

WiGOUT!

The openly gay director of "Precious" dissects the "isms" in his acclaimed film. Page 19



THE VOICE OF PROGRESS FOR WISCONSIN'S LGBT COMMUNITY

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Wisconsin lawmakers introduce medical marijuana legislation

By Louis Weisberg

WiG Staff Writer

MADISON—A bill introduced Nov. 16 seeks to decriminalize the use of marijuana for medical purposes.

Co-sponsored by openly gay Rep. Mark Pocan, D-Madison, and Sen. Jon Erpenbach, D-Waunakee, the legislation would require patients to obtain a prescription from a doctor to receive marijuana, which could either be grown at home or obtained through a licensed nonprofit dispensary. The state would keep a registry of those who can receive and dispense marijuana.

The bill is nearly identical to one that Michigan voters approved a year ago by a 63-percent majority. The Marijuana page 4

Activists press U.S. Census to count gays

QUEER THE COUNT

GRAPHIC: JASON SMITH
In 2010, the U.S. Census Bureau will count same-sex couples. In 2020, the Census may include a question on sexual orientation.

By Lisa Neff

WiG Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Census Bureau can provide data on the estimated number of turkeys consumed on Thanksgiving, but no estimate on the number of LGBT people living in the United States.

The bureau can detail how many Milwaukee residents are stay-at-home moms, the average income of Racine residents, the number of Madisonites who work as teachers and the number of Kenoshans who rent their homes, but the bureau cannot offer quality details on how many LGBT people live in those cities.

That may change in 2020.

Activists are organizing a "Queer the Census" campaign to encourage the bureau to add "sexual orientation" to the Census questionnaire, and, at least under the Obama administration, the bureau seems willing.

"That is one issue we certainly care about," said Timothy Olson, an assistant division chief with the bureau.

Meanwhile, in the 2010 once-a-decade Census, the bureau will make an unprecedented official count of same-sex couples.

"We really see it as the door-opener on changing the way the feds think about LGBT questions," said Jaime Grant, director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute in Washington, D.C. "The Census is our Trojan horse."

CRITICAL COUNT

The U.S. Constitution mandates the Census count: "Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers.... The actual Enumeration shall be made within three Years

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inside and online at wisconsin Gazette.com

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LGBT news with a twist



By Lisa Neff & Louis Weisberg

GAP HUMBUG!

The American Family Association says “bah humbug” to a Gap holiday commercial featuring the tagline, “Go Christmas, go Hanukkah, go whatever holiday you wanukkah.” “AFA believes this ad to be completely dismissive and disrespectful to those who celebrate the meaning and spirit of Christmas,” AFA said in a statement on its Web site. The anti-gay Christian group called for a two-month boycott against the Gap’s family of businesses, which includes Old Navy and Banana Republic. “What the hell does the AFA want, Jesus wrapped in swaddling skinny jeans?” responded a blogger on another site.

TOY STORY

Elisabeth Hasselbeck, the conservative voice on “The View,” can now “totally relate” to racial discrimina-

tion, she says. Hasselbeck got a lesson in intolerance when her daughter brought along her favorite toy, a black doll, on a shopping expedition. Apparently the doll’s color drew stares “that made me uncomfortable,” Hasselbeck told her fellow “View” wags. In the past, Hasselbeck has championed dethroned beauty queen turned anti-gay crusader Carrie Prejean. Next time she goes shopping, Hasselbeck should give her daughter a Gay Bob doll to carry.

GREEN YOUR SEX LIFE

Ever wonder what Al and Tipper Gore do between their bamboo sheets? An October issue of Time magazine might have provided clues. An article described a thriving new market of green sexual accoutrements, including vegan condoms, organic lubricants, biode-

gradable whips and handcuffs, and glass and mahogany vibrators. For the ultra environmentalists, there are even hand-crankable vibrators that don’t require batteries. So light the soy candles, pour out some organic massage oil, get out the fair-trade, sustainable wood paddles and show some love for Mother Earth. And wash the sheets afterward in eco-friendly, low-sudsing detergent.

PEREZ ACCEPTS APOLOGY

Black Eyed Peas manager Liborio Molina has apologized to gay celebrity blogger Perez Hilton as part of an agreement to drop assault charges against him. Molina allegedly punched Hilton from behind outside a Toronto nightclub after

Perez called the Black Eyed Peas’ leader will.i.am a “faggot.” Molina’s written apology said, “I apologize for what I did on June 22 of 2009, even though you engaged in highly offensive comments...I acknowledge that these kinds of issues should not be resolved through a physical response.” Hilton told AP in an e-mail he was happy Molina had accepted responsibility for his actions.

BEFORE-AND-AFTER HANGOVER

A Jane Doe won a \$100,000 settlement because her doctors provided before-and-after cosmetic surgery photographs of her torso to a newspaper. The woman sued for millions, but the jury decided to nip and snip the claim to enough money to pay the attorneys and compensate Doe for her costs.

And the lesson? Say “no” to cameras in surgery.

TEACHABLE MOMENT?

A school counselor in Maine is facing a review by a state board for an alleged ethics violation. Donald Mendell appeared in a commercial in advance of the Nov. 3 election urging voters “to prevent homosexual marriage from being pushed on Maine students.” A complaint said Mendell violated a code that said social workers should not publicly condone discrimination based on sexual orientation. Mendell called the complaint frivolous.

OH, THAT LAMBERT

New Hampshire Dems urged their GOP colleagues to put the reigns on conservative Republican Web-radio host Doug

Lambert, who called state Democratic Party Chair Raymond Buckley a “faggot” and a “reprobate.” Lambert later issued an apology, but Democrats also want a condemnation of his comments from the GOP.

OH, THAT OTHER LAMBERT

Adam Lambert also faced demands for an apology, but he declined. The “American Idol” runner-up said his performance on the “American Music Awards” on ABC would not have caused as much controversy if he were straight. Lambert’s performance included a kiss with a male keyboard player and a simulation of oral sex. After a deluge of complaints, ABC’s “Good Morning America” canceled Lambert’s appearance. Lambert told CBS, “I don’t see anything wrong with it.”

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‘Redistricting. Reapportionment. Legislation.’

Census from 1

after the first Meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent Term of ten Years, in such Manner as they shall by Law direct.”

“People don’t understand the real impact of the Census in our society,” Olson said. “Redistricting. Reapportionment. Legislation. Funding. It really has a huge impact as to how we are rep-

resented in our democracy and on the level of funding — \$300 billion a year is based on Census data.”

Statistics on same-sex couples have been mined from Census data since 1990, when the bureau added “unmarried partner” to its questionnaire. Independent researchers, by looking at the genders of the unmarried partners, could count same-sex unmarried couples.

“In 1990, we said, ‘Check

the box,’” Grant said. “And in 2000, we said, ‘Check the box.’ Couples did. And we’ve been able to use that data to tell the story of our community.”

Researchers analyzed the earlier data to document discrimination based on sexual orientation, to estimate the number of lesbian and gay couples in counties and states and to learn about the make-up of their families, their incomes and their

healthcare situations.

“Americans have many misconceptions about the LGBT community that Census data have allowed us to correct,” said Gary Gates, a researcher with the Williams Institute at the UCLA School of Law. “For example, among those in same-sex couples, one in six lives in a rural area, one in four is a person of color, one in five is raising children.”

Grant called the information gleaned from earlier

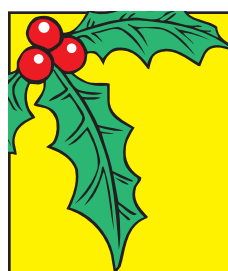
population surveys vital.


“What the Census told us is that we were living in 99 percent of all the counties in the United States,” Grant said. “We’re all races and ethnicities. We’re raising children and taking care of our parents... Myths — that we don’t live in Milwaukee or that we are not soccer moms — were busted by Census data.”

However, the Bush administration, which assumed the

White House in 2001, determined that the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act prohibited federal agencies from tabulating and reporting data on same-sex marriages. Thus, the administration directed the bureau to re-categorize same-sex couples who identified as “married” in the Census to “unmarried.”

“It was a slap in the face to be unmarried by your own government,” said Molly
Census page 4





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Activist bishop to head Milwaukee diocese

By Louis Weisberg

WIG Staff Writer

MILWAUKEE — The Vatican has named Bishop Jerome Listeki, an activist against child-abuse reform legislation, same-sex marriage, reproductive freedom and stem-cell research, as the new archbishop of Milwaukee.

A retired military man, Listeki currently heads the Diocese of La Crosse. In January, he will succeed Timothy Dolan, who was made archbishop of New York.

Listeki has been more outspoken on political issues than Dolan. He criticized U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi for her interpretation of Catholic teachings on the beginnings of life, and he protested the

University of Notre Dame's decision to honor President Barack Obama. He publicly broke with the Wisconsin Catholic Conference of Bishops to lobby against a bill forcing state hospitals to provide emergency contraception to rape victims.

Last month Listeki testified before a legislative committee against a proposal to suspend Wisconsin's civil statute of limitations on childhood sexual abuse cases for three years. The bill aims to give legal standing to victims of childhood predators who were prevented from taking their cases to court under past Wisconsin statutes, which were among the nation's most restrictive.

"The bill is not aimed at the Catholic Church, but

because the church has been hiding sex offenders, they are opposing it," said Peter Isley, of the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests (SNAP).

Listeki's record on protecting pedophiles is particularly troubling, Isley said, because La Crosse "holds the national record for clearing priests who have been reported to have sexually assaulted children."

A 2004 study by the John Jay College of Criminal Justice found the church had cleared 64 percent of priests in the La Crosse Diocese accused of sexual abuse. That compares with a national clearance rate of about 10 percent, according to a report commissioned by United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

"Listeki has been asked repeatedly (during his four-years in La Crosse) to explain this record and he's refused," Isley said.

In addition, Listeki has adopted an official policy of directing childhood victims of clerical abuse to contact him directly, instead of notifying law enforcement. In April, Eau Claire police chief Jerry Matysik wrote a letter to the Eau Claire Leader Telegram calling on Listeki to change this unusual policy.

"Members of the Diocese of La Crosse need to know that sexual abuse is a crime and should always be reported to police before notifying the organization where the crime occurred," Matysik wrote.

Ray Stroik, a retired pro-

An activist against child-abuse reform legislation, same-sex marriage, reproductive freedom.

fessor and college administrator who worked on the La Crosse diocese's justice and peace commission, told the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel that progressives and reformists may be concerned about Listeki's appointment.

"He's very strong in terms

of Catholic identity, basic issues of pro life, gay marriage, stem cell research," Stroik said. "Yet not doing much on social justice, or global peace."

As Listeki assumes command of Milwaukee's 675,000 parishioners, he faces serious financial challenges. The diocese launched a \$105-million fundraising campaign several years ago and expects to hit its target in the spring. But it also faces 14 lawsuits related to clergy sexual-abuse allegations, which could force it into bankruptcy.

Through June 30, 2009, the archdiocese had paid out \$28 million to settle charges related to clergy sexual abuse.

— AP contributed to this story

ARCW REPORTS H1N1 VACCINE SHORTAGE

The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin continues to experience a critical shortage of H1N1 vaccine, despite the fact that people living with HIV/AIDS face increased health complications from flu.

As of press time, ARCW had received only 500 doses of vaccine out of the 1,100 doses that are needed, said ARCW spokesman Bill Keeton.

Although Keeton expressed confidence that Wisconsin public health officials now are doing

everything possible to rectify the situation, he said overall public health response — both at the state and national levels — has been "disappointing." H1N1 vaccine shortages have been widespread nationally. Government officials have blamed pharmaceutical manufacturers, who in turn have said the virus has proven slower to grow in laboratories than expected.

Wisconsin is one of the states hit hardest by the H1N1 pandemic, with cases reported in all 72 counties. As of mid-November, 31 Wisconsinites had died as a result of the infection.

COUNTY REINSTATES HIV-PREVENTION FUNDING

The Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors voted to reinstate nearly \$80,000 in HIV-prevention funding that had been vetoed by County Executive Scott Walker.

The funding supports AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin staffers who conduct HIV-prevention outreach to injection-drug users. In addition to reducing risk behaviors associated with HIV transmission, ARCW's outreach program helps get addicts into

treatment.

"For every dollar spent on prevention, society saves \$7 to \$10 in costs to society in terms of reducing (drug-related) crime and incarceration," said ARCW spokesman Bill Keeton.

—L.W.

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A hearing is set for Dec. 15

Marijuana from 1

most recent Wisconsin poll on medical marijuana, which was taken in 2005, found that 75.7 percent of those surveyed supported such a policy.

"This is an issue where people are clearly way ahead of the policy makers," Pocan said. "The Wisconsin Legislature needs to catch up with the public and pass this bill, because making medical marijuana legal is the right and compassionate thing to do for patients in pain."

Medical conditions covered by the law could include HIV/AIDS, cancer, glaucoma, epilepsy and post-traumatic stress disorder. The bill limits the maximum amount of marijuana a patient may have.

For people living with HIV/

AIDS, marijuana has proven effective in boosting patients' appetites, reducing the pain associated with peripheral neuropathy and alleviating the nausea associated with medications. By making treatments more tolerable, marijuana helps HIV patients remain compliant with their regimens.

Similar bills have been introduced in Madison before, but Pocan believes this measure has the best chance yet for passage. He cited growing momentum for medical marijuana, including the new law in Michigan, the backing of such key organizations as the Wisconsin Nurses Association and support from Gov. Jim Doyle.

"The problem in the past is that people have gotten the issue mixed up with the legal aspects of using marijuana

(recreationally) versus the medical purposes," Pocan said. "If we can have people focus on what the bill is about, we'll be in a pretty good place."

In October, the Obama administration announced it would not prosecute users and suppliers of medical marijuana in the 13 states where it's been legalized. Doyle came out in support of the new White House policy, which breaks with that of former President George W. Bush. Restricting the use of medical marijuana makes no sense when doctors can already prescribe more dangerous drugs such as morphine, Doyle said.

Republican leaders in Congress, however, blasted the new White House policy. "I think that marijuana is a gateway to harder drug use," U.S. Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa,

said. "Medical marijuana brings a certain amount of legitimacy to an illegal drug, even though it attempts to do it in a legal way."

The American Medical Association last month called for a federal review of marijuana's status as a controlled substance, in order to make it easier to research and develop marijuana-based medicines.

A growing number of people in the state already use marijuana to alleviate medical problems, but many live in constant fear of arrest. One of those people is Jeffrey Peterson, executive director of Milwaukee Area NORML, a group that lobbies for the legalization of marijuana.

"I became a medical marijuana patient five years ago," Peterson wrote in a statement supporting the new

'People are clearly ahead of the policy makers.'

bill. "I made two unsuccessful attempts at treatment for Chronic Hepatitis C. I believe, with all of my heart, that

marijuana is what is keeping me alive. I am in pain and I live in fear. My pain is controlled by marijuana. My fear will never go away until medical marijuana is legalized."

Assembly Bill 554 has been scheduled for a public hearing before the Committee on Public Health at 10 a.m., Dec. 15, in Room 412 East of the Capitol Building.

GET CONNECTED

Milwaukee City Hall: www.ci.mil.wi.us.

Mayor Tom Barrett: 414-286-2200,

mayor@milwaukee.gov.

Common Council Office: Common Council

President Willie L. Hines, Jr., 286-2221,

whines@milwaukee.gov.

Meetings: milwaukee.legistar.com/calendar.aspx.

Activists, lawmakers and government employees advocated change

Census from 2

McKay of Marriage Equality USA.

For the past several years, activists, lawmakers and government employees have advocated changing the Bush policy before questionnaires go out in March 2010.

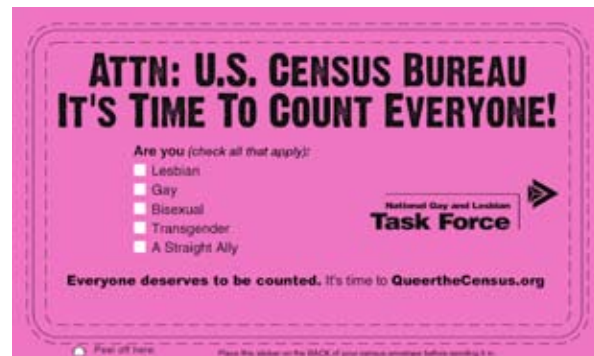
"We have followed with great concern news reports that the U.S. Census Bureau intends to continue 'scrubbing' data on same-sex married couples in its 2010 Census public reports," a coalition of lawmakers wrote Peter Orszag, director of the Office of Management and Budget, in May. "We are very concerned with this planned data modification and request your leadership in ensuring the Census Bureau adopt acceptable methods for identifying same-sex married couples in its publicly released data."

U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., along with Reps. Barney Frank, Dennis Kucinich and Steve Israel, led the effort.

Additionally, activists representing about 25 organizations met with administration and Census officials to urge a policy change. "We drew a line in the sand," said Grant.

COUNTING IN 2010

Victory was achieved in June, when the bureau announced a



The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force is leading a campaign to "Queer the Census" with stickers people can affix to their questionnaires.

reversal of the Bush policy and committed to counting same-sex couples in 2010, as well as officially releasing the statistics.

"This is a real change from the way we've been treated in the past," McKay said.

"The data set is going to be rich," Olson predicted. "This will be a powerful data set and it will play a significant role in all of the issues on the political side, the social side, healthcare, housing, public transportation."

Olson's job duties include helping organize community outreach — including the first LGBT Complete Count Committees — to prepare for the Census count.

Grant said it is important to inform gays and lesbians that the Census data

is anonymous. She recalled that when the effort began to encourage same-sex couples to identify as such in the Census in 1990, there were fears. "It was the age of AIDS registries," Grant said.

The committees are locally driven efforts to educate and engage people to complete the Census, and they exist to reach into a variety of communities, especially traditionally under-counted communities.

"Our goal is to sign up and engage 120,000 (community representatives) to spread the word about the Census — that it is safe, easy and simple," Olson said. "We are really focused on the partnership program."

The outreach dates back

to 1990, when the bureau sought to reverse a decline in mail-in responses to the Census. "We are really fortunate in 2010 to have a community outreach program that is about five times larger than 2000," Olson said. And the program in 2000 was substantially larger than in 1990.

To establish the committees and reach gay and lesbian couples, the bureau is working with a coalition of LGBT groups at the national, state and local levels.

"Participating is crucial to let our government leaders know that we are a vital and strong component of America," said Jarrett Barrios of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.

In addition to releasing official data about same-sex couples in the 2010 tally, the bureau plans to incorporate questions about same-sex couples in the American Community Survey, a bureau project that replaced the long-form questionnaire in the decennial Census.

The bureau will not tally legally married same-sex couples in the Census, as some demographers and activists had hoped. Nor will the bureau ask about sexual orientation or gender identity in 2010.

But the nationwide "Queer the Census" campaign may provide the bureau with some numbers, though not intended as an accurate representation of the LGBT population.

"Many of us are unapologetic and we should be just as visible. So we are very excited about this campaign," Grant said.

Through the campaign at www.queerthecensus.org, people can obtain a pink and purple "Queer the Census" sticker to affix to the back of their Census mailer. On the sticker, people can check a box for all that apply — lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and straight ally. The sticker proclaims, "Everyone deserves to be counted. It's time to queerthecensus.org."

"We're really hoping 'Queer the Census' is going to catch fire," said Grant, adding that she hopes the bureau receives questionnaires with "a million pink and purple stickers."

The bureau will receive at least one postmarked with Kenosha's 53143 ZIP code.

"We made sure we were counted as a same-sex household in the last Census," said Mary Rivera of Kenosha. She and her partner and their three children moved from Chicago to Kenosha four

COUNTING WISCONSIN

A training seminar in Milwaukee Dec. 8-9 will teach grassroots organizations how to conduct Census outreach to their communities. The goal is to ensure that traditionally under-counted populations, including LGBT people, are accurately represented in 2010, said Linda Honold, acting director of Wisconsin Voices.

Fair Wisconsin, Equality Wisconsin, Milwaukee LGBT Community Center and the LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin are among the groups invited to participate.

The training is scheduled 1-6 p.m. Dec. 8, and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Dec. 9.

To register, contact Honold at linda.honold@sbcglobal.net.

—L.W.

years ago. "But it's high time we were able to be counted as gay individuals too."

"It would be nice to know just how accurate that old one in 10 statistic is," said Jenn O'Neill, Rivera's partner.

Jolly Holly Folly fun time



EVENING OF CHEER

The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin ushered in the holiday season with the Jolly Holly Folly Nov. 22 at the Rotunda of the Milwaukee Center, 108 E. Wells St. The evening featured cocktails, food from a selection of Milwaukee restaurants and holiday music.

PHOTOS: MAX THOMSEN

The Twelve Days of Christmas



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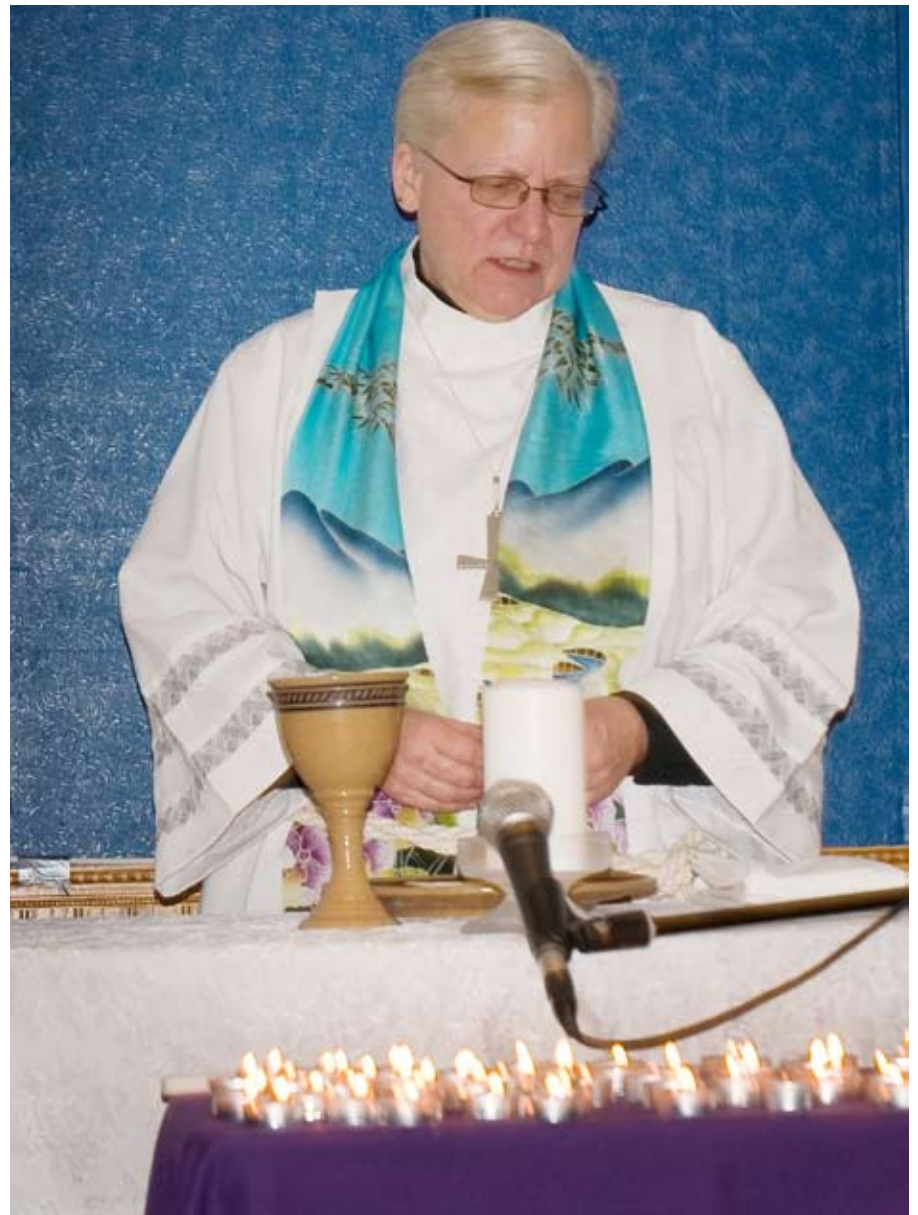


PHOTO: LOUIS WEISBERG

IN THEIR MEMORY

"We light these candles for those we never knew, for those that come after and for those who still struggle," Milwaukee MCC Pastor Wendy Woodruff told 30 congregants gathered for a memorial service Nov. 21. Congregants read aloud the names of more than 200 transgenders killed worldwide. The event was held in observance of Transgender Remembrance Day. For more information, see next page.

Diverse and Resilient awarded \$55,000 grant for education work

The Wisconsin Department of Children and Families awarded a \$55,000 grant to Diverse and Resilient for a program to educate middle and high school teachers about special risks for LGBT youth.

The program will give educators information and skills to address school violence, drug and alcohol abuse, smoking and mental health concerns among LGBT students. GSA for Safe Schools, a Madison-based organization,

is a partner in the program. The program also involves young people, who will help to create after-school programs for LGBT students.

—L.W.

GET CONNECTED

State of Wisconsin:

www.wisconsin.gov

Gov. Jim Doyle:

608-266-1212, www.wisgov.state.wi.us/

Wisconsin Senate:

www.legis.state.wi.us/senhome.htm

Wisconsin Assembly:

www.legis.state.wi.us/asmhome.htm

Transgender Remembrance Day observed

By Lisa Neff

WIG Staff Writer

MILWAUKEE—Vigils took place Nov. 20 in Madison and Minsk.

Remembrance programs took place in Eau Claire and Edmonton.

The 11th annual International Transgender Day of Remembrance took place Nov. 20.

The first remembrance day honored Rita Hester — she was killed Nov. 28, 1998, and her slaying remains unsolved. A year after Hester's death, activists organized a vigil in San Francisco to call atten-

tion to violence and discrimination against transgender people.

The National Transgender Discrimination Survey, a forthcoming study from the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and National Center for Transgender Equality, has found more than one quarter of transgender people lost a job for being transgender. It also found high rates of housing instability and homelessness, and double the rates of poverty compared to the general population.

"We mourn our fallen sisters and brothers who have

become the victims of hatred and prejudice, and we commit ourselves to doing what it takes to prevent others from joining their ranks," read a statement from NCTE. "We pause to acknowledge the loss we all suffer because these people are no longer sharing their gifts, their laughter, their struggles, their work and their lives with our world. We decry the many forms of discrimination — racism, sexism, economic injustice, ageism, and so many more — that compound the transphobia and homophobia we face and make some

among us even more vulnerable to violence."

Activists around the world observed the day with candlelight vigils and marches, roundtable discussions and demonstrations, film screenings and art exhibits.

In Eau Claire, plans included the sharing of stories and images at the LGBT Community Center of the Chippewa Valley on South Farwell Street and film screenings.

In La Crosse, the 7 Rivers LGBT Resource Center's youth group, GALAXY, hosted a film screening

and discussion on trans issues.

In Madison, UW-Madison LGBT Campus Center and the Ten Percent Society hosted a performance night — theater, song, monologue — followed by a vigil.

The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center screened "Priscilla, Queen of the Desert" and a ceremony took place.

Chicagoans marked the day with an interfaith service and a vigil.

In New York City, where in July a jury convicted Dwight DeLee in the state's first hate crime conviction

'We mourn our fallen sisters and brothers who have become victims of hatred and prejudice.'

for the killing of transgender Lateisha Green, a vigil took place.

LA Times sports writer dies

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Los Angeles Times sports writer Mike Penner, who announced two years ago he was a transsexual and was changing his name to Christine Daniels, died at age 52, the newspaper reported.

Penner was pronounced dead Nov. 27 at a hospital, said Los Angeles County coroner spokesman Lt. Brian Elias. He said coroner's officials hadn't yet performed an autopsy or issued an official cause of death.

The Times said in a story that Penner was believed to have committed suicide. Penner had returned

to using the name "Mike Penner" last year.

In 25 years with the newspaper, Penner covered Major League Baseball, the National Football League, the Olympics, World Cup soccer, tennis and other sports. A fluid writer with a sharp wit, Penner worked at various times as a reporter, columnist and the newspaper's Los Angeles Angels beat writer.

Times editor Russ Stanton said Penner "respected our readers a great deal, enough to share with them his very personal journey."

Penner revealed that journey April 26, 2007, writ-

ing a story for the Times headlined "Old Mike, New Christine," in which he revealed he was taking a few weeks vacation and when he returned to work it would be with the name "Christine Daniels."

"I am a transsexual sports writer," Penner wrote. "It has taken more than 40 years, a million tears and hundreds of hours of soul-wrenching therapy for me to work up the courage to type those words."

As Penner noted, Times associate editor Randy Harvey, who was then the newspaper's sports editor, "leaned back in his chair,

looked through his office window to scan the newsroom and mused, 'Well, no one can ever say we don't have diversity on this staff.'"

Returning as Christine Daniels, the writer continued to cover sports, as well as write a blog, "Woman in Transition."

However, Penner resumed writing under the name "Mike Penner" and dropped the "Woman in Transition" blog.

WIG accepts notices of events in LGBT lives.

E-mail managingeditor@wisconsin-gazette.com.



PHOTO: COURTESY JASONSMITH.COM

LA Times sports writer Mike Penner left the newspaper for a vacation and returned as Christine Daniels. Later, Penner resumed writing under "Mike Penner." Penner died in late November.

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U.S. Senate:

www.senate.gov.

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Herb Kohl, 330 Hart Senate Office

Building, 202-224-5653,

www.kohl.senate.gov.

U.S. House of Representatives:

www.house.gov.

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District, 202-225-2906, [\[baldwin.house.gov\]\(http://baldwin.house.gov\).](http://www.tammy-</p>
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{ Editorial }

Vatican's wrong choice

For decades the Vatican turned a deaf ear to the sexual abuse of children by its clergy and to the social changes sweeping Western civilization. As a result, one-third of native-born U.S. Catholics have left the church over the past 30 years. The Milwaukee Catholic Herald reported last week that 38,000 Milwaukee Catholics have left the church in the past year alone.

Many of the remaining faithful oppose the church's stance on issues such as birth control, stem cell research and LGBT rights. And many archdioceses, including Milwaukee's, face possible bankruptcy over settlements in abuse cases.

But the church has learned nothing from its emptying pews and coffers. U.S. Catholic leaders have fought laws throughout the country, including a proposed measure in Wisconsin, to temporarily suspend statutes of limitation so that victims of pedophiles — all pedophiles, not just priests — can seek justice in civil court. Bishop Jerome Listeck, the newly named archbishop of Milwaukee, testified against the measure in October.

The church also has ratcheted up its political activism against same-sex marriage in an effort to attract evangelical Christians and disaffected Episcopalians into its dwindling fold. Californians Against Hate reported last week that "Catholics appear to be the new Mormons in the fight against same-sex marriage." In the past, Mormons were the biggest supporters of anti-marriage campaigns. Now the Mormon Church seems to be backing off while Catholics are becoming increasingly involved.

The dioceses of Portland, Maine, gave \$553,000 to overturn same-sex marriage in that state, even though they recently closed five churches. Catholic Charities in Washington, D.C., has threatened to end its programs to feed the hungry if the city council passes a same-sex marriage bill.

The church's priorities are clear. Saving money is more important than providing justice to victims of childhood predators. Denying legal protections to same-sex couples is preferable to maintaining houses of worship or helping indigents.

In this context, it's obvious why the Vatican selected a hard-line activist like Listeck to head the Milwaukee archdiocese. But Listeck is a bad fit for a diverse, progressive urban center. His leadership will accelerate the hemorrhaging.

Catholics might be the new Mormons, but Wisconsin is not the new Utah.

> TAKE ACTION!

The Ugandan Parliament is considering a bill reaffirming penalties for homosexuality and criminalizing the "promotion of homosexuality." The Anti-Homosexuality Bill targets LGBT Ugandans, their defenders and anyone who fails to report them to the authorities — whether they are inside or outside of Uganda. The International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission and Sexual Minorities of Uganda are calling for the swift dismissal of the bill and human rights protections for all Ugandans.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Join the call for dismissal. Send letters to President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni at info@statehouse.go.ug, Prime Minister Apollo Nsibambi at ps@opm.go.ug, Speaker of the Parliament Edward Ssekandi Kiwanuka at speaker@parliament.go.ug.

{ Letters }

VITAL VOICE

I am so glad to see the launch of the Wisconsin Gazette, the new LGBT newspaper for Wisconsin.

In our fight for civil rights and full equality, there is no more important tool than the ability to get information out about what is happening and how to act on behalf of our rights. The entry of the Wisconsin Gazette will be a vitally important way to let the LGBT community and our allies know how to best advocate for equality.

I wish you the best in your launch and very anxiously look forward to reading your first issue!

Towards equality.

Wisconsin State Rep.
Mark Pocan

A MOTHER'S STATEMENT

When my son told me he was gay, I told him, "Now, I love you more."

I want to tell the world that hatred is not born with human beings, it is a seed that is planted by adults and is fostered creating a climate of intolerance and violence.

We must change our ways and understand that anyone could have been my son.

And I want everybody to know that Jorge Steven was a very much-loved son.

Miriam Mercado, mother of
slain teen Jorge Steven
Lopez Mercado

FAILED POLICY

The Human Rights Campaign was troubled by U.S. Sen. John McCain's remarks supporting the misguided "don't ask, don't tell" military policy.

During Dr. Clifford Stanley's confirmation hearing today for undersecretary of personnel and readiness at the U.S. Department of Defense, McCain expressed his opposition to the repeal of DADT and said he believes that this policy is currently working despite evidence proving otherwise, including studies from military think tanks and official pentagon publications.

While McCain erroneously believes that the DADT policy works well, I think the 13,000 American troops that have been discharged from

Hatred ... is a seed that is planted by adults.

the military under DADT, including more than 800 specialists with skills deemed mission critical by the U.S. military would disagree.

Additionally, there are approximately 65,000 gay and lesbian Americans in uniform, including 36,000 gay and lesbian service members serving in active duty, and there are approximately one million gay and lesbian veterans. It is time for Congress to repeal this harmful and discriminatory law. It is disappointing that Senator McCain has decided to stand in the way."

Joe Solmonese, Human Rights Campaign president

Send letters to
managingeditor@wisconsinngazette.com.

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Our mission

To inform, engage and empower Wisconsin's LGBT community by providing a professional, independent print and online source for news and commentary, as well as coverage of political and cultural issues.

Reasons for optimism

Social conservatives, especially those motivated by religious doctrine, are not giving up the fight against gays. Not that anyone expected them to, but a recent declaration gives renewed visibility to their efforts.

On Nov. 20, about 150 conservative religious leaders issued a 4,700-word document called the "Manhattan Declaration" in which they opposed any laws that would force them to participate in abortions or bless immoral sexual partnerships (i.e., gay partnerships). It went on to oppose embryo destructive research and assisted suicide.

Still, we cannot help but recall that just last August the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America voted to allow the ordination of gay clergy in same-sex relationships,

dropping its insistence on celibacy for gay clergy.

And last month the Mormon Church stunned many of us by announcing its support for a gay civil rights measure in Salt Lake City. The Mormon Church has always presented itself as adamantly anti-gay, so this new position strikes me as a remarkable shift. The Mormons now say their bottom line is opposition to same-sex marriage, which is contrary to their theology of marriage and its role in a purposed afterlife.

There are several overlapping trends that power the moves in a gay-supportive direction.

1. Older Americans, who are not generally pro-gay, are gradually being replaced by gay-supportive younger people. Young people have grown

Opinion

BY PAUL VARNELL

up having gay friends, seeing gay celebrities and seeing news stories about gays. So gays seem like a normal and natural part of life to them. That experience was denied to older Americans. Maine's disproportionately high percentage of older voters seems to be the main reason that gay marriage failed there in November.

2. There is an increasing general acceptance of gays and homosexuality by a rate of between one-half and one percent a year. Approval of marriage will probably lag behind other aspects of acceptance, but even it will come in time.

3. More and more young gays and lesbians are choosing to "come out" — and at younger ages than ever before. This familiarizes their friends and families with the essential normality and humanity of gay people.

4. Even young evangelical Christians are softening their attitudes toward gays. They are increasingly less inclined to see gays and gay equality as something to be doctrinally opposed, as researcher David Kinnaman discovered in a large survey reported in his book "UnChristian."

5. The general public is becoming increasingly secular. Something like 15 percent of Americans describe themselves as having no religious preference, and 19 percent of college freshmen describe themselves the

same way, according to a Higher Education Research Institute survey in 2007. This does not necessarily mean that they are atheists, but it does mean that they are not gripped by any particular religion's doctrines, including anti-gay ones.

So-called "cafeteria Catholics," who pick and choose which Catholic doctrines to accept, are a conspicuous example of this trend.

Trends like these are never inevitable, but at the moment nothing appears on the horizon that is likely to alter them. So there is every reason to be optimistic that attitudes toward gays will continue to improve and that in 10 or 15 years gay equality will be a less contentious political issue, even perhaps including same-sex marriage.

Continued agitation for gay equality plays a role.

That does not mean we should sit back, relax and wait for social trends to do our work for us. Continued agitation for gay equality plays a role in familiarizing the public with gays, gay issues and the fundamental unfairness of treating gays unequally.

The more of this there is in the public sphere the better, because such views are always news that someone is hearing for the first time, and it is only after hearing something repeatedly that people get used to the idea.

> Heroes and villains

HERO

Austin Laufersweiler survived anti-gay bullying as a sophomore at Lassiter High School in Marietta, Ga., and, through the experience, became an advocate for school reform.

He founded his high school's gay-straight alliance, organized its Day of Silence demonstration and worked with the school administration to implement a comprehensive anti-bullying policy.

Austin also worked to promote reforms at his former middle school, helping to institute a training program to help teachers respond to "that's so gay" remarks in the classrooms.

Earlier this fall, the 18-year-old senior won

the Student Advocate of the Year Award from the national Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network.

VILLAIN

Is he pandering to the far right to lock up the Republican gubernatorial nomination or is he just a garden-variety homophobe?

In either case, Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker is a villain when it comes to LGBT issues. He's promised to veto any extension of health benefits to the same-sex partners of county employees and he vetoed an HIV-prevention measure in the county budget.

Fortunately, supervisors overrode the latter veto.

NOMINATIONS

Want to nominate someone for "Heroes and villains"?
E-mail managingeditor@wisconsin Gazette.com

A kiss is a kiss, but...

Opinion

BY JENNIFER VANASCO

Yes, Adam Lambert. You're right.

Hip hop artists and women get away with salacious performances all the time without an uproar. Of course, there was that famous Madonna-and-Britney kiss that caused a stir, but that was likely because the artists were — well, Madonna and Britney.

And yes, Adam Lambert, your performance on ABC's "American Music Awards" this week was not really all that raunchy. A kiss is a kiss, and there's nothing wrong with that. I could have done without you sticking a guy's head in your crotch spontaneously, but it happened so quickly and in the midst of so many other things, that if the dancer didn't mind, I'm not sure "offensive" is what I'd call it.

What I'd call it, instead, is misguided.

Here's my problem.

You told Out magazine that you didn't make a big deal out of your sexual orientation during "American Idol" once pictures of you kissing a man had been exposed because: "I don't understand why it has to be about my sexuality. I'm

just not going to talk about it one way or another....

And then when those pictures came out, I was like, you know what? I thought maybe I'll just own it and say, 'Yeah, I'm gay.' But I didn't want to label myself."

That's interesting, Adam Lambert. When you were worried about winning a contest you didn't want to openly attest to being gay. (And, in fact, your people were worried that you would seem "too gay" on Out's cover.) But when you wanted to make a splash in public, when you wanted to get noticed — suddenly you were all about gay sexuality.

And so my problem is with the timing.

You see, Adam Lambert, you may say, "I'm not trying to lead the fucking way for the civil rights movement that we're in right now," but the fact is that we are in a struggle for our civil rights and you are a pop culture figure (thanks in no small part to the support of gays and gay allies.)

We are in a dangerous moment. Our political allies are quickly backing away from us, thanks to losses on gay marriage in California and Maine and the Democratic loss of the governorship in New Jersey.

Whereas just over a year ago it seemed like gay marriage was an inevitable wave sweeping the country — and a tsunami in New England, New Jersey and New York — now it feels like the tide has turned. The hate crimes bill victory was followed by a fatal hate crime in Puerto Rico. We have hearings on ENDA, which could go either way. We have "don't ask, don't tell" hearings which are being put off until 2010. We have a president who isn't sure he is our friend.

And what is the mainstream most worried about, Adam Lambert? Why are they afraid of our partnerships, our service to our country, our working lives, our families? They are worried because they think gay life is exactly what you portrayed on the "American Music Awards" — focused on the kind of sex that

turns people into animals (almost literally, in this case, with crawling dancers leading you on leashes), geared toward enticing children (ABC is a network owned by Disney, for heaven's sake), degrading, rapacious, empty.

This is why mainstream America votes against gays, Adam Lambert. Not because of people who have families and jobs and bills and weddings. Because of people like you, who use sexuality thoughtlessly in order to advance your own agenda, instead of thinking about the very real consequences your actions will have on others' civil rights.

If you were a private citizen, this wouldn't matter. But you are not. You are able to be openly gay thanks to people who did, in fact, make it their life's work to "lead the fucking way for the civil rights movement." You dishonor them — and you hurt us — by pretending otherwise.

Jennifer Vanasco is an award-winning, syndicated columnist. E-mail her at jennifer.vanasco@gmail.com; follow her at Twitter.com/JenniferVanasco.

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AMA, ABC and PDA

Opinion
BY ANGEL SEVILLA

Was it racy because it was a kiss or racy because it was a gay kiss?

Adam Lambert's "American Music Award" performance caused a real stir when he decided to not just kiss, but really make out with a male keyboard player on live television. Thousands of complaints went into ABC by the following morning. The network has since apologized, as well as asked Lambert to apologize, which he declined to do.

Now, this, under normal circumstances, would be considered entertainment news, but the situation changed when Lambert said in an interview on "The Early Show" that he wouldn't have caused such a controversy if he weren't openly gay.

The statement got me thinking: Is that true?

Was his performance racy because there was a kiss or racy because there was a gay kiss?

To be honest, when I first saw the performance, I thought it was inappropriate, or at very least unnecessary. The crotch grabbing and dancers on leashes didn't bother me, maybe because it's all been done before, but the kiss seemed over the top. Though now that I think of it, the kiss has been done before too. Everyone remembers the Madonna and Britney Spears kiss that caused a ton of attention, but not much controversy. They weren't asked to apologize.

Thinking even further back, I remember the Michael Jackson and Lisa Marie Presley kiss that grossed everyone out in 1994, and that wasn't even a part of any performance. They walked out on stage for no reason other than to kiss in front of

everyone; they didn't present an award or perform or anything.

I think the reason I was so disturbed with the Adam Lambert kiss was because of the simple fact that when tongue is involved, the public display of affection is gross — gay or straight.

But the sad part about this is that it seems that ABC only got upset because Lambert is gay. And not only gay, but a gay man. Back when the Russian girl duo TATU was still in the American spotlight, they would make out on stage every time they performed their hit single "All the Things She Said." They performed that live on a bunch of major networks, including the "Jimmy Kimmel Show" on ABC. No one had a problem with them. Was it because they are female?

If that's the reason and ABC just doesn't like gay men, then that's really messed up.

Regardless of my opinion on how much PDA is appro-

priate for network television, it's completely unfair for a major network to pick on one act and say it's sorry that it was so controversial when the entire night was full of controversial performances. Lambert's wasn't picked on because he was shocking, but rather because he is gay.

I realize that we have a long road ahead of us as far as equality and respect are concerned, but I at least thought we were beyond something so stupid, so petty, as this. He kissed a guy on TV, so what?

I thought we all got past that with the Christina Aguilera "Beautiful" video. I understand why ABC apologized — they received thousands of complaints from viewers. Their viewers are their income. They apologized for the money. But where is the integrity in that? There is none.

If you ask me, I think ABC should apologize to Adam Lambert. In a day and age when it's now OK to say "ass," "god damn" and "son of a bitch" on prime time television, you'd think that a kiss during a music performance aired at almost 10 p.m. would be no problem.

How about we stop letting TV shows use the word "pregnant" while we're at it, like back in the "Dick Van Dyke Show" days? I've obviously been giving the world too much credit, or at least been giving too much to ABC.

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DID YOU KNOW?

Officially out: More than 440 openly gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people hold public office in the U.S., according to the Victory Fund. That's up from 49 LGBT public officials in 1991.

LGBT NEWS FOR WISCONSIN AND BEYOND.

Hate crimes based on sexual orientation rise

By Lisa Neff

WIG Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — Hate crimes based on sexual orientation increased 11 percent in 2008, the FBI reported in its annual survey of bias-related offenses. The increase marked the third year in a row that anti-LGBT offenses have risen.

The report also found a nearly 9 percent increase in hate crimes based on religion. Overall, the number of hate crime incidents increased about 2 percent.

An FBI analysis of hate crimes in 2008 revealed that

51.3 percent were motivated by racial bias, 19.5 percent were motivated by religious bias, 16.7 percent were motivated by sexual orientation and 11.5 percent were motivated by ethnicity/national origin. One percent involved bias against a disability.

"It is disturbing that in 2008, as our country elected its first African-American president, the FBI report tallied 7,783 bias-motivated incidents — the highest total since 2001, including the highest number of crimes directed at blacks, Jews and gay men and lesbians since 2001,"

said Robert Sugarman of the Anti-Defamation League.

"These numbers are unacceptable," said Joe Solmonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign. "While it is so important that we have the new federal hate crimes law, it is critical to ensure that we continue working with the Department of Justice to ensure the safety of LGBT citizens."

In October, President Barack Obama signed the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act into law. The measure expands the Justice

Department's role in investigating and prosecuting bias-motivated crimes based on sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, race, color, religion, national origin and gender.

The FBI did not offer a comparison of bias crimes from one year to the next, because fluctuations in the statistics can be partly due to changes in the number of law enforcement agencies voluntarily involved in reporting.

The 2008 report contained reports from 2,145 agencies compared to 2,025 agencies the year before.

The FBI reported 7,783 hate crime incidents and 9,691 victims, including individuals, businesses and institutions.

In the report, 5,542 offenses were classified as crimes against people. Intimidation accounted for 48.8 percent of those crimes, simple assaults for 32.1 percent and aggravated assaults for 18.5 percent. Seven murders were reported as hate crimes.

The majority of the 3,608 crimes against property were acts of vandalism, and 17.7 percent consisted

mainly of robbery, burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft and arson.

Of the 6,927 known offenders, 61.1 percent were white, 20.2 percent were black and 11.0 percent were of an unknown race.

The FBI reported that 31.9 percent of hate crimes took place in or near homes. Another 17.4 percent took place on highways, roads, alleys or streets, 11.7 percent in schools and colleges, 6.1 percent in parking lots and garages and 4.2 percent in churches, synagogues or temples.

Thousands hold vigil for murdered gay teen

From WIG & AP Reports

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — Thousands of people marched through Puerto Rico's capital Nov. 25, celebrating the life of a gay teenager whose dismembered, burned body was found dumped along a road in a small mountain town.

The crowd, many of them carrying candles as a breezy dusk settled over San Juan, were also demanding that authorities invoke a law for the first time covering crimes based on sexual orientation in the U.S. territory.

"We're gay people, straight people, young people, old people. It is Puerto Rico that's walking tonight," Pedro Julio Serrano, a spokesman for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, said among the marchers gathered outside the island's Department of Justice.

The mutilated body of 19-year-old college student Jorge Steven Lopez Mercado was discovered Nov. 13 along a road in the town of Cayey. He was a volunteer for organizations advocating HIV prevention and gay rights, and Serrano said there have been vigils for him in a dozen cities, including Los Angeles and New York.

Juan Martinez Matos, the 26-year-old suspect held in

the case, allegedly met Lopez in an area known for prostitution, according to prosecutor Jose Bermudez Santos.

The prosecutor said Martinez confessed to stabbing Lopez, who was dressed in women's clothing, after discovering he was a man.

It could not be immediately determined if Martinez is being represented by a lawyer.

Gay activists have voiced outrage that Martinez wasn't immediately charged with

a hate crime. He has been charged with murder.

Ana Quintero, a spokeswoman for Justice Secretary Antonio Sagardia, said the murder case was still under investigation and officials would pursue it as a hate crime if the evidence warrants.

A 2002 hate crime law in Puerto Rico has not been applied to any cases involving sexual orientation or gender identity, despite calls to use it more aggressively, Serrano

said. A suspect convicted of a hate crime offense as part of another crime automatically faces the maximum penalty for the underlying crime. For murder, that would be life in prison.

Serrano said he has identified at least 10 slayings on the island over the last seven years that should have been investigated as hate crimes.

Two U.S. Congress members from New York, who are of Puerto Rican origin, have suggested prosecuting

the case under new federal hate crimes legislation that extended coverage to sexual orientation. President Barack Obama signed it last month.

Activists have also suggested prosecuting the case under the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act.

"We are all grieving the loss of Jorge Lopez," said Joe Solmonese of the Human Rights Campaign in Washington. "HRC stands in solidarity with Jorge Lopez'

'It is Puerto Rico that's walking tonight.'

family and friends, our sister advocacy organizations and the LGBT community in Puerto Rico and throughout America in calling for a full and thorough investigation of this murder as a hate crime.

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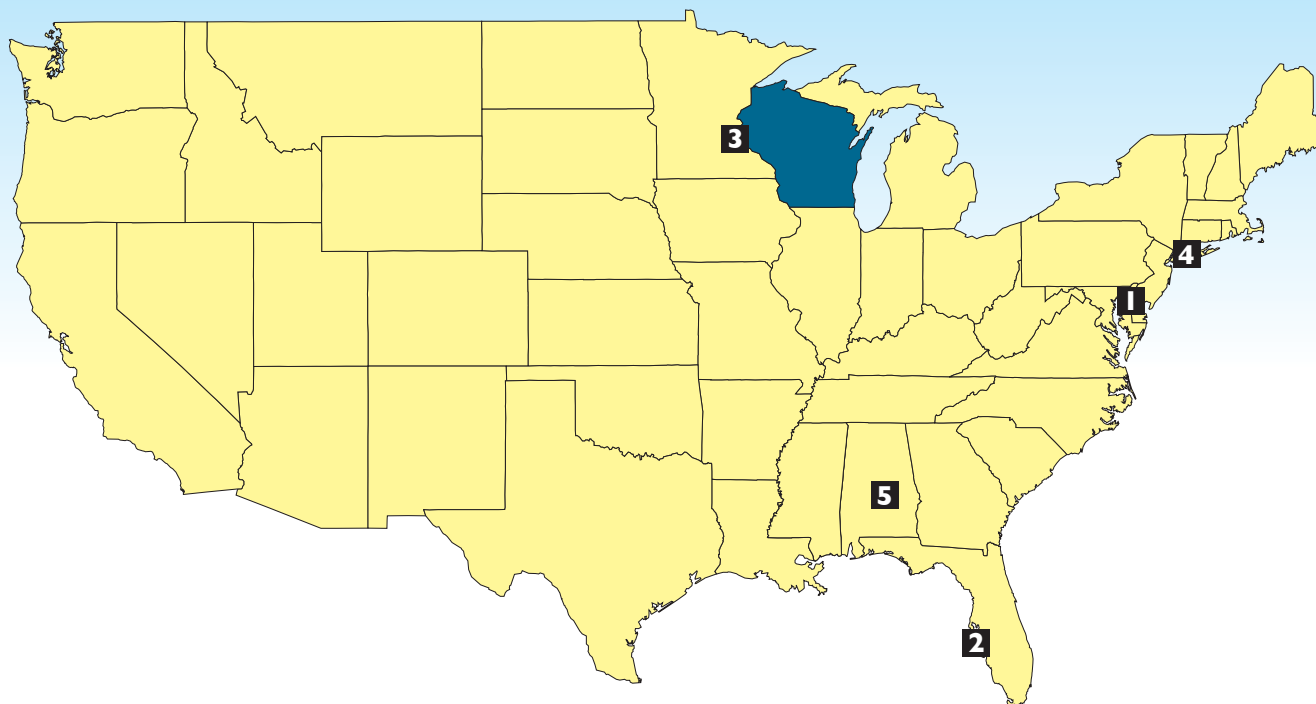
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1. N.J. RESIDENTS SUPPORT GAY MARRIAGE

MOUNT LAUREL, N.J. (AP) — New Jerseyans surveyed narrowly favor allowing gay marriage, while one in eight are undecided on the issue.

The Rutgers-Eagleton Poll of 903 New Jersey adults finds that voters support allowing gay marriage by a 46 to 42 margin.

Just over half said they would accept a law. But 40 percent — nearly all those who oppose gay marriage — said they would support a state constitutional amendment to overturn the law.

Lawmakers are deciding whether they'll vote on the gay marriage bill in the next two months.

News

FROM AROUND THE U.S.
FROM WIG AND AP REPORTS

Gov. Jon Corzine supports the measure. But Gov.-elect Chris Christie says he would veto it if it passed after he takes office Jan. 19.

2. TAMPA COUNCIL PROTECTS TRANSGENDER CITIZENS

TAMPA, Fla. (WiG) — The City Council recently voted 5-1 to expand non-discrimination protections.

The council added "gender identity" to the city's existing human rights ordinance that bans discrimination in hous-

ing, employment and public accommodation.

The action came at the request of the Tampa Human Rights Council. Equality Florida worked closely with the council in the months leading up to the vote.

Equality Florida's Nadine Smith said, "Today's vote, while long overdue, makes it clear that Tampa is a leader in Florida when it comes to protecting its citizens."

3. LUTHERAN BODY TO FORM IN U.S. AFTER GAY PASTOR VOTE

NEW BRIGHTON, Minn. (AP) — The split over gay clergy within the largest Lutheran denomination in the U.S. has prompted a conservative faction to begin

forming a new church body separate from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Leaders of Lutheran CORE said that a working group would immediately begin drafting a constitution and taking other steps to form the denomination, with hopes to have it off the ground by next August.

"There are many people within the ELCA who are very unhappy with what has happened," said the Rev. Paull Spring, chairman of Lutheran CORE and a retired ELCA bishop from State College-Pennsylvania.

4. N.Y. COURT UPHOLDS BENEFITS TO MARRIED SAME-SEX COUPLES

NEWYORK CITY (WiG) — The New York Court of Appeals ruled that the State Department of Civil Service and Westchester County could extend government benefits to same-sex couples in out-of-state marriages.

A four-judge majority ruled that the government defendants had discretion to extend benefits to domestic partners and could do so to married same-sex spouses as well. A three-judge concurrence said that the longstanding marriage recognition rule means that out-of-state marriages

of same-sex couples are entitled to respect in New York. All seven judges on the Court voted against the ADF's effort to block rights for same-sex couples in New York. The ruling leaves intact lower appellate court decisions confirming that out-of-state marriages of same-sex couples get legal respect in New York.

5. ALABAMA LEGISLATOR SEEKS TO BLOCK BENEFITS

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — An Alabama legislator is picking up support for his bill to stop the state's public universities from offering employee benefits to same-sex couples.

Rep. DuWayne Bridges, R-Valley, said he has prepared a bill for the legislative session beginning in January. The bill would prohibit public universities from receiving state funds if they offer benefits to same-sex partners.

"I don't think universities should waste money by making a liberal or politically correct statement," Bridges said.

His bill is aimed at two campuses of the University of Alabama System, which Bridges said are ignoring the intent of a 2006 amendment to Alabama's

constitution that banned same-sex marriages.

The University of Alabama at Birmingham on Oct. 1 began enrolling eligible adult domestic partners of either sex of faculty and staff in medical, dental and vision plans. The University of Alabama in Huntsville will extend benefits to domestic partners Jan. 1.

At the University of Alabama's Tuscaloosa campus, President Robert Witt recently told the faculty that the policy is under consideration.

Auburn University does not offer domestic partner benefits, a spokesman said.

Dale Turnbough, a UAB spokeswoman, said offering the benefits helps UAB's medical school compete with other top schools which routinely offer the benefits. She said partner benefits "create a positive, supportive and diverse work environment in which faculty and staff can excel."

Republican Gov. Bob Riley "supports Rep. Bridges 100 percent," Riley press secretary Todd Stacy told The Tuscaloosa News.

Republican gubernatorial candidate Tim James has also endorsed Bridges' bill.

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ANNIVERSARY PARTY

Gay and lesbian couples pose for a photograph marking the one-year anniversary of the day Connecticut began allowing same-sex marriage in Hartford, Conn., in November. Second from left is Robin Levine-Ritterman and spouse Barbara Levine-Ritterman, third from left, who were among the eight same-sex couples who sued for the right to marry.

Researchers testing 97 meds

WiG Staff Report

Washington, D.C.— America's pharmaceutical research and biotechnology companies are testing 97 medicines and vaccines to treat or prevent HIV/AIDS and related conditions, according to a report from the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America.

"We are greatly encouraged by these critically important medicines and vaccines in development to treat and prevent HIV infection," said PhRMA CEO Billy Tauzin. "Pharmaceutical researchers are continuing their efforts

to develop new therapies and vaccines to improve and lengthen the lives of HIV-infected patients."

The report found that the 97 products in development include 23 vaccines and 54 antivirals. These drugs are either in human clinical trials or awaiting approval by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Thirty-one medicines to treat HIV/AIDS have been approved since scientists first identified the virus that causes AIDS more than 20 years ago. The first HIV/AIDS medicine was approved in 1987, four years after the

virus was identified.

Although the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that more than a million Americans were living with HIV infection at the end of 2006, the increased availability and utilization of newer prescription medicines has helped to reduce the U.S. death rate from AIDS substantially in recent years.

The CDC estimates that since the introduction of highly active anti-retroviral therapy in 1995, the annual number of deaths in the U.S. due to AIDS has dropped by more than 70 percent.

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Atlanta police sued for bar raid

By Lisa Neff

WIG Staff Writer

The city of Atlanta, its police chief and 48 officers in the Atlanta Police Department face a federal lawsuit over a Sept. 10 raid on a gay bar.

Lambda Legal, an LGBT civil liberties group, filed the suit, *Calhoun v. Pennington*, in late November on behalf of 19 patrons who were forcibly searched and detained.

"The illegal activity going

on in the Atlanta Eagle that night was committed by the APD," claimed Greg Nevins, an attorney with Lambda's office in Atlanta. "If it is APD procedure for elderly men and wounded veterans to be thrown to the floor and harassed simply for being in a bar having a drink after work, then the APD should change its procedures."

The APD on Sept. 10 dispatched more than 20 officers to the Atlanta Eagle, including the department's

Red Dog Unit, dressed in SWAT team gear, in an effort to crack down on illegal public sex.

But, according to Lambda, inside the bar the APD found no public sex, no drugs or illegal weapons.

During the raid, patrons were forced to lie face-down on the floor — on spilled beer and broken glass — while officers completed background checks on them.

"The Atlanta Eagle is one

'The Atlanta Police Department is not above the law.'

of my favorite bars. I usually go there to drink a beer, unwind and watch a football game after rehearsing with the Gay Men's Chorus," said

patron Mark Danak, one of the plaintiffs in the suit. "But that Thursday night was a very serious experience that I will never forget."

The attorneys said patrons reported hearing officers use anti-gay slurs.

One patron was forced to lie on the floor even though he had injured his back in the Iraq War, according to Lambda.

Authorities did not charge anyone with a crime as a result of the raid.

"I've listened to dozens of stories from patrons who were mistreated by police at the Atlanta Eagle that night," said the co-counsel in the suit, Dan Grossman. "The Atlanta Police Department is not above the law. They do not get to search and detain people who are not suspected of any crime."

The lawsuit challenges the APD officers' actions, claiming violations of the U.S. and Georgia constitutions and Georgia state law.

PHILIPPINE GAY GROUP FIGHTS TO CONTEST ELECTIONS

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — A Philippine gay rights group is waging a legal battle to be allowed to run in next year's polls after the Elections Commission ruled it cannot register as a political party on grounds that it advocates immorality.

The decision against Ang



INTERNATIONAL UPDATE FROM WIG AND AP REPORTS

Ladlad (Out of the Closet), a group representing LGBTs, sent shock waves through the community.

In issuing its decision, the commission said the group "tolerates immorality which

offends religious beliefs" and exposes young people to "an environment that does not conform to the teachings of our faith." The ruling cited passages from the Bible and the Quran condemning homosexuality.

Gays are generally accepted in the Philippines, despite the dominant Roman Catholic religion's rejection of same-sex relations.

Leila de Lima, chairwom-

an of the Commission on Human Rights, denounced the Election Commission's ruling as "retrogressive" and said it "smacks of discrimination and prejudice."

She promised to support Ang Ladlad's efforts to gain recognition as a party.

The group's leader, Danton Remoto, a prominent gay activist and English professor at the Jesuit-run Ateneo de Manila University, filed a petition Wednesday asking the commission to reconsider its ruling, which he said was based largely on religious, not legal, grounds.

There are no laws in the Philippines against homosexuality or against sexual discrimination. If his group is allowed to run and wins a congressional seat, Remoto said he hopes to push for the adoption of a proposed anti-discrimination bill that has been languishing for nine years because of insufficient support.

"The law is just silent," he said. "We are just invisible in

the law."

THAILAND LOOKS TO LIMIT SURGERIES

BANGKOK (AP) — Thailand has issued rules making sex-change surgery more difficult — including a requirement that potential candidates cross-dress for a year — over fears that some patients are rushing into the operation, a medical association reported in late November.

Over the past two years, a rash of castrations, especially among young men, has alarmed the medical establishment and prompted the new rules, according to the Medical Council of Thailand.

The council's Dr. Sampanth Komrit said the new rules went into effect late last month and require a person to wait a year after deciding on the surgery. The applicants must be over 18 and are required to cross-dress for the year before sur-

gery. It also requires a mental evaluation before the surgery and continued follow-up visits with a psychiatrist after getting the sex change.

"This is a very important decision in their life," Sampanth said. "After the operation, there is no way to fix it."

Last year, Thailand's Health Ministry ordered hospitals and medical clinics to temporarily stop performing non-medical castrations. The ministry said that the procedure needed stricter monitoring.

Sampanth said the new regulations give people the opportunity to think through their decision.

"This is not a small thing, not like going shopping. Especially the teenagers, think carefully. Don't do it because your friend did it," Sampanth said.

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International Gay Games set for Midwest in 2014

By Lisa Neff

WIG Staff Writer

COLOGNE, Germany — The Gay Games will return to the Midwest in 2014. The Federation of Gay Games chose Cleveland to host the international competition.

The 2010 games will be played in Cologne. The 2006 games were in Chicago.

The FGG spent a year evaluating sites for 2014, narrowing the field to three finalists — Cleveland, Boston and Washington, D.C.

“Cleveland demonstrated to the FGG that they understood the mission of the Gay Games and our principles of ‘participation, inclusion and personal best,’” Kurt Dahl and Emy Ritt, FGG co-presidents, said in a statement. “We were highly impressed by the facilities and infrastructure, the widespread

World

INTERNATIONAL UPDATE
FROM WIG AND AP REPORTS

community support, their financial plan and the city’s experience in hosting large scale sports and cultural events.”

Cleveland Mayor Frank G. Jackson endorsed the city’s campaign to host the game, and welcomed the FGG decision.

“The city of Cleveland is prepared to roll out the welcome mat to the LGBT athletes, their families and spectators from around the world,” Jackson said. “Fans of the Gay Games will find that Cleveland is a great place to celebrate sports and culture and that we

have tremendous assets and amenities for them to enjoy. The sports and cultural environment here is truly a uniquely Cleveland experience, one they will cherish for years to come.”

W. Doug Anderson, spokesperson for the Cleveland Synergy Foundation, the organization that prepared the Gay Games bid, said, “It is truly a privilege to continue Dr. Tom Waddell’s legacy and vision in our city — an extremely enthusiastic sports town.”

The Gay Games is a quadrennial sports and cultural festival founded in 1982 by Waddell, an Olympic decathlete. Drawing as many as 12,000 participants — more than the Olympics — Gay Games were held in San Francisco in 1982 and 1986,

The Gay Games was founded in 1982.

Vancouver in 1990, New York in 1994, Amsterdam in 1998, Sydney in 2002 and Chicago in 2006.

The 2010 Gay Games will take place in Cologne July 31-Aug. 7, 2010.

The 2014 Gay Games, scheduled for Aug. 9-16, will feature 30 sports, cultural events and opening and closing ceremonies.

The economic impact of the games is estimated at \$50 million to \$80 million, but past games have created financial difficulties for host committees and cities.



PHOTO: COURTESY JASONSMITH.COM

The Gay Games took place in Chicago in 2006. Here Trent Hagler from Dallas hands off the baton to Team New York runner Joe Justin at the 4x200 relays at the Gay Games Chicago.

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ON
TRACK

An interview with Linda Eder

By Gregg Shapiro

WiG Staff Writer

Diva supreme Linda Eder continues to broaden her horizons — and those of her fans — with her reinterpretations of songs from movies on her new album “Soundtrack.”

To her credit, Eder does the unexpected. Her song selections and the interesting arrangements elevate the performer and the material. Her reading of “Falling Slowly” (from “Once”) is exquisite and one of her finest moments. She effortlessly makes songs made famous by the Beatles, Elvis Presley, Dionne Warwick and Nilsson her own, and for that Eder deserves praise.

We spoke shortly after the release of the disc.

Gregg Shapiro: Have you seen all the movies from which the songs are drawn?

Linda Eder: No. I’ve seen a lot of them, but not all of them. The reason that I wanted to make the movie CD was because I really wanted to record the song “Falling Slowly,” but I never saw the movie (“Once”). ... I just fell in love with the song! I wanted to sing it. But the majority I think I’ve seen.

GS: Make sure you have a box of tissue nearby when you watch it.

LE: Yeah, that’s what people have said.

GS: Does this selection of songs in any way indicate that some of these, from the ones that you’ve seen, might be among your favorite movies?

LE: Not favorite movies, but favorite songs.

GS: How would you describe the song selection process?

LE: It wasn’t that hard. I could probably fill 50 CDs with songs that I like.

GS: Your transformation of the song “Help” into a ballad is not the first time that you are covering the Beatles. Do you think there could possibly be an all-Beatles album in your future?

LE: I wouldn’t say “no” because their songs are so amazing, and they can be done in so many different ways. I wouldn’t rule that out at all.

GS: More than half of the songs on the disc, including “Everybody’s Talking,” “Valley of the Dolls” and “Charade” are from the 1960s. What do you think they say about the movie music from that period?

LE: Well, great, great songs. The true standards, so many of them came from the stage and the screen. And when you get somebody like Henry Mancini writing, you’re going to have classic songs.

GS: In the liner notes, you mention that you chose “Accidentally In Love” because it is a movie that your son likes. Could you ever see recording an album of songs for children?

LE: Oh, sure! That’s the thing about me, I like a lot of different styles and I have a voice that can go a lot of different directions. Fairly authentically, I think, as long as I choose wisely.

GS: Would you say that it was fun or a challenge to do “Can’t Help Falling In Love With You,” a song forever associated with Elvis Presley?

LE: The label wanted me to do an Elvis song. And even though, of course, I’m a huge Elvis fan, my first reaction internally — I didn’t vocalize it — was, “Are you kidding me?” I couldn’t imagine what I was going to do. Then I chose that song simply because it was easy. I’d never sung it. But to my surprise, it became one of my favorite cuts on the record. Because the song is, to me, similar in quality to “Over The Rainbow.” It’s a surprising song.

GS: “Soundtrack” is your second album for Verve. Does being on Verve have anything to do with you taking more creative chances with your material?



Linda Eder is performing at 9 p.m. Dec. 4 at the Northern Lights Theater at Potawatomi Bingo Casino, 1721 W. Canal.

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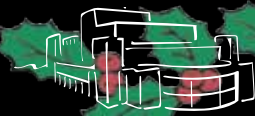


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The Snow White experience

By Gregg Shapiro

WiG Staff Writer

Prolific porn star Sasha Grey makes her mainstream movie debut as high-priced NYC escort Chelsea in Steven Soderbergh's "The Girlfriend Experience" (Magnolia Home Entertainment/2929). Considered a "sophisticated" call girl, Chelsea brings a personal touch to the conversation and interactions that she has with her clients. She listens patiently and attentively as a number of her tricks express their concern with the state of the economy, and rightfully so for what she charges. Her simple, private journal entries include information about her johns as well as where they met, where they ate, and most importantly, what she wore. Chelsea's entrepreneurial and competitive spirit leads her to a meeting with a Web master, a financial advisor, to look for ways of growing her business ventures while maintaining anonymity.

Like anyone in business during troubling economic



Snow White gets consoled.

times, Chelsea also stresses out about her competition. And when the promise of a good review on a message board goes sour, Chelsea is on the verge of losing her composure. Much hotter than Chelsea is her personal trainer boyfriend Chris (Chris Santos), with whom she lives. Chris, in his own way, prostitutes himself. In addition to his personal training work, Chris reps a line of workout clothing and seeks opportunities at other fit-

ness clubs. But his tolerance for Chelsea's line of work is put to the test when she breaks the rule about going away with a customer.

Through an interview conducted during the course of the film by a journalist named Mark (Mark Jacobson), the audience is supposed to gain insight into Chelsea, but that never really occurs. In fact, it is her more personal interactions with the clientele (a session with a Hasidic diamond dealer, for instance)

that tells us everything we need to know about her. DVD special features include an unrated alternate cut, commentary by Soderbergh and Grey and more.

More than 70 years since Walt Disney's "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" first graced movie screens, it remains one of the legendary movie studio's most beloved features, featuring one of the most terrifying screen villains of all time. The Diamond Edition of "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" includes a single DVD and a pair of Blu-Rays full of extras.

Based on the Grimm tale, "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" is classic good versus evil, with a soundtrack featuring some of Disney's

most beloved tunes, including "I'm Wishing," "Whistle While You Work," "Heigh Ho" and "Someday My Prince Will Come." Even though she's a princess, Snow White (voiced by Adriana Caselotti) dresses in rags and works as a scullery maid for her wicked stepmother the queen (voiced by Lucille La Verne). The queen's routine visits to the "magic mirror on the wall" for assurance that she's still the fairest of all take a turn for the worse when another beauty with lips red as roses, hair black as ebony and skin, you guessed it, white as snow, takes the title.

Banished to the forest with a huntsman ordered to slay her, Snow White proves to be a survivor. After her narrow escape, she is led

DVDs

WiGOUT

to the home of the dwarfs, who are off at work in the diamond mines. Snow White straightens up and cooks dinner and generally wins over the little fellows — including Doc, Happy, Sneezy, Dopey, Grumpy, Bashful and Sleepy — upon their return from work. But the good times don't last long, as the vicious queen transforms herself into a beggar woman and gets Snow White to take a bite of the poison apple. Thank goodness, though, for handsome princes and happily-ever-after endings.

Reel advice: Now playing

By Gregg Shapiro

WiG Staff Writer

"FANTASTIC MR. FOX"

Remember the first time you saw Nick Park's "The Wrong Trousers" or "Chicken Run"? Remember how it made you reevaluate everything you ever thought about claymation? Wes Anderson's big screen adaptation of Roald Dahl's "Fantastic Mr. Fox" is sure to do the same for stop-motion animation.

From the foxy, autumnal colors to the vintage rock and surf soundtrack to the snappy script from Anderson and Noah Baumbach, "Fantastic Mr. Fox" is fabulous. "Fantastic Mr. Fox" is original, unpretentious, innovative, insightful and possibly the funniest movie of the year.

Dahl's work is respected in the way that it is enhanced for a 21st-century audience. A wonder to behold, the movie packs a lot into its 87 minutes.

With a new baby on the way, Mr. Fox (voiced by George Clooney) promises Mrs. Fox (voiced by Meryl Streep) that he will find a less dangerous line of work than stealing chickens. But writing a column for The Gazette simply isn't enough for him. When the

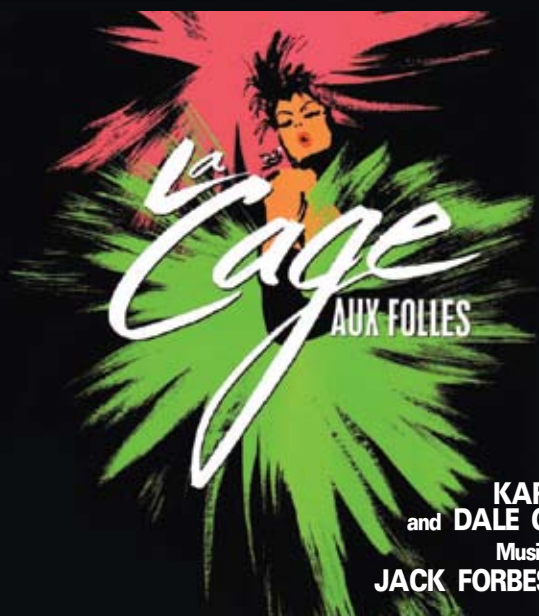


"THE TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON"

Already shredding box office records (like Taylor Lautner shreds muscle), this weak sequel to "Twilight" sends all the wrong messages to its target audience. The last thing tween/teen girls (or gay men, take your pick) need is some Mormon author telling them to be concerned about aging at 18 or being so obsessed with a guy that they are willing to die for him.

Bella's (the limited Kristen Stewart) life is turning out to be a nightmare, literally and figuratively. She's freaking out about turning 18. Her sleep is tormented by dreams of her great love — 109-year-old/teen vampire Edward (Robert Pattinson). For Bella's own good, Edward has left the town of Forks with his family. Her other love interest, Jacob (Lautner), runs hot and cold, and spends too much time in a homoerotic embrace with his shirtless new pack. Frankly, the only moons worth seeing in this below-average special-effects feast are the ones attached to Lautner and Pattinson. If only the sun was setting on this garbage. But there's more yet to come in this sagging saga.

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Film

WiGOUT



PHOTO: ANNE MARIE FOX

Gabourey Sidibe stars as Claireece "Precious" Jones in "Precious."

'Precious' moments

An interview
with director
Lee Daniels

By Greg Shapiro

WiG Staff Writer

Precious Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire" has had people talking since the film premiered at Sundance earlier this year.

Set in 1987 Harlem, where 16-year-old Claireece "Precious" Jones (Gabourey "Gabby" Sidibe making her unforgettable film debut) is still in junior high and pregnant with her second child. Her living situation, where she is regularly physically and verbally abused by her mother Mary (Mo'Nique in a groundbreaking performance) and raped by her father is more wretched than can be described. But there are forces of good at work in her world. Under the guidance of a concerned teacher (Paula Patton) and a social worker (an unrec-

ognizable and unexpectedly accomplished Mariah Carey), Precious exceeds even her own expectations and triumphs.

WiG spoke with out gay director Lee Daniels about his riveting new film.

Greg Shapiro: *Sapphire vividly brought Precious to life on the page in her novel "Push." What was it about Sapphire's novel that made you want to adapt it for film?*

Lee Daniels: The characters were very rich, very textured, very layered. Honest....

GS: *The title of the movie "Precious," includes the words "based on the novel "Push" by Sapphire." Can you please explain why?*

LD: ...There was a movie that was coming out called "Push".... I'm really happy with the title now, (but) it took me a long way for it to grow. It took me the

longest. Sapphire was like "oooookay" and Mo'Nique was like "oookay" in that order. It took me longest to really embrace it.

GS: *Was Sapphire enthusiastic about her novel being made into a movie, or did she need to be persuaded about the idea?*

LD: I stalked her. She was not into this at all in the beginning. There were many people suiting her. And I stalked her. And I know that she felt now, in hindsight, that if we did a bad movie, that it would somehow affect the novel.

GS: *Gabourey "Gabby" Sidibe makes her film debut as Precious. Can you please say something about the process of casting that role, and how you came to Gabby?*

LD: Dude, it was a miracle. This is crazy, really crazy. Like 400 girls. Now that may not seem like a lot.

I say it often. I saw 400 girls. But you know one thing, that's a lot. We were checking out chicks and they were Precious, these girls were really the real deal. ... Then Gabby's audition came and she — I saw it — and then I heard her talk. And she talked so differently from the audition. I was like, huh? Who are you? And I realized she was acting. And if I had used one of those girls, it would've been exploiting her, and it would've been making fun of her.

GS: *You worked with Mo'Nique in "Shadowboxer" — what was it about working with her that made you think she would be right to portray Mary in "Precious"?*

LD: ...There were glimmers of Mary in my movie "Shadowboxer," and her connection was so profoundly one. She understands words that come out

of my mouth before they come out of my mouth. Like she knows me and I know her. It's like we're married but we have no sex.

GS: *What impact does being an openly gay filmmaker have on your choices for the films you want to direct or produce?*

LD: I'm glad that you mentioned that, because I don't get that question often. For me, I think the gay part is not an issue. But more the black gay part is a bigger issue. As a gay man, gay men, there are so many of them in Hollywood and (they're) decision makers and it's a cult, I think. I don't have to worry about prejudices right now, anymore. I fought so long all my life prejudices about being gay, about being victimized because I was gay, being victimized because I was black, being victimized because I was gay and black. I'm so happy at 50 years old,

that I'm being embraced for my spirit and for me.

GS: *There's not a lot of humor in the movie, but there is that scene where Precious goes to Ms. Rain's house and realizes that Ms. Rain is, as Precious puts it, "a straight-up lesbian."*

LD: First of all, the movie is very gay-themed. If you really study the film. For me, lower economic socio-backgrounds really are not embracing of homosexuals. And in the book, Sapphire brilliantly executes it in a harder way. There's so many subjects, lesbian, race, self-esteem issues, obesity, all these issues in the film, I could only like touch at it. Because I made this movie for my family in the ghetto. I wanted them to see, three quarters of the way through the film, that the savior, that the goddess, that the sex vixen, was a lesbian.

Film documents Mormon role in gay marriage debate

By Jennifer Dobner

AP Writer

Reed Cowan's reasons for making a film about the Mormon Church's activism against gay marriage in California are personal.

Gay and Mormon, Cowan clashed with his family over his sexual orientation and the beliefs of their faith, but it was a conversation between him and a sibling about her support of Proposition 8 that cemented his commitment to make the film: "8: The Mormon Proposition."

"I thought, 'If this is the dialogue in my Mormon family, then what is like in other Mormon households?'" the Miami-area filmmaker and former Utah television journalist said. "If this is the pain I feel over Prop. 8 and other Mormon efforts to quash (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) rights, what is the pain of others multiplied all over the world?"

While the 80-minute documentary is still in production, a trailer posted on the Internet has caught the eye



of both sides of the debate, viewed by roughly 70,000 people in its first 78 hours online.

Cowan contends that the church was the most influential force in the campaign and paints the faith's theology and culture as historically anti-gay.

Internet commentary on the trailer is divided.

Depending on the source, the movie is either an emotional and scathing indictment of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints or an unfair characterization of the Utah-based church's beliefs and motivation for political involvement. The church was part of a coalition of faiths and conservative groups that pushed for approval of Proposition 8, which put a gay marriage ban into California's constitution.

Church officials have seen



PHOTO: COURTESY JASONSMTIH.COM

Dustin Lance Black in New York, Jan. 2009.

the trailer and other online materials about the film, LDS spokeswoman Kim Farah said, and "it is obvious that anyone looking for balance and thoughtful discussion of a serious subject will need to look elsewhere."

Like many faiths, Mormonism defends traditional marriage as an institution ordained by God that is central to a healthy society.

gay and raised Mormon — the film chronicles the campaign and includes personal stories from straight and gay Mormons, including newlyweds Tyler Barrick and Spencer Jones, who married in San Francisco June 17, 2008, the first day same-sex marriage was legal in California.

The film touches on gay suicide and homelessness, which many believe occur at higher-than-average rates among gay Mormons. It also highlights the strong opposition to gay rights from the Utah Legislature and lobbyists who are predominantly Latter-day Saints.

The film draws on past statements of former leaders and efforts to cure homosexuality with electroshock therapy at the church-owned Brigham Young University.

Mormon church officials appear in the film in footage obtained through other filmmakers, media outlets and in a church-produced video that appeared on the Web.

Cowan said he "begged"

for church participation — through both official channels and personal connections — but was rejected. "I got an immediate no," he said.

Alex Nibley, a Utah filmmaker and digital media instructor said the trailer's powerful, high-quality footage promises an emotional look at its subject. Still, he said, it appears to fit within the typically polarized spectrum of film takes on the Mormon Church — most either that promote the faith or attack its views.

"I suspect that the impact will be to confirm certain ideas that people have about the church," Nibley said. "It may expand some perceptions in the public at large, but it will probably not shake the faith of a lot of those who aren't going to pay much attention to it."

Cowan said his goal for the film was to document what he believes is a crusade against gay people and to illustrate that the faith operates as both a church and a political action committee.

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Barbra Streisand



Rufus Wainwright, top, and Madonna



Mariah Carey

Diva, diva, diva, diva

Music
WIGOUT

By Gregg Shapiro

WIG Staff Writer

Out of his five studio albums, it's interesting that Rufus Wainwright chose to release a live album recorded during the tour for his fifth, "Release The Stars." But eight of the songs on the CD portion of the live double-disc CD/DVD set "Milwaukee At Last!" (Decca) derive from that disc. Wainwright sounds genuinely taken aback at the enthusiastic reception he receives on show opener "Release The Stars" and the positive response continues throughout, from the powerful "Going To A Town" to the poppy "Rules and Regulations." His spot-on rendition of "If Love Were All" offers a taste of his acclaimed recreation of Judy Garland's "At Carnegie Hall" concert and "Gay Messiah" is nothing short of the perfect finale.

Anyone who has ever had the pleasure of attending a Wainwright concert knows it's as much a visual experience as an audio one. So the inclusion of a DVD, which expands on the CD is well worth the cost.

Barbra Streisand's new album "Love Is The Answer" (Columbia) and the Madonna compilation "Celebration" (Warner Brothers) are two

strong arguments for springing for the deluxe edition option. "Love Is The Answer" succeeds on many levels, not the least of which is the age-appropriate material.

In the extensive liner notes for "Love Is The Answer," Streisand mentions some of the songs — "In The Wee Small Hours of the Morning," "Spring Can Really Hang You Up The Most" and "Here's That Rainy Day," for instance — for which this project was perfect. And she's so right. But she also works wonders with "Make Someone Happy," from which the album's title is drawn, Luis Bonfá's "Gentle Rain" (sung in English) and Jacques Brel's "If You Go Away (Ne Me Quitte Pas)" (sung in French and English). And there's the heartbreaking drama of "Where Do You Start?" and "Smoke Gets In Your Eyes." All of these tracks get sumptuous orchestral arrangements, but to get the full, raw impact of the material, I strongly suggest the essential second disc of "quartet arrangements."

While I wholeheartedly recommend the Madonna anthology, I have quibbles, beginning with the set not being chronological. How hard can it be to put the songs in order of release dates?

With the exception of one song, Madonna's first hits disc, "The Immaculate Collection," is represented in full on "Celebration." But her second hits package, "GHV2,"

which covered the Madonna of the 1990s, gets the short shrift. In terms of movie music, someone saw fit to include "Beautiful Stranger" from "Austin Powers" and "Die Another Day" from the James Bond flick of the same name, but excluded "Don't Cry For Me Argentina" (and, thankfully, "American Pie" from "The Next Best Thing"). And why replace "Deeper and Deeper" and "What It Feels Like For A Girl" with "Sorry" and "Miles Away"?

In terms of the new material, the suitably named Paul Oakenfold titular track collaboration lives up to its moniker, while the Li'l Wayne collaboration "Revolver" doesn't go anywhere. That said, "Celebration" serves its purpose of representing Madonna's recording career, her far-reaching influence and her substantial contribution.

Usually, I'm the first to complain about Mariah Carey's unnecessary and obnoxious vocal gymnastics. She's no Whitney — and neither is Whitney these days. But after slogging through "Memoirs of an Imperfect Angel" (Island), Carey's latest exercise in shameless excess, I was relieved to land on the closing track, a remake of the Foreigner classic "I Want to Know What Love Is." Sure, it's as schlocky and schmaltzy as it gets, but Carey is actually singing a song with a melody and lyrics that have some degree of substance.

Carey treats the material

with as much respect as she can muster and it pays off. There's much substance to be found on what precedes it, including "Up Out My Face," "Candy Bling," "Standing O" and "H.A.T.E. U." But someone in Carey's camp must be aware of her following

in the gay community, which explains the bonus disc of four dance remixes of the "Obsessed" track. The disc also includes the "Obsessed" video and "video-remix."

As for the boring and redundant sound of the 17-track disc itself, the

blame lays squarely with "producers" and "songwriters" C. "Tricky" Stewart and Terius "The-Dream" Nash. "Kindly take your quotation marks and go away."

Share musical tastes.

Post a rant or rave on www.wisconsin Gazette.com.

88NINE

RADIO MILWAUKEE

DIVERSE MUSIC
FOR A DIVERSE CITY

Muscular read

By Paul Varnell

WiG Contributing Writer

"American Hunks" is an important contribution to the underdeveloped social history of the visual treatment of the well-built male body, as documented in drawings and photography since the middle of the 19th century.

It is a beautifully produced volume of 350 pages that includes about 450 photographs and drawings of wrestlers, "strongmen," bodybuilders and other muscular men from 1860 to 1970 — more or less up to the very young Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Most of the photographs are in black and white but most of the drawings are in color.

The images come from a wide range of sources: mid-20th century physique magazines, photographs, pulp paperback book covers, movie stills, and commercial advertising. A quarter to a third of the photos are of nudes. Many physique photographers took both nude



and non-nude photographs, limiting the circulation of the nudes to trusted clients.

The interesting thing here is the number of men who were comfortable doffing all their clothes for the camera. With just a couple of exceptions, the men were not remarkably endowed. They were proud of their bodies.

Many of the nude photos were taken out of doors but others are studio photographs illustrating classic (if stereotypical) poses, sometimes with props such as swords, foils or weights. A few of the poses would now be labeled "camp," but camp is in the mind of the beholder; they were probably not thought camp at the time the photos were taken.

Some of the bodybuilders are still well known. John

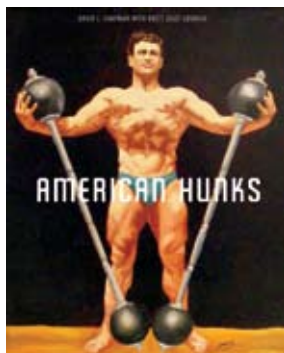


PHOTO: COURTESY ARSENAL PULP PRESS

"American Hunks: The Muscular Male Body in Popular Culture, 1860-1970" is edited by David L. Chapman with an introduction by Brett Josef Grubisic.

Grimek, Larry Scott, Chris Dickerson, Bill Pearl, Steve Reeves and the early Eugen Sandow. Others deserve more fame than they now have: Roy Hilligenn, George Paine and Raul Pacheco among them.

It is clear that, over the century, body styles changed — from the thick-torsoed strongman to the V-shaped body of the modern bodybuilder. Men's bodies became more muscular as nutrition



A hunk from "American Hunks."

improved and knowledge of the science of progressive weight training spread. At first the men seem to have focused on their arms and chest, but later the whole body became a focus of attention.

Perhaps the last to be developed were calf muscles,

although John Grimek is an impressive early exception. As early as the late 1950s and then almost pervasively after the late 1960s, anabolic steroids came into widespread use among bodybuilders, resulting in muscularity that was previously unattainable.

Over the century, body styles changed — from the thick-torsoed strongman to the V-shaped body of the modern bodybuilder.

Most readers will probably first thumb through the book looking for hot, naked men. But they should go back and read the informative captions about the models and photographers appended to each picture. There is a lot of social history in those brief essays by editor David Chapman, the premier historian of this material. It is safe to ignore the pretentious "cultural studies" nonsense in Brett Josef Grubisic's introductory essay. Mostly, just enjoy the pictures.

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Arts and
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Cream City Squares, 414-445-8080.

Men's Voices Milwaukee Chorus, Plymouth Church, 2717 E. Hampshire St., Shorewood, 414-964-1513.

Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. 2nd St., 414-383-3727.

Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival, 414-229-4758, www4.uwm.edu/psoa/programs/film/lgbtfilm.

Queer Program, P.O. Box 090441, Milwaukee, 53209, 414-265-8500.

Queer Zine Archive Project, 2935 N. Fratney St.

SAGE Milwaukee, 1845 N. Farwell Ave., Suite 220, 414-224-0517.

Shoreline Country Dancers, 818 S. Water St. (Hot Water Bar), www.shoreline-milw.org.

Wisconsin Cream City Chorus, 315 W. Court St., Suite 101, 414-276-8787.

Women's Voices Milwaukee, 315 W. Court St., womensvoicesmilwaukee@gmail.com, 414-534-5645.

Community groups

Bay View Gays, 414-482-3796, www.bvsgays.com.

BWMT Milwaukee (Black & White Men Together), P.O. Box 1091475, Milwaukee, 53209, 414-463-5359.

Cream City Foundation, 759 N. Milwaukee St., Suite 212, 414-225-0244.

Firebirds, P.O. Box 159, Milwaukee, 53201.

FORGE, PO Box 1272, Milwaukee, WI 53201, www.forge-forward.org.

G/L Community Center, 904 S. 1st St., 414-643-1652.

G/L Community Trust Fund, P.O. Box 1686, Milwaukee, WI 53201, 414-643-1652.

Gemini Gender Group, P.O. Box 44211, Milwaukee, WI 53214.

Lesbian Alliance, 315 W. Court St., 414-272-9442.

Lesbian Fund of the Women's Fund of Greater Milwaukee, 316 N. Milwaukee Street, Suite 215, 414-290-7350, www.womensfund.com.

LOC/Women of color, P.O. Box 93594, Milwaukee, WI 53203, 414-263-1631.

Log Cabin Republicans, P.O. Box 199, Milwaukee, 53201, 414-755-1954.

Milwaukee Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Community Center, 315 W. Court St., Suite 101, 414-271-2656, www.mkelgbt.org. Milwaukee LGBT History Project, 414-224-0517, www.mkelgbthist.org.

PFLAG-Milwaukee, 315 W. Court St., 414-299-9198.

Pridefest, 315 W. Court St., Suite 203, 414-272-3378, www.pridefest.com.

Pride Parade, www.pride-parademke.com.

Washington Heights Rainbow Association, 414-217-1571, on Facebook.

Wisconsin Rainbow Families, 315 W. Court St., Room 112, info@wirainbowfamilies.com.

Business

Gay & Lesbian Tavern Guild, 209 E. National Ave.

Health

AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, 820 N. Plankinton Ave., 414-273-1991.

BESTD Clinic, 1240 E. Brady St., 414-272-2144.

Diverse and Resilient, 1240B E. Brady St., 414-390-0444, www.diverseandresilient.org.

Galano Club, 315 W. Court Street, Suite 201-A, 414-276-6936.

Health Institute of Milwaukee, 1817 N. Martin Luther King Drive, Suite 3, 414-263-9999.

Milwaukee Women's Center, 611 N. Broadway, Suite 230, 414-272-6199.

Walker's Point Community Clinic, 611 W. National Ave., Suite 400,

414-384-1400.

Religion/Spirituality

Central United Methodist Church, 639 N. 25th St., 414-344-1600.

Congregation Shir Hadash, 414-297-9159, www.cshmilw.org.

Cross Lutheran Church, 1821 N. 16th St., 414-344-1746.

Divine Word Lutheran Church, 5505 W. Lloyd St., 414-476-3189.

First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee, 1342 N. Astor St., 414-273-5257.

Lake Park Lutheran Church, 2647 N. Stowell Ave., 414-962-9190.

Metropolitan Community Church, 1239 W. Mineral St., 414-383-1100.

Milwaukee Friends Meeting (Quakers), 3224 N. Gordon Place.

St. James Episcopal Church, 833 W. Wisconsin Ave., 414-271-1340.

Sports

Front Runners, 414-332-1527.

GAMMA-Milwaukee, P.O. Box 1900, Milwaukee, WI 53201-1900, www.milwaukee-gamma.com

Metro Milwaukee Tennis Club, 414-616-3716.

Milwaukee Gay Soccer League, 1012 E. Clarke St., 414-405-5878, www.milwaukeekeegaysoccer.org.

Milwaukee Gay Volleyball League, <http://milwaukeeegay-volleyball.com>.

Saturday Softball Beer League, 2333 N. 56th St., 414-350-7147, www.ssblmilwaukee.com.

Youth/Education

Alliance School, 850 W. Walnut St., 414-227-2550, www.allianceschool.org.

Alliance for LGBTQ Youth, 1212 S. 70th St., 414-453-1400, www.cssw.org.

Gay Youth Milwaukee, P.O. Box 090441, Milwaukee, WI 53209, 414-265-8500.

LGBT Resource Center a UWM, U.W.-M. Student Union, P.O. Box 413, Milwaukee, 53201, 414-229-4116.

Marquette U G/L Alumni,

P.O. Box 92722, Milwaukee, WI 53202.

Marquette Univ. Gay/Straight Alliance, 1442 W. Wisconsin Ave.

Project Q, 315 W. Court St., Suite 101, 414-223-3220.

Rainbow Alliance at UWM, 220 E. Kenwood Ave., 414-229-6555.

UWM LGBT Resource Center, UWM Union WG89, www.uwm.edu/Dept/OSL/LGBT.

KENOSHA

Religion/Spirituality

Bradford Community Church-Unitarian Universalist, 5810 8th Ave., 262-656-0544.

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Dairyland Cowboys and Cowgirls, Club 5, 5 Applegate Court, 608-277-9700.

Community groups

OutReach, 600 Williamson St., 608-255-8582, www.lgb-toutreach.org.

Politics

Fair Wisconsin, 122 State, Suite 500, 608-441-0143, www.actionwisconsin.com.

Sports

Madison Gay Hockey Association, [www.madison-](http://www.madison-gayhockey.org/)

gayhockey.org/ Madison Volleyball Group, 608-251-8716

RACINE

Community groups

LGBT Center of Southeast Wisconsin, 1456 Junction Ave., 262-664-4100, www.lgbtsewisc.org.

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It's always been to make music that worked for me. I've always had labels that were willing to do that because they knew they would make their money back because I have a built-in fan-base. Verve is a wonderful company and they're great to work with.



Linda Eder

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Friday, December 11, 2009
5:30 to 8:00 P.M.

Come and celebrate with the Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, and Project Q youth of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center as we come "home for the holidays." Food will be provided by Haute Dish, a Personal Chef Service, and non-alcoholic beverages will be available. Our celebration also includes a raffle of great artwork. Center members: \$10; non-members: \$15.

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Milwaukee LGBT Community Center

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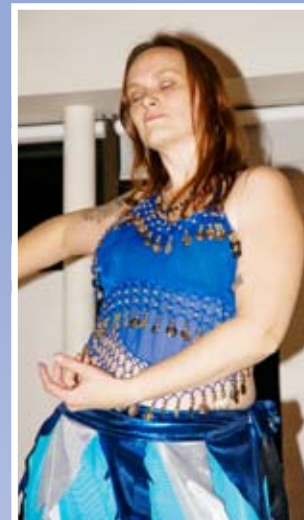
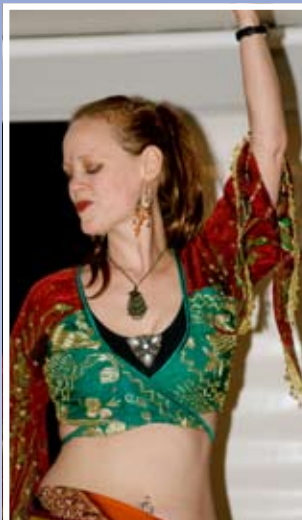
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Elisha at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center's Thanksgiving Belly Dance Party



Telice at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center's Thanksgiving Belly Dance Party

Holiday Invitational Tournament



Milwaukee Gay Arts Center's Thanksgiving Belly Dance Party



Holiday Invitational Tournament



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Calendar

WHAT'S GOING ON?

Ongoing

Through December, an art exhibit based on Bruce H. Joffe's book, "A Hint of Homosexuality? Gay and Homoerotic Imagery in American Print Advertising," is at the LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin, 1456 Junction Ave., Racine. Info: 262-664-4100, www.lgbtsewis.org.

Through Jan. 2, Christopher Durang's "The Marriage of Bette and Boo," Boulevard Theatre, 2252 S. Kinnickinnic, Milwaukee. Info: 414-744-5757.

Throughout December, "Fly Over Country" featuring local artists Jeffery Kerr, Kristopher Pollard, Renee Staack and Anthony Weber. Racine Arts Council, 316 Sixth St., Racine. Info: 262-635-0261, jessika@racineartscouncil.org.

Thursday

7 p.m., AA Living Sober; 7 p.m., Crystal Meth Anonymous, The Galano Club, 315 W. Court St., No. 201, Milwaukee. Info: 414-276-6936, galano-club.org.

7 p.m., third Thursdays, Spiritual Wellness Program: Being in the Now, Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St., Milwaukee. Info: 414-271-2656, www.mkelgbt.org.

7 p.m., third Thursdays, Lesbian Night at the Movies, LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St., Milwaukee. Info: 414-272-9442, www.lesbianalliance.org.

Friday

6 p.m., second Fridays, Lesbian Alliance Game Night and Potluck, LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St., Milwaukee. Info: 414-272-9442, www.lesbianalliance.org.

7 p.m., AA, The Galano Club, 315 W. Court St., No. 201, Milwaukee. Info: 414-276-6936, galano-club.org.

8:30 p.m., second and fourth Fridays, Shoreline Milwaukee line dancing and lessons, Hot Water, 818 S. Water St., Milwaukee. Info: 414-383-7593, www.shoreline-milw.org.

Saturday

9 a.m., Frontrunners Milwaukee Run Walk, starting at the Water Tower at the East end of North Avenue, Milwaukee. Info: 262-285-7645.

6 p.m., AA The Women's Light Meeting; 7:30 p.m., Spiritual Light, The Galano Club, 315 W. Court St., No. 201, Milwaukee. Info: 414-276-6936, galano-club.org.

Sunday

1 p.m., Cream City Squares dances, Lake Park Lutheran Church 2647 N. Stowell, Milwaukee. Info: www.iagsdc.org/creamcity/#Calendar.

7 p.m., AA The Big Book Meeting, The Galano Club, 315 W. Court St., No. 201, Milwaukee. Info: 414-276-6936, galano-club.org.

Monday

7:30 p.m., AA Came to Believe, The Galano Club, 315 W. Court St., No. 201, Milwaukee. Info: 414-276-6936, galano-club.org.

Tuesday

5 p.m., AA Over 40, and 7 p.m. AA The Blue Group, The Galano Club, 315 W. Court St., No. 201, Milwaukee. Info: 414-276-6936, galano-club.org.

Wednesday

7 p.m., AA 12 Steps and 12 Traditions, The Galano Club, 315 W. Court St., No. 201, Milwaukee. Info: 414-276-6936, galano-club.org.

—L.N.

org/kenevents/events/tree_lighting.html.

SUNDAY**Dec. 6**

2 p.m., LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin family-style food fest catered by Mo's Lounge. Info: www.lgbtsewis.org/calendar.

TUESDAY**Dec. 8**

12:30 p.m., Twisted Stitchers meeting, LGBT Resource Center, University of Wisconsin Milwaukee. Info: uwmevent@uwm.edu.

WEDNESDAY**Dec. 9**

6:30 p.m., Reducing the "carbon footprint" workshop, MLGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St., Milwaukee. Info: 414-292-3065.

7 p.m., QShare Business Network Mix and Mingle, Whiskey Bar, 788 N Jackson St., Milwaukee. Info: 414-225-0244

FRIDAY**Dec. 11**

7 p.m., art exhibition, Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. Second, Milwaukee. Info: 414-383-3727.

7 p.m., Milwaukee Gamma Inc., dining out event. Info: 414-530-1886, milwaukeeegamma.com.

8 p.m., Holiday Ugly Bedlah Hafala Belly Dance Party and open dance, Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. Second, Milwaukee. Info: 414-383-3727.

SATURDAY**Dec. 12**

12 p.m., auditions for Sister Ignatius, Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. Second, Milwaukee. Info: 414-383-3727.

5 p.m., Connexus Third Annual Holiday Party, Friends Meeting House: 3224 N. Gordon Place. Info: www.diverseandresilient.org/connexus.

7 p.m., Milwaukee Gamma Inc., game night. Info: 414-530-1886, milwaukeeegamma.com.

4 p.m., Kenosha Art Association holiday celebration, 5615 Seventh Ave., Kenosha. Info: 262-654-0065.

6 p.m., Second Saturday Art Walk, 5615 Seventh Ave., Kenosha. Info: 262-654-0065.

SUNDAY**Dec. 13**

1 p.m., Wisconsin Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf

Christmas Party, The Room. Info: www.wiscrad.org.

TUESDAY**Dec. 15**

12:30 p.m., Twisted Stitchers meeting, LGBT Resource Center, University of Wisconsin Milwaukee. Info: uwmevent@uwm.edu.

7 p.m., Milwaukee Gamma Inc., sheephead. Info: 414-530-1886, milwaukeeegamma.com.

WEDNESDAY**Dec. 16**

11 a.m., Free HIV Testing, LGBT Resource Center, University of Wisconsin Milwaukee, Milwaukee. Info: uwmevent@uwm.edu.

7:30 p.m., LGBTQA Bowling, Union Rec Center, UWM, Milwaukee. Info: uwmevent@uwm.edu.

Send listings to
managingeditor@
wisconsin-gazette.com.

THURSDAY**Dec. 3**

7 p.m., Milwaukee Gamma Inc. cribbage. Info: 414-530-1886, milwaukeeegamma.com.

FRIDAY**Dec. 4**

Christmas in the Ward, through Dec. 5., Historic Third Ward. Info: 414-273-1173.

7:30 p.m., Women's Voices Milwaukee Concert of Carols, Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. Second, Milwaukee. Info: 414-383-3727.

7:30 p.m., Wisconsin Cream City Chorus holiday concert, Unitarian Universalist Church

West, 13001 W. North Ave., Milwaukee. Info: www.cream-citychorus.org.

SATURDAY**Dec. 5**

10 a.m.-5 p.m., Shorewood Holiday Shopwalk, Oakland Avenue and Capitol Drive, Milwaukee. Info: www.shorewoodwi.com; 414-962-7002.

3 p.m., Wisconsin Cream City Chorus holiday concert, Unitarian Universalist Church West, 13001 W. North Ave., Milwaukee. Info: www.cream-citychorus.org.

6 p.m., FORGE Open Mic Night, 315 W. Court St., Milwaukee. Info: 414-559-

2123 or www.forge-forward.org.

7 p.m., Milwaukee Gamma Inc. holiday party. Info: 414-530-1886, milwaukeeegamma.com.

7:30 p.m., Women's Voices Milwaukee Concert of Carols, Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. Second, Milwaukee. Info: 414-383-3727.

8 p.m., Madison Gay Video Club, "Wrecked" and "Folsom Maneuvers." Info: www.mgvc.org, 608-244-8690.

4 p.m., International Holiday and Tree Lighting ceremony, Kenosha Public Museum, 5500 First Ave., Kenosha. Info: www.kenosha.

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Art Bar, 722 E. Burleigh St., 414-372-7880, www.art-bar-riverwest.com. Lounge.
Ballgame, 196 S. 2nd St., 414-273-7474. Sports bar.
Boom, 625 S. 2nd St., 414-277-5040. www.boommke.com. Neighborhood bar.
Boot Camp Saloon, 209 E. National Ave., 414-643-6900. Leather/neighborhood bar.
Cuvee Lounge, 177 N. Broadway, 414-225-9800, www.cuveemke.com. Cocktail lounge.
City Lights Chill & Grill, 111 W. Howard Ave., 414-481-1441, www.citylightschillmilwaukee.com. Neighborhood bar.
Fluid, 819 S. 2nd St., 414-643-5843, fluid.gaymke.com. Cocktail lounge.
Harbor Room, 117 E. Greenfield Ave., 414-672-

7988, www.harbor-room.com. Leather bar.
Hot Water, 818 S. Water St., 414-383-7593, hotwater-milwaukee.com. Nightclub.
Kathy's Nut Hut, 1500 W. Scott St., 414-647-2673. Neighborhood bar.
Kruz, 354 E. National Ave., 414-272-5789. Neighborhood bar.
La Cage, 801 S. 2nd St., 414-383-8330, www.lacagemke.com. Dance bar.
M's, 1101 S. 2nd St., 414-383-8900. Piano bar.
MOCT, 240 E. Pittsburgh Ave., 414-273-6628, www.themoct.com. Dance club.
Out 'n About and Mona's Restaurant, 1407 S. 1st St., 414-643-0377, www.m-o-n-a-s.com. Nightclub/restaurant.
Purr Night Club, 3945 N. 35th St., 414-442-7007. Nightclub.
Rainbow Lounge, 1734 W.

Greenfield Ave., 414-389-9656. Cocktail lounge.
Red Light at Trocadero, 1758 N. Water St., 414-272-0205. Dining/dance.
Redroom, 1875 N. Humboldt Ave., 414-224-7666. Neighborhood bar.
This Is It, 418 E. Wells St., 414-278-9192, www.thisisit-bar.com. Cocktail lounge.
Three, 722 N. Milwaukee St., 414-225-0003. Dance club.
Triangle, 135 E. National Ave., 414-383-9412, triangle.gaymke.com. Neighborhood bar/video.
Walker's Pint, 818 S. 2nd St., 414-643-7468, www.walkerspint.com. Neighborhood bar.
Woody's, 1579 S. 2nd St., 414-672-0806, www.woodysmke.com. Sports bar/drag.

KENOSHA

Club Icon, 6305 120th Ave., 262-857-3240, www.club-icon.com. Dance club.

ARIES: Keep polishing this diamond. The light it contains comes from within. Don't ever forget that — your spirit is making this happen and your thoughts have everything to say about where it goes from here.

TAURUS: Too bad you're in the dark about a lot of things. Whatever you can't see is stunting your growth. It feels easier to avoid the truth in the short run.

GEMINI: Confusion about some things and clarity about others seem to indicate that, for the moment, you're better off waiting until everything gels.

CANCER: You bring too much to things. It weakens you whenever you overdo or over give; and it weakens others when you give them more than they need.

LEO: You've been watch-

Stargaze

BY MINERVA

ing this situation like a hawk and you still can't figure out what's going on. Give it a rest.

VIRGO: Holding steady in the midst of change, you're praying that the need to move on is the best thing for everyone.

LIBRA: What you're wishing for will have a better chance of coming to pass if you can let go of the idea that your happiness depends on it.

SCORPIO: Your life is presenting you with demands to call upon your truest self. A dose of authenticity will do more to further your interests than you realize.

SAGITTARIUS: Any under-

taking that relies too heavily on someone else will lead to problems later on. Be wary. Getting involved with people would be fine if their baggage wasn't stuffed with so many complications.

CAPRICORN: Reruns, reunions and returns are bringing back the past. Memories of choices and the need to make them again have helped you see that life gives everyone a chance to get it right, sooner or later.

AQUARIUS: You've stirred up reactions with people whose chemistry is no match for yours. It looks like an interesting experiment. You can go for this, but I'm here to tell you the alchemy is bound to be weird.

PISCES: Your Achilles heel is your heart. Wishing back what's gone will only deepen a wound that won't heal until you let it be. — from AP



MADISON

Club 5, 5 Applegate Court, 608-277-8700, www.club-5.com. Nightclub.
Plan B, 924 Williamson St., www.planbmadison.com. Nightclub.
Shamrock, 117 W.

Main St., 608-255-5029, www.shamrockbar.com. Neighborhood bar/dining.
Woof's, 114 King St., 608-204-6222, www.woofsmadison.com. Sports bar.

RACINE

Jo'Dee's International, 2139 Racine St., 262-634-9804, www.jodeesintl.com. Neighborhood bar.
To get listed e-mail managingeditor@wisconsinazette.com.

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Rants, Raves & Other Remarks

LDS ON LSD?

The LDS Church is delusional if they think people won't see right through them backing that anti-discrimination law — they

obviously just did that to get some good PR while they continue expressing their homophobia in less visible areas. Of course, the fact that even they, the bleeping Church of Latter-Day Saints, have to pretend to support gay rights in even the smallest form is a sign that society as a whole is becoming more accepting of homosexuality and less accepting of bigotry.

WINTER BLUES

I am so dreading the winter. Yuck and muck. Yuck and muck.

Wisconsin Gazette .com

MERRY M'S

My favorite bar in Milwaukee is M's. See you there.

WELCOME WIG

I'm so glad that Milwaukee has an LGBT newspaper again. Thank you, Wisconsin Gazette. I hope you make it.

HA, HA

A young man named John

received a parrot as a gift. The parrot had a bad attitude and an even worse vocabulary. Every word out of the bird's mouth was rude and laced with profanity. John tried to change his attitude by saying only polite words and playing soft music.

Finally, John was fed up. He yelled at the parrot. The parrot yelled back. John shook the parrot and the parrot got even more rude. In desperation, he grabbed the bird and

put him in the freezer. For a few minutes the parrot squawked and then suddenly he went silent.

Fearing that he'd hurt the parrot, John opened the freezer door. The parrot calmly stepped onto John's hand and said, "I believe I may have offended you with my rude language and actions. I'm sincerely remorseful and I fully intend to do everything I can to correct my unforgivable behavior."

John was stunned at the change in the bird's attitude. As he was about to ask the parrot what had made such a dramatic change in his behavior, the bird said, very softly, "May I ask what the turkey did?"

U.S. OF H

I think we need to rename our country. Let's call it the United States In Hate. It has a catchy ring to it. And so true. Especially since we also have a propensity to start wars and then blame the victims.

Compiled By
Gregg Shapiro
WIG Staff Writer

Dec. 3, Thursday

The Rave, 2401 W. Wisconsin, has Weezer, Jack's Mannequin and Motion City Soundtrack, at 8 p.m. Call 414-342-RAVE.

Overture Center for the Arts, 201 State in Madison, presents "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged," through Dec. 20. Call 608-258-4141.

Majestic, 115 King in Madison, presents Boombox at 9 p.m. Call 608 251-2582. Elf Lettuce plays Up and Under Pub, 1216 E. Brady, at 11 p.m. Call 414-276-2677.

Dec. 4, Friday

Tom Vollman performs at 9 p.m. at Art Bar, 722 E. Burleigh. Call 414-372-7880.

Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. 2nd, presents the Women's Voices Milwaukee Concert of Carols tonight and tomorrow night at 7:30 p.m. Call 414-383-3727.

Diva Linda Eder performs at 9 p.m. at The Northern Lights Theater at Potawatomi Bingo Casino, 1721 W. Canal. Call 414-847-7922.

Milwaukee Chamber Theater's production of "Moon Over the Brewery" runs through Dec. 13 at Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Call 414-291-7800.

The reigning queen of mean, Lisa Lampanelli, works blue at The Riverside, 116 W. Wisconsin, at 8 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

Majestic, 115 King in Madison, hosts the iQ indieQueer Discotech Reunion with OCD

On stage

WIGOUT

Automatic, Diamonds and DJ Foundation at 10 p.m. Call 608-251-2582.

Allen Coté of The Championship performs at 8 p.m. at Underground at Intercontinental Milwaukee, 139 E. Kilbourn. Call 414-276-8686.

Café Tacuba brings its 20th Anniversary Tour to The Rave, 2401 W. Wisconsin, at 8 p.m. Call 414-342-RAVE.

The Burnhole heats up the Up and Under Pub, 1216 E. Brady, at 11 p.m. Call 414-276-2677.

Dec. 5, Saturday

Issa, as in "Jane Siberry, Issa bad idea to change your name this late in your career," performs at 8 p.m. at Turner Hall Ballroom, 103 N. Fourth. Call 414-286-3663.

Art Bar, 722 E. Burleigh, presents John Kocher at 9 p.m. Call 414-372-7880.

Comic genius Lewis Black is at The Riverside, 116 W. Wisconsin, at 8 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

Up and Under Pub, 1216 E. Brady, welcomes Ikarus Down, with Surgeons in Heat, at 11 p.m. Call 414-276-2677.

Dec. 6, Sunday

The Irish Tenors harmonize at 8 p.m. at The Riverside, 116 W. Wisconsin. Call 414-286-3663.

Dec. 8, Tuesday

Quadracci Powerhouse Theater's production of "The Lady With All The Answers" by David Rambo, based on the life and letters of Ann Landers, through

Dec. 20 at Milwaukee Repertory Theater, 108 E. Wells. Call 414-224-9490.

Goth glam goddess Emilie Autumn performs at 7:30 p.m. at Turner Hall Ballroom, 103 N. 4th. Call 414-286-3663.

The Manhattan Transfer Christmas Show begins at 8 p.m. in The Northern Lights Theater at Potawatomi Bingo Casino, 1721 W. Canal. Call 414-847-7922.

Overture Center for the Arts, 201 State in Madison, presents "Grease" with "American Idol's" Taylor Hicks tonight through Sunday in Overture Hall. Call 608-258-414-1.

Dec. 9, Wednesday

The Northern Lights Theater at Potawatomi Bingo Casino, 1721 W. Canal, hosts the Cheap Trick CD release party at 9 p.m. Call 414-847-7922.

Dan Coyle plays Art Bar, 722 E. Burleigh, at 9 p.m. Call 414-372-7880.

At 8:30 p.m., Cross Canadian Ragweed blows into the Majestic, 115 King in Madison. Call 608-251-2582.

Dec. 10, Thursday

Off The Wall Theatre, 127 E. Wells, presents the celebrated musical "La Cage Aux Folles," opening tonight and running through Dec. 31. Call 414-327-3552.

Dec. 11, Friday

Skylight Opera Theater presents "Plaid Tidings," featuring The Plaids bringing harmony to a discordant world, with hits from the '50s and '60s, as well as "plaid-erized" holiday standards, opening tonight and running through Jan. 3 at Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Call 414-291-7800

Steve Schad is at Art Bar, 722 E. Burleigh, at 9 p.m. Call 414-372-7880.

The Buckingham's pour it on at 9 p.m. in The Northern Lights Theater at Potawatomi Bingo Casino, 1721 W. Canal. Call 414-847-7922.

Up and Under Pub, 1216 E. Brady, presents Alex Wilson at 11 p.m. Call 414-276-2677.

Dec. 12, Saturday

Art Bar, 722 E. Burleigh, welcomes Chris Sipos & Rachel Young at 9 p.m. Call

414-372-7880.

Steve Aoki is at the Majestic, 115 King in Madison at 10 p.m. Call 608 251-2582.

Shank Hall, 1434 N. Farwell, has Shannon Curfman at 8 p.m. Call 414-276-7288.

At 11 p.m., King Solomon plays Up and Under Pub, 1216 E. Brady. Call 414-276-2677

Dec. 16, Wednesday
Art Bar, 722 E. Burleigh, has Cactus Joe at 9 p.m. Call 414-372-7880.

Dec. 17, Thursday

The Northern Lights Theater at Potawatomi Bingo Casino, 1721 W. Canal, presents Sister Hazel at 8 p.m. Call 414-847-7922.

The Rave, 2401 W. Wisconsin, welcomes the Big Snow Show in 4-D with Breaking Benjamin, 30 Seconds To Mars, Sick Puppies and After Midnight Project at 7 p.m. Call 414-342-RAVE.

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REAL ESTATE

From Warehouse district to arts district

Art scene, unique residences revitalized Third Ward

By Kerrie Kennedy

WiG Staff Writer

It's gallery night in the neighborhood, which means the galleries are open late, offering hors d'oeuvres, live music and special exhibits. As shoppers wander through the galleries — housed in 19th-century brick warehouses — they might stop for a martini at Soho 7, grab some French food at Coquette Café or shop for vintage designer clothing at Lela Boutique.

This isn't SoHo in New

'There's a healthy mix of rental and for-sale opportunities here that attracts a broad range.'

York or River North in Chicago. This is the Third Ward in Milwaukee, the city's top destination for art and design.

Beer, bratwurst and baseball may be alive and well in this town, but so are the arts. Even the frigid winter

weather isn't enough to stop Milwaukee's art enthusiasts from attending Gallery Night & Day, a two-day event held four times a year.

"No matter what the weather, gallery nights bring in so many people from around the area," says Elaina Grinwald, gallery associate at Katie Gingrass, the oldest gallery in the Third Ward. "It really sparks an interest in collectors of all kinds. Milwaukee is starting to be a great place for art."

According to Grinwald, the Third Ward, bordered by the Milwaukee River, Lake Michigan harbor and downtown Milwaukee, is a natural art destination.

"The old warehouse spaces are unique and attractive and they're all a little different," she says. "There's a lot of character here that lends itself well to art."

Not long ago, the Third Ward was an abandoned warehouse district, and no one was talking about art openings. "In the Eighties, the Third Ward fell into decline and a local alderman suggested it should become the red light district for the city of Milwaukee," says Ronald San Felippo, chair of Milwaukee's business improvement district number two and past president of the Historic Third Ward Association. "I think that galvanized owners to develop a business

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Christmas in the Ward begins Dec. 4 with a tree-lighting ceremony, horse-drawn carriage rides, a Bel Canto chorus and fireworks over the river. Other events include breakfast with Santa in an outdoor gingerbread house and a holiday concert in the park. For more information, go to historichirdward.org.

improvement district."

In fact, the area has a history of reinventing itself. The Third Ward was originally settled by Irish immigrants, but after a fire wiped out about 16 square blocks in 1893, the community was reborn as an Italian working-class neighborhood. By the 1970s, the area had gone downhill, but some residents, like San Felippo, never forgot what it was like when it was vital.

"My father was born in the Historic Third Ward," San Felippo says. "It was a place where you could live, work, play and shop all within the boundaries of the neighborhood."

It took years of planning, but the Third Ward finally started taking off in 1993. After a \$3.4 million streetscape project — which included unique light fixtures, street signs and gateway arches over the two main roads coming into the area — Milwaukee residents began to take notice. "The arches branded the neighborhood and started the turnaround," says San Felippo, a developer who's been involved in several successful residential and commercial projects in the Third Ward. "In the last decade or so, we have increased the assessed valuation of our area by nearly \$500 million."

From numerous designer



The Third Ward has added 1,500 residential units since the mid 1990s, with more on the way in upcoming months.

clothing boutiques such as Lela, which closes off the street and puts on a fashion show every year, to hip eateries and wine bars such as Cuvee, which offers more than 100 varieties of sparkling wine, there are now enough restaurants and businesses in "The Ward" to make it a destination, San Felippo says. The

Milwaukee Public Market on Water Street — a two-level space offering cheese, sausage, flowers, wine, fresh fish, freshly roasted coffee, soups, sushi and baked goods from independent retailers — is easily one of the neighborhood's best assets.

Many of the arts organizations located in The Ward are

beneficiaries of these amenities, says Matt Kemple, marketing manager for the Next Act Theater, one of several thriving theater companies in the area.

"For us, this is really a prime location," Kemple says. "People can park their car, do some shopping, go out to

Real estate page 30

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Art scene has grown

Real Estate from 28

eat and see a show. There's a lot going on here — not just in the theater scene. The local businesses here all contribute to one another's success."

While the Third Ward is currently more of a commercial district, residential development is catching up, says San Felippo, who has lived in the area since 1998. "We have 1,500 residential units occupied now, and in the mid 1990s, there were none. We also have a fair number of additional units coming online in the next couple of months."

Many of the existing resi-

dential units are condo/loft units located in rehabbed timber and brick warehouse buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places. But according to Bob Monnat, CFO of the Mandel Group, the neighborhood also features a fair amount of new construction loft-style infill construction, including Gaslight Lofts (139 luxury rental units built in 2003), Marine Terminal Lofts (83 condominium units, completed in 2007 and sold out), and Corcoran Lofts, a 76-unit rental building available this spring.

"There's a healthy mix of rental and for-sale opportunities here that attracts a broad range of buyers and

renters," Monnat says.

While the Mandel Group has put one of its Third Ward projects on hold due to the economy — a 65-unit luxury condominium project located on the river — Monnat has no doubts this vibrant neighborhood will continue to thrive. "This is one of the few walk-able downtown neighborhoods," he says.

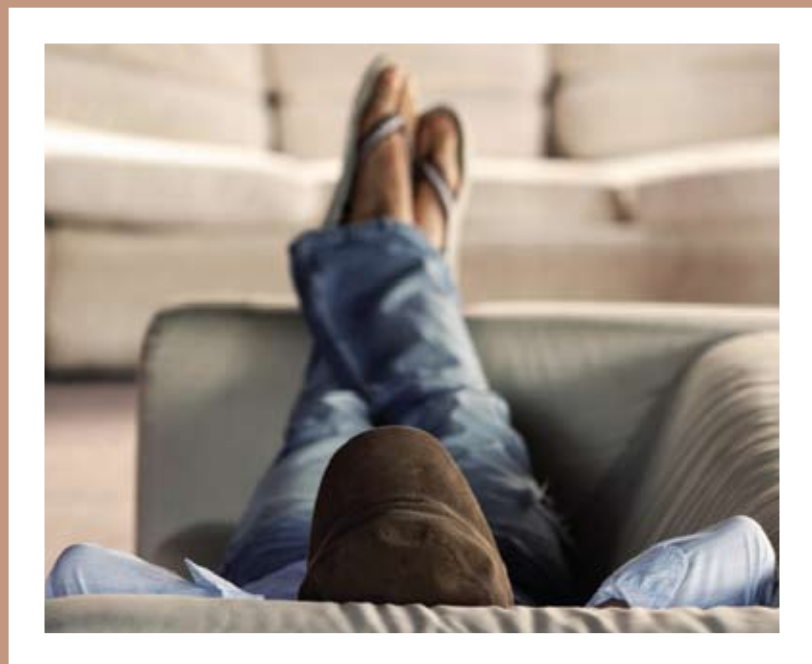
For Kemple, the neighborhood was enough to inspire him to relocate from Ohio. "I was working in the theater scene in Columbus and found Milwaukee by accident," he says. "I realized that the art scene here has really grown, and in the Third Ward especially. This is an exciting place to be right now."



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Happiness. Raymond Carver

So early it's still almost dark out. I'm near the window with coffee, and the usual early morning stuff that passes for thought.

When I see the boy and his friend walking up the road to deliver the newspaper. I think if they could, they would take each other's arm. It's early in the morning, and they are doing this thing together.

They come on, slowly. The sky is taking on light, though the moon still hangs pale over the water.

Such beauty that for a minute death and ambition, even love, doesn't enter into this.

Happiness. It comes on unexpectedly. And goes beyond, really, any early morning talk about it.



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