



March 25, 2010 | Vol. 1, No. 10

Candidate's wife goes 'on the warpath' over gay video

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

A Wisconsin Tea Party rally boiled over March 13 when a congressional candidate showed video of his Republican rival at a gay wedding.

Candidate Dan Mielke called police after Rachel Duffy, the wife of his opponent, attacked his display table at the rally in an effort to stop him from playing the video on his laptop computer.

The video showed Rachel and Sean Duffy celebrating the 2003 nuptials of a male couple the Duffys apparently know through their involvement with MTV's "The Real World." The Duffys appeared on the series

411 ON 911

Listen to the 911 and security calls at www.wisconsin-gazette.com/images/stories/issues/120.wav.

in 1997.

Duffy was the first candidate to be endorsed by Sarah Palin for the 2010 congressional races.

Mielke said Rachel Duffy approached his table and demanded that he stop showing the video. When he refused, "she started yelling at me and tearing the signs off my table," Mielke said.

According to Mielke, he Video page 4



PHOTO: AP/MATTHEW SHARPE

Constance McMillen, an 18-year-old senior at Itawamba County Agricultural High School, shows a marking on her arm containing a quote from "Hamlet": "To thine own self be true."

Prom dispute waltzes into court

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Prom season typically arrives with some minor teen drama and angst.

Will he say yes? Will she ask me?

Long or short dress? Black or white tux?

Dance or play it cool?

Prom season only occasionally brings a hasty lesson in constitutional law for the student and a lawsuit against a school board, but that's the case for senior Constance McMillen, 18, who wanted to bring her girlfriend to

the big dance at Itawamba Agricultural High School in Fulton, Miss., April 2.

The local school board decided to cancel the event rather than accommodate McMillen.

McMillen's quest to bring a same-sex date to the prom has become a national cause, with the American Civil Liberties Union representing her in a federal complaint against the school district, LGBT leaders across the country praising her for a heroic fight, numerous organizations and phi-

lanthropists offering to sponsor an alternative prom and a Facebook-based push for sympathizers to participate in the Nationwide Equality Prom and dress in evening wear April 2.

"It's wonderful that so many people have come forward to support Constance, and we hope that support helps convince the school that it should treat all of its students fairly and equally," said ACLU of Mississippi legal director Kristy Bennett. "Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students have a

right to be open and honest about who they are at school, and schools shouldn't treat any students worse or differently because of who they are."

A DANCE INVITATION

On Feb. 5, a letter went out to the juniors and seniors of Itawamba Agricultural High School about the prom to be held in the school commons.

The letter stated that student organizers had decided to forego a formal banquet and instead serve

"heavy hors d'ouvres" and that those who wanted to attend must buy tickets for themselves and their guests by March 5.

The letter also stated that each junior or senior could bring one guest, who must be at least a freshman and "of the opposite sex."

The notice posed a problem for McMillen, who has said she just wants her "prom experience to be the same as all of the other students, a night to remember with the person I'm dating."

Prom page 10

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LGBT news with a twist



WIGWAG

By Lisa Neff & Louis Weisberg

VATICAN'S MALE HOOKERS

A corruption probe in the awarding of public works contracts by Italy's Civil Protection Agency has unearthed an alleged gay prostitution ring involving Vatican officials.

Angelo Balducci, a former member of the board of Italy's public works department and a consultant to the Vatican on major construction projects, was jailed for his role in the alleged scheme. He formerly served in The Gentlemen of His Holiness, an elite group of ushers who serve visiting Vatican dignitaries.

La Repubblica reported that Balducci, a married man, was provided young men, including seminarians, by a Vatican choir performer.

In a wiretapped conversation leaked to the Italian media, one of the alleged ringmasters of the scheme explains the job to

a prospective Vatican male hooker: "Do not break his cock! You need the money ... put a little music, you take out the (inaudible) ... you drop the Viagra there. And away!"

KISS

The Washington Post reported that 27 customers canceled subscriptions to protest a page-one photo of two men kissing – lightly – outside a D.C. courthouse the day the district began issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples. One reader wrote, "That kind of stuff makes normal people want to throw up." The Post defended the editorial decision: "There was a time, after court-ordered integration, when readers complained about front-page photos of blacks mixing with whites. Today, photo images of same-sex couples capture the same reality of societal change."

KISS, KISS

The winner of the first leg of the Giro d'Italia bicycle race usually gets a kiss from two women in miniskirts after crossing the finish line in Amsterdam. But maybe not this year. A left-wing party in Amsterdam has proposed that the winner of the leg, which is set for May 8, get a smooch from two men – not necessarily wearing miniskirts. The Green Left party maintains that one in 10 riders is gay. So, why not?

CUFFED

Atlanta police recently arrested a man for allegedly making terroristic threats. The alleged target was Elton John, and the arrest was based on the content of a video the defendant, Neal Horsley, posted on YouTube.

In the video, Horsley held a sign that read "Elton John must die" as he stood outside the musician's Atlanta condo. Horsley also denounced as blasphemy John's statement in February that Jesus was a "compassionate, super-intelligent gay man who understood human problems." But he didn't say he's more popular than God.

WEDDING CAKE – AND ICE CREAM

Ben & Jerry co-founder Jerry Greenfield attended the wedding of a gay couple in one of the ice cream maker's stores in D.C.'s Georgetown neighborhood.

Keith Spangler-Vellios and Andreas Vellios were previously married in San Francisco in 2004, but same-sex marriages in California were invalidated. The two have been together for 11 years and have twin 1/2-year-olds.

Ben & Jerry's symbolically changed the name of its ice cream flavor "Chubby Hubby" to "Hubby Hubby" in 2009 after the company's home state of Vermont recognized same-sex marriages.

'ANNA NICOLE,' THE OPERA

A new opera titled "Anna Nicole" will premiere Feb. 17, 2011, at the Royal Opera House, one of the United Kingdom's most venerable cultural institutions. Based on the tabloid-style life of the late Anna Nicole Smith, the opera is being co-written by composer Mark-Anthony Turnage and Richard Thomas – the duo who created the West End hit "Jerry Springer."

ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION

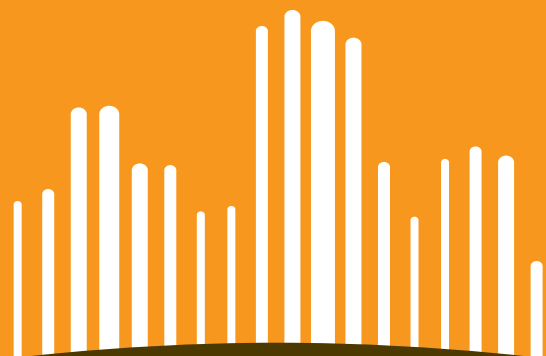
A 55-year-old businessman from Kolkata, India, had emergency surgery after suffering from an erection

that lasted for 21 days. The potentially fatal condition was not the result of Viagra – he hadn't even taken the drug – but rather from a rare neurological disorder. The man was treated at Wockhardt Hospital. Yes, that's the hospital's real name, according to The Times of India.

GOT GAYME

Xbox Live gamers can now create profiles that use "gay," "lesbian" and "transgender" as identifiers. Use of the words in a profile in the past would have triggered the suspension of accounts. "I'd like to announce an update ... which will allow our members to more freely express their race, nationality, religion and sexual orientation," Xbox Live general manager Marc Whitten stated. Now, to get rid of the rigidly defined his and her clothing for Wii's Mii characters.

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> Heroes & Villains

HERO

This spring, in high schools large and small across the country, students are renting tuxedos, shopping for gowns and preparing for prom.

Students were doing just that in Fulton, Miss., where Itawamba Agricultural High School's prom was set for April 2.

Earlier in March, the Itawamba County School District Board of Education elected to cancel the dance rather than allow 18-year-old student Constance McMillen to attend with her date, another girl, and wear a tuxedo.

McMillen is now at the forefront of a federal legal fight to reverse the board's decision, return the dance on the school calendar and attend with her girlfriend.

The gutsy student has, in this battle, become a national activist for LGBT youth and a moving pro-

ponent of freedoms of expression and association.

Her fight is one not only for the Itawamba Agricultural High School yearbook but one for the history books.

VILLAIN

Sean Duffy, who hopes to unseat U.S. Rep. David Obey in Wisconsin's 7th Congressional District, says he believes "in the definition of marriage as a union between one man and one woman."

But in 2003, before he decided to run for Congress, Duffy attended the wedding ceremony of two gay friends. According to a video of the nuptials, he was quite upbeat and congratulatory about it.

It's particularly ugly when a person like Duffy, a former star of MTV's "The Real World," comes out against same-sex marriage for political expedi-

ency. If he's willing to betray friends who shared one of the most momentous events of their lives with him, how can voters trust him?

The last thing Washington needs is another duplicitous lawmaker who's only too willing to re-package himself in order to get elected. No wonder Sarah Palin endorsed him.

*The good,
the bad...*

Got someone to recommend for WiG's Heroes & Villains column? E-mail WiG at managingeditor@wisconsin-gazette.com.

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The Pabst

Wisconsin HIV/AIDS groups seeking new prevention funding for gay, bi men

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

AIDS service providers in Wisconsin plan to ask for increased HIV-prevention funding in the wake of new data showing the epidemic continues to disproportionately impact gay and bisexual men.

An analysis released by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in mid-March found the rate of new HIV diagnoses nationally among gay and bisexual men is more than 44 times that of other men and more than 40 times that of women.

The new CDC analysis also found the rate of primary and secondary syphilis among gay and bisexual men is more than 46 times that of other men and more than 71 times that of women. Syphilis infection facilitates the sexual transmission of HIV and is believed by the CDC to be a factor underlying a resurgent HIV epidemic among young African-American men who have sex with men (MSMs) in Milwaukee.

"While the heavy toll of HIV and syphilis among

gay and bisexual men has been long recognized, this analysis shows just how stark the health disparities are between this and other populations," said Dr. Kevin Fenton, director of the CDC's National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention.

In Wisconsin, the HIV/AIDS epidemic "is driven to a greater extent by male-to-male sex than is the case nationally," said Mari Gasiorowicz, an epidemiologist with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services' AIDS/HIV Program. She used the CDC's recent data to calculate that finding.

None of the new numbers surprise the state's AIDS service organizations. About 54 percent of the patients served by AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin are gay and bisexual men, according to chief operating officer Mike Gifford, even though the CDC estimates that MSMs comprise only 4 percent of the male population in the United States.

ARCW plans to seek one million dollars in new preven-

tion funding for programs that specifically target gay and bisexual men. "That should be a combination of federal, state and local resources," Gifford said.

ARCW will use the money to pay for prevention outreach personnel who will work within the gay community to "implement behavioral interventions that have been researched and tested and evaluated to be effective in reducing HIV risk behaviors," Gifford said.

One example of such an intervention is "D-Up," a grassroots program that identifies opinion leaders in targeted communities and trains them to become on-the-ground advocates for harm reduction. They counsel their communities on effective condom use and teach people how to negotiate safer sexual practices with their partners.

"It's important for people to understand that this intervention and others that ARCW is proposing have been studied and have been found to reduce the rate of unprotected anal sex by 44

About 54 percent of the patients served by AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin are gay and bisexual men.

percent and increase condom usage on a regular basis by 30 percent," Gifford said.

Karen Dotson, executive director of Madison-based AIDS Network, said her organization's prevention outreach workers have helped counties in south central Wisconsin avoid the upward trend in HIV infections that are being observed in Milwaukee and elsewhere in the state.

"The number of new cases per year peaked there in 2006, but they have gone

down for the last three years," Dotson said.

Dotson said the collaborative relationships that AIDS Network has formed with other community clinics and local health departments have been instrumental to her outreach workers' success. "It takes more than just us," she said. "We have to have a collaborative effort and we do that."

AIDS Network already has applied for new federal funding to target MSMs in its region. In the meantime, the organization is using unrestricted grants to maintain its prevention outreach services.

HIV-prevention funding in Wisconsin has remained frozen for several years, due largely to fiscal constraints. Gifford said that total government HIV-prevention spending in Wisconsin is about \$3.2 million annually.

Additional funding is provided by foundations and individuals. Needle-exchange programs in the state, which have had a significant impact on reducing HIV-transmission among injection-drug users, are financed by the private

sector, Dotson said.

But the economic downturn has eroded private as well as public funding, Dotson said.

"Foundation dollars are being diverted more to women and families," she said. "We're starting to see more of that, probably due to the economy. When you start looking at dollars for men and single men, that's something that some foundations don't believe in."

The recent CDC analysis seems to have generated renewed interest at the federal level in HIV-prevention targeting MSMs.

"It is clear that we will not be able to stop the U.S. HIV epidemic until every affected community, along with health officials nationwide, prioritize the needs of gay and bisexual men with HIV-prevention efforts," Fenton said.

But whether this awareness will translate into more prevention dollars remains to be seen.

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'View at your own risk'

Video gay from I

tried unsuccessfully to persuade Rachel Duffy to leave his leave his property alone. "I thought, 'I'm in trouble here - she's on the warpath,' so I called 911," he said.

Duffy complained to a police officer that she was afraid her children would see the video, Mielke said. So he agreed to tape paper over the computer screen. On the paper, he wrote, "View at your own risk, Sean and Rachel at a gay wedding," Mielke said.

Mielke said the solution was meant to shield the young Duffys from the material while still allowing Tea

Party goers to lift the paper and view the video.

"Sean Duffy, in one scene, hugs the groom and says, 'I'm so happy about you guys getting married,'" Mielke said. In another scene, Rachel Duffy "carries around a banana" in a sexually suggestive manner, according to Mielke.

After he placed paper over the screen, representatives from the Duffy campaign continued to tamper with his table. Mielke said: "Whenever I would leave the table, I would come back and my computer was unplugged."

"I didn't press any charges," Mielke said. "I wasn't trying to create a big incident. I was just trying to campaign."

ON THE WEB

www.popmodal.com/video/4748/Sean-Duffy-Exposed

The Wisconsin Dells Police Department confirmed that no charges were filed.

Mielke, a businessman and organic farmer, said he showed the video to reveal Duffy's hypocrisy. "Duffy has claimed recently that he's 100 percent against homosexuality," Mielke said.

Mielke said he's opposed to "the homosexual lifestyle," including same-sex marriage, but would work in Congress

to ensure the rights of all citizens under the Constitution.

"(Duffy and I) have some pretty big differences and we do not get along," Mielke said. "I have some concerns about his values and where he stands."

Duffy, who is the Ashland County district attorney and has the backing of the state's GOP establishment, is considered the frontrunner in the race to unseat David Obey, the longtime Democratic incumbent from the district, which encompasses northwestern and north central counties.

Obey has received a 70 percent rating from the Human Rights Campaign.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD OFFERS FREE HIV TESTING

Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin is providing free chlamydia and rapid HIV testing throughout Wisconsin every Monday in April. For a list of locations, go to www.ppwi.org.

In addition, Planned Parenthood invites the LGBT community to join its monthly "Sextival" and happy hour, held the fourth Friday of each month at a rotating location in Milwaukee. The March 26, event is at the Horny Goat Hideaway, 2011 S. First St., and includes sex trivia and prizes, condom races, an hourly raffle for sex toys from the Tool Shed, free appetizers and beer specials. For more information, go to www.ppwi.org/events.

OUTREACH OPENS NEW CYBER CENTER

OutReach Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Community Center in Madison unveils its new cyber center at a grand-opening celebration on

April 15 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. The new facility was made possible by an \$11,845 technology grant from the Los Angeles-based David Bohnett Foundation.

"The David Bohnett CyberCenter at OutReach will feature state-of-the-art, high-end technology, and will greatly improve the quality of the work clients of OutReach can produce while they visit our center," said executive director Steve Starkey. "We plan to offer computer classes, because we now have modern equipment to use."

The grand opening is at 600 Williamson St., Suite P-1. It features a brief program, with free food and beverages. The public is invited to attend.

For more information on the event, call 608-255-8582 or e-mail info@lgbtoutreach.org.

BOWLING TOURNAMENT TO SUPPORT AIDS NETWORK

MILMAIDS hosts a benefit bowling tournament April 10 at Badger Bowl, 506 E. Badger Road in Madison. Voters of all skill

levels are invited to participate in the event, which this year raises money for AIDS Network's direct client services.

The registration cost is \$35, which includes bowling, buffet, prizes and a donation. Bowlers can register online at www.milmaidsbowling.com or contact Bret Dougherty at 608-223-0488.

Spectators and bowling fans are also welcome.

GSA FOR SAFE SCHOOLS SEEKS LEADERSHIP NOMINATIONS

The Gay Straight Alliance for Safe Schools is seeking nominations for the Judi Devereux Community Activist and the Educator of the Year awards.

Nominations are open to Wisconsin activists and educators who have demonstrated a commitment to promoting respect for all, especially in a school setting, with an emphasis on LGBT issues.

The nomination deadline is March 31.

Awards will be presented at the 14th annual Celebration of

Leadership May 8 at the Monona Terrace in Madison.

To nominate an educator, go to www.gsaforsafeschools.org/nominate_form.html. To nominate an activist, go to www.gsaforsafeschools.org/nominate_activist_form.html.

—L.W.

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High Court to hear case against Phelps

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

The Rev. Fred Phelps will take his traveling anti-gay road show to Washington, D.C., where the U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to review a lawsuit over Phelps' pickets at the funerals of U.S. soldiers.

Phelps and the members of his Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka, Kan., have for years picketed the funerals of servicemembers killed in Afghanistan and Iraq — not because they object to the wars, but to publicize their claim that God is punishing U.S. soldiers for the nation's tolerance of homosexuality.

One such picket in Maryland, where the Westboro clan carried signs that read "God Hates You," "Thank God for IEDs" and "Thank God for Dead Soldiers," prompted the father of fallen Marine Lance Cpl. Matthew A. Snyder to sue Phelps, Rebekah A. Phelps-Davis, Shirley Phelps-Roper and the church.

Albert Snyder said he is haunted by the demonstration at his son's service, and he has sued for emotional

distress.

At the trial level, a jury in Baltimore awarded the father \$5 million in damages.

A federal appeals court, however, dismissed the suit on First Amendment grounds, finding that the protesters' messages were protected speech.

"As utterly distasteful as

He is haunted by the demonstration at his son's service

these signs are, they involve matters of public concern, including the issues of homosexuals in the military, the sex-abuse scandal within the Catholic Church and the political and moral conduct of the United States and its citizens," appeals Judge Robert B. King wrote for the majority.

King further stated that the signs contained "hyperbolic rhetoric" protected by

the First Amendment.

Snyder appealed that decision to the Supreme Court, which accepted the case in early March.

The three stated questions before the High Court in Snyder v. Phelps are whether:

- The Court's decision in *Hustler Magazine Inc. v. Falwell* applies to two private people.

- The First Amendment's tenet of free speech trumps the First Amendment's guarantee of religious freedom and peaceful assembly.

- An individual attending a private funeral constitutes a captive audience entitled to state protection from unwanted communication.

In the *Hustler* case, which was prompted by a parody suggesting that Falwell engaged in incestuous sex in an outhouse, the High Court ruled that the First Amendment barred the minister from suing the magazine for intentional infliction of emotional distress.

The Court is expected to hear oral arguments in Snyder v. Phelps in the fall, with Snyder represented by attorney Sean Summers of



PHOTO: AP PHOTO/BALTIMORE SUN/JED KIRSCHBAUM

York, Pa., and the Phelps family represented by attorney Margie J. Phelps of Topeka.

In the meantime, the Phelps family continues to picket funerals. Its schedule for March, according to Phelps' Web site, included pickets at the funerals of Sgt. Aaron M. Arthur in South Carolina and Lance Cpl. Garrett W. Gamble in Texas.

Margie M. Phelps, Fred Phelps and Margie J. Phelps demonstrate outside a federal courthouse in Baltimore, where a jury was deliberating whether the church and its members can be held legally liable in a suit brought by Albert Snyder, the father of Lance Cpl. Matthew A. Snyder. The Phelps clan demonstrated at Snyder's funeral in Westminster, Md., in March of 2006.

A demonstration also was planned at the funeral of actor Peter Graves because, Phelps maintains, the entertainment industry promotes a homosexual agenda.

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Dutch fuming at retired U.S. general's comment

The Dutch prime minister March 19 denounced as "irresponsible" a claim by a retired U.S. general that gay Dutch soldiers were partly to blame for allowing Europe's worst massacre since World War II.

Dutch officials, from the Cabinet to the military, were outraged by retired Gen. John Sheehan's remarks at a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing in Washington, D.C.

Sheehan claimed that Dutch military leaders had called the presence of gay soldiers in the army "part of the problem" that allowed Serb forces to overrun the Srebrenica enclave in Bosnia in July 1995 and kill some 8,000 Muslim men.

Dutch troops were serving in the undermanned U.N. peacekeeping force in Srebrenica when they were overrun by heavily armed Serb forces, who went on to

turn the surrounding countryside into killing fields littered with mass graves.

Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende called Sheehan's comments irresponsible and said at his weekly news conference that "these remarks should never have been made."

"Toward Dutch troops – homosexual or heterosexual – it is way off the mark to talk like that about people and the work they do under

very difficult circumstances," he said.

Sheehan, a former NATO commander who retired from the military in 1997, was speaking in opposition to a proposal to allow gays to serve openly in the U.S. military.

Balkenende said he would not take up the issue with President Barack Obama because Sheehan is already retired.

Defense Minister Eimert

van Middelkoop called Sheehan's claim "damaging" and not worthy of a soldier. "I don't want to waste any more words on it," he said.

Gen. Henk van den Breemen, Dutch chief of staff at the time of the Srebrenica genocide, called Sheehan's comments "total nonsense" and denied ever having suggested gays in the army might have played a role in the Srebrenica massacre.

The Netherlands has

a long history of accepting homosexuality, and gays have long been welcome in the country's armed forces – which also allow labor unions.

The leader of one such union, Jan Kleian, was incensed by Sheehan's comments.

"The man is crazy," he told Dutch radio. "It sounds hard, but I can't put it any other way."

– AP

New Media buzzes with gay-rights chatter

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Gay-rights topped blog reports in the first week of March, with 16 percent of the links in the blogosphere taking surfers to stories and commentary on LGBT subjects, according to the Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism.

Bloggers made gay rights a No. 1 topic in the first week of February as well, and gay rights has finished six times as a top five blog topic since January 2009, when PRC cre-

ated its new media index. The weekly survey captures leading reports on blogs and social media to compare with reports in the mainstream press.

The president's call to repeal "don't ask, don't tell," the policy banning gays from serving openly in the Armed Forces, fueled gay-themed blog reports in early March and early February. The legalization of marriage for same-sex couples in Washington, D.C., also captured the attention of writers in the

b'sphere in early March, as did a protest at a Catholic Mass in the Netherlands.

No. 2 in blog topics was the earthquake in Chile, followed by the narrowly focused shutdown of two British digital radio stations at No. 3, U.S. health care reform at No. 4, and a profile of White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel at No. 5.

Meanwhile, in the mainstream media that week, the No. 1 story was health care reform, followed by reports on the world economic cri-

sis, the Chile earthquake, the upcoming mid-term elections and congressional scandal.

The percentage of reports on health care found in mainstream media outlets – Washington Post, The New York Times, etc. – was just


slightly higher than the percentage of blog reports on gay rights.

In its monitoring of tweets on Twitter, the PRC reported that Google storylines dominated the first week of March.

As for clicks on YouTube, the leading Web video site, four out of five videos viewed were about the Feb. 24 drowning of whale trainer Dawn Brancheau at SeaWorld Orlando in Florida.

GET IT OUT THERE!

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Send details to managingeditor@wisconsin-gazette.com.



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{ Editorial }

Proud of PrideFest

Those intoxicating spring-like days of mid-March will probably feel like a distant memory by the time this issue of WiG hits the streets and mailboxes. But it was enough to reassure us that the sun is indeed working its way northward. Summer will return to Wisconsin and, along with it, PrideFest.

In fact, PrideFest was in the midst of unveiling its line-up of performers for this year's event while spring was making its preview performance. As in years past, PrideFest organizers did not disappoint. There is something for everyone in their entertainment selections, all but guaranteeing another banner year for an event that was teetering on bankruptcy just seven years ago, but now stands on firm fiscal ground.

When it was announced that Lena Katina, the lead singer from t.A.T.u., Russia's most successful musical act of all time, would appear at PrideFest, Web sites and bloggers all over the globe were abuzz with the news, shining an international spotlight on Wisconsin's LGBT community. It will be Katina's first solo appearance anywhere.

In addition to Katina and headliners Kathy Griffin, Patti LaBelle and Joan Rivers, PrideFest is presenting some of the best-known LGBT talent in the nation and the region, including lesbian singer/songwriters Melissa Ferrick and Rachel Sage, transsexual dance artist Amanda Lepore and Chicago's Scott Free and Stella and the Heat Birds.

The fact that PrideFest is run entirely by local volunteers makes its achievements all the more impressive. Putting together PrideFest is a laborious and thankless undertaking. Its organizers work long hours behind the scenes, attending to countless and tedious details that go unnoticed because they are handled so effectively. They do this without city funding, without any pay and without nearly enough recognition.

Thanks to their efforts, Wisconsin hosts a Pride celebration every June that undisputedly ranks among the nation's very best. They create a world-class venue where tens of thousands of LGBT people, their families and allies can come together proudly in a spirit of unity and celebration.

Let's look forward to summer with gratitude for PrideFest's organizers, especially board members Scott Gunkel (president), Gary Peterson (secretary), Paul Masterson, Kate Sherry and Greg Hutterer. They remind us each year of just how much our community can accomplish.

> TAKE ACTION!

**PROTEST PROM CANCELLATION
IN MISSISSIPPI**

As detailed in this issue of WiG, a high school in Fulton, Miss., has canceled prom to prevent a lesbian student from wearing a tuxedo and attending with her girlfriend.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Call or e-mail school officials to protest their action. Contact superintendent Teresa McNesse at 662-862-2159 or at tmcneese@itawamba.k12.ms.us and principal Trae Wiygul at 662-862-3104 or at tmiygul@itawamba.k12.ms.us.

{ Letters }

**GAMMA
CELEBRATES 32
YEARS**

Milwaukee GAMMA is proud to announce it is in its 32nd year as a gay social organization.

GAMMA was formed as a sporting group of gay men to play volleyball and softball.

As the years went by, the function of the organization has changed. As a non-profit 501(c)7 organization, GAMMA has become a social organization for the gay community of metro Milwaukee.

GAMMA's monthly newsletter showcases the diversity of the activities it offers its membership. Those activities include monthly parties hosted at members' homes, dining out at local restaurants throughout the Milwaukee area, card game nights (sheepshead, cribbage, bridge) and board game nights. And, there still are running dates, bowling, and, what we are known for – volleyball.

In addition, there are camping trips and destination trips promoted through our calendar.

Other special events occur as individual members come up with them. That is the

key to GAMMA's success over the last 32 years – it is completely membership-driven. The organizational structure allows the individual members to have an impact on the group.

Thanks to GAMMA's Web site and its success as an organization, groups from around the country and international groups have contacted us for information on how we have achieved our success.

Today, GAMMA continues working to identify the wants of the gay community.

As new members come into the organization, we look forward to even more activities added to our monthly calendar.

If you want to see our calendar of events, learn more about our organization, or request an application, please visit our Web site at milwaukeegamma.com.

We look forward to new members helping GAMMA continue to develop and be successful for another 32 years.

Kip Spiering
marketing director
Milwaukee GAMMA

**APOLOGY NOT
ACCEPTED**

California Sen. Roy Ashburn, your prefabricated apology is worthless. Just like every other high profile person who offers a statement such as yours. ...Absolutely worthless.

Try this on for size: "I fucked up! The only poor judgment I demonstrated was not being true to myself no matter the consequences."

You take responsibility for your actions?

How so?

Waiting for someone else to deliver the consequences?

That reeks of victimhood! Grow some balls, man! Be honest with yourself! Publicly admit why you were in this compromising position and decide your own fate.

When you do, your wife and children may sleep better at night. And when you're lying with another man you may do so without guilt or shame.

Melissa Bruns
Milwaukee

Send letters to
managingeditor@wisconsin-gazette.com

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Our mission

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

Dissecting the 'H' word

I had the pleasure of meeting a group of young lesbian feminists recently through a mutual friend.

That friend knows me very well and knows that I have a lot of controversial opinions and a potty mouth to match. So, before introducing me, she warned, "These girls are hard-core feminists. They don't like the words 'bitch' or 'hoe,' so you're going to have to watch what you say around them."

I smiled and assured her that everything would be fine.

The words "bitch" and "hoe" happen to be two very prevalent parts of my vocabulary. I use them casually, most of the time as substitutes for "he" or "she." But other times I'll actually mean that someone is a bitch or was behaving like a hoe.

All of my friends are fine with this language because they know me and they often use the same language. No one takes offense, because no one means anything offensive.

On the off chance that one of us would call the other "hoe" and actually mean it, it would be with a tone of concern – for example, "Hey man, I want to talk to you because you've been sleeping around and lying a lot lately and I want to make sure you're aware of it. I wouldn't want you turning into a hoe."

The feminists were having a good time enjoying drinks with friends when I met them. They were all really friendly and welcoming and made me feel very comfortable, until I used the "h" word. I was referring to a girl who cheated on and lied to my cousin, broke up with him over the phone. She said, "I'm a player and I've been seeing other guys the whole time we've been together. I'm not going to change for you."

In my opinion, based on the explanation she gave, she sounds like a hoe. My cousin was really hurt by her behavior. He was so

Opinion

BY ANGEL SEVILLA

worried that he went for an HIV test. So, I used the "h" word. It seemed fitting at the moment.

One feminist disagreed. "That doesn't make her a hoe, it makes her a liar!" She followed that up with, "What if a guy did that same stuff? What would you call him?" I said, "I'd call him a hoe. What's the difference?"

I quickly realized that their issue with the word wasn't that it meant the girl was being unfaithful, but simply that it was directed at a girl. That made them not want to use the word at all.

What is a hoe then? Is a hoe not a liar and a cheater all wrapped up in one? I tried explaining that the "h" word can be directed at any person who acts like one, not just a female. But they disagreed. They insisted that that word always and only referred to women.

Call me crazy, but that sounds pretty narrow-minded to me. And call me crazy again, but it also sounds pretty sexist.

They didn't want me using the word because they assumed that I only use it toward women. But the only reason they assumed that was because they only think of women when the word is used. That's a sexist thought process.

I don't think of any gender when that word is used. I just think of a slut. Dictionary.com says that hoe is "slang for a prostitute; a whore." Well, correct me if I'm wrong, but we live in a day and age when there are male and female prostitutes alike.

Get with the times, kids!

Got a comment on Angel Sevilla's column? E-mail managingeditor@wisconsin Gazette.com.

Gay (non-) giving

Most younger gays think of the gay community as a place to have fun. And, to be sure, the primary recreational spaces, such as bars, are self-supporting.

But the youngest and newly out gays seem to have little sense that we are a community that needs our ongoing care and support. There are numerous institutions – social service and gay advocacy groups among them – that are far from self-supporting and depend on us all for their survival.

Consider AIDS service providers and LGBT community centers. While some of their funding comes from government grants, private foundations, and wealthy donors, those do not cover their total expenses. They need the rest of us to help fill the gap, particularly during the current economic downturn when other sources are cutting back and are less able to provide support.

I know of no briefer or blunter way to express it than this: If you gain something from the gay community – and all of us do – then give something back. Don't think of it as a donation; think of it as returning a favor.

What do we get from the gay community? To begin with the most obvious, the very newspaper you are reading would not exist without a community of readers, supportive advertisers and gay-friendly venues willing to distribute it.

Another obvious benefit is the variety of bars, establishments and organizations that facilitate socializing with other gay people. Despite the existence of the Internet, a surprising number of people have met good friends or even their life partners through these venues.

If you have HIV, there are medical facilities that specialize in treating the disease. In fact, the powerful drugs

that fight HIV are largely the result of persistent lobbying by gays during the 1980s and early 1990s. To those early advocacy efforts, we owe a great deal and I, for one, owe my life.

LGBT community centers offer psychological counseling services to help you over the rough spots in your life.

You get a birthright to a healthy self-esteem since LGBT people are no longer, as they once were, labeled as criminal, sick or immoral. These are victories won by the gay community over prevailing views at the time.

You gain in more and more places the right to legally marry – or at least form a union that receives some benefits and protections under the law. To many of us older gays, this seems absolutely remarkable. It was an option that I could not even consider in the 1950s and 1960s.

In many places, you have the right not to be discrimi-

Opinion

BY PAUL VARNELL

nated against. In the past, people often were fired when their sexual orientation was discovered. That still happens, but far less frequently now.

Soon you might be able to serve openly in the U. S. military. Imagine the effect on public perceptions of openly gay men and women wearing a military uniform with a few medals and stripes.

If these things are worth anything to you, and surely they are, then send at least a small contribution – say, \$100 – to an LGBT advocacy or social service agency. Most of us can afford that much. Think of it as payment for services rendered or eventually to be rendered.

Writing this column has persuaded me to do just that.

Historical thinking

Earlier in March, I sat in a room in the presence of history.

At least that's what it felt like.

Ted Olson and David Boies, the two lawyers who are arguing for equal marriage in the California Proposition 8 case, were in New York to talk about their experience.

There's no decision in the Prop 8 case yet – closing arguments have yet to be made. But Olson and Boies expect a decision by June.

And they expect it to be pro-gay marriage.

To anyone who followed the testimony while it was happening, this is no surprise. Olson, Boies and their witnesses made eloquent arguments for why gays and lesbians have the right to marry.

They recapped those arguments in a Q&A with warmth and power.

First off, they said, the Supreme Court has already said that marriage is a fundamental right. Not just in *Loving v. Virginia*, the famous case that struck down bans on interracial marriage, but also in cases like one in Wisconsin, which had a law

Opinion

BY JENNIFER VANASCO

against people like domestic abusers marrying. Wisconsin had decided that if you get marriage wrong once, you can't have it again.

The Supreme Court said no. Missouri had a law that if you're in prison for life, you can't marry.

The Supreme Court said no. Marriage is so central that even if you're in prison for life, even if you've married seven times, even if you've abused a previous spouse, you have the right to marry.

That is how important it is.

And therefore, discrimination against the right of gays and lesbians to marry, Olson said, is "wrong, destructive and serves no state purpose."

Second, there is just no evidence to show that gay marriage hurts straight marriage. But there is plenty to prove that not being able to marry hurts not only gay and lesbian people, but also our children.

Even the pro-Prop 8 side

admitted this. When Judge Vaughn Walker asked one of their lawyers if gay marriage would hurt straight marriage, he said, "I don't know."

Sure, the other side keeps saying – over and over again – that it is in the state's interest to "protect" marriage between a man and a woman because they are most likely to procreate and procreation is in the state's interest.

But what Olson and Boies say to that is simply this: No state has ever had a fertility test before granting a marriage license. No state has ever asked a couple about their intention to procreate. So how invested in procreation can the state be?

And finally – the argument from tradition is specious. It's true, Olson and Boies say, that allowing gays and lesbians to marry will change the definition of marriage. But allowing interracial marriage changed the definition of marriage, too.

As Boies said, quoting Justice Kennedy, "The fact that discrimination has gone on a long time doesn't make it fine – it makes it worse."

Watching Olson and

Boies speak gave me shivers, because they laid out a clear pathway to winning. They said that just the fact that they made such a clear case, bringing all the evidence together for the first time, will move the country forward, because it tears down the other side's position.

But even better, their arguments are arguments we can all use when explaining equal marriage to family and colleagues. They are not defensive. They are not overreaching. They are right.

We will win the current Prop 8 trial. And we may win the appellate trial. But Olson and Boies' confidence and solid reasoning made me think for the first time that we will also win the Supreme Court. And if we win California, we will have gone a long way toward winning equal marriage everywhere.

Marriage is coming. And those of us who were in that room last week were lucky enough to meet the men who may help make it happen

The full Olson/Boies Q&A is available at 365gay.com.

NATIONAL GAZE

Wisconsin
Gazette .com

'It's shameful and cowardly'

Prom from I

prom theme is "Stairway to Heaven." The Itawamba prom was on step for federal court.

DANCE OFF

School administrators pledged to enforce the "opposite-sex" rule. They told McMillen that if she and her same-sex date attended, they might be thrown out of the dance. They encouraged McMillen to get two "guys" to escort her and her girlfriend, warned her against slow-dancing with another girl because it might "push people's buttons" and instructed her to wear a dress, not a tux.

With the school rejecting McMillen's request to attend the dance with her girlfriend, the Mississippi Safe Schools Coalition and the ACLU became involved. A common

In early March, the Itawamba County School District Board of Education gave new meaning to "dance off," when it voted to cancel prom rather than allow McMillen to attend with her girlfriend.

After a special meeting March 10, the board issued a statement canceling the dance "due to the distractions to the educational process caused by recent events."

The statement continued, "At this time, we feel that it is in the best interest of the Itawamba County School District, after taking into consideration the education,

DEGENERES AWARDS SCHOLARSHIP

Ellen DeGeneres awarded Constance McMillen, who is suing for the right to attend her high school prom with her girlfriend, with a \$30,000 scholarship.

DeGeneres said she admired McMillen for challenging Itawamba County School District rules.

safety and well being of our students, that the Itawamba County School District not host a junior/senior prom at Itawamba Agricultural High School. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this causes anyone."

McMillen said, "I never thought the school would try to cancel the prom and hurt everyone just to keep me and my girlfriend from going together. All I've ever wanted was to be able to just go to my own school's prom with my girlfriend."

to try to blame Constance, who's only standing up for herself," said ACLU senior attorney Christine P. Sun. "We will fight tooth and nail for the prom to be reinstated for all students."

Several days later, the ACLU asked a federal district court judge to issue a preliminary injunction preventing the cancellation of the dance.

A hearing on that request took place March 22.

The court did not order the district to reinstate the prom, but, in a 12-page opinion, ruled that school officials had violated McMillen's First Amendment rights.

"It feels really good that the court realized that the school was violating my rights and discriminating against me by cancelling the prom," said McMillen, who likely will attend an alternative community dance.

NEXT STEP

On March 11, the ACLU sued the school district and school officials, alleging a violation of McMillen's right to freedom of expression under the First Amendment.

"It's shameful and cowardly of the school district to have canceled the prom and



PHOTO: COURTESY ACLU

Constance McMillen

The ACLU has represented other students in similar disputes with schools, including at least two in the past year.

Last October, in Copiah County, Miss., the ACLU represented a 17-year-old girl who wanted to wear a tuxedo for her yearbook picture.

Last November, the ACLU represented a student in

Franklin County, Ala., who was told she could not attend a dance with another girl.

In that case, the school district reversed its decision.

"The ACLU told us we were infringing on her rights as a student," said Franklin County schools superintendent Gary Smith. "In view of that, we had to let her bring her."

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GOTTA DANCE...

The American Civil Liberties Union's message to LGBT students this spring is that public school officials cannot prohibit a student from bringing a same-sex date to a dance.

In 1980, a Rhode Island teenager successfully sued his school for the right to take his boyfriend to prom. A federal court ruled that taking a same-sex date to prom is a matter of free expression under the First Amendment and told the school that it had to let him go to the prom with his boyfriend.

The ACLU advises students: If you go to a public school and school officials try to prohibit you from bringing a same-sex date to prom, tell them about the case of Aaron Fricke v. Richard B. Lynch. Or contact your local ACLU affiliate or the ACLU's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Project.

For more information, visit www.aclu.org.

- WiG

FROM THE COURTHOUSE TO THE YEARBOOK:**FRICKE V. LYNCH**

Throughout most of his high school years in the late 1970s, Aaron Fricke didn't know anyone who was openly gay.

In his hometown of Cumberland, R.I., a predominantly Roman Catholic town 20 miles north of Providence, growing up gay was grounds for fear and suspicion from adults – including teachers and school administrators – and bloody noses from students.

Ostracized, harassed and taunted by classmates, Fricke struggled to be accepted – and to accept himself.

His early struggle culmi-

nated in a landmark act of rebellion – asking a boy to the junior prom.

But actually attending the prom would require a federal court order.

"Through all of my high school years I had been left out and I was tired of it," Fricke later wrote in his autobiography, "Reflections of a Rock Lobster: A Story About Growing Up Gay." "I wanted to be part of a group like the other students."

Also, he wrote, he wanted to make a political statement to his classmates about his dignity and value as a human being – attending the prom on his terms was a declaration of equal-

ity.

GLAD's 1980 case, *Aaron Fricke v. Richard B. Lynch*, became a milestone in protecting the rights of LGBT students. GLAD founder John Ward and co-counsel argued that the school's action violated Fricke's First Amendment rights of association and free speech, and his 14th Amendment right to equal protection under the law.

The court issued an injunction just in time for the couple to attend the dance.

Fricke wore a powder-blue tuxedo; his date wore navy.

Source: *Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders*

Wisconsin youth are protected by strict laws and school groups

By **Lucky Tomaszek**

Contributing writer

When Tina Owens and her students at Milwaukee's Alliance School heard that the prom at Itawamba Agricultural High School in Mississippi had been canceled, they said, "We should invite them to our prom!"

The Alliance School is a Milwaukee charter school that was created to be "a safe environment where students will be treated fairly regardless of sexuality, ability, appearance, or beliefs," according to the school's mission statement. Many of the students are lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth who were so bullied at their previous schools that they were unable to succeed academically.

"We just hear a lot of stories from kids about having things thrown at them or being called names so bad that they just didn't want to go to school anymore," said Owens, the school's lead teacher. "Students getting jumped just for looking different. We hear these stories

a lot. This is not limited to the LGBTQ community. This is kids from all different backgrounds, ethnicities, appearances, everything."

Ever since the school opened in 2005, Alliance has hosted "an intergenerational prom — and it is a really big, really beautiful event," Owens said. Everyone in the community is invited to attend.

"We sell tickets to adults in the community who may not have gotten to go the prom, or to go with the date of their choice," Owens said. "The prom committee has been working so hard (this year) on creating decorations and making tickets. The whole thing is going to be just beautiful."

This year's prom is May 22. In many ways, The Alliance School, which serves grades 6 through 12, is identical to other schools in the district. It has to meet the basic educational and testing guidelines established by the school board. It has art and gym classes. There are extra-curricular clubs for the

students — a Japan club, a Spanish club, a games club, a theater club and many others. The students form a tight-knit community during their years together and help each other succeed academically and socially.

While the Alliance School is unique, LGBT students throughout Wisconsin are supported by the Gay Straight Alliance for Safe Schools (G-Safe), based in Madison. Gay/straight alliances like G-Safe are active throughout the United States, supporting LGBT students in individual schools and working to raise awareness of LGBT youth in their communities.

Nearly one in four Wisconsin high schools has a GSA or similar club, according to G-Safe's Tim Michael. And the number is growing. Since 2006, about 20 new GSA groups have formed in the state at both the high school and the middle school level, Michael said.

In contrast, Mississippi has only one high school with a GSA, according to Matthew Sheffield, of the Mississippi

Safe School Coalition. He said it's not unusual for young same-sex couples to be excluded from school-sponsored events in his state. "We receive numerous stories from youth across Mississippi who are either explicitly banned from attending prom with a same-sex date, or are implicitly stopped from doing so," he said.

GSA groups in Wisconsin are facilitated by a state statute specifically banning discrimination against students based on sex and sexual orientation. The law extends beyond simple classroom protection and states, "No pupil may be excluded from a public school, or from any school activities or programs, or be denied any benefits or treated in a different manner."

The law makes it very difficult for a public school to refuse to establish a GSA. Additionally, it means that no student could be excluded

from the prom for bringing a same-sex date. But Michael cautioned that just because such exclusions are against the law, "that doesn't mean it isn't happening."

"Students don't know that they can push back against policies like these, so they don't confront the school," he said. "Often, if they feel they will be discriminated against at a school function, they just don't go."

Lt. Gov. Barbara Lawton addressed this issue at a March 5 conference in Oshkosh sponsored by G-Safe and Diverse and Resilient. "It is important that we work with schools to assure that there are trained guidance counselors, that educators receive sensitivity training, that students be allowed and encouraged to start GSAs," Lawton told WiG. "Those things are important. But it is very, very important that students know that it is the law that they are allowed to study and learn free of harassment."

About 350 educators, parents, students and administrators attended the conference. "A state-wide conference that attracted the

Nearly one in four Wisconsin high schools has a gay/straight alliance or similar club.

presence of over 350 people speaks to the fact that there is a wide base of support, and there is a clear need for that support," Lawton said. "We (the conference attendees) agree that we want the students of Wisconsin to feel safe and supported in their schools."

Lawton said although current law protects some LGBT kids, it doesn't go far enough. "It doesn't extend to students' gender identity, though it does pertain to orientation. ... Gender identity should be included." (see story below).

Send letters to managingeditor@wisconsin Gazette.com.

Lawton's speech inspires youth conference

By **Todd Wellman**

Contributing writer

Diverse and Resilient and GSA for Safe Schools (G-Safe) plan to lobby educators and lawmakers to include gender identity expression in the Wisconsin Pupil Nondiscrimination Law.

"We're at the beginning stages of garnering support," said G-Safe executive director Cindy Crane, following the event.

Crane presented the goal following the Lieutenant Governor's Conference on LGBT Youth, held at UW-Oshkosh March 5. Lt. Gov. Barbara Lawton's appear-

ON THE WEB:

GSA for Safe Schools hosts a video on protections in the Pupil Nondiscrimination Law at gsaforsafeschools.org/resources.html#PSA.

ance at the event helped to attract about 350 educators, concerned adults and students — nearly three times the number who attended a comparable conference in 2005, Crane said.

"I personally haven't heard a political leader go

into such depth about laws protecting LGBT youth," Crane said of Lawton's keynote speech.

Crane said including gender identity expression is important because youth are attacked for looking different, regardless of their sexual orientation.

"People confuse sexual orientation with fitting into gender stereotypes," she said. "A simpler way to talk about it would be in terms of masculinity and femininity. Boys who don't seem masculine enough — and girls who don't seem feminine enough."

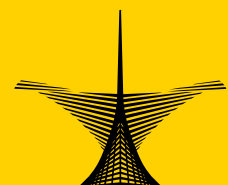
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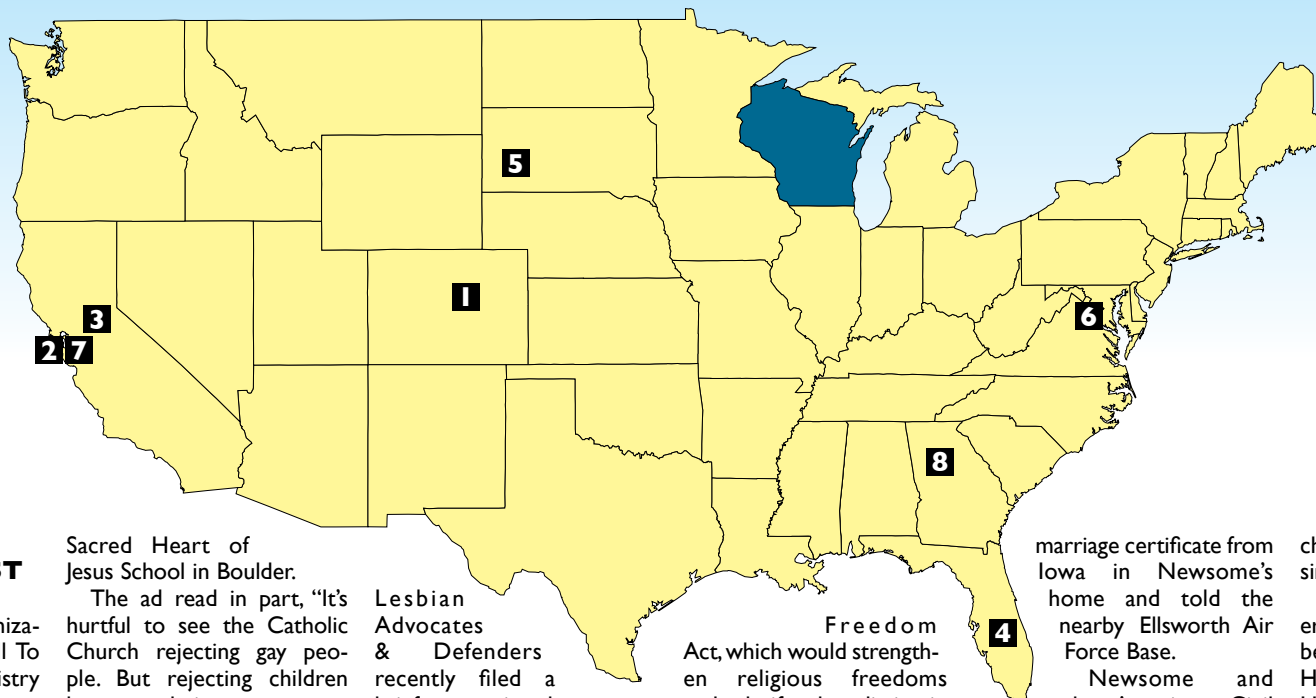
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1. CATHOLIC GROUPS PROTEST IN NEWSPRINT

Four Catholic organizations – DignityUSA, Call To Action, New Ways Ministry and Fortunate Families – recently placed full-page ads in two Colorado papers to protest the Denver Archdiocese's decision to bar the children of a lesbian couple from re-enrolling in the

Sacred Heart of Jesus School in Boulder.

The ad read in part, "It's hurtful to see the Catholic Church rejecting gay people. But rejecting children because their parents are gay? That hurt can last a lifetime."

2. GROUPS BACK SCHOOL IN SUIT

Lambda Legal and Gay and

Lesbian Advocates & Defenders recently filed a brief supporting the University of California Hastings Law School in defending its non-discrimination policy before the U.S. Supreme Court.

The Christian Legal Society has sued the school, challenging its requirement that school-sanctioned student organizations agree not to discriminate against students based on their status or beliefs.

Hastings, in 2004, denied CLS registration as an official campus organization after CLS refused to comply with the school's non-discrimination policy.

CLS said that it could not comply because it requires that those who join its group to agree not to engage in "unrepentant participation in or advocacy of a sexually immoral lifestyle" including "homosexual conduct."

3. LAWMAKERS FACE 13 PRO-LGBT MEASURES

California lawmakers face 13 measures promoted by Equality California, the state's LGBT civil rights group.

"At a time when all we hear about is gridlock in Washington, D.C., EQCA is aggressively pushing an agenda to continue advancing equality in California," said the group's executive director Geoff Kors.

The agenda includes:

- Civil Marriage Religious

Freedom Act, which would strengthen religious freedoms and clarify the distinction between civil and religious marriage in state law.

- Minor Mental Health Consent bill, which would allow youth who might be at risk of emotional or physical abuse to see a mental health professional without parental consent.

- LGBT Prisoner Safety Act, which would help protect LGBT prisoners from physical abuse.

4. RESORT BACKS PARTNERSHIP BENEFITS

The Kissimmee City Commission in Florida voted four-to-one vote to extend domestic partnership benefits to its LGBT city employees.

City Commissioner Cheryl Grieb led the effort with support from Equality Florida, the statewide LGBT group.

Kissimmee, with its proximity to the Walt Disney World parks, is a major Florida destination.

5. LESBIAN DISCHARGED FROM AIR FORCE

Jene Newsome played by the rules as an Air Force sergeant: She never told anyone in the military she's a lesbian.

Her honorable discharge under the U.S. military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy came only after police officers in Rapid City, S.D., saw a

marriage certificate from Iowa in Newsome's home and told the nearby Ellsworth Air Force Base.

Newsome and the American Civil Liberties Union have since filed a complaint against the police department, claiming the officers violated her privacy when they informed the military about her sexual orientation.

The RCPD says Newsome was not cooperative when officers showed up at her home in November with an arrest warrant for her partner, who was wanted on theft charges in Fairbanks, Alaska.

6. D.C. CATHOLIC CHARITIES ADDS HIRING CONDITION

The Archdiocese of Washington's Catholic Charities will require new employees to sign a letter saying they will not "violate the principles or tenets" of the church.

Spokesman Erik Salmi said the move was not a result of a new same-sex marriage law in the district that prompted recent changes to Catholic Charities health benefits.

The new language, he said, "is more of an expectation than a condition."

7. S.F. POLICE PROBE BB-GUN SHOOTINGS

San Francisco prosecutors who have charged three cousins with a hate crime for shooting a San Francisco man with a BB gun because they thought he was gay may

charge the suspects in 11 similar shootings.

A video recording recovered by police from a car belonging to Mohammad Habibzada, 24, and Shafiq Hashemi and Sayed Bassam, both 21, show the cousins shooting at the other victims, San Francisco assistant District Attorney Brian Buckelew said.

No serious injuries have been reported from the 11 additional shootings.

8. DEFENDANTS CLEARED IN ATLANTA RAID

An Atlanta judge recently found three defendants in a case spawned by a late-night raid on a crowded gay bar not guilty.

Municipal Judge Crystal Gaines tossed out charges against the other five defendants in the case that accused men of dancing naked without permits and operators of the Atlanta Eagle with running an unlicensed adult establishment.

Each violation carried a maximum punishment of six months in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

A national gay rights group filed a federal lawsuit against the city of Atlanta and the Atlanta Police Department, accusing authorities of illegally searching patrons during the Sept. 10, 2009, raid.

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Couples celebrate historic weddings in Mexico City

From AP Reports

Two glowing brides in matching white gowns and four other same-sex couples made history in Mexico City earlier this month as they wed under Latin America's first law that explicitly approves gay marriage.

Mayor Marcelo Ebrard was a guest of honor at the weddings of Judith Vazquez and Lol Kin Castaneda and the other couples who tied the knot in a city building, despite harsh criticism from the Roman Catholic Church and a campaign against the measure by President Felipe Calderon's conservative National Action Party.

Vazquez, a 45-year-old small-business owner, and Castaneda, a 33-year-old psychologist, signed and put their thumbprints on the official documents. Then they sealed their union with a kiss amid cheers from family and friends gathered in the colonial-era building's courtyard, decorated with calla lilies, banners with the colors of Mexico's flag and a sign that read "Tolerance, Liberty, Equality, Solidarity."

"This is the mark of freedom," said Vazquez, raising her thumb.

Vazquez said she and Castaneda have considered themselves married ever since they moved in together six years ago.

"The difference today is that the state will recognize it," she said while getting her hair done at home before the wedding. "This is a victory for all. ... For us this is a day of celebration."

Mexico City's legislature passed the first law explicitly giving gay marriages the same status as heterosexual ones in December. The legislation also allows same-sex couples to adopt children.

They sealed their union with a kiss amid cheers from family and friends.

For now the law applies only to residents of Mexico City, though a marriage performed in one state must be recognized in the rest of the country.

"Today is a historic day in Mexico City," said Judge Hegel Cortes, who officiated the weddings. "With the signing of these marriage certificates, we leave behind the traditional idea of a family and we allow for two people, regardless of sexual orientation, to get married."

Mexico's same-sex weddings were not the first of their kind in Latin America, although they are the first approved under legislative authority.

In December, two Argentine men were wed in a civil ceremony by a sympathetic governor and with court approval. But interpretations vary on whether Argentine law allows same-sex unions, and the question is now before that country's Supreme Court.

Argentina's constitution is silent on whether marriage must be between a man and a woman, effectively leaving the matter to provincial officials. A law specifically legalizing gay marriage has stalled in the nation's congress since October.

The new law in Mexico's

capital district, which is home to roughly 8 million people, has been closely watched in the United States, where same-sex marriage is legal in the District of Columbia, Massachusetts, Iowa, Vermont, Connecticut and New Hampshire.

In New York, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force spokesman Pedro Julio Serrano cheered the milestone.

"People in the United States can look up to Mexico City and see a courageous legislature taking a stand," he said. "It's a model to follow."

Federal prosecutors are attempting to overturn the law, which Mexico City lawmakers argue simply gives same-sex couples the rights that heterosexual couples have regarding social security and other benefits.

The Catholic Church has hotly criticized the law, especially its provision letting same-sex couples adopt children — something several couples said they are considering.

Earlier in March, the Archdiocese of Mexico accused the city government of approving a "perverse and immoral law."

"It may be legal, but it will never be moral," spokesman Hugo Valdemar Romero said in a statement.

Outside the city building, about two dozen protesters held banners that read "one man plus one woman equals marriage."

"A family is formed by a father and a mother," said Teresa Vazquez, a 51-year-old homemaker and member of a group opposed to same-sex marriage. "And I don't agree with their idea that a couple of two men is a family, because it's not and it's a bad example for children."



PHOTO: AP/ EDUARDO VERDUGO

Emma Villanueva, left, kisses Yanis Alva after getting married at city hall in Mexico City March 11. Daughter Gala attended the ceremony.

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INTERNATIONAL GAZE

Wisconsin
Gazette .com**IN PAYING FOR
SEX CHANGES,
CUBA BREAKS
FROM PAST**

Looking in the mirror used to make Yliam Gonzalez sick to her stomach.

"I would see myself, and my body didn't match who I was," said the 28-year-old wedding pianist, who went by William before undergoing a sex change under Cuba's universal health care system.

Gonzalez is proof of a small but remarkable transformation for the rugged revolution of Fidel Castro, Che Guevara and a band of ever-macho, bearded rebels, who long punished LGBT Cubans. Now they are paying for sex changes.

The operations have begun anew under President Raul Castro's daughter Mariela, Cuba's top gay rights activist, and 22 more transgender people are waiting to have the surgery.

Mariela Castro says the government is moving cautiously, doing only a few per year.

"There has been a lot of resistance because

homophobia remains strong in our culture," she said at a recent conference on sexuality.

In the 1960s, Cuba was ferociously anti-gay, firing gays from state jobs, imprisoning them or sending them to work camps. Many fled into exile. Transsexuals, though not gay, were considered the same.

While gay jokes remain as common as shots of strong espresso in Cuba, government media campaigns now discourage homophobia. Hundreds of gay Cubans marched down Havana's spiffy "La Rampa" boulevard last spring, just a year after authorities had forbidden a gay Pride parade.

"I'd like to think that discrimination against homosexuals is a problem that is being overcome," former President Fidel Castro said during a series of interviews with French journalist Ignacio Ramonet between 2003 and 2005. "Old prejudices and narrow-mindedness will increasingly be things of the past."

Mariela Castro has seen to



Mariela Castro, Cuba's leading LGBT civil rights advocate

PHOTO: COURTESY OF GLHRC

it that the state formally recognizes transsexuals. A state-trained kindergarten teacher with a degree in sexuality, she runs the National Sexual Education Center. It spent years lobbying communist officials, who finally agreed to lift bans on sex changes in 2008 – though the resolution was never made public to avoid unwanted attention.

**GROUPS PRESS
FOR REFORM IN
TURKEY**

The slayings this winter of two transgender women in Turkey highlight a pattern of violence and the need for stronger protection from the government, stated four Turkish and international human rights organizations in a letter to Turkish authorities.

The groups called on Turkey to remedy the conditions that place transgender people at risk from acts of violence by enacting anti-

discrimination protections, instituting programs to combat prejudice and hatred and repealing laws that provide an opportunity for police to harass stigmatized groups. The letter was sent by Pembe Hayat (Pink Life), Human Rights Watch, the European Region of the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association and the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission.

"Protecting people and preventing violence means more than investigating after the fact," said Juliana Cano Nieto of HRW. "Without meaningful government action to affirm their rights and ensure their safety, transgender people in Turkey will continue to live in fear."

Since November 2008, at least eight transgender people have been murdered in Istanbul and Ankara.

**SCHOLAR SIR
KENNETH DOVER
DIES AT 89**

Sir Kenneth Dover, a distinguished historian of Greek culture who gained fame by admitting his wish to kill a troublesome colleague, has died at 89.

Dover died in a hospital in Cupar, Scotland, St Andrews University announced, without disclosing the cause of death.

Dover shockingly admitted his loathing for Trevor Aston, a fellow historian at Corpus Christi College in Oxford University, in his 1994 autobiography, "Marginal Comment." Aston, according to Dover, had become an embarrassment because of his drunken and irrational behavior.

In a brilliant academic career capped by his 1978 election as president of the Royal Academy, Dover caused ripples with candid work on sexuality.

His 1968 commentary on Aristophanes' play "Clouds" elucidated the sexual jokes in the text. Ten years later, he produced "Greek Homosexuality," in which his liberal attitude was ahead of the times.

"No argument which purports to show that homosexuality in general is natural or unnatural, healthy or morbid, legal or illegal, in conformity with God's will or contrary to it, tells me whether any particular homosexual act is morally right or morally wrong," Dover wrote.

"No act is sanctified, and none is debased, simply by having a genital dimension."

Dover was on the faculty of St Andrews University from 1955 to 1976 before taking the Oxford appointment (1976-86) and was chancellor of St Andrews from 1981 to 2005.

— from AP and
WiG reports

Wisconsin
Gazette .com

Art Gaze, a bi-weekly look at Milwaukee's vibrant art scene, launches April 8. You'll find in-depth features, interviews, previews and reviews by veteran art historians and writers Debra Brehmer and Katherine Murrell.

ART GAZE

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WIGOUT!

WISCONSIN GAZETTE ENTERTAINMENT

Music from the heart

Owen Pallett discusses the influences behind his critically acclaimed album 'Heartland'

By Gregg Shapiro

Staff writer

'Heartland,' by out musician Owen Pallett (formerly Final Fantasy), is already being hailed as one of the best albums of 2010. As lush and symphonic as it is percussive and poppy, "Heartland" (from Domino) contains a cycle of a dozen songs that are essentially monologues by a fictitious character named Lewis. He's described as a "young, ultra-violent farmer" in a world called Spectrum, and he's struggling to come to grips with his creator – "a supreme deity named Owen."

From the Beach Boys-style "Lewis Takes Action" to the futuristic soundtrack of "The Great Elsewhere" to the Blue Nile beat of "Lewis Takes Off His Shirt" and the super sexy "Tryst With Mephistopheles," "Heartland" is as wondrous as anything you're likely to hear this year.

I spoke with Pallett shortly before he embarked on the first leg of a tour that will bring him to Milwaukee April 12.

Gregg Shapiro: On "Heartland," it's possible to detect the influences of opera and classical music, as well as a sort of Broadway musical influence.

OP: You feel that? I hear that a few times, but I'm not at all (laughs) a Broadway guy.

GS: What is involved in the process of incorporating your various influences into your

compositions?

OP: Well, regarding all the things that you just described – classical and operatic – I can't deny that my music is going to come from that perspective, seeing that I'm working with the symphony as my tool.

But I was really inspired the most for this record by synth-pop. You'll notice every song on the record is very metronomic. There are very few moments where you actually feel the orchestra is the living, breathing organic instrument that it is in classical music and opera. ... All the structures of the songs are much more verse/

ON STAGE: Out musician Owen Pallett performs at 8 p.m. April 12, at Milwaukee's Turner Hall Ballroom, 103 N. Fourth St. Call 414-286-3663.

chorus/verse/chorus (laughs) as opposed to having these developmental sections in between.

GS: Do your classical and operatic influences have anything to do with "Heartland" and "He Poos Clouds" being "song cycles"?

OP: I don't know where that really comes from. I would say that that's more of a literary influence than anything. ... With "Heartland," it wasn't so much that I wanted to create a concept record or a song cycle or any of these things. I wanted to create independent songs that

each had these signifiers that alluded to a larger mythology.

GS: So for a concert, do you perform "Heartland" in its entirety, in order from start to finish?

Interview

WIGOUT

OP: I want "Heartland" to be very strong as an album, but also, in the live context, to be segmented and presented as pop hits. I hesitate to really describe "Heartland" as a concept album. ... When you do look historically at concept albums, such as (David Bowie's) "Ziggy Stardust," for example, you can pull "Moonage Daydream" or "Starman" ... well "Starman" is a really good example, because that song is pretty explicitly about what's going on in the realm of the album. But it makes total sense outside of it.

GS: I detected a Brian Wilson/Beach Boys influence on "Lewis Takes Action" and Van Dyke Parks on "Flare Gun." Do you count either or both among your influences?

OP: Absolutely! Totally! It's really interesting to me because music writers love to throw around Brian Wilson all the time. Whenever they hear layered vocals, they tend to mention Brian Wilson, which is kind of cool, because it does kind of sound like Brian Wilson.

GS: I think I detected



Owen Pallett performs April 12 in Milwaukee.

some homoeroticism in lyrics to songs such as "The Great Elsewhere" and "Tryst With Mephistopheles." Am I correct?

OP: Yes! I tend not to think about what (kind of an effect) gay language is going to have on the ears of the listeners, just because I tend not to think about that in my day-to-day life (laughs). I don't go around giving out explicit details of my sex life. (But) talking about some man being attractive is not something I would ever censor myself from talking about in any situation, even if it's (in front of) my grandmother.

I don't think most gay men would censor themselves in front of their grandmothers

in that regard. But it is interesting when the song is written and recorded and you come back to it, and you're like, "Whoa! This is a pretty gay thing!"

GS: Would you say that being gay influences your work?

OP: I've been asked this countless times and I really don't have a good answer for it. I think that it's just going to influence it subconsciously. With me, it's very subconscious (laughs).

GS: There is a community of gay artists within your musical and creative circle, including Pet Shop Boys and Ed Droste of Grizzly Bear. Do you see a place for yourself in that realm or do you feel outside of it?

OP: It's interesting. I think the term "gay mafia" gets swung around (laughs). And certainly there are times when I look around a room and I think, "Wow! I'm in this room with a lot of famous gay musicians." But I don't think there's any real clear associations that you can make. There's really no similarity between the way I'm living my life and the way the Pet Shop Boys are living their lives. We certainly have a mutual appreciation for each other, but I'm not at the stage where I'd ever be photographed on the red carpet with Lady Gaga, whereas they probably have – more than once.

A life in the theater

For out actor Michael Rupert, 'Legally Blonde' is the latest stop in a career that spans half a century

Theater

WiGOUT

By Harry Cherkinian

Contributing writer

Michael Rupert would just like everyone to know that he really is a nice guy, at least offstage.

The Tony Award-winning actor has played plenty of “bad guys and charming jerks” throughout his accomplished stage career. Now at 58, Rupert is in the national tour of “Legally Blonde” the musical, recreating his original Broadway role as the scheming, nasty Professor Callahan.

“I kind of do those roles really well, but I’m not that kind of guy at all,” Rupert says by phone from San Jose, Calif., during a tour stop. If WiG’s conversation with him is an accurate reflection, Rupert is indeed a nice a guy and a gentleman as well.

Rupert makes his home in New York City with his life partner of 12 years, Will Chafin (who’s in the music business). Rupert’s one of those rare actors who remains steadily employed – both on and off Broadway. He received his first Tony nomination for his first Broadway show at the age of 17, for the Kander-Ebb musical “The Happy Time.”

“I was just fortunate,” he says humbly. “I’ve been doing it (acting) for a long time.”

And that he has.

Rupert grew up on the other coast, in Los Angeles near the Pasadena Playhouse. “I asked my parents if I could be in an acting class and they were very supportive,”

Rupert recalls. “I think they thought I’d do it until I went to college to become a dentist.”

Rupert was “discovered” doing a show at the famed playhouse, playing the young boy role in Jean Kerr’s “King of Hearts.” An agent saw him and asked to represent him.

“My first job was in a professional production of ‘Peter Pan’ in Los Angeles playing one of the Lost Boys. Vincent Price was Captain Hook,” he says. Film actress Janet Blair played Peter Pan.

With an agent and equity card in hand at age 12, Rupert went on to work in television

1986 to win the award for his featured role in a revival of “Sweet Charity.”

Rupert went on to star in a number of Broadway shows, including “Pippin,” “City of Angels,” “Ragtime” and what he calls his favorite but most challenging role, Marvin in William Finn’s “Falsettos” (Also in the original cast was Whitefish Bay native and Broadway veteran Chip Zien).

“That role was an enormous amount of work and hard,” Rupert recalls. “It’s all about family – these flawed, passionate, loving people. It was a real joy to do.”

Rupert played a man who leaves his wife and son for another man, resulting in both drama and humor as they all learn to coexist.

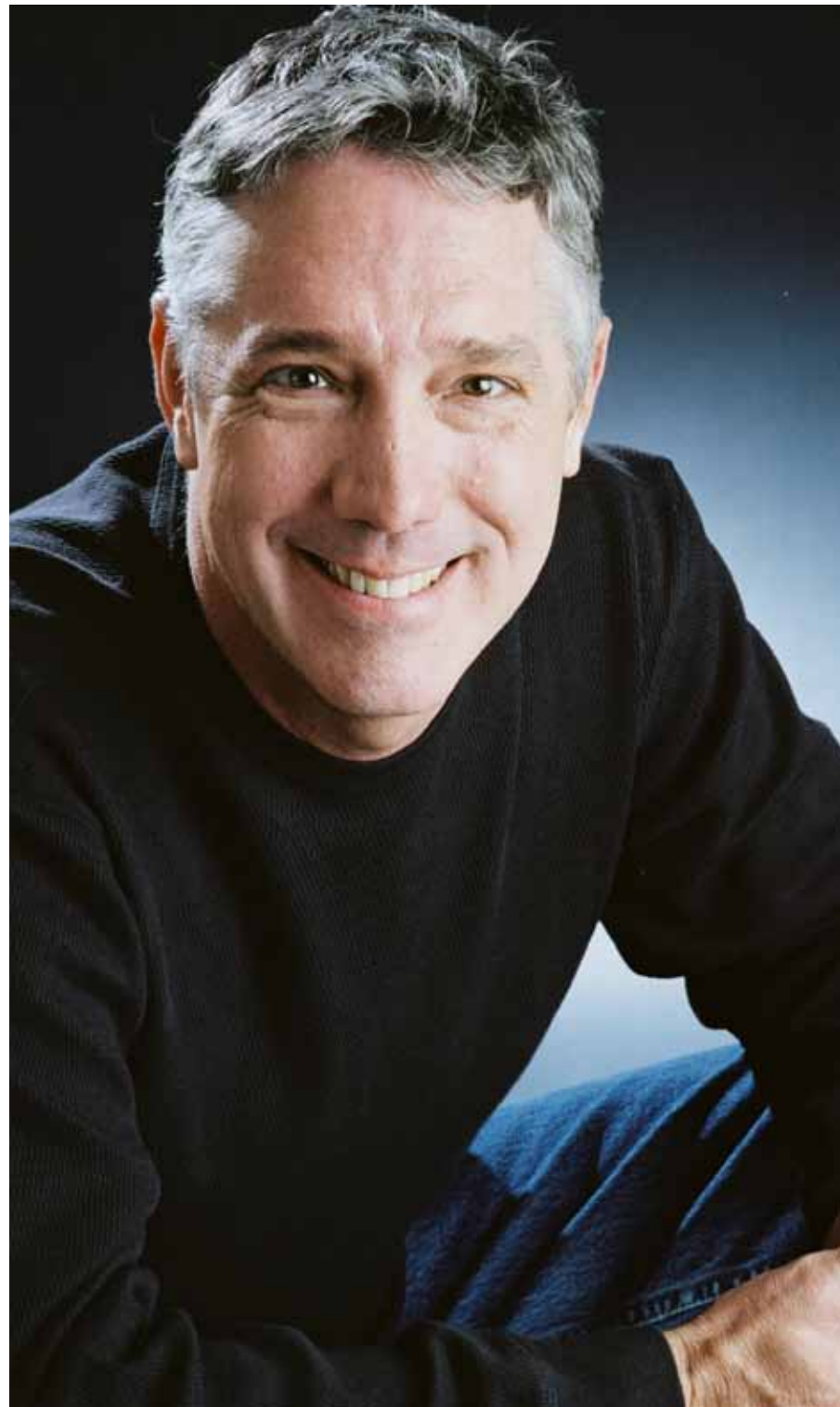
During the time of his “Falsettos” work in the 1980s and ‘90s, the HIV/AIDS epidemic was spreading through the entertainment community. Rupert knew a number of people who succumbed to the disease, including a close friend. So, doing Falsettos became more than just another play for the actor.

“It’s a story about a family, not just gay people,” Rupert emphasizes. “It was a very moving experience for me.”

As the adult male figure Prof. Callahan, Rupert faces new challenges.

“After the first week of rehearsals, I turned to our director Jerry Mitchell and said, ‘Practically everybody in the cast could be my child.’ That’s actually a good thing for Rupert because, as he points out, “their energy in rehearsal is just bouncing off the walls.”

And being around such a young cast also reminds Rupert of the times when he was just starting out in



“Practically everybody in the cast could be my child,” says Michael Rupert, who plays the scheming Professor Callahan in the production of “Legally Blonde” at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts April 13–18.

the business. “It really sounds corny, but it reminds me of why I got into the business a long time ago. There’s the joy – and the energy – of being on stage eight times a week.”

“I hope that (the audience) is surprised by the show, with a story that is as sweet as it is,” Rupert says. “The truth is, with the storytelling, the staging and the acting, I hope

they’ll be surprised by how smart the show is as well.”

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'Elmer Gantry' reveals the tension between religion and morality

By Jody Hirsh

Contributing writer

"When fascism comes to America," novelist Sinclair Lewis is said to have proclaimed, "it will be wrapped in a flag and carrying a cross."

Lewis' biting satirical 1927 novel "Elmer Gantry" aptly illustrates the tension between religion and morality that has always plagued American life and politics. It is especially pervasive today, with the media filled with stories of the sexual scandals of the clergy, revelations of clergy who, despite their homophobic diatribes, are secretly gay or pedophiles, racist claims that the earthquake in Haiti was God's vengeance on a pagan people, religious opposition to public health care, and, especially, hysteria over gay marriage.

Although set in the early part of the 20th century, the opera "Elmer Gantry," which was given its Midwestern premiere by the Florentine Opera March 19 and March 21, resonates with our own time. Librettist Herschel Garfein has abridged and restructured the unwieldy and episodic 500-page novel into a powerful morality tale of the rise of a small-time shyster and womanizer who becomes a major evangelical force in pre-World War I Missouri. His relationship with evangelist queen Sharon Falconer, while only a fraction of the novel, forms the core of the opera.

Although Lewis' novel is a cruel and even comic condemnation of religious hypocrisy and commercial opportunism, the opera is kinder to its characters. Four characters represent a spectrum of "religious" attitudes: Elmer Gantry – the hypocritical, ambitious opportunist; Sharon Falconer – the spiritual innocent who is ultimately corrupted by Gantry's manipulation; Eddie Fislinger – the sexually perverse minister whose actions are dictated by the need for revenge; and, Elmer's friend Frank Shallard – the struggling pastor who genuinely seeks God in a cruel world.

Two moments in the opera spotlight both the dark side and the enlightened side of religion. Eddie Fislinger, who later confesses that he "neglected his husband's duties," plots with his wife Lulu to bring down Elmer Gantry. In a moment of creepy perversity, Lulu seduces Elmer while Eddie watches. "Been a good girl?" Eddie sings. "No. Been very naughty," she responds. Lulu proceeds to sing to Elmer a seemingly innocent aria that is shockingly sexual: "A little man stands by a house/Red in the face, for his burden is heavy/...But the threshold is slick and the hallway snug./The man has to struggle and fuss and tug."

In contrast to the raw vindictive emotions of Eddie and Lulu, Frank struggles with a flawed faith. His scene of self doubt and longing is a highlight of the opera:



"The faith I lack torments me/When I hear the faithful sing./Singing of the friend they have in Jesus,/Eyes closed, rocking to and fro,/God's assurance surrounds them/With a comfort I will never know."

The Florentine's "Elmer Gantry," which brought together much of the cast from the 2008 Nashville world premiere, was only the opera's second full-scale production. It was a triumph that was thankfully recorded for posterity by the Naxos International record label.

Garfein's rich libretto

and Robert Aldrige's luscious music translate a truly American idiom to opera. The music has moments of supreme lyricism, combined with hand-clapping a cappella gospel music and serene hymns. Unlike the most famous bel canto arias, which are soaring melodies with a secondary orchestral accompaniment, Aldridge's vocal lines are an equal part of the richly textured and contrapuntal orchestral score, which was masterfully played by the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, conducted by William Boggs.

Highlights were Eddie Fislinger's diabolical laughing aria, sung perfectly by Frank Kelly, and Frank Shallard's searing solo, sung by Vale Rideout. In the title role, Keith Phares transformed a complex and difficult part. Sharon Falconer, sung by Patricia Risley, was elegant

FLORENTINE OPERA CAMERATA TO HOLD FUNDRAISER

Florentine Opera Camerata, an affinity group that presents a variety of opera-related social events for members of the LGBT community and their supporters, holds its second annual "FUNdraiser" at 7 p.m. April 11 at The Room, 623 S. Second St. The event will include a live "song auction," featuring the Florentine Opera Studio Artists. Guests can bid to have their opera and musical theater favorites performed live by the artist they request. General Director William Florescu will serve as auctioneer.

The proceeds raised at the event will fund Florentine Opera Camerata, including underwriting the popular Sunday Artist Social events, which are held before each mainstage opera.

Appetizers will be provided by Miss Katie's Diner and a cash bar is available. There will be a cover charge at the door.

—L.W.

and touching. Heather Buck's Lulu was sexy and powerful.

Stage director John Hoomes directed the original

Nashville production as well as the Milwaukee production. Kris Stone's minimal yet elegant sets were impressive.

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Audiences get their kicks on 'Route 66'

Theater

WIGOUT

Let's get the important stuff out of the way first.

"Route" is pronounced "root," as in "Route 66," according to writer and director Roger Bean. While many know – and have travelled – the American highway made famous in song and culture, Bean has used the fabled "Mother Road" as inspiration for a musical revue.

Bean's "Route 66," currently playing at the Stackner Cabaret at The Rep, covers the highway in song and dance. It starts with the soulful sounds of Chicago R&B, passes through the country/western twangs of the South and winds up in the bright, sunny harmonies of Los Angeles.

But even though the

actual Route 66 still remains approximately 2,400 miles, this musical version has grown longer since its initial appearance at The Rep in 2001. And, due to audience demand, the production's run has been extended until May 9.

"When I first did it at The Rep, it was one act," says Bean from his office in Los Angeles, where he lives with his partner of nine years Perry Steele Patton. "But the Oregon Cabaret Theater needed an intermission, so I expanded it and added some songs I couldn't get in the first time."

The new, expanded production clocks in at just under two hours (with intermission). Audiences "on the first road trip" nine years ago will recognize some of the same songs and numbers, but they're arranged in a different order.

In addition to the new

"Route 66" runs through May 9 in The Rep's Stackner Cabaret in the Patty & Jay Baker Theater Complex, 108 E. Wells St. Call 414-224-9490 or visit www.milwaukeeerep.com.

material, Bean is working with some new faces in the four-member cast, as well as some familiar ones. "I do like to work with people I have some familiarity with," Bean says, referring to cast members Danny Calvert and Zachary Robbins. Adam Estes and Justin Robertson round out the talented cast, which has audience members reminiscing nostalgically as much as laughing at the funny bits.

One recurring road trip theme is a hilarious skit – "Diesel on my Tail" – about a slow driver (with "child" in tow) and the frustrated

driver trying to pass. Another skit has Estes dressed up as a waitress at small town diner, where the cowboys try to impress "her."

Bean captures the spirit of the road and the culture of the geography with a lighted radio dial and old-time gas station and oil company radio commercials. Audiences clearly enjoy the remembrances of times past.

"It kind of becomes a well-oiled machine," Bean says (no pun intended). "I know how it operates and how to push things" for the audiences and actors to enjoy.

For Bean, the best part of this road most travelled is to get people to "leave their cares behind" while they move forward on "Route 66."

"It's great music," Bean says. "It's a great time. And you leave saying, 'Oh my gosh, I had so much fun!'"



Zachary Dylan Robbins, Adam Estes, Danny Calvert and Justin Robertson in "Route 66."

What's up? Docs!

DVDs

By Gregg Shapiro

'A FINISHED LIFE'

(First Run Features/Greenie Films)

In 2006, after living with HIV for 24 years, 48-year-old Gregg Gour (rhymes with pour not sour) made plans to end his life.

Two years earlier, he had decided to let his disease run its course. He stopped taking his HIV meds and went on disability from his employer, Warner Brothers. Told that he had six months to live, he distributed most of his belongings, packed up an RV and took his dog Cody on the road with him. He didn't want a memorial service, and he thought that if people had something to say to him, this would be their opportunity, with no regrets.

In this intimate and at times hard-to-watch doc, co-directors Michelle Boyaner and Barbara Green follow Gour on what he called his "Goodbye & No Regrets Tour." The doc begins in San Diego and continues through Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado (for his sister Nichole's wedding in Denver), Texas (where the RV breaks down in Houston) and Kansas (to see his sister Tammy). While in Kansas,

Gour decides to leave Cody with Tammy, and the scene where he says his goodbyes to Tammy and Cody is a first-rate tear jerker.

Then it's on to Wisconsin (where Gour admits to beginning to feel sick), Michigan (where he's joined by his Aunt Sue for the drive to Pennsylvania to see his sister Debbie and mother Bonnie. A trip to New York includes some theater and time spent with friends.

Throughout the journey, Gour speaks of his deceased lover Jeffrey and his belief that they will soon be together. He also explains that he is hastening the inevitable. While in New York he is interviewed on NPR about his journey.

Gour's travels continue to London and Ireland and then back to Pennsylvania and New York, and we begin to see him in decline. By mid-April, he decides to return to California in May and finish what he started, taking his cues from the book "Final Exit."

The scene in which he tells his mother of his decision is emotionally wrenching. The film concludes in early May 2006, in the last hours of

his life. This is powerful and difficult stuff, but well worth seeing.

'SHE'S A BOY I KNEW'

(Outcast/Shapeshifter)

Although she was aware of her gender identity issues from the age of 4, it wasn't until 2000, at the age of 28, that filmmaker Gwen Haworth came out to her family and friends and began the transition from Steve to Gwen. For "She's a Boy I Knew," Haworth interviewed the six closest people in her life in the hopes that they would share their feeling about her transition and the impact that it had on them. The resulting interview segments are bluntly honest but always presented with love.

Gwen's ex-wife Malgosia, best friend Roari, sisters Nichole and Kim, and parents Thomas and Colleen all have their say. Their unflinching insights, many of which are expressed in emotional and heartbreaking monologues, are unquestionably as informative for the filmmaker as they are for the viewer.

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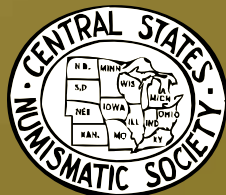
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Music

By Gregg Shapiro

Hipster parade

"200 MILLION THOUSAND"

The song "Bad Kids" by sweaty garage rock band Black Lips (from the "Good Bad Not Evil" record) was featured on the soundtrack to the movie "(500) Days of Summer," giving the rowdy quartet some broader exposure. There's nothing quite as bouncy on this new release from Vice, although "Drugs," "Starting Over," "Again & Again," "Let It Grow" and "Body Combat" do an efficient job of giving listeners an idea of what Black Lips are capable of.

"POST-NOTHING" AND "SWOON"

Although only a duo, Japandroids makes enough noise on "Post-Nothing" (from Polyvinyl) for a group three or four times their number. The fuzz and fury of their garage-punk style never sacrifices melody for mess, in spite of the aural assault of the shared vocals and slammed drums. Sounding like the offspring of Mission of Burma, Japandroids are at their best on the astounding "Heart Sweats," "I Quit Girls," "Young Hearts Spark Fire" and "The Boys Are Leaving Town."

Also pulling into the rocking garage are Grammy nominees Silversun Pickups. Just as you can hear the influence of Mission of Burma on Japandroids, Silversun Pickups are smeared in Smashing Pumpkins on "Swoon" (Dangerbird). This can be heard in the growling guitars as well as Brian Aubert's vocals, which often resemble those of Billy Corgan. For proof, listen to "There's No Reason For Secrets This Year."

The prominent strings on "The Royal We" are a nice touch and "Panic Switch" deserves the hit single treatment it received. "Substitution" varies the setting in a pleasant way.

"ALBUM"

This new release from Girls (True Panther Sounds/Fantasy Trashcan) adds some vibrant colors to the hipster palette. A male duo, Girls breathes much-needed life into the California sound, reviving and renewing it. The bright and bratty "Lust For Life" kicks things off and is followed by the refueled retro of "Laura" and "Ghost Mouth." The squealing surf of "Big Bad Mean Motherfucker" repeatedly kicks sand in the listener's face before it comes to an abrupt halt.

Neither "Hellhole Ratrace" nor "Headache" sounds anything like you think they would from their titles, but "Summertime" and "Morning Light" radiate a kind of warmth and luminescence.

"REWILD"

Amazing Baby goes for the modern glam sound on "Rewild" (Shangri-La). The catchy pop of the lead cut "Bayonets" gives way to the darker mood of "Invisible Palace," just before "Kankra" bursts in with a beat and thrust to spare. David Bowie would find much to admire in "Dead Light," and "Old Tricks In Hell" borders on divine inspiration. You can almost dance to "Roverfrenz," but "Smoke Bros" solves that quandary with its insistent beat.

"HOREHOUND"

Dead Weather's modern garage blues are as greasy as it gets on several cuts from this new release (from Third Man/WVB). For proof, Check out "60 Feet Tall," "I Cut Like A Buffalo," "Treat Me Like Your Mother" (the song most reminiscent of the White Stripes) and "Will There Be Enough Water?"

"LET IT GO"

As political as a reggae-

influenced musical unit with jam band traces can get, State Radio makes a statement. Imagine a less aggressive Rage Against the Machine, and you're on the right track. Beginning with "Mansin Humanity" (as in man's inhumanity), and going all the way through "Doctor Ron the Actor," "Bohemian Grove," "Evolution" and "Held Up By The Wires," much of this new release from Ruff Shod is a musical rallying cry for social action.

"IN THIS LIGHT AND ON THIS EVENING"

Almost 30 years after disbanding, Joy Division remains as influential as ever. It's not difficult to miss the influence of Joy Division on this new Editors release from Fader. However, if you're having a hard time pinning it down, check out the title track, "Bricks and Mortar," "Papillon" and "Like Treasure." Editors aren't merely JD imitators, as you can hear on such notable tracks such as "The Big Exit," "The Boxer," "Eat Raw Meat=Blood Drool" and "Walk The Fleet Road."

Tell us what you think!
E-mail managingeditor@wisconsin Gazette.com



The male duo Girls performs at The Pabst, 144 E. Wells, April 11.



Black Lips plays the High Noon Saloon, 701 E. Washington in Madison, April 2.

'Little Giant,' little gem

"The Little Giant of Aberdeen County" is the kind of book you hold in your hand like a gem, a precious thing that gives you comfort and somewhat indulgent pleasure.

The novel, from Grand Central Publishing, is Tiffany Baker's first. Often a "first" means the reader must forgive problems with plot or characterization, language or style, but not so in the case of "The Little Giant of Aberdeen County," a queer kind of folktale about family relations, friendships, small-town intolerance, witchcraft and themes of redemption and revenge.

I say "queer kind" of folktale not because there is a gay character, which there is, but because "Aberdeen County" is populated by some who live outside the bounds of "normal" society, because protagonist Truly Plaine

breaks the rules for gender and sex, because the story is about an odd-woman-out who triumphs over brutality, harassment and intolerance.

Truly is the youngest of two daughters. Her mother dies giving her birth and her father, a broken man incapable of caring for his kids or himself, dies not too many years later. The eldest daughter, town princess Serena Jane, goes to live with a woman who cares for her like a China doll. But Truly, a plus-sized tot who at one-and-a-half is wearing her father's shirts, isn't wanted there. She finds a home on a farm on the outskirts of town with the outcasts of the town.

Truly suffers torment at school, where the teacher calls her a "little giant" and students hurl insults. Stoic, she doesn't turn the other cheek, she just plows



forward: "All that fat and muscle hanging off my frame was like a suit of armor laid overtop my spirit. ...I'd taken all the misery thrown at me and absorbed it like salt sucking up water."

Chapter by chapter in "The Little Giant of Aberdeen County," the plot develops, taking some surprising twists.

And chapter by chapter, "the little giant" grows – taller and heavier and stronger – to about 400 pounds.

Truly needs that strength as an adult, when she finds herself taking care of her sister's shy, unathletic son and her sister's hus-

band, Robert Morgan, the man Truly acknowledges killing in the book's first pages: "Technically speaking, I guess you could say I killed Robert Morgan, but I did it only because he insisted."

Dr. Robert Morgan – the villain in this folktale, a man whose "eyes were shining yellow" – comes from a long line of Dr. Robert Morgans. The first was a Civil War deserter who was looking for a quiet out-of-the-way place to practice his medical skills. He married Tabitha, the town witch, who was widely considered to be more skilled at healing than the doctor and who, as legend has it, hid away her spells in the Morgan home before she died.

Settling into the Morgan home, a determined Truly sets out to discover Tabitha's secrets. What she finds is precious knowledge that gives her comfort and ever-so indulgent pleasure.

Truly's is a big story in a little gem of a book.

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Boulevard Theatre closes season with 'It's Your Mother!'

Theater

WIGOUT

By Harry Cherkinian

Contributing writer

Mark Bucher recalls the day during a rehearsal that a future playwright – and future friend – came calling to his storefront theater on South Kinnickinnic Avenue in Bay View.

"She knocked on my door and was looking for some gigs," Bucher says. "Patricia Durante is a gay-friendly

actor who found it frustrating trying to find work as an actress and had some ideas for plays."

One of those ideas ended up being "It's Your Mother!" co-written with Betsy Tuxill, Durante's former teacher.

The play has its Midwest premiere March 31 at Boulevard Ensemble Studio Theatre and runs through May 9.

Bucher, who himself is out, quickly developed a friendship with Durante while she lived in Milwaukee (she now makes her home in New

Jersey with her husband and son). While in Milwaukee, Durante performed locally with such companies as the Skylight Opera Theater, First Stage Children's Theater and Boulevard.

"It's Your Mother!" was based on a long voicemail message the two authors received from Tuxill's mother when they were roommates.

The script developed over the course of 20 years and was one of a dozen plays chosen out of 1,000 submitted for a playwriting competition.

During the selection

OPENING

"It's Your Mother!" runs March 31–May 9 at Boulevard Ensemble Studio Theatre, 2252 S. Kinnickinnic. Call 414-744-5757 or visit www.boulevardtheater.com.

process, The Manhattan Repertory Theatre noticed the work and staged its New York premiere in July 2009.

The play includes 10 vignettes. Bucher, who is directing, has expanded the

cast to use a larger number of actors than the original, including both experienced performers and beginners. That's always been a part of Boulevard's mission. "Patricia and Betsy wanted to specifically create a project that engenders opportunities for women," Bucher says. "The play was originally written for up to 16 actors. I'm using a wide swath of actresses in this show."

That swath includes one male actor, Boulevard veteran Michael Tyburski, as well as out actress Marion Araujo.

"(The play) really explores

the dynamic between mothers and daughters," Bucher says. "Some scenes are comedic and some are touching without being maudlin."

"It's Your Mother!" was created to hold up a mirror to the audience's experiences, maternal and otherwise, Bucher says, and to rediscover – and cherish – the joys of those relationships.

"I hope what I take to be the playwrights' message is that it just isn't about mothers," he says. "It's about holding your parents in regard, appreciating the family while you have them."

Now - April 25 • Stackner Cabaret

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Film

By Gregg Shapiro

SHOWTIME

"Off and Running" screens at 7 p.m. March 31 at 7 p.m. as part of the Women Without Borders film series at UW-Milwaukee's Union Theatre, 2200 E. Kenwood. Call 414-229-4070.

"OFF AND RUNNING"

(First Run Features)

Subtitled "An American Coming of Age Story," Nicole Opper's documentary provides a unique LGBT twist to the coming-of-age genre.

The film begins with teenager Avery writing a letter to her birth mother. Raised in a Jewish household by adoptive lesbian mothers Travis and Tova, alongside brother Rafi (and later Samuel Isaiah AKA Zay-zay), Avery's interest in her birth heritage arose from attending Erasmus Hall High School in Brooklyn, which has a large African-American student population. A good student and a rising track and field star, it took Avery five years to finally write to her birth mother. She was held back by fear of rejection.

After a few months, Avery receives a response from her mother. It is warm and friendly, but distant. In it, Kay answers some of Avery's questions. But Avery's experience is different than that of her best friend Jenna (who met her birth mother) and her brother Rafi (who chose not to meet his birth mother, but made a connection with his blood brother and sister).

Following his high school graduation, Rafi goes to Princeton to study molecular biology. Rafi's departure, combined with the lack of response from Kay and her new social circle in high

school, creates a difficult and uncomfortable situation at home for Avery. Growing into her own person, she is discovering black culture and, like any teenager, feels misunderstood by her mothers.

Avery's struggle with her identity confusion leads her to an unseen downward spiral. She stops attending classes and eventually drops out of school with a plan to get her GED. Feeling out of place at home, she begins to stay at various friends' houses. In the midst of all of this, Travis and Tova, who are worried about and hurt by Avery's actions, go to Toronto to get married, with Rafi and Zay-zay in attendance. And even though she's no longer in school, Avery is allowed to compete in a track meet, where she finishes eighth out of nine.

Finally, a pregnancy scare leads Avery to meet with a trans-racial adoptive counselor who helps her get her life back on track.

"Off and Running" is a film for everyone, gay and straight, childless or with a houseful of children, adopted or biological.

Check out more film reviews at wisconsin Gazette.com.

The Rep

milwaukee rep.com
414-224-9490

ROUTE
66

by Roger Bean
Travel along "Main Street" with popular songs of the road.

Danny Calvert, Zachary Dylan Robbins, Adam Estes and Justin Robertson. Photo by Jay Westhauser.

OUT & ABOUT

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Boom, 625 S. Second St., 414-277-5040. www.boommke.com. Neighborhood bar.

Cafe
Centraal, 2306 S. Kinnickinnic Ave., 414-755-0378, thecafecentraal.com. Bar, restaurant, music.

City Lights, 111 W. Howard Ave., 414-481-1441. Neighborhood bar.

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

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

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

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

Kruz, 354 E. National Ave., 414-272-5789. Neighborhood bar.

La Cage, 801 S. 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, nessunordmariverwest.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.



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William Klein, *Christmas Shopping, Macy's New York*, 1954 (detail). The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Purchase, The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation Gift, through Joyce and Robert Menschel, 1989. © William Klein

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Raphael (né Raphael Sanzio), Italian, 1482-1520, *La Donna Velata* or *La Velata (The Woman with the Veil)*, ca. 1516 (detail). Oil on canvas. Collection of Istituti museale della Soprintendenza Speciale per il Polo Museale Fiorentino.

On stage

By Gregg Shapiro

NOTE: * Denotes out gay or lesbian artist or venue

March 25, Thursday

*Out sister act Tegan and Sara plays The Riverside, 116 W. Wisconsin, at 8 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

*Foxy Veronica's Peach Pies Caburlesque begins at 10:30 p.m. at Club 5 Bar, 5 Applegate Court in Madison. Call 608-277-9700.

*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 Northern Lights Theater at Potawatomi Bingo Casino, 1721 W. Canal, presents an evening with Willie Nelson, at 8 p.m. Call 414-847-7922.

Cowboy Junkies performs at 8 p.m. at Turner Hall Ballroom, 103 N. Fourth. Call 414-286-3663.

Milwaukee Repertory Theater, 108 E. Wells, presents August Wilson's "Radio Golf" through March 28 in

the Stiemke Theater. Call 414-224-9490.

Bite Theatre's first production, the world premiere of "Kill the Rich! Kill the Poor!," a night of three short plays written by local playwright Robert Lawrence, runs until March 27 at Off-Broadway Theater, 342 N Water St. Second Floor. Call 414-278-0765

Overture Center for the Arts, 201 State in Madison, presents Ibsen's "An Enemy of the People" through March 28. Call 608-258-4141.

The Frequency, 121 W. Main in Madison, welcomes Mike Mangione with Jeremiah Nelson at 10 p.m. Call 608-819-8777.

Shank Hall, 1434 N. Farwell, has Bob Schneider at 8 p.m.

The Frequency, 121 W. Main in Madison, presents Mike Mangione with Jeremiah Nelson at 10 p.m. Call 608-819-8777.

Elf Lettuce performs at 10 p.m. at the Majestic, 115 King in Madison. Call 608-251-2582.

March 26, Friday

*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.

Skylight Opera Theatre presents "A Day in Hollywood/A Night in the Ukraine" tonight through April 4 in the Cabot Theatre at 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 and Saturdays at 9 p.m. at Mi-Key's Skylight Room, 811 N. Jefferson. Call 414-312-4388.

Black Rebel Motorcycle Club roars into Turner Hall Ballroom, 103 N. Fourth, with Band of Skulls at 8 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

The Rave, 2401 W. Wisconsin, welcomes Stone Temple Pilots at 8 p.m. Call 414-342-RAVE.

At 9 p.m., Get Rad, Call Me Lightning, Direct Hit and Burning Sons are at Bay View Brew Haus, 2535 S. Kinnickinnic. Call 414-481-8060.

Shank Hall, 1434 N. Farwell, presents Poi Dog Pondering and The Old Ceremony at 8



Freak folk goddess Joanna Newsom performs at 8 p.m. April 2 at The Pabst, 144 E. Wells. Call 414-286-3663.

p.m. Call 414-276-7288.

Judy Lewis performs at 8 p.m. at Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts, 19805 W. Capitol Dr. in Brookfield. Call 262-781-9520.

Majestic, 115 King in Madison has Cowboy Junkies at 8 p.m. Call 608-251-2582.

March 27, 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.

The Present Music Ensemble performs works by composers Mason Bates, John Adams, Raymond Scott

and Arnold Schoenberg at 7:30 p.m. at Turner Hall Ballroom, 103 N. Fourth. Call 414-286-3663.

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

"Route 66" by Roger Bean runs through April 25 in the Stackner Cabaret at Milwaukee Repertory Theater, 108 E. Wells. Call 414-224-9490.

Ian and the Dream and Mike Droho & The Compass Rose perform at 8 p.m. in Shank Hall, 1434 N. Farwell. Call 414-276-7288.

The Northern Lights

Theater at Potawatomi Bingo Casino, 1721 W. Canal, presents An Evening with Kansas at 8 p.m. Call 414-847-7922.

Peter Mulvey and Hayward Williams play High Noon Saloon, 701 E. Washington in Madison, at 7 p.m. Call 608-268-1122.

Del Tha Funkee Homosapien is at the Majestic, 115 King in Madison, with Bukue One, Weapons of Mass Defunktion and Rob DZ at 9 p.m. Call 608-251-2582.

The Frequency, 121 W. Main in Madison, has The Goodyear Pimps with 20 Reasons Taken and YLAB at

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March 28, Sunday

*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.

Club 5 Bar, 5 Applegate Court in Madison, presents a live female impersonator show, at 10 p.m. Call 608-277-9700.

*Out singer/songwriter Catie Curtis is joined by Lucy Kaplansky at 7:30 p.m. at High Noon Saloon, 701 E. Washington in Madison. Call 608-268-1122.

Festival City Symphony performs "American Classics" at 8 p.m. at The Pabst, 144 E. Wells. Call 414-286-3663.

Turner Hall Ballroom, 103 N. Fourth, presents The Radiators at 8 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

The Frequency, 121 W. Main in Madison, welcomes Woodhands with Your Best Friend at 8 p.m. Call 608-819-8777.

March 29, Monday

High Noon Saloon, 701 E. Washington in Madison, presents a full band performance by Alejandro Escovedo, with Megan McCormick, at 8 p.m. Call 608-268-1122.

March 30, Tuesday

Puscifer, featuring Maynard James Keenan of Tool, plays The Pabst, 144 E. Wells, at 7:30 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

The Bret Michaels Roses and Thorns Tour 2010 spends two nights, tonight and tomorrow night at 8 p.m., at The Northern Lights Theater at Potawatomi Bingo Casino, 1721 W. Canal. Call 414-847-7922.

March 31, Wednesday

Boulevard Theatre, 2252 S. Kinnickinnic, presents the Midwest premiere of Patricia Durante & Betsy Tuxill's play "It's Your Mother!," that humorously explores the "mother vs. daughter" dynamic, through May 9. Call 414-744-5747 or visit www.boulevardtheatre.com.

April 1, 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.

Hot Tuna performs at 8 p.m. at The Pabst, 144 E. Wells. Call 414-286-3663.

Turner Hall Ballroom, 103 N. Fourth, welcomes Booker T. with JJ Grey at 8 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

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

High Noon Saloon, 701 E. Washington in Madison, presents High On Fire, Priestess, Black Cobra and Bison at 7:30 p.m. Call 608-268-1122.

The Annex, 1206 Regent in Madison, welcomes Jedi Mind Tricks, at 9 p.m.

The Frequency, 121 W. Main in Madison, has Dun Bin Had with The Transgressions and Randy Thunderbird at 10 p.m. Call 608-819-8777.

April 2, Friday

*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.

Freak folk goddess Joanna Newsom performs at 8 p.m. at The Pabst, 144 E. Wells. Call 414-286-3663.

Bay View Brew Haus, 2535 S. Kinnickinnic, has Rocky V. with Brook Wagner and Mark Walldash at 9 p.m. Call 414-481-8060.

Bassnectar plays Turner Hall Ballroom, 103 N. Fourth, at 9 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

Paul Cebar Tomorrow Sound performs at 8 p.m. at Shank Hall, 1434 N. Farwell. Call 414-276-7288.

The Northern Lights Theater at Potawatomi Bingo Casino, 1721 W. Canal, welcomes comedian Louie Anderson at 9 p.m. Call 414-847-7922.

Black Lips and Box Elders are at High Noon Saloon, 701 E. Washington in Madison, at 9:30 p.m. Call 608-268-1122.

The Annex, 1206 Regent in Madison, presents Har Mar Superstar with Screamin' Cyn Cyn & The Pons at 9:30 p.m.

April 3, 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.

Passion Pit and Bear Hands play The Riverside, 116 W. Wisconsin, at 8 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

Beach House performs at 8 p.m. at The Pabst, 144 E. Wells. Call 414-286-3663.

Shank Hall, 1434 N. Farwell, presents Wishbone Ash at 8 p.m. Call 414-276-7288.

The Rave, 2401 W. Wisconsin, has Green River Ordinance, Vedera and Angel Taylor at 7 p.m. Call 414-342-RAVE.

At 9 p.m., Shear Water plays Bay View Brew Haus, 2535 S. Kinnickinnic. Call 414-481-8060.

The Dear Companion Tour, featuring Ben Sollee & Daniel Martin Moore, stops by the Majestic, 115 King in Madison, at 6:30 p.m. Call 608-251-2582.

April 4, Sunday

*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.

*Club 5 Bar, 5 Applegate Court in Madison, hosts a live female impersonator show at 10 p.m. Call 608-277-9700.

David Bazan is at The Pabst, 144 E. Wells, at 8 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

At 9 p.m., The Sensationalists and Even Star play Bay View Brew Haus, 2535 S. Kinnickinnic. Call 414-481-8060.

Camera Obscura performs at 8 p.m. at High Noon Saloon, 701 E. Washington in Madison. Call 608-268-1122.

Majestic, 115 King in Madison, welcomes Toubab Krewe and John Brown's Body at 8 p.m. Call 608-251-2582.

April 5, Monday

Turner Hall Ballroom, 103 N. Fourth, presents Rx Bandits at 8 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

High Noon Saloon, 701 E. Washington in Madison, welcomes Jucifer, Wife and Romero at 8 p.m. Call 608-268-1122.

April 6, Tuesday

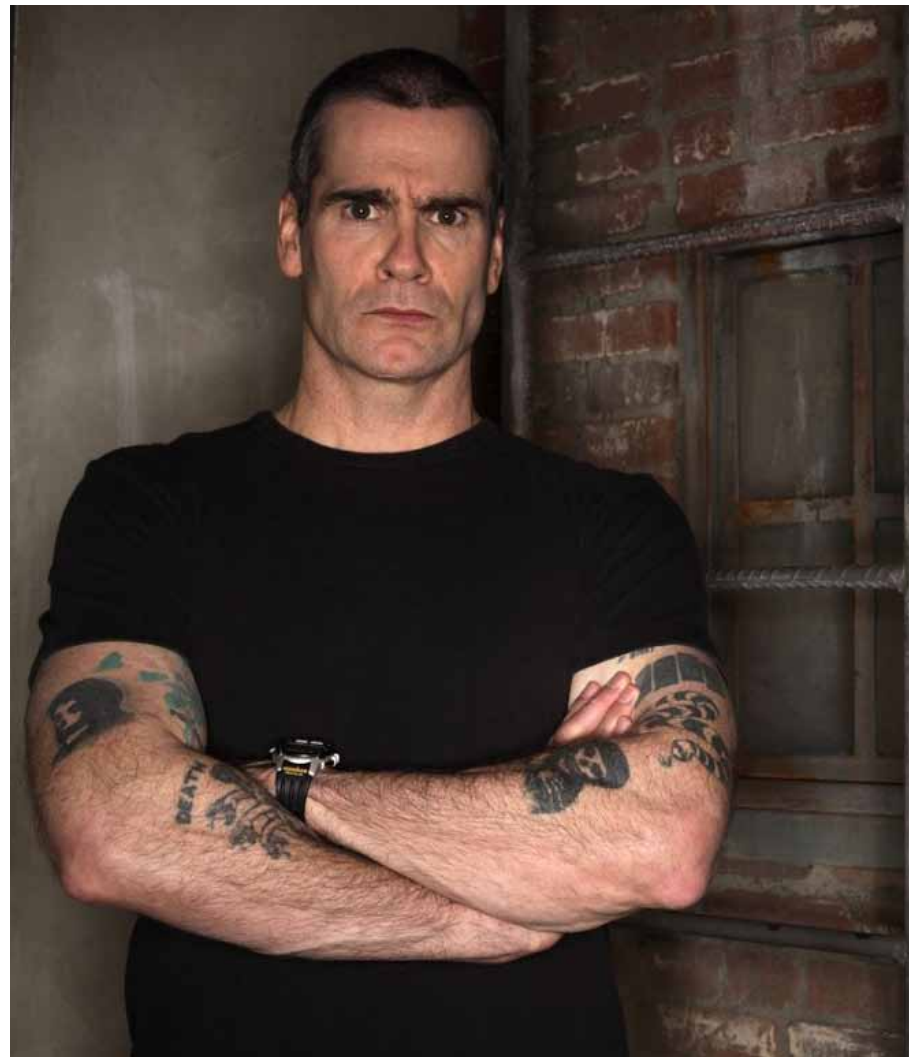
"Seven Keys to Baldpate" will be performed in the Quadracci Powerhouse Theater through April 18 at Milwaukee Repertory Theater, 108 E. Wells. Call 414-224-9490.

Majestic, 115 King in Madison, has Jason Collett with Zeus and Bahamas at 8:30 p.m. Call 608-251-2582.

The Frequency, 121 W. Main in Madison, presents Joe Jack Talcum (of The Dead Milkmen), Samuel Locke Ward and The Boo-Hoos at 9:30 p.m. Call 608-819-8777.

April 7, Wednesday

*Out singer/songwriter Bitch plays High Noon



Punk pioneer, spoken-word performer and "RuPaul's Drag Race" judge Henry Rollins is at Turner Hall Ballroom, 103 N. Fourth, at 8 p.m. Call 414-286-3663

Saloon, 701 E. Washington in Madison, with The State Of at 7 p.m. Call 608-268-1122.

Joe Jack Talcum (of The Dead Milkmen) performs with The Goodnight Loving and The Boo-Hoos at 9 p.m. at Bay View Brew Haus, 2535 S. Kinnickinnic. Call 414-481-8060.

April 8, Thursday

Tattooed and muscled

punk pioneer, spoken-word performer and "RuPaul's Drag Race" judge Henry Rollins is at Turner Hall Ballroom, 103 N. Fourth, at 8 p.m. Call 414-286-3663

*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.

High Noon Saloon, 701 E. Washington in Madison, wel-

comes The Hood Internet and Dirty Disco Kidz at 9 p.m. Call 608-268-1122.

The Frequency, 121 W. Main in Madison, presents The Melismatics with Colorphase and Helen Money at 10 p.m. Call 608-819-8777.

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Calendar

WHAT'S GOING ON?

ONGOING

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.lgb-toutreach.org.

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

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

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.

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.

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

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

7 p.m., Gay Narcotics Anonymous, 315 W. Court St., Second 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,

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,

7 p.m., third Saturday, BWMT (Black and White Men Together) general meeting, preceded by 6 p.m. business meeting. Info: 414-342-0705.

SUNDAY

1 p.m., Cream City Squares dances, Lake Park Lutheran Church 2647 N. Stowell, Milwaukee.

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

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

5 p.m., third Sunday, PFLAG Milwaukee, Martin Luther Church, 9235 W. Bluemound Road, Wauwatosa.

MONDAY

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

SATURDAY

April 3

7-9 p.m., Madison Transgender Social/Support Group, at OutReach LGBT Community Center, 600 Williamson St., Madison. Call 608-255-8582.

MONDAY

April 5

7:30 p.m., Bi The Way/ Social Support Group, OutReach LGBT Community Center, 600 Williamson St., Madison. Call 608-255-8582.

TUESDAY

April 6

7-9 p.m., Spectrum Social groups for GLBT adults and allies ages 18-108, at Harmony Cafe, 1660 W. Mason St., Green Bay.

WEDNESDAY

April 7

4:30- 6 p.m., POP QUEER: The Queering of Popular Culture, at UW-M LGBT Resource Center (Union

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, galanoclub.org.

7p.m., Spectrum GLBT and allied social group for adults, Harmony Cafe-Green, 1660 W. Mason St.

WEDNESDAY

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

THE NEXT TWO WEEKS

THURSDAY

March 25

7 p.m., the Lesbian Alliance holds its annual meeting at the Milwaukee LGBT Center, 315 W. Court Street. Call 414-271-2656.

7-9 p.m., Queer Meditation Group, OutReach LGBT Community Center, 600 Williamson St., Madison. Call 608-255-8582.

4-6 p.m., Rainbow Connection Mental Health Support Group, OutReach,

600 Williamson St., Madison Call 608-255-8582.

FRIDAY

March 26

7:30-10:30 p.m., Single Me Out Social Club Presents "Quit Playing Games with My Heart," LGBT center of Southeastern Wisconsin, 1456 Junction Ave., Racine. Call 262-664-4100.

4-7 p.m., Planned Parenthood Advocates of Wisconsin hosts "Sextival" at

Horny Goat Hideaway, 2011 S. 1st St., Milwaukee. Go to www.ppawi.org/events.

7 p.m., Lesbian Night at the Movies presents "Tipping the Velvet" at Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St. Call 414-271-2656.

7-9 p.m., Youth Group meets at LGBT Community Center of the Chippewa Valley, 510 S. Farwell St., Eau Claire. Call 715-552-LGBT.

7-9 p.m., Madison Transgender Social/Support Group, OutReach LGBT Community Center, 600 Williamson St., Madison. Call 608-255-858.

SATURDAY

March 27

12:30-2 p.m., Moonlighting Career Pathing Group, LGBT Center of Southeastern Wisconsin, 1456 Junction Ave., Racine. Call 262-664-4100

6-9 p.m., Book Club discusses "Whipping Girl," at LGBT Community Center of the Chippewa Valley, 510 S. Farwell St., Eau Claire. Call 715-552-LGBT.

3-5 p.m., Women4Women

Social Group, OutReach LGBT Community Center, 600 Williamson St., Madison. Call 608-255-8582.

MONDAY

March 29

7:30-8:30 p.m., Gender Identity Support Group, LGBT Center of Southeastern Wisconsin, 1456 Junction Ave., Racine. Call 262-664-4100

TUESDAY

March 30

7-9 p.m., Spectrum Social groups for GLBT adults and allies ages 18-108, at Harmony Cafe, 1660 W. Mason St., Green Bay.

5:30-7 p.m., Banned Books discussion at UW-M LGBT Resource Center (Union WG-89).

WEDNESDAY

March 31

7 p.m., Women Without Borders Film Series presents "Off and Running: An American Coming of Age Story," at UW-M Union Theatre.

MAKE A PROMISE GALA

AIDS Resource Center's Make a Promise Gala is April 17 at the Midwest Airlines Center in Milwaukee. For tickets, call 800-359-9272, ext. 1545.

WG-89).

11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Free HIV and STI testing (by appointment) at UW-M LGBT Resource Center.

7 p.m., Madison Cross-dressers Support Group, OutReach LGBT Community Center, 600 Williamson St., Madison. Call 608-255-8582.

THURSDAY

April 8

10 a.m. - 1 p.m., UW-M Campus and Communities United Against Violence Resource Fair, UW-M Call 414-229-6668.

Want to see your event listed? Send details to eadams@wisconsinngazette.com.

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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/

psaa/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.

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.

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

Lesbian Fund of the Women's Fund of Greater Milwaukee, 316 N. Milwaukee

Street, Suite 215, 414-290-7350, www.womensfund.com. LOC/Women of color, P.O. Box 93594, Milwaukee, WI 53203, 414-263-1631.

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

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

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

PFLAG-Milwaukee, 315 W. Court St., 414-299-9198. Pridefest, 315 W. Court St., Suite 203, 414-272-3378, www.pridefest.com.

Pride Parade, www.pride-parademke.com.

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

WanderWomyn Outdoors Group, debydoo2@yahoo.com.

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

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

Wisconsin Rainbow Families, 315 W. Court St., Room 112, info@wirainbow-families.com.

Health

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

BEST D 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., 414-273-5257.

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

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

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

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

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

Sports

Front Runners/Front Walkers, 414-443-0379.

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.milwaukeegayvolleyball.com.

Milwaukee Gay Volleyball League, milwaukeegayvolleyball.com.

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

Youth/education

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

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

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

LGBT Resource Center a UWM, U.W.-M. Student

Union, P.O. Box 413, Milwaukee, 53201, 414-229-4116.

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

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

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

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

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

KENOSHA**Religion/spirituality**

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

MADISON**Arts/entertainment**

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

Community

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

Politics

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

Sports

Madison Gay Hockey Association, www.madison-gayhockey.org/
Madison Volleyball Group, 608-251-8716

RACINE**Community**

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



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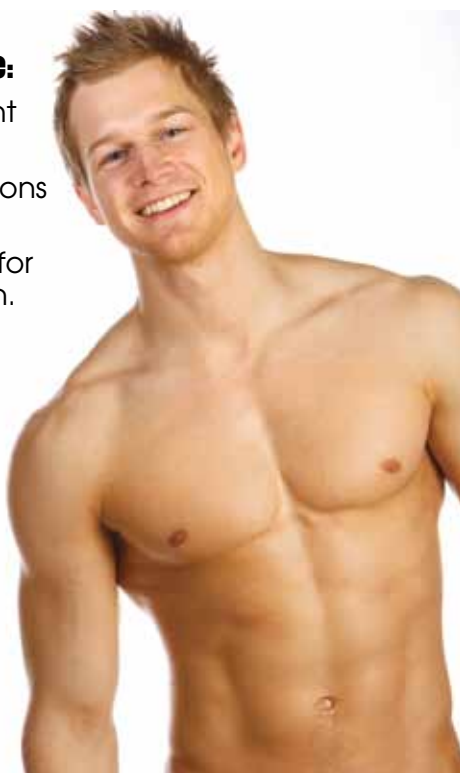
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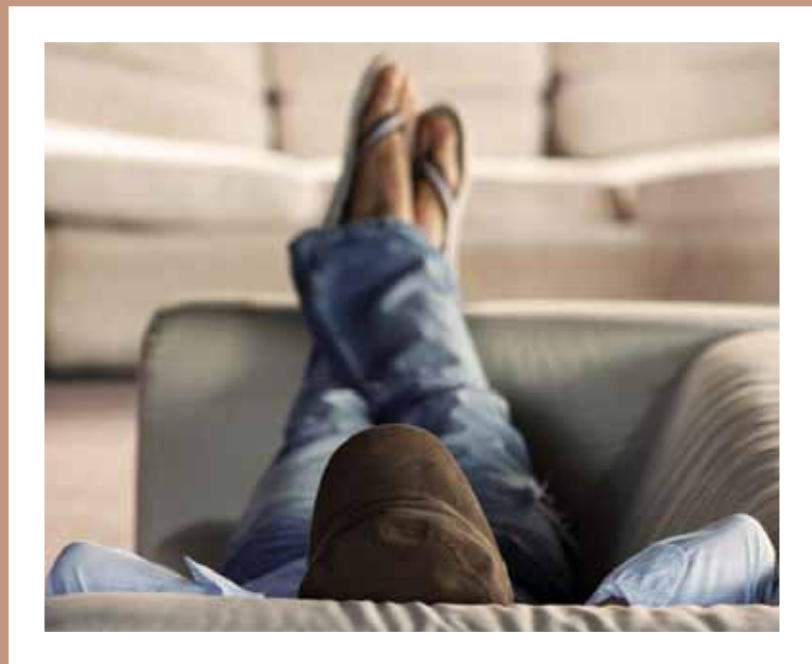
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