# Wisconsin Gazette ocom

# 'Brother' to brother

Gay playwright Tarell Alvin McCraney talks about his path to stage success. Page 11



THE VOICE OF PROGRESS FOR WISCONSIN'S LGBT COMMUNITY

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# OUT ON THE STREET

# A quarter of Milwaukee's homeless youth are LGBT

### By Louis Weisberg

Staff Writer

As a student at Nicolet High School, Kevin never fit in. An African-American who likes to wear a little make-up, he endured constant teasing and bullying. Eventually he transferred to The Alliance School, which helps students who are not succeeding in traditional schools due to harassment.

But when Kevin's mother discovered he's gay, she threw him out of the house. Determined to earn a diploma, he camped out

on the streets near the Alliance campus and continued attending classes until he graduated. Last fall, an older gay man gave him a place to live in exchange for sex.

Andrea was banished from home because she's a lesbian. She was placed in foster care with a fundamentalist Christian family and ran away. Most of her teenage years were spent on the streets, sleeping under porches and bridges, dodging the police and street violence.

"Kevin" and "Andrea" aren't Youth page 9

# Military plots DADT repeal

# inside and online at wisconsingazette.com

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**By Lisa Neff**Staff Writer

The Defense Department this month established a panel to prepare for the repeal of "don't ask, don't tell," as support for the policy barring openly gay servicemembers continued to decline.

Most prominent among DADT's newest detractors was retired Army Gen. Colin L. Powell, who had defended the ban as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in 1993 and continued to defend the ban as George W. Bush's secretary of state.

Powell, in 1993, organized a meeting DADT page 8

"The shocking statistic is that within 72 hours of a young person being homeless, they are more likely to engage in survival sex as a means of getting their basic needs met," says Lisa Gumm, youth shelter program manager at Pathfinders.

crown, a

# LGBT news with a twist

# MASTER OF DRAG? the drag display past the

Italian scientists are seeking permission to exhume the remains of Renaissance artist Leonardo da Vinci to answer a variety of questions, among them the identity of the "Mona Lisa." If da Vinci's skull is intact, scientists hope to reconstruct the face and determine whether the "Mona Lisa" is a self-portrait and the artist

### **SUPER SAINTS**

The New Orleans Saints didn't go marching in for their pre-Super Bowl parade. They sashayed. They primped. They stumbled in their heels. They were paying tribute to the late sportscaster Buddy Diliberto, who had vowed to parade in drag through the French Quarter if the Saints ever reached a Super Bowl. To honor Diliberto, Saint Bobby Hebert organized

Superdome to the Quarter. Hebert wore a black and gold sequined dress.

### **CAMPY CAMPERS**

The buzz from Paris last week was about Lanvin's fall-winter 2010 menswear collection - described as a blend of "Alpine trek with a stiff dose of Parisian had good reason for that glamour" and featuring oversized-sweaters, rain slickers, wide-legged trousers, military drab prints with "a sprinkling of sequins and flashes of gold lame." Models marched down the catwalk to a techno version of Dolly Parton's "I Will Always Love You."

### MISS A

Caressa Cameron, a 22-year-old broadcast journalism major from Virginia, won the Miss America pageant in Las Vegas - earning a \$50,000 scholarship, a

### sash and a year to promote her platform of AIDS awareness.

Cameron's uncle died of an AIDS-related illness and her family fostered a child living with HIV. On the subject of marriage equality, which thrust Miss California Carrie Prejean into the spotlight at the Miss USA pageant last year, Cameron told the AP that she believes marriage should be between a man and a woman. However, she added. she doesn't believe in enacting laws to ban gays from marrying.

# MISS'D A

The day after the Miss America pageant, Michelle Dupree, wearing a dress sparkling with 30,000 rhinestones and styling her persona after Marilyn Monroe, won the Miss'd America pageant in Atlantic City, N.J. Dupree aka Scott Cooper, told the press after the win, "It is my civic responsibility to make this world a better place." The pageant included several production numbers, including one in which prior contestants - in geriatric drag - celebrated life in the Anita Bryant Home for Washed Up Beauty Queens.

### **WHAT'S CONTROVERSIAL?**

Super Bowl viewers were treated to an anti-choice ad created by Focus on the Family. The stridently antigay group paid \$2.5 million to air the commercial, which featured evangelical football star Tim Tebow. During the 30-second spot, he and his mother Pam shared the inspirational story of how she gave birth to him in the Philippines in 1987 after spurning a doctor's advice to have an abortion for

By Lisa Neff & Louis Weisberg

medical reasons. Meanwhile, CBS, which broadcast the Super Bowl, turned down an ad from a gay online dating site, claiming it was controversial.

# **PUNCHING FOR JESUS**

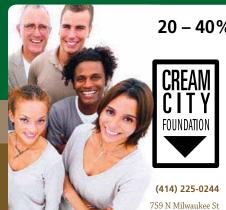
There's no turning the other cheek at Xtreme Ministries, whose motto is "Where Feet, Fist and Faith Collide." That's because the small church near Nashville, Tenn., doubles as a mixed martial arts academy. The New York Times reports that using the sport, which is a violent mixture of kickboxing, wrestling and other fighting styles, to reach young men is part of a small but growing trend among evangelical Christian churches.

### **PET CHASTITY**

PABS - an acronym for Pet Anti Breeding System -

is essentially a chastity belt designed for dog breeders who want to prevent their bitches in heat from hooking up with the wrong sort of cur. "The dog will be free to urinate and defecate as needed," assure the makers of PABS."In addition, the belt is easy to use and the PABS ... and pad are machine washable. This makes the product highly appealing to busy pet owners.

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# > Heroes & Villains



Mullen

Consider this the military edition of heroes and villains.

Our hero is Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the loint Chiefs of Staff. Speaking before a Senate panel on Feb. 2, he set the stage for the Defense Department's yearlong study into repealing the military's odious "don't ask, don't tell" policy: "No matter how I look at the issue, I cannot escape being troubled by the fact that

we have in place a policy which forces young men and women to lie about who they are in order to defend their fellow citizens. ..For me, it comes down to integrity - theirs as individuals and ours as an institution."

### VILLAIN

When Adm. Mike Mullen and Secretary of Defense Robert Gates told a Senate panel that the "don't ask, don't tell" military policy should be relegated to the trash bin of history, U.S. Sen. John McCain bristled. After calling the costly, discriminatory law "imperfect but effective," McCain proceeded to vigorously defend it. At one point, he waved a letter at Mullen and Gates, saying it was "signed by over 1,000 former generals and flag officers who have weighed in" against changing the policy.

It was an abrupt shift in position for McCain, who declared three years ago that he would support ending the ban if the military's top brass ever called for it. They did on Feb. 2, and he didn't.

As far as we're concerned, McCain's military cred was revoked last year when he selected former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin to stand second in line to be the nation's commander in chief. Did 1,000 former generals support that decision?



McCain



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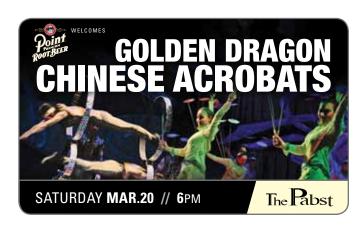
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CORY CHISEL & DAWES

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THE RESIDENTS

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SCIENCE THEATER 3000

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FEAT. CHRIS THILE OF
NICKEL CREEK

AVETT BROTHERS
W/ LOW ANTHEM

TEGAN AND SARA

# MILWAUKEE GAZE



# PRIDEFEST SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

Pridefest organizers are seeking volunteers to help staff this year's event, scheduled for June 11–13 at Henry Maier Festival Park. Applications can be found online at www.pridefest.com/volunteer/index.php.

PrideFest also announced new hours of operation this year, with gates opening at 3 p.m. June 11 and noon June 12 and June 13. PrideFest is the largest LGBT event in Wisconsin and is widely considered one of the best Pride celebrations in the nation.

### DIVERSE AND RESILIENT ACCEPTING AWARD NOMINATIONS

Diverse and Resilient is accepting nominees for its 2009 Leadership Awards, which recognize the contributions of individuals and organizations in furthering LGBT youth and adult development. Nomination forms are available through

Rachel Federlin at 414-390-0444 or rfederlin@ States since June 1969. diverseandresilient.org. The deadline for nominations is March 31. Prizes is Feb. 22. range from \$1,000 to

### 'SINCE STONEWALL CONTEST' SEEKS ENTRIES

OutHistory.org, the MediaWiki Web site on LGBTQ history, is offering five cash prizes for the best online exhibits documenting the local LGBTQ histories of villages, towns, counties, cities, or

states across the United States since June 1969. The deadline for submission is March 31. Prizes range from \$1,000 to \$5,000. The top five exhibits will be announced June 28. Visit OutHistory.org's contest main page for guidelines, or to see a list of existing contest submissions visit www.outhistory.org/wiki/Since\_Stonewall\_Contest.

—Louis Weisberg

# From the Senate floor: 'Don't ask'

By Louis Weisberg

Staff Writer

Among those reporting on the Feb. 2 U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on reversing "don't ask, don't tell" was veteran blogger Ana Marie Cox. She has followed the issue extensively online, in print and on the airwaves, including as a frequent guest on "The Rachel Maddow Show."

In an interview with WiG, Cox said it was "striking" to hear both Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman Mike Mullen and Defense Secretary Robert Gates acknowledge the time has come to allow lesbians and gays to serve openly in the Armed Forces.

"They're the ones who run the military," she said. "It's long been a canard on the right that the military doesn't want DADT repealed. But it turns out they're OK with it. ... This is a bigger deal than Obama saying it."

Some Democrats have been reluctant to support repeal for fear they'd become vulnerable to Republican charges that they're weak on defense. Having Mullen and Gates come out in favor of repeal "gives them a lot of political cover," Cox said.

Despite the change in attitude among military leaders, Republicans on the Senate committee expressed opposition. Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., accused Mullen of imposing his personal acceptance of gays and lesbians on his subordinates.

U.S. Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., who has previously said he'd support repeal if the military's top commanders asked for it, attacked Mullen and Gates for moving forward with a review to change the policy. He issued a thinly veiled threat that congressional Republicans would block their efforts.

"I was shocked," Cox said of McCain's behavior. "I thought I was going to be the last liberal alive defending John McCain, because I actually have a lot of respect for him. He's someone I like personally very much. But his behavior during the hearing was juvenile. It was snitty and disrespectful ... (and) it's definitely not in keeping what he's said in the past."

Cox added: "For a man of such physical courage to fail at moral courage is sad."

McCain's shift on DADT comes at a time when his wife Cindy McCain and daughter Meghan McCain have both come out publicly in favor of same-sex marriage. But Cox said the political divide within the McCain family is not surprising.

"I don't think their relationships were ever particularly close," Cox said of the McCain family.

Cox speculated that McCain might be moving further to the right because he faces an upcoming primary challenge from former U.S. Rep. J.D. Hayworth, a far-right Republican with close ties to the Jack Abramoff scandal.

Cox said the arguments McCain and Sessions outlined for opposing the repeal of DADT will not resonate with the American public, which supports ending the ban by a 75 percent majority. "If (these) are an example of what the right is going to use, they're unacceptable arguments," Cox said. "They're not going to work."

# BILL OF RIGHTS CELEBRATION



# TICKET PRICE:

\$125 per person, \$300 for the dinner including a private reception with Ana Marie Cox

(A limited Number of tickets are available)

# Table Price:

\$1,250 for a table of 10, \$3,000 for a table of 10 including a private reception with Ana Marie Cox

# 2009 BILL OF RIGHTS AWARD RECIPIENTS

The Eunice Z. Edgar Lifetime Achievement Award:
The Progressive Magazine

The William Gorham Rice Civil Libertarians of the Year Award: West Bend Activists for Free Speech

The Jack and Lucy Rosenberg Youth Civil Libertarians of the Year Award: Camp Everytown



Saturday, February 20, 2010 6 p.m. Hotel InterContinental, Milwaukee

As the founding editor of the Capitol Hill based politics and lifestyle blog Wonkette, Ana Marie Cox has been covering Washington politics for over a decade. As Air America's National Correspondent, she is a regular presence at White House press briefings and presidential news conferences, and was a member of the McCain campaign press corps. Ana Marie as been an outspoken advocate on ACLU issues such as first amendment rights (particularly the journalist shield law), marriage equality repealing don't ask don't tell, and net neutrality

E-mail Marion Ecks at mecks@aclu-wi.org
or call 414-272-4032 ext. 18 for more information
or to register for the event.
> RSVP Deadline is February 16.
Act quickly we expect to sell out!

### **TAKE NOTE:**

Cox is the keynote speaker at the ACLU of Wisconsin's annual Bill of Rights Dinner Celebration Feb. 20 at the Intercontinental Milwaukee Hotel. For information about attending the event, contact Marion Ecks at mecks@aclu-wi.org or 414-272-4032, ext. 18.

# NATIONAL GAZE

Got news? Tell us managingeditor@wisconsingazette.com.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Openly gay U.S. Rep. Jared Polis, D-Colo.

## HAWAII LAWMAKERS KILL CIVIL UNIONS BILL

The earliest legal battles over marriage for same-sex couples took place in Hawaii. Now gay activists are readying for another legal battle, this one prompted by the Legislature's refusal to pass a civil unions bill.

The Hawaii House had approved the bill last year. Then, in late January, the Hawaii Senate approved the measure and sent it back to the House for a conforming vote. But House members instead killed the measure.

Lambda Legal and the American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii Foundation plan to sue the state.

"Because the Legislature has ducked its responsibility multiple sessions in a row, we have no choice now but to bring our clients' legal claims to court," said Jennifer C. Pizer of Lambda Legal.

Said Lois Perrin of the ACLU of Hawaii: "It's shameful that Hawaii again validates discrimination."

### UTAHANS BACK ANTI-DISCRIMINATION MEASURE

A poll for the Salt Lake Tribune found that 66 per-

cent of Utahans support a statewide measure banning bias based on gender identity and sexual orientation.

Support in the heavily Mormon state climbed II percentage points from a year ago.

In late 2009, Salt Lake City lawmakers amended anti-discrimination ordinances to include protections for LGBT people in housing and employment.

### PENNSYLVANIA COURTS OFFER PARTNER BENEFITS

The Pennsylvania court system instituted a policy this winter offering domestic partnership benefits to its employees.

Workers learned of the policy – which applies to same-sex couples but not opposite sex couples – from a memo included with their paychecks in late January.

The state supreme court recommended the change, said court spokesman Art Heinz.

"The supreme court has given this subject considerable review over a period of years and concluded that, as a matter of equity, providing these benefits was appropriate for same-sex couples," he said. "Same-sex couples are uniquely affected by their inability to obtain health care coverage, so this was something the court deemed to be appropriate."

### GLSEN EXPANDS NO NAME-CALLING WEEK

The Gay Lesbian and Straight Education Network expanded its No Name-Calling Week program held in late January to include a high school program.

The week, in its seventh year, was created to provide materials for educators to counter bullying and harassment in grades 5-8. But GLSEN, partnering with Stories of Us, expanded the program to high schools.

"Despite being one of the most pervasive forms of bullying, many schools do not adequately address anti-LGBT bullying," said GLSEN executive director Eliza Byard.

# LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS BEGINNING

The 2010 legislative season has arrived.

LGBT activists will gather in Frankfort, Ky., for a lobby day at the state capitol Feb. 24. Activists will also hold a lobby day, sponsored by the new Fairness West Virginia, in Charleston, W.V., Feb. 24.

FWV hired a lobbyist for

# **Inside the Beltway**

President Barack Obama confirmed his support for legislation to extend the federal benefits of marriage to same-sex couples. Such benefits, including Social Security survivor benefits, are denied to gays and lesbians under the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act.

Responding to a question about pending legislation to repeal elements of DOMA, Obama said, "My hope is we can get it done."

In other news from the U.S. capital:

• 26 U.S. representatives signed a letter calling on the Boy Scouts of America to end its discrimination against gay scouts and gay and lesbian scout leaders. U.S. Reps. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., and Gary Ackerman, D-N.Y., initiated

the effort

Activists have for years challenged the policy, which the BSA most recently cited in its decision to reject an offer to volunteer from lesbian moms Cate and Elizabeth Wirth, whose 10-year-old son had joined a Cub Scout pack in Vermont.

"As you celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America, it is long past time that the Boy Scouts finally provide the opportunity for all scouts, leaders, and volunteers, to share in the joys of scouting, regardless of sexual orientation," the congressional letter stated.

• Openly gay U.S. Rep. Jared Polis, D-Colo., introduced the Student Non-Discrimination Act, which

would offer remedies for discrimination "based on actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity" in public elementary and secondary schools.

"We've encountered extraordinary cases of violence and discrimination against LGBT young people in schools – and sometimes against the allies who try to support them," said Lambda Legal deputy director Hayley Gorenberg. "The Student Non-Discrimination Act takes a big step toward a safer and healthier environment in every public school."

Polis secured 60 cosponsors, including Baldwin and openly gay U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass.

re•threads

--L.N.

the session.

Earlier this month, LGBT activists rallied at the state capitol in Albuquerque, N.M., where lawmakers this year face domestic partnership legislation.

—L.N.

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A poster for No Name-Calling Week

# { Editorial }

# Don't wait

The commander in chief has called for repealing "don't ask, don't tell." So have Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Secretary of Defense Robert Gates and even retired Army Gen. Colin Powell, who once held Mullen's title and previously backed the policy.

And so has the American public – by a 75 percent majority, according to polls. So why does the Department of Defense say it will take several years to lift the ban, which has cost the military (and taxpayers) between \$290 million and more than half a billion dollars since it began in 1994? After all, we're engaged in two costly wars and facing record budget deficits.

The right wing's war and deficit hawks should embrace the repeal effort, which would result in a better-staffed and less costly military. But, of course, they aren't. In fact, as reported in this issue of WiG, the neo-cons hope to thwart the process.

And once again, the Obama White House appears to be pandering to them. The proposed repeal of DADT will be subjected to an open-ended study that allows our reluctant president and his spineless Democratic colleagues to avoid a congressional vote on the issue during an election year.

It took five years for the military to achieve racial integration under an executive order from President Harry Truman. But that order, issued in 1948, came at a time when the majority of Americans opposed desegregation.

This is different. Not only do the vast majority of Americans favor repeal of DADT, but thousands of lesbians and gays are already serving in the military. During his testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee, Mullen acknowledged that he knowingly had served alongside "homosexuals" since

Opponents of allowing open gays and lesbians to serve argue that doing so would destroy unit cohesion and morale. But common sense dictates that forcing gays and lesbians to lie to their colleagues is far more disruptive than openness.

If our military leaders lack the effectiveness to implement a policy that is already de facto in place, then our national defense is in sorry hands. It's time for the waffling Obama White House to stop playing political games and take a stance for once. The repeal of this odious and blatantly discriminatory law should be pursued with urgency and resolve - not costly avoidance.



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# >TAKE ACTION!

# MENTOR AN ABANDONED YOUTH

Q-Blok is looking for adults to mentor homeless and at-rick LGBT youth, to help them develop such basic life skills as cooking and balancing a checkbook. The attention and support of even one adult can mean the difference between success and failure in life for an abandoned young person.

# WHAT CAN YOU DO?

For information about becoming a mentor, contact Julie Bock, director of programs at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, at 414-292-3070 or jbock@ mkelgbt.org.

# { Letters }

### **ASK CONGRESS** TO CONDEMN **UGANDA BILL**

In Uganda, the Anti-Homosexuality Bill of 2009 was introduced in Parliament in October 2009. The bill targets lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Ugandans, their advocates, and those who know someone LGBT. for the death It would reaffirm existing penalties for homosexuality and introduce sweeping new criminal provisions. Some of these troubling provisions include: imprisonment for life for anyone convicted of the "offence of homosexuality"; punishment for the "promotion of homosexuality" with prison terms; imprisonment for up to three years for anyone who fails to report to the authorities LGBT people or LGBT human rights defenders they know; and most egregiously, the application of the death penalty to anyone in Uganda who has consensual same-sex relations repeatedly or who has consensual same-sex relations and is HIV positive. If this bill were to pass, it would be a devastating blow

to the human rights of all Ugandans and would significantly impede effective HIV prevention and care.

The week of Feb. I, a bipartisan group of mem-

# The bill calls penalty to anyone in Uganda who has consensual same-sex relations

bers of Congress proposed resolutions condemning Anti-Homosexuality Bill. The House resolution, H.R. 1064, sponsored by Howard Berman (D-CA) and lleana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL). received 39 cosponsors. The Senate resolution, S.R. 409, sponsored by Russ Feingold (D-WI) and Tom Coburn (R-OK), currently has four

co-sponsors. The House resolution extends beyond Uganda to call on all nations to reject laws that criminalize homosexuality.

Public pressure is needed to ensure that both resolutions come up for a vote. Condemnation by the U.S. government is one of many factors that could persuade Ugandan President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni to prevent the bill from becoming law. If the resolutions pass, the U.S. Congress will join President Barack Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in sending the government of Uganda a unified message that passing the Anti-Homosexuality Bill will have serious consequences to its relationships internationally.

Go to salsa.democracyinaction.org/o/1870/p/ dia/action/public/?action\_ KEY=2209 to register your support directly with your congressional representative.

—International Gav and Lesbian Human Commission

Send letters to managingeditor @wisconsingazette.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.

# Don't ask, I'm still telling

Obama said it in his State of The Union address: Let gay Americans serve their country. Do away with the "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

The camera then got a shot of the men in official military uniform who all did not clap at the idea the president had proposed. Maybe they were just being polite, maybe they didn't clap because they hated the idea of gays being "out" in the military. Nevertheless the fact remains that the DADT policy has been oppressing gay people for as long as it has been employed.

Why can't we be out? Better to be honest than to lie to people. I've had a lot of conversations with individuals who had never really gotten to know a gay man before meeting me, and all of them were enlightened by the end of our meeting, leaving with an opened mind and some new insight into a world they had formerly known nothing about.

The people who are behind DADT are afraid of this type of enlightenment. They're afraid that someone might learn something and perhaps even stop being prejudiced. Heaven forbid!

I read in The Advocate's November issue that a military serviceman was taunted, restrained and beaten by other men on his base because he had "effeminate mannerisms." He didn't even open his mouth to say that he was or wasn't gay, nor did anyone bother to ask, because they aren't supposed to. That's the heterosexual "don't ask" half of the bargain. The men just skipped to teasing and calling him names because they weren't allowed to ask. So the guy gets tied up and tortured after not saying he's gay, and the military decided that he should be the



person to be kicked out, not the torturers.

This man is no longer allowed to serve his country, just because it was speculated that he might be gay. Apparently, the military considers that a worse offense than restraining and beating someone.

Obviously the DADT policy is flawed and needs to be repealed and replaced by a policy that says, "Who cares? You want to serve? Let's go then!"

I feel that a lot of this fear of mixing gays and straights is coming from the same mindset that opposed school integration in the 1960s. Whites who wanted to keep segregation feared that their children would grow close to black kids, close enough to be romantic. The pro-segregation parents didn't want sexual mixing between the white kids and their black classmates, because that might end white purity.

Being gay doesn't make us the minority, because it doesn't make us different. We are exactly the same as straight people. Sure, we currently are being denied certain rights, but that isn't because we are gay. It is because the heterosexual white male is afraid of acceptance and integration - again! He's afraid because if he does accept us, then he is opening a door so that his son or daughter might be able to grow up gay too.

Well, thankfully, our president is not a white man. He's a mixed man. and he is also a goodhearted man and he's standing up for every American, not just the straight ones.

# **Movement (finally) on DADT**

During the 2008 presidential campaign, Barack Obama made it clear that he favored repealing the onerous "don't ask, don't tell" law that bars openly gay men and women from serving in the military.

But during his first year in office, Obama was virtually silent about the

issue, spending his time and energy instead on healthcare reform, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and the financial

Finally, the president has held several strategy sessions on DADT with leading military personnel, including Defense Secretary Robert Gates and Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman Adm. Mike Mullen. He has announced that repealing the law would be a priority for his administration in 2010.

That was good news for those of us who had doubted Obama's commitment to the

Obama's announcement was followed by hearings before the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee, during which Mullen called repealing the gay ban "the right thing to do." Those words were perhaps an unconscious echo of the language former President Bill Clinton used in 1993 to describe the DADT "compromise."

Meanwhile, Gates said, the military would probably abandon expelling gay and lesbian servicemembers whose sexual orientation was revealed by vengeful expartners or third parties. It is not clear how much effect that will have on the policy. No data appears to exist on how many such incidents there are, but it is a good faith move in the right direc-

When repeal will take place is not clear. It depends on Congress' timetable. But my sense is that repeal had better be managed this year, because the election of Republican Scott Brown to the Senate from heavily Democratic Massachusetts suggests that the Democrats will lose seats in both houses in the fall 2010 election. And most Republicans seem to oppose ending DADT. In combination with social conservative Democrats, Republicans could defeat it into law. Contributing repeal.

Sen. John McCain, for instance, cited wholly imaginary "vast complexities" in ending the gay ban. He did not cite examples.

Georgia Republican Sen. Saxbe Chamblis suggested that the inclusion of gays would lead to a moral breakdown in the military. If one restriction were loosened, he claimed, it would open the way to alcoholism, adultery and tattooing. Conservative congressmen, like conservatives generally, have largely given up attacking gays directly, and instead express their opposition by raising supposedly related issues. That is a gain, I suppose.

According to The New York Times, pressures to change the law have grown since Clinton first signed



to those pressures are the growing influence of gay leaders, who are regarded as a critical "interest group," a change in the "climate" at the Pentagon, a perception that the rank and file in the military are comfortable around gay and lesbian personnel, and a need for the talents and skills of (current and prospective) gay servicemembers, including computer and linguistic skills.

But perhaps most important is the change in American public opinion about gays. As more gays, including younger gays, have come out,

Americans have unlearned their discomfort about gays. The military is not directly responsive to influence from the general population, but in the long run it is not immune

# A kiss is just a kiss

In the ad, the two men are watching the Big Game.

They are scruffy, wearing football jerseys, and appear to be straight.

A roar rises from the TV. The men cheer and both reach for the chips. Their hands touch. Their eyes lock. And then, with a singer crooning, "I really want to kiss this guy" in the background, one jumps onto the lap of the other, and they share an exaggerated, hokey – almost jokey – kiss. We never see their lips touch, but we know what's going

The camera pans to the left, where their stunned friend watches. His face says, "Am I seeing what I think I'm seeing?"

Clearly, he didn't know his friends were into each other.

There is nothing romantic about this ManCrunch ad. There is nothing sexual or sexy. If anything, it is less explicit than the controversial 2007 Snickers Super Bowl ad where two men accidentally share a kiss and then rip out their chest hair to show they are still "manly."



Yet CBS rejected the ad from down-low dating site ManCrunch, saying, "It is not within the Network's Broadcast Standards for Super Bowl Sunday."

For CBS, it seems, a kiss is not just a kiss.

Clearly, it is time CBS revised its standards.

It's not a surprise that CBS rejected the ad. After all, it accepted, for the first time, an advocacy ad - one that supports the anti-abortion movement, from the anti-gay conservative religious organization Focus on the Family. This comes after rejecting the beautiful "Bouncer" ad a few years ago from the United Church of Christ, which said, "No matter who you are, you're welcome here" and included an image of a happy lesbian couple.

That on its own shows the network likely has a slightly conservative bias.

And the Super Bowl, of

course, is a conservative show, peppered with ads that are filled with outdated images of women as objects to fantasize about, instead of people to get to know.

CBS says that it rejected the ManCrunch ad after looking at the company's financials. It said the ManCrunch ad is a stunt, that the site could never afford to pay. Maybe. Maybe not. It's certainly not out of the realm of possibility.

But stunt or not, the fact is that CBS said in a letter that the ad "is not within the Network's Broadcast Standards for Super Bowl Sunday" and that "our Standards and Practices Department would be open to working with you on acceptable creative" if the credit issue were resolved.

If the decision was only based on creditworthiness, then why would the subject of inappropriate creative even come up?

No, the fact is that CBS is a broadcasting network as conservative as the Super Bowl - but not as popular. That designation goes to ABC, due, in no small part, to scripted shows such as "Modern Family," "Brothers & Sisters" and "Grey's Anatomy" (and, of course, to "Ugly Betty," though low ratings has made this the final season).

These ABC shows are popular because they reflect the new reality of American life. We are bilingual. We have people of different colors in our workplaces and gays and lesbians in our families. Our lives are messy and complicated and good TV shows and good networks - reflect

CBS is betting, I suppose, on winning over the conservative Fox audience. But the younger the audience gets the more gay-friendly it becomes. If CBS, which has an average viewer age of 53, wants to keep broadcasting to the next generation, it is going to have to revise its views on gays and lesbians.

CBS is going to have to acknowledge that, even between men, a kiss is just a kiss. And an ad showing that kiss should be accepted without comment.



# NATIONAL GA

Got news? Tell us managing editor @wisconsing az et te.com.

# **Prop 8 testimony concludes**

By Lisa Neff

Staff Writer

The U.S. Supreme Court turned cameras off for the federal Proposition 8 trial, but the High Court could not prevent a broadcast of the court proceedings.

The broadcast, however, was of a re-enactment directed by two California filmmakers using transcripts, news accounts and blogs from the San Francisco courtroom.

Twelve episodes went up on YouTube earlier this month, just days after testimony concluded in the non-jury trial over the constitutionality of Prop 8, the anti-gay marriage amendment approved by California voters in November 2008.

The trial began Jan. II with U.S. Judge Vaughn R. Walker presiding. Attorneys Theodore Olson and David Boies represented two samesex couples who want to marry but cannot because of Prop 8. Attorney Andy Pugno defended the ban because California's top elected officials - the governor and the attorney general – denounced the Prop 8 amendment as indefensible.

Olson and Boies, during the first weeks of the trial, sought to prove three arguments:

- Prop 8 does irreparable harm to Americans.
- · Marriage has shed discriminatory restrictions over
- · Gays and lesbians are entitled to the full protection of the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.
- There is no justifiable reason for Prop. 8's denial of fundamental civil rights.

Olson and Boies called a variety of witnesses to offer personal and expert testimony on the role of marriage and a history of discrimination against gays.

Pugno said the plaintiffs put on a good show, but failed to prove California voters acted irrationally in approving the amendment. "The question is whether the people have a right to decide what is best," Pugno told the press after he rested his case in late January.

Closing arguments are next expected to be heard until March.

As the trial - and the filming of its reenactment - went on hiatus, marriage advocates turned their focus to celebrating the 13th annual national Freedom to Marry Week, which began Feb. 8 and was to continue to Feb.



The plaintiffs seeking to overturn Prop 8 - Paul Katami, Jeff Zarrillo, Kris Perry and Sandy Stier.

"Every year, right around President Lincoln's birthday and Valentine's Day - symbolizing equality and love supporters of the freedom

to marry take action," said Freedom to Marry executive director Evan Wolfson.

Events, from receptions to demonstrations, were taking place in many major cities.

# 'After 16 years of this discriminatory policy, what is there left to study?'

DADT from I

of the Joint Chiefs at which the top-ranking military officers challenged Bill Clinton's push to abolish prohibitions against gay servicemembers. In a statement released Feb. 3, Powell said, "Attitudes and circumstances have changed," and he added, "Society is always reflected in the military.

The day before Powell's retreat from DADT, during a hearing of the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee, Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint to halt witchhunts against

Secretary Robert Gates signaled DADT's imminent demise.

"The guestion before us is not whether the military prepares to make this change, but how we best prepare for it," Gates said.

Gates and Mullen described an II-month review of how to implement a repeal of DADT without disrupting military operations, as well as a 45-day review of how to apply DADT in the interim.

The DADT policy was intended by the Clinton administration to soften the ban on gay servicemembers, Chiefs of Staff, and Defense then while appearing military

brass and congressional conservatives who argued that openly gay servicemembers threatened military readiness and troop morale.

The Armed Forces, the nation's largest employer, has discharged more than 13,000 servicemembers under DADT since 1994, according to the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, a watchdog group based in D.C.

Also since 1994, public, military and political opinion toward the policy has shifted. A Washington Post/ABC News poll in July 2008 found that 75 percent of Americans support repealing DADT. Another poll, conducted in

2006, found that 73 percent of U.S. soldiers would be comfortable with openly gay servicemembers.

The shift in opinion became apparent in the 2008 presidential primary fight, when all the Democratic candidates for the White House pledged to work to repeal DADT

When President Barack Obama reminded Americans of his pledge during his State of the Union address Jan. 27, SLDN executive director Aubrey Sarvis said the president set "the stage for the beginning of the end of DADT'

To prepare for the end,

Gates tapped Pentagon chief legal advisor Jeh Johnson and Army Gen. Carter Ham to conduct the 11-month study on how to repeal the policy.

The proposed process prompted one basic question from gay members of Congress, as well as leaders with national LGBT groups.

"After 16 years of this discriminatory policy, what is there left to study?" asked Lambda Legal executive director Kevin Cathcart. "Dedicated gay and lesbian servicemembers - and the country - have waited long enough.

U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., called for "expedi-

tiously" ending DADT. "I believe an implementation study can occur in a much shorter time frame than the II months that is currently being proposed," she said.

The openly lesbian congresswoman also vowed to continue working for passage of the Military Readiness Enhancement Act, which U.S. Rep. Patrick Murphy, D-Pa., introduced in 2009 to dismantle DADT. The Iraq War veteran's legislation has 187 co-sponsors, but it has not been a focus of discussions in D.C. as White House, Pentagon and Congressional leaders prepare a strategy for repeal.

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# FROM THE COVE



# Homeless gay and lesbian youth experience 7.4 more acts of sexual violence

Youth from I

their real names, but their stories are true. They are also surprisingly common, as reported in a groundbreaking new study compiled by Cream City Foundation.

Titled "State of Youth Homelessness," the study found that 23 percent of the estimated 400 youth (ages 24 and under) living on Milwaukee's streets on any given night are LGBT. The report's findings were based on a yearlong research project by the Center for Urban Initiatives and Research at UW-Milwaukee, which collected data from several area agencies serving homeless youth.

The report's findings are consistent with those of a National Gay and Lesbian Task Force study released three years ago, which found that 20-40 percent of the nation's homeless youth identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender.

This problem appears to be growing. As societal acceptance of LGBT people has increased, people are coming out at younger ages and encountering rejection from their families, according to experts from the local agencies involved in the report. The problem, they say, is particularly acute in evangelical-dominated cultures, such as the African-American community, and it has been exacerbated by the culture of violence that has overspread the nation's streets.

### **MEAN STREETS**

Life on the streets is harsh for any homeless youth. "The shocking statistic is that within 72 hours of a young person being homeless, they are more likely to engage in survival sex as a means of getting their basic needs met," says Lisa Gumm, youth shelter program manager at Pathfinders, which provides outreach and support services to homeless youth.

For LGBT youth, the outlook is particularly grim.

"They face even greater risks, due to the isolation they experience," Gumm

says. "They don't feel that they're accepted and they have fewer options."

In fact, homeless gay and lesbian youth experience an average of 7.4 more acts of sexual violence than their heterosexual peers and twice the rates of sexual victimization, according to data compiled by the National Alliance to End Homelessness, Lambda Legal, National Network for Youth and the National Lesbian Rights Center. These agencies also found that transgender youth are frequently harassed, assaulted and arrested by police because of their gender presentation.

Tess Gallun, who teaches documentary filmmaking for UW-Milwaukee's Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, witnessed the problem up close, through the lens of her camera. She and her students are creating a documentary - the working title is "Out of Respect" about the lives of homeless LGBT youth in Milwaukee. They've followed the stories of Kevin, Andrea and others who've been abandoned by their families because of their sexual orientation.

While their sexual orientation is the cause of their homelessness, it's the last thing on their minds when Gallun meets them. They're focused simply on staying alive, she says - "trying to find a warm bed for the night and something to eat."

Despite the rejection they've endured, "all the youth we've worked with just want to be reunited with their families," Gallun says.

Tears swell in her eyes as Gallun shows a picture of the 16-month-old boy she and her partner Mary adopted at birth. He was born addicted to cocaine, but now he's healthy and thriving.

"What's going on in our society that people lose their ability to love and care for their own child?" she asks.

### **REPAIRING** THE SYSTEM

Despite the magnitude of LGBT youth homelessness,



As societal acceptance of LGBT people has increased, people are coming out at younger ages and encountering family rejection.

the problem was hardly a blip on the radar screen of local social service agencies when Cream City Foundation began coordinating the study. There was no dedicated housing, no advocacy, no mentorship program and no funding. Nor was there LGBT sensitivity training for shelter staff workers.

"People who are licensed to work in group homes are not required to take a course that teaches them how to treat LGBT youth in a culturally sensitive manner," says Cream City Foundation executive director Maria Cadenas. "A lot of time there's verbal and physical abuse from the other youth and the staff. There's no enforcement of fair and equal treatment for our youth. That's a broken system."

Last year, Cadenas began convening regular meetings of local agencies, including Lad Lake, Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, Pathfinders and St. Aemilian-Lakeside. Together these agencies created Q-Blok, the first program in the city to work specifically on

LGBT youth homelessness. ing to shelter workers. Cream City Foundation and the Greater Milwaukee Foundation stepped forward with three years of funding.

The first order of business was to provide shelter. This required a creative approach. Due to the abuse LGBT homeless youth experience in foster care and emergency shelters - as well as the sexual predation they encounter on the streets - they're wary of being placed with adults or in group settings. Q-Blok adopted a plan used successfully in Minnesota that provides temporary independent housing along with attachment to a sponsor family that lends emotional support and celebrates milestones with them.

Since its inception in December 2009, 22 young people have enrolled in the program, nearly filling its capacity of 25, says Karie Lowe, program coordinator at Lad Lake. Five sponsor families are in training.

'The kids are coming in and they're very excited about (the program) and they're doing good," Lowe says. "With funding for 25 youth per year for the next three years, we're going to be able to help 75 youth. That's huge."

In addition to housing and a sponsor family, the youth receive case management services. Q-Blok also has street outreach, mentorship and advocacy components. And it provides LGBT train-

### **NEW HOPE**

While Q-Blok is an important step forward, everyone agrees there's much more work to be done. Inevitably, many youth will have to be turned away due to limited space, as well as legal complications that prevent the program from serving youth under 18. Some will survive, others will fall victim to the streets.

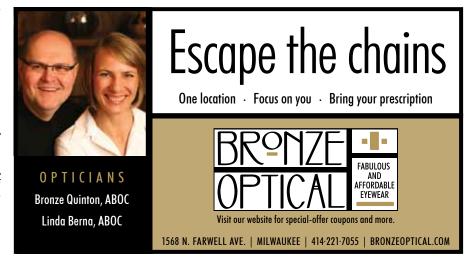
Still, Gallun is heartened by the progress she's seen since beginning her documentary.

"Now there are (LGBT) questions being asked when a youth enters a shelter," she says. "There's more sensitivity. They're being careful not to put (these youth) with a foster family or case worker who's homophobic."

Among the youth Gallun and her crew have followed are a young gay couple, Jim and John (not their real names). John left home after his mother, a religious zealot, painted his bedroom red one day, telling him the color was the blood of the devil. He and Jim survived the streets by sticking closely together, Gallun says.

Since getting an apartment through Q-Blok, their lives have turned around, she says. They check in regularly with their case workers. They cook meals together. They're both enrolled at Milwaukee Area Technical College.

"It's been hopeful to see them creating a family together," Gallun says. "They empower each other."



# INTERNATIONAL GAZE



# Obama, Clinton denounce Ugandan bill

By Lisa Neff

Wig Staff Writer

President Barack Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, addressing the National Prayer Breakfast Feb. 4 in Washington, D.C., denounced pending Ugandan legislation that would authorize the death penalty for some gays and imprisonment for others.

LGBT civil rights advocates had urged Obama not to attend the breakfast, a presidential tradition since Dwight Eisenhower's era, because of organizers' ties to the evangelical Christian network known as the Fellowship Foundation and, more secretively, as The Family. The Family is said to have played a pivotal role in the drafting and introduction of the Anti-Homosexuality Act in Uganda.

"We may disagree about gay marriage, but surely we can agree that it is unconscionable to target gays and lesbians for who they are - whether it's here in the

United States or, as Hillary mentioned, more extremely in odious laws that are being proposed most recently in Uganda," said Obama, addressing the prayer breakfast at the Washington Hilton.

Clinton, who delivered the keynote address, spoke about the denial of human rights, often in the name of religion.

"Religion, cloaked in naked power lust, is used to justify horrific violence, attacks on homes, markets, schools, volleyball games, churches, mosques, synagogues, temples. From Iraq to Pakistan and Afghanistan to Nigeria and the Middle East, religion is used as a club to deny the human rights of girls and women ... and to discriminate, even advocate the execution of gays and lesbians."

Later in the address, Clinton said, "We are standing up for gays and lesbians who deserve to be treated as full human beings. And we are also making it clear to countries and leaders that these are priorities of the United

States. ... And I recently called President Museveni, whom I have known through the prayer breakfast, and expressed the strongest concerns about a law being considered in the parliament of Uganda."

Uganda MP David Bahati, who sponsored and refuses to amend the Anti-Homosexuality Act, is said to be a member of The Family, as is Uganda President Yoweri Museveni, who initially supported the bill but, under increasing international pressure, has recommended revision.

The remarks from the president and the secretary of state came as Congress ratcheted up its criticism of the Uganda bill, which would authorize life imprisonment for consensual same-sex sex and the death penalty for HIV-positive people who engage in consensual samesex sex. The bill also would criminalize the "promotion of homosexuality" and authorize the imprisonment of people who fail to report gays and lesbians to the government.

### IN THE HOUSE

In late January, the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission held a hearing on the Ugandan legislation. Testimony focused on the impact the act might have on HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment in the African nation, the violation of human rights charters and treaties and the need for U.S. officials to act against the measure.

"We believe that pressure must be maintained to make clear to the Ugandan government that simply removing the most obviously egregious aspects of the bill - such as the wielding of the death penalty - will not make this legislation any less destructive," testified Cary Alan Johnson of the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission.

The same week as the hearing, openly gay U.S. Reps.



PHOTO: JASON SMITH

### **Tammy Baldwin**

Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., lared Polis, D-Colo., and Barney Frank, D-Mass., led a coalition of lawmakers in sending letters to Obama and Museveni urging action to defeat the measure.

"Should the bill be passed, any range of bilateral programs important to relations between our countries and, indeed, to the Ugandan people inevitably would be called under review," the letter to Museveni warned.

Frank said, "Having accepted debt relief from the international community only a few years ago, Uganda has

an obligation to show some respect for basic human rights. Vicious unleashing of persecution of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people should and will be an obstacle to any future congressional initiative to provide aid to that country."

Then, on Feb. 4, several dozen representatives backed a House resolution condemning the legislation.

"The proposed Ugandan bill not only threatens human rights, it also reverses so many of the gains that Uganda has made in the fight against HIV/AIDS," said U.S. Rep. Howard L. Berman, D-Calif., who introduced the resolution. Berman chairs the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

"This issue," he said, "has united leaders of different political and religious views in Uganda and worldwide in one common belief in the rights of all human beings regardless of sexual orienta-

# **MOSCOW MAYOR BANS PRIDE PARADE**

Moscow Mayor Yury Luzhkov announced earlier this month that he will prohibit organizers from holding an LGBT pride parade in May.

"For several years, Moscow has been under unprecedented pressure to hold a gay pride parade, which can- to conduct a Pride parade not be called anything but a in Moscow, just as we are

Satanic act," Luzhkov stated. "We have prevented such a parade and we will not allow it in the future. Everyone should take this as an axiom and not a theorem."

The leader of one of Russia's oldest human rights organizations denounced the mayor's decision.

"They have a full right

entitled to rallies," head of the Moscow Helsinki Group Lyudmila Alexeyeva told the Interfax news service.

She said Russia's Constitution guarantees the right to rally and demonstrate.

Alexeyeva, however, seemed an uncomfortable ally for LGBT groups. She continued, "People with unconventional sexual orientation have a genetic deviation from the norm. But this is not their fault. These people should be treated the same way as others. Stop mistreating them."

### **MEXICO CITY MAYOR TO DEFEND GAY MARRIAGE**

Mayor Mexico City Marcelo Ebrard vowed to

defend the capital city's law legalizing marriage for gays and lesbians.

The measure, scheduled to take effect in March, faces opposition from conservative forces in the city and the nation, especially the Roman Catholic Church.

Additionally, a al appeal to overturn the measure is before Mexico's supreme court.

The Mexico Attorney General's Office filed the appeal in late January, claiming the measure violates constitutional provisions on the family and the protection of children, according to the Associated Press.

—L.N.

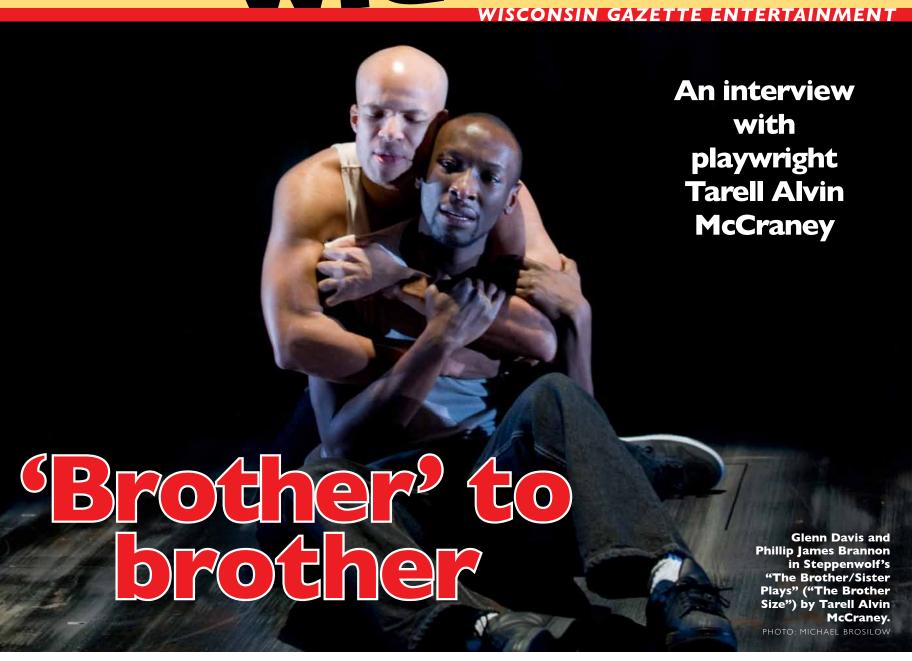


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# WiGOUTS



# By Gregg Shapiro

Entertainment Writer

ay playwright Tarell Alvin McCraney's trilogy "The Brother/Sister Plays" is one of the most memorable theatrical experiences you are ever likely to encounter. Currently playing at Chicago's Steppenwolf Theatre, the trilogy runs more than three hours. But it's time well spent – as emotionally rewarding as it is refreshing.

Set in Louisiana and spanning a 16-year period, "The Brother/Sister Plays," which includes "In The Red Brown Water," "The Brothers Size" and "Marcus; Or the Secret of Sweet," acquaint us with an unforgettable array of characters, all of whom are connected in various ways throughout all three pieces.

McCraney is a recipient of the Paula Vogel Playwriting Award, a Whiting Award, a GLAAD Award, London's Evening Standard Award for Most Promising Playwright, the New York Times' Outstanding Playwright Award 2009 and a 2010 Joyce Award. There is no question that he is an artist with a bright and promising future.

Gregg Shapiro: What does winning a Joyce Award mean to you? TAM: The Joyce Award is given to an artist of color in the Midwest area to help spawn new work. I've been invited to create a new work specifically for the Steppenwolf ensemble. It's a tall and honorable order, I think.

GS: Did you have a target audience in mind for "The Brother/ Sister Plays"?

TAM: I hope that the plays are universal, and that they are accessible for many people. But I do hope to elicit a draw, if you will, for lack of a better word, of people who don't normally go to the theater – people who often find themselves being left out of what most of American theater has been.

GS:There is the double usage of the word "brother" – both biological and fraternal – in "The Brothers Size." Do you have siblings or did you seek brotherhood outside of the confines of family?

TAM: I do have brothers. I have two brothers and a sister. And I have many friends who I consider brothers, as well.

GS: How much, if any, of you is in the characters?

TAM: It's debatable. My actual brothers came to see the shows in New York. And, of course, people wanted to instantly ask them the same question. "How much of them is in the plays?" And they immediately said, "All of them are Tarell." For me, I say that none of it is biographical. I mean, the stories they may tell – or some of the jokes that they have – may be from my own life. But the actual plotline of the story, there's no one-to-one comparison to my life.

GS: Mothers and fathers are as important in the trilogy as brothers. Is that a reflection of your own relationship with your family?

TAM: It's ultimately about how people relate to their parents and the people who came before them and how they tried to interact with them and use them as the foundations on which they build their lives. Many times in the community that I'm from, that a lot of people are from, those foundations are snatched from you. Either they don't survive to see you through the transition in to adulthood or they are so intertwined with other things. Maybe they've gone to jail or they work really late hours, so you become a child of the

Brother page 14

# Skylight's 'The Marriage of Figaro' is a marriage made in opera heaven

# By Harry Cherkinian

Contribution writer

Skylight Opera Theatre has much to celebrate these days. The current season marks its 50th anniversary. It's survived more drama offstage this past summer only to return stronger and thriving. And its current production of "The Marriage of Figaro" is pure delight in sight and sound.

Skylight began this celebration this past fall staging the first part to the trilogy of stories written by Pierre Beaumarchais, "The Barber of Seville," composed as an opera by Rossini. In the first part, the clever barber Figaro assisted Count Almaviva in finally winning the hand of the count's true love, Rosina.

Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro" picks up 10 years later, as Figaro is now trying to marry his true love, the maid Susanna. But there is more political intrigue underfoot as others attempt to thwart their love, including the now-scheming and philandering Count Almaviva, who has eyes only for Susanna. Yes, this is a comedy, and director Bill Theisen mines it for all its humor, visually and otherwise.



Part of the charm of this production lies in the vocal and acting talents of this well cast ensemble of actors, who not only sing their parts - in English no less - but inhabit their roles. As the at-times bumbling but always-shrewd Figaro, Andrew Wilkowske shines as he reprises his Figaro from Skylight's "Barber" earlier in the season. His broad baritone range filled the stage, from the spoken recitatives with his beloved Susanna to the comedic (for the audience) frustrated solos of a newlywed.

Alicia Berneche's Susanna runs the gamut of emotions as the coquettish but determined Susanna. Her full bodied soprano is rich with color and texture as she darts from machination to machination. What a joy to watch and hear Diane Lane's Cherubino, who gives this production an additional jolt of energy and zing the moment she steps

on stage. Her mezzo soprano resonates with poignancy as she pines for Cherubino's true love, a delicate vibrato underscoring the malaise.

The rest of the ensemble merits full credit as well: Kurt Ollmann (as the count), Thomas J. Weis, William Lavonis (who amuses to no end in dual roles), Tanya Kruse, Ryan Matthew Porter and Susan Wiedmeyer. Of

special note is Carol Greif, who filled in at the lan. 30 performance, handling the singing of Marcellina on a side stage while actress Jennifer Clark continued to act the role despite "vocal problems."

And in case you're wondering about that all too famous phrase, "Figaro, Figaro, Figaro"? That's actually from "The Barber of Seville."

"The Marriage of Figaro" runs through Feb. 14 in the Cabot Theatre at the Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Info: 414-291-7800, www.skylightopera.com.

# A charming and somewhat sentimental 'Education'

Hornby based on Lynn nominated "An Education" is nee) awakening at the hands

Directed by Lone Scherfig, a fitting title for this story of with a screenplay by Nick teenager and straight A student Jenny's (Carey Mulligan, Barber's memoir, the Oscar- a best actress Oscar nomi-

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of older man David (Peter Sarsgaard).

Jenny, who lives with her parents Jack (Alfred Molina) and Majorie (Cara Seymour) in the London suburb Twickenham in the early 1960s, is prepping for her Oxford interview. While waiting for the bus in the rain with her cello, she is offered a ride home by David, and she reluctantly accepts. They hit it off, and suddenly the attentions of Graham (Matthew Beard), a boy her own age who regularly comes to dinner at her house, is meaningless to Jenny.

Soon David has charmed Jack and Majorie, too. He takes Jenny to concerts and dinner and more, even though she is only 16 and he is considerably older. Jenny meets David's friends Danny (a hotter-than-ever Dominic Cooper) and Helen (Rosamund Pike) and gets a glimpse into David and Danny's shady business deal-

At school, Jenny's friends are captivated by her stories of her adventures with David. However, her teacher Miss Stubbs (Olivia Williams) and headmistress (Emma Thompson) are less thrilled with her extracurricular activities and her transformation. With her future hanging in the balance, Jenny makes a series of decisions that will greatly impact the rest of



### 'An Education'

know that David is keeping a secret from her that she was Mulligan, who is reminiscent

her life. But little does she of a younger (and more talented) Katie Holmes, is terrific and gives the auditoo naïve to ever anticipate. ence plenty of reasons to care about Jenny and what

becomes of her.

E-mail managingeditor @wisconsingazette.com, tell us what you think!



# 'Purgatorio' is an epic struggle for forgiveness

# By Harry Cherkinian

Contributing Writer

What happens when the tormenter becomes the tormented? Is it possible to forgive someone who has brought about immeasurable pain and suffering? And can salvation truly be achieved



by forgiving - and being forgiven?

These are but some of the questions playwright Ariel Dorfman probes in his intense, multi-layered play "Purgatorio," which opened lan. 28 at Next Act Theatre. Given the emotional complexity of this drama, only flawless acting and strong direction can make it work. For those fortunate enough to see this production, Next Act achieves that - and more - under Mary

McDonald Kerr's thoughtful direction and with actors Angela lannone and David Cescarini's total immersion into Dorfman's characters and wordplay.

Dorfman knows only too well about this topic. He lived in Chile under the reign of Salvador Allende and was fortunate enough to escape during the military coup of 1973. As a human rights activist and teacher, many of Dorfman's works - including his acclaimed, well received "Death and the Maiden" deal with the political underpinnings that shroud victims and their torturers.

"Purgatorio" is the first to rely more on Greek mythology rather than military uprisings. Loosely based on the Jason and Medea story, "Purgatorio" centers on one

man and one woman, ambiguous and nameless like the drab gray colors that wash out their prison-like "room" in the afterlife. There, they endure a never-ending "nothingness."

The play shifts between three scenes (without intermission) in which the man and woman change roles as prisoner and interrogator. Who is "right" and who is "wrong/wronged" no longer matters. Both have suffered and caused suffering – at the other's expense. There is no heavenly presence to intervene as they battle each other, verbally and physically. There are no angels to carry their prayers to heaven; only surveillance cameras (that might work) to record and enter into judgment what will - or won't - happen to

"Purgatorio" runs through Feb. 21 at the Off-Broadway Theatre, 342 N. Water St., 2nd Floor. For tickets, call 414-278-0765 or visit www.nextact.org.

# lannone and Cescarini work together like dry tinder catching fire.

them. The question remains: can they forgive - and be forgiven - to escape a prison of their own making?

lannone and Cescarini work together like dry tinder catching fire, one setting the other ablaze with fury, perhaps with a move that's a little too close, a word that reopens an old wound. They are spontaneous combustion that fascinates us as they repel each other. Kerr paces restraint throughout to allow breathing space for these two fine actors - as well as for the audience they pull into their drama.



Angela lannone and David Cescarini in "Purga-

If "hell is other people," as is the mirror which, upon once said, than "Purgatorio"

existentialist lean-Paul Sartre reflection, reveals the true source of that suffering.







# **NEW VISIONS IN AMERICAN PHOTOGRAPHY 1940–1959**



Major support for Street Seen comes from the Richard and Ethel Herzfeld Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, and MetLife Foundation.

**Villiam Klein,** *Man under El*, 1955 (detail). Milwaukee Art Museum Purchase, Richard and Ethel Herzfeld Foundation Acquisition Fund



# 414-224-3200 | www.mam.org

# Dancing up the ranks

# heater

# By Harry Cherkinian

Contributing Writer

For Joseph "Grease" is the word - in song and, in particular, dance.

Corella is dance captain and swing in the current national tour that plays the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts Feb. 23-28.

Last year was a big one for Corella, who's openly gay and proud of it. He began touring non-stop in "Grease," his first national tour. And on lune 30, he married his husband, fellow actor Jonathan Sandler, who's appearing on Broadway in "Mary Poppins" and is also a dance captain and swing.

"We make it a point to see each other every three weeks," Corella says. "You need somebody to understand (all the touring) and be supportive."

. At 27, Corella has risen quickly through the ranks. He's responsible for ensuring that Tony Award-winning director Kathleen Marshall's choreography remains crisp and fresh. "It's such an honor being under her direction to keep the integrity of the show," he says.

For the first time on stage since the show's debut in



Joseph Corella, openly gay dance captain of the touring production of 'Grease' at Marcus Center.

1971 (yes, it's been that long), this production includes songs from the 1978 hit film starring John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John. Devoted "Grease-rs" will get to hear "You're the One That I Want" and "Hopelessly Devoted to You," along with other favorites from the film.

Of course, the production also features the original theatrical classics, including "We Go Together" and "Summer Nights." Playing the role of Teen Angel is 2006 "American Idol" winner Taylor Hicks.

The excitement starts even with the opening number and doesn't let up, Corella says.

"When the Thunderbirds open their lockers, the screaming starts," he says. "And with the world a little crazy right now, we hope that when (the audience) leaves 'Grease,' they've had a chance to escape with us for two and a half hours."

"Grease" runs Feb. 23-28 at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, 929 N. Water St. For more information, call the Marcus Center Box Office at 414-273-7206 or visit www.MarcusCenter.org.

# 'It wasn't really a coming-out process'

Brother from 11

neighborhood.

Those kinds of relationships, to me, were interesting and important to me, because a lot of times we like to demonize the people who come from those types of families. We like to say that we're accepting of people who come from a home that is not necessarily traditional, but somehow we turn around and shun them for being who they are. I thought it was important to have theater reflect that these people have lives and feelings and love and wants and dreams like everybody else.

GS: What was your coming out experience like?

TAM: Easy. Not easy, but it certain weave to the tapeswas obvious. My family told me I was gay before I knew I was gay. It wasn't really a coming-out process (laughs). They called me names and said I had these tendencies. so I was like, "Well, I guess" (laughs).

GS: Would you like to see a film version of "The Brother/ Sister Plays" someday?

TAM: Oh, sure. I would love to help get it into a film. But at the end of the day, my dedication is to the theater and these plays specifically are designed to help, like I said before, allow the audience to re-engage with the theater in a way that I think sometimes we can lose. I hope to keep adding a

try of the American theater. Which is something that says this theatrical experience is unlike what you will have sitting in front of a television or going to see a film. It is something that is uniquely in the theater. If you're not here, this experience won't happen. If you don't come, this moment of conversation, this discourse with you doesn't occur.

"The Brother/Sister Plays" runs through May 23 at the Steppenwolf Theatre, 1650 N. Halsted, Chicago. Call 312-335-1650.

# Chicago sounds like this



By Gregg Shapiro

Contributing writer

### "...AND THE **HORSE YOU RODE** IN ON" Bloodshot

Scotland Yard Gospel Choir hasn't completely abandoned its U.K. pop influences on "...and the horse you rode in on." But there's a slight switch in sound from Belle and Sebastian to Pulp and larvis Cocker.

Frontman Elia Einhorn emulates Cocker, and the songs have a viciousness with which Pulp fans will connect. To the group's credit, SYGC doesn't get lost in the shuffle. The band's radiant personality shines through, as on "I Pretend She's You," "Libertyville or Somewhere" and the bare-bones acoustic number "Praying Is A Heartache."

Fans are wishing the band a speedy recovery from injuries sustained in a September 2009 van accident.

### "MIDDLE CYCLONE" Anti-

Alcohol Free

Possibly the biggest success story in the history of the aforementioned Chicagobased Bloodshot Records, Neko Case switched label allegiance to Anti- in 2004. That label reissued her early Bloodshot recordings, including "Middle Cyclone," which is easily her most accessible recording.

With a voice as powerful as, well, a cyclone, Case presents some of her greatest originals, including "This Tornado Loves You," "People Gotta Lotta Nerve," "Polar Nettles" and "Magpie To The Morning." As she's done in the past, Case exhibits stellar taste in cover tunes, including Sparks' "Never Turn Your Back On Mother Earth" and Nilsson's "Don't Forget Me."

# "WHAT TO SAY" **Vanguard**

New kid on the block Daphne Willis blows in on a playful bluesy vibe on the opening track of her debut disc "What To Say." By the delightful "Bluff," "Far Away" and "Love and Hate," the versatile singer/songwriter has moved on to a warm island breeze.

"All I Know" manages to both rock and be brassy, while Willis asserts herself as a modern folkie on "Swirl," "Still Tryin" and "Jim Thornton."

# "I'M GOING AWAY" **Thrill Jockey**

Like the previously mentioned Neko Case disc, "I'm Going Away," by The Fiery Furnaces, moves the brother/sister duo into more approachable territory. It's not that they've abandoned their avant-garde pop style - they've just made it a little more user-friendly.

The fuzzy title track stomps like a lost White Stripes cut. "Drive to Dallas" has a subtle whiskey-soaked twang, while the keyboards on "The End is Near" are pure 1972.

"Charmaine Champagne"

UWM Drag Show

FEBRUARY 27

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bop-bop-bops like a drunken doll, while "Ray Bouvier" is more swagger and strut. "Take Me Round Again" is a modern day march, and "Even In The Rain" would be a hit single in a perfect world.

### "WILCO" Nonesuch

One of the lone survivors of the major-label raid of the 1990s, Wilco not only endured but consistently improved. Wilco exhibits a refreshing sense of humor right from the get-go with "Wilco (the song)," the opening track on "Wilco (the album)," in which the band declares that "Wilco will love you baby," no matter how bad things get in your life. How can you not love them for that or for songs such as "Deeper Down" (sound effects and all), "You and I" (featuring a guest vocals turn by Feist), the pure pop of "You Never Know" and the retro bounce of "I'll Fight."

Wilco performs Feb. 20 in Overture Hall at Overture Center for the Arts, 201 State in Madison. For tickets, call 608-258-4141.

# "ORDINARY **RICHES**" Wind-Up

On their debut disc "Ordinary Riches" (Wind-Up), the trio Company of Thieves doesn't sound like anyone else currently on the Chicago scene. Imagine Fiona Apple fronting Silversun Pickups, and you're on your

Company of Thieves had an unexpected hit on their hands with the bumping "Oscar Wilde" (from which

Project Q

the album's title is drawn), which affixed an irresistibly funky beat to the band's modern blues guitar style. Other highlights include "The Tornado Song," "Even In The Dark" and "In Passing."

### "ORDINARY **RICHES**" Wind-Up

Of all bands for the suburban Painkiller Hotel to emulate, it seems odd that they would bypass Chicago's own suburban grown Smashing Pumpkins and Fall Out Boy for Orlando's Matchbox 20, Atlanta's Collective Soul or Tempe's Gin Blossoms. But that's mostly who they sound

Ultimately, that's the problem with Painkiller Hotel needs to check out of the Vicodin villa and find their own musical identity.

# **"OF THE BLUE COLOUR OF THE** SKY"

**Capitol** 

Chicago may be the birthplace of house music, but the



Wilco

funky dance-oriented tunes on "Of The Blue Colour Of The Sky," by OK Go, owe more to Prince than Frankie Knuckles. The disc is a far cry from the power pop of OK Go's first two full-lengths, including "Oh No," which yielded the hit single (and popular "treadmill" music video for) "Here It Goes Again."

Sure there were hipshaking Cars-flavored hints, but nothing could have

prepared listeners for this shift. Prince is bound to be purple with envy when he hears "WTF?," "All Is Not Lost," "Skyscrapers," "White Knuckles" (which is begging for a Frankie Knuckles remix) and "End Love."

> What's on your playlist? Write managingeditor@ wisconsingazette.com.





# **MILWAUKEE**

**Arts/entertainment** 

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. Second St., 414-383-3727

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

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

Queer Zine Archive Project, 2935 N. Fratney St. **Shoreline Country** Dancers, 818 S. Water St. (Hot Water Bar), www. shoreline-milw.org.

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

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

Community

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

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

CONNEXUS/African American LGBT Social and Educational Program, 2439 N. Holton, Milwaukee, WI 53212, 414-390-0444.

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

Equality Wisconsin, 2717 E. Hampshire, Milwaukee, 53211, 414-431-1306, www. equalitywi.org.

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

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

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

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

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

Sampler

Lesbian Alliance, 315 W.

Court St., 414-272-9442. Lesbian Fund of the Women's Fund of Greater Milwaukee, 316 N.

Milwaukee Street, Suite 215, 414-290-7350, www.womensfund.com.

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

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

Milwaukee Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Community Center, 315 W. Court St., Suite 101, 414-271-2656, www.mkelgbt.org.

Milwaukee LGBT History Project, 414-224-0517, www. mkelgbthist.org.

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

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

Pride Parade, www.prideparademke.com.

SHEBA/Sisters Helping Each other Battle AIDS, 2439 N. Holton, Milwaukee, WI 53212, 414-390-0444. WanderWomyn

Health

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

Gay & Lesbian Tavern

Guild, 209 E. National Ave.

Outdoors Group, deby-

Washington Heights

217-1571, on Facebook.

Rainbow Association, 414-

SAGE Milwaukee, 1845 N.

doo2@yahoo.com.

Farwell Ave., Suite

220, 414-224-

Wisconsin

0517.

Rainbow

Families,

Court St.,

Room 112,

info@wirain-

bowfamilies.

**Business** 

315 W.

com.

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

Diverse and Resilient. 2439 N. Holton St., 414-390-0444, www.diverseandresilient.org.

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

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

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

3251 N. Holton St., Milwaukee, 414-264-8800, www.stdspecialties.org.

Walker's Point Community Clinic, 611 W. National Ave., Suite 400, 414-384-1400.

Religion/spirituality

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

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

Cross Lutheran Church,

1821 N. 16th St., 414-344-1746.

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

First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee, 1342 N.

Astor St., 414-273-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.

Plymouth Church, 2717 E. Hampshire Ave., Milwaukee, 414-964-1513.

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

**Sports** 

Front Runners, 414-332-

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

Metro Milwaukee Tennis Club, 414-616-3716.

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

Milwaukee Gay Volleyball League, milwaukeegayvolleyball.com.

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

Youth/education

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

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

Box 090441, Milwaukee, WI 53209, 414-265-8500.

LGBT Resource Center

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

Marquette U G/L Alumni, P.O. Box 92722, Milwaukee, WI 53202.

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

Project Q, 315 W. Court St., Suite 101, 414-223-3220. Rainbow Alliance at UWM, 220 E. Kenwood Ave., 414-229-6555

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

# **KENOSHA**

# Religion/spirituality

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

# **MADISON**

# **Arts/entertainment**

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

### Community

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

### **Politics**

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

### **Sports**

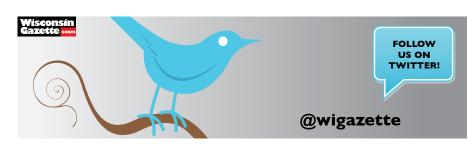
Madison Gay Hockey Association, www.madisongayhockey.org/

Madison Volleyball Group, 608-251-8716

# **RACINE** Community

LGBT Center of

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





# Winner |

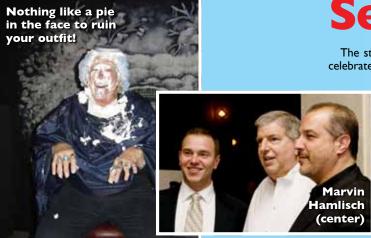
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Wisconsin Gazette •com

A visitor at the Argonauts 35th anniversary party in Green Bay

**Chatting with** 

the maestro



# Seen & heard

The studly leathermen of **Argonauts of Wisconsin** held a banquet Jan. 16 to celebrate the group's 36th anniversary, drawing fans from throughout the state to

**Napalese Lounge** in Green Bay. The festivities included a pie-in-the-face contest and a raffle that raised proceeds to benefit the Argonauts' favorite non-profits. With roots dating back to 1974, the Argonauts is probably the oldest gay organization in Wisconsin. The group has donated more than \$500,000 over the years.

Women's Voices Milwaukee hosted an open house at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center Feb. I to celebrate a year of musical magic. The troupe had a banner year in 2009, culminating with a December holiday performance at the Gay Arts Center.

On Feb. 6, the community center presented a sumptuous breakfast to honor LGBT veterans. Prepared by **Sheldon Walker, aka Chef Shel**, the menu included egg torte (both vegetarian and chicken versions), creole

shrimp and grits, fresh berries, redeye gravy and biscuits and fluffy buttermilk pancakes. Presenters for the event were **Ellen Kozel** from Vets Do Ask Do Tell and **Rick Benoit** from Vets Journey Home.

Marvin Hamlisch was a singular sensation at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, where he conducted the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra playing the music of George Gershwin Feb. 6. Before the performance, Hamlisch mingled with supporters of Cream City Foundation during a champagne and cake reception that benefited Cream City's LGBT work.

— L.W.

PHOTOS: ARGONAUTS: DAVE MOORMAN WOMEN'S VOICES: MAX THOMSEN LGBT VETERANS BREAKFAST: LEONARD SOBCZAK MARVIN HAMLISCH RECEPTION: MAX THOMSEN









Chef She<mark>ldon</mark> Walker

# Feb. 11, Thursday

Tropical Night Club, 626 S. Fifth, hosts Noche De Divas, with a show beginning at 11 p.m. Call 414-630-6055 or 414-460-6277.

The Majestic, 115 King in Madison, has ZOSO -The Ultimate Led Zeppelin Experience at 9 p.m. Call 608-251-2582.

Elizabeth Gilbert, author of "Eat, Pray, Love," is at the Overture Center for the Arts, 201 State in Madison, at 7:30 p.m. Call 608-258-4141.

High Noon Saloon, 701 E. Washington in Madison,

hosts an evening with Gene Ween and Pezzettino at 9 p.m. Call 608-268-1122.

"Pearl Bailey...By Request" runs through Feb. 28 in the Stackner Cabaret at the Milwaukee Repertory Theater, 108 E. Wells. Call 414-224-9490.

The Frequency, 121 W. Main in Madison, welcomes The Bloodsugars with Miles Nielsen at 10 p.m. Call 608-819-8777.

The Brink Lounge, 701 E. Washington #105 in Madison, presents Robert | Duo at 8 p.m. Call 608-661-8599.

# Feb. 12, Friday

Tropical Night Club, 626 S. Fifth, hosts Divas Night, with a show beginning at II p.m. Call 414-630-6055 or 414-460-6277.

Skylight Opera Theater's production of "The Marriage Of Figaro" runs through Feb. 14 at the Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Call 414-291-7800.

The Pub Theater presents "Bye Bye Liver: The Milwaukee Drinking Play," featuring a cast of some of Milwaukee's finest comedy and sketch artists, Fridays

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Boulevard Ensemble Studio Theatre stages the Milwaukee premiere of "lost" Shakespeare play "Love's Labors Won," aka "All's Well That Ends Well," through March 14 at Boulevard Theatre, 2252 S. Kinnickinnic. Call 414-744-5747 or visit www.boulevardtheatre.com.

"The Seafarer" by Colin McPherson runs through March 7 in the Quadracci Powerhouse Theater at Milwaukee Repertory Theater, 108 E. Wells. Call 414-224-9490.

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

Shank Hall, 1434 N. Farwell, presents Substitute: Tales From The Who and Kinda Kinks at 8 p.m. Call 414-276-7288.

Majestic, 115 King in Madison, has Willy Porter with Chris Trapper at 8:30 p.m. Call 608-251-2582.

The Frequency, 121 W. Main in Madison, welcomes The Gusto with where the i divides and The Book of Right On at 10 p.m. Call 608-819-8777.

At 10 p.m., The Henhouse Prowlers and Two Many Banjos are at High Noon Saloon, 701 E. Washington in Madison. Call 608-268-1122. Feb. 13. Saturday

Tropical Night Club, 626 S. Fifth, hosts Noche De Divas, with a show beginning at 11 p.m. Call 414-630-6055 or . 414-460-6277.

Friday Feb. 19, 5-9 p.m.

Bay View Brew Haus, 2535 S. Kinnickinnic, presents Cream City Bluegrass at 9 p.m. Call 414-481-8060.

Three superstars Brazilian music - Luciana Souza, Cyro Baptista, and Romero Lumbabo - perform at 8 p.m. in the Pitman Theatre on the campus of Alverno College, 3400 S. 43rd. Call 414-382-6044.

The Riverside, 116 W. Wisconsin, hosts the Valentine's Weekend Laugh-athon with Sheryl Underwood at 8 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

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

Shelly Faith performs at 7 p.m. at The Brink Lounge, 701 E. Washington #105 in Madison. Call 608-661-8599.

Guitar goddess Shannon Curfman plays the Majestic, 115 King in Madison, at 8:30 p.m. Call 608-251-2582.

The Frequency, 121 W. Main in Madison, hosts the Droids Attack CD release show with Thunderunderus and Wife at 10 p.m. Call 608-819-8777.

High Noon Saloon, 701 E. Washington in Madison, has Bascom Hill at 7 p.m. Call 608-268-1122. Feb. 14, Sunday

Tropical Night Club, 626 S. Fifth, hosts Divas Night, with a show beginning at II p.m. Call 414-630-6055 or 414-460-6277.

Cory Chisel & Dawes play Turner Hall Ballroom, 103 N. 4th, at 8 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

Shank Hall, 1434 N. Farwell, welcomes John Forté at 8 p.m. Call 414-276-7288.

Frank Sinatra Jr. performs at 8 p.m. at The Northern Lights Theater at Potawatomi Bingo Casino, 1721 W. Canal. Call 414-847-7922.

Superstar Runner and

Dirty Penny are at The Frequency, 121 W. Main in Madison, at 8 p.m. Call 608-819-8777.

At 7:30 p.m., Erik Brandt & the Urban Hillbilly Quartet and Old Tin Can String Band play the High Noon Saloon, 701 E. Washington in Madison. Call 608-268-1122.

Feb. 15, Monday

Genesis tribute band The Musical Box performs "A Trick of The Tail" at 8 p.m. at The Pabst, 144 E. Wells. Call 414-286-3663.

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

Majestic, 115 King in Madison, welcomes Daedelus with Nosaj Thing and Jogger at 9 p.m. Call 608-251-2582.

High Noon Saloon, 701 E. Washington in Madison, has Mr. Dibbs, Silentarmy, SecTor7G and Isodynamics at 9 p.m. Call 608-268-1122.

Feb. 16, Tuesday

The Residents play Turner Hall Ballroom, 103 N. 4th, at 8 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

Bay View Brew Haus, 2535 S. Kinnickinnic, presents Ex Fabula at 7 p.m. Call 414-481-8060.

The Northern Lights Theater at Potawatomi Bingo Casino, 1721 W. Canal, welcomes the Neville Brothers with Dr. John at 8 p.m. Call 414-847-7922.

Patrick Borelli performs his one-man multimedia show "You Should Judge a Book by Its Cover" at 6 p.m. at High Noon Saloon, 701 E. Washington in Madison. Call 608-268-1122.

Feb. 17, Wednesday

St. Vincent is at Turner Hall Ballroom, 103 N. 4th, at 8 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

Stage next page

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www.samarastudiosonline.com



Stage from 18

Shank Hall, 1434 N. Farwell, presents Cracker unplugged, featuring David Lowery and Johnny Hickman, at 8 p.m. Call 414-276-7288.

Soulful singer Peabo Bryson performs at 8 p.m. at The Northern Lights Theater at Potawatomi Bingo Casino, 1721 W. Canal. Call 414-847-7922

The Brink Lounge, 701 E. Washington #105 in Madison, welcomes Barb Cheron at 8 p.m. Call 608-661-8599.

The Frequency, 121 W. Main in Madison, has Pseudo Slang with Rob Dz at 9:30 p.m. Call 608-819-8777.

High Noon Saloon, 701 E. Washington in Madison, presents Windsor Drive and Cait & the Girls at 6 p.m. Call 608-268-1122.

# Feb. 18, Thursday

Tropical Night Club, 626 S. Fifth, hosts Noche De Divas, with a show beginning at 11 p.m. Call 414-630-6055 or 414-460-6277.

Milwaukee Chamber Theater's production of "Duet for One" opens tonight and runs through March 14 at Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Call 414-291-7800.

Mary Fahl, former lead singer of October Project, performs at 8 p.m. at Shank Hall, 1434 N. Farwell. Call 414-276-7288.

Rock and roll legend Chuck Berry plays The Northern Lights Theater at Potawatomi Bingo Casino, 1721 W. Canal, at 8 p.m. Call 414-847-7922.

Shakespeare's "Macbeth" opens tonight and runs through Feb. 28 at Off The Wall Theatre, 127 E. Wells. Call 414-327-3552.

High Noon Saloon, 701 E. Washington in Madison, presents Cracker unplugged, featuring David Lowery and Johnny Hickman, at 8 p.m. Call 608-268-1122.

Majestic, 115 King in Madison, welcomes State Radio at 9 p.m. Call 608-251-2582.

John Statz performs at 8 p.m. at The Brink Lounge, 701 E. Washington #105 in Madison. Call 608-661-8599.

The Frequency, 121 W. Main in Madison, (This Is The) Squirrel Hunters at 6 p.m. Call 608-819-8777.

# Feb. 19 Friday

Skylight Opera Theatre presents "Sing-a-Long Wizard of Oz," a limited engagement fundraising event tonight and tomorrow night at 7:30 p.m. in the Cabot Theatre of the Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Call 414-291-7800.

Tropical Night Club, 626 S. Fifth, hosts Divas Night, with a show beginning at 11 p.m. Call 414-630-6055 or 414-460-6277.

The Pabst, 144 E. Wells, hosts Sound Opinions with NPR radio personalities and music critics Jim DeRogatis and Greg Kot at 8 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

The Northern Lights Theater at Potawatomi Bingo Casino, 1721 W. Canal, presents Perple Rain: The Ultimate Tribute to Prince, at 9 p.m. Call 414-847-7922.

Pat McCurdy performs at 8 p.m. at Shank Hall, 1434 N. Farwell. Call 414-276-7288.

The Riverside, 116 Wisconsin, presents the Michael lackson LaserSpectacular at 8 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

At 9 p.m., Fat Andy plays the Bay View Brew Haus, 2535 Ś. Kinnickinnic. Call 414-481-8060

Lotus performs tonight and tomorrow night at 9:30 p.m. at the Majestic, 115 King in Madison. Call 608-251-2582.

The Frequency, 121 W. Main in Madison, has Coloratura with The Treats and Orphan Bloom at 10 p.m. Call 608-819-8777.

High Noon Saloon, 701 E. Washington in Madison, hosts the MuzzleOfBees. com Fifth Anniversary Show with Juniper Tar, Strand of Oaks, Common Loon and White Pines at 9:30 p.m. Call 608-268-1122.

# Feb. 20, Saturday

Metal band Otep, led by its out lesbian namesake, is at The Annex, 1206 Regent in Madison, at 7 p.m.

Tropical Night Club, 626 S. Fifth, hosts Noche De Divas, with a show beginning at II p.m. Call 414-630-6055 or 414-460-6277.

Comedian Patton Oswalt performs at 8 p.m. at The Pabst, 144 E.Wells. Call 414-286-3663.

Shank Hall, 1434 N. Farwell, has Little Blue Crunchy Things at 8 p.m. Call 414-276-7288.

The Riverside, 116 W. Wisconsin, presents Pink Floyd LaserSpectacular at 8 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

The one and only Wilco plays the Overture Center

### for the Arts, 201 State in Madison, at 7:30 p.m. Call 608-258-4141.

The Frequency, 121 W. Main in Madison, welcomes Sondre Lerche and IBM at 9:59 p.m. Call 608-819-8777.

High Noon Saloon, 701 E. Washington in Madison, has Eyedea & Abilities, Dosh and The Crest at 10 p.m. Call 608-268-1122.

# Feb. 21, Sunday

Tropical Night Club, 626 S. Fifth, hosts Divas Night, with a show beginning at II p.m. Call 414-630-6055 or 414-460-6277...

If you missed Sondre Lerche and JBM in Madison last night, catch them at 8 p.m. at Shank Hall, 1434 N. Farwell. Call 414-276-7288.

Feb. 22, Monday Stage page 21 414-277-5040, www.boom-

com. Bar, restaurant,

# Cafe Centraal, 2306 S. Kinnickinnic Ave., 414-755-0378, thecafecentraal.

City Lights, III W. Howard Ave., 414-481-1441. Neighborhood bar.

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

# & ABOUT

lounge.

833 N. Jefferson, 414-765-

0615, elsas.com. Upscale

### MILWAUKEE Elsa's on the Park.

Ballgame, 196 S. Second St., 414-273-7474. Sports bar.

Boom, 625 S. Second St., Fluid, 819 S. Second St., 414-643-5843, fluid.gaymke. com. Cocktail lounge mke.com. Neighborhood

Kenadee's Ultra Pub, 725 N. Milwaukee, 414-431-5556, kenadees. com. Trendy bar. Kruz, 354 E.

National Ave., 414-272-5789. Neighborhood

La Cage, 801 S. Second St., 414-383-8330, www. lacagemke.com. Dance bar.

Mikey's, 811 N. Jefferson, 414-273-5397, mikeysmilwaukee.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





# Galendar

WHAT'S GOING ON?

# **ONGOING**

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

# **THURSDAY**

2:30 p.m., first and third Thursdays, LGBT senior adults discussion, Madison Senior Center, 330 W. Mifflin St., Madison. Info: ferington@charter.net.

6 p.m., third Thursdays, same-sex parents group, OutReach, 600 Williamson St., Madison. Info: 608-255-8582, www.lgbtoutreach.org.

org.
7 p.m., third Thursdays,
Lesbian Alliance movie night,

LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St., Milwaukee. Info: 414-272-9442; 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.

276-6936, 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**

5:30 p.m., second and fourth Fridays, Pozitive Lite HIV/AIDS group, OutReach, 600 Williamson St., Madison.

Info: 608-255-8582, www. lgbtoutreach.org.

6 p.m., second Fridays, Lesbian Alliance game night and potluck, LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St., Milwaukee. Info: 414-272-9442; www.lesbianalliance.org.

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

7 p.m., Gay Narcotics Anonymous, 315 W. Court St., 2nd Fl., Milwaukee. Info: 414-276-6936.

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

# **SATURDAY**

9 a.m., Frontrunners/ Walkers 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.

# **SUNDAY**

I p.m., Cream City

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

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

# **TUESDAY**

12:30 p.m., third Thursday, Retired Old/Older Lesbians (ROLLers), Madison. Info: 608-219-7751.

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, www.galano-club.org.

# **WEDNESDAY**

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

Send listings to managingeditor@ wisconsingazette.com.

# THE NEXT TWO WEEKS

# **FRIDAY**

# Feb. 12

6 p.m., Lesbian Alliance Game Night & Potluck, at the LGBT Community Center of Milwaukee, 315 W. Court St. Bring your favorite game and a dish to pass. Info: Call 414-272-9442.

7:30 - 11:30 p.m., Shoreliner's Dance Night includes both partner lessons and open line dance, Gay Arts Center, 703 S. Second St. For info, call 414-383-3727.

7:30-10 p.m., join the LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin's "Single Me Out" Valentine's Day Mixer at the Radisson Hotel Racine Harborwalk, Zepher Room, at 223 Gaslight Circle in downtown Racine. Attendance is free, but RSVP to programs@lgbt-sewisc.org.

# **SATURDAY**

# Feb. 13

12:30 - 2 p.m., the Moonlighting Career Pathing Group meets at the LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin. For info, go to www.lgbtsewisc.

org/calendar.

8 p.m., Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee holds a Valentine's Dance and silent auction, Milwaukee Marian Center, 3211 S. Lake Dr. Call 414-272-9442 or visit www. lesbianalliance.org.

# **SUNDAY**

### Feb. 14

I p.m., Cream City Squares dance lessons, Lake Park Lutheran Church, Park and Stowell, Milwaukee. Info: 414-461-5359, www.iagsdc. org/creamcity.

org/creamcity.
3-7 p.m., Castaways MC
of Milwaukee Valentine's
Day Beer/Soda Bust, Kruz in
Milwaukee. Info: castawaysrdcapt@aol.com.

7 p.m., "Gay and Straight in Christ" meets the second Sunday of every month at Good Shepherd Catholic Church, N88 W17658 Christman Road, Menomonee Falls. For information call 262-255-2035

# **MONDAY**

# Feb. 15

7:30-8:30 p.m., Our Gender Identity Support Group at the LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin. Info: www. lgbtsewisc.org/calendar,

# **TUESDAY**

# Feb. 16

7:30 p.m., GAMMA members gather for a monthly game of Sheepshead. All skill levels are welcome. Visit www.milwaukeegamma.com for more information.

# WEDNESDAY

# Feb. 17

II a.m.-I p.m., free and confidential HIV testing at The UWM LGBT Resource Center. Contact Warren: wscherer@uwm.edu or 414-229-4116 to schedule an appointment.

7:30-9:30 p.m., free LGBTQA bowling for UWM students. Contact Michael at peerout@uwm.edu (put bowling in the subject line) or call 414-229-4116.

# **THURSDAY**

# Feb. 18

5-9 p.m., OutReach Mardi Gras Party, at The Cardinal Bar, 418 E. Wilson St., Madison. Info: 608-255-8582.

7-9 p.m., country western dance lessons, Gay Arts Center, 703 S. Second St. For info, call 414-383-3727.

7 p.m., Lesbian Night at the Movies, Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St. Call 414-272-9442 or visit www.lesbianalliance. org.

### **FRIDAY**

### Feb. 19

7 p.m., STD Specialties Free HIV/STD testing, Kruz in Milwaukee. Info: 414-264-8800.

8 p.m., Volleyball, Milwaukee GAMMA, Beulah Brinton Center. Info: www. milwaukeegamma.com.

# **SATURDAY**

# Feb. 20

7 p.m., Lesbian Night at the Movies features "Iron



'Iron Jawed Angels'

Jawed Angels," at the LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St.

7 p.m., Monthly Party, Milwaukee GAMMA. Info: www.milwaukeegamma.com.

8-11 p.m., Shaia's Dancin' in the Streets Hafla Belly Dance Party. Bring your favorite music with an R&B theme. \$5 donation at the door. Gay Arts Center, 703 S. Second St. For info, call 414-383-3727.

bridge night. All levels of play are welcome.. Visit www.milwaukeegamma.com for more information.

7:30 p.m., Neil Haven's "Pink Champagne" comes to the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center in a one night only reading featuring Angela lannone. Gay Arts Center, 703 S. Second St. For info, call 414-383-3727.

# **TUESDAY**

# Feb. 23

7:30 p.m., GAMMA's

Want to see your event listed? Send details to managingeditor@ wisconsingazette.com.

# Dining to your heart's content



An intimate dinner, a glass of wine and soft candlelight; what more could you ask for a romantic Valentine's Day dinner?

Well, plenty actually. In this economy, it's not enough for restaurants to throw in some hearts and flowers and call it a "special event." They've got to come up with something special to bring in business. Here are a few places that are making that extra effort to help you put together a memorable romantic evening.

Bartolotta's has coordinated a three-course meal and showing of Chocolat at Discovery World at Pier Wisconsin, 500 N. Harbor Drive. Tickets, priced at \$55 a person, are available for Feb. . 13 and Feb. 14. Call 414-765-8610 for more information.

Are the stars out tonight? You'll find out at a special Valentine's Day star show at the Soref Planetarium at the Milwaukee Public Museum, 800 W. Wells St. Stop in at 7:30 p.m. or 8:30 p.m. Feb. 12, and Feb. 13, or at 3:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 14. Refreshments will be available for purchase, and flowers and candy are included in the \$20 per cou-

Madison. Call 608-268-1122.

Git 'R' Dun with The Black

Saints and Ten Ten at 10 p.m.

Call 608-819-8777.

www.wisconsingazette.com

ple price. Call 414-319-4629 to check on availability.

What could be more romantic than a candlelight stroll through the domes at the Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory? How about adding candy and cocktails! It all takes place on Valentine's Day from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the conservatory, 524 S. Layton Blvd. Special event prices will apply. Call 414-649-9830 for more information.

You don't usually think of a grocery store as a romantic place, but Sanford, 1547 N. Jackson St., is just that. In 1989, this former familyowned grocery store was transformed into a modern and streamlined dining room, where the family's tradition of personalized hospitality evolved into a memorable dining experience. On Valentine's Day, a four-course dinner will be served from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. The cost for a choice of appetizer, entree and dessert with a set soup course is \$85 per person. The few spaces available are expected to fill up fast. Call 414-276-9608 for more information.

Kilawat, 139 E. Kilbourn Ave., takes an entire week to celebrate the holiday. From Feb. 13-Feb. 19, a five-course dinner, a rose for each table, a complimentary amuse and your picture taken at the table are all packaged together at \$65 a person, or \$80 with wine pairings. Call 414-291-4793 for reservations.

Ever since I was a kid I've gotten a giggle when I say, Hotel Pfister. Now you can spend a Blu Valentine's Day at the hotel's upscale restaurant Blu, with a special performance of John Coltrane's jazz classic, "A Love Supreme." Enjoy the romantic views of the skyline as the Antropolio Quartet performs. Treat yourself and your special someone to a taste of Blu's new small plates and sweets menu as you sip on a glass of bubbly from the Valentine's Day Champagne

tasting menu. Call 414-298-3196 for reservations.

Nothing says romance like French, so head over to the Holiday Inn Fond du Lac for a special Valentine's menu on Feb. 13 and 14. Try the crab-stuffed beef tenderloin, an all-you-caneat prime rib dinner or a combo of any two of the restaurant's most popular entrees. All dinners include a glass of champagne, salad bar and strawberry cheesecake topped with a chocolate dipped strawberry. Make your reservation tóday, call 920-924-9112.

Share your holiday recommendations at www.wisconsingazette.com.

Stage from 19

Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. Second, presents a one night only reading of Neil Haven's "Pink Champagne," featuring Angela lannone, at 7:30 p.m. Call 414-383-3727.

High Noon Saloon, 701 E. Washington in Madison, has Anna Wang & the Oh Boys!, A Minute Jack Forum and New People at 6 p.m. Call 608-268-1122.

# Feb. 23, Tuesday

The Brink Lounge, 701 E. Washington #105 in Madison, hosts the Mad Toast Live podcast recording with out musicians Tret Fure and Lojo Russo. Call 608-661-8599.

Platinum-selling recording artist and "American Idol" winner Taylor Hicks stars in "Grease" as "Teen Angel," tonight through Feb. 28 at the Marcus Center For the Performing Arts, at the corner of Water and State. Call 414-273-2787.

The Frequency, 121 W. Main in Madison, welcomes Athel with Cynthia Slaughter at 9:30 p.m. Call 608-819-

High Noon Saloon, 701 E. Washington in Madison, presents Pretenders tribute band Tattooed Love Boys at 6 p.m. Call 608-268-1122.

### Feb. 24. Wednesday

Comedian Rita Rudner is at The Northern Lights Theater at Potawatomi Bingo Casino, 1721 W. Canal, at 8 p.m. Call 414-847-7922.

Alec Ounsworth (of Clap

Feb. 25, Thursday Your Hands Say Yeah) performs at 8 p.m. at High Noon

Tropical Night Club, 626 S. Saloon, 701 E. Washington in Fifth, hosts Noche De Divas, with a show beginning at 11 The Frequency, 121 W. p.m. Call 414-630-6055 or Main in Madison, welcomes 414-460-6277.

Breathe Carolina plays Turner Hall Ballroom, 103 N. 4th, at 6:30 p.m. Call 414-

Young blues diva Shemekia Copeland is at the Majestic, 115 King in Madison, at 8:30 p.m. all 608-251-582.

The Northern Lights Theater at Potawatomi Bingo Casino, 1721 W. Canal, presents comedian

Thea Vidale at 8 p.m. Call 414-847-7922.

High Noon Saloon, 701 E. Washington in Madison, has Family Groove Company and The Hue at 9 p.m. Call 608-

Want to see your event listed? Send details to managingeditor@ wisconsingazette.com.

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www.mam.org

# The Romantic Home

Put romance in your house for Valentine's Day — and beyond



By Kerrie Kennedy Contributing Writer

ooking for a little romance this Valentine's Day? Look no further than your own home. Stepping up the romance factor at home is not only easier than you think, it lasts a lot longer than flowers or chocolate.

According to Chicagobased interior designer Alison Pickart, it's all about adding sensual elements and subtle details that awaken the senses. Here are some simple and inexpensive ways to fall in love with your home all over again:

Fragrance. Believe it or not, fragrance plays an important role in the overall feel of your home. "It sets the tone for a home," Pickart says. Candles are the most obvious way to bring subtle fragrance to a home. From fresh to fruity, floral to exotic, the scent you choose for your home is as personal as the perfume or cologne you choose to

a Voluspa candle in Makassar, Ebony and Peach. "It smells delicious, and the fact that it's black is very unexpected," she says. "I recommend pairing it with an orchid or white lilies on a silver tray next to the bed. This is a sexy candle that crysmeans business."

Lighting. If you want block to clear a party out quickly, try turning on all the lights. While it might seem obvious that harsh lighting is a mood killer, most people don't know that the solution is as simple as a trip to the hardware store.

"Change your bulbs to a lower wattage and use clear instead of frosted bulbs," Pickart advises. "If you want to do something fun and cheeky, pick up some pink or amber-colored bulbs."

To pump up the romantic mood even more, Pickart suggests placing candles on reflective surfaces. "Get a flat mirror intended for wall hanging, pull the hooks off the back of it, and place it on the dining room table," Pickart says her per- she says. "Put the candles in

t a l hold ers on the mirror and the light will bounce off the walls during din-

Luxurious fab**rics.** Soft textures and rich fabrics create a feeling of comfort and sumptuousness - important elements in a romantic home. Nowhere is that more important than the bed.

"Far too many people skimp when it comes to customizing their bedding," Pickart says. If your bed looks a little undernourished, Pickart recommends plumping up the volume with a great duvet cover and

s i z e d pillows and shams. For an instant fix, drop by your local fabric store and buy a couple yards of silk or satin. "It doesn't have to be finished," Pickart says. "Use it to dress the table or throw it on the bed with flower petals on

over-

**Fireplace.** Nothing says romance like a fireplace but what if you don't already have one in your home? Adding a fireplace doesn't have to be an expensive proposition. According to Pickart, today's electric fireplaces are realistic, portable, and even give out a little heat (no pun intended). The

best part: they can be had for as little as \$300. To make your fireplace look a little richer, Pickart recommends either painting the surround or embellishing it with lightweight ceramic tile.

Reading nooks and window seats. What could be more romantic than nestling in a cozy window seat and reading a good book? If you don't already have one built into your home, creating a window seat is not as hard as you'd think, Pickart says.

A window seat can be easily built in front of a window, using cabinetry on either side to balance it out. For a less expensive solution, create a simple reading nook in an unused space. "Get a high back chair – something that can provide a little separation - and a three-paneled screen with a floor lamp, and it's its own little area," she says. "Don't forget a footstool and a side table for your martini."

Spa-like bathrooms. Who doesn't dream of having a spa-like master bath? While it would be wonder-

ful to outfit your bath with a Jacuzzi tub, fireplace, flatscreen TV and oversized shower with body sprays, luxury can be had for much less by simply purchasing new towels (the ultra-thick hotel quality), accessories (in glass and silver) and a

# 'This is a sexy candle that means business.'

rug. Pickart recommends a sheepskin rug from West Elm  $(4 \times 6, \$298)$ . "It's the softest, most luxurious, gorgeously decadent rug," Pickart says - the perfect thing to place in front of your Valentine's Day bubble bath, surrounded by dozens of lit candles.

Turns out, the path to romance is right through your front door.

GRAPHIC: JASON SMITH



# CLASSIFIFDS

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2617 N Grant Blvd. Beautiful all brick 5 bdrm home. 3 half baths, I full bath. 2 fireplaces 2 1/2 car garage fenced yard. \$1400/mo plus sec. Avail Jan I. Call 414-764-4781.

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# Best Downtown Location

Shoreland Manor, 1029 E. Knapp St., downtown High-Rise, I block from lake front bike trail, center of East Town night life, I bdrms starting at \$630/ mo, includes internet & cable, options to customize your space, call Greg at 414-759-1154 for your personal

showing, www.eastmore.com

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# Services

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Tango's Tip: The Wildlife Rehabilitation Center at the Wisconsin Humane Society cares for 5,000 animals a year. We regularly rescue injured animals in the Greater Milwaukee area. If you see an animal who is in distress, call us at 414-431-6204 for help.



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www.dianakostalinsurance.com

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THERAPISTS John Meier (414) 305-3049 www.JohnMeierTherapy.com

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# **Personal forecast**

ARIES: Mixed emotions make it difficult to see anything clearly. You know it's time to change things but you can't decide whether to open your heart or say no to whatever it is that has you wondering what to do next

TAURUS: You can't microwave things that mean this much. Be patient; expect less and stop trying to force what needs to grow naturally.

GEMINI: Too many demands have left your spirit out in the cold. This isn't living. You're crazy if you think that you can keep sacrificing your truer longings for what seems to be an insatiable urge to have it all.

CANCER: Adapting to changes you didn't see coming has you feeling totally insecure. Uncertainty is usually a sign that you're growing. Loosen up. Let it show you where to go.

**LEO:** What other people think matters less than what you need to do for yourself right now. It's your life; what makes you think their plans have anything to do with you?



VIRGO: In the face of a lot of turmoil you can't do much but let it play out. Don't expect this to be a smooth ride. Others will hit the roof when they find you

# You can't microwave things that mean this much.

decided to blow the whistle on their misdemeanors.

LIBRA: Watching people get their just desserts has a certain amount of satisfaction to it. You were right about them all along. As soon as the dust settles the truth will be known.

SCORPIO: This is what happens when things come to an end. Stop whining

about how restricted you feel. It's time to sprout wings and set yourself free.

**SAGITTARIUS:** You're a magnet for people who come on like they're there to help and wind up sucking you dry. You're current involvement is no different. Don't play the fool here.

**CAPRICORN:** You can't see this for what it is. Getting clear about it will eventually change things for the better. As you clean up the confusion stay flexible and be patient.

**AQUARIUS:** You can't control people. And if you can't allow them to be who they are you don't care about them as much as you claim to. No one needs a cop tracking their every move.

PISCES: Much to your surprise someone has turned into a total maniac! Good luck trying to shake them off. Don't even try to take the diplomatic approach. In this situation brutal honesty may be the only remedy.



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