Tilton) had an interesting conversation with a former DC Eagle title holder and restaurant owner visiting SF. They must have been exchanging recipes. But how do you do that when your face down in the pillow? Question is, who was face down? Hmmmmm

Tug Taylor, MAL 04, Mr., DC Eagle 04, and Mr. Double L Leather 04 Had all their clothes auctioned off their bodies, at the annual Scarlet Bake Sale during Valentine day weekend in DC. The only thing that was not auctioned off was the tiny bar towel left to cover their whatchamacallit. A hefty sum of 7500.00 was raised for local DC organizations. Good show!

The Wicked Witch



Adrian Williams Giving his stepping aside speech



L-R Steven Maxey, Second Runner up, Doug O'keeffe. Winner, Erick Occasio, first runnerup----Mr Cell Block 2004



Mr Cell Block Leather '04 contestants.

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ALVIN YORK CAPTURES MAL TITLE

The state of Wisconsin, and the city of Milwaukee now has the newest leather title holder. Thirty-four year old Alvin York walked away with the Mid-Atlantic Leather title January 19, in Washington, DC., When the selection was announced a thunderous roar of approval was heard.

Photo by

Dick Johnson It was indeed wonderful to see MAL 2002, David Baldwin in attendance. Illness had nearly prevented him from attending. Thanks David for representing the Mid-Atlantic Region so well during you year. We all wish you a speedy recovery.

First runner-up honors went to Mike Mitchell, Mr. Double L 2002. The second runner up was David Phillips, Alexandria, VA. Mr. Connecticut Leather, Mark Whelan was awarded the Brotherhood award. Ten contestants were vying for the top honor. Leather weekend 2003 played to a packed crowd the entire weekend. The Centaur M/C, host of the event once again pulled off a flawless event. It is safe to say that a good time was had by all in attendance. Contestants were, Mark Whelan, Michael Sessa, Steven Hines, Alvin York, Ross DeRose, Michael Mitchell, David Phillips, Tony Hess, Bill Dana and Greg Kubeja.

Three contestants were running for the MAL Bootblack title. Alan Turnstall, Steven Hagen and Cristo Webb. That title went to Cristo Webb who hails from Indianapolis The winner will compete in May at IML in Chicago for the Intl. Bootblack title.

Several new things were added to the weekend. For the first time a tent was erected around the pool at the host hotel. The idea was great, unfortunately the heaters did not work on Friday night, which forced many in attendance to head for the warmth of the hotel lobby, considering the temperature in the nations capital never rose above freezing the entire weekend. Fortunately the problem was resolved by Saturday afternoon. Also this year, a non-smoking bar was added on the second floor of the hotel. Cigar smokers were encouraged to smoke their stogies in the tent. which very few were inclined to do.

So many sponsors and organizations were hosting parties and benefits that one was hard pressed to try and attend all of them. Masters and slaves, DC boys of Leather, The Women's party, Chicago Hellfire, The American Leather Family's Adopt a boy night which raised around \$ 4500.00 for charity, and the annual ever popular **Onyx** party. just to name a few.

The Vendor Market was very busy all weekend and cash registers were humming a tune. All in all Leather Weekend was a smashing success, and the Centaur M/C once again pulled off another great event. Can you believe it has been 10 years since emcee Frank Nowicki strutted his stuff across the MAL stage? My how the years fly by. Yes, he did wear a custom made tenth anniversary outfit! And not a hair out of place----as usual! But what would you expect from the DIVA!

IML Producer Bill Stadt, and David Rosenberg held a press conference Saturday afternoon during MAL weekend to announce the judges for the 25 anniversary of IML. The selections consist of: Peter Fiske, San Francisco, Joe Harnett, Sallinis, Ireland, Chris Holmgren, Toronto, Canada, Michael Horowitz, Forest Hills, NY. Bob Maddox, Chicago, IL. Andy Mangels, Portland OR. Larry Manion, St Louis, MO. Judy Tallwing McCarthy, Forks, WA. and Stephen Weber, IML 2002. Tally Masters: Phyllis Darcy, Thornton, CO. American Leather Woman 2001, and Brian "pup" Mullikin, Chicago, IL American Leather boy 2001.

For the first time since 1987, the prize package will include a brand new black HARLEY DAVIDSON. It is to be a 100th Anniversary XLH Sportster 883 Motorcycle **FREEZING DC DISH----** One of the most amusing items this year was the MAL poster. A take-off on Washington crossing the Delaware. Indeed it was funny to see who wasin the boat. At least times have changed, Among the crew members in that boat was Wayne Nesbitt, and he was sitting in the front of the boat! Poor George just rolled over in his grave.

Lots of boys showing off their new Daddies. Kei Fenton oiled up that new hip and made his appearance with the very handsome Darryl Smith. Yes, this is another one of those long distance romances. From NH, to the Bronx. Amtrak thanks you both for the business.

If you were wondering why you did not see Jo, and Annie Romano-Blas attending MAL, Well it's because they were still thawing out from their visit to Willow Grove, PA, the previous week to attend the annual Jill Carter and family 12th night party! My my my, the things that went on at that party! But the food was fabulous as was the hospitality.

What ugliness has surfaced in San Diego, with a want to be title holder. A boy with as nasty a mouth. Racial slurs, and bad mouthing some of those in that leather community, He should really kiss his chances at ABW GOOD-BYE! and stick to what he knows best, being a tired drag queen!!! That one SHOULD NOT BE SEEN OR HEARD FROM ----EVER!

The rumors that were circulating last year concerning the closing of the LURE seem to have validity to them. April seems to be the date that the bar will close it's doors at the current location in the meat district of the Lower West Side of Manhattan. It has been established that a new spot has been found on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. Stay tuned.

Just when Mr. Ebony Leather 2002 was about to snatch the VANISHING CREAM AWARD, suddenly he was upstaged by a dark horse contender...Tino, of Tino's Leather vanished into thin air. His Eigth

Ave store is dark and empty. It's anyone's guess where he disappeared to. Rumors are abounding, However, the Windy City may know the answer to that one!

Washington, DC already has enough problems with the ABC attempting to close down establishments and Organizations like Black Rose and Sigma. Both have had to move their events to other private locations, yet there are idiots, like two in particular, attending MAL who just had to create a scene in the lobby of the host hotel with all their S/M activities and flogging, was that not the reason there were play parties, and hotel rooms for all that. Pity Security had to be called.

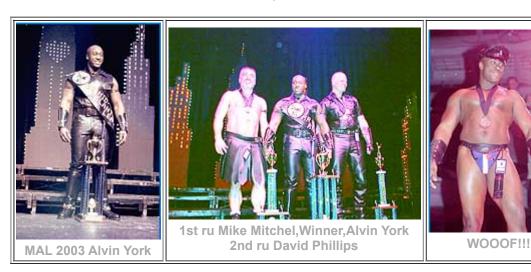
After years and years of the Scarlet Bake sale being held at the DC Eagle, this Year the board decided to hold the event at Hamburger Mary's. I would not even venture to guess Why. Hmmmm

What a surprise to see Paul Zinzer, former Mr. Lure, and runner-up to IML Kevin Cwyana attending MAL...Ah yes, the romance has developed between he and MAL 2000. I guess it is true, Title holders date title holders and fall in love.....SIGH-----

Imagine Intl. Leather Sir Leather boy President being sued. Well, he have been. Served with papers on Christmas Eve, by none other than the Academy of Motion Pictures. Arts and Sciences; Yeah that one in Hollywood. Why? Because their logo, looks too much like OSCAR! I never knew Oscar wore a biker cap! Stay tuned

When Michael Marino announced last week that he was returning to college, One observer commented, Good, 'bout time for you to get off the streets so others can have a chance to grab a trick or two.

THE WICKED WITCH





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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