

# Queerty

Free of an agenda. Except that gay one.

<http://www.queerty.com>

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## PHOTOS: Pillow Talk With Tony

**MORNING GOODS ?** We always giggle a little bit when, during standard research for working on this website, we stumble across an online underwear store that offers those skimpy pieces of fabric masquerading as undergarments, and wonder who are the guys actually modeling this stuff. And then we found Tony - and Page 11.

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## Megan Phelps Picked Her 5 Most Hated Americans and None of Them Are Lady Gaga

The [twentysomething terror](#) lists them in order: 1) Barack Obama, and all political and military leaders; 2) Joel Osteen, and all religious leaders; 3) John Mayer, and all entertainers, especially Beyonce and John Mayer; 4) Ellen DeGeneres, and all persons "pushing fags" and gay marriage; and 5) Oprah, and all wealthy Americans who control the media.

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## Why Are There a Bunch of Naked Men Playing Baseball in the Library of Congress?

**THE SHOT &mdash;** A mural, painted in the late 19th century by Frederick C. Martin, that hangs in the Great Hall of the Library of Congress, and shows a nine naked men playing baseball. According to Library staffer Susan Reyburn, the mural has been there since the building opened in 1897, and is "one of about five images depicting ancient games, showing the Olympic ideal." Except, as [Asylum notes](#), "they didn't play baseball in ancient Greece. Nor did they play American football, another anachronistic ceiling mural found in the Great Hall."

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### **Sen. Gillibrand's DADT Strategy Isn't Meshing With LGBT Military Activists. That's a Big Problem**

Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand has a [grand plan to withhold federal dollars from the Pentagon](#) for the use of investigating Don't Ask Don't Tell charges. Except gay rights advocates don't think this is the best way to go about things. Um, does this mean Gillibrand is completely ignoring what LGBT activists want?

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### **Trans Soldiers Are a Terrorist Bathroom Joke to NPR. But What About Real-Life T-roops?**

Sometimes NPR is home to [reasonable discussions about queers](#). Other times, [not so much](#). But for a radio network that's living in [a confused world of outing](#), it's gone farther than even we expected in making fun of Americans who don't stick to gender norms.

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## **GLAAD Arrives Late to the Capleton Reggae Boycott. And Ignores Its Very Vocal Informant**

Capleton, a Jamaican dancehall star who, like Buju Banton, includes anti-gay lyrics in his songs, and signed off on the Reggae Compassionate Act in 2007, is watching his American concert tour begin to crumble after international pressure from grassroots activists had venues realizing just where their profits were about to come from. That is, from a guy who sings "shoulda know seh Capleton bun battyman, dem same fire apply to di lesbian? (?you should know that Capleton burns queers, the same fire applies to lesbians?). And now, GLAAD is on the case, issuing a call to action to generate further support for getting Capleton's dates killed. Which is great news, but also has San Francisco activist Michael Petrelis upset the group isn't even crediting how they found out about someone making a career off gay hatred.

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## **Forget Everything You Know About Deep Throating**

And get a load of this mouthful.

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## **5 Homosexuals Take Turns Speaking to a Camera**

Kicking off last week, "[Telephone](#)" director [Ryan James Yezak](#) and a gaggle of 'mos started "Gays of the Week," a real-life serial where, each weekday one of these five gays will share a few moments of their personal lives. And take your questions! This is why someone invented the WWW, people.

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## Well How Would You Feel If the Transit Authority Called the Subway Running Thru Chelsea "The Pink Line"?

"Asian-American activists offended that MARTA re-named the train line into the heart of Atlanta's Asian community the "yellow line" will take their objections to the transit agency's chief on Friday. 'Yellow,' as a term for skin color, carries a generally negative, racist connotation among Asians." [\[AJC\]](#)

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## Old Spice's Marketing Strategy: Make Fun of Men Who Act Femme

Can marketers engage in gender stereotypes without offending the PC police? Doubtful! So let's see if Old Spice's new ad for men's bodywash can get away with advising American women not to let their men go another day smelling feminine.

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## It Wouldn't Be Black History Month Without Claiming These Black Celebs Are Gay

February, the shortest month of the year, is Black History Month in the United States. (It's LGBT History Month in the U.K.) While NBC is celebrating [with a fried chicken menu in the commissary](#), the gossipmongers at Datalounge are spending the month speculating about possibly gay black celebs. Which means they are "on the down low," that naughty phrase black men who sleep with men always get stuck with. But enough about political correctness, let's get to the guessing!

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## Marc Jacobs' Trademark Infringement Suit Against Hack Christian Audigier

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## PHOTOS: Pipe Dreams

**GRATUITOUS SKIN ?** Once upon a time, underwear lines aimed at gay men were a small time, niche industry. Now we can name a dozen different brands - that all feature butt-lifting technology or junk-enhancing designs. So what do we like about Pipe Underwear? A return to form over function. Because our drawers need to look pretty; we'll rely on the gym to make our ass look good in them.

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## Rep. Joe Sestak's Calm, Eloquent and Kick-Ass Rebuttal of DADT Supporters

Rep. Joe Sestak, the Pennsylvania Democrat, is hoping to upgrade to the U.S. Senate as he faces off against sitting Sen. Arlen Specter in November. But it's not just Sestak's political ambitions that factor into his support for a DADT repeal; it's his record as a three star admiral in the Navy.

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## **NOM Doesn't Have a Problem With Judge Vaughn Walker Being Gay. Just With His Radical Activism**

Oh, Brian Brown, how you slay us. You don't care, you [say](#), that [Perry's Judge Vaughn Walker is gay](#). You just care that he's clearly biased!

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## **How a Promise From Iowa's Democrats to Shut Down Marriage Repeal Could Ultimately Fail**

By keeping the bill to repeal the state's gay marriage law in committee - a tactic being used by Statehouse Democrats to ensure it doesn't go to the floor for a full vote - beyond 18 days, legislators can actually, with 51 votes, force the bill to go to a full vote. Which is [what Republicans are trying to do](#). Though the Senate could still halt the bill's progress. So, yea?

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**"It's up to us to define what must happen next, what will happen next. Whose calling is that if not ours? An agenda? Yes, I have an agenda"**

**SOUNDBITES ?** "There will be a day when people will wonder how our rights were even an issue. What was the big deal? This state of inequality cannot be our children or grandchildren's inheritance. That means stepping up and answering the call that this moment in history offers. We have an opportunity to lead. It's up to us to define what must happen next, what will happen next. If we do not step up with an expansive view of what it means to be lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender, if we don't explain that being LGB or T is simply being human, we will be making a mistake. Whose calling is that if not ours? An agenda? Yes, I have an agenda." &mdash;NGLTF chief Rea Carey, during her keynote speech at the group's Creating Change conference

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## **How Did a Company That Offers Health Benefits For Gay Partners Wind Up on HRC's List of Worst Companies?**

Like GLAAD does for the media, the Human Rights Campaign charges itself, every year, with policing. For GLAAD, it's the media; for HRC, it's the American workplace. Which companies are LGBT friendly?, it asks, and then puts together a list of American businesses that provide things like health benefits for same-sex partners, anti-discrimination policies, have LGBT employee groups, and advertise to the gay market. It's called [the 2010 Corporate Equality Index](#), and some "305 businesses received top ratings." Which also means some businesses received terrible ratings. But of the tens of thousands of giant companies out there, how did some of these firms - which actually do have some LGBT offerings - manage to end up bottoming for HRC?

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## **Lt. Dan Choi Has Been Called ? Back to Service?**

Dan Choi, the U.S. Army first lieutenant, all but assured himself a dismissal from the armed forces after going on Rachel Maddow's television program in March 2009 and violating the second phrase of Don't Ask Don't Tell. So how come he's back on active duty?

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## Jesse Archer & Friends Cannot Keep Their Clothes On

**THE SHOT &mdash;** Jesse Archer, the actor and Out columnist, who [in October claimed the](#)

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## Will New Hampshire's Judiciary Committee Recommend a Marriage Repeal (And Ban)?

Today the New Hampshire House's Judiciary Committee will [make a recommendation](#) to fellow lawmakers as to whether gay marriage, just five weeks old there after taking effect Jan. 1, should be repealed. That, and whether they should act on a proposed state constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage outright. Let's be honest: These bills have little chance of making it out of committee, but that's not the point.

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## The Maryland Church That Dares Accept Homos Is Drawing the Wrath of Catholic Leaders

If you ever needed reason to believe the fine folks behind the Roman Catholic Church were the leaders of a cult, then you need only look at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' response to a Maryland church standing in support of gay marriage: don't trust them!!

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### 3 Rhode Island Gubernatorial Candidates Will Commit to Gay Marriage. OK, Then What?

If elected governor of Rhode Island, three candidates hoping to replace the termed-out heterosexist Gov. Don Carcieri promise to support marriage equality. But what does "support" mean?

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### PHOTOS: (Not) Maeder In the USA

**MORNING GOODS ?** Leandro Maeder, the Swiss model, has done the runway circuit, print editorial and advertising, and, most impressively, Queerty. [Twice](#).

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### The Print Edition of Levi Johnston's Bare Bum Is Coming (And Can Finally Reserve a Place In Your Attic)

**THE SHOT &mdash;** We already know Levi Johnston didn't bare all for Playgirl, but so far our enjoyment of the famous loose-lipped baby daddy has been relegated to computer screens (and iPhone backgrounds). No more! The print issue of Playgirl, which normally doesn't exist, hits on Feb. 22. And it sports what's perhaps the most revealing - or at least, least covering - photo of all. But that's not all the brand, now targeting gay men, is doing to entice new customers: There will also be a pay-per-view special hitting your cable box Feb. 12.

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**"Try never mentioning your spouse, your family, your home, your girlfriend or boyfriend to anyone you know or work with ? just for one day"**

**SOUNDBITES ?** "Rich says that it's no big deal to live hiding one's sexual orientation. If you're straight, try it for one day. Try never mentioning your spouse, your family, your home, your girlfriend or boyfriend to anyone you know or work with - just for one day. Take that photo off your desk at work, change the pronoun you use for your spouse to the opposite gender, guard everything you might say or do so that no one could know you're straight, shut the door in your office if you have a personal conversation if it might come up. Try it. Now imagine doing it for a lifetime. It's crippling; it warps your mind; it destroys your self-esteem. These men and women are voluntarily risking their lives to defend us. And we are demanding they live lives like this in order to do so." &mdash;Andrew Sullivan, responding to the National Review's Rich Lowry in [this debate](#) with Ana Marie Cox over serving openly in the military

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**Why Johnny Weir Is a Figure Skater, Not a Grammy Winner**

We're just days away from what may be Johnny Weir's final attempt at scoring an Olympic gold medal, as he approaches the 2010 Winter Games with about seventy-eight chips on his shoulder. All of which he's displayed on Pop Star On Ice, the delightful docu-series build-up to an event that will either cement Weir as a world-class figure skater, or somewhere farther down the totem poll, closer to novelty athletic personality. In the meantime, there's this: his karaoke rendition of Carrie Underwood's "Before He Cheats," which is not very good, but Weir has made very public his wish to perform, rather than stick to technical skill.

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**The Insitution of Marriage Is Like a Country Club That Doesn't Let Blacks or Jews Join**

Sarah Silverman just drew cheers from a slew of gay Americans - and, perhaps, some uncomfortable squirming from heterosexual newlyweds planning their spring weddings. Because the comic has highlighted what this nation's draconian marriage laws have created: an exclusive club for a certain class of people, from which others are barred.

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### **Rep. John Murtha Dead at 77**

Rep. John Murtha, the 19-term earmark-happy Pennsylvania Democrat and Vietnam War veteran who criticized the invasion of Iraq, and who consistently voted for ENDA and against 2006's constitutional gay marriage amendment, [died today](#) from complications involving gallbladder surgery. He was 77.

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### **Bill Clinton's White House Believed DADT Would Discourage 'Practicing Homosexuals' From Enlisting. While 'Advancing' the Lives of Existing Gay Soldiers**

In [a July 1993 article](#), the New York Times quoted a White House aide, when President Bill Clinton signed Don't Ask Don't Tell into law, that the policy "is going to discourage acting, practicing homosexuals from being in the military" but "will lead to significant advances for homosexuals in the military. It will clearly state that individuals cannot be asked about their sexual orientation nor will they be required to reveal it. It will clearly create, we believe, a zone of privacy in the military."

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### **When Faced With a \$100M Deficit, Does Protecting LGBT Students Simply Cost Too Much?**

We all know school districts across the nation are facing budget shortfalls for their property tax-funded curriculums. So when an budget item comes up worth \$120,000, the question begs: Do you hire two new teachers, or institute a support program for LGBT students? San Francisco is about to decide just that.

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### **We're Terribly Disinclined to Mention Spitzer Madam Kristin Davis Wants to Be NY Governor**

[This stupid story](#) about Kristin Davis, the accused Ellipt Spitzer madam, running for governor of New York against Cuomo and Paterson is stupid, and we feel stupider for even reporting it, but because she says she's in favor of gay marriage, our editor was like, "Well, at least mention it," so we're mentioning it, and that's the last of this we want to hear.

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### **"2010 has the potential to see even more achievements for this community than at any other time"**

**SOUNDBITES ?** "2010 has the potential to see even more achievements for this community than at any other time." &mdash;The always optimistic HRC president Joe Somonese, speaking [at the group's annual New York fundraiser gala](#), and ignoring House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's commitment to [shut down any "controversial" bills](#) that come her way

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### **Barney Frank: Gay Inc.'s Failed Lobbying Effort Is Why Legislation Never Moves Forward**

Saying that Rep. Barney Frank got cranky with an interviewer is no longer a Queerty-approved way of introducing a post. So how about saying Frank is pissed off at whiny gays who aren't doing enough to lobby their lawmakers and how they need to lay off the president? Oh, that's cliché too?

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## Your Gay Travel Stories: Parties for Hot Guys Only, High on the High Seas, and Hot Tub Follies

Anecdotal evidence might suggest, for every enjoyable holiday spent aboard a gay cruise ship, there's a death in the family. GLAAD board member Spencer Yu passed away last year [during an Atlantis cruise](#), and a 37-year-old passenger aboard Atlantis's enormous Liberty of the Seas ship was found dead in his cabin last month during a Cayman Islands jaunt. But just because you're going to gay travel route doesn't mean you'll have a not-so-fantastic time. Well, not always. [We asked for your stories](#), and you delivered.

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## Scaring People About Gay Adoption Is Easier When You Substitute Less Attractive People

Orlando's Florida Family Policy Council, headed by John Stemberger, was very upset when a judge gave custody of a 1-year-old boy to her foster parents, because her foster parents are lesbian couple Vanessa Alenier and Melanie Leon. In notifying its mailing list about the "arrogant judicial activism," the FFPC included a photo of the pair (at left) to show supporters just how repulsed they should be by the adoption case. Except that's not the adoptive couple; that's them, on the right. They're a couple of good looking women who are the perfect, media-friendly faces for the same-sex adoption debate. It was a stupid ruse, and FFPC, an affiliate of Focus On The Family, has been fairly [called out](#) for their sensationalism. But this website is not above sensationalism. Which is why, in reporting on this story, we're going to substitute the original photo of John Stemberger - who also served as chair of Florida's Yes2Marriage.org - for a scarier version.

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## **Gays In the Military? What About Gays in the Boardroom? Closeted + Running a \$200 Billion Company**

When you're the chief executive of an enormous oil concern, your duties include finding new energy sources, navigating international environmental regulations, and delivering hefty profits for shareholders. But Lord Browne, who headed BP (née British Petroleum) until 2007, had another line item on his job description: hide his sexuality. And it all came crumbling down when he lost a court case he hoped would prevent newspaper from publishing his same-sex private life, and expose him as a perjurer.

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## **Carrie Prejean's Engagement Sets the Stage for Opposite Marriage Ceremony**

Maybe because the St. Louis Rams weren't playing in the Super Bowl. Or maybe because the big game's gay themes were focused on CBS's refusal of a gay dating ad. But news that Carrie Prejean, the one-time Miss USA runner-up, is engaged to Rams quarterback Kyle Boller merited barely a blip on our radar. But congratulations to the pair, who cemented their promise [on Saturday in San Diego](#).

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## **Homosexuals In Advertising Were Not Entirely Absent From Super Bowl Sunday**

Does it matter that it took a spot featuring rabid heterosexual mascot Megan Fox to include a pair of gays during a Super Bowl ad? And does it matter that, in an ad obviously aimed at heterosexual men, the representation of the gays comes down to bitchy queens slapping each other?

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## **Meet Iowa's 2 Elected Pricks Who Don't Want Gay Kids Protected at School**

Because children are ripe for political maneuvering, a pair of Iowa lawmakers figured queer youth didn't need any legal protections from bullying in schools, which explains why they're trying to remove sexual orientation and gender identity from the state's Safe Schools Law - all as a means to chip away at the Iowa Supreme Court's gay marriage approval.

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