

## WiGOUT!

A singular man: Tom Ford puts down his designer's shears to make a director's cut. Page 15



THE VOICE OF PROGRESS FOR WISCONSIN'S LGBT COMMUNITY

December 17, 2009 | Vol. 1, No. 3

## Lesbian wins Houston mayoral race

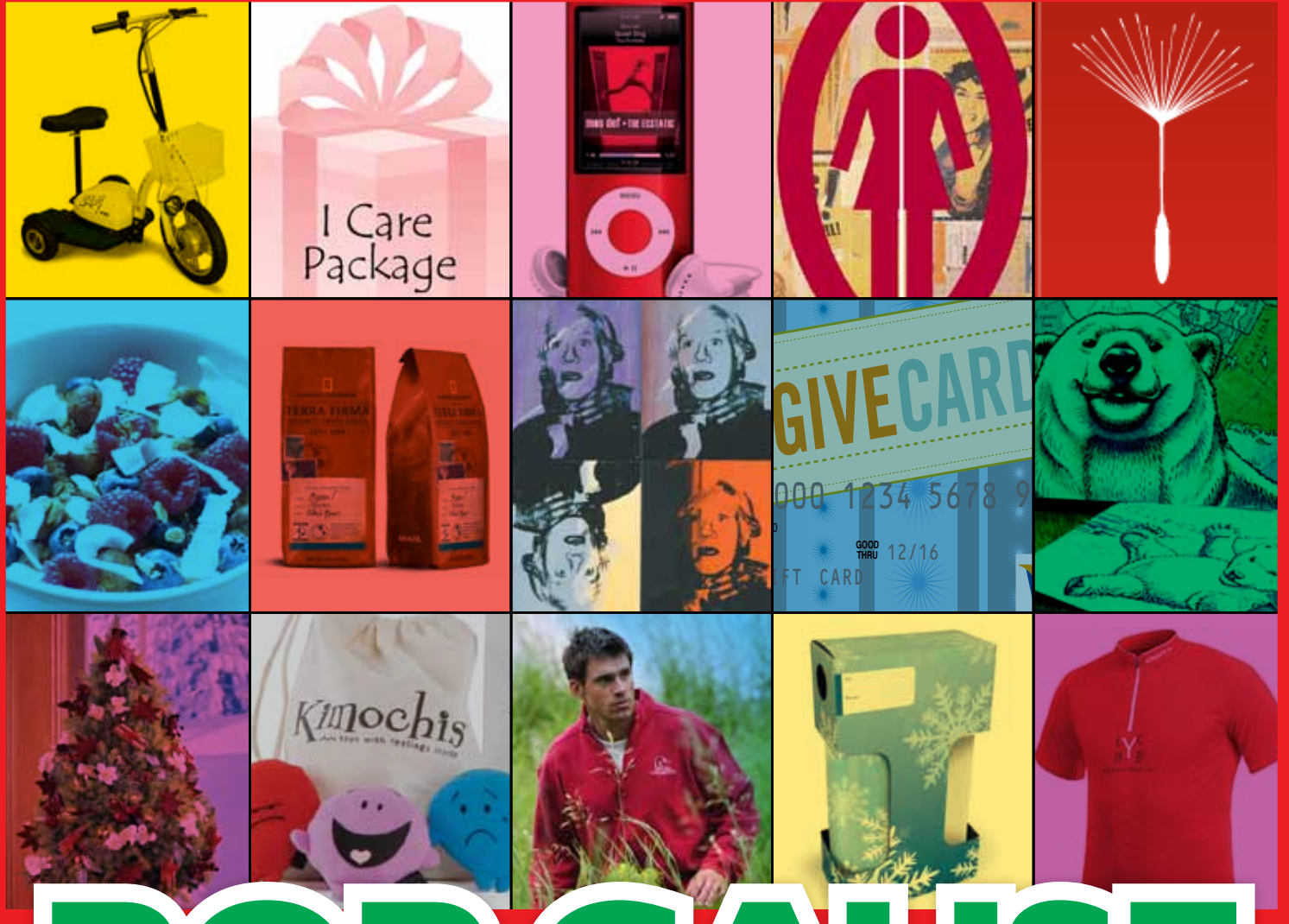
By Lisa Neff  
WiG Staff Writer

HOUSTON — Deep in the heart of Texas, voters elected openly gay candidate Annise Parker in a runoff election for mayor.

Houston is now the largest city in the United States to elect an openly lesbian mayor.

Parker, in a statement released after she learned she had captured 53.6 percent of the vote in the Dec. 12 runoff with former city attorney Gene Locke, said, "This election has changed the world for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities, just as this election is about transforming Houstonians' lives for the better.

"Let us begin from this Houston page 5



# POP CAUSE

## Good giving guide for the holidays

By Lisa Neff and Louis Weisberg

WiG Staff Writers

Green gifts.  
Red gifts.  
Pink gifts.  
Lavender gifts.  
Fair-trade gifts.  
Charitable gifts.  
'Tis the season for good giving.  
Last December, U.S. consumers spent \$28.2

billion in department stores. From November to December, retail buying jumps about 40 percent, the largest of any month-to-month increase. That's a lot of change.

A survey from Witteck-Combs Communications indicates that about 30 percent of LGBT consumers plan to spend more money this holiday season compared to just 9 percent of straight consumers. LGBT consumers plan to spend more on relatives, more on friends, more on

children and more on acquaintances. That's a lot of change.

That same survey indicates that this holiday season more LGBT consumers plan to buy wisely — not by shopping for bargain prices, but by shopping for gifts from those who support LGBT equality and other popular causes.

For consumers interested in spending their greenbacks with companies that support the  
Gifts page 6

### This issue

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wisconsin Gazette.com

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## LGBT news with a twist


**WIGWAG**

By Lisa Neff &amp; Louis Weisberg

**BIBLICAL INSERTIONS**

An evangelical Christian group is inserting pamphlets in copies of the Wisconsin Gazette on Milwaukee's East Side. We appreciate the dire warnings about hell and damnation as well as the heartfelt concern for our immortal souls. But when Jesus wasn't ranting about homosexuality (oops, we forgot — he never even mentioned it), didn't he say something about feeding the hungry and healing the sick? Maybe he would appreciate you focusing some of your tireless energy and resources on those little problems. It probably won't be as much fun as thinking about gay and lesbian sex, but it might endear you more to your savior.

**COURT SHUTS MILWAUKEE SHERIFF'S BIBLE**

An Appeals Court ruled that Milwaukee County

Sheriff David Clarke Jr. was on the wrong side of the law when he invited a Christian group to speak at mandatory meetings for deputies. The court said Clarke's actions presented the appearance of endorsing a particular religious view. Sounds like a reasonable conclusion to us.

The judgment upheld a lower court ruling awarding nearly \$39,000 in attorneys' fees to two deputies who apparently weren't interested in learning about the effect that Jesus could have on their lives.

**NOT THAT THERE'S ANYTHING WRONG WITH THAT**

Actor Ron Livingston, who played a disgruntled employee in the movie "Office Space," is suing a hacker for spreading what his attorney calls "malicious" rumors on

Wikipedia that he's gay. Livingston is married to actress Rosemarie Dewitt

According to TMZ, the unnamed defendant in the case has repeatedly hacked into Livingston's Wikipedia page and posted that the actor is in a same-sex relationship with a man named Lee Dennison. The same hacker is believed to have created fake Facebook profiles for Livingston and Dennison that list the two men as "in a relationship" with each other.

Livingston is suing for libel, invasion of privacy and for using his name and likeness without permission.

**POPPING ON PEPSI**

PepsiCo. recently came under attack from Christian right groups that object to

the company's efforts to connect with the LGBT community. In October, a PepsiCo vice president led a seminar on "leveraging strong sponsor or leader relationships" to support the community. The title? "Use 'em or lose 'em." PepsiCo also sponsored Out & Equal's Outie Awards, which has nothing to do with belly-buttons. The company's efforts drew scrutiny from the American Family Association, which launched a boycott campaign ... that went flat.

**FROM TV'S 'FAMILY' TO OUR FAMILY**

Lesbians of a certain generation got their first crush on Buddy, the tomboy portrayed by Kristy McNichol on the 1970s TV drama "Family." Now, with hindsight, lesbians of a certain generation may be wondering whether they

got a vibe from Nancy, the older-sister character on "Family" portrayed by Meredith Baxter, who, at 62, recently came out as a lesbian and is in a four-year relationship with her partner. Baxter, who played Mom on "Family Ties," told NBC's "Today Show" that she had a "later-in-life recognition."

**DUNGEONS, DRAGONS AND GAY ELVES — OH, MY!**

Call it another step forward for gay sex in mass entertainment: A new video role-playing game titled "Dragon Age: Origins" gives male players the opportunity to have a sexual tryst with a hunky blond elf named Zevran.

But don't expect a lifetime of virtual bliss with Zevran — he's not the romantic type. "I was raised to take my pleasures

where they can be found," he'll say before you leave his tent.

Set in medieval times, the game also features lesbian and hetero couplings. Created by BioWare and published by Electronic Arts, the game takes 60-80 hours to complete and is rated M, for audiences over 17.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS**

WigWag didn't expect a holiday gift from Focus on the Family's James Dobson, but here it is: Dobson is giving up his radio show and cutting formal ties to the anti-LGBT organization he founded three decades ago. Let's hope he's retiring.

Get the LGBT news at [www.wisconsin-gazette.com](http://www.wisconsin-gazette.com)

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DECEMBER 30 + 31  
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JANUARY 21  
**BRANDI CARLILE**

2 SHOWS! - JANUARY 30  
**COLIN MOCHRIE & BRAD SHERWOOD OF WHOSE LINE IS IT ANYWAY?**

FEBRUARY 4  
**DARK STAR ORCHESTRA**

FEBRUARY 15  
**THE MUSICAL BOX: A TRICK OF THE TAIL**

MARCH 4  
**THE MAGNETIC FIELDS**

### THE RIVERSIDE

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**NYE w/ SPOON**

JANUARY 22  
**ANTHONY BOURDAIN**

FEBRUARY 4  
**DARK STAR ORCHESTRA**

FEBRUARY 19  
**MICHAEL JACKSON LASER SPECTACULAR**

MARCH 19  
**NORAH JONES**

MARCH 21  
**EXP. HENDRIX**

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MARCH 6  
**AVETT BROTHERS**

## MILWAUKEE GAZE

Wisconsin  
Gazette .com

## ELCA bishop seeks focus on unifying mission

By Louis Weisberg

WiG Staff Writer

MILWAUKEE — The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's new bishop of southeastern Wisconsin said he hopes to move beyond the sexuality debate roiling the denomination. The Rev. Jeff Barrow said he'll focus instead on restoring a sense of Gospel mission and outreach to youth and minority communities.

Barrow's election to head the Greater Milwaukee Synod comes at a time when the ELCA, like other protestant denominations, is embroiled in conflict over the ordination of gay and lesbian clergy.

In August, the denomination's highest legislative body overturned a ban on noncelibate gay and lesbian clergy who are either in, or expecting to enter into, committed relationships.

In the wake of that decision, Lutheran CORE, a group of congregations within the ELCA, voted to begin work on establishing a new Lutheran church body for those who believe gays and lesbians are unacceptable for clerical service. But Barrow said he'll seek to reunite local ELCA congregations by redirecting their energy toward the religious principals on which they agree.

"When you get embroiled in this controversy, you table things like world hunger and poverty and reaching out to people," Barrow told WiG. "But you can go to hell a lot faster for neglecting the poor than you can for your views on sexuality."

Barrow, 58, will be installed as bishop in March 2010. He currently serves as a senior pastor of Holy Communion Lutheran Church in Racine, which he described as a "welcoming" church with openly lesbian and gay congregants.

Although Barrow voted in favor of the Lutherans' new gay-supportive policy, "I was called to be bishop by

a synod that has divergent view points, and I intend to be bishop to all of them," he said. "To me, it's a matter of keeping people ... speaking honestly and without hostility toward each other."

The Milwaukee Synod has about 91,000 members. Barrow said he expects some area churches to eventually leave the ELCA over gay ordination.

Although the Lutheran rift has received widespread media attention, ELCA spokesman John Brooks said less than 1 percent of affiliated congregations have taken any official action toward leaving the church.

"We have pockets of controversy over this, but we also have pockets of great joy where people are really happy about what has occurred," Brooks said. "Out of 10,400 congregations, 106 have taken votes to try to leave the ELCA ... and two-thirds of them have failed to get the votes."

The ELCA has 444,000 members in Wisconsin, which is approximately 10 percent of the denomination's total worldwide membership. It's

**'We have pockets of controversy over this.'**

the second largest religious body in the state, behind Roman Catholicism.

Something to say? Say it on [www.wisconsin Gazette.com](http://www.wisconsin Gazette.com).

## DID YOU KNOW?

State laws on hate crimes vary considerably. Of the 45 states with laws expanding law-enforcement resources and/or sentencing in cases involving bias-motivated crimes, 31 explicitly include sexual orientation. Source: GLAAD



## GET CONNECTED

**Milwaukee City Hall:** [www.ci.mil.wi.us](http://www.ci.mil.wi.us)

**Mayor Tom Barrett:** 414-286-2200, [mayor@milwaukee.gov](mailto:mayor@milwaukee.gov)

**Common Council Office:** Common Council President Willie L. Hines, Jr., 286-2221, [whines@milwaukee.gov](mailto:whines@milwaukee.gov)

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# MILWAUKEE GAZE

## Pride date announced

The Milwaukee Pride Parade organization recently announced the date for the 2010 parade — June 13.

The parade will begin at 2 p.m. at the intersection of Second Street and Greenfield Avenue and end at Second

Street at Seeboth Avenue.

The parade theme will be “Twisted Fairy Tales.”

The parade — now in its fifth year — coincides with the Pridefest celebration to take place at Henry Maier Festival Park.

In other MPP news, the organization has overhauled its Web site at [www.prideparademke.org](http://www.prideparademke.org), as well as elected new officers and begun a search for event sponsors and volunteers.

— L.N.



PHOTO: AP PHOTO/HOUSTON CHRONICLE, KAREN WARREN

**Peter Brown raises a fist after he announced that he was endorsing Annise Parker for mayor on the steps of city hall in Houston. Parker won the runoff mayoral election.**

## Houston voters back lesbian candidate

Houston from page 1

moment to join as one community, united in the goal of making Houston the city it could be, should be, can be and will be. That's what this city will be about under my administration.”

Parker, a businesswoman and neighborhood leader, served six years on the city council and five years as city controller. She had worked 20 years in the oil and gas industry before entering public service.

She ran a campaign that focused on bringing jobs to Houston, improving neighborhoods and promoting “hometown values.”

Locke, in his concession speech, said, “Don't let past disappointments, past anger, past frustrations guide us into the future. Let's unite and work together.”

Locke and Parker had emerged from the four-person Nov. 3 contest with the

highest number of votes. In that heat, Parker's sexual orientation had not been made an issue.

In the fourth week of the runoff race, however, social conservatives mounted a campaign against the candidate, offering Locke their endorsement and attacking Parker's “homosexual behavior” in mailings to voters.

LGBT rights activists celebrated the victory over the weekend.

“Her election today makes Houston the largest city in the country to be governed by an out LGBT person — and is another reminder that being authentic with one's constituents is a winning strategy,” said Michael Mitchell of Stonewall Democrats, whose organization made 10,000 calls to voters on Election Day.

“This is an important milestone for our country, but it's equally important to know voters in Houston chose Annise even after a

***She ran a campaign that focused on bringing jobs to Houston, improving neighborhoods and promoting 'hometown values.'***

flurry of anti-gay campaigns designed to divide and distract voters,” said Victory Fund CEO Chuck Wolfe. “This time the extremists failed. Houstonians rejected their tactics and voted for the most experienced and competent candidate to lead this city forward.”

Parker will take office Jan.

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## Madison police investigate attack on gay man

By Jason Wilder

Contributing Writer

MADISON — Madison police are investigating a report from a man who said he was the victim of a brutal anti-gay assault early Nov. 1.

Jordan Miller, 22, of Salem, said he was thrown from a 10-foot balcony and severely beaten by four men while attending a Halloween party

in the 400 block of W. Doty St.

According to Miller, the attack followed an altercation with a woman who called him a "fag" and kicked him in the groin. When he attempted to defend himself, a man shouted, "Faggot Paul Bunyan wants to be a girl, so he thinks he can put his hands on a girl," Miller said.

Miller was wearing a costume that he described as a gay version of Paul Bunyan.

Miller said he was tackled over the balcony and that he lost consciousness. When he came to, four men were kicking him in the chest and stomach while shouting anti-gay slurs.

A female passerby threw herself on top of Miller to stop the attack, he said.

She dialed 911, but then left, telling Miller she feared being issued a ticket for underage drinking.

Miller refused medical treatment at the scene, but was later diagnosed with five fractures, spinal injuries, bruised ribs and a concussion, he said.

He filed a police report Nov. 2

As of press time, a detec-

tive assigned to the case was interviewing witnesses and trying to identify the attackers, according to a police spokesperson.

If battery charges are filed and Miller's account of the attack can be proven, authorities will seek to enhance legal penalties under Wisconsin hate crime law, the spokesperson said.

**When he came to, four men were kicking him in the chest and stomach.**

## Ten Chimneys' exhibit headed for Oscars

By Louis Weisberg

WiG Staff Writer

WAUKESHA COUNTY — A Noel Coward exhibit developed at Ten Chimneys in Waukesha County is headed for the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, where it will be displayed during "Oscar season."

Coward, the legendary playwright and songwriter, was a regular guest at Ten Chimneys during its heyday, often accompanied by his life partner Graham Payn.

The summer home of theater greats Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne, Ten Chimneys includes a bedroom named for Coward — an honor he shares with Helen Hayes and Laurence Olivier.

During the mid-20th century, an invitation to Ten Chimneys was among the most coveted in the world. Today the estate is operated as a museum and national resource for theater, arts and arts education.

At the heart of Ten

Chimneys' Coward exhibit are 10 oversized photographic panels with stories depicting different facets of Coward's life. The exhibit also includes a two-hour "best of Coward" video, a painting he created at Ten Chimneys and a triptych of Coward, Lunt and Fontanne.

"He carried the triptych with him everywhere he traveled and kept it at his bedside," says Ten Chimneys Foundation executive director Sean Malone. "He was

here at Ten Chimneys often, and his heart was here all the time."

Malone said it's unlikely that Coward took in Milwaukee's cultural attractions while visiting the area. "When he was here, he wasn't going to theater — he was swimming naked in the pool," Malone said.

Although the exhibit doesn't explicitly address Coward's sexual orientation, "it's not shied away from either," Malone said. An anecdote about Coward and Payn is among the many included.

The exhibit's debut in 2007 drew 20,000 visitors from all over the globe to Ten Chimneys. Since then, it's been a central part of Coward retrospectives at the National Theatre in London and San Francisco's Museum of Performance & Design.

The San Francisco installation moves to the motion picture academy's galleries on Jan. 23 and runs through April 18.

**'While he was here, he wasn't going to the theater — he was swimming naked in the pool.'**

### GET CONNECTED

**State of Wisconsin:**

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**Gov. Jim Doyle:**

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## 'Shoppers send a clear message'

Gifts from I

and Adobe. Retailers with the lowest scores include Office Depot, RadioShack, Wal-Mart, Sam's Club and Meijer. Said Human Rights Campaign president Joe Solmonese: "By purchasing products from businesses that support LGBT equality, shoppers send a clear message to businesses that their support, or lack thereof, will directly impact their bottom line."

LGBT activists added that often consumers who want to support those who support the community can look to businesses in heavily LGBT neighborhoods, as well as advertisers in LGBT newspapers.

"I can't say enough about the power of do-good spending," said economist and LGBT activist Harry Thackery

and Adobe.

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Said Human Rights Campaign president Joe Solmonese: "By purchasing products from businesses that support LGBT equality, shoppers send a clear message to businesses that their support, or lack thereof, will directly impact their bottom line."

LGBT activists added that often consumers who want to support those who support the community can look to businesses in heavily LGBT neighborhoods, as well as advertisers in LGBT newspapers.

"I can't say enough about the power of do-good spending," said economist and LGBT activist Harry Thackery

of Berkeley, Calif. "It may be the thing to do now, but gays and lesbians, along with the environmentalists, were at the forefront of do-good spending. They really are wise consumers."

For "wise consumers" with gifts yet to buy, WiG offers an abbreviated guide for good giving — or good gifting.

**To promote arts and culture:** With the gift of an annual membership, a recipient will have enough time to explore the Milwaukee Art Museum's more than 20,000 permanent holdings. A gift membership includes unlimited access, invitations to member-only events, discounts on classes and museum store merchandise, a free subscription to the quarterly member magazine and more.

Buy a gift membership  
Gifts page 13



# U.S. pastor sends dispatch to Ugandans

By Lisa Neff

WiG Staff Writer

LAKE FOREST, Calif. — The Rev. Rick Warren dispatched a Christmas greeting that urged Uganda church leaders to speak out against legislation that had, until Dec. 10, called for the death penalty against gays with HIV.

Warren, the pastor of Saddleback Church who hosted a high-profile session with candidates during the 2008 presidential election and who delivered the invocation at Barack Obama's inauguration, had come under fire for failing to speak against the proposed Ugandan legislation, which had called for death for some gays and imprisonment for others and their relatives, friends and associates.

Warren had said that as a pastor in the United States it was not his role to interfere with the politics of other nations.

He repeated that assertion Dec. 10, in his "encyclical video" offering greetings and peace for the Christmas season to Ugandan ministers.



PHOTO: COURTESY RICK WARREN NEWS

**The Rev. Rick Warren greets Barack Obama in the green room just prior to the beginning of the Saddleback Civil Forum on the Presidency during the 2008 campaign season.**

But, Warren added, "it is my role to speak out on moral issues. It is my role to shepherd other pastors who look to me for guidance, and it is my role to correct lies, errors and false reports when others associate my name with a law that I had nothing to do

with, completely oppose and vigorously condemn. I am referring to the pending law under consideration by the Ugandan Parliament, known as the Anti-Homosexuality Bill."

The legislation as introduced said someone convicted of a homosexual act

would face life imprisonment, but the measure, due for a vote in parliament this month, is said to be revised to now promote ex-gay treatment over prison.

The legislation brought swift condemnation from LGBT groups around the world, including many nation-

**The legislation is 'unjust, extreme and un-Christian toward homosexuals.'**

al and statewide LGBT and civil liberties organizations in the United States.

Politicians and dignitaries around the world also condemned the measure, with the boldest blasts coming from European nations.

In a speech on the eve of World AIDS Day, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said, "Obviously, our efforts are hampered whenever discrimination or marginalization of certain populations results in less effective outreach and treatment. So we will work not only to ensure access for all who need it but also to combat discrimination more broadly."

But many religious leaders remained silent on the legislation, including Warren, until Dec. 10, when he explained in his video, "Because I didn't rush to make a public statement, some erroneously concluded that I supported this terrible bill, and some even claimed I was a sponsor of the bill. You, in Uganda, know that is untrue."

Warren went on to state that the proposed legislation in the potential law is "unjust, extreme and un-Christian toward homosexuals" and he urged Ugandan pastors to "speak out against this proposed law."

Activist Wayne Besen, who has focused his activist career on challenging ministers who promote ex-gay programs or a "way out of homosexuality," called Warren's video statement extraordinary.

Warren, he said, "showed true moral courage and stood for what is right and just. We urge other leading pastors and world leaders to stand up and condemn Uganda's Anti-Homosexuality Bill."

## HIV SCREENING RECOMMENDED FOR SENIORS

NEW YORK (WiG) — The U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services recently recommended that Medicare beneficiaries be screened for HIV.

The announcement in

early December drew praise from Services and Advocacy for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Elders (SAGE).

"This decision will promote more HIV screening by vulnerable populations, including older adults, and will save lives," said SAGE executive director Michael

Adams.

About 29 percent of people living with HIV/AIDS are 50 or over and 10-15 percent of new diagnoses are among people over the age of 50.

"Routine HIV screening should happen throughout the course of an adult's life," Adams added.

## GMHC DEBUTS ANTI-METH SITE

NEW YORK (WiG) — The Gay Men's Health Crisis marked World AIDS Day on Dec. 1 with the introduction of a new campaign to fight meth use in the community.

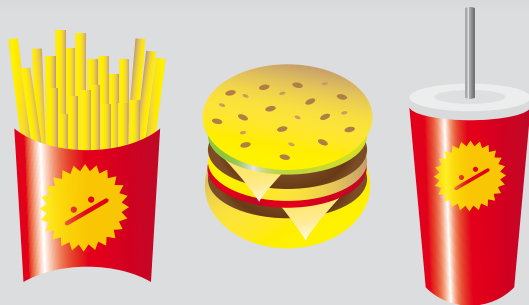
GMHC debuted [www.mymethlife.org](http://www.mymethlife.org), which aims

to curb the spread of one disease, meth addiction, and to also curb the spread of another, HIV/AIDS.

GMHC also launched a re-designed [www.GMHC.org](http://www.GMHC.org).

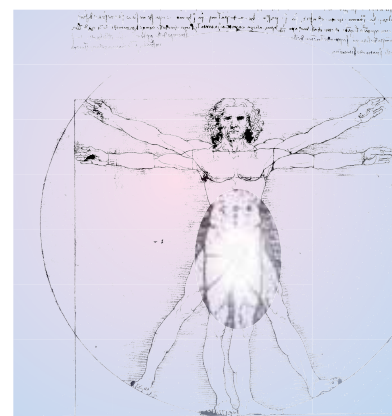
"GMHC has evolved throughout the years to provide essential services

and cutting-edge resources to meet the varying needs of diverse people living with and affected by, HIV and AIDS," said Marjorie J. Hill, GMHC CEO. "World AIDS Day is an important opportunity for us to reflect on how far we have come in the fight."



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## { Editorial }

**Common sense**

As a therapeutic agent, marijuana is no wonder drug. It doesn't cure anything, and it can cause unwanted side effects, including dizziness, anxiety and disorientation. Marijuana smoke contains almost as many tars and carcinogens as tobacco.

But the negative effects of marijuana are no worse than the laundry lists of warnings that accompany most drugs approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. And the benefits so far discovered — despite legal restrictions that have impeded a thorough investigation of marijuana's therapeutic potential — compare favorably with licensed compounds.

Many doctors and patients claim that marijuana is an effective palliative for people suffering from nausea and loss of appetite due to HIV/AIDS and chemotherapy. It also has shown promise for helping people with glaucoma, multiple sclerosis, post-traumatic stress disorder and other conditions.

Thirteen states have legalized marijuana for medical purposes. The Wisconsin Legislature is in the early stages of considering a bill that would do the same here. Numerous medical and patient-advocacy groups support the measure, which is nearly identical to one adopted by voters in Michigan in 2008.

Proposed in the House by openly gay state Rep. Mark Pocan, D-Madison, the bill goes to great lengths to prevent abuses. There is no rational reason to oppose this bill.

Yet strident opposition is certain to emerge from the same right-wing demagogues who oppose a woman's right to choose and same-sex marriage. They will raise the anachronistic specter of "reefer madness" and attempt to paint lawmakers who support the legislation as "soft on drugs."

At the same time, they'll conveniently overlook the fact that more dangerous medicines, such as Vicodin and Oxycontin, are widely prescribed, or that alcohol caused 208 deaths on Wisconsin highways last year. They'll argue that marijuana is different, that it's a "gateway" drug that seduces users to try stronger substances.

Marijuana might indeed be a gateway drug for patients at this point in time, because current state law forces them to purchase it from street dealers who also peddle harder wares. If patients were able to obtain marijuana legally and in consultation with their physicians, then the danger of their exposure to these influences would be eliminated.

## &gt; TAKE ACTION!

Some businesses support the LGBT community, some don't. Some, pro-LGBT businesses you can tell right off. They support LGBT newspapers and community organizations. They welcome LGBT consumers with rainbow flags and "equal" signs.

With others, you need to do your homework — or crib from the Human Rights Campaign's homework. In time for the holiday shopping season, HRC has released the "2010 Buying for Equality Guide," an examination of hundreds of businesses to help LGBT consumers make informed choices.

**WHAT CAN YOU DO?**

Download HRC's guide at [www.hrc.org/buyersguide2010](http://www.hrc.org/buyersguide2010) to help you decide to buy at Best Buy or Radio Shack or to take credit from Visa or Discover Card.

And, most importantly, support the local businesses that support your community.

## { Letters }

**CAMPAIGN TURNS A PAGE**

I wanted to let you know about the impact of the Wisconsin Gazette article on our LGBT Collection at UWM Libraries. One of your readers was inspired to help meet the \$5,000 challenge grant offered by Joe Pabst and sent in a \$500 check!

Next I shared the article at the friends board meeting last week and they also voted to support the effort with a \$500 check! This is so great. My goal is to meet the challenge with 10 leadership gifts of \$500 each. With a few other gifts that have come in the total is now \$1,700.

Thank you again for helping advance this important goal!

*Susan Modder, development director, UWM Libraries*

**AN ANNIVERSARY**

We recently marked the 16th anniversary of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" being signed into law.

And earlier this year we marked 16 years of being in the business of advising close to 10,000 LGBT ser-

vice members.

Almost a year into the Obama presidency, we continue to provide quality, free legal services to patriots who are adversely impacted by DADT.

Former U.S. Navy Lt. Junior Grade Jenny Kopfstein, a former SLDN client and Cook v. Gates plaintiff who was discharged under DADT in 2002, had this to say:

"Those of us who have been clients of SLDN rarely get an opportunity to express our gratitude to the staff. I seem to get more than most, because they keep handing me microphones, but I will never be able to thank them enough.

"When I was on deployment, away from my home for six months, I called my attorneys from all over the world. I felt so alone in a crowd of people at that time, and SLDN helped me through it. I was out for the last two years and four months I spent in the military, and that time included my six-month deployment.

"Two years and four months is a long period of

uncertainty to deal with in one's life, but it was certainly made easier by the people at SLDN... They are overworked and underpaid, selfless, and dedicated."

Heading into 2010, we are optimistic about a final end to the ban this year when the president and his senior military leaders put together their defense budget. It was in this defense budget we got the gay ban in 1993. And it is here where DADT should die next year.

Help us reach the next step by contributing today.

There is no question that LGBT service members will be among those 30,000 heading to Afghanistan next year, and SLDN needs to be available to them.

Thank you for your support.

*David Hall, acting development director, Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, Washington, DC*

WiG welcomes your letters to the editor. Write [managingeditor@wisconsinngazette.com](mailto:managingeditor@wisconsinngazette.com). Please include a name and a city of residence.

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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.



# Is marriage for you?

Given the prominence of the ongoing campaign for same-sex marriage, I feel obligated to remind people that you do not have to find a partner and, as they say, “settle down,” in order to have a full and satisfying life. You can have a full and satisfying life as a single male — that is, as a bachelor.

Not so long ago, men worked 48-60 hours a week and needed a partner to do the laundry, cook meals and, in general, run the household. But toward the end of the 19th century, institutions developed that allowed single men to live easier lives. Rooming houses and YMCAs offered housing, and boarding houses, cafeterias and automats offered inexpensive food. This whole phenomenon is recaptured in a fascinating book, “The Age of

the Bachelor,” by Howard P. Chudacoff. At the same time, many men moved to cities to find companionship, safety and independence; many of these men were doubtless gay.

Nowadays, modern analogues of those institutions continue to exist. Many apartment buildings provide laundry facilities, nearby restaurants offer inexpensive meals, grocery stores sell a wide variety of “heat-and-serve” frozen foods and their deli counters offer a variety of prepared foods. And there are cleaning services to freshen a dusty or dirty house or apartment.

It no longer takes two people to run a household.

Just as “men’s clubs” used to provide a place for companionship 100 years ago, we might say that taverns and



bars serve the same function today — most obviously in the case of gay bars. And there are numerous clubs, organizations and interest groups of various sorts that can provide an outlet for social expression.

None of this is to ignore the satisfactions of having a partner to share experiences with, of having a warm body next to you in bed and the reassuring feeling of loving and being loved. It is just that those arrangements are not for everyone, do not happen without effort and do take a certain amount of luck to work out well over the long term. And let us not forget

that some men are simply not cut out for long-term relationships — they neither need nor want them. As a bachelor, you can come and go as you want, do what you want and not have to check with anyone else if it is convenient.

Bachelors, instead of concentrating all their emotional energy on a single relationship, usually develop a network of friends they can rely on for affection and emotional support. The friends offer various types of friendship, some based on mutual interest, others based on simple amiability and yet others on physical appeal. The comparison might be of one single ray of bright, white light versus that light refracted through a prism, emitting a variety of different colors.

Some people seem to

**You can have a full and satisfying life as a single male.**

feel a need for a partner in order to complete themselves. Others don’t seem to feel that need, but are happy to have close friends as “add-ons.” Whether friends or partners, think of another person as another way to experience the world, an add-on to the self, not a completion of oneself.

At least some of this should be good news to young gays who feel a pressure to find a

partner and are failing to do so. It should also be reassuring to older gays who are just coming out or whose partner recently died and who are trying to develop a new life. I would remind younger gays that no one needs to stick with a relationship that is unsatisfactory, unrewarding and sometimes even abusive.

All these are reasons not to hasten into marriage or other legally binding relationships that can be difficult and painful to undo. Dating was a good idea that heterosexuals had. Get to know the other person well, not just feel attracted to them.

*Some of Paul Varnell's columns are archived with the Independent Gay Forum at [www.indegayforum.com](http://www.indegayforum.com). He can be reached at [pvarnell@aol.com](mailto:pvarnell@aol.com).*

## > Heroes and villains

### HERO

Hillary Clinton delivered a worldwide message in 1995, boldly stating that “women’s rights are human rights, and human rights are women’s rights.” No one had framed the issue in just that way, in that Hillary Clinton way.

As secretary of state, Clinton continues to advocate for women’s rights, for human rights, for rebuilding global alliances and taking new directions in foreign policy.

A Time magazine report recently referred to this hero as the second most popular American in the world, and WiG understands why.

In a recent speech, Clinton denounced homophobia and the damaging impact anti-gay policies can have on the fight against HIV/AIDS. She said, “We have to stand against any efforts to marginalize and criminalize and penalize members of the LGBT community worldwide. It is an unacceptable step backwards on behalf of human rights.”

### VILLAIN

Richard Cohen is the author of “Coming Out Straight” and claims to have helped thousands of people leave unhappy homosexual lives for straight happiness.

He has written lies that feed anti-LGBT initiatives, and he has made false claims that lead mothers and fathers, ministers and therapists, to torture LGBT children and adults.

Cohen’s ex-gay work has reached beyond the United States to other countries, including Uganda, where his writing was cited in an effort to justify a proposed measure that, as introduced, would have resulted in death for some gay Ugandans and jail for their family and friends.

Cohen, recently appearing on “The Rachel Maddow Show,” distanced himself from the Uganda legislation, but the measure’s proponents are seeking to practice what he preaches.

— WiG

# Crying in New York



preparing myself for the opposite.

The people over at the National Organization for Marriage, of course, think equal marriage is personal. That’s why they’re fighting so hard to keep us from marrying. I’ve met Maggie Gallagher, NOM’s president, and she told me that she had her first child out of wedlock when she was at Yale. The father didn’t stick around and didn’t marry her — and basically, it seems to me that it became her life’s work to find out why.

Her research into marriage and strong marriages and why people get married at all has somehow been perverted into fighting against marriages she doesn’t like. She seems to feel that gay people are so icky and young men are so against the idea of marriage that if gay people can get married then young straight men will decide that marriage is even grosser than they originally thought.

This is clearly not the case. Marriage is not a fashion

I bet that not a single gay marriage opponent would have cried if equal marriage had triumphed in New York.

They would have been angry, sure. They would have moaned about the “demise” of the traditional family.

Perhaps they would have even been afraid.

But sad to the point of tears? No.

That’s because marriage equality is not personal for them. Not in the way it’s personal for us.

But there were plenty of tears from those in Times Square protesting the New York Senate’s vote against our families, and plenty of anger in Union Square the next evening. I wound up crying into my partner’s coat while she held the umbrella over both of us, shielding us from the rain.

Christine Quinn, New York City Council Speaker, open lesbian and equal marriage advocate, cried, too. Tearing up, she said in a press conference, “What I care about is my life isn’t any better today.”

As I’m writing this, a decision hasn’t been made yet in New Jersey. Though I hope for a positive outcome, I’m

trend. Sure, a young man might not want the same pair of sneakers his grandmother wears — he might not even want to buy something he considers to be a gay sneaker (honestly, I have no idea what that would be. This is just an analogy) — but whether he likes gay people or not won’t deter him from buying into marriage.

People don’t decide against marriage because they don’t like the kinds of people who get married. They decide against marriage because they think it’s patriarchal, or because they feel like they don’t have enough money to help support someone, or because they simply don’t like the person they’re dating enough to marry them.

On the other hand, there are people who are so invested in marriage that we will attend protest after protest and write letter after letter just to win the right to marry.

Those people are us. We will not be deterred from marriage by recent losses in Maine and New York. We will not be deterred by the opposition’s strategy to paint us as a bad influence on children.

**And we will not be deterred from marriage just because of people who disgust us.**

And we will not be deterred from marriage just because people who disgust us — for example, those who run the National Organization for Marriage, socially conservative Republicans and hypocritical religious leaders — also get married.

For us, this is personal. We want to marry the people we love. And because it is this personal — because we cry every time we lose — we will keep fighting until we win.

*Jennifer Vanasco is an award-winning, syndicated columnist. E-mail her at [jennifer.vanasco@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer.vanasco@gmail.com) and follow her at [twitter.com/jennifervanasco](http://twitter.com/jennifervanasco).*



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## Where are the police?

**Opinion**  
BY ANGEL SEVILLA

### He was assaulted after leaving a bar in our very familiar gay district.

It took me a while to get around to writing this article, partly because I'm a student and its final's week, but mainly because I've been taking care of my friend all week.

A week ago he was assaulted after leaving a bar in our very familiar gay district on Second Street — not just assaulted, damn near killed. He had been drinking and was unable to defend himself. He ended up getting hit on the back of the head with the end of a pole, resulting in a chunk of his skull being knocked out of place. His entire body is in pain from the multiple kicks he received once he was on the ground. He can't really bend over because his back hurts too much, and he can't lie down because a patched-up hole is in the center of the back of his head. The clothes he wore that night are covered in blood.

This is not OK.

Why did this happen?

I also have been mugged on Second Street.

About three summers ago, two guys asked me for a cigarette. I politely told them that I don't smoke, and apparently that's not what they wanted to hear. I wasn't shaken up by the fact that I walked away with a black eye and some other bruises. I was shaken up by the fact that no one seemed to have seen what happened.

Where are the police officers? And what the hell is wrong with these people who feel like it's OK to just run around knocking people out?

Are there not enough police in Milwaukee to patrol the bar areas? I always see plenty of patrol cars circling Fourth and National when all the Bradley Tech kids get out of school each afternoon. I know that's because a lot of the kids like to start trouble, but the crazy gay-bashers out hiding in the dark are just as bad, if not worse, because crazy fuels their hate.

When I was assaulted I called the police to report the incident, and they put me on hold for 15 minutes. I ended up just walking to the police station on Fourth and

Lincoln to make a report in person, because for some twisted reason that was actually faster than calling on the phone.

I'm at a loss, because I usually always have something to say, some idea or suggestion of how I think things might be fixed.

This time, though, I'm left pretty speechless. I'm a pretty firm believer in preventing a problem before it occurs, but how do you prevent ignorance?

How do we prevent black eyes and cracked skulls?

How do we prevent hate crimes that can very easily lead to someone's death?

I want to know what police and city officials can do to work together in preventing things like this from happening again.

I realize that Milwaukee is a very messed-up city and that the police have a lot to deal with, but my job is to give my 20-year-old gay opinion, and my opinion is that they aren't working as hard to keep us safe at night as they are to keep some other parts of town safe during the day.

I'm not implying that it's because we're gay, or accusing anyone of treating us unequally, I'm simply stating that there's a problem here.

I don't have the answer this time, but maybe someone reading this column does.

### REPORT: ESTATE TAX MORE TAXING FOR GAY COUPLES

LOS ANGELES (WiG) — Same-sex couples who are affected by the estate tax are assessed an average of \$3.3 million more in taxes upon the death of a spouse than similarly-situated married heterosexual couples.

Because the federal government refuses to recognize same-sex marriages, lesbians and gay men are disadvantaged in their ability to pass on their wealth to their partners and children after their death, according to a newly released study from the Williams Institute at the UCLA School of Law.

"Even in 2010, when the estate tax is currently slated to be repealed, federal law allows different-sex married couples to shelter an additional \$3 million in capital gains when a partner dies," said Michael D. Steinberger, author of the study. "Regardless of your views about this tax, it is a costly implication of legal discrimination against gay and lesbian couples."

The study found that the estate tax penalty will cost same-sex couples \$237 million in 2009 and nearly \$620 million in 2011, if the exclusion limit falls back to \$1 million.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Marriage licenses, while issued and regulated by the states, provide couples access to more than 1,000 state and federal rights and protections — few of which can be secured through private contracts. Source: Lambda Legal



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# Marriage loses in NY, advances in NJ, DC

By Lisa Neff

WIG Staff Writer

On the marriage front this month, Albany anger turned to Trenton triumph — with a big push from The Boss and a legion of gay and lesbian activists.

Legislation to legalize same-sex marriage did not yet pass in New Jersey, but the bill won critical approval from a senate committee and an instrumental endorsement from the state's most famous native son, Bruce Springsteen.

The progress came after a defeat in New York. There, the governor had pushed lawmakers to take up same-sex marriage legislation in a special session that began with uncertainty.

The house approved the measure in July with an 89 to 52 vote, then voted again Dec. 1 in favor of the legislation by an 88-51 vote.

The senate voted the bill down Dec. 2. Thirty Republicans and eight Democrats voted against the measure, but only one spoke during the debate watched around the country via the senate's Web cast.

"That news, after Maine, I felt like I was at a funeral," said New Yorker and gay rights activist Tony Monsorio.

If the New York defeat played like a funeral dirge, the New Jersey progress — though preliminary — played like a rock anthem.

"I grew up in New York," said Steven Goldstein, CEO of Garden State Equality, New Jersey's statewide LGBT group. "The Hudson River might as well be a thousand miles wide. On LGBT rights, New Jersey is a leader."

Earlier this month, the New Jersey Senate Judiciary Committee took testimony for seven hours on the same-sex marriage bill — and there were many others who wanted to testify but time ran out. Julian Bond, chair of the NAACP, testified that by voting for gay marriage lawmakers would be "standing



**New Jersey Gov. Jon S. Corzine sits with Senate President Richard J. Codey, right, D-West Orange, at an event Dec. 10, in Trenton, N.J. Of the delayed gay marriage bill, Corzine says he remains confident the legislation will "get to a positive conclusion" before he leaves office in January. Corzine has said he would sign a same-sex marriage law. Gov.-elect Chris Christie would veto it.**

PHOTO: AP PHOTO/MEL EVANS

for right and on the right side of history."

The committee's 7-6 vote to send the bill to the senate floor marked the first time New Jersey lawmakers voted on the same-sex marriage issue.

A vote in the senate was expected Dec. 10, and, in anticipation, Garden State Equality organized a lobby day that sent hundreds of people to the Capitol. Activists also began making telephone calls, sending e-mail alerts, chirping and tweeting and rallying a cyber community.

"Our numbers and our passion have spun legislators' heads," Goldstein said. "Several told us they'd never seen a show of force like ours collectively — and that it made all the difference in the world."

Activists want to move the legislation in the next six weeks because Gov. John Corzine, who has said he will sign the measure, leaves

office Jan. 19. Gov.-elect Chris Christie, however, has said he would veto the bill.

Corzine, following the committee vote, said the marriage issue should be recognized as a civil rights issue and excitement built over the likelihood that New Jersey would become the sixth state to legalize same-sex marriage. Same-sex couples can legally marry in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Iowa, Vermont and New Hampshire. Five other states — California, New Jersey, Oregon, Washington and Nevada — provide same-sex couples with access to state level benefits through domestic partnerships or civil unions. D.C. also provides some partnership benefits.

The excitement escalated Dec. 9, when Springsteen, long associated with a number of progressive causes, posted "A Brief Statement From Bruce" on his Web site:

**'The committee spent seven hours hearing from scores of New Jerseyans.'**

"Like many of you who live in New Jersey, I've been following the progress of the marriage-equality legislation currently being considered in Trenton. I've long believed in and have always spoken out for the rights of same-sex couples and fully agree with Governor Corzine when he writes that, 'The marriage-equality issue should be recognized for what it truly is — a civil rights issue that must be approved to assure that every citizen is treated equally under the law.' I couldn't agree more with that state-

ment and urge those who support equal treatment for our gay and lesbian brothers and sisters to let their voices be heard now."

Garden State Equality dispatched a note to its members: "In New Jersey, no other endorsement comes close."

Later Dec. 9, Garden State Equality announced a delay in the senate, where 21 votes are needed to pass the marriage bill.

"Sen. Ray Lesniak and I requested that Senate President Richard J. Codey hold Senate Bill 1967," said New Jersey Sen. Loretta Weinberg, a co-sponsor of the bill.

Weinberg also asked for Assembly Speaker Joseph Roberts to schedule a meeting of the Assembly Judiciary Committee to take up same-sex marriage in light of changes in the senate version of the legislation.

"The Senate committee has substantially amended its version to include sweeping, additional protections for religious institutions," said Weinberg, adding that she wants lawmakers to hear more from the public.

"Hundreds of citizens lined up outside the committee chambers to offer testimony," Weinberg said of the senate committee hearing. "The committee spent seven hours hearing from scores of New Jerseyans. We had to turn away another 150 witnesses for want of time. In addition to the committee hearing, thousands of citizens, and dozens of religious and secular organizations, have engaged our members in a thoughtful and productive dialogue on marriage equality."

Garden State Equality endorsed the decision to delay and praised Weinberg and Lesniak for the leadership.

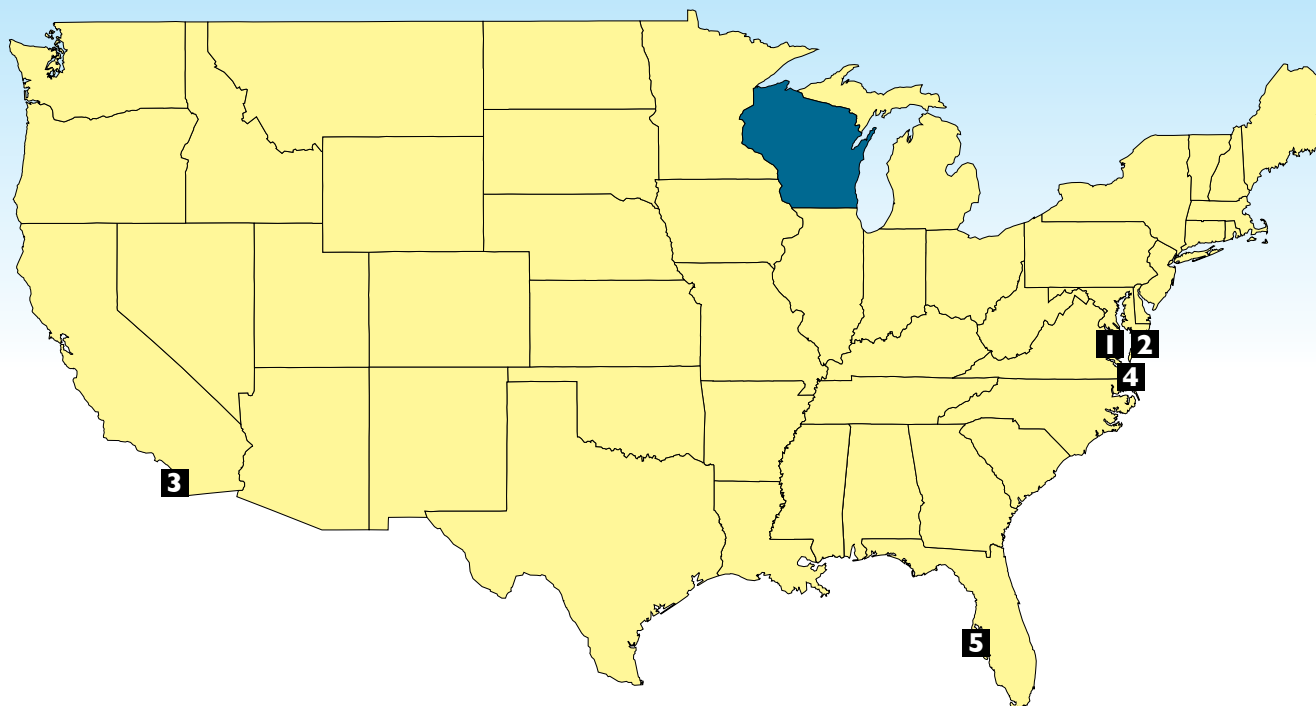
"Loretta, of course, is our guardian angel — the greatest champion of equality New Jersey has ever seen," Goldstein said. "I can't even begin to tell you how hard she's worked for this legislation.... Raymond has the courage of his convictions like few others we've worked with: When he decides something is the correct thing to do to make our society a kinder, fairer place, nothing stops him."

Meanwhile, on Dec. 15, the Washington, D.C. City Council approved legislation to extend marriage rights to gays. The vote was 11-2 for the bill, which is expected to be signed by the mayor.

Congress still must approve the legislation, and activists expect a 2010 ballot initiative on marriage in D.C.

"The district still has a few hurdles to overcome," said Jennifer Chrisler of the Family Equality Council.

Share your thoughts at [www.wisconsin-gazette.com](http://www.wisconsin-gazette.com).



## 1. COALITION SENDS WHITE HOUSE HOLIDAY MESSAGE

WASHINGTON (WiG) — A coalition of LGBT groups recently launched the From Our Family to Yours Campaign to introduce the First Family to LGBT families.

"In this season of peace, love and generosity, we are pleased to introduce the "From Our Families to Yours Campaign" said Family Equality Council executive director Jennifer Chrisler.

Participating families will send holiday cards to the White House, sharing photos and seasons greetings.

"We wish the First Family happy holidays and a new



year filled with renewed support for LGBT equality. Passage of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, the Every Child Deserves a Family Act and repeal of the so-called Defense of Marriage Act are the needed steps toward equality that profoundly impact all families," Chrisler said.

Family Equality Council's partners include Center Kids: A Program of the New York Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Community Center, COLAGE, Equality

California, Equality Federation, Family Equality Council, Family Matters: a program of the San Diego LGBT Community Center, LA Gay and Lesbian Center's Family Services Program, Lesbian and Gay Family Building Project, the Mega Family Project, National Center for Lesbian Rights, Our Family Coalition, Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays and the San Francisco Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center.

## 2. BILL WOULD ALLOW GAY TROOPS TO TESTIFY OPENLY

WASHINGTON (WiG) — U.S. Rep. Alcee Hastings, D-Fla., recently introduced

legislation to allow gay members of the Armed Forces to testify openly at congressional hearings.

The Honest and Open Testimony Act carries 27 co-sponsors.

The measure would allow gay troops to testify openly without risk of discharge or other punishment. The "don't ask, don't tell" policy requires the discharge of service members who acknowledge that they are gay, lesbian, or bisexual. So Hastings' measure would serve as the first relaxation of the military ban in 16 years.

Hearings on "don't ask, don't tell" are expected in early 2010.

## 3. JURY FINDS TITLE IX RETALIATION AT CALIFORNIA COLLEGE

SAN DIEGO (WiG) — The National Center for Lesbian Rights recently secured a favorable jury verdict on behalf of a former head basketball coach at San Diego Mesa College.

The California State Court jury awarded \$28,000, the equivalent of one year's salary, for former coach Lorri Sulpizio. The court found that the school district retaliated when Sulpizio complained that Mesa engaged in gender inequities in violation of

Title IX, a federal statute that prohibits discrimination based on sex.

"This is a victory for the student athletes who work so hard to succeed on the court and in the classrooms," Sulpizio said. "They deserve nothing less than fair and equal treatment. I remain committed to Title IX and ending gender discrimination in sports, and this verdict inspires me to continue working for equality."

## 4. COURT TO DECIDE IF COLLEGE GROUP MUST ALLOW GAYS

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Supreme Court said it will decide whether a California law school must force a Christian group to admit gays, lesbians and atheists to gain stature as an official campus organization.

The High Court agreed to hear an appeal from a chapter of the Christian Legal Society at the University of California's Hastings College of the Law. A federal judge had turned aside the group's attempt to force the school to give it campus funding and other benefits without opening its membership to gays, lesbians and nonbelievers — a requirement of the San Francisco school.

The 30-member Hastings

group was told in 2004 that it was being denied recognition, including university funding and benefits, because of its policy of exclusion.

Federal courts have rejected the group's assertions that the law school's policy violated its freedoms of speech, religion and association.

## 5. TRANSGENDER TEEN: MCDONALD'S REFUSED TO HIRE ME

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — A transgender teen in Orlando filed a discrimination complaint against a McDonald's restaurant whose managers refused to interview her for a job.

Zikerria Bellamy, 17, claims two McDonald's managers refused to interview her after she applied for a job. And she says one of them later left a voicemail message that included a gay slur.

The New York-based Transgender Legal Defense and Education Fund filed the complaint in late November with the Florida Commission on Human Relations.

## GET CONNECTED

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### U.S. Senate:

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# 2nd gay Episcopal bishop elected

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles has elected a lesbian as assistant bishop, the second openly gay bishop in the global Anglican fellowship, which is already deeply fractured over the first.

Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, spiritual leader of the world's 77 million Anglicans, said that the choice raised "very serious questions" for the divided church and urged restraint.

The Rev. Mary Glasspool of Baltimore needs approval from a majority of dioceses across the church before she can be consecrated as assistant bishop in the Los Angeles diocese.



**Glasspool**

Still, her victory underscored a continued Episcopal commitment to accepting same-sex relationships despite enormous pressure from other Anglicans to change their stand.

"Any group of people who

have been oppressed because of any one, isolated aspect of their persons yearns for justice and equal rights," Glasspool said in a statement, thanking the diocese for choosing her.

The head of the Episcopal Church, Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori, is scheduled to consecrate Glasspool on May 15 in Los Angeles, if the church accepts the vote.

The Episcopal Church, which is the Anglican body in the United States, caused an uproar in 2003 by consecrating the first openly gay bishop, V. Gene Robinson of New Hampshire.

Breakaway Episcopal conservatives have formed a rival

church, the Anglican Church in North America. Several overseas Anglicans have been pressuring Williams to officially recognize the new conservative entity.

In 2004, Anglican leaders asked the Episcopal Church for a moratorium on electing another gay bishop while they tried to prevent a permanent break in the fellowship.

Since the request was made, some Episcopal gay priests have been nominated for bishop, but none was elected before Glasspool. Last July, the Episcopal General Convention, the U.S. church's top policymaking body, affirmed that gay and lesbian priests were eli-

gible to become bishops.

Williams recently reminded Anglicans that church leaders believed "a period of gracious restraint in respect of actions which are contrary to the mind of the Communion is necessary if our bonds of mutual affection are to hold."

He said Glasspool's election "raises very serious questions not just for the Episcopal Church and its place in the Anglican Communion, but for the Communion as a whole." But he noted the election has yet to be confirmed and could still be rejected by U.S. dioceses.

The Anglican Communion is a family of churches that

trace their roots to the missionary work of the Church of England. Most overseas Anglicans are Bible conservatives.

The Rev. Kendall Harmon of the traditional Diocese of South Carolina, which recently voted to distance itself from the national church, said the vote would further damage relations among Episcopalians, their fellow Anglicans and other Christians.

"This decision represents an intransigent embrace of a pattern of life Christians throughout history and the world have rejected as against biblical teaching," said Harmon, an adviser to the diocesan bishop.

## Not sure of someone's tastes?

Gifts from 6

on site and receive two Paul Klee tote bags. Give three or more gift memberships and save 20 percent off the total price. Time is short to catch the museum's acclaimed "Andy Warhol: The Last Decade," which includes nearly 50 pieces representing the artist's last and most productive decade. [www.mam.org](http://www.mam.org)

Not sure of someone's tastes? Comedy? Indie? Classic Rock? Alternative or pop? Theater? The Pabst gift card can be used at the historic theater, as well as The Riverside and Turner Hall for any show. A concert-goer can experience the grace of the Golden Dragon Acrobats or pro boxers. Or both. [www.pabsttheater.com](http://www.pabsttheater.com)

**To show home-state — or home-town — pride:** Someone you know sport a Buckingham U. Badger tattoo and know the foodology of cheese? Give Wisconsin's biggest fan a gift celebrating a Wisconsin original — the alumni organization includes Frank Lloyd Wright, Harley-Davidson, Harry Houdini, Laura Ingalls Wilder, Les Paul, Vince Lombardi, Tommy Bartlett. If you go for the fitted, foam cheesehead, thank Ralph Bruno, who fashioned an Illinois insult into a statement of Wisconsin pride. [www.travelwisconsin.com](http://www.travelwisconsin.com)

"All About Town:

Milwaukee" is a unique board game that tests your knowledge about Milwaukee County with 1,500 questions about people, business and industry, sports and entertainment, places, and events — from past to present. The game is available at the Milwaukee County Historical Society (910 N. Old World Third St.) and Rocks Cry Out Artisan Co-Op (4328 W. Forest Home Ave.).

A Peggy Karr fused-glass platter featuring a hand-painted view of Milwaukee or Madison is a colorful and functional way to show civic pride. The platters are available exclusively at George Watts & Son, 761 N. Jefferson Ave. in Milwaukee.

**To fight HIV/AIDS:** Since the introduction of the AIDS ribbon, red has come to symbolize the hope and dedication that goes into the fight against HIV/AIDS. Now the sales of (RED) products — from Starbucks coffee beans to Converse high-tops, Dell computers to Apple iPods, raise money to make a difference in the lives of people living with HIV/AIDS in Africa. Up to 50 percent of the profits go to the Global Fund to benefit HIV/AIDS. [www.joinred.com](http://www.joinred.com)

**To fight breast cancer:** Think pink. In the pink. Code pink. Pink, though not the color of choice for too many lesbian rugby teams, has come to symbolize the

fight against breast cancer and to identify products that help raise money for that fight. Invest Pink is an investment fund focused on first- and second-stage bio and life science companies. For the holiday season, the fund is offering "I Care" packages that include discounts for three early detection screenings, an iMemories coupon to convert old home movies to DVDs and a certificate documenting the contribution to the fund. [www.invest-pink.com](http://www.invest-pink.com)

**To green the planet:** Evian bottles once were a statement of water chic. They now are a statement of excess. Hip H2O drinkers show off their flair with aluminum water bottles from SIGG, Triton, KleanKanteen and Gaiam, which offers a variety of bottle styles — for fishers to Francophiles.

A number of new clothing lines feature green fabrics that promote green causes, including Craft's "Leave Your Car - Ride Your Bike" bicycle jerseys made of recycled polyester; [www.craft-usa.com](http://www.craft-usa.com) and Blood Heart Group's T-shirt line featuring images of Barack Obama, Benazir Bhutto, Nelson Mandela, Jackie Robinson, Caesar Chavez, Amelia Earhart and Marie Curie. [www.blood-heartgroup.com](http://www.blood-heartgroup.com)

For her eco-chic line, Ann Wizer of XSProjectUSA goes to the trash heap. Wizer's

everyday items — credit card holders, make-up bags, shopping bags and laptop totes — are made from garbage. [www.xsproject.usa.com](http://www.xsproject.usa.com)

Meanwhile, the EcoBags

from the Original Reusable Bag Company are intended to minimize the trash heap by encouraging people to say "no" to paper or plastic. Thinking about wrapping a

gift? Think again and bag it. [www.ecobags.com](http://www.ecobags.com)

How about a 100-percent wool hat and mitten set that's hand-made and fairly

Gifts page 14

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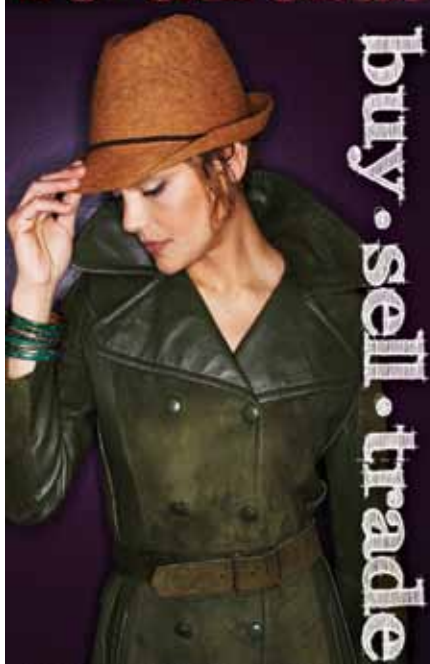
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## INTERNATIONAL GAZE

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## Ireland debates marriage rights bill

DUBLIN (AP) — Ireland's lawmakers opened debate in early December on a bill to grant marriage-style rights to gay couples, a social milestone in a country long observant of Roman Catholic opposition to homosexuality.

Justice Minister Dermot Ahern said the bill would give gay couples the same rights as married heterosexual couples on questions of property ownership, inheritance, medical care and access to state benefits — and also the same right to go to court seeking financial support from higher-earning partners when relationships fail.

Ahern noted that the proposal would have been unthinkable only a few years ago in Ireland, a country that defined homosexuality as a criminal offense until 1993.

He said denying the reality of thousands of gay couples in Ireland "only helps to reinforce prejudice in our society."

The Civil Partnership Bill faces opposition from a minority of lawmakers in the ruling Fianna Fail party, who are seeking an amendment permitting service providers — such as hotels and wedding photographers — to deny services to gays celebrating their civil partner-

ships.

But Ahern said the so-called "freedom of conscience" amendment was bigoted, violated Ireland's 2004 anti-discrimination laws and would not be included.

The bill's passage into law this month appeared assured because of strong backing by opposition parties.

"The Ireland of the past was undoubtedly an extraordinarily difficult place for gay and lesbian citizens. There was virtually no understanding of difference," said Charlie Flanagan, justice spokesman for the opposition Fine Gael party.

"Thankfully we have made great strides as a nation, and we now live in a more tolerant era, characterized in the main more by reason and science than by bigotry, superstition and fear," he said.

Brendan Howlin of the left-wing Labour Party noted that it was first to publish legislation seeking marriage-level rights for gays, and the government's belated initiative "should be applauded and celebrated." But he noted that discriminatory policies would remain, including a ban on child-adoption rights for gay couples.

Nonetheless, gay rights

activists welcomed the bill as the best possible for now in Ireland, whose 1937 constitution was heavily shaped by Catholic thinking. Its sections on marriage and family law mean that any bill to legalize gay marriage outright would require a national referendum to amend the constitution.

Kieran Rose, chairman of Ireland's Gay and Lesbian Equality Network, said the bill would create "civil marriage in all but name" for gays. He forecast thousands of civil-partnership celebrations in 2010 as couples hold marriage-style ceremonies in city halls and hotels.

**'Thankfully we have made great strides as a nation, and we now live in a more tolerant era.'**

### GOVERNMENT-BACKED BAR STAYS EMPTY

BEIJING (AP) — A new bar in southwestern China aimed at educating gay men about AIDS stayed conspicuously empty during its official opening. Potential customers feared the spotlight, state media said.

The bar, which receives government funding from the health bureau in Yunnan province's Dali town, was slated to open Dec. 1 to mark World AIDS Day, the China Daily reported.

But the intense media attention that greeted the announcement of its opening kept customers away, Zhang Jianbo, the bar's owner and a local AIDS doctor in Dali, told the newspaper.

"They refused to show up at the opening for fear of media exposure and potential discrimination," he said.

The bar, nestled in a small alley in the tourist town of Dali, opened informally in November, drawing dozens of gay men seeking information about AIDS and a sense of community, Zhang told Xinhua.

World

INTERNATIONAL UPDATE  
FROM WIG AND AP REPORTS

### ARGENTINE JUDGE SUSPENDS GAY MARRIAGE

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — An Argentine judge put a hold on another court's decision to permit the first gay marriage in Latin America, but supporters of the couple said they would try to go ahead with the ceremony anyway.

The official court Web site said national judge Marta Gomez Alsina ordered the wedding blocked until the issue can be considered by the Supreme Court.

Jose Maria Di Bello and his partner Alex Freyre set plans to wed based on an earlier ruling by a city judge in Buenos Aires.

"They are shocked and saddened by the news," said Maria Rachid, president of the Argentine Federation for Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals and Transsexuals. She coordinated the team of lawyers that filed the couple's suit.

The court Web site said the civil registry where the

wedding was to take place had been notified of the latest ruling.

Several weeks ago, a city judge, acting with the blessing of Buenos Aires' mayor, ruled the couple had been unconstitutionally denied a marriage license and gave them permission to wed.

In 2002, Buenos Aires became the first Spanish-speaking city to allow same-sex civil unions.

Argentina's national legislature opened debate in October on a bill that would change a civil code provision defining marriage as a union between a man and a woman. A new marriage law would mean gay couples could enjoy all the rights of a married couple, including the right to adopt children, inherit wealth or share a health care plan.

### PARLIAMENT OKS GAY CIVIL UNIONS

VIENNA (AP) — Austria's parliament has passed legislation allowing gay couples to enter into civil unions.

The decision is slated to become law on Jan. 1. It will give same-sex couples a series of rights enjoyed by heterosexuals, including

access to a pension if one partner dies and alimony in the event of a split.

However, the new law does not allow the adoption of children or artificial insemination.

Justice Minister Claudia Bandion-Ortner said the Dec. 10 vote was a big and historic step for the Alpine republic.

The opposition right-wing Freedom Party rejected the legislation that was seen as a compromise between the governing coalition. The Greens argued it does not go far enough.

### ELTON JOHN TO SUPPORT UKRAINIAN BOY HE CAN'T ADOPT

LONDON (AP) — Elton John's partner says the musician was devastated that he wasn't allowed to adopt a Ukrainian child, but plans to support the boy anyway.

The 62-year-old pop star met 14-month-old Lev at a home for HIV-positive children in September. But he was refused permission to adopt the boy because he was too old and not married.

## Looking for easy-to-ship?

Gifts from 13

traded from Nepal. For each set sold, the Rainforest Site will preserve 1,145 square feet of land. Go to shop.therainforestsites.com

Even your favorite pooch can get into the green-giving act. The World Wildlife Federation offers a collar, collapsible bowl and leash set embroidered with the group's Panda logo. www.worldwildlife.org

Harry & David's answer to "artificial or chopped" is "neither." The retailer offers a live woodland tree adorned with maple leaves, pomegranates, cinnamon sticks and berries that can be planted after the 12 days of Christmas pass. Sales also benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. www.harryanddavid.com

Want something easier to ship? The Nature Conservancy offers opportunities for givers to donate, in the name of someone, to help save the northern jaguar, protect hummingbird habitats, plant a billion trees, adopt a coral reef or protect clean water. www.nature.org

**To feed the hungry:** Givers who give Naumes Gourmet Fruit Baskets for the holidays give twice. The recipient gets a basket of fresh fruit grown on family-

owned farms and harvested by hand. Plus, for each pound of fruit sold, the company ships a pound to a food bank to help feed the hungry. www.naumesfruitgifts.com

**To support fair-trade:** National Geographic and Cafe Bom Dia, two entities with exemplary records on fair trade and environmentalism, have partnered to launch Terra Firma, a coffee from the world's finest growing regions — Brazil, Ethiopia, Costa Rica, Colombia, Sumatra and Kenya. www.nationalgeographic.com

Or, when you give a bag of beans from Alterra, you're not only supporting a treasured local business, you're supporting a business that ranks among the top 12 roasters in the country based on the total volume of Fair-Trade Certified coffees purchased. Alterra also practices green building and gives back to the local community in a number of ways.

**To support humanitarian causes:** One-hundred percent of the retail price of Lush Charity Pot Hand & Body Cream goes directly to a charitable fund that supports animal rights, environmental protection and humanitarian concerns, including Animal Rescue Network, Hands Up For Africa and UNICEF GirlImpact.



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# WIGOUT!

WISCONSIN GAZETTE ENTERTAINMENT

Director Tom Ford  
on the set of  
"A Single Man,"  
his first film.



## A singular man

### An interview with Tom Ford

By Gregg Shapiro

WIG Staff Writer

‘A Single Man,’ the film version of the Christopher Isherwood novel of the same name, marks Tom Ford’s directorial debut.

The fashion designer-turned-filmmaker joins the ranks of directors such as Julian Schnabel and Sofia Coppola, who broke new ground — personally and professionally — with their feature-length motion picture presentations.

Set in the early 1960s and stunningly recreated with a careful and reverent eye, “A Single Man” takes place in a single day.

College professor George (Colin Firth, who has never been sexier), is distraught over the death of his longtime companion Jim (the charming Matthew Goode). He’s planning to go out with a bang. Literally. He has a gun and he’s getting his affairs in order, which includes an intimate yet distant evening with best gal pal Charlotte (a stunning Julianne Moore), before getting on with the task at hand.

But life has other plans for him, including the unexpected interest of student Kenny (Nicholas Hoult), who

is more than a little hot for teacher.

Ford spoke with humor, diplomacy and, most of all, enthusiasm, about his widely acclaimed directorial debut.

Gregg Shapiro: I’d like to begin by asking you why you chose Christopher Isherwood’s novel for your first film?

Tom Ford: I first read this book when I was about 20 years old and I was living in West Hollywood in the early 1980s and I was an actor. What spoke to me about the book then was the character of George, which is so beautifully written by Mr. Isherwood that he really seems real. And, of course, he was real, because he was really

Ford page 28



# THAT'S A WRAP...

All boxed  
up for the  
holidays

PHOTO BY  
JASON SMITH

## Ho, ho, ho for a British holiday

By Gregg Shapiro  
*WiG Staff Writer*

It is practically all any pop music lover can talk about these days, especially with the holidays approaching: **The Beatles** stereo box set (Capitol), also available in mono, contains the 13 original UK albums, remastered and repackaged with essen-



PHOTO: APPLE CORPS LTD., 2009

Meet The Beatles — again.

## A merry little xmas gift

By Gregg Shapiro  
*WiG Staff Writer*

"The Judy Garland Show Holiday Special" is a ghost of Christmas past — and you won't mind the visitation.

Set in Garland's "house," where she lives with Lorna, Joey and Liza, the viewer is just one of the guests dropping by for the holidays.

The show opens with Judy looking out the window at



"The Judy Garland Show Holiday Special" is now available on DVD.

DVD page 19



## The Beatles continue to be unsurpassed in their musical impact

Music from 16

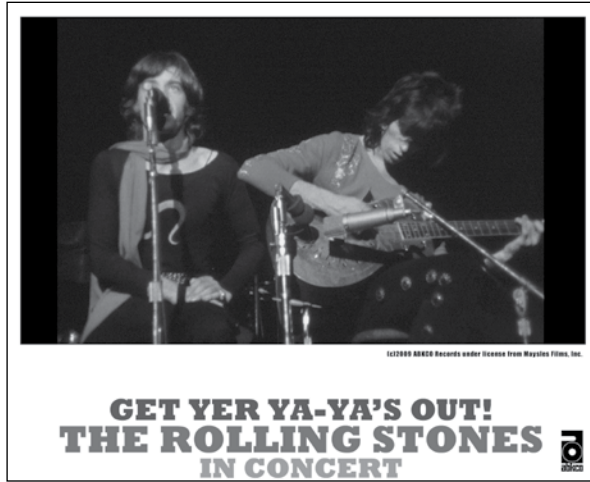
tial artwork, historical and recording notes, and mini-documentaries.

The collection has undeniably revived Beatlemania, and would make a sensational gift.

Forty years after the release of "Abbey Road," the last album they recorded as a band, The Beatles continue to be unsurpassed in their musical impact. Beginning with 1963's "Please Please Me" and ending with 1970's "Let It Be," The Beatles box set takes listeners on a familiar journey, but one that is awe-inspiring, no matter how many times you take it.

With the improved sound, listeners now have a chance to rediscover the entire Beatles catalog and pick up on nuances they might have missed before. Both of the 1988 double LP "Past Masters" sets, which compiled non-LP singles and tracks, are also included here, represented by a double-disc package.

Additionally, the mini-docs



The Rolling Stones' "Get Yer Ya-Ya's Out."

on the albums have been assembled on a separate DVD. The importance of having all this timeless, influential and revolutionary material in one place can't be overstated. Let the celebration begin. \*\*\*

Arriving on the heels of The Beatles, **The Rolling Stones** have managed to remain in existence with most of the original members, 45 years later.

A band whose reputation relied as much on their studio efforts as their concerts, The Rolling Stones were consummate live performers. Their 1969 live album "Get Yer Ya-Ya's Out" (ABKCO) has been reissued in a deluxe 40th-anniversary box set, consisting of three CDs and one DVD, as well as a 56-page collector's edition book with tour photos by Ethan Russell and a replica of



Duran Duran's "Rio."

the tour poster.

With their legendary rendition of "Midnight Rambler" as the centerpiece of disc one (the original release), the material focuses on their late 1960s output. The second disc includes five unreleased live tracks, including "Under My Thumb" and "(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction," while the third disc has a dozen selections by tour openers like and Tina Turner and B.B. King.

The final component is a DVD of performance footage and more shot by Albert and David Maysles ("Grey Gardens").

Now part of the Universal empire, The Rolling Stones' back catalog is in the midst of being reissued in remastered editions. Nothing fancy, mind you. No bonus tracks or such. That said, now is as good a time as any to revisit albums such as 1981's

## Music

By Gregg Shapiro

"Tattoo You" (Rolling Stones Records/UMe), the high point of their 1980s output with tracks such as "Start Me Up," "Waiting On A Friend," "Worried About You" and "Neighbours," to mention a few. Even though the 1990s weren't the best time for the Stones, the Don Was co-produced "Voodoo Lounge" and "Bridges To Babylon" (Rolling Stones Records/UMe), from '94 and '97, respectively, are also worth re-exploring. \*\*\*

**The Who's** "The Who Sell Out" (Polydor), a 1967 concept album about pirate radio (humorous adverts and all), has been reissued in a double-disc deluxe edition. In addition to the huge hit single "I Can See For Miles," "The Who Sell Out" has the psychedelic opener "Armenia City in the Sky"

Music page 18

# Mad for Plaid!



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- Audience comments

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## Reel advice: now playing

**"Brothers"** (Lionsgate): Oscar-winning director Jim Sheridan's adaptation of the Swedish film "Bröderna" is the second war widow movie of the season (see "The Messenger") and is a powerful and well-acted, if bleak, movie experience.

**Brothers** Sam (Tobey Maguire) and Tommy (Jake Gyllenhaal) Cahill couldn't be more different. War hero Sam is about to be deployed for another tour of duty in Afghanistan. He's married to Grace (Natalie Portman) and has two devoted young daughters Isabelle (Bailee Madison) and Maggie (Taylor Geare). Shortly before Sam leaves Minnesota, he gives Tommy a ride home from prison, where Tommy has been paroled after three years for robbing a bank. Tommy's return creates a minor disturbance. He's not popular with Grace or his father Hank (Sam Shepard), although his stepmother Elsie (the under-utilized Mare Winningham) shows him



kindness.

Not long after Sam's return to Afghanistan, a helicopter in which he and some other soldiers are riding is shot down. Grace is notified of Sam's death and his survivors struggle to carry on in spite of his notable absence. Tommy surprises everyone by becoming more responsible, looking after his brother's widow and even taking on the job of remodeling her dated kitchen. He not only wins Isabelle and Maggie's affection, but also Grace's. After one stoned, awkward kiss, Grace and Tommy think better of going any further.

But, Sam is still alive. As a prisoner of war, in captivity along with Pvt. Willis (Patrick Flueger), he endures months of torture and suffering at the hands of his captors. Near the end of his confine-

### **'The Prince and The Frog' is a fairy tale for fairies and their friends.**

ment, shortly before being rescued by American forces, he is forced to commit an unspeakable act, something that will haunt him and make his re-entry into society and family life virtually impossible. Upon his return, we watch him struggle with his demons which cause him to be disconnected and short-fused, and leads to a final dramatic showdown.

**"The Princess and The Frog"** (Walt Disney): Not the animated minstrel show I was dreading, Disney's old-school animated feature sets its latest fairy tale retelling in Jazz Age New Orleans.

Tiana (voiced by "Dreamgirl" Anika Noni Rose), daughter of seamstress Eudora (Oprah Winfrey) and the late James (Terrence Howard), always dreamed of taking her father's gumbo pot and opening her own restaurant. But, sadly, she's reduced to waiting tables in other people's establishments.

Across town, Tiana's man-crazy, wealthy, Southern belle best friend Charlotte (voiced by scene stealer Jennifer

Cody) only wants to marry a prince. With the arrival of flat-broke, jazz-loving Prince Naveen (Bruno Campos) in time for Mardi Gras, she just might get her wish. But the deeply evil shadow man Dr. Facilier (voiced by Keith David) has other plans for the Prince and his manservant Lawrence (Peter Bartlett). When the black magic kicks in and both the Prince and Tiana are transformed into frogs, the race is on to find

voodoo goddess Mama Odie (Jennifer Lewis) to save the day and the city of New Orleans from Facilier's twisted plot. Along the way they encounter talking gators and fireflies, among others, while singing their way through a set of Randy Newman songs. Both a nice change of pace and a pleasant return to form, "The Princess and The Frog" is a fairy tale for fairies and their friends from all walks of life.

## The Stone Roses — a Manchester flair

Music from 17

and the radiantly acoustic "Sunrise," among others. Disc one consists of the 13 tracks from the original stereo album, augmented by 17 bonus tracks, while disc two contains the original mono album with the addition of 10 bonus tracks.

\*\*\*

A good portion of the history of British rock in the 1970s and 1980s is dominated by punk and new wave, with such bands as the Sex Pistols, The Clash, The Jam, Buzzcocks, Joy Division, Human League, New Order and The Smiths. **Duran Duran** rode the new wave from the early 1980s as part of the New Romantic movement ("Planet Earth" and "Girls On Film," anyone?) to become one of MTV's first full-fledged video stars. Newly reissued in a limited edition double CD package, "Rio" (EMI), the second full-length by the androgynous quintet (complete with the Nagel cover), was Duran Duran's breakthrough. Hits such as the title track and "Hungry Like The Wolf" succeeded in making Duran Duran superstars, while songs such as "My Own Way" and "Lonely In Your Nightmare," displayed influences such as David Bowie and Roxy Music, respectively.

The first disc of the set includes the original UK version of the album, augmented by the original US album mixes of the first five tracks. The second disc features demos, b-side

and non-album singles and more.

\*\*\*

**The Stone Roses**, who arrived in 1989, were part of a Brit rock movement that took its 1960s influences seriously, while generously updating them with a Manchester flair. The expanded double set includes a "Lost Demos" disc and DVD (music videos and live footage). This 20<sup>th</sup>-anniversary Legacy Edition of The Stone Roses' self-titled debut disc (Silvertone/Legacy), one of only two full-length albums released by the band, is not just an opportunity to renew one's appreciation for their artistry, it also served to pave the way for what was to follow in the form of Oasis, Blur and others. From album opener "I Wanna Be Adored" (and indeed they were!) to the nearly 10-minute, groundbreaking bonus track "Fools Gold," which made ravey dance beats and a funky bass-line safe for shoegazers, there is little doubt this is a historical recording.

In the liner notes to "Midlife: A Beginner's Guide to Blur" (Virgin), the band's second double-disc hits compilation in nine years, you can follow the world events that occurred when each of their seven albums was released, between 1991 and 2003. You can also hear The Stone Roses' shoegaze-to-boogie shoes influence on "Blur." But "Blur" blurs the lines and emerges very much its own entity, thanks to the genius of Damon Albarn (who later went on to found Gorillaz). Just listen



**The Stone Roses.**

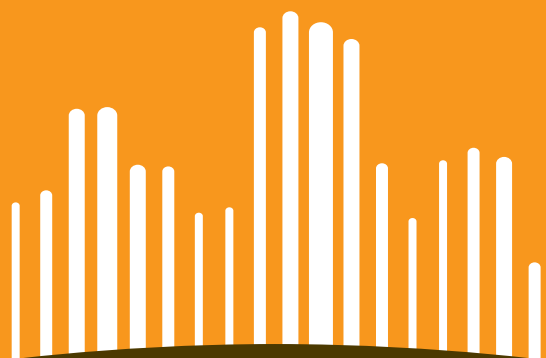
to the way they brazenly do a disco twirl on the deliciously queer "Girls and Boys."

\*\*\*

Rounding out the expanded double-disc **Radiohead** studio album reissues, which began with 1993's "Pablo Honey," are "Kid A," Amnesiac" and "Hail To The Thief" (all on Capitol). "Kid A" picks up with the electronic direction of "OK Computer," practically reinventing Radiohead in the process. Hauntingly beautiful and warmer than a glacier, songs such as "Everything In Its Right Place," "The Natural Anthem," "Optimistic" and "Idioteque" made you rethink everything you thought you knew about this band and rock music.

\*\*\*

"Brotherhood" (Virgin), the second double-disc **Chemical Brothers** compilation in five years, reminds us of the duo's massive contributions to the world of electro and club music.



# 88NINE

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## Stocker stuffers for film lovers



Happy holiday hours with Paul Newman, Mel Brooks and the Girls.

By Lisa Neff  
WIG Staff Writer

**"X-Men Origins: Wolverine,"** with Hugh Jackman, Liev Schreiber, Ryan Reynolds, Taylor Kitsch and will.i.am. Leading up to the events of "X-Men," this is the story of Wolverine's epically violent and romantic past, his complex relationship with Victor Creed, and the ominous Weapon X program. Along the way, Wolverine encounters many mutants, both familiar and new, including several legends of the X-Men universe whose appearances in the film have long been anticipated.

**"Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian,"** with Ben Stiller, Robin Williams, Owen Wilson, Amy Adams, Hank Azaria and Ricky Gervais. History is larger than life in this monumental comedy sequel. Security guard Larry Daley and new friend Amelia Earhart infiltrate the Smithsonian Institute

and battle the likes of Al Capone, Ivan the Terrible and Napoleon in order to rescue old-friends.

**"The Paul Newman Tribute Collection,"** which includes "The Long Hot Summer," "Rally 'Round the Flag Boys," "From the Terrace," "Exodus," "The Hustler Special Edition," "Hemingway's Adventures of a Young Man," "What a Way to Go!," "Hombre," "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid Special Edition," "Towering Inferno Special Edition," "Buffalo Bill and the Indians," "Quintet" and "The Verdict."

**"The Mel Brooks Collection Blu-ray Disc,"** including "Blazing Saddles," "High Anxiety," "History of the World Part I," "Robin Hood: Men in Tights," "Silent Movie," "Spaceballs," "To Be or Not to Be," "The Twelve Chairs" and "Young Frankenstein."

**"My Fair Lady,"** with Audrey Hepburn, Rex

Harrison, Stanley Holloway, Wilfrid Hyde-White and Gladys Cooper. One of the greatest musical films of all-time and winner of eight Academy Awards in 1964 including Best Picture, Best Director and Best Actor, with screenplay and lyrics by Alan Jay Lerner and costumes, scenery and production by Cecil Beaton.

**"Spongebob Squarepants: First 100 Episodes."** Celebrate 10 years of SpongeBob SquarePants. Perfect for any fan's collection. Fans will flip for favorite episodes featuring award-winning actors Johnny Depp and Amy Poehler, and rock icons David Bowie and Gene Simmons.

**"The Complete Powerpuff Girls Anniversary Collectors Set."** Three genetically engineered, sugar-coated superheroes whose mission in life alternates between going to school, fighting crime and winning at hopscotch.

## Historical document on DVD

DVD from 16

the "snowfall" with Lorna and Joey. The house is all decorated for the holidays, looking festive, even in black and white. There's a fire roaring in the hearth. Judy opens with "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas." "Consider Yourself," from "Oliver," is a family affair, sung by Judy and the kids. Joey gets a solo on "Where Is Love?" from "Oliver" — and you can understand why we didn't see too much of him after that. Liza and her "beau" Tracy Everitt (who did all the choreography for their num-



ber) perform "Steam Heat." Jack Jones enters singing "Wouldn't It Be Lovely," followed by Judy's request for "Lollipops and Sunshine."

Highlights include a Judy/Liza/Jack medley featuring "Jingle Bells," "Sleigh Bells," "It Happened in Sun Valley" and "Winter Wonderland," capped off by a troupe of Santas dancing to "Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer."

It wouldn't be Christmas without carolers, and they

arrive at the door led by Mel Torme, who wrote all of Judy's special material. His crew gets invited inside, where Torme sings "The Christmas Song (Chestnuts Roasting...)" with an added verse. The climax of the show features the carolers alternating with the other guests on a variety of holiday classics.

After the guests leave, Judy serenades Lorna and Joey with "Over The Rainbow." There are no bonus features to speak of, except for having this historical document on DVD.

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# Bowie biography chronicles changes

By Michael Hill

AP Writer

David Bowie knows what he's singing about when he performs "Changes." After making a big splash in the early 1970s as Ziggy Stardust, he went on to become the Thin White Duke, an artsy Berlin angst rocker, the "straight" Bowie of "Let's Dance" and, more recently, the distinguished rock elder who goes to fashion events with his model wife Iman.

The career full of characters obscures the less fantastic, but very interesting, backstory of David Jones, a British teen in the 1960s who desperately wanted to make it big. He joins some R&B bands, dabbles in acting and mime, changes his last name to Bowie and records a painful-to-listen-to-now single titled "The Laughing Gnome" that seems to channel Alvin and the Chipmunks.

Nothing in particular sticks until he records the 1969 single "Space Oddity." Bowie later goes all-in with his pio-

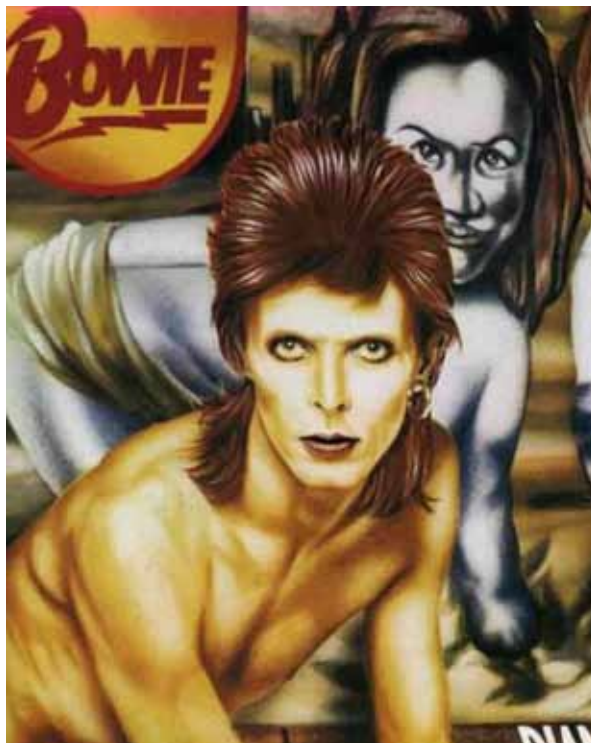


neering, gender-bending glam character Ziggy, the one with the screwed up eyes and snow-white tan. Bowie never looks back, never stops changing.

Spitz, a music journalist, does a decent job of tracking Bowie's evolution through copious research and interviews with dozens of people who knew him.

Spitz clearly gets Bowie, and this is an unapologetic fan-boy biography. He is good at analyzing what Bowie accomplished, why it matters and what was likely influencing him at the time. He has insightful things to say about the landmark Bowie songs "Life on Mars?" and "Heroes."

But be warned: Unlike a lot of top-rate biographers, Spitz is not big on narrative and crafting scenes. Events are



David Bowie of the "Diamond Dog" era and David Bowie, old enough for a "best of" collection.

recounted, at length, through gushy quotes from Bowie's old chums.

And sometimes Spitz doesn't know when to turn the spigot off on himself. The book is littered with superfluous pop culture references

(example: Bowie was in a band called the King Bees, and Spitz informs readers not only that it was named after the blues classic "(I'm a) King Bee," but that John Belushi sang it years later on "Saturday Night Live"

dressed like a bee).

Worse, Spitz has the self-indulgent habit of interrupting Bowie's story with vignettes about his story of being a Bowie fan. Who cares?

The result is a book that's

at turns interesting and irritating—one that reads like a very long music magazine article.

What are you reading? Rave on [www.wisconsinzette.com](http://www.wisconsinzette.com).

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## Anti-gay singer busted for drugs

Jamaican reggae star Buju Banton is facing a drug charge in Florida.

Banton, whose real name is Mark Anthony Myrie, has been in U.S. federal custody in Miami since Dec. 10.

Drug Enforcement

Administration spokesman David Melenkevitz said Dec. 13 that Banton was arrested on a charge of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute more than five kilograms of cocaine.

The charge stems from a

DEA case in Tampa.

An e-mail to Banton's independent record label was not immediately returned.

Banton's ninth album, "Rasta Got Soul," is nominated for a Grammy.

The Gay & Lesbian

Alliance Against Defamation, meanwhile, has launched an online petition protesting the nomination, saying some of Banton's earlier lyrics have advocated violence against gay people.

—AP

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# Dysfunction for laughs

By Jody Hirsch

Contributing writer

Christopher Durang's darkly satirical 1985 play, "The Marriage of Bette and Boo," trashes nearly everything — from marriage to alcoholism, from Thomas Hardy to stillbirth.

Based on his own family story, Durang tells the tale of Matt Hudlock, aka "Skippy," struggling to recall his parents, Bette and Boo, and their volatile marriage. Four stillborn babies have unhinged Bette and increased the tension of family life. "I don't want to put any pressure on you, Skippy, dear," Bette tells the grown-up Skippy, "but you're the only reason I have left for living right now."

The family is a failure, but the failures are tragic and funny at the same time. We, the audience, laugh, while feeling sympathy for the characters and their pain.

What isn't mentioned in the play is as powerful as what is. Over and over again, whenever the difficult issues of abuse or alcoholism rise

## Theater REVIEW

to the surface, Bette's mother, Margaret, insists on "changing the subject" or demands, "Let's not talk about that now."

Matt, played in the original production by Durang, seems to have something to hide. His parents are constantly asking if he's seeing any girls. His father, Boo, with whom Matt rarely talks, repeatedly asks if anything is bothering him. Durang is openly gay, yet for alter-ego Matt, it is a deep secret, undiscussable and unknown. In Durang's play, dysfunction and inability to communicate are passed on from generation to generation.

The Boulevard Theatre is an odd performance space. There is no actual stage. Yet under Mark Bucher's quick-paced and masterful direction, everything fits.

Anne Miller as Bette captures the difficult fusion of

"The Marriage of Bette and Boo" by Christopher Durang at Boulevard Theatre, 2250 S. Kinnickinnic Ave., through Jan. 2. Tickets: \$20, \$5 discount for students. Contact: 414-744-5757, www.boulevardtheatre.com.

shrewishness and pathos. Michelle Waide and Michael Chobanoff as Bette's parents and Christine Horgen and Michael Weber as Boo's parents convey the manic rhythms of the quibbling couples.

Caitlin Kujawski and Heather Reynolds as Bette's sisters complete the portrait of a family unable to move on. David Flores as Father Donnelly, the family priest, delivers an hysterical tour de force in his address at a family counseling retreat.

All in all, the play is a joy — funny, thought-provoking, and perceptive about the need for families, and the difficulty of making them work.

# A decade's look at what Broadway had to offer

By MICHAEL KUCHWARA

AP Drama Writer

A decade's snapshot of the most memorable productions Broadway had to offer:

"The Producers" (2001) and "Hairspray" (2002) — Laugh-filled, old-fashioned musical-comedy entertainment, both shows were based on movies that had a big cult following and both featured classic, larger-than-life comic performances: Nathan Lane in "The Producers" and Harvey Fierstein in "Hairspray."

August Wilson's "King Hedley II" (2001), "Gem of the Ocean" (2004), "Radio Golf" (2007) — It was a race against time as Wilson struggled to finish "Radio Golf," the last chapter in his monumental, 10-play saga about the black experience in 20th-century America. Wilson died in 2005 of liver cancer after the world premiere of "Radio Golf" at Yale Rep in New Haven,

Connecticut.

"Wicked" (2003) — Hands down, the most successful American musical of the decade, a cannily crafted show that combined an affection for "The Wizard of Oz" with an appeal to the outsider in all of us. The show, based on the novel by Gregory Maguire, became a must-see, especially for young women who bonded with a green witch named Elphaba.

"Mamma Mia!" (2001) and "Jersey Boys" (2005) — These shows demonstrate the jukebox musical is not dead, but the songs need to be theatrically showcased. These two shows — one, a London import, the second, a savvy tapping of baby boomer nostalgia under Des McAnuff's cinematic direction — did the trick.

"Doubt" (2005) — John Patrick Shanley's expert treatise on the pitfalls of certainty, featuring an extraordinary performance

by Cherry Jones as a nun who is very sure, or is she?

"The Coast of Utopia" (2006) — One of the more ambitious projects by Britain's most ambitious playwright, Tom Stoppard: a three-part, nine-hour look at Russian intellectuals in the 19th century. And Lincoln Center Theater had the considerable resources to produce it handsomely.

"Spring Awakening" (2007) — Every successful rock musical that comes along is proclaimed the future of the American musical theater. This one, written by Duncan Sheik and Steven Sater, could be. Let's see what the twosome produce next.

"August: Osage County" (2007) — Tracy Letts' journey into the heart of one family's darkness. Big, sprawling and maybe a little messy, but quite a dramatic production, which originated at Chicago's Steppenwolf Theatre Company.

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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](http://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.

Shoreline Country Dancers, 818 S. Water St. (Hot Water Bar), [www.shoreline-milw.org](http://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](mailto:womensvoicesmilwaukee@gmail.com), 414-534-5645.

### Community groups

Bay View Gays, 414-482-3796, [www.bvgays.com](http://www.bvgays.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](http://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](http://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](http://www.mkelgbt.org).  
Milwaukee LGBT History Project, 414-224-0517, [www.mkelgbthist.org](http://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](http://www.pridefest.com).

Pride Parade, [www.pride-parademke.com](http://www.pride-parademke.com).

Washington Heights

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

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

Wisconsin Rainbow Families, 315 W. Court St., Room 112, [info@wirainbowfamilies.com](mailto: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](http://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](http://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.milwaukeegamma.com](http://www.milwaukeegamma.com)

Metro Milwaukee Tennis Club, 414-616-3716.

Milwaukee Gay Soccer League, 1012 E. Clarke St., 414-405-5878, [www.milwaukeegaysocker.org](http://www.milwaukeegaysocker.org).

Milwaukee Gay Volleyball League, <http://milwaukeegayvolleyball.com>.

Saturday Softball Beer League, 2333 N. 56th St., 414-350-7147, [www.ssbilmilwaukee.com](http://www.ssbilmilwaukee.com).

### Youth/Education

Alliance School, 850 W. Walnut St., 414-227-2550, [www.allianceschool.org](http://www.allianceschool.org).

Alliance for LGBTQ Youth, 1212 S. 70th St., 414-453-1400, [www.cssw.org](http://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](http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/OSL/LGBT).

## KENOSHA Religion/Spirituality

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

## MADISON Arts and entertainment

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

### Community groups

OutReach, 600 Williamson St., 608-255-8582, [www.lgbtoutreach.org](http://www.lgbtoutreach.org).

### Politics

Fair Wisconsin, 122 State, Suite 500, 608-441-0143, [www.actionwisconsin.com](http://www.actionwisconsin.com).

### Sports

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

To update a listing or to add a listing, e-mail [managingeditor@wisconsinngazette.com](mailto:managingeditor@wisconsinngazette.com).



## 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.

PHOTO: JASON SMITH



## DID YOU KNOW?

In New York City on Feb. 21, 1903, New York police conducted the first U.S. recorded raid on a gay bathhouse, the Ariston Hotel Baths, and arrested 26 men. Twelve were brought to trial on sodomy charges — seven of the men received sentences ranging from 4-20 years in prison.



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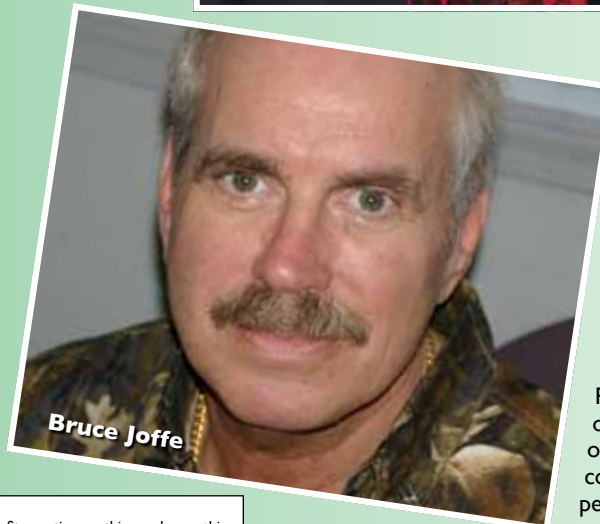
Marion Araujo, Katelyn Schutz, Susan Paynter



Marcus Maichle, Kathleen E. Hume, John Tomlinson



Clint Jones



Bruce Joffe

## Seen & heard

By Louis Weisberg

WiG Staff Writer

Many thanks to **Jody Hirsch**, the openly gay education director of the **JCC of Milwaukee**, for including me in his Dec. 4 Shabbat dinner. I don't know if Jody's kitchen is strictly kosher, but it's definitely magical. He served up a Middle Eastern feast that was fit for, well, King David.

Belated kudos to the **Milwaukee Rep** for its charming production of "**The Lady with All the Answers**," a bio play about the legendary advice columnist Ann Landers. Playwright David Rambo's script is a tapestry of personal and historical anecdotes, social insight and character revelation. As Eppie Friedman, the irrepressible, compassionate Jewish

matron behind the famous pen name, **Laura Gordon** turns in a tour de force, eliciting laughter, tears and finally a standing ovation at the performance I attended on Dec. 5. One of the play's many highlights is the story of how Friedman became an early gay rights advocate after receiving a letter from a suicidal gay teen in Illinois.

The **LGBT Community Center of SE Wisconsin**

hosted a holiday open house Dec. 6 that brought together an enthusiastic mix of supporters. The event was titled "Just Desserts," and the table was set appropriately with irresistible high-caloric treats. I had the guilty pleasure of sampling my first Danish Kringle — or two or three — as well as the great pleasure of finally meeting the center's director (and WiG contributor) **Bruce Joffe** and **Club Icon** owner **Clint Jones**. Not forgetting those less fortunate in these less-fortunate times,

guests brought along sacks of canned foods that were donated to local food pantries.

The weather outside was frightful, but the intrepid members of **Q-Share** braved icy sidewalks and even icier winds for an evening of warm companionship and networking at Whiskey Bar, 788 N. Jackson St., Dec. 9. Q-Share, a project of **Cream City Foundation**, raises funds and awards grants that benefit the LGBT community.

More than 90 African-American LGBT people and their allies attended the **Connexus Caribbean Holiday** event Dec. 12 at Friends Meeting House, 3224 N. Gordon Pl. The event honored **Karen Johnson**, who's in charge of statewide HIV-prevention programs for communities of color, as ally of the year to the African-American LGBT community. Attendees also recognized the activism of LGBT people in Caribbean nations.

**ATTENTION SHUTTERBUGS!** Bars, community events, sports, nightlife, benefits, parties, anything and everything fun! Just let us know what's going on. Send your tips and pics (with names!) to [pics@wisconsin Gazette.com](mailto:pics@wisconsin Gazette.com).

# 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.lgbtsewisc.org](http://www.lgbtsewisc.org).

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

Through December, "Fly Over Country," an exhibit featuring local artists Jeffery Kerr, Kristopher Pollard, Renee Staeck and Anthony Weber. Racine Arts Council, 316 Sixth St., Racine. Info: 262-635-0261, [jessika@racineartscouncil.org](mailto:jessika@racineartscouncil.org).

[racineartscouncil.org](http://racineartscouncil.org).

Mondays, Wednesdays-Saturdays, the LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin, 1456 Junction Ave., Racine, holds drop-in hours. Info: [www.lgbtsewisc.org](http://www.lgbtsewisc.org), 262-664-4100.

### THURSDAY

7 p.m., third Thursdays, Lesbian Alliance movie night, LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St., Milwaukee. Info: 414-272-9442; [www.lesbianalliance.org](http://www.lesbianalliance.org).

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, [galanoclub.org](http://galanoclub.org).

6 p.m., QGrads, UW Memorial Union Rathskeller, 800 Langdon St., Madison.

7:30 p.m., Four Lakes Bears, Michelangelo's Coffee Shop, 114 State St., Madison. Info: 608-251-5299.

### 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](http://www.lesbianalliance.org).

7 p.m., AA, The Galano Club, 315 W. Court St., No. 201, Milwaukee. Info: 414-276-6936, [galanoclub.org](http://galanoclub.org).

8:30 p.m., second and fourth Fridays, Shoreline Milwaukee line danc-

ing and lessons, Hot Water, 818 S. Water St., Milwaukee. Info: 414-383-7593, [www.shoreline-mil.wa.org](http://www.shoreline-mil.wa.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.

9 a.m., Frontrunners/Frontwalkers Madison, Wingra Park off Monroe Street, Madison. Info: 469-4882

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, [galanoclub.org](http://galanoclub.org).

### SUNDAY

1 p.m., Cream City Squares dance, Lake Park Lutheran Church 2647 N. Stowell, Milwaukee. Info: [www.iagsdc.org/creamcity/#Calendar](http://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, [galanoclub.org](http://galanoclub.org).

5 p.m., OutThere LGBT youth group meeting, OutReach-Gateway Mall, 600 Williamson St., Madison. Info: 608-255-8582.

### MONDAY

7:30 p.m., AA Came to Believe, The Galano Club, 315 W. Court St., No. 201, Milwaukee. Info: 414-276-6936, [galanoclub.org](http://galanoclub.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, [galanoclub.org](http://galanoclub.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, [galanoclub.org](http://galanoclub.org).

### THURSDAY

**Dec. 17**

Read WiG.

2:30 p.m., LGBT Seniors, Madison Senior Center, 330 W. Mifflin St., Madison. Info: 608-266-6581.

### FRIDAY

**Dec. 18**

7 p.m., Milwaukee GAMMA dining out night. Info: [www.milwaukeekeegamma.com](http://www.milwaukeekeegamma.com).

"The Nutcracker," through Dec. 20, Overture Hall, Madison.

### SATURDAY

**Dec. 19**

7 p.m., Untamed album release, 703 S. 2nd St., Milwaukee.

8 p.m., Madison Gay Video Club shows "Make the Yuletide Gay" and "Roughin' It," confidential location. Info: [www.mgvc.org](http://www.mgvc.org); 608-244-8690.

Holiday Ice Show and Skate, Iceplex, Pleasant Prairie.

### SUNDAY

**Dec. 20**

2 p.m., PFLAG meeting, OutReach-Gateway Mall, 600 Williamson St., Madison. Info: [www.lgbt Outreach.org](http://www.lgbt Outreach.org).

1 p.m., Cream City Squares holiday dance party, Lake Park Lutheran Church, 2647 N. Stowell, Milwaukee. Info: [www.iagsdc.org](http://www.iagsdc.org).

### MONDAY

**Dec. 21**

6 p.m., Living as a Gay Man discussion group,

OutReach-Gateway Mall, 600 Williamson St., Madison. Info: [www.lgbt Outreach.org](http://www.lgbt Outreach.org).

6:30 p.m., Bi the Way discussion group, OutReach-Gateway Mall, 600 Williamson St., Madison. Info: [www.lgbt Outreach.org](http://www.lgbt Outreach.org).

7:30-8:30 p.m., Gender Identity Support Group, the LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin, 1456 Junction Ave., Racine. Info: 262-664-4100, [www.lgbtsewisc.org](http://www.lgbtsewisc.org).

### SATURDAY

**Dec. 26**

Kwanzaa begins.

### MONDAY

**Dec. 28**

6 p.m., FTM GenderQueer discussion group, OutReach-Gateway Mall 600 Williamson St., Madison. Info: [www.lgbt Outreach.org](http://www.lgbt Outreach.org).

### TUESDAY

**Dec. 29**

7 p.m., SalonQ social/discussion group, OutReach-Gateway Mall

600 Williamson St., Madison. Info: [www.lgbt Outreach.org](http://www.lgbt Outreach.org).

The Christmas Music of Mannheim Steamroller,

Overture Center for the Arts, Madison.

### THURSDAY

**Dec. 31**

New Year's Eve 7 p.m., Milwaukee GAMMA 2009 party. Info: [www.milwaukeekeegamma.com](http://www.milwaukeekeegamma.com).

8 p.m., Kael's New Year's Eve Burlesque Cabaret, Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. 2nd., Milwaukee. Info: 414-383-3727.

Pick up the new issue of WiG.

Get listed. Send your calendar announcements to [managingeditor@wisconsin-gazette.com](mailto:managingeditor@wisconsin-gazette.com).

### It Takes a Community . . . Can You Help?

Families and individuals are needed to help LGBT young adults thrive! HOW? The young person receives housing and assistance from trained specialists. You are matched to provide mentorship and additional daily living support.

For more information, contact Julie Bock, Milwaukee LGBT Community Center Director of Programs, at (414) 292-3070.

Q-BLOK (LGBT Young Adults Housing Initiative) is a collaborative effort of Lad Lake, Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, Pathfinders, Inc., and St. Aemilian Lakeside.



## Let your hair down.

Read WiG.



# All About (New Year's) Eve

By Rick Karlin

Contributing Writer

People either love or hate New Year's Eve. There's pressure to drink excessively and/or act outrageously, much like Bette Davis' character Margo in the movie "All About Eve."

Fortunately, New Year's Eve celebrations involving all sorts of other activities abound in Wisconsin, from taking in a show or an exotic meal to viewing fine art to bowling to watching the cheese drop in Plymouth.

At The **Marcus Center for the Performing Arts**, 929 N. Water St., you can take in a performance of the "Cudahy Caroler Christmas" holiday show and join the cast afterward for a champagne toast and dessert. The fun kicks off at 9:30 p.m. and runs \$53 a ticket. Call 414-273-7206 for reservations and information.

Go to musical nostalgia heaven with the **Skylight Opera Theater's** "Plaid Tidings." Have dinner at the Skylight Bar & Bistro before the show. Also available: a \$75 fundraiser after the show, with hors d'oeuvres, a champagne toast and a reception with Skylight stars Colin and Paula Cabot. For dinner reservations call 414-271-1740. For show tickets call 414-291-7800. For the after-show reception call 414-299-4972.

Enjoy a free Caribbean-themed New Year's party

beginning at 6 p.m. at **Pottawatomini Bingo Casino**, 1721 W. Canal St. Make the night a bit grander with dining at the casino's **RuYi Restaurant**. The exotic menu will feature such delicacies as ginger and scallion lobster, Manila clams with black bean sauce or a whole crab that's stir-fried with a butter and garlic sauce. Call 414-847-7335.

At **Dream Dance Steak**, also at the casino, there will be three seating times. The 4:30-6:30 p.m. seating features a four-course meal and a glass of champagne for \$65. For those dining 7-9 p.m., a five-course meal and a glass of Champagne is \$75, while night owls get all that

plus party favors for the same price. Prices are per person. Call 414-847-7883.

Can't decide between a sports bar and an Asian restaurant? Check out **Long Wong's Chinese American Sport Bar**, 5230 W. Bluemound Road. Beginning at 9:30 p.m., a \$5 cover gets you plenty of appetizers, a champagne toast at midnight and a musical party experience. Call 414-454-0400.

On the other hand, why not a sporty night? Join the **Harlem Globetrotters** at **Bradley Center**, 1001 N. Fourth St. Basketball's ambassadors of good will



## DROPPING INTO THE NEW YEAR

What goes down, need not come back up on New Year's Eve.

The Wisconsin town of Plymouth ushers in the new year with the dropping of a giant piece of cheese.

How do other communities mark the occasion?

The most famous drop is that of the shimmering ball in New York's Times Square.

Balls also are dropped in Sydney and Rio de Janeiro.

A tangerine is dropped in Brooksville, Fla., and a conch shell in Key West, Fla.

An 800-pound peach falls in Atlanta and a peanut in Ty Ty, Ga.

A 70-pound lighted aluminum ball drops in Kokomo, Ind., and a beach ball in Bangor, Maine, though the weather is not usually beachy.

A red heart is dropped in Brasstown, N.C., and a pickle in Mount Olive, N.C., while a wooden cow is dropped from a silo in Blain, Pa.

In Fredricksburg, Va., an illuminated pear is dropped, and, in Manhattan, Kan., an apple-shaped aluminum ball.

A pine cone falls in Flagstaff, Ariz., and an illuminated sunburst in Tempe, Ariz.

And, in Orange County, Calif., an orange appropriately is dropped.

SOURCE: WIKIPEDIA

return again for shows at 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. Call 800-745-3000.

Preview the upcoming movie musical "Nine" and "Be Italian" at **Bartolotta's Lake Park Bistro**, 3133 E. Newberry Blvd. A special three-course menu is \$65 per person and the four-course menu starts at \$85. Both menus feature multiple choices for each course. Call 414-962-6300 or go to lakeparkbistro.com to make reservations.

Have a cultural experience at the **Milwaukee Art Museum**, 700 N. Art Museum Drive. Say goodbye to 2009 and welcome the new year with an open studio, gallery games, music and many more pop art-inspired activities during the final days of the exhibit "Andy Warhol: The Last Decade." The event is free with regular museum admission. Call 414-224-3200.

In Madison, spend the

holiday in an alley. **Badger Bowl**, 506 E. Badger Road, one of Madison's most popular bowling destinations, will feature live music by Madison County, along with a midnight champagne toast and bowling competitions throughout the night. Reservations are \$18 per person. Call 608-274-6662 for reservations.

If you're looking for a grand old-fashioned gala, check out the **Madison Concourse Hotel** deal. In addition to overnight accommodations, its Grand Package includes a cocktail and hors d'oeuvres reception, vouchers for four cocktails during the night, a five-course steak and lobster dinner in the Grand Ballroom, a comedy show after dinner and admission to three New Year's Eve parties, each with a featured musical theme. There will be a Champagne toast at midnight and brunch for two the next day. Prices start at \$319 a couple, for reservations call

800-356-8293.

Elsewhere in the state, the **Kohler Resort** offers a steal of a deal. Overnight accommodations, a party at **The American Club** — including an open bar, hors d'oeuvres, a midnight snack, live music and a Champagne toast at midnight and complimentary shuttle service to and from the event. Prices start at \$115 per person. Spa add-ons can ease you into 2010. Call 800-344-2838 to make a reservation.

The **Kurtz Corral** in Sturgeon Bay features a ride through the woods of Door County. Afterward, enjoy a cup of hot cider, wine or champagne around the fireplace. The ride starts at 4 p.m. For reservations and information call 920-743-6742 or go to kurtzcorral.com.

At the **Grand in Lake Geneva** a complete New Year's Eve package includes two nights' accommodation

in a deluxe room (either Dec. 30-Dec. 31 or Dec. 31-Jan. 1), an open bar until midnight, a champagne toast at midnight and a dinner buffet. Live entertainment, party favors and a balloon drop at midnight round out the fun for \$279 per person. You can add on a kid's program to your package and in-room sitting is available for children under 4. Forty-eight hour advance reservations are required. Call 262-249-4560 for more information.

It isn't New Year's Eve without something being dropped. In Times Square, it's a crystal globe. In Plymouth it's a "cheese drop," taking place in the parking lot of the **Plymouth Family Restaurant** next door to the Arts Center. Admission to the Cheese Drop is free, and complimentary refreshments will be served. For more information call 920-892-8409.

In Prairie du Chien, a unique countdown includes a bonfire, music, food and the special "**Lowering of the Carp**" countdown at 11:59 p.m. For more information call 608-326-8602.

Finally, for those of you into bears of the human variety, check out the **Polar Bear Plunge at Bradford Beach**, 2400 N. Lincoln Memorial Drive in Milwaukee, at noon on New Year's Day. While some of the bears may experience Seinfeldian "shrinkage," an icy dip into Lake Michigan is a sure-fire cure for a hangover.

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## HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

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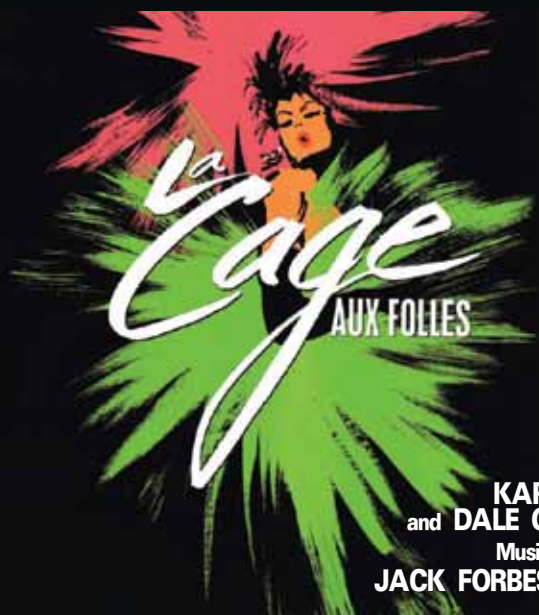
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# OUT & ABOUT

## MILWAUKEE.

**Ballgame**, 196 S. 2nd St., 414-273-7474. Sports bar.

**Boom**, 625 S. 2nd St., 414-277-5040. www.boom-mke.com. Neighborhood bar.

**Cafe Central**, 2306 S. Kinnickinnic Ave., 414-755-0378, thecafecentral.com. Bar, restaurant, music.

**Cuvee Lounge**, 177 N. Broadway, 414-225-9800, www.cuveemke.com. Cocktail lounge.

**Elsa's on the Park**, 833 N. Jefferson, 414-765-0615, elsas.com. Upscale lounge.

**Fluid**, 819 S. 2nd St., 414-643-5843, fluid.gaymke.com. Cocktail lounge

**Kenadee's Ultra Pub**, 725 N. Milwaukee,

414-431-5556, kenadees.com. Trendy 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.

**Mikey's**, 811 N. Jefferson, 414-273-5397, mikeymilwaukee.com.

Trendy 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.

**Nessun Dorma**, 2778 N. Weil St., 414-264-8466, nessundormariverwest.com. Neighborhood bar and eatery.

**Redroom**, 1875 N. Humboldt Ave., 414-224-7666. Neighborhood bar.

**Suite**, 1103 Old World Third Street, 414-270-9653. Dance club, lounge.

**Taylor's**, 795 N.

Jefferson St., 414-271-2855, taylorsmilwaukee.com. Trendy lounge.

**This Is It**, 418 E. Wells St., 414-278-9192, www.thisisitbar.com. Cocktail lounge.

**Trocadero**, 1758 Water St., 414-272-0205, ztrocadero.com. Hip bar, restaurant.

**Tropical Night Club**, 626 S. 5th St., 414-460-6277. Latino dance club.

**Walker's Pint**, 818 S. 2nd St., 414-643-7468, www.walkerspint.com.

Neighborhood bar.

**Whiskey Bar**, 788 N. Jackson St., 414-312-8566, whiskeybarmilwaukee.com. Trendy bar, dance floor.

**Woody's**, 1579 S. 2nd St., 414-672-0806, www.woodys-mke.com. Sports bar/drag.

## KENOSHA

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

## 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.woofs-madison.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@  
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BY MINERVA

## ARIES:

Your attempt to be totally honest has taught you a lot about people. Your most recent disclosure wasn't easy for them to hear. Thank goodness they care enough to be open to it and are willing to forgive and forget.

## TAURUS:

Empowering yourself always comes with the need to use your power wisely. Rumor has it that you've taken things a little too far. It's OK to rule the roost, but you equate that with having it your way no matter what.

## GEMINI:

Watching someone go through a difficult process is always painful. This is a tough one. The bigger part of you

wants to be out of here, but it's important for you to hang in there till their healing is complete.

## CANCER:

It may be time to step in and take charge. This situation has gotten out of control. Whoever gave him/herself the right to run your affairs could ruin your reputation, if you can't put a stop to the tyranny.

## LEO:

The stress of the last few years has shown you too much about what's really important for you. Don't stick around and uphold anything in your life that doesn't

allow you to be true to yourself.

## VIRGO:

This is a process that you have to experience. Don't expect it to settle down till the seasons change. If you're frustrated with it all, stop trying to control things and just sit back and digest the lesson.

## LIBRA:

You aren't as trapped as you think. Mental blocks keep you from seeing that you can either rearrange everything or walk away from it. This impasse will clear when you figure out how to see it with new eyes.

## SCORPIO:

When things fly south, it's See Stargaze next page



## Rants, Raves & Other Remarks

### LEAVE ME ALONE

How come every time I go out to the bars men older than my father keep hitting on me? They should be hitting on each other. If

they don't want each other, why would I want them? I don't get it.

### A DICKENS OF A QUESTION

I sometimes wonder: Do you think Tiny Tim grew up to be gay?

### HA, HA

Tiger just changed his nickname, but still kept it in the cat family — cheetah.

### WHERE ARE THE MEN?

Give us something for the

## Wisconsin Gazette .com

older gays in Milwaukee!

### THE THREE STOOGES

Hey, all three of the three stooges were Jewish. Happy Hanukkah.

### THE BOSS IS BOSS

I love Bruce Springsteen. You rock, man.

### HA, HA, HA

Tiger Woods crashed into

a fire hydrant and a tree. He couldn't decide between a wood and an iron.

### HA, HA, HA, HA

What's the difference between a car and a golf ball? Tiger can drive a ball 400 yards.

### BAH HUMBUG

If you see a bell-ringer for the Salvation Army, keep on walking. The Salvation Army has been scrooges to the LGBT community for years. Don't give them a penny. Coal, maybe.

### ON THE STREETS

It's great to see local gay news on the streets of my own city. This sure feels better in my hand than a blog.

### FEED THE WORLD

And there won't be snow in Africa this Christmastime! The greatest gift they'll get this year is life/Where nothing ever grows/No rain nor rivers flow/Do they know it's Christmastime at all!/?

(Here's to you) raise a glass for everyone/(Here's to them) underneath that burning sun/ Do they know it's Christmastime at all/

Feed the world.

!@#\$\$?\*

Got a rant? A rave?

An urge to rage?

Go to [www.wisconsin-gazette.com](http://www.wisconsin-gazette.com) and write what's on your mind. Yep, it's that simple.

## On stage

By Gregg Shapiro

### Dec. 17, Thursday

The Boulevard Ensemble Studio Theatre stages acclaimed playwright Christopher Durang's comedy "The Marriage Of Bette & Boo" through Jan. 2 at the Boulevard Theatre, 2252 S. Kinnickinnic. Call 414-744-5747 or visit [www.boulevardtheatre.com](http://www.boulevardtheatre.com).

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.

Quadracci Powerhouse Theater's production of "The Lady With All The Answers" by David Rambo, based on the life and letters of Ann Landers, runs through Dec. 20 at Milwaukee Repertory Theater, 108 E. Wells. Call 414-224-9490.

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

The Rave, 2401 W.

Wisconsin, rocks it at 7 p.m. with Breaking Benjamin, 30 Seconds To Mars, Sick Puppies and After Midnight Project. Call 414-342-RAVE.

### Dec. 18, Friday

Skylight Opera Theater presents "Plaid Tidings," featuring The Plaids bringing harmony to a discordant world, with hits from the 1950s and 1960s, as well as "plaid-erized" holiday standards, running through Jan. 3 at Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Call 414-291-7800.

Art Bar, 722 E. Burleigh, welcomes Fat Pig at 9 p.m. Call 414-372-7880.

Decibelly performs at 8 p.m. at the Bay View Brew Haus, 2535 S. Kinnickinnic. Call 414-481-8060.

The Tempters tempt listeners at 8 p.m. at 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 "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)" through Dec. 20. Call 608-258-4141.

### Dec. 19, Saturday

Milwaukee Gay Arts

Center, 703 S. 2nd, hosts a CD release party for composer CJ Darnieder's first album, "Untamed," at 7 p.m. Call 414-383-3727.

Angelique Munro is among the performers at Cub Icon's annual holiday show "Home For Christmas" at Club Icon, 6305 120th (off I-94) in Kenosha. Call (262) 857-3240.

Bay View Brew Haus, 2535 S. Kinnickinnic, welcomes Chalice In The Palace at 9 p.m. Call 414-481-8060.

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

Shank Hall, 1434 N. Farwell, has 5 Card Studs at 8 p.m. Call 414-276-7288.

### Dec. 22, Tuesday

My Empty Phantom performs at 9 p.m. at The Frequency, 121 W. Main in Madison. Call 608-819-8777.

### Dec. 25, Friday

Merry Christmas!

### Dec. 26, Saturday

Clay Bravo performs her show about growing up Italian and how it "belted" her into stand up comedy at 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. at The Northern Lights Theater at Potawatomi Bingo Casino, 1721 W. Canal. Call 414-847-

7922.

The Frequency, 121 W. Main in Madison, has Shapeless Symmetry with No Sleep For The Bear and Chaos Revolution Theory at 10 p.m. Call 608-819-8777.

### Dec. 27, Sunday

We Are The Willows plays The Frequency, 121 W. Main in Madison, at 8 p.m. Call 608-819-8777.

### Dec. 29, Tuesday

Overture Center for the Arts, 201 State in Madison, presents the Christmas music of Mannheim Steamroller by Chip Davis at 7:30 p.m. in Overture Hall. Call 608-258-4141.

The Rave, 2401 W. Wisconsin, welcomes Rusted Root at 8 p.m. Call 414-342-RAVE.

### Dec. 30, Wednesday

Forward Theater Company presents Christopher Durang's "Why Torture Is Wrong, and the People Who Love Them," opening tonight and running through Jan. 17 in The Playhouse at the Overture Center for the Arts, 201 State in Madison. Call 608-258-4141.

Jim Gaffigan's New Year's Eve show begins at 7 p.m. at The Pabst, 144 E. Wells. Call

414-286-3663.

Big Head Todd And The Monsters perform at 8 p.m. at The Rave, 2401 W. Wisconsin. Call 414-342-RAVE.

### Dec. 31, Thursday

New Year's Eve Club Icon's All-Inclusive New Year's Eve VIP Party includes a buffet, open bar, music by DJ 6'8", giveaways, party favors and a champagne toast, beginning at 8 p.m. at Club Icon, 6305 120th (off I-94) in Kenosha. Call 262-857-3240.

Milwaukee Gay Arts

Center, 703 S. Second, hosts Kael's New Year's Eve Burlesque Cabaret at 8 p.m. Call 414-383-3727.

Ring in the New Year with Spoon and Jay Reatard at The Riverside, 116 W. Wisconsin, at 9 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

The Get Down performs at 9 p.m. at Bay View Brew Haus, 2535 S. Kinnickinnic. Call 414-481-8060.

Jim Gaffigan's New Year's Eve show begins at 10:30 p.m. at The Pabst, 144 E. Wells. Call 414-286-3663.

## Aquarius: You need to persist

Stargaze from 26

hard to see that, for better or worse, it's all the same. The only thing you can control is your attitude. Stay as centered as you can and what looks bad will turn out for the best.

### SAGITTARIUS:

You have someone right where you want her/him;

or so you think. What looks good could turn out to be a costly compromise. What you see won't look anything like what you get.

### CAPRICORN:

Sometimes you have to be more aware of other people's issues than they are. Their words disguise their true motives, so don't go by what's been said. Underneath

it all they have a much different agenda.

### AQUARIUS:

Don't make the mistake of trying to get this to work. It calls for a different approach. Your need to persist keeps you from seeing that sometimes the best thing to do is cut your losses and start over again.

### PISCES:

Turning a blind eye won't solve this. You can't ignore the fact that someone isn't pleased. Facing this head on will create conflict, but when it all comes out in the wash the two of you will be closer than ever.

— from AP

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## 'First read this book when I was about 20'

Ford from 15

Christopher Isherwood writing. ... Shortly thereafter, I had a friend who was living with David Hockney. ... David and Christopher were great friends, and I met Christopher Isherwood a couple of times....

Fast forward to five years ago, when I became serious about really making a movie. I was going through a bit of what could be called a mid-life crisis after having left Gucci and one career and (I was) actually thinking, at that time, that I wouldn't be going back to fashion. I was having a very hard time seeing my future. I knew I wanted to make movies and I thought, "Well, this is the perfect time."... One day, driving to my office, I realized that I was thinking of this character George. This book has stayed with me for 25 years, I should pick it up and read it again.

GS: What was it like reading it again?

TF: Reading it from mid-life was an entirely different thing. It spoke to me in

a completely different way. George is a character who cannot see his future. He is struggling to live in the present.

GS: You mentioned your career change. Was there always something in the back of your mind that made you believe that someday you would become a filmmaker?

TF: It has been there for a long time. I've loved film for so long. ... I would say that it was really 15 years ago that I decided that this was something that I definitely wanted to do. I told Harvey Weinstein that one night when we were standing in London at a restaurant after the opening of a play. I said, "I really want to make films," and he encouraged me. He didn't laugh at me, he didn't giggle. He said, "You should. You would be a great filmmaker."

GS: Who are some of the directors whose work you admire or who influenced you as a filmmaker?

TF: Hitchcock, number one, probably. The usual suspects — Kubrick, Antonioni.

One of my favorite films is called "Umberto D." by Vittorio De Sica. It's about a man and his dog. It's almost a silent film, even though it's not a silent film.

GS: Playing George in "A Single Man" is not the first time that Colin Firth is portraying a gay character. He did so most recently in "Mamma Mia!" Was he always your first choice for George?

TF: He was my first choice. I wasn't going to be able to get him, and so I moved on to another actor, because Colin was going to be working. ... All of a sudden, our schedule had moved forward and Colin was wrapping "Dorian Gray" quicker than anticipated and he was available. I immediately got his e-mail from a friend, e-mailed him, FedExed him the script. He read it within 24 hours, e-mailed me back that he loved it and had some questions. I jumped on a plane to London, where I live part of the time. He came over for drinks, we went to dinner. I showed him all the visual

imagery that I had of the film and talked him through what I thought the film was about. A month later we started shooting. We shot in 21 days.

GS: Playing Charlotte is Julianne Moore, a longtime favorite of gay filmmaker Todd Haynes ...

TF: (Laughs)

GS: ...who is truly remarkable, too.

TF: I like to think she's a longtime favorite of everybody's. I love her!

GS: Matthew Goode will also be familiar to gay audiences from films such as "Brideshed Revisited" and "Imagine Me and You." How did you know he was right for Jim?

TF: I just felt it. Every time I saw Matthew on screen in anything I loved him as an actor.

GS: It's getting to that time of year when people are assembling "best of" lists and there is lots of buzz about the Oscars and other awards. Are you gearing up for what's to come?

TF: I'm very proud of the movie. For me, it was a great accomplishment. I'm very happy with it and it has so

Director Tom Ford: "I've loved film for so long."



far received really terrific response from most people that have seen it. That's made me enormously happy. I don't like to count my chickens (laughs) before my eggs

hatch. I'm going to just be very happy with where we are.

Read Gregg Shapiro's complete interview with Tom Ford at [www.wisconsin Gazette.com](http://www.wisconsin Gazette.com).

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REAL ESTATE

# POINT OF CHANGE

## Walker's Point is 'ready to boom'

By Kerrie Kennedy  
WIG Staff Writer

**I**T'S home to gay bars, arts organizations, antique stores and ethnic restaurants. It draws struggling artists, ballet dancers, budding entrepreneurs, gay men and lesbians.

In a neighborhood dominated by drab and often gritty industrial buildings, the four-faced Allen Bradley Clock Tower (listed in the "Guinness Book of World Records" as the largest four-faced clock in the world) is not only a standout, it's an apt symbol for a community on the brink of change.

Just a few blocks south of the hot Third Ward and north of the popular Bayview community, Walker's Point is well-positioned for development.

"Realtors and brokers in the city have already renamed the area 'the Fifth Ward' because it will encompass a little more than Walker's Point," says Jim Dieter, owner of Blackhawk Antique Market, a 36,000-square-foot warehouse space. "The economy has slowed the growth down a little, but a lot of people are acquiring properties here right now. There are some things in the pipeline that haven't taken off yet. Walker's Point is ready to boom."

Chris Allen, marketing manager for the Milwaukee Ballet, agrees. "What you're seeing is the Third Ward is starting to move south and Bayview is expanding north," Allen says. "That's part of the reason why things are start-



PHOTO: COURTESY PAUL MASTERTSON

**The Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, an organization dedicated to presenting and promoting LGBT-relevant art, is located in the Walker's Point neighborhood.**

**'We think this neighborhood is on the verge of becoming more vital.'**

ing to pick up here in the neighborhood."

Once a thriving manufacturing area, Walker's Point offers an abundance of turn-of-the-century warehouses. That's one reason the Milwaukee Ballet decided to make Walker's Point its headquarters back in the early 1980s. "We needed a big building with lots of open space, and we've taken advantage of every square inch here," Allen says.

The building, located at Fifth and National, used to

be the Tivoli Schlitz Beer Garden. "You can still see the logo above our doorway," Allen says.

Old warehouses aren't all that draws artists to Walker's Point. Cheap rents help, and so does the neighborhood's location. "I think because the neighborhood is so close to MIAD (Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design) and nearby galleries, a lot of artists and entrepreneurs just end up here," Dieter says.

Many of the local business owners in Walker's Point are part of the gay community. "This has been Milwaukee's gay entertainment district for many years," says Paul Masterson, executive director for the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, an organization dedicated to presenting and promoting LGBT-relevant art. "But unlike places like Halsted Street in Boystown,

it's not concentrated in just one area." The fact that the bars in Walker's Point are spread out in small clusters creates a lack of cohesiveness, but the biggest complaint among patrons and owners alike is the grungy, uninviting feel of the commercial district, especially along Second Street.

"It's a tough area to develop, because the neighborhood is largely warehouses and factories, which might not necessarily lend themselves to places like coffee shops, boutiques and restaurants," Masterson says. "There's some new development here, but it is primarily evening entertainment. As the neighborhood develops, hopefully we'll see some daytime venues that create more daytime traffic."

A city streetscape project, scheduled to begin this

spring on Second Street, could prove to be the catalyst. According to Ghassan Korban, coordination manager for the Milwaukee Department of Public Works, the project will effectively narrow Second Street to

create needed green space between the curb and the walk, roughly five feet on each side. Plans include trees, greenery, bike paths, a parking lane and new harp lights.

While there are currently no plans in place to make Walker's Point a designated gay neighborhood — similar to Halsted Street in Chicago or the Castro in San Francisco — it's not out of the question in the near future. Many developers and business owners think the streetscape project is the first step towards making the neighborhood a true destination.

"Right now, Walker's Point is very industrial-looking and desolate, because there's no greenery," Korban says. "We hope that the improvements will enhance economic development by making the area more inviting, encouraging people to bike and walk more. We think this neighborhood is on the verge of becoming more vital."

The available housing stock in Walker's Point consists mostly of Victorian single-family homes and rehabbed historic lofts. According to Coldwell Banker real estate agent William Urban, a studio loft in the S2 building on Second Street, featuring Real estate page 30

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While the residential sector in Walker's Point lags behind its commercial dis-

trict, there's plenty of potential for growth, Urban says. "There are a couple of city blocks that are practically wide open down there," he says. "There's a big void in the Fifth Ward just waiting to be filled."

Many people think it's just a matter of time before Walker's Point — or the Fifth Ward — takes off. Appropriately, the Milwaukee Ballet plans to stage "Peter Pan" this spring. The world premiere production will fea-

ture original costumes, choreography and score — not to mention Peter Pan flying through the air. "Peter Pan has been done before, but as a ballet, not very often," Allen says. "This is an interesting, exciting time for us. We're on the cusp of change."

Want to recommend a real estate story or suggest an LGBT-friendly community for WiG to profile? E-mail managingeditor@wisconsin gazette.com.



Happiness. Raymond Carver

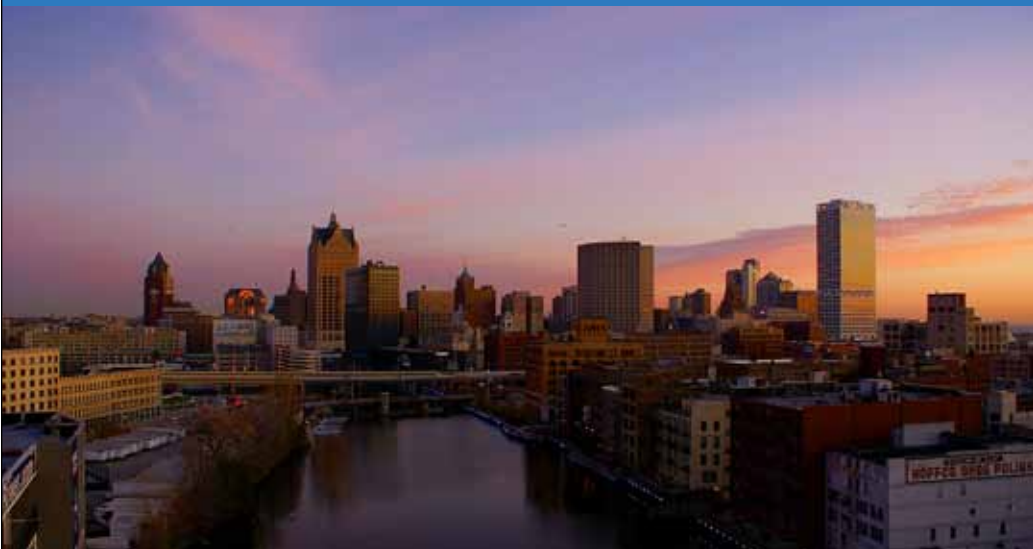
So early it's still almost dark out. I'm near the window with coffee, and the usual early morning stuff that passes for thought.

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.

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