

Out candidate wins Waukesha race

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

Political newcomer Vance Skinner handily beat a six-term incumbent April 6 in a hard-fought race for the Waukesha Common Council.

A family man who is active in his church as well as local civic life, the clean-cut Skinner, 40, fits the Waukesha stereotype in every way but one: He's openly gay. That makes his election in Wisconsin's most politically conservative county one for the history books.

In a victory statement, Skinner thanked his opponent, Ald. Emanuele Vitale, 74, for his many years of service to the residents of the city's 8th aldermanic district and vowed to begin work immediately on "the issues impacting our district as well as the larger community."

Signaling a shift in style from his predecessor, Skinner assured voters that he would seek out "constituent input at every avenue."

"My Web site will remain up and running as a means of communicating with the district," he stated.

Skinner's bid for a low-profile office attracted relatively high voter turnout. The last time Vitale faced a challenger, in 2004, fewer than 400 votes were cast. Nearly twice that

POLITICS

number participated in this year's race, with Skinner winning by 10 percent.

Vitale was the only incumbent aldermen to lose a seat in Waukesha's April 6 municipal races, although voters also turned out first-term mayor Larry Nelson.

An information technology manager for M&I Bank, Skinner ran on a theme of change and competent leadership. He positioned himself as a fresh alternative to Vitale's outspoken personality and lack of understanding — according to Skinner — on key issues facing the city, such as its notoriously dwindling water supply.

Although Skinner's sexual orientation never became a serious issue in the campaign, he was attacked during its final days for campaigning against the state's 2006 anti-gay marriage referendum. He

also was accused of lying about his academic credentials, to which he responded by posting pdfs of his degrees on his Web site.

Skinner is well known in his district for his work on the Waukesha Landmarks Commission, which oversees development in the city's historic area, and for his involvement in a group to repurpose local schools facing closure.

In addition to his civic activism, Skinner has been an activist for LGBT inclusion. He played a key role with M&I's diversity and inclusion council in gaining domestic partner benefits for the bank's employees. He, husband Brendan Barrett and their two young daughters participated in "Shall Not Be Recognized," a traveling exhibit of portraits of same-sex couples.

As director of Wisconsin Rainbow Families, Skinner helped to build the group's membership to include 300 LGBT families. The group offers peer support as well as family activities and events.

Skinner treated his sexual orientation as a non-issue during the campaign, neither shying away from it nor touting it as a reason to vote for him.

Waukesha's 8th district is one of the most diverse in
Skinner page 11

In WiGOUT!

Out singer/songwriter Patty Larkin talks about her latest release, featuring 25 of her best musical friends. Page 15



THE VOICE OF PROGRESS FOR WISCONSIN'S LGBT COMMUNITY



Newly elected Waukesha Ald. Vance Skinner is a church-going family man and an all-around good neighbor who just happens to be gay.

PHOTO: DAN ZAITZ

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Iowa marks first wedding anniversary

By Molly Hottle

AP writer

The Iowa Supreme Court ruling that legalized gay marriage has created something unprecedented over the past year: Iowa as a wedding destination.

That April 3, 2009, decision, followed about three weeks later by the issuing of marriage licenses, led to 1,783 same-sex weddings by year's end. Of those, 1,044 of the couples came from outside the state.

The ruling drew people like Judith Weir and Olly Staneslow of St. Paul, Minn., who boarded a bus with eight other gay couples last August and made the 250-mile drive to marry in a Des Moines church.

"It felt like a huge party all the way," Weir said.

The couple of 17 years said they knew their marriage would have no legal standing back home but agreed it would have personal meaning.

"I felt relieved," said Staneslow. "We know it's not legal (in Minnesota) yet, but we've done everything we absolutely could."

They were among 100 Minnesota same-sex couples
Iowa page 5

LGBT news with a twist


WIGWAG

By Lisa Neff & Louis Weisberg

RICKY MARTIN COMES OUT

Singer Ricky Martin has finally swung open his closet door, putting an end to the worst-kept secret in the entertainment world.

"I am proud to say that I am a fortunate homosexual man," Martin stated in a March 29 blog post on his Web site. "I am very blessed to be who I am."

Martin said his sons gave him the inspiration to stop living a lie. "To keep living as I did up until today would be to indirectly diminish the glow that my kids were born with," he wrote. "Enough is enough. This has to change."

Welcome to the free world, Ricky.

GOP CHIEF'S NIGHT OUT

Republican National Committee Chairman Michael Steele spent \$1,946.25 in February at

Voyeur West Hollywood, a bondage-themed nightclub featuring topless women dancers simulating lesbian sex. The expenditure was included on an RNC report filed with the Federal Election Commission. How many things are wrong with this picture?

'PROSTI-DUDE' STRIKES OUT

America's first legal male prostitute has left a rural Nevada brothel after a two-month stint that received oodles of attention but fewer than 10 paying women.

The Shady Lady Ranch, located 150 miles northwest of Las Vegas, reports that "Markus" (not his real name), a 25-year-old Alabama native, has returned to his porn career in California. Maybe Markus should have taken male clients after all.

**VATICAN CASTS DEMONS OUT**

The Vatican's chief exorcist claims that the devil has infiltrated the Holy See. "When one speaks of 'the smoke of Satan' in the holy rooms, it is all true – including these latest stories of violence and pedophilia," Father Gabriele Amorth, 85, told The Times of London. He also claimed there are "cardinals who do not believe in Jesus, and bishops who are linked to the demon."

Amorth said he's seen people spit nails, glass and rose petals during exorcisms, but he didn't mention spinning heads or projectile pea-green vomit.

CHENEY'S COMMAND

Like father, like daughter in the Cheney clan. Dick Cheney's non-lesbian daughter Liz is the neo-conservative torch-bearer in the family, but she now has critics on the right comparing her to Joseph McCarthy. In her leadership post at Keep America Safe, Cheney is defending her dad's record as boss of the president during the Bush years and his record as adversary of the president during the first Obama years. As an anti-terrorism hawk, she also is attacking U.S. Justice Department officials who represented Guantanamo Bay detainees as the "Al Qaeda 7." That attack proved too much for some on the right, who called the characterization vicious and unfounded.

CHENEY'S RUN

There is not yet an offi-

cial field of candidates for the 2012 presidential election, but Liz Cheney has been mentioned as a GOP possibility. How should she distinguish herself? To avoid confusion with lesbian sister Mary Cheney, political satirist Bill Maher has suggested the campaign slogan, "Not the lesbian one."

UNIFORM RULES

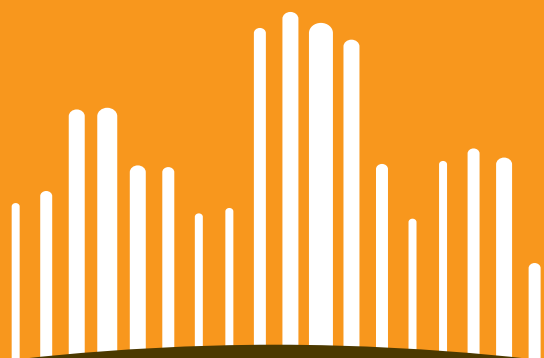
Two women with the Lingerie Football League were placed on probation for being overdressed in a photo shoot for an alternative newspaper in Miami. The women wore shoulder pads for their cover photos. The pads are allowed on the gridiron, along with helmets and kneepads, but the preferred attire for photo sessions is a satin bra and panties. The league, which presents women's indoor football and sponsors the Lingerie Bowl as an alternative to that NFL game,

also was so unimpressed with the New Times feature report that it placed the newspaper on permanent probation from covering its games.

HOMO HATE

A Florida church is crusading against the mayoral candidacy of Craig Lowe, who is in a run-off election this month in Gainesville. In a video posted on YouTube, Dove World Outreach Center pastor Wayne Sapp says, "Bottom line is, we cannot afford a homo mayor. ... We got one running for mayor of Gainesville, trying to convert Gainesville into Homoville. We can't have it." Dove World has other campaigns in what it calls this "end time," including offering free shelter and food for "women who want to escape from Islam" and selling "Islam is of the Devil" T-shirts.

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What they said!

"I'm Anna Paquin. I'm bisexual, and I give a damn."

The star of HBO's "True Blood" delivers this line into the camera as part of a public service campaign for The True Colors Fund, an LGBT advocacy group. Other participating celebrities include Elton John, Whoopi Goldberg, Cynthia Nixon, Sharon and Kelly Osbourne, Kim Kardashian, Clay Aiken and Wanda Sykes.

"If we're talking about two hot lesbian girls simulating marriage in a glass case, yes, I am very much into that sort of thing."

RNC chair Michael Steele, explaining how he reconciles his party's opposition to same-sex marriage with his notorious \$1,900 visit to an L.A. sex club that presents lesbian bondage acts.

"Why spend that kind of money for something you can see in my office for free?"

U.S. Sen. John Ensign, R-Nev., commenting on Steele's sex-club scandal.

"I'm kind of sick and tired of the left and Democrats in this country when they get in trouble and don't get their way and their backs are up against the wall on legislation or whatever it is they're trying to do, they go to that card, they play that race card."

RNC chair Michael Steele, who is African American, responding to his critics on the other side of the aisle.

"As I'm sure you are aware, once something is posted (on the Internet), we no longer have control of how the photo is used."

U.S. Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., reacting after a self-pic he posted on Twitter ended up on the gay porn Web site Guys with iPhones.

"This is truly a good Friday. Today I'm ecstatic."

John W. Bennett, a gay nephew of U.S. Sen. Bob Bennett, R-Utah, praising Salt Lake City for enacting a law banning anti-LGBT discrimination.



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MARK KNOPFLER

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BROTHER ALI

SATURDAY, MAY 1 • RIVERSIDE
KEVIN HART

SUNDAY, MAY 2 • TURNER
SHELBY LYNNE

MONDAY, MAY 3 • TURNER
APPLES IN STEREO

G-Safe to honor student activists

By Lucky Tomaszek

Contributing writer

Four Wisconsin high-school students will be honored at GSA for Safe Schools' annual Leadership Award Celebration in Madison on May 8. The awards come with a \$1,000 scholarship for each recipient as well as a chance to be recognized by the LGBT community for youth activism.

"Celebrating sexual minority youth and their allies at our annual banquet really gets at the values of our organization and work," says G-Safe executive director Cindy Crane. "We assist students to find their own power to not only survive but thrive."

When the organization began offering the Leadership Award in 1997, it was a chapter of the Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network

(GLSEN).

"Our first scholarship reception was held on a Sunday afternoon in May at the First Unitarian reception hall, and there were probably 20 to 30 people in attendance, including (then) Assemblywoman Tammy Baldwin," says founding member Vicki Shaffer.

Since then, the event has grown to attract 350 to 400 people annually.

"Our purpose in creating the GLSEN scholarship program was to acknowledge the work of students as activists in their school and community as well as increase the visibility of the needs of LGBT students in schools," Shaffer says.

Tim Michael, who now works as a program assistant for G-Safe, received an award in 1998. He says it was a validating experience.

MAKE THE DATE

G-Safe's Leadership Award Celebration, held May 9 at Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center, One John Nolen Drive in Madison, is open to the public. Tickets are \$25 for students, \$65 for adults and \$55 per person in a group of eight. Proceeds support programming, which benefits students throughout the state. Call 608-661-1360 or visit www.gsaforsafe-schools.org/events.

"To have an organization say, 'We recognize your struggle, and we thank you for what you have done,' was much more meaning-

AND THE WINNERS ARE...

STUDENT AWARD RECIPIENTS

- Marcus Etten, Elkhorn Area High School
- Brinae Gaudet, West Bend West High School
- Samantha Keninson, Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln High School
- Brandon Wenger, Monroe High School

EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

- Tina Owen, lead teacher for The Alliance School, Milwaukee
- Judi Devereux, community activist of the year
- Jennifer Morales, writer/editor and community activist, Milwaukee

Note: Morales and Owen are partners. This is the first year G-Safe has honored spouses at the same event.

'I ended up getting so mad that I had to get up and say something.'

of Silence. She coordinated her school's participation and even organized and led a community forum in her hometown to raise awareness about violence against LGBT people.

"I had to work so hard to get it," she says. "We even had to bring lawyers from the ACLU."

But with the help of the ACLU and support from her mother and the school's GSA staff facilitator, Williamson helped to make it happen.

In 2008, Williamson was one of the students honored at the Celebration of Leadership.

ful to him than the scholarships he received for his academic achievements, Michael says. "The certificate that I received when I won the scholarship is framed above my desk at work."

The award continues to motivate Michael today. "It's really incredible that I now have the opportunity to play a support role to students who are experiencing what I went through more than ten years ago," he says. "I think it helps me connect better with them."

In addition to the annual awards ceremony and the scholarship, G-Safe holds a yearly Leadership Training Institute during the summer. Thirty-five Wisconsin students are trained to take on leadership roles in their schools and GSAs.

It was through this training workshop that Cassie Williamson of Hartford became familiar with G-Safe. She first met Brian Juchems, G-Safe's program director, at a school board meeting when she was a high school freshman.

"I was only at the school because I was supposed to be at a softball game that was canceled, so I went to the meeting just to see what they were talking about," Williamson remembers. Her school board was debating whether to allow students to observe the Day of Silence, a national LGBT anti-violence protest.

"I ended up getting so mad (at the school board) that I had to get up and say something," she remembers. "Afterward, Brian introduced himself and told me about LTI, suggesting that I apply."

Williamson attended LTI that same year. In addition to becoming the student facilitator in her school's GSA, she took up the fight with the school board for the Day

Court rules for trans inmates

A federal court struck down a Wisconsin law barring transgender inmates from receiving hormone therapy or sex-reassignment surgery.

While the court's ruling does not mandate specific treatments, it empowers the doctors – not lawmakers – to make medical decisions for transgender patients behind bars, said John Knight, a senior staff attorney with the ACLU LGBT Project.

The ruling came in a case filed by the American Civil Liberties Union and Lambda Legal on behalf of transgender prisoners, some of whom had been receiving hormones in Wisconsin prisons for years prior to the passage of the 2006 law.

The lawsuit charged that preventing transgender inmates from access to individualized medical care violated the Constitution's guarantee of equal protection as well as the guarantee against cruel and unusual punishment. The legal groups based their challenge on federal case law that establishes health-care providers must determine proper treatment for all prison inmates.

According to the ACLU and Lambda Legal, Wisconsin is the only state in the country to have enacted a law denying transgender people access to medical care while in state custody.

– L.W.



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LGBT boomers take a different path to retirement

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender baby boomers are approaching retirement differently from their heterosexual counterparts, with 48 percent planning to work until at least age 70 before retiring, compared with 40 percent of the general population.

A survey released March 19 also found that more LGBT boomers plan to rely on close friends than family for support as they age.

A key factor underlying the differing approaches to aging is that LGBT retirees are more likely to be single. Sixty-one percent of LGBT individuals who responded to the survey were in relationships, compared with 77 percent of heterosexuals.

MetLife Mature Market Institute conducted the study with the American Society on Aging, polling 1,200 LGBT people born between 1946 and 1964, as well as 1,200 of their heterosexual peers.

"The thing that surprised



STOCK PHOTO

A study shows LGBT people plan to retire later than heterosexuals.

me most was that the heterosexuals in the comparison study relied on their spouses

for all of their major (needs) ... while queer people relied on their spouses and partners for practical things, but went to their friends for emotional support," said Milwaukee's Loree Cook-Daniels, founder of FORGE's

Transgender Aging Network. She served on the committee that designed the survey and she wrote the report.

"It was an overall sense of the study that friends are more important in LGBT boomers' lives than in heterosexual boomers' lives," Cook-Daniels said.

She said another major

finding of the study was that male boomers in both the LGBT and the heterosexual communities are doing at least as much care-giving as the women.

That finding is at odds with conventional thinking and an improvement over what Jan Singer, a social worker for SAGE/Milwaukee,

has observed among more elderly LGBT people.

"The lesbian community has really stepped in for (elderly lesbians) as a family in a much more involved way than the gay men," Singer said. "A lot of the younger lesbian women have sort of stepped in to become like daughters. With the older men, it might be that individual (younger men) will drive them to certain events, but it's less of an all-inclusive caring. But we're talking about how men and women were raised differently, especially in the 1930s and 1940s."

Singer said boomers also are showing a greater willingness to be out with their families, colleagues and neighbors than the previous generation.

"It's become less scary for them to be more honest about who they are," Singer said.

Sandra Timmerman, director of the MetLife Mature Market Institute, also saw a different attitude among boomers in the survey.

'It's become less scary for them to be more honest about who they are.'

"Born into a generation known for social activism, (boomers) were activists on a personal mission, forced to fight discrimination in school, in the workplace, in government, in society and among their own families," Timmerman said. "The result is a cohort of strong individuals who will continue to blaze trails as older Americans."

Still, most LGBT boomers surveyed – 60 percent – said they fear becoming unable to care for themselves as they age, 35 percent fear becoming dependent on others and 10 percent fear discrimination.

Top states were in the Midwest

Iowa from 1

ples who wed last year in Iowa, ranking the state second among those sending gay couples there to marry. Illinois topped the list at 172.

The top five states were from the Midwest, but people also went from Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Oklahoma and Texas.

Iowa's new status as a marriage destination prompted Beau Fodor to quit his job as a Salvation Army event planner and start a business organizing gay weddings. He's worked with 15 couples so far, all from other states.

"I just knew it would be a good fit for me," he said.

The Iowa Supreme Court's decision came in a case pushed by the gay rights group Lambda Legal. The justices upheld an August 2007 decision that found a state law limiting marriage to a man and a woman violates constitutional equal-protection rights.

Lambda Legal attorney Camilla Taylor said a marriage license enables Iowa same-sex couples to make medical decisions for one another, file state taxes together and have the right to be on the same insurance policy.

The difference between Iowa and other states is enough to make Mike Yowell uneasy when he leaves his Council Bluffs home each day for his job in Omaha, Neb. Yowell and partner Hersh Rodasky have been together for 29 years and wed April 30.

Yowell said he thinks about the rights he leaves behind with each morning commute across the Missouri River.

He acknowledges he's sensitive about those rights. When he took Rodasky to an Iowa hospital a few years ago with chest pains, a nurse initially refused to let him into Rodasky's room because he wasn't considered a relative. Hospital supervisors relented when both men complained.

"Now I don't have to worry about that," Yowell said.

This month, the men will mark the court ruling's anniversary by joining same-sex couples from Council Bluffs and Omaha. They will meet at the midpoint of a pedestrian bridge over the Missouri River, linking Iowa and Nebraska.

Other events are planned to mark the year since the court's ruling, but some say what has struck them most has been how quickly gay marriage has gone from extraordinary to mundane.

"You kind of want to say it was huge," said Carolyn Jenison, executive director for One Iowa, a gay and lesbian advocacy group. "I remember getting up Saturday, April 4, and walking down the street and nothing was different. People have continued to do what they've always done."

For many, though, the court's ruling remains unsettling.

Republican lawmakers tried unsuccessfully to place a proposed constitutional ban on gay marriage before voters. All three GOP candidates for governor have spoken out strongly against the court's decision.

Candidate Bob Vander Plaats has made same-sex marriage one of his campaign's key issues, promising that as governor he would immediately issue an order blocking enforcement of the ruling. Democrats and some Republicans have said such a move would be illegal.

"The primary issue is the Supreme Court has stepped outside of its jurisdiction," Vander Plaats said. "I'm just trying to be a referee on the court and call the proverbial time out when someone steps out of bounds."

The Iowa Christian Alliance is focusing its efforts against the ruling on the Iowa Legislature.

Norm Pawlewski, the group's lobbyist, acknowledged it would be at least

2014 before the issue could go before voters because of rules for amending the state constitution. Democrats control both chambers and have refused to allow a vote on a referendum, which would need to be approved by two consecutive general assemblies.

"We're talking three or

four years at least," Pawlewski said. "A lot will depend on what happens in November, whether the Republicans take over at least one of the houses."

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Activists expect quiet legislative season

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Gay bars years ago resumed serving screwdrivers and lifted the orange juice boycott enacted to protest pitchwoman Anita Bryant's anti-gay crusade in Florida.

But the 1977 anti-gay adoption ban enacted in the heyday of Bryant's Save Our Children campaign remains on the books — a Miami-Dade circuit court judge in 2009 overturned the ban, the only law in the nation that explicitly prohibits gays and lesbians from adopting children, but the ruling is on appeal.

So in mid-March, dozens of LGBT civil rights advocates went to Tallahassee to lobby lawmakers to pass legislation to lift the adoption ban, as well as to enact an anti-discrimination measure, establish a statewide domestic partnership policy, and approve resolutions calling for the repeal of "don't ask, don't tell" and condemning a proposal in Uganda that would establish the death penalty for same-sex sexual activity.

Sunshine State activists celebrated in mid-March after persuading state representatives and senators to speak out against the adoption ban.

"We ended 33 years of silence when the shameful anti-gay adoption ban was condemned on the floor of both the Florida House and Senate," stated Equality Florida, a statewide LGBT lobbying group.

Activists celebrated another first in late March, when legislators held a workshop to discuss the Florida Competitive Workforce Act, which would ban discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

And they celebrated again after successfully lobbying to strike anti-LGBT language from a bill to offer tax credits to film companies that select Florida as a locale. The original legislation would have denied credits to companies shooting programs with LGBT characters.

"Maybe they're small victories," said Tampa activist Ben Williams. "But they are victories."

There have been other early, small victories for activists lobbying other state legislatures, but the 2010 legislative season is expected to be a relatively quiet one in regards to civil rights issues.

"Everyone is focused on mid-term elections," said Sarah Warbelow, state legislative director for the Human Rights Campaign. "And another trend — many states are dealing with budget shortfalls. Economics has taken all of the focus right now, it's about basic budget issues."

Last year, Warbelow tracked nearly 400 LGBT-related bills in 34 states. Fifty measures considered pro-LGBT passed, as did four bills considered "bad" for LGBT people.

Many other measures were carried over to the 2010 legislative season, and they may be carried over again, if they don't die in committee.

"We're trying to make sure we get through this cycle safely," Warbelow said. "We're not seeing a lot of positive legislation (move) right now, but we're being successful in defeating negative legislation."

The year began with activists hoping for the advancement of civil unions in Hawaii and a domestic partnership bill in New Mexico, but a vote on Hawaii's measure was postponed indefinitely in the House and New Mexico has wrapped up its regular legislative business for the year.

A succinct announcement from Equality New Mexico on the 30-day session stated, "Bad news: SB 183 domestic partnership legislation tabled in Senate Finance Committee. Good news: All three DOMAS defeated."

West Virginia also concluded its legislative business for the year — without moving forward on a proposed ballot initiative against gay marriage.



SPECIAL
REPORT

PHOTO: AP/CHERYL SENTER

Members of the New Hampshire House vote to kill two proposals — to repeal the state's six-week-old law legalizing civil unions and to back a proposed constitutional amendment defining marriage as between one man and one woman — at the State House in Concord. Voters in the Granite State also rejected a series of resolutions against marriage equality for gays.

Similar anti-gay initiatives already have been thwarted in Pennsylvania and Indiana, while a series of anti-gay resolutions were defeated at the polls in New Hampshire earlier this year.

Meanwhile, in Maryland, Republican lawmakers are seeking to overturn the state attorney general's opinion that statutes allow for the recognition of same-sex marriages legalized in other states and neighboring District of Columbia.

"Thus far, all of those have been defeated," Warbelow said.

Activists remain focused on marriage equality in New York state, where a coordinated campaign is underway to defeat legislators who late in 2009 voted against a measure to legalize marriage for same-sex couples.

"We hope that in 2010 some legislators who did not vote for marriage will be replaced with legislators

who are willing to vote for marriage," Warbelow said. "Elections are very important to us."

An early legislative victory in the Midwest was passage of the Healthy Youth Act dealing with comprehensive sex education in Wisconsin, where the two bills to watch now would create enhanced penalties for certain crimes on the basis of gender or perceived gender and strengthen anti-bullying efforts in schools, said Warbelow.

In neighboring Iowa, activists are celebrating an anniversary of legalized same-sex marriage, and, in Illinois, activists are lobbying for passage of civil unions legislation.

In the western states, activists are lobbying for more than a dozen measures in California, including the Civil Marriage Religious Freedom Act, which would strengthen the differentiation between civil and reli-

gious marriage and is seen by sponsor Mark Leno, D-San Francisco, as needed if activists are to repeal Proposition 8, the constitutional amendment against same-sex marriage.

"Marriage equality proponents have never believed that churches would be forced to solemnize marriages that are against their beliefs because of the constitutional protections for freedom of religion," Leno said. "Just as many churches are willing and eager to welcome lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people of faith and same-sex couples, members of clergy may also refuse to marry same-sex couples based on their religious tenets."

"Clearly, we need to clarify under California law that all members of clergy have this fundamental freedom."

Another important measure is pending in Arizona. There, Warbelow said, the

focus is on defeating a bill that would "make it difficult for same-sex couples to adopt."

If the measure passes, state adoption agencies would give "primary consideration" to placement of a child with a married couple, although adoption agencies may consider placement with a single person if a married couple is not available.

Arizona LGBT activists said the arguments for the measure, called the Marital Preference for Adoption Act, remind them of the campaign to pass the adoption ban in Florida 33 years ago.

"But this is 2010," said LGBT civil rights advocate Randy Delossa of Phoenix. "And in 2010, we're not going to lose."

Tell us what you think!
Write managingeditor@
wisconsin-gazette.com.

Defense officials ease 'don't ask' implementation

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

The Department of Defense is changing the way it implements the "don't ask, don't tell" policy while military and congressional officials prepare for repealing the measure banning gays from serving openly in the Armed Forces.

Meanwhile, the Justice Department in late March filed a brief defending DADT against a Log Cabin Republicans lawsuit filed in 2004.

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates announced changes in the practice of DADT during a speech at the Pentagon in late March.

"I have approved a series of changes," Gates said, adding that the changes had the approval of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and were developed with advice from civilian and military leaders in the DOD.

Gates said the DOD was:

- Raising the level of the officer authorized to initiate a review under DADT to a flag officer.

- Revising what constitutes the "credible information" needed to initiate a review or separation proceeding. An example, said Gates, would be "discouraging the use of overheard statements and hearsay."

- Revising what constitutes a "reliable person" upon whose word an inquiry would be initiated, "with special scrutiny on third parties who may be motivated to harm the servicemember."

- Disallowing the use of certain confidential information against a servicemember, including information provided to attorneys, clergy, therapists, doctors and information obtained through a security-clearance review.

"I believe these changes

represent an important improvement in the way the current law is put into practice – above all by providing a greater measure of common sense and common decency to a process for handling what are difficult and complex issues for all involved," Gates said.

National LGBT civil rights advocates responded to the changes with renewed calls for a repeal of DADT this year.

"There is no reason for Congress to wait for the details on implementation when Secretary Gates and the president have made it clear that this law should be repealed," said Human Rights Campaign president Joe Solmonese.

"Why haven't our political leaders exercised real leadership by placing an immediate halt to all discharges of servicemembers because of

their sexual orientation until Congress finally fulfills its responsibility to repeal this law?" asked National Gay and Lesbian Task Force executive director Rea Carey.

Civil rights advocates said that with delays in repeal, servicemembers suffer and proponents of DADT have time to rally behind arguments that allowing gays to serve openly threatens troop morale and unit cohesion.

Marine Corps. Gen. James Conway cited concerns about unit cohesion when he suggested that the force might have to create separate living spaces for gay servicemembers.

The Justice Department, which is responsible for defending federal laws, also cited concerns for unit cohesion in a brief filed March 29 in Log Cabin Republicans v. Gates, a constitutional challenge to DADT. The brief



PHOTO: COURTESY NGLTF

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force executive director Rea Carey

included statements opposing gays in the military from retired Gen. Colin Powell, who now says he supports repeal.

"Today we took a step

backward," Solmonese said of the Justice Department filing.

Tell us what you think!
Write managingeditor@wisconsin-gazette.com.

Norman police investigate man's death

Police in Norman, Okla., are investigating the death of a 28-year-old man who sued the Oklahoma Tax Commission over his request for a vanity license plate that noted his sexual orientation.

Officers say they received a report of a dead body about 7:45 a.m. March 31 at an apartment complex in south Norman. When police arrived, they found

Keith William Kimmel.

Investigators say Kimmel had stayed overnight at the apartment and was discovered by a resident, who notified authorities.

Two days earlier, Kimmel had filed a complaint alleging Tulsa, Okla., police beat him while arresting him at a Tulsa bar March 26. A bartender had called police to remove an intoxicated man, according to a 911

recording.

Kimmel sued the Oklahoma Tax Commission Feb. 10 over the agency's refusal to grant his application for a vanity license plate that was to read, "IM GAY."

He later dropped the lawsuit but said he was changing attorneys and would refile his request in federal court.

— from WiG and AP reports

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{ Editorial }

A healthier system

The healthcare reform legislation signed into law last month by President Barack Obama is a big step forward for all Americans, but it is particularly important for lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgenders. LGBT people have been disproportionately harmed by the current healthcare system.

Repeated studies have shown that LGBT people are less likely to have health insurance than heterosexuals, regardless of their age, employment status, income or education. That's largely because the majority of same-sex couples – unlike their married straight counterparts – can't rely on the employment benefits of their partners to secure affordable coverage.

A 2006 national survey found that 20 percent of people in same-sex couples were uninsured, compared with only 11.5 percent of married individuals. That's nearly double the rate of uninsured. With the economic downturn that followed the survey, those numbers likely grew worse.

Transgender people, who often lack formal employment due to discrimination, have been even less likely to have employer-sponsored health insurance.

Reform will make healthcare far more accessible to the 32 million people in the United States who now lack insurance. It's estimated that more than 95 percent of U.S. citizens will receive coverage under the new law.

Reform also will prevent insurers from denying coverage for pre-existing conditions. For the gay and bisexual men who are living with HIV and for the disproportionate number of lesbians with breast cancer, this could mean the difference between life and death.

In addition, the law contains a provision banning insurance companies from charging women more than men for the same coverage. This practice, known as "gender rating," is currently widespread.

The reform package is not perfect. We would have preferred a simpler bill offering a government insurance option similar to Medicare. It is outrageous that the legislation contains restrictions on reproductive freedom, fails to include anti-discrimination protections for LGBT people and forces domestic partners to continue paying taxes on benefits offered by employers.

As a community, we must continue to lobby our elected officials to rectify these flaws in the law. But given the bizarre political climate, lawmakers have probably delivered the best legislation possible at this time. It includes much for us to celebrate.

> TAKE ACTION!

ADDRESS ALCOHOL ABUSE

Wisconsin has long had the nation's highest rates of drinking – and binge drinking – among adults. It's the only state where the first drunk driving offense is a traffic violation and not a crime. LGBT people are particularly at risk in this alcoholic culture, because repeated studies have shown our community has higher rates of abuse.

WHAT CAN I DO?

If drinking is negatively impacting your health, get help. Don't drink and drive. Don't let your friends drink and drive. Contact your state representatives and urge them to bring drunk-driving laws in line with the rest of the nation. Go to www.legis.state.wi.us and click on "who represents me."

{ Letters }

GAYS AND CLERICAL ABUSE

It's all over the media except in the gay press. As if we are afraid that if we mention it the shit will hit the fan. "It's those gay priests!" No, it is a few sick individuals who have used their positions of trust as clergy to abuse children.

Here in Wisconsin the news focuses on a priest who abused deaf children over a 25-year period from the 1950s into the 1970s. Why didn't the local Church authorities alert the police? Why did they cover up the scandal? How many more cases of child abuse are still hidden in secret reports to the Vatican?

The answers to these questions are not as simple as one might expect. Yes, the Church wanted to protect itself from scandal.

And, yes, it was also defending its right to try "criminous clerks" under Canon Law in Church courts. You remember the conflict between Henry Plantagenet and Beckett? The king caved then and the Church is asserting the same rights today in these cases of clerical abuse of children.

But that does not mean

that the intention was to ignore the problem or to let guilty men continue to prey on innocent victims.

Forty years ago very little was known about pedophilia. It was considered a moral defect that could be treated therapeutically and that sexual urges could be controlled by discipline and prayer. The Church had the histories of hundreds of its saints who had conquered their private demons through these methods to prove their validity.

Locally, when a man confessed to his superior that he had abused a child he was sent to a Church-affiliated treatment center, the equivalent of our popular rehab clinics today. If the treatment facility certified that the man had completed his treatment and the prognosis was good and that he would not abuse again, he was returned to parish work. The intentions were good given what was known at the time.

That was the standard operating procedure. The case of Father Murphy is egregious in the number of his victims and in the way complaints were treated as they worked their way through the Church hierarchy. Pope Benedict XVI has

not explained why he ignored Archbishop Weakland's letters urging the pope to defrock the priest. In his autobiography, Weakland says that he did not have a good relationship with Rome during those years. Perhaps the Vatican simply ignored correspondence from Milwaukee. Whatever, this scandal mutated in the darkness and other perverts were able to hide behind their clerical vows and garb.

What is this to us, to LGBTs today? We must condemn all child abuse and disavow pedophile groups such as the North American Man Boy Love Association.

We must affirm that sexual orientation, whether homosexual or heterosexual, is attraction by adults toward other adults. Let there be zero tolerance for those who indulge their pedophile inclination in either in deeds or through pornography. If we come out strongly and assert these values we will make considerable progress in convincing heterosexuals that we are indeed all members of the same community.

Bea Green
Milwaukee

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The Wisconsin Gazette is published biweekly and distributed throughout the Milwaukee area, Madison, Racine and Kenosha. To have WiG delivered to your address, contact circulation@wisconsin-gazette.com or call 414-961-3240.

WiG Publishing, LLC. © 2010

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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.

School failures

I always knew school was evil, even as a child. I remember being 8 years old and standing in silence in the never-ending lunch line with my empty yellow tray, staring up at the hundred kids in line ahead of me and thinking: "This is what prison must be like."

I hated school. I didn't really have any friends, and I was smaller than the rest of the kids, which might have made me a prime target for bullying except for the fact that I was lucky enough to stay under most people's radars. Every once in a while (even at 8 or 10 years old), people would say that I was gay or call me gay, but nothing terrible ever happened.

This apparently is not the case for a lot of kids these days who are getting picked on at school daily, being pushed, punched and/or threatened. I read this week about an incident at Gregory B. Jarvis Junior/Senior High School in New York state, where a 14-year-old student who had recently come out as gay was not just getting picked on, but was being blatantly harassed, threatened, and physically harmed. On one occasion, J.L. was left with a sprained ankle and returned to school on crutches.

The fact that the problem escalated to this level is upsetting enough. But even worse, J.L.'s parents had already spoken with the school about the problems and nothing was done to improve the situation.

In fact, when J.L.'s fear of attending school was brought to the attention of the school district, officials encouraged him to quit school. The principal said they weren't going to change anything just to "cater to homosexuals."

J.L. sued and is getting \$50,000 plus legal fees and the cost of therapy.

Just a few weeks ago Constance McMillen, an 18-year-old senior in Mississippi, was told that she would not be allowed to attend her high school

Opinion

BY ANGEL SEVILLA

I can't imagine what it must feel like to be the parents in these situations.

prom because she wanted to take her girlfriend and wear a tuxedo. McMillen fought for her rights, but the school board ultimately decided to cancel the dance rather deal with the situation. Students at the school blamed McMillen for the cancellation.

The matter was settled recently. A private prom was thrown at a nearby country club and McMillen was welcome to bring her girlfriend as her date. But the school did not reinstate the in-school prom, even though a federal judge ruled that McMillen's constitutional rights had been violated.

These two stories are shocking. I can't imagine what it must feel like to be the parents in these situations. I wouldn't want to send my son or daughter to such schools.

When you drop your kid off at school, the faculty and administration are supposed to take care of your children – to keep them safe, not pick on them. Kids should not have to sue their schools for equal rights. The administrators responsible for the pain and suffering should be fired. They are damaging the lives of the young people in their care and costing their school districts thousands of dollars in legal fees.

Something to say?
E-mail managingeditor@wisconsinazette.com.

Religion as the enemy

A recent news story reported that a young gay man who wanted to take his boyfriend to the school prom was thrown out of his home by his parents. It all but leaped out at the reader that the parents were "Christians" who had imbibed Christian anti-gay prejudice.

Conservative Christian groups, such as the Christian Coalition, conservative preachers and the Vatican, regularly oppose all efforts to treat gays equally. The conservative Catholic League even blamed gays for the Catholic child sexual abuse scandal, pointing out that most victims were male.

In Israel, the one country where Jews are a majority, the main agitators against gay equality, even gay parades, are Orthodox Jewish groups.

No one need fear saying the obvious: Religion, particularly in its more conservative forms, is the enemy of gay people.

Even at the individual level, religion can harm gays. It

saps the fragile self-esteem of young gays and lesbians, who are repeatedly told they are sinners and bound for an imaginary hell. It holds out false hope that they can change through prayer and abstinence, that celibacy is possible and can be achieved through sufficient piety and resolve.

And anti-gay religion can tacitly encourage harassment and violence against gays by teaching people that they are bad people and so need not be treated well.

It would not be so bad if religions enforced their anti-gay doctrines only on their own members and adherents. But no! They want the various laws and strictures to apply to everyone, whether or not they are adherents of the religion.

In one widely cited but misunderstood Biblical passage, Jesus supposedly said, "Compel them to come in." So compulsion of everyone via the law is easily justified.

What should we do in this

situation?

First, if you belong to or contribute to a homophobic church, stop. Switch to a gay-friendly religion. Homosexuality cannot be changed, but religions can.

Tell your priest, minister, or imam that you are leaving and why. Contribute to gay friendly churches and gay advocacy groups, such as the International Gay and Lesbian Association.

I am not much of a demonstrator, but if you have that temperament, feel free to picket notably homophobic churches and appearances by homophobic ministers.

I used to urge people to write a letter to the local newspaper. In small towns those do get read. But in large cities, especially, it seems more useful to start a blog on the topic, or add relevant items to your existing blog.

This seems the modern way to communicate information among the young and I think it is the young

Opinion

BY PAUL VARNELL

we need to reach, before their views have curdled into prejudice.

It seems unlikely that we can have much impact on long-standing religions, particularly abroad. But perhaps we can encourage local gays to be more assertive. And in the U.S., we can assist the slow growth of tolerance and acceptance of gays by shaming homophobic religions.

I run into a lot of people – especially gays – who tell me they are not religious but they are "spiritual." I am not sure what this means (nor, often, are they), but I think it means they have put aside the severe religion doctrines they were brought up with.

To the extent this includes casting off anti-gay doctrines, this is a gain and should be encouraged.

A gay president? Really?

Opinion

BY JENNIFER VANASCO

According to a 60 Minutes/Vanity Fair poll, 50 percent of Americans would support an openly gay president.

Bad news: That seems unlikely.

Thanks to the last presidential election, we've all heard of the Bradley effect: Voters tell pollsters they'd vote for the black guy/woman/gay person, but then vote for the same white males they always have.

They want to give the answer that's more socially acceptable.

This poll isn't asking the harder question – whether the person being polled would vote for a gay president. It's just asking if they would support a gay person who magically made it into office.

Yet 50 percent of the people polled said a gay President is A-OK with them.

Good news: If this indicates that the Bradley effect may now apply to us, it is a welcome sea change.

The presidential ques-

tion is only one question, of course, in a silly (if scientific) poll that also asked whether someone would rather visit Bourbon Street, Graceland or Nashville.

And admittedly, the question also primed the person being polled to feel positively toward us. It said:

"The military's 'don't ask, don't tell' policy prohibiting openly gay soldiers from serving in uniform may soon be changed. Would you support or oppose having an openly gay person serve in any of the following roles?"

As we know, an overwhelming majority of Americans now support gays and lesbians serving openly in the military. So they probably were feeling kindly toward us patriotic gay people before the full question was asked.

And then the poll gets

stranger. After asking about whether Americans would support a gay president, it lists Supreme Court justice (55 percent), secretary of state (56 percent), commissioner of baseball (61 percent) and Super Bowl quarterback (62 percent).

Honestly, the only thing that seems less likely than Americans supporting a gay president is Americans supporting a gay Super Bowl quarterback.

Still, the point holds: Americans are becoming more sensitive to the idea that it is not OK to discriminate against gay people.

The question was really asking, "Do you feel like it's OK to be homophobic in public, to a stranger?"

And the answer, it seems, is starting to be "no."

This is just one step in a long series of steps toward equality, but it is an important one. Americans who are afraid of being labeled homophobic by a stranger in public (even by someone

as innocuous as an anonymous over-the-phone pollster) are less likely to actually discriminate against gay people. They're less likely to call us names; less likely to allow their kids to bully us in school; less likely to fire us when they find out we have a same-sex partner; less likely to legislate against us.

This is very different from 25 or 30 or 40 years ago, when it seemed like the "natural" thing to do was to find gays and lesbians unnatural. And it is very, very different from the days when straight Americans could not even imagine gay people openly holding any kind of public office, let alone the most highly respected one.

It is steadily becoming truer that being anti-gay is not OK.

Being unwilling to be seen as homophobic in public is a long way from helping us gain full equality, of course.

And it is unlikely to translate into actual votes.

But it is an important step.

NATIONAL GAZE

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Poll shows growing support for same-sex marriage

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Marriage equality activists logged more than 700,000 conversations about marriage and equality in California in the last year.

A poll released in late March indicates that now, for the first time in the state's history, 50 percent of Californians support legalizing marriage for same-sex couples.

"Our efforts are working," proclaimed a statement from Equality California, which has played a leadership role in lobbying for same-sex marriage legislation and fought Proposition 8, the 2008 constitutional amendment against gay marriage.

"We have the largest, full-time, experienced field staff working on marriage equality in the movement and they, in partnership with key

coalition allies, are mobilizing thousands of volunteers on the ground in the nine regions of California where we most need to move people," said EC executive director Geoff Kors, who hopes momentum is building to overturn Prop 8.

The survey conducted by the Public Policy Institute of California showed support for gay marriage in California climbed six percentage points in the past year to 50 percent. Support among adults has never surpassed 45 percent since the question was first asked by PPIC in January 2000.

"This is the kind of dramatic, ground-shifting movement we believed was possible," Kors said.

The institute surveyed 2,002 registered voters by phone from March 9-16 in a wide-ranging poll about

"Californians and Their Government."

The poll, with a sampling error rate of plus or minus 2 percentage points, found voters dissatisfied with government affairs – the state legislature's approval-rating was 9 percent and Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's rating was a record-low of 25.

The survey also found majority support for immigration reform and a proposition to change the state's primary election process, a partisan split over healthcare reform and, on the issue of same-sex marriage, more Californians for legalized gay marriage than against – 50 percent for, 45 percent against.

Majorities of Democrats (64 percent) and independents (55 percent) were in favor of legal same-sex marriage, and most Republicans

'This is the kind of dramatic, ground-shifting movement we believed was possible.'

(67 percent) were opposed.

With support for gay marriage rising, the Let California Ring coalition of more than 50 civil rights groups is moving forward with recommendations developed from an analysis of 75 studies related to the issue.

The coalition is investing more than \$15 million over the next couple of years to:

- Develop tailored messaging for all audiences, with a focus on African-American, Asian Pacific Islander and Latino Californians.

- Deliver marriage equality messages with a multi-media campaign that employs television, print and radio advertising, as well as online outreach.

- Share the stories of married same-sex couples with audiences throughout the state.

- Organize on school campuses.

- Engage faith-based allies.

"Let California Ring's model of concerted action is the surest and fastest way to win the freedom to marry," said Evan Wolfson, executive director of Freedom to Marry. "By combining the

air-cover of media with the groundwork of engaging in the needed conversations – person-to-person, group-to-group – the menu of actions spurred by Let California Ring will persuade the persuadable and help everyone we reach together rise to fairness."

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Private dance replaces Mississippi school prom

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

The Fulton Country Club hosted a prom to replace the dance canceled by the Itawamba County, Miss., School Board over a lesbian student's request to escort her girlfriend and to wear a tuxedo.

The country club dance took place April 2, and was not well attended because many Itawamba students went to an invitation-only event sponsored by some parents.

Meanwhile, Constance McMillen and her attorneys await a trial on her lawsuit against the school officials who defended the policy banning students from attending prom with a same-sex date and mandating certain attire for males and females.

McMillen's fight has captured nationwide attention and, according to numerous press reports, inspired other LGBT students to attend school dances.

The fight also generated new interest in the pending Student Non-Discrimination Act introduced earlier this year by openly gay U.S. Rep. Jared Polis, D-Colo.

In McMillen's fight, the American Civil Liberties Union has maintained that the U.S. Constitution and case law is on the student's side, but activists have said passage of Polis' measure would be monumental in protecting LGBT students nationwide.

The bill, which has 82 co-sponsors, would make discrimination in schools based on sexual orientation or gender identity/expression against the law. Federal civil rights statutes expressly address discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin, but they do not explicitly include sexual orientation or gender identity and, as a result, LGBT students and parents have often had limited legal recourse for this

kind of discrimination.

"Far too many schools do nothing to address the hostile environments that LGBT students face," Eliza Byard, executive director of the Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network after the bill's introduction. "We owe it to our children to do everything we can to make sure that discrimination is eliminated from our schools."

GLSEN, American Association of University Women, American Civil Liberties Union, Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders, Human Rights Campaign, National Center for Lesbian Rights, National Center for Transgender Equality, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Action Fund, School Social Work Association and Transgender Law Center have endorsed SNDA.

The bill was referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor and is under review.

Art scene, suburban lifestyle draw gays to Waukesha

By Todd Wellman

Contributing writer

It's the seat of the most politically conservative county in the state, but a burgeoning art scene is transforming Waukesha into a hip destination that seems to be attracting a growing number of gay

and lesbian residents.

With 25 galleries and art-related businesses, along with trendy eateries, an active music scene and a growing calendar of public events, the city is undergoing what locals call a "renaissance." The transformation has attracted

national attention: Money Magazine named Waukesha one of the top 100 places to live in 2006.

"Matt," who asked WiG not to use his real name because he's not out to his family, says his hometown's new vibrancy is keeping him

there. A gay twenty-something financial professional, Matt says he particularly enjoys the local "art crawls," which take place just four blocks from his home near downtown. He says the events, held five times annually, are evidence of the city's creative and open culture, and he always sees gay and lesbian couples there.

Outgoing mayor Larry Nelson says the art crawls are the residual effect of other programming, including

The National Endowment for the Arts-supported Big Read Waukesha Program, which brings the community together to read a designated book. He notes his city has a very active music scene, including the Downtown Business Association's Friday Night Live, which features several music stages on special summer nights.

Civic events are also staged in Frame Park, a quaint river walk along the Fox River. Fiesta Waukesha, a three-day music festival/fundraiser cel-

ebrating the Hispanic culture in southeastern Wisconsin, is held there. The Waukesha Civic Theatre stages quality musicals and plays.

While the city of Waukesha has the area's most active nightlife, LGBT people live in other areas of the county as well. Penny Anstey, owner of SightLine, has lived with her partner Mary in Muskego for 12 years. She says they are known by their subdivision neighbors as "the girls on Hemingway."

Anstey says it's difficult to find other LGBT people in the area. "You might see someone (LGBT) in the grocery store, but there's no specific place that people frequent," she says.

Still, Anstey says suburban life is worth the sacrifice. She likes the openness of the land, her 18 flower gardens and lower property taxes.

And Anstey says she's not living in isolation. She joined an all-women's suburban activity group known as the Wander Women, which offers a variety of activities,

from board games to travel. "Jim" (not his real name) lives in a more rural area of the county.

"Sometimes I see homes in the city and think, 'How do people live there?' I saw enough of close contact in college," he says. "My partner and I like having our space and our quiet."

But Jim says living in Waukesha presents challenges. It requires a lot of travel to Milwaukee to be around other LGBT people, and friends who live in Milwaukee don't like driving to visit him.

Once Jim called his partner "sweetie" while shopping at the local Pick 'N Save, and a customer who overheard nearly snapped off his neck twisting around in surprise, he says.

Anstey says LGBT people can be comfortable with living outside of a big city – but that it comes with work.

"If you're going to set yourself apart from everyone else, I don't care where you live, you're not going to fit in," she says.

'The ceiling didn't cave in'

Skinner from I

the county. It includes Carroll University, blue-collar areas and affluent historic neighborhoods. "As I was going door-to-door (campaigning), it reinforced what I already knew – that this district is very balanced," Skinner said. "There's all walks of life here."

Skinner and Barrett, who married in Toronto in September 2003, moved to the area after deciding to have children. "We wanted to build a home ... in an urban environment with a walkable, lively neighborhood that was near schools and parks," he said.

That search ended a few blocks from downtown Waukesha, where they built a new Craftsman-style home, complete with a picket fence. Although the picket fence

isn't white, the house conforms to another stereotype – the gay one: It won an award for historic design from the Milwaukee Builders Association.

Skinner and Barrett pursued adoption, but after running into numerous roadblocks due to their sexual orientation, they had twin girls through a surrogate. Together, they became the first "non-traditional" family to join St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Skinner said.

When it came time to baptize the kids, Skinner and Barrett told the church's leaders that they didn't want "to disrupt anything."

But, "they were very reassuring," he said. "They said, 'You're part of our congregation.'"

Still it was a tense moment for the parents.

"That was the most nervous we've ever been,"

Skinner remembered. "It was our family in front of everyone for the first time."

Fortunately, he said, "The ceiling didn't cave in."

Since then, the couple has "bonded with quite a few families from our church and school," Skinner said. "We share baby-sitters. We're closer now to families from our daughters' school than we were with our old friends."

Some of their new friends have even accompanied Skinner, Barrett and the twins to PrideFest.

"We couldn't be happier with the choice to move to Waukesha," Skinner said. "Our liberal friends said we were crazy, but we could not be happier. We call (our neighborhood) the 'mini-East Side.' We're five minutes from the university, two blocks from our school and five minutes from downtown."

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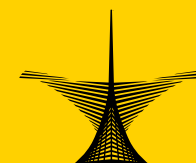
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LGBTS SUNNIER THROUGH RECESSION

LGBT people seem to be weathering the recession with a sunnier attitude than heterosexual people, according to a new poll conducted by Harris Interactive.

Fear of unemployment and job security remain central concerns for many American households, including LGBT households.

However, the poll conducted in March found that LGBT adults remain more optimistic about the future of the job market than heterosexual adults.

75 percent of heterosexual adults and 64 percent of LGBT adults rate the job market in their region of the country as either "very bad" or "somewhat bad."

One in four of LGBT adults believe the job market will start to improve within the next six months, compared with 12 percent of heterosexual adults.

One-fifth of LGBT adults

believe the economy will start growing again within the next six months, compared with 10 percent of heterosexual adults.

ACLU TO CHALLENGE PROP 8 ORDER

U.S. District Court Judge Vaughn Walker ruled recently that the American Civil Liberties Union and Equality California must turn over campaign documents, including internal e-mails and memos regarding efforts to overturn Prop 8, even though the groups are not parties to the legal challenge brought by Ted Olson and David Boies seeking to strike down the discriminatory ordinance.

The ACLU plans to appeal the decision, according to attorney Elizabeth Gill.

"People must have a right to organize to make change," Gill said. "That right often requires bringing together diverse groups to work together in coalition to fight for or against a particular

issue. Yet it is precisely this kind of coalition work that is most jeopardized by Judge Walker's order, which strips coalition partners of their constitutional protections to organize."

UNIVERSITY CANCELS MCNALLY PLAY

The performance of a play that portrays Jesus as gay was canceled at Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas, amid what school officials say are "safety and security concerns."

Critics say the Terrence McNally play "Corpus Christi," which premiered in 1998 in New York, is blasphemous. But the Tarleton student director said he chose it to help gay youths who may be struggling with their faith.

Security concerns were cited in prompting the university to initially change the start time and restrict attendance for the production. Then the school put a statement on its Web site saying a professor decided to cancel it due to safety concerns.

STUDY: 14 PERCENT OF DC GAY MEN ARE HIV POSITIVE

A new report says that 14 percent of gay men in the District of Columbia are HIV positive.

The D.C. HIV/AIDS Administration released the study, showing the rate of HIV among gay men is five times higher than that of



PHOTO: COURTESY MARYLAND ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

Maryland Attorney General Douglas F. Gansler issued an opinion that state law allows for the recognition of out-of-state same-sex marriages.

adults and teenagers in the city.

Of the 500 men surveyed, more than 40 percent were unaware if they were HIV positive before the study. More than one-third didn't know their last partner's HIV status. The report found younger men generally had safer sex practices than older men.

JUDGE DEFINES SAME-SEX DIVORCE

A Pennsylvania judge

refused to divorce two women married last year in Massachusetts, leaving them in apparent limbo because they do not meet the residency required to divorce in the Bay State.

Berks County Judge Scott Lash said he could not grant a divorce to Carole Ann Kern and Robin Lynn Taney because their marriage is not recognized under Pennsylvania law.

Massachusetts has no residence requirement to marry, but requires couples seeking

to divorce to have lived there for a year.

GOP CHIEF WANTS TO BLOCK GAY MARRIAGE OPINION

The GOP leader in Maryland's House of Delegates wants state lawmakers to pass legislation that would invalidate a recent Maryland Attorney General opinion on gay marriage.

Attorney General Doug Gansler said last month that state agencies must now recognize out-of-state gay marriages until the legislature or courts decide otherwise.

Same sex marriage is legal in Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Washington, D.C. and Vermont.

— from AP and WiG reports

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INTERNATIONAL GAZE

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Gazette .com**POLICE CANCEL
INDONESIA
CONFERENCE**

Indonesian police ordered the cancellation of an LGBT conference in March, saying it could prompt violent protests by conservative Muslim groups.

The International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association conference was expected to host participants from 16 countries.

Police in Surabaya banned the event to keep the peace, according to national police spokesman Brig. Gen. Sulistyono Ishak.

"There are indications that the event could trigger a social crisis and cause public unrest," Ishak said. "This ban was issued for the sake of public order."

ILGA is a worldwide federation of more than 560 LGBT groups. It has held conferences in India, the Philippines and Thailand.

**BRITISH
PARLIAMENT
HOSTS ITS
FIRST SAME-SEX
MARRIAGE**

Britain's Europe Minister Chris Bryant has taken part in Parliament's first gay marriage, celebrating a civil partnership ceremony at the historic venue.

Bryant, a member of the governing Labour Party, won permission to hold his civil partnership ceremony with partner Jared Cranney at the

Palace of Westminster, home to the Houses of Parliament.

Britain has officially recognized same-sex civil partnerships since 2005, giving the couples the same legal protection and inheritance rights as in heterosexual marriages.

Bryant lobbied House of Commons speaker John Bercow to apply for a license to host his civil partnership ceremony.

Members of the public will also now be allowed to apply to hold their same-sex ceremonies at Parliament.

**MUGABE: NO
GAY RIGHTS IN
ZIMBABWE**

Zimbabwe's president says gay rights will not be protected in a constitution being drawn up under a power-sharing deal.

State radio quoted President Robert Mugabe saying that Western rights groups have called for constitutional reforms to include gay rights. He calls that "insanity."

Same-sex sexual acts are illegal in Zimbabwe. Mugabe once described homosexuals as "lower than pigs and dogs."

Condemnation of gays is common in Africa. Ugandan lawmakers have proposed imposing the death penalty on some gays.

In Africa, only South Africa has legalized same-sex marriage. Even there, the gap between the liberal constitution and social attitudes can be wide.

**GOOGLE, YAHOO
CRITICIZE
AUSTRALIAN
INTERNET FILTER**

Internet giants Google and Yahoo have criticized Australia's proposal for a mandatory Internet filter, calling it a heavy-handed measure that could restrict access to legal information.

Their statements, among 174 comments from the public submitted to the Australian Department of Communications on the filtering proposal, come amid a struggle between Google and China over censorship-free content.

Lucinda Barlow of Google Australia called the Internet blocking measures of Australia and China "apples and oranges," but also said her company was deeply concerned about Australia's proposal because of its mandatory and sweeping nature.

If adopted into law, the screening system would make Australia one of the strictest Internet regulators among the world's democracies, and the proposal has put the country on the Reporters Without Borders annual "Enemies of the Internet" list.

Google's Barlow told the Australian Broadcasting Corp. that the proposal raised the possibility of banning politically and socially controversial material and went beyond filters used in Germany and Canada, which block child pornography and,

in Italy, gambling sites.

Yahoo made a similar contention, saying the filter would block many sites with controversial content, such as euthanasia discussion forums and gay and lesbian forums that discuss sexual experiences.

"There is enormous value in this content being available to encourage debate and inform opinion," Yahoo said.

**RELIGIOUS
GROUPS
ADDRESS AID
DISCRIMINATION**

Religious groups meeting at The Hague discussed in late March how to help the global fight against AIDS by preventing victims from becoming social outcasts.

Canon Gideon Byamugisha, an Anglican priest from Uganda, said the way his church treated him after he discovered he had HIV should set an example for the rest of the world.

"They reacted with support and understanding," he said in a telephone interview. "There were sections who were annoyed and disappointed I was HIV-positive, but a big number opted to give me the love, care and support I needed."

Earlier this month, Byamugisha was among a delegation that delivered a petition signed by 500,000 people to Uganda's parliament calling on lawmakers to reject a proposed law that would impose the death penalty on



PHOTO: PARLIAMENTARY COPYRIGHT/DERYC SANDS

Members of the public are now allowed to apply to hold their same-sex commitment ceremonies at the British Parliament.

some gays. Byamugisha said the bill teaches intolerance and hatred and is counter to the constitution's anti-discrimination laws.

Representatives, including Christians, Jews, Muslims, Hindus and Buddhists, were expected to round off two days of talks by pledging to fight discrimination against those with AIDS and HIV.

However, some divisions remained among leaders, he

added, with delegates "still struggling with how to balance between communicating the religious messages that talk about morality and spirituality (and) public health challenges on the ground."

— from AP and WiG reports

Something to say?
E-mail managingeditor@wisconsin-gazette.com.

Malawi to hold 'indecent' trial

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Two men in Malawi will stand trial early this month on charges of "gross indecency."

Their alleged crime was engaging in same-sex sex.

A Malawi judge delayed his verdict in the case in late March, prompting protests from human rights organizations around the world. The judge's action set the case for a hearing in April, and further delayed any release of Steven Monjeza and Tiwonge Chimbalanga, who have

been denied bail since late December.

Monjeza, 26, and Chimbalanga, 20, have been detained in maximum-security Chichiri prison in Blantyre since police arrested them Dec. 28, 2009, following their engagement ceremony in Chirimba township.

"The trial of these men, purely on the basis of their real or perceived sexual orientation, is a gross violation of their rights to freedom of conscience, expression and privacy," said Veronique Aubert, deputy Africa direc-

tor at Amnesty International.

Amnesty alleged that while in police custody, Chimbalanga has been repeatedly subjected to forced medical examinations to determine whether the two men consummated their relationship.

Human rights groups also have received reports that the men were beaten in prison.

Amnesty considers Monjeza and Chimbalanga to be prisoners of conscience and it considers Malawi to be in violation of

the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights — both treaties the nation has signed.

"Malawi is legally bound by these treaties to respect and protect freedom of conscience, expression and the right to privacy, without discrimination on the grounds of real or perceived sexual orientation," Aubert said.

Something to say?
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WISCONSIN GAZETTE ENTERTAINMENT

'25' to life

An interview with our singer/songwriter Patty Larkin

By Gregg Shapiro

Staff writer

Musicians have found a variety of ways to commemorate musical anniversaries, including massive concert tours and expanded reissues of hit albums.

Out singer/songwriter Patty Larkin, who grew up in Milwaukee, has taken a fascinating and rewarding approach with "25" (from Signature Sounds), a double-disc set on which she revisits more than two dozen love songs from the course of her prolific career.

What sets the songs apart is that she is joined on the songs by 25 friends, including queer musicians Catie Curtis, Janis Ian, Erin McKeown and Cheryl Wheeler, as well as Rosanne Cash, Shawn Colvin, Dar Williams, Suzanne Vega, Jonatha Brooke, Martin Sexton, Peter Mulvey and Mary Chapin Carpenter. Their contributions are both sublime and celebratory.

I spoke with Patty prior to the release of "25."

Gregg Shapiro: You are representing 25 years of music on two discs. What was involved in the selection process?

Patty Larkin: Before we chose the songs, we decided on the theme – so that helped. When I first started thinking about (it), I thought I would do unplugged versions of these songs that I'd recorded through the years. I just assumed that I would do a little bit of everything. Then 2009 was such a crummy year in many ways. There was illness in my family, my mom passed away in September, and it just seemed really appropriate to choose the love songs to do. But, also as a thank you to everybody that has been with me through the years, the listen-

ers and the people that show up at shows and the people who have supported me and booked me. So it was a big mushy moment, I think.

GS: How did you select the friends?

PL: Well, I began with people that I have toured with through the years and recorded with through the years, and that kind of made sense – to get a hold of some

Interview
WIGOUT

people, like Rosanne Cash and John Gorka and Bruce Cockburn. Dar Williams lives around the corner from me in the summer. It was kind of organic in the beginning. Then people all said yes and it was like, "OK, let's ask a couple more people," and then they said, "yes." And then the next few said, "yes," and so it just snowballed into, "We're on our way to 25." And it seemed like a really cool concept. I always like to have these themes for the records, focus for the album. It's unbelievable that we pulled it off. That these incredibly busy, talented people who I have worked with over the years ... came through in such a beautiful way.

GS: Did you choose the song and then the friend or vice versa?

PL: I knew who I was going to call or who I was going to begin with, but I wasn't sure what I was going to have them sing on. Other than Bruce Cockburn, who had already recorded "Open Arms," so we thought that might be interesting for him to just come on back for an encore (laughs) with that song.

Other than that, it was really going through the

songs and suggesting songs to people, or some people had a song or two that they really wanted to do.

GS: Did any of the songs reveal something to you that you hadn't heard the first time?

PL: Yes, definitely. Cried more than once. Just how beautiful it was or how much care they took. Like what Jonatha did with "Only One" or Martin (Sexton), just all of them. (David) Wilcox was the first one in, and I just started crying and I thought, "Oh, my God, this is gorgeous." I think that is the beauty of working with someone else and collaborating. ... You get that extra shot of insight where you would never go. For instance, with Jonatha Brooke's harmony on "Only One." I never would have gone there, never would have gone up with the harmony. When I recorded, it I just followed the vocal and played sort of a blues lead guitar on it. She makes it into the heavenly, minimalist piece.

GS: "Lost & Found" is performed by The She-las, which consists of you, your sister Sheila, Catherine David and Merrie Amsterburg. Do you think that there may be a She-las record down the line?

PL: (Laughs) That was the name of a group that I wanted to form that was going to be a vocally charged group, and I asked my sister if I could use her name. It turns out that there is a group called The Sheilas – it's this girl group, hot rock group (laughs). So, we had to spell it differently.

My sister had a stroke after surgery about a year ago. She's a jazz piano player, music therapist and grade school counselor. It's been a tough year for her coming back from that, and to have her on was like this victory lap. I don't think we'll do any gigs, but it was a dream of mine to have a band called



PHOTO: JANE LEON

Patty Larkin performs April 9 at The Brink Lounge, 701 E. Washington, #105, in Madison. Call 608-661-8599.

the She-las and to have Sheila in it.

GS: I know that you were limited in the number of songs – 25 for your 25th anniversary – but there are some surprising omissions, including "The Book I'm Not Reading." Was that song ever in the running for

inclusion?

PL: Yeah, it was and it's a cornerstone of my live show. We just thought it didn't have enough to do with love, although there (are) one or two that have that same issue. I'm sorry it didn't make it in.

GS: You are embarking on a tour that takes you all the way through December. Will any of your friends from "25" be joining you on stage when you perform in their respective cities?

PL: I sure hope so. I mean they better (laughs).

'La Donna' lives up to the hype

By Debra Brehmer

Contributing writer

La Donna Velata. To utter her name is to unleash a whispered intimacy. If you haven't heard, this woman has arrived in our city as a celebrity, an heiress, a most important persona.

She is a painting created by Raphael in 1516.

The Milwaukee Art Museum is staging a one-painting exhibition of this portrait through June 6. It is a painting famous enough to command a solo show.

But why, really, should we pay our admission fee and meet this dark-eyed enchantress in her fabricated salon? Is this painting really so special? Well, I have to say, yes, it is.

"La Donna Velata," or "Woman with a Veil," is much like any portrait of a pretty aristocrat. It is all artifice — contrived, invented, designed — but one small difference lies in the fact that Raphael was considered the greatest painter of the Renaissance. When your colleagues are Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci, that is quite a reputation.

Raphael was the golden boy of the group. He was not ill-kempt like Michelangelo, and he was not anti-social and always late like Leonardo. Raphael was the court dandy. He was good-looking, charm-

ing and he could paint like an angel.

While Michelangelo was lovesick as he courted Tomasso (a young aristocrat who never returned his advances) and Leonardo was watching the paint peel off the refectory wall in Milan (now known as "The Last Supper") our pretty boy Raphael was holding court in Rome. Michelangelo, eight years his senior, had locked himself in the Sistine Chapel at the Vatican to paint the ceiling. Just down the hall, in the pope's library, Raphael was painting his now famous "School of Athens" fresco. Michelangelo was so paranoid that this young upstart would steal his ideas that he insisted the doors to the Sistine be locked and guarded.

Raphael ended up getting the last laugh, however, as he painted Michelangelo in the role of Hericlitus, hunched and brooding, in the center of "School of Athens," an in-joke for all the centuries. When Raphael died on April 6, 1520, of influenza at age 37, all of Rome mourned. That year marked the end of the Renaissance.

The Renaissance was a time of intellectualizing, trying to figure out how to indulge in the sensory pleasures of the world and still not be a sinner. Beauty was

interpreted and presented in mathematical terms influenced by ancient Greek philosophy — proportions, restraint, harmonies, ratios. It was undeniably a time when skill, intellect and emotion fell into perfect balance. And this is what we see in "La Donna Velata."

The sitter of this great portrait is thought to be Raphael's lover Margherita Luti. But like Leonardo's Mona Lisa (1503-06), the identity is secondary to the probability that both artists painted these female portraits as broad interpretations of "ideal beauty." And that is why both portraits are so great: They transcend the specificity of identity and speak of greater truths.

The Pitti Palace in Florence, which owns the portrait, downplays the "romantic" subtext that this might be Raphael's lover. And that's the better approach. It allows the painting to be a painting rather than a footnote to someone's sexual fantasies.

When you arrive at the Milwaukee Art Museum in search of "La Donna Velata," you will need to fight your way through a thicket of wall text before you enter her chamber. Put your blinders on. Do not read this text. It will simply overwhelm and dull your brain and detract from the physicality of the

painting. Also, do not watch the 12-minute video. While it is nicely informative, the tone is tutorial. Save it for after you commune with the painting.

La Donna's private room is painted a beautiful dusk blue and is dramatically dark. With spotlights to set it aglow, the painting sits in a huge, thickly carved dimensional gold frame. The painting is larger than its diminutive counterpart, the "Mona Lisa," and even behind glass feels accessible and very present.

If it's not too crowded, you can stand close and take in the details. La Donna stares doe-eyed directly at the viewer. She is neither demure nor confrontational, but simply poised. A long veil frames her soft, round face and sweeps down her body, curling in on the right side to give the painting depth.

One can think of Raphael's composition like music. It begins in perfect repose (grazia) and then gains momentum until the bottom sleeve erupts in virtuosic froth. In the "Mona Lisa," Leonardo uses the sleeve pattern to mimic the pathways and rivers in nature, connecting humanity to primordial earth. Raphael's sleeve has no such philosophical ambition. It is a court dance. He is entertaining us. He can paint skin, amber, rubies, silk, brocade



"La Donna Velata" is on view at MAM through June 6.

or hair with equal finesse. Indeed, he lets a few gossamer strands of hair fall loose onto La Donna's brow to emphasize a sense of touch, to make us feel the tender poetry of the painting.

La Donna looks to be about 14, the age of marriage, a time when innocence and youth take on the first womanly glimmer of sensuality.

If it is true, as commonly thought in the Renaissance, that great art can bring us closer to God, then Raphael hits a chord here.

"La Donna Velata" is both of this world and beyond it in her glory. Perhaps never again has such a point of mastery been reached in one painting.

One slightly ironic note is that while "La Donna Velata" is visiting Milwaukee, her home in Florence, the Pitti Palace, is hosting a Robert Mapplethorpe show. In a way, Mapplethorpe was equally engaged in seeking ultimate beauty within a homo-erotic context. But that's another story.

Artwatch

KAT MURRELL

GALLERY NIGHT PREVIEW

Charles Allis Art Museum, 1801 N. Prospect Ave., presents "Forward: A Survey of Wisconsin Art Now," a recurring exhibition with a title that takes a cue from the state motto and represents a selection of artist-submitted, jury-curated work. The pieces are primarily two-dimensional but create a lively mix. No single style dominates, but

an interest in craftsmanship and figurative work is most apparent, with a visual timbre that modulates between quietly straightforward to overtly quirky.

ART AROUND TOWN

Dean Jensen Gallery, 759 N. Water St., presents "Re:Current: New Work by Sonja Thomsen." The pieces explore notions of time through photographs and motion-sensitive light boxes.

The Marshall Building, 207 E. Buffalo St., is a hotbed of art on multiple floors, with over half a dozen venues at one



From 80 Mask Series by Dennis Nechvatal.

address. Bridget Griffith Evans opens Bridget Paints on the lower level, and Elaine Erickson Gallery pres-

ents "Don't Stop Looking at Art: 25 Years on Canvas by Kenn Kwint." Gallery 218 celebrates 20 years with an exhibition focusing on abstract art, and Portrait Society Gallery hosts famous faces in "Big Star."

MARN (Milwaukee Artist Resource Network) celebrates its 10-year anniversary at the Broadway Bakery and Café, 241 N. Broadway, with an art-collecting treasure hunt and a silent auction.

Tory Folliard Gallery, 233 N. Milwaukee St., shows "Dennis Nechvatal — New Paintings and Drawings."

Walker's Point

Center for the Arts, 839 S. 5th St., presents its inaugural exhibition, "In the Balance." Included are Milwaukee artists Amanda Gerken, Josie Osborne and Heather Wiedeman, using a variety of mediums to explore concepts of space.

ART AND IDENTITY

Milwaukee Art Museum, 700 N. Art Museum Dr., presents "To Speculate Darkly," by Chicago-based artist Theaster Gates on April 16. Included is the work of Dave Drake (a.k.a. Dave the Potter). This multimedia



installation explores craft, labor and race, with the opening complemented by a choral performance featuring 200 singers.

Haggerty Museum of Art

(at Marquette University), 13th and Clybourn Streets, closes Thomas Woodruff's exquisite and strange "Freak Parade" on Sunday, April 18. Woodruff paints surrealistic images in a richly bejeweled otherworld and challenges us to reconsider notions of beauty and ugliness while revealing a humanity that transcends either.

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'The Value of Names' examines the value of forgiveness

Theater

Harry Cherkinian

During the 1940s and 1950s, the House Un-American Activities Committee ran its own "inquisition," demanding the names of those who were allegedly communists. The Red Scare swept the country, ruining careers, destroying reputations, damaging lives in its wake. Names were changed to try to survive what President Harry S. Truman labeled in 1959 as "the most un-American thing in the country today."

Jeffrey Sweet's play "The Value of Names" picks up the trail in 1981 of the accused – and the accuser – when they meet and reopen what victim Benny Silverman calls "ancient scars." Silverman had refused to name names and survived to become a successful sitcom actor. When his daughter Norma embarks on her own acting career and decides to

change her name to avoid her (in)famous father's spotlight, the value of his name comes to signify the fight and the unhealed wounds of the 1950s witch hunt.

Complicating the matter is when Norma's new director turns out to be the man who wrongly named her father so that his career might survive and grow.

ON STAGE

"The Value of Names" runs through May 2 at the Off-Broadway Theatre, 342 N. Water St., 2nd Floor. For more information, call 414-278-0765 or visit www.nextact.org.

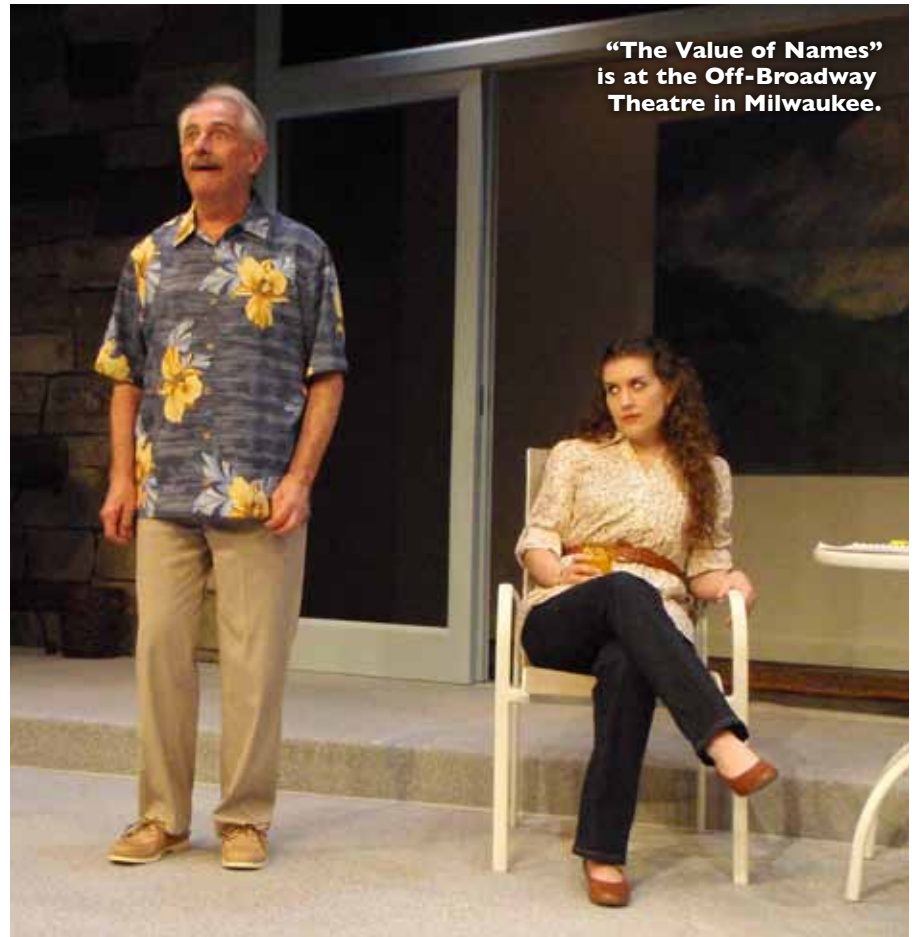
Fortunately, a strong cast rises above some of the preachiness of Act 2 and its zingers and one-liners. As director Leo Greshen (think Elia Kazan, "On the Waterfront," "A Streetcar Named Desire"), John Kishline subtly balances complex emotions: guilt,

confusion, the simple earnestness of wanting to put the past behind him. "You collect old injuries," he says to his former friend, accusing Silverman of "romanticizing persecution."

As the unforgiving Silverman, Robert Spencer keeps us guessing as to whether he will forgive his accuser – and daughter – and move on with life. Spencer, a fine actor, shines as the curmudgeonly Silverman, one minute eliciting empathy, another our disdain for his unrelenting need to keep the pain of the past thrust forward into those who cross his path.

In a limited and thankless role, Kelsey Brennan does what she can as Norma, more a foil for the two men than a character in her own right. Yet Brennan manages to keep Norma focused and strong while deciding her own course of action.

What's in a name? It all depends on where you choose to live – past or present, forgiving or unforgiving, wounded or healed.



"The Value of Names" is at the Off-Broadway Theatre in Milwaukee.

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'Seven Keys to Slaughter Peak' is a crowd-pleasing farce

By Jody Hirsh

Contributing writer

The scene: winter in a rustic summer lodge in the Wisconsin North Woods.

The characters: a pulp fiction writer seeking the solitude necessary to write his next bestseller, gangsters, a gun moll, corrupt politicians, a crooked railroad magnet, an intrepid "girl reporter," her lovesick mother and a misogynistic hermit.

"Seven Keys to Slaughter Peak" is Rep artistic director Joseph Hanreddy's farewell production before leaving to join the faculty of the University of Wisconsin-

Milwaukee Peck School of the Arts.

Hanreddy also wrote the script, based on the wildly popular 1913 play "Mysterious Farcical Melodrama," by George M. Cohan. The scene has been "updated," however, from 1913 to the Prohibition Era 1930s. It's also been relocated from a New York mountain lodge to the North Woods of Wisconsin – an area that's no stranger to Chicago gangsters. The masterful set by Michael Ganio is the perfect setting for a farce – complete with stairways, multiple doors and windows,

ON STAGE

"Seven Keys to Slaughter Peak" runs through April 18 at the Quadracci Powerhouse Theater of the Milwaukee Repertory Theater. Call 414-224-9490 or go to tickets@milwaukeeerep.com.

and secret passages.

The semi-modernization of the action provides a curious escape from political correctness. Peters (the hermit) asserts, "I don't like women. All the trouble since

the beginning of time has been caused by women." Magee, the writer, is referred to as a "Pansy writer come up from Chicago to write a book."

The play, however, is a farce – not a satire – and the 1930s characters are, in fact, in character – hence, the political incorrectness of an age gone by. LGBT audience members can laugh along with the rest of the audience.

Hanreddy's adaptation updates the dialogue while retaining much of the original. The cast is comprised principally of members of the Rep's resident acting

company, and it's simply fun to see them all together: Brian Vaughn plays the hapless writer with his signature affable charm. Lee Ernst is hysterical as the lodge's irascible North Woods caretaker. Steve Pickering is a perfectly corrupt mayor; Deborah Staples is a scheming blackmailer; Laura Gordon is a confused mother; Lee Stark is the intrepid ingénue; Tory Hanson is a bumbling thug; James Pickering is the sour hermit, and a very funny Gerard Neugent is a dumb muscle head.

Hanreddy directs with masterful timing. The

Theater
WIGOUT

"update" doesn't always hit the mark, with occasional dialogue and plot turns that don't fit the '30s hard-boiled genre. But while some of the updates might have been odd, they were definitely fun. This is a crowd-pleaser that received a hearty standing ovation the night I attended.

Got something to say? E-mail managingeditor@wisconsinngazette.com.

Roll playing

"WHIP IT"

Drew Barrymore's directorial debut (Fox Searchlight) is better than you might expect, although far from perfect.

Mild-mannered high school student, Oink Joint waitress and non-traditional teen pageant contestant Bliss (Ellen Page) is forever butting heads with her former beauty queen mother Brooke (Marcia Gay Harden). But a shopping excursion to Austin, Texas, has an unexpected outcome in Bliss' life. A brief encounter with the members of a roller derby team gets her attention and before you know it she's sneaking out of the house with best friend Pash (Alia Shawkat) to attend a match.

Bliss is hooked and begins to train for the team try-outs. Of course, at 17 she has to lie about being 22

in order to be considered to roll alongside Maggie Mayhem (Kristen Wiig), Rosa Sparks (Eve), Bloody Holly (Zoe Bell), Smashley Simpson (Barrymore) or Iron Maven (Juliette Lewis). Much to her surprise and delight, Bliss makes the team and becomes a Hurl Scout, given the moniker Babe Ruthless. She also meets musician Oliver (Landon Pigg) and totally falls for him.

So Bliss begins leading a double life, stringing her mother along by pretending to be preparing for the next pageant while kicking ass in the roller rink, where she helps her team on a winning streak that gets them to the championships. But wouldn't you know it? The championship match is the same day as the pageant in which Bliss has promised to compete. As if that isn't enough, Bliss'



friendship with Pash is showing signs of strain and Bliss is also convinced that Oliver, on tour with his band, is being unfaithful to her.

Page continues to be one of the most satisfying actresses of her generation and she infuses Bliss with the spirit and spark that she needs to make the character, and her situation, worth investing with our interest. Funny and touching, "Whip It" is not necessarily something you need to rush right out to rent or buy. Walk, don't roll.

"BLOOD ON THE FLAT TRACK: THE RISE OF THE RAT CITY ROLLER GIRLS"

This 2007 doc from Strand, by Lainy Bagwell and Lacey Leavitt, presents a non-



"Whip It" from actor/director Drew Barrymore.

fiction account of roller-girl life. It's not your mother's roller derby.

"BOTFT" introduces us to the women who comprise the teams of the Rat City Roller Girls. Creativity counts in both team names (Grave Danger, Socket Wenches, Throttle Rockets, Derby Liberation Front) and player names (Basket Casey, Miss Fortune, Shovey Chase, Darth Skater, Betty Ford

Galaxy).

Adapted from old school roller derby rules, the RCRG follow the Texas Roller Girls' model. They create a logo and get into merchandising. A brief "how to play roller derby" segment provides the viewer with essential information about scoring and illegal plays, as well as terminology (such as bouts, jams, jammer, blockers, pivot, the pack). Featured prominently

is the team known as the DLF, described as the hard-to-beat lesbian team ("highest concentration of lady-loving ladies").

"BOTFT" celebrates the pure athleticism as well as the exaggerated femininity and theatricality of the sport. It provides a glimpse of the team members' romantic and familial relationships, including lesbian couples Burnett Down and Basket Casey and Shovey Chase and Kitty Kamikaze.

The film follows the RCRG's rise through the ranks of roller derby culture to their position as No. 1 in the nation. DVD bonus material includes directors' commentary, the featurette "Derby Ink: The Tattoos of the Roller Girls," and more.

Got something to say? E-mail managingeditor@wisconsinngazette.com.



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Music

By Gregg Shapiro

"ANIMAL"

That didn't take long! The first of the Lady Gaga imitators, the (low) classy Ke\$ha (who "threw up in the closet," but doesn't care, according to the song "Party At A Rich Dude's House") has arrived to try to swipe the mirror ball crown from La Gaga's head. Stir in the worst aspects of Katy Perry and you have Ke\$ha's debut album from RCA/Kemosabe.

Swede-pop beats and suburban tales of bad behavior ("Tik Tok," "Take It Off," "Ki\$ \$ N Tell," "Blah Blah Blah," "Hung Over" and "Boots & Boys") fuel these mainly club-crafted tracks. Gays had a hand in putting Lady Gaga over the top and will probably play a part in Ke\$ha's rise. No doubt she'll be huge.

"I LOVE YOU"

Amanda Blank serves up a steamy and smutty urban beat banquet on release from Downtown. Blank respectfully borrows from her Baltimore scene buddies on "Gimme What You Got," "Make It Take It" and "Big Heavy." She fingers M.I.A.'s trigger on "Something Bigger Something Better" and rein-

vents Romeo Void on "Might Like You Better."

The aptly rechristened Blank sounds like a blasé new wave diva on "DJ," but an awkward misstep such as "A Love Song" almost derails this album.

"XXXX"

Cumbersome name aside, You Say Party! We Say Die! sounds like it knows its way around a dance floor on "XXXX" from Paper Bag. "There Is XXXX (Within My Heart)" and "Dark Days" are custom-made for your fave DJ to spin. But what this group really does best is whip up a new wave frenzy that the B52's would appreciate on "Glory," "Cosmic Warship Avengers," "Make XXXX" and "XXXX/Loyalty."

"BLACK LIGHT"

Don't be put off by the alternately sung and ranted vocals on "Warsaw," the opening cut on this Om release by Groove Armada. These dance music masterminds haven't lost their touch, just twisted it a bit to keep things fresh. Which is ironic, considering that "History," with vocals by Will Young, sounds like a Bronski Beat tune, while "I Won't Kneel," with vocals by Saint Saviour, is almost Abba-esque.

The centerpiece, "Shameless," with Bryan Ferry contributing vocals, is

sheer delight, rightfully placing the voice of Roxy Music in a dance club where he belongs. Also worth mentioning are the delirious "Paper Romance" and "Just For Thought."

"ON"

It might not be immediately evident, but by the time you get to "U + Me =" and "Alone" by Dan Black, from this A&M album, you suddenly realize that you are in the presence of a dance music innovator. This is also evident on "Yours" and "Pump My Pumps." Less dance-oriented numbers, such as "Symphonies," "Wonder" and "Life Slash Dreams," also speak to the nature of Black's unusual gifts.

"BELIEVE"

"Fight for You," from Morgan Page's artist disc (Nettwerk) may have recently spent time near the top of the Billboard Dance Club Music chart, but it's far from the best or most exciting track on this disc. "Strange Condition," for instance, is a far more appealing cut. The same can be said for the title track, "Tell Me Why" and "I've Had Friends," all of which would be right at home in the clubs and on the charts.

"REMORSE-CAPADE"

As thrilling dance

music goes, Canadian duo Woodhands have it down pat. "Remorsecapade" (from Paper Bag) has 10 dance-punk tracks that begin with the sweaty workout "Pockets." If your heart isn't racing after dancing to this one, you might want to consult your healthcare provider.

Woodhands sounds like a kissing cousin to LCD Soundsystem on "CP24," and "Sluts" is pure electro sex. "I Should Have Gone With My Friends" is a crunchy dance grind, while "Dissembler," with guest vocals by Maylee Todd, goes in a more traditional dance direction.

"NERVOUS NIGHTLIFE: TOM STEPHAN!"

As a policy, I avoid DJ mix tape compilations like the plague and Sarah Palin, but that doesn't mean that they don't exist or that they will cease to exist. Quite the contrary. But gay record player Tom Stephan, a.k.a. house-head Superchumbo, is supposed to be something special. "Nervous Nightlife: Tom Stephan!" (from Nervous) finds him in his spinning mode, interweaving 19 tracks. Stephan also includes his own originals such as "Turn That Sh*t Up" and "Lights Out."

Got something to say? E-mail managingeditor@wisconsinngazette.com.



Dan Black offers "On."



Ke\$ha has arrived with a debut album, "Animal."

With soup this good, it has to be homemade

Dining

By Rick Karlin

Soups On!
221 N. Water St.
414-283-9244
www.soupsinat221.com

Soup commercials used to feature chefs fussing over a vat. Then advertisers realized that consumers related better to a maternal figure and they switched tactics.

But no matter how advertisers portray it, commercial soups are made in big factories. They create their product in massive quantities, using short cuts, lower quality ingredients and the pre-

servatives necessary to store food for long periods of time.

For a taste of how soup tastes when it's made in artisanal batches by a real mother, head over to Soup's On! in the Third Ward. Every day Mary Krimmer makes fresh soup from scratch in her miniscule kitchen. The workspace may be small, but the flavors are big.

As the mother of eight children and an artist at heart, Krimmer spent years nurturing her kitchen skills. Little did she know that, in her early 50s and after her nest was finally empty, she would open her own restaurant.

"I ran a home daycare for 30 years and, during that time, I made a lot of soup,"

she says. "Soup can be very gourmet, yet you don't have to have lots of stock on hand, a large menu or very much kitchen help. We have three soup choices and one chili choice each day. There is always a variation on a chicken soup and one vegetarian or vegan option."

With a recipe box of more than 150 different options, one could dine at Soup's On! week after week and never repeat a dish. Krimmer says her most popular soups include her beef borscht, chowders, winter squash and pumpkin basil. A 12 ounce bowl costs \$5.50, a 16 ounce crock is \$6.50.

All soups are served with a thick slice of bread from Wild Flour Bakery. The choices on

Mary Krimmer makes fresh soup from scratch.

the day of our visit included sourdough, semolina, whole wheat and flaxseed bread. A sandwich combination with a bowl of soup is \$8.25 and, with a crock \$9.25.

All sandwiches are made with Wild Flour artisanal vegan breads. Sandwich choices often include roast beef, pastrami, smoked turkey, ham and cheese, pea-

nut butter club, Cuban pork, chicken salad, curry chicken, lox and cream cheese, tuna salad, egg salad, Swiss cheese or cheddar cheese, hard salami, hummus and veggies and herb cheese spread. Vegans can feast on a bagel smeared with tofu spread and veggies.

All sandwiches options are listed on a chalkboard, and the selection rotates daily. Sandwiches are \$3.50, and wraps are \$5.50.

Desserts are either made in-house or by C. Adams Bakery from the Milwaukee Public Market. Selections rotate daily and include cheesecakes, cookies, brownies, apple crisp, pies and assorted chocolate selections. The kitchen also serves Cedarcrest hand-scooped ice

cream.

The dining room, part of an art gallery, overlooks the Milwaukee River and offers patio seating at picnic tables in nice weather.

Soup's On! is a no-frills place with plastic lawn furniture, paper napkins and soda served in bottles. Sandwiches are served in plastic paper-lined baskets, and you are expected to clean up after yourself, just like you would at your mother's house.

Soup's On! is open Monday through Friday for lunch, and Friday nights and Saturdays during Gallery Night & Day.

Got a favorite place to dine? Share with WiG at managingeditor@wisconsinngazette.com.

Film

By Gregg Shapiro

"CHLOE"

(Sony Pictures Classics)

Atom Egoyan's psycho-sexual thriller "Chloe" feels like a throwback to the pre-mid-1980s queer cinema breakthrough period. Prior to that time, gay men and lesbians were often portrayed as predatory and had to die by the last reel in order for their heterosexual objects of obsession to get on with their lives without the threat of same-sex attraction.

A film that teeters on the precipice of softcore porn.

Upscale and successful gynecologist Dr. Catherine Stewart (Julianne Moore) fears the worst when her flirtatious college music professor husband David (Liam Neeson) blows off the fancy-shmancy surprise birthday party she planned for him in their stunningly appointed modern home. A chance encounter with high-priced call-girl Chloe (Amanda Seyfried, really!) in the women's room of a restaurant leads Catherine to procure her services. Catherine hires Chloe to make contact with David and then report back to her to confirm her suspicions.

But things are not what they seem. Although David appears to be a cad on the surface, he is, in fact, all talk

and no action. Catherine and David's musician son Michael (Max Thieriot) is getting more action. In spite of reporting, in graphic detail, her assignations with David to Catherine, Chloe has not bedded him. It turns out that it's Catherine on whom she has her sights set. And after a passionate day in bed, fueled by Catherine's interest in the rent-girl's supposed sexual prowess, Chloe is head over heels (and heels behind ears) in love with Catherine. Alas, Catherine doesn't feel the same, leading Chloe to some very irrational and naughty behavior, including making contact with and making love to Michael (in his parents' bed, no less). And, in a final showdown with Catherine, it's Chloe who's taken down by the slings and arrows of outrageous romance.

It's hard to imagine that a filmmaker such as Egoyan, who created such timeless work as "The Sweet Hereafter," could be responsible for a film that teeters on the precipice of softcore porn. Potentially titillating for straight men, "Chloe" is a fright disappointment.

"THE RUNAWAYS"

(Apparition)

Biopics continue to be a hit-or-miss proposition, and "The Runaways" is a good case in point. An all-girl (emphasis on "girl," as the members were in their teens) rock band that played its own instruments and wrote its own songs, The Runaways was formed in the mid-1970s, a time when such a thing was still on the risky side. As the story (director Floria Sigismondi's screenplay based on Cherie Currie's book) goes, Southern California girls Joan Jett, nee Larkin (Kristen

Stewart) and Cherie Currie (a suddenly grown-up Dakota Fanning), who both shared a love of rock music and coloring outside of the lines, were groomed by record producer/songwriter/starmaker Kim Fowley (Michael Shannon) to be lead guitarist and vocalist, respectively, in the next big thing.

With other band members recruited, including Sandy West (Stella Maeve), Lita Ford (Scout Taylor-Compton) and someone – a possible composite named Robin (Alia Shawkat) – taskmaster Fowley puts the band through its paces and eventually unleashes it on the world. The Runaways caused a ripple stateside, but in Japan, they were tsunami strength. This fact is illustrated in a scene where a mob of rabid and screaming Japanese fans shatters a glass wall separating them from the band.

Unprepared for even the least of amount of success, the already unstable personalities inside and outside of the band begin to clash. Cherie, especially, feels pulled in a multitude of directions. After being abandoned by her self-absorbed mother (Tatum O'Neal), she feels guilty for having left sister Marie (Riley Keough) behind to care for their alcoholic father. Heading down a path similar to dear old dad's, Cherie also becomes involved in a romantic relationship with Joan Jett. Things come to a head during a recording session where tempers flare and instruments are thrown.

Since the devil is in the details, it's interesting that in Sigismondi's vision, she gets certain things, such as the fashions, the hairstyles, the make-up, even the cars so right, while she drops the

The Runaways caused a ripple stateside, but in Japan they were a tsunami.

ball on others. The Runaways were more than just Jett and Currie, and yet their story is the main focus. This holds true right to the end where, post band break-up, the two young women who hadn't spoken to each other for quite some time find themselves reunited on the radio – one as an interview subject, the other as a listener and caller. Kudos, however, to Sigismondi for not shying away from the same-sex love story of The Runaways' tale.

Got something to say? E-mail managingeditor@wisconsinngazette.com.



COURTESY PHOTO

A scene from "The Runaways," starring Kristen Stewart as Joan Jett and Dakota Fanning as Cherie Currie.

"ROCK 'N' ROLL FANS OF EVERY GENDER AND GENERATION WILL IDENTIFY WITH THIS."
-A.O. Scott, THE NEW YORK TIMES

"THE RUNAWAYS' GETS EVERYTHING RIGHT."
-Mick LaSalle, SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

"SEE IT!"
-A.O. Scott and Michael Phillips, AT THE MOVIES

KRISTEN STEWART DAKOTA FANNING
THE RUNAWAYS

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On stage

By Gregg Shapiro

* Denotes LGBT performer or venue.

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.

"Seven Keys to Slaughter Peak" is at the Milwaukee Repertory Theater's Quadracci Powerhouse Theater, 108 E. Wells, through April 18. Call 414-224-9490.

High Noon Saloon, 701 E. Washington in Madison, welcomes 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.

April 9, 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.

*Out singer/songwriter and Milwaukee native Patty Larkin performs at The Brink Lounge, 701 E. Washington #105 in Madison, at 7:30 p.m. Call 608-661-8599.

The Bay Players presents "Lend Me A Tenor," by Ken Ludwig at 8 p.m., Whitefish Bay High School Auditorium, 1200 E. Fairmount Ave. Tickets available at the door on the night of performance. Shank Hall, 1434 N. Farwell, has Greg Brown and The Pines at 8 p.m. Call 414-276-7288.

The Rave, 2401 W. Wisconsin, welcomes Motion City Soundtrack and others at 7 p.m. Call 414-342-RAVE.

The Northern Lights Theater at Potawatomi Bingo Casino, 1721 W. Canal, presents Ricky Nelson Remembered at 9 p.m. Call 414-847-7922.

Henry Rollins' "Frequent Flyer Tour" lands at 8 p.m. at the Barrymore Theatre,

2090 Atwood in Madison. Call 608-241-2345.

Mission Of Burma is at High Noon Saloon, 701 E. Washington in Madison, at 9:30 p.m. Call 608-268-1122.

April 10, 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.

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

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

The Bay Players presents "Lend Me A Tenor," by Ken Ludwig at 8 p.m., Whitefish Bay High School Auditorium, 1200 E. Fairmount Ave. Tickets available at the door on the night of performance.

Pitman Theatre on the campus of Alverno College, 3400 S. 43rd, presents Zemog, El Gallo Bueno at 8 p.m. Call 414-382-6044.

Comedians of "Chelsea Lately" play The Pabst, 144 E. Wells, at 8 p.m. Call 414-

286-3663.

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

Barrymore Theatre, 2090 Atwood in Madison, has Pretty Lights with Savoy at 9 p.m. Call 608-241-2345.

April 11, 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.

The AP Tour featuring Never Shout Never with special guests The Cab, Hey Monday, Every Avenue and The Summer Set, comes to The Rave, 2401 W. Wisconsin, at 5:30 p.m. Call 414-342-RAVE.

The Pabst, 144 E. Wells, presents Girls at 8 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

Violinists Ralph Evans and Efim Boico, cellist Wolfgang Laufer, and violist Nicolò Eugelmi perform George Antheil's String Quartet No.3, Efrem Zimbalist's String Quartet in E minor and César Franck's String Quartet in D Major, at 3 p.m. at the Helene Zelazo Center of the Performing Arts, 2419 E. Kenwood Boulevard.

High Noon Saloon, 701 E. Washington in Madison, has Trampled By Turtles and The Devil Makes Three at 8 p.m. Call 608-268-1122.

April 12, Monday

*Out musical wizard Owen Pallett (formerly known as Final Fantasy) performs at 8 p.m. at Turner Hall Ballroom, 103 N. Fourth. Call 414-286-3663.

The Frequency, 121 W. Main in Madison, presents Dave Barnes and Andrew Ripp at 7 p.m. Call 608-819-8777.

April 13, Tuesday

*Overture Center for the Arts, 201 State in Madison, hosts An Evening with David Sedaris in Overture Hall at 7:30 p.m. Call 608-258-4141.

Shank Hall, 1434 N. Farwell, presents Dave Barnes and Andrew Ripp at 8 p.m. Call 414-276-7288.

The stage musical "Legally Blonde" is at Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, at the corner of Water and



Bill Maher is at The Riverside, 116 W. Wisconsin, at 8 p.m., April 10.

State, tonight through April 18. Call 414-273-2787.

Majestic, 115 King in Madison, has Mickey Factz & Theophilus London with Just. One. Duran and Fun Cartel at 9 p.m. Call 608-251-2582.

High Noon Saloon, 701 E. Washington in Madison, welcomes Gregory Alan Isakov at 7 p.m. Call 608-268-1122.

At 9:30 p.m., The Frequency, 121 W. Main in Madison, presents Manic Zamboni with Zebras and Czables. Call 608-819-8777.

April 14, Wednesday

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

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

Majestic, 115 King in Madison, hosts an evening with The Church at 8 p.m. Call 608-251-2582.

Great American Taxi, featuring Vince Herman of Leftover Salmon, joins up with Wally Ingram & Jerry Joseph, at 8 p.m. at High Noon Saloon, 701 E. Washington in Madison. Call 608-268-1122.

The Annex, 1206 Regent in Madison, welcomes Dead Meadow with Imaad Wasif & Sleepcomesdown at 9 p.m.

April 15, Thursday

*Tropical Night Club, 626 S. Fifth, hosts Noche De Divas, with a show beginning at 11 p.m. Call 414-630-6055 or 414-4606277.

Turner Hall Ballroom, 103 N. Fourth, gives a royal welcome to King Sunny Ade at 8

p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

Josh Turner performs at 8 p.m. at The Riverside, 116 W. Wisconsin Call 414-286-3663.

The Rave, 2401 W. Wisconsin, presents Thirty Seconds To Mars, MuteMath and Neon Trees at 7 p.m. Call 414-342-RAVE.

"Reefer Madness, The Musical," with music by Dan Studney and lyrics by Kevin Murphy, opens tonight and runs through May 2, at Off The Wall Theatre, 127 E. Wells. Call 414-327-3552.

Milwaukee Chamber Theater's production of "The Sweetest Swing in Baseball" opens tonight and runs through May 2 at Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Call 414-291-7800.

Karl Denson's Tiny Universe is at the Majestic, 115 King in Madison, with Steelz, at 9 p.m. Call 608-251-2582.

High Noon Saloon, 701 E. Washington in Madison, presents Reckless Kelly and Sarah Pierce at 8 p.m. Call 608-268-1122.

April 16, Friday

*Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. Second, presents "The Vagina Monologues" at 7:30 p.m. through Sunday. Call 414-383-3727.

*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.

Masters of YouTube and the music video, OK Go is at Turner Hall Ballroom, 103 N. Fourth, at 8 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

Shank Hall, 1434 N. Farwell, welcomes Pat McCurdy at 8

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Lupe Fiasco is at The Rave, 2401 W. Wisconsin, at 7 p.m. Call 414-342-RAVE.

The Northern Lights Theater at Potawatomi Bingo Casino, 1721 W. Canal, hosts An Intimate Evening with Keith Emerson & Greg Lake at 9 p.m. Call 414-847-7922.

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

Wisconsin's own BoDeans plays the Barrymore Theatre, 2090 Atwood in Madison, at 8 p.m. Call 608-241-2345.

Madison Symphony Orchestra presents pianist Philippe Bianconi, tonight through Sunday at Overture Center for the Arts, 201 State in Madison. Call 608-258-4141.

The Bay Players presents "Lend Me A Tenor," by Ken Ludwig at 8 p.m., Whitefish Bay High School Auditorium, 1200 E. Fairmount Ave. Tickets available at the door on the night of performance.

The Frequency, 121 W. Main in Madison, welcomes Meantoothgrin with Joel Pingitore and the Playground of Sound and Union Pulse at

10 p.m. Call 608-819-8777.

April 17, Saturday

*Miltown Kings' Beautiful Freak Show invites you to come dressed as your inner freak at 9 p.m. at the Miramar Theater, 2844 N. Oakland.

*Wisconsin Cream City Chorus presents "Water For Life" at 7:30 p.m. at Unitarian Universalist Church West, 13001 W. North in Brookfield. Visit creamcitychorus.org.

*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.

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

MSO presents Bugs Bunny on Broadway at 8 p.m. at The Riverside, 116 W. Wisconsin. Call 414-286-3663.

Say Anything and Angels & Airwaves play The Eagles Club, 2401 W. Wisconsin, at 8 p.m. Call 414-342-RAVE.

The 5 Browns are at The Pabst, 144 E. Wells, at 8 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

Carrie Newcomer performs at the Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ, 1501 Gilbert in Madison, at 7 p.m. Call 608-271-7212.



Out author David Sedaris is at Madison's Overture Center for the Arts, 201 State, at 7:30 p.m., April 13.

Majestic, 115 King in Madison, has Cross Canadian Ragweed and Ha Ha Tonka at 9 p.m. Call 608-251-2582.

High Noon Saloon, 701 E. Washington in Madison, welcomes Ellis Paul at 7 p.m. Call 608-268-1122.

The Bay Players presents "Lend Me A Tenor," by Ken Ludwig at 8 p.m., Whitefish Bay High School Auditorium, 1200 E. Fairmount Ave.

Tickets available at the door on the night of performance.

April 18, 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.

MSO presents Bugs Bunny on Broadway at 2:30 p.m. at The Riverside, 116 W. Wisconsin. Call 414-286-3663.

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

The Northern Lights Theater at Potawatomi Bingo Casino, 1721 W. Canal, has An Evening with Ingrid Michaelson at 7:30 p.m. Call 414-847-7922.

Majestic, 115 King in Madison, welcomes Clipse, Freddie Gibbs, Ninjasnik and XV at 8:30 p.m. Call 608-251-2582.

The Antlers and Phantogram perform at 8 p.m. at High Noon Saloon, 701 E. Washington in Madison. Call 608-268-1122.

The Frequency, 121 W. Main in Madison, has Bess Rogers with Lelia Broussard, JM Airis and Lucrezio, at 8 p.m. Call 608-819-8777.

April 19, Monday

The Pabst, 144 E. Wells, has Citizen Cope at 8 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

The Northern Lights Theater at Potawatomi Bingo Casino, 1721 W. Canal, hosts An Evening with Huey Lewis

& The News, tonight and tomorrow night at 8 p.m. Call 414-847-7922.

April 20, Tuesday

Steve Martin & The Steep Canyon Rangers are at The Pabst, 144 E. Wells, at 8 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

April 21, Wednesday

*A Broader Vocabulary Cooperative presents Sister Spit, a troupe of queer/feminist poets, novelists, zinesters, spoken word artists and many other amazing performers at 8 p.m. in UWM Bolton Hall, Rm 150, 3210 N. Maryland. Call 414-962-0575 for more info.

The Riverside, 116 W. Wisconsin, welcomes The Flaming Lips at 8 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

Carbon Leaf performs at 8:30 p.m. at Majestic, 115 King in Madison. Call 608-251-2582.

High Noon Saloon, 701 E. Washington in Madison, has Horse Feathers at 8:30 p.m. Call 608-268-1122.

The Frequency, 121 W. Main in Madison, presents Monotonix with The Hussy at 9:30 p.m. Call 608-819-8777.



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COMMUNITY LISTINGS

MILWAUKEE**Arts/entertainment**

Cream City Squares, 414-445-8080.

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

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

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

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

Queer Zine Archive Project, 2935 N. Fratney St.

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

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

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

Community

Bay View Gays, 414-482-3796, www.bvlgays.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@wirainbowfamilies.com.

Business

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

Health

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Religion/spirituality

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

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

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

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

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

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, 414-443-037.

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

Metro Milwaukee Tennis Club, 414-616-3716.

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

Milwaukee Gay Volleyball League, 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.



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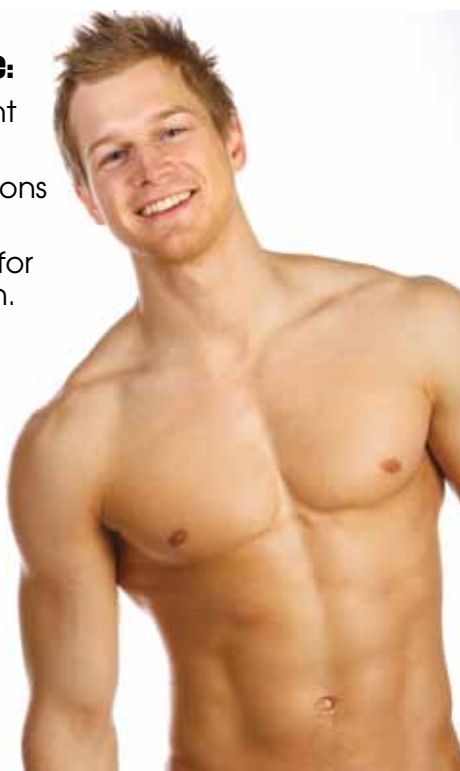
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Calendar

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.lgbtsewis.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.lgbt-outreach.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., 2nd Fl., Milwaukee. Info: 414-276-6936.

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

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,

7-8:30 p.m., BWMT (Black and White Men Together), general meeting third Saturday each month.

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, 414-276-6936.,

5 p.m., OutThere LGBT

youth group meeting, OutReach-Gateway Mall, 600 Williamson St., Madison, 608-255-8582.

5 p.m., PFLAG Milwaukee, 3rd Sunday each month, 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

TUESDAY

12:30 p.m., third Thursday, Retired Old/Older Lesbians (ROLLers), Madison, 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, 414-276-6936, galanoclub.org.

7 p.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.

Send listings to
eadams@
wisconsin-gazette.com.

THE NEXT TWO WEEKS

THURSDAY

April 8

6 p.m., Families By Design, LGBT Resource Center, 315 W. Court St., contact: jpm51960@hotmail.com.

7 p.m., Rainbow Sangha (meditation), OutReach, 600 Williamson St., Madison, lgbt-outreach.org.

4 p.m., Rainbow Connection, OutReach 600 Williamson St., Madison, lgbt-outreach.org.

12:30-1:30 p.m., Radical Queers and The Radi-Queer Movement with Milo of the Queer Zine Archive, UWMLGBT Resource Center, Union WG-89.

FRIDAY

April 9

8:30 p.m., country dancing and more, Hot Water, 818 S Water St, contact: Laura at 414-747-0388.

5:30-7:30 p.m., Pozitive Light Social/Support Group, OutReach, 600 Williamson St., Madison, lgbt-outreach.org.

7 p.m., Lesbian Alliance

Game Night, LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St., contact: 414-272-9442.

SATURDAY

April 10

7 p.m., Women4Women examining religion, spirituality and civil rights, OutReach, 600 Williamson St., Madison, lgbt-outreach.org.

6 p.m., Potluck, Asian/Oriental, LGBT Center of the Chippewa Valley, thecentercv.org

7 p.m., Brew City Bruisers Semi-Finals, Milwaukee County Sports Complex, 6000 W. Ryan Road.

12:30-2 p.m., Moonlighting Career Pathing Group, LGBT Center of Southeast Wisconsin

10 p.m., DC Monroe (alt. rock), Cactus Club, 2496 S. Wentworth Ave., Milwaukee

SUNDAY

April 11

5 p.m., OutThere social group (ages 18-24), OutReach, 600 Williamson St., lgbt-outreach.org.

5 p.m., LGBT Center of Southeast Wisconsin birthday celebration, Rhode Island Opera House, 514 56th St., Kenosha, tickets: lgbtsewis.org.

MONDAY

April 12

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

8 p.m., Day of Silence of Night of Screams College Party, LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin, 1456 Junction Ave., Racine. Call 262-664-4100.

TUESDAY

April 13

7 p.m., PFLAG discussion forum, LGBT Center of the Chippewa Valley, 510 S. Farwell St., Eau Claire.

WEDNESDAY

April 14

6:30 p.m., QCinema International Film Group, OutReach, 600 Williamson St., Madison

THURSDAY

April 15

6:30 p.m., Racine Reads "Privilege, Power, and Difference" LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin, 1456 Junction Ave., Racine. Call 262-664-4100

FRIDAY

April 16

5 p.m., Gallery Night Exhibit Opening and Reception, (erotic art), The Tool Shed, 2427 N. Murray Ave.

SATURDAY

April 17

7 p.m., Saturday Night at the Movies, "Outrage" screening, LGBT Resource Center of the Chippewa Valley, thecentercv.org.

FLORENTINE CAMERATA FUNDRAISER

Florentine Opera Camerata, an affinity group that presents opera-related social events for the LGBT community, holds its second annual "FUNdraiser" at 7 p.m., April 11 at The Room, 623 S. Second St. The event includes a live "song auction," featuring the Florentine Opera Studio Artists.

SUNDAY

April 18

3 p.m., Putting the "B" into LGBT OutReach, 600 Williamson St., Madison.

MONDAY

April 19

7 p.m., Lesbian Night at the Movies, LGBT Community Center 315 W. Court St., Milwaukee.

TUESDAY

April 20

7-9 p.m., Spectrum Social groups for LGBT adults and allies ages 18-108, at Harmony Cafe, 1660 W.

Mason St., Green Bay.
6 p.m., Fair Wisconsin Action Network of the Chippewa Valley.

WEDNESDAY

April 21

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

Want to see your event listed?
Send details to eadams@
wisconsin-gazette.com

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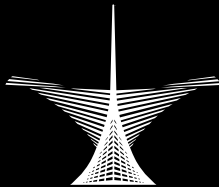
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Kenosha, 262-857-3240
JoDee's, 2139 Racine St., Racine, 262-634-9804

MILWAUKEE

Art Bar, 722 Burleigh, 414-372-7880
Ballgame, 196 S. 2nd St., 414-273-7474
Boom & The Room, 625 S. 2nd St, 414-277-5040
Boot Camp, 209 E. National Ave., 414-643-6900
City Lights Chill & Grill, 111 W. Howard Ave, 414-481-1441
Fluid, 819 S. 2nd St., 414-643-5843
Harbor Room, 117 E. Greenfield, 414-672-7988
Hybrid, 707 E. Brady St., 414-810-1809
JACK, 200 E. Washington St., 414-389-3596
Kruz, 354 E. National Ave., 414-272-KRUZ
LaCage, 801 S. 2nd St., 414-383-8330
Mona's, 1407 S. 1st St., 414-643-0377
Nut Hut, 1500 W. Scott, 414-647-2673
Pump, (Sundays at Decibel), 1905 E. North Ave., 414-272-3337
This Is It, 418 E. Wells St., 414-278-9192
Triangle, 135 E. National Ave., 414-383-9412
Tropical Niteclub, 626 S. 5th St., 414-460-6277
Walker's Pint, 818 S. 2nd St, 414-643-7468
Woody's, 1579 S 2nd St., 414-672-0806

MADISON

Club 5, 5 Applegate Ct. 608-277-9700
Plan B, 924 Williamson St., 608-257-5262
Shamrock, 117 W Main St., 608-255-5029
WOOF'S, 114 King St., 608-204-6222

BELOIT/JANESVILLE

Impulse, 132 W. Grand Ave., Beloit, 608-361-0000
Off The Wagon, 18-24 S River St.,
Janesville
608-359-3209

LACROSSE

My Place, 3201 South Ave., 608-788-9073
Players, 300 4th St, 608-784-4200
Chances R, 417 Jay St., 608-782-5105

WISCONSIN DELLS

Captain Dix Rainbow Valley Resort, 4124 River
Road, 866- 553-1818

SHEBOYGAN

Blue Lite, 1029 N. 8th St., 920-457-1636

FOX VALLEY

Rascals Bar & Grill, 702 E. Wisconsin, Appleton,
920-954-9262
Ravens, 215 E. College Ave., Appleton, 920-364-9599
Napalese, 1351 Cedar Street, Green Bay, 920-432-9646
SASS, 840 S. Broadway, Green Bay, 920-437-7277
The Shelter, 730 N. Quincy St., Green Bay, 920-432-2662

XS Niteclub, 1106 Main Street, Green Bay, 920-430-1301
Debs Spare Time, 1303 Harrison St.,
Oshkosh, 920-235-6577

NORTHERN

Scooters, 411 Galloway Street, Eau Claire,
715-835-9959
JT's Bar and Grill, 1506 N. 3 rd St., Superior,
715--394-2580
The Flame, 1612 Tower Ave., Superior, 715-395-0101
The Main 1217 Tower Ave., Superior, 715-392-1756
OZ, 320 Washington St, Wausau, 715-842-3225



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